

# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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# Editorial

# "ON PARADE"

By the time this effusion reaches you, the Royal Visit will be over but I hope I am not being too prophetic by saying now that the roll up on the Royal Parade has been the best we have ever had. Your undoubted loyalty to Her Majesty, the British Commonwealth and our Unit will (I hope) be strong enough to drag you all to Perth from near and far.

Despite the untiring efforts of your Committee and the impassioned appeals from your eloquent President, the roll call at our monthly meetings still reveals too many absent faces. Special occasions, however, seem to have the power to bring many more into the fold. Annual Re-Unions, Anzac Day Parades and similar shows seem to exert some magnetic power in which your Committee is sadly lacking.

However, knowing you all as I do, I am certain that, on all occasions when we forgather to fight the old battles (and run the old races) over a few cold ones, you are with us in spirit if not in person. The old ties are hard to break—old friends are best, and none of us wants to forget them. Least of all do we wish to forget the boys who have passed on and whose memory we always honour in ur hearts.

As you know we also have something concrete to keep their memory alive and this is our Honour Avenue in Kings Park. We have been working for a long time towards our objective of beautifying this area with lawns and at last we have reached the stage where we will be able to get on with the job. I have no doubt at all that, when the time comes for the work to commence, all those who are able will be "On Parade" ready to do their bit.

But this is not enough. As you have seen in the last issue of the 'Courier' and elsewhere in this issue, the scheme will cost money and, for the first time since our Association was formed, we are asking you all to "touch the kick". I don't want you to think the Association is broke but we have been building steadily for some years to accumulate funds for the future, when calls for financial assistance will no doubt increase. We do not wish to draw on these funds for the King's Park scheme.

So let us see you all "On Parade" again with your donations—large or small. It is a worthy cause and I am sure you will not be found wanting.

—GEORGE BOYLAND.

# West Australian Whisperings

# Committee Comment

On Tuesday, March 16, eight members of the Committee and a guest met in Colin Doig's office in

Perth.

Present: Colin Doig, George Boyland, Arthur Smith, Bill Epps, Bill Willis, Alf Walsh, Jack Carey and Wilf March with the guest being Sprig McDonald, who was welcomed by Mr. Doig.

Business for the night was brisk and a good deal of discussion took place on a number of subjects.

The Honour Avenue Watering Scheme came in for discussion.

Hopes for finality in this venture are expected soon but as Fred Napier is in hospital it makes things

A considerable amount of time was spent in an endeavour to come to some arrangement whereby we could gather after the Ex-Servicemen's Ceremony and have a few ales. It was eventually decided to forego any idea of holding a gettogether in a hall as transport arrangements at such a time would be hard to make. April Meeting:

It was decided that a film night be held. Davis Cup film to be shown and 3/- a head charged to defray expenses.

May Meeting:

A guest speaker to be arranged. Guests for Next Committee Meet-

Percy Hancock, H. T. Brooker.

### Association Activities

Honour Avenue Water Scheme

As this scheme was fully outlined in the last issue of the 'Courier' there is no further need at this juncture to explain the scheme but the urgent need of funds, over and above ordinary association funds to finance this project is pressing us.

Each month a progressive total of donations and donors' names will be published in the 'Courier'. Your donation will help this worthy scheme and so bring into being a memorial to our fallen comrades as only God could create it.

Please don't wait until the 'other' chap has started donating because we wish to get started

Re-Union and Commemoration Service and Dates

By now you should have received through the post a circular from your secretary, Jack Carey, asking you to outline the best months for your attendance at the above. This is just an added reminder so dig up that paper and fill it in right away.

### Reminders

April Meeting

Next meeting will be on April 6. This will take the form of a picture night. Once again we have been able to secure films of the Davis Cup Tennis so roll up and bring a pal and see these great films.

Unfortunately these films are not loaned out to us any more and the Committee has decided on a charge of 3/- per head to defray

expenses. May Meeting

The meeting scheduled for May 4 looks like being a good show as a guest speaker has been lined up. As these evenings never fail to entertain we are looking forward to a good attendance.

Bernie Callinan's book "Independent Company" will soon be on the market again so please be patient and send in 26/- for an autograph-ed copy or 21/- for ordinary copy. You will be advised per medium of the 'Courier' as soon as stocks are available.

