

# The Seven Seas Tattler Issue 3.6 - November 2019



Hello Seven Seas Members

Welcome to the November edition. As always, I wish to remind you that all forms of constructive feedback, contributions and the odd advertisement are welcome. Simply email me at [jonathanagolding@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanagolding@gmail.com)

As we approach the end of the year we reflect on the year as a whole. Although we had a shaky start, the club financials look good, there have been a host of events at the club and membership is steady.

Movie nights are reasonably well attended and the quiz is to be reintroduced. Another singalong / dance along is also scheduled. Please support these ventures.

## **From the Chairman**

The Club is doing very well financially, thanks mainly to functions held at the Club'

The Treasurer, at the last AGM, presented a bleak picture when presenting his budget, which indicated that the club will be in the red for the current financial year.

I am pleased to report that the club is showing a positive balance thanks to those functions. Members are encouraged to use the Club for functions, for own or friends that are looking for a venue.

That said there are proposals to hold auctions and DVD music concerts in the Club. Members are encouraged to give their inputs, positive or negative. Committee members are promoting these

ideas to the benefit of members and only feedback will inform them if they are on the right track.

See you at the club.

### **From the Treasurer**

September presented the Club with another small profit, thanks to the excellent support at the screening of the Rugby World Cup and to a private function. (Friday attendance was not too shabby either). It looks like the negative outlook we had at the time budgets were set is slowly changing to a more positive outlook and for this we thank our members for their loyal support. Long may this last!

October looks to be on track as well and judging by all the activities planned for November, I think we are going to move well into the black cumulatively for the year, against a rather large deficit budgeted. (It is so much nicer reporting good results).

That's it for now....see you at the Club!

### **Club Manager's Report**

#### **November 2019 Birthdays**

We wish the following a happy birthday!

Lt G. Munro – 02 Nov  
Mr P.G. Horwill – 08 Nov  
Mr A.J. Ritchie – 10 Nov  
Cdr M.G. Jardine (Ret) – 13 Nov  
Capt K.B. Wise – 14 Nov  
Mr D.C. Le Roux – 18 Nov  
Lt R.C. Maydon – 21 Nov  
Mr J.L.W. Simms – 21 Nov  
Capt R.G.W. Thomson – 23 Nov  
Mr W. Eiserman – 23 Nov  
Mr S. Bothma – 29 Nov

#### **October 2019 100 Club Winners**

Prof G. Kruger – R300  
Mr H. Farrow – R300  
Capt V. Nielson (Ret) – R300  
Mrs M. Dilley – R1000

#### **Members Friday Night Draw**

Mr P. Berrange – R5400

#### **New Members**

We welcome the following new members

**Ensign Renaldo George Booyesen** married to Miranda resides at the SA Naval Mess Silvermine. Renaldo is a Member of the South African Navy Maritime Reaction Squadron. He holds a B Mil Degree in Security and African Studies.

**Ensign Devann Oberholzer** married to Lindsay and resides in Sun Valley. Devann is a Member of the South African Navy Maritime Reaction Squadron. He is a competitive yachtsman at False Bay Yacht Club and is currently sponsored by DHL. Devann is currently studying towards a degree in security and African Studies.

**Wilhelm (Willie) Johan Wijenberg** married to Susan and resides in Silvermine Village Noordhoek. Willie is a Member of Fish Hoek Sailing Club and Rotary Newlands. He holds a Boat Skippers Ticket and is keen on Ski Boat Fishing.

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## ***Navy news***

### ROYAL NAVY EXPERTS GO ON NORTH ATLANTIC SUB HUNT

08 October 2019

*THE Royal Navy's anti-submarine experts working with HMS Queen Elizabeth have been pitting their wits against an American submarine in the North Atlantic.*

HMS Northumberland and the specialist Merlin Mk2 of 820 Naval Air Squadron have gained invaluable information on tactics and skills required to protect an aircraft carrier from the threat beneath the waves while working with an allied US sub.