# Personalities

Managed to sneak away from mum for a few hours the other night and went down to Gloucester Park to the trots. Yes, you guessed correctly. Lost all my money and had to walk home.

Saw Tom Fitzgerald down there. Haven't seen Tom in an age and he

looked quite well on it.

Jack Carey and Bill Willis were others I ran into both trying to supplement the week's wages with a few bob from the poor old bookie.

Of course Colin Doig was there in his usual role of a penciller helping to raise an honest shekel or two for his boss. He was always too busy when I saw him to speak

Arthur Smith is a very busy man these days with extra work to do with the Queen's visit keeping him back at work quite a lot. Arthur is a testing officer with the Telephone Branch.

Congratulations to Val and Percy Hancock. A baby daughter-

their third, has arrived.

Alf Walsh hasn't been enjoying the best of health of late but turned up again at the monthly committee meeting looking his cheery self. Let's hope that this stalwart committeeman will not be upset by poor health.

Jack Hassen and family of Ballidu, have ben spending a couple of weeks' holiday at Safety Bay. Jack is a hard working farmer so the well earned spell should fit him for another season. By the way, Jack is sporting a new Vanguard these

days.

Neil Brady who had an operation recently is back at work again. He is feeling O.K. and looking something like his cheery self. He is at present doing a bit of a battle between Repatriation and Compensa-Here's a good wish that you have a win Neil and that you will soon be 100 per cent again.

Often see Tom Nisbet around the city. Tom always seems to be exuding good health and personality. It must be that he is happy in his job with Rootes Group.

#### GENERAL MEETING

On Tuesday, March 2, about 20 of the boys turned up to the

sports night.

We had a great time and decided on a dart tournament as the main attraction. Several keenly fought out games provided interest for the spectators as well as players.

As usual a wee drop of the doins was imbibed with the inevitable

cheese and biscuits.

loe Burridge brought along very interesting guest in the person of Geoff Johnston. Geoff enjoyed himself no end and although professing to be a "mug" at the art of dart throwing managed to jag an odd treble or double.

Geoff was a Major in the army during the Big Show and was O.C. of 8th Field Battery. Afterwards O.C. 3rd Australian War Crimes Group. Their job was to nail those responsible for war crimes and

bring them to justice.

Where Geoff becomes of more than usual interest to us was that one of his jobs was to land (one officer and ten men) in Dilli a couple of days after the surrender. Geoff assures me that several of the Japanese offenders in Portuguese Timor were brought to book and given the "works"

Mick Calcutt proposed a toast to Colin Doig. Mick said he wasn't sure whether it was Colin's 21st Birthday or the 21st anniversary of his 21st Birthday. Any way the toast was duly honoured in the us-

ual manner.

S.O.S.

Has anyone seen Blue Pendergrast's shovel? It is a new No. 4 and someone took his shovel by mistake at the working bee prior to the Commemoration Service. If you should have Blue's shovel please return it to him as Blue is very particular about his tools of trade.

#### COL DOIG'S MAIL BAG

Had both letter and visit from Clarrie Turner this month. rie and his wife both looked extra well. Clarrie had been down to the Thoroughbred Horse Sales and was a bit disappointed with the results of his sales of "Englands Glory" Clarrie sees or hears of 'Marsh' quite frequently as 'Marsh' is carting lime or some such in Clar He had also had a visit rie's area. from Robbie Rowan Robinson re-Clarrie and his wife are cently. both keen on trying to make the Olympic Re-Union.

A letter from "Robbie" Rowan Robinson sending a donation to the "Jack Ward Appeal". "Robbie" is of the opinion that this should be an all in affair and must say I agree with him. Thanks a ton Robbie, will forward your contribution to

Jack Hartley.
"Bobbie" Burns who is now a Corporal with the 4 R.A.R. at Ingle burn, N.S.W., writes to change his "Bobbie" has his family address. with him at Ingleburn. He is anxious to contact the office bearers in N.S.W. You will find Jack Hartley's address in the 'Courier', Bob-bie and I know the gang in N.S.W. will be pleased to welcome you and reef a sug off you.

Saw Ted Loud briefly at the trots one night. Ted looked particularly well and promised to come and see me later but apparently events were such that he was unable to make the visit.