Type 23 frigate Northumberland used her specialist sonars, including the powerful towed array sonar, to hunt the submarine at range, keeping tabs on the sub before 'destroying' the target in training exercises.



*Royal Navy Type 23 Duke class frigate HMS Northumberland*

Joining in the chase was the RNAS Culdrose-based Merlin Mk2, the aerial submarine hunting experts on Queen Elizabeth. The navy fliers utilised sonar buoys to cover a large area of ocean to prevent the submarine getting a clean shot at any of the UK Carrier Strike Group ships.

“As a submariner, it has been a fantastic opportunity to see life and fight from the other side,” Principal Warfare Officer, Lieutenant Commander Kris White, said.

“The challenging environment has been a hurdle the team and I have had to overcome and adapt to but it has been a hugely valuable exercise period, allowing me to utilise my submariner experience, helping to forge the tactics we will require for the Carrier Strike Group in 2021.”

Sonar Maintainer, Petty Officer Douglas Owen, added: “It has been a challenging period but one that I have relished.

“Being the Sonar Maintainer on an anti-submarine warfare frigate always attracts significant pressure, especially during a period of intensive training with a live submarine. It has been great to see the kit in action”.

The anti-submarine task group carried out a number of exercises, which varied in complexity and range to really test the UK ships.

Following the training, Northumberland, the Merlin Mk2 and RFA Tideforce joined up with the sub briefly before continuing their work on the Westlant 19 deployment.



*Merlin MK2. Submarine Hunter*

## Featured Officer - Lieutenant Commander David Balme

Lieutenant Commander David Balme: Leader of the operation which captured the Enigma cipher machine and helped win the Second World War

*By Anne Keleny*



On 9 May 1941, Sub-Lieutenant David Balme shouted the order to lower the ship's sea-boat into the swelling mid-Atlantic. Three hundred yards across the waves, there wallowed his destination, a stricken German U-boat, stern down.

Balme and his men were from the British destroyer *Bulldog*, the leading ship in the 3rd Escort Group accompanying convoy OB 318. Her fellow escorting vessel, the corvette *HMS Aubretia*, had forced the U-boat to surface with depth charges, and *Bulldog*'s gunfire had damaged her. She had been abandoned by her crew. Balme's armed boarding party, which rowed across, had orders to strip her of anything useful.

They arrived soon after midday to windward of her. Balme clambered up her curved, slippery surface, and, revolver at the ready, mounted the fixed ladder of the 12ft conning tower. Going down inside, he had two hatches and more ladders to negotiate. It meant replacing the weapon in its holster to grip with both hands, and descend bottom-first. If any Nazi crewman had stayed on board, he thought, I'm an easy target. An eerie blue light bathed the U-boat's nerve centre in the chamber below, an array of unfamiliar wheels and dials. A hissing came from somewhere, and he could hear the ocean slosh against the hull. There might be booby traps; there might be scuttling charges set to explode. He went up to the bow: nothing; the stern, too, was empty.

He formed his men into a chain to pass out books and documents. They included a stoker, Cyril Lee, and a telegraphist, Allen Long. The stoker's job, to restart the engines, proved too risky, but the telegraphist at once told Balme: "This looks like an interesting bit of equipment, Sir." It resembled a typewriter, but lit up strangely when Long pressed the keys. It was a German naval "Enigma" cipher machine. The party found daily settings and procedures for its use. Written in soluble ink, they risked being lost if dropped in the sea, but, Balme recalled: "nothing even got wet."

It took him and the party, Able Seamen Sidney Pearce, Cyril Dolley, Richard Roe, Claude Wileman, Arnold Hargreaves and John Trotter, six hours to clear the U-boat. Bulldog's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Commander Joe Baker-Cresswell, who had refrained from ramming the U-boat in order to seek out its secrets, "very kindly sent some sandwiches over". Balme ate his at the desk of the U-boat captain. This was the now-deceased Kapitänleutnant Fritz-Julius Lemp, who after sinking two ships from the convoy, feared that Bulldog or her fellow destroyer HMS Broadway must smash his hull, and, hurling himself into the sea, drowned with 14 of his men. The rest were taken prisoner. In the afternoon, Balme had his semaphore flagman call for Bulldog's chief engineer officer, GE Dodds, who sought to increase the U-boat's buoyancy. At 6.30pm Baker-Cresswell ordered them back to Bulldog, and took U-110 into tow. She sank next day, before Bulldog reached Iceland to refuel.