Ron Dook has been on annual leave and has been improving the shining hour by working on his new home putting up fences, shifting earth, etc. Should be good and fit by the time he returns to work.

Tom Bateman has switched jobs once again and is now Salaries Clerk at W.A. Petroleum Ltd., the crowd with the bore at Exmouth Gulf. This looks like a ground floor job with a big time organisation. Best of luck to you Tom in your new surroundings.

Mick Calcutt is another who has been having a spot of leave or holiday. He had a few days at Rottnest and a few days at Bunbury for the Bunbury Cup meeting. Said the fishing at Rottnest was only fair

Saw Jack Fowler recently. Jack had been at Rockingham for his annual spot of holidays. Jack and his wife and family came out and saw me on one occasion and had afternoon tea and a bit of a natter.

Fred Napier is still in hospital as is Ernie Dinwoodie, both I believe are recovering but the process is a slow one especially in the case of Ernie. We hope to see them out and about in the shortest possible time.

Understand that Merv Ryan and his wife are not doing so well as was first anticipated. Merv looks like having to have an operation on his shoulder to try and get full usage of it once more. His wife has been having a tough time of it with head aches and general debility and her recovery looks a slow business.

Letter to hand from Major Love sending along a donation to the funds and bringing news of our three friends Freddie Chapman, Michael Calvert and Nevil Shute. Freddie was still caravaning through Africa and he had Xmas at Umtali in Southern Rhodesia. They had apparently been in Umtali some little time as that was his forwarding address. He is doubtless home now and will have a nice story to write and tell. What a chance to get him to the Olympic Re-Union!

Michael Calvert has disappeared into the blue somewhere but will doubtless turn up at the most unexpected place and time.

Nevil Shute is expected to visit

W.A. in the near future and if so we will do all in our power to smooth his course and snow him W.A. as it should be seen.

Thank you muchly Major for your nice letter and I will pass on your regards to any of the gang

A nice long personal letter from Bernie Callinan and very nice to get it too. Will answer it as soon as a little time makes it possible, Bernie. Apparently the rapid sales of Bernie's book amazed even the publishers as they were caught on the hop and had not prepared for a reprint until it was too late to tap the market at its highest. Bern had seen Kev Curran recently at Bendigo and says Kevin had sold out of his hotel and would be leaving after Easter but that he intends staying on in Bendigo and playing football again this year. Bernie had also met Col Scott of Foster fame and hero of the heroic Gull force in Ambon. It would be a pleasure to meet him once again and have a good talk on old times. All the very best to you Bernie.

A crackerjack letter from Peter Mantle giving a running commentary of the Royal Visit to Canberra. Am most sorry that his letter can't be printed in full but afraid many official corns would be twitching considerably if we did. Peter apparently enjoyed the Royal Visit muchly and managed to be among those present at the Garden Party. He also stood by and watched the opening of Parliament. He said he saw Tom Nisbet at the head of a very nice bunch of lads who were doing a really excellent job in contrast with a lot of others who were not so good. Thanks once again Peter for your wonderful letter, it was enjoyed by all who read it.

That completes me for this month except for a letter from "Smash" Hodgson which is reprinted for you to "hear" some of the famous "Smash" jargon.

Dear Col,—I finally got around to getting this off to you. It's good to hear that you are now in your own home (even though that in itself brings with it all manner of attendant jobs). I was lucky to fluke into one of my brother's houses when I got married, and so had one of life's biggest problems solved pronto.

It had a hell of a lot to be done to it, and requires still more; but as we are fairly assured it won't fall down, and it is reasonably comfy we have suspended repairs in favour of trying to harness as many. dollars as possible whilst the flow

I have just emerged from my third chukka in Government garages, since I shed the army. Some congestion in, or of the lungs, Doc The breathing is mightily constricted and not a little painful. There is no doubt about it, Col, those Japanese were marvellous physicians! Whenever they were adjacent to me in those far off times they seemed to exert a most beneficial influence of good health, speed and stamina. In those dashes up and down Ramelau and Kablak, never once did I fall victim to the wogs and bacteria with which I have been afflicted since.

It is possible that as the fastest known wonk of science can only clip it out at a mere 700 m.p.h. he was probably a bit handicapped to lasso me at my maximum of mach

But I'm still inclined to the belief that the wily yellow man had the right style of galvanising for my type of dross. Never mind; what work we don't do this year, let us resolve to do less of next

I'm in partnership with two other brothers in timber cutting for our State Mine. It's quite a good cop, but if a feller was only half fit, it could be a beaut cop. have a pretty big scope of timber on two properties that we own. We think our timber potential will far outlast our market, because the cheapness and vast extent of brown coal is a great factor against the expansion of the black coal indus-

I notice that my wife 'Joy' takes just as great an interest in the 'Courier' as I do. Apart from the absorbing interest of knowing what the lads are doing, and how they are doing it, I get a hell of a kick from the Editorials.

I often wonder when I've read an editorial and the contributor's name did I really know that chap in the army. Still that veneer of chaff and bull did have it's place in those

Well Col., all the best to you chaps there in the Sunser State and yourself and family-Ole Smash.

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#### ALBY MARTIN'S TRIP TO FOSTER

Most of you will remember Alby Martin who was in the Sapper Section and left W.A. to try his hand in Victoria. Alby has made his mark there and written over describing his trip to Foster (our initial training camp).

I am reprinting this part of Col Doig's letter verbatim so as to be sure not to miss any of it.

It was sheer curiosity that prompted me, so packed a few things and set off for Foster via Korrumburra and Leongather. It was hot, but mostly the country is green, and looking very prosper-ous. The main roads are good and motoring through the Gipslands is a real pleasure. Arrived at Foster about 2.30 p.m. and was agreeably surprised to find that once in sight it all came back after 12½ years. The old wooden pub is still as was, it has had a recent coat of paint, the same rather dingy brown as before. No apparent change has been made inside as far as could be seen, it is still as it was in '41. sports ground is a caravan park, not very well patronised, about eight or 10 caravans in sight with an odd tent or two. I did not see Foster Beach in '41, so took a peep to see what it was all about. Here I met the first of the many miles of white rock loose surface roads that appear to be the order once off the beaten track. As a beach it would only qualify to be called such technically, dense ti-tree in black sand right down to high tide mark, and the tide at the time way out to glory. About a score of campers tucked away in the bush, presumably amateur fishermen on holiday, and boy they must have been keen. I do not know if I expected any change in Foster, or if so why, but it is still very much the same Foster that we knew in our earlier army days.

Back on our tracks along the South Gipslands Highway to the turn off to Fish Creek and more white dust. About 19 miles of this, less too few odd short stretches of really good bitumen. Fish Creek is notable for its very good hotel and abundance of dust. I refer to the township proper, the surrounding country side looks good and must be so judging by the number of locals driving late model sedans. At this stage I became a little concerned about my Edith Mary, car

sickness was threatening our plan to go through at least as far as Lakes Entrance.

Next morning, being so near, I took the risk and set off for Tidal River. Same 32 miles I think it is, of the inevitable dust and loose surfaces. I have never ceased to wonder at our survival of those trips by truck from camp to Foster and back, and I have a suspicion that I may not have been the only one with the wind up. The return trip, generally being made in a state of near blackout, was never quite so bad.

A couple of road graders were shifting the dust back on to the road, and there were about 40 cows at the cattle ramp otherwise no sign of life between Fish Creek and Darby. Looking down on Darby from the road in, first thing noticed was the fact that there is now no Chalet-it was burnt I believe, there is one odd outbuilding left, it may have been a pumphouse or something, looks too small for a garage, and bits of foundations sticking up through grass. The garden is overgrown but a fair spread of Shasta Daisies could not have looked better in the most cared for garden. At about the position of the one time Q store there is a notice giving warning of the narrowness of the road ahead. This notice is just riddled with bullet holes and I have a vague idea that it was in that same state in our time. Went back across the bridge to the once trim O.R's. lines, it was just windswept desolation, and I had to hunt around to find the remains of the concrete floors of showers, drying rooms, etc. are there, but mostly covered by shifting sands. There was an occasional camper tucked away in the bush, notwithstanding prominent notices prohibiting camping other than at Tidal River.

On again to Tida! River, it's a winding narrow road as you know but a good run with some very attractive views, particularly of Nor. man Bay. Never having made the trin in a front seat before it was more or less a new experience. I cannot be sure now which camp was No. 1 and which was No.2, however there was no sign of its once being inhabited at our camp it's just bald hill. At the pump and turn off to Tidal River a large chained and padlocked gate blocks the road to the lighthouse. This road

looks newly formed, or reformed, and I was keen to see if, or how far I could get on it, but on enquiring to the manager or one of his assistants, brought forth an emphatic NO.