The boarding, called Operation Primrose, drew a signal from the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Dudley Pound: "Hearty congratulations. The petals of your flower are of rare beauty." King George VI called the find "perhaps the most important single event in the whole war at sea." Balme received the Distinguished Service Cross. The need for secrecy, the King told him, precluded the higher award he would have preferred to make. The others were Mentioned in Despatches, and Baker-Cresswell received the Distinguished Service Order.

The machine and documents helped turn looming defeat in the Battle of the Atlantic to victory. For much of the war's first two years, when Britain stood alone, U-boat attacks sank too many ships bringing vital supplies. "The only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril," Winston Churchill recorded. Baker-Cresswell, years later, wrote to Balme: "The whole beauty of our exploit was the providential timing of it. The situation was just about desperate... If losses in the Atlantic had gone on increasing at the same rate... we would have had to sue for peace."

### The "S-Boot" (Forty knots, some 80 years ago!)



*S81 works up to her full speed of 39 kts. The low profile of the S-boats was a considerable advantage in the nocturnal melees along the Channel coast.*

The German navy (Kriegsmarine) operated a variety of torpedo boats under the generic classification of S-Boot, an abbreviation for Schnell (Fast) Boat. The British Royal Navy referred to them as "E[enemy] boats," an appellation adopted by the Americans as well.

During the mid-1930s, the German firm of Daimler-Benz perfected a superb twenty-cylinder engine with a high power-to-weight ratio and remarkable reliability. Running on diesel fuel, it was largely immune to fire hazard and therefore was extremely well suited to combat use. In the innovative high-speed hulls developed by the Lurssen boat makers the result was a winning combination. S-boats ranged between eighty-six and 108 feet in length, displacing forty-five to 105 tons. All were fast, capable of thirty-five to forty-two knots, with hulls well suited to the North Sea and the Channel's rough waters—perhaps more so than their British counterparts. Heavily armed, S-boats had two torpedo tubes plus assorted automatic weapons: a variety of 20, 37, and even 40 mm cannon plus machine guns forward, amidships, and astern.

S-boats' greatest success relative to Overlord occurred during Operation Tiger in late April 1944, when they sank two U.S. Navy LSTs off Slapton Sands, Devonshire. The torpedo boats also inflicted losses on Allied shipping in the week after D-Day but sustained heavy casualties in bombing attacks on French ports.

Some 240 S-boats were produced during the war, of which approximately half survived. The Kriegsmarine also had a class of large torpedo boats that were virtually destroyers: Type 23, 24, and 39 vessels displaced nine hundred to 1,300 tons, measured 280 to 335 feet long, and mounted up to 4.1-inch (105 mm) guns, plus torpedoes and mines. Crew complements were 127 in the first two classes, 206 in the third. The T-Boote received animal names such as Falke, Jaguar, and Kondor, engaging Allied destroyers and torpedo boats on at least four occasions in the week after D-Day. Many were destroyed by bombing at Le Havre in mid- to late June.



## The Siege of Kimberley - a personal (family) account

The following was submitted to Tattler by Vic Neilson Capt (SAN) Ret. It makes interesting reading, particularly for those with a Kimberley connection. Thanks Vic!

### MY FATHER AND THE SIEGE OF KIMBERLEY

By Victor Robert Neilson – born 13 December 1936

My grandfather John Neilson was born on 17 August 1866 in the District of Moffat, County of Dumfries, Scotland. He married Agnes Turnbull Maitland who was born on 23 February 1874 in Broomhouse, Monkland in the County of Lanark. They emigrated to South Africa in the 1890s and settled in Kimberley where John sought his fortune in the diamond fields together with many others. Little did he realise that he and his family were to be caught up in a very real way in the Second Anglo-Boer (South African) War.