At the river it was variously estimated at from 2,000 to 3,000 From observation campers. would say surely the former and could easily be the latter. There is a store and about 10 permanent lodges or cabins, an open air picture show, light plant, campers' lounge, barbecue and toilet blocks complete with queue reaching out from either end. The lodges are handled by the Vic. Tourist Bureau and applications close three months before the drawing. Prices range from £5/10/- per week for a four bed lodge to £8/10/- for a six bedder. There is of course a fee for campers, too. Campers were every where, in everything from patchy old tents to really luxury caravans. They were squeezed into the ti-tree wherever possible and in many an apparently impossible place too. Would think that even the snakes would be squeezed out. All this at the River mouth and there's no doubt it's the ideal spot for anyone camping minded. The river beach is safe and clean for youngsters, there is plenty of surf just round the corner and plenty of fishing for the fisherman and interesting walks for the walkers. Of course it is not quite the same story in the months of June and July.

Unfortunately I could not spend as much time as I would have liked.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

### Heard This?

Young Kelly returned home at an early hour in the morning, somewhat dejected. Old Man Kelly let his son into the house and demanded "An" what the devil you doin' here? I thought ye was elopin' with that Rosie Cohen?"

"Yes, father, I was. But her father and brother discovered our plans and circumvented me."

"Glory be." said the old man.
"An' didn't I tell vez ye'd better
be lavin' them Cohens alone?"

# Victorian Vocal Venturings

On the Olympic Games front I must record the sterling work being carried out by Arch Campbell, Bert Tobin and Max Davies. These boys of our Sub-Committee are definitely on the Job. A provisional programme has been secured from the Games Organisers and our own programme is being planned around that, so no one will be forced to miss any important function of ours through clashing with a games high light, and vice verca.

In the near future they will be asking us some leading questions and we ask all to co-operate and send in their replies pronto.

Am sorry to report that our very popular Senior Vice President, Bruce McLaren, has been ordered by his medico to knock off work for at least 12 months due to a dicky ticker. It is a great shock and blow to Bruce who will be moving his wife and two boys into a new home during March. of our earliest duties must be to see that they are well settled in and the grounds straightened out before winter sets in. There will assuredly be painting and general straightening up to be done, and we feel sure there will be a splendid muster of volunteers to assist Bruce, who I am sure all will agree has at all times put service to the Association in the forefront of his activities.

Your committee has decided to hold a Country Meeting at Traralgon, probably about three weeks after our Anzac Day Re-Union. I will be in touch with Tom Coyle in the near future regarding this and will have everything teed up before Anzac Day. Geelong and Bendigo visits are also in the air, and will follow on later.

Out of the mailbag comes a letter from Ivan Brown in Hobart. Ivan reports that his daughter Christine was thrilled to bits with the Xmas book sent by the Association, and he also says that the book was a little classier than the usual run of books available in Tasmania. Congratulations, Ivan, on the latest addition to your family. Graeme Scott Brown, born Jan. 13. We all hope that the young fellow and your good wife are both by now in fine fettle. Ivan also passes on the news that Joe Loveless is still en-

joying good health and living com-

fortably with his wife and children. Joe still keeps Station 7ZL on the air and many other radio and W/T-PMG stations. Ivan and Joe, being of the same tribe, wish the best of luck to Mick Morgan on his installation as Master of his Lodge in Fremantle. Thanks for your news Ivan, I hope to get round to replying to a few letters in the near future.

While on the Tasmanian corner I must let you have the news contained in a letter from Sunny Thomas, wife of Don. Now domiciled in Launceston, Don is with the P.M.G. in the city and Sunny teach es school at St. Leonards. Don is now a C.S.M. in the militia, good for you Don. I guess you must have given away the pedal pushing. Have now recorded your new address and hope your mail reaches you promptly in future. Thanks for writing, Sunny, keep up the good work.

Terry Paull writes from Mansfield where he is now working. He is well in the snow country, being only seven miles from Mt. Buller. We will definitely be putting up some more tankards this year, Ter-ry and wish you luck. Terry advises that Arnold Webb is living at the same address. Tell Arnold to let me know if he wants us to send his mail up there, Terry. By the way, Bert Tobin's address is 51 Northernhay St., Regent. Arch Campbell is about to move into a new flat, and I will include his address in the next issue. Kindest to Ivy and yourself, and drop another line soon, don't wait for Anzac Day.

Have had several letters from Tommy Coyle and Blue Sargent, and as usual have not yet acknowledged them. Many thanks for all your good wishes, and what's this about you two having a chat over a couple of soft drinks? I trust it isn't anything serious. Will be in touch with you both

Here I conclude with a few cuff notes extracted from the committee at a meeting last week.

Charlie Brown had a very successful business cum holiday trip to New Zealand last November-December.

Son born to Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Brown, making the happy pigeon pair.

Joe Loveless in much better health now and sends his regards to all.

Vic Pacey, still the same amiable bloke, also sends his best wishes.

Bert Tobin met Norm Tillett ac-Norm just cidentally last Friday. down for a day for last of Country Week Cricket, Norm and family all well.

Arch Cambell: Stan Sadler welcomed in London Hotel. Good to see him. Stan hasn't changed since the old days. Hope he had a grand holiday.

Bob Field was down the same Bob also looks week on business.

one hundred per cent.

Bert Tobin is enjoying a holiday at the beach with his wife, Wilma, and two youngsters, so have not been able to punish his ear.

Campbell was up bright and early on the morning of Wednesday, March 3, to welcome his good wife, May, home after a lengthy tour of England and the Continent with the Australian Hockey Team. Have neither seen nor heard of Arch since so he must be getting to know May again.

time they tell me. Many thanks to all those who turned up and helped splash a bit of paint on my place. They did a magnificent job. "Happy" Greenhalgh, on a short holiday from Mac lean, N.S.W., put in a day with us, and managed to provide the highlight of the weekend when he put a ladder and nearly Happy too, through a window. George Humphreys was elected to do the repair work and after a struggle, finally got the new pane in, in four pieces. Seems the glass got cut the wrong size, or something. Ken Monk, staunch as ever, left his cows to Margaret on the Sunday and wielded a nifty brush instead. One would have to travel many miles to find a better man than Ken. On his way down from Poowong he called in to try and collect 'Smash' Hodgson at Nyora, but unfortunately 'Smash' was down with the wog and confined to the bunk. We all hope you are well again by now 'Smash' and look forward to seeing you on Anzac Day. Others so willingly assisted were Arch Campbell, Harry Botterill, Jack Servante, George Kennedy, Sep Wilson, Max Davies, Bert Tobin and Bill Tucker. Thanks again for

The next job on the roster is on

a wonderful job.

George Kennedy's homestead next Monday, and here again we are anticipating a grand roll-up. job can be finished in one day and we are just the boys to do it.

Gordon Stanley has recently changed his address and though at present I have no new one from him, I am sure that when he is once again settled he will be in touch with us. He recently attended Bert Bache's wedding in Adelaide Congratulations Bert, and all the best for your future happiness. Plans are well advanced for our

Anzac Day Re-Union, the hall is booked and the amber fluid order-We are looking forward to a

bumper show this year.

Would anyone who has changed address lately please drop me a line also any others who have a spot of news for the 'Courier'. Cheers 'n beers,-GERRY MALEY.

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N.S.W. Correspondent: J. F. Hartley, Creek Road, Benowra, N.S.W.

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### Heard This?

"Where were O'Toole: you born, Morski?"

Morski: "In Russia." O'Toole: "But where in Russia?" Morski: "On the Steppes."

O'Toole: "Begorrah now. Why do women wait so long?'

Dear Editor-"After two years of married life my husband and I both find we've made a mistake. Should we separate?"

Answer-"Yes. But what will you do with the mistake?"

A well known daily newspaper, offering 5/- each for Embarrassing Moments letters, received the following epistle:

"I work on an early night shift in a steel factory. I got home an hour early last night, and there I found another man with my wife.

I was very embarrassed. Please I was very embarrassed. Please send me 10/-, as my wife was also embarrassed."

The editor, so we are told, sent a cheque for 15/-, admitting the possibility that the stranger, too, might have been embarrassed.