The Second Anglo-Boer War started on 11 October 1899. The siege of Kimberley was one of the first engagements of the war and lasted from 14 October 1899 until 15 February 1900. Preparations for the defence of Kimberley started very late and Colonel Robert Kekewich of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) was only appointed to command the town forces on 7 October 1899.

The shelling of Kimberley by the Boers forced many of the townsfolk to seek shelter in the adits in the big hole. I understand that the maternity section of the hospital was relocated to an adit in the Big Hole of Kimberley Mine. It was there that my father was born on 3 November 1899. A shoe box had to make do as a crib for the new born babe. It is hardly surprising that he was named Robert George Kekewich Neilson.

CHILD. KIND.	6. Place of Marriage. Waar getroud.	PARENTS. OUERS.	INFORMANT. BRIGGEWEE.	DISTRICT REGISTRAR, ASSISTANT DISTRICT REGISTRAR, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, OR POLICE OFFICER. DISTRIKS-REGISTRATEUR, ASSISTENT DISTRIKS-REGISTRATEUR, VREDEREGTER OF POLISIEBEAMFTE.	Stamps added or altered after Registration of Birth Name (asgevoeg of ver- ander in registrasie van geboorte. Dae Datum.
1. Date of Birth. Datum van geboorte. 2. Place where Born. Plaats waar gebore. 3. Usual Place of Residence of Parents or Guardian. Gewone woonplek van ouers of voogd. 4. Christian Names. Voornamen. 5. Sex. Geslag.	7. Christian Names and Surname. Voornamen en familienaam. 8. Birthplace. Geboorteplek. 9. Age. Ouderdom. 10. Race. Ras. 11. Occupation. Beroep. 12. Industry. Nywewêld.	13. Christian Names and Maiden Surname. Voornamen en familienaam. 14. Birthplace. Geboorteplek. 15. Age. Ouderdom. 16. Race. Ras. 17. Occupation. Beroep. 18. Industry. Nywewêld.	19. Signature (or Mark). Handtekening (of Merk). 20. Qualification. Bevoegdheid. 21. Residence. Woonplek. 22. Witness. Getuie. 23. Date. Datum.	When Registered or Received. Wanneer geregistreer of ontvang. Station. Stansplaa. Signature of Assistant District Registrar, Justice of the Peace, or Police Officer. Handtekening van assistent-distriksregis- trateur, vrederegter of polisiebeampte. When Registered. Wanneer geregistreer. District. Distrik. Signature of District Registrar. Handtekening van distriksregistrator. No. of Entry. No. van inskrywing.	
1, Third November 1899. 2, 38 Beards Street, Kimberley. 3, - 4, ROBERT GEORGE KEKEWICH 5, Male. 6, C. de W.	(7) John Neilson NEILSON. (8) Scotland (9) - (10) European. (11) Bootmaker (12) -	(13) Agnes Maitland (14) Scotland (15) - (16) European. (17) - (18) -	(19) V. Neilson (20) Mother. (21) 38 Beards Street Kimberley (22) - (23) -	7 December 1899. Kimberley E. W. A. Morris 12526/1899.	
I, Ek ..... do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in the Births sertifiseer hierby dat bostaande 'n getroue afskrif is van 'n inskrywing					
Register kept at..... in die geboorteregister gehou te		Extracted this..... Uittreksel gemaak op hede die		12 <sup>th</sup> day of..... dag van	
KIMBERLEY		KIMBERLEY		12-10-1949	
				Registrar/District Registrar. Registrateur/Distrikregistrateur. Province/District. Provinsie/Distrik.	



White children born during the early stages of the siege were more fortunate than those born in the latter stages as there was more food to go around than towards the end of the siege. 50% of white babies born during the siege did not survive. In the case of coloureds this was 90% and in the case of blacks none of the babies survived.

The siege was relieved by a Cavalry Division commanded by Lieutenant-General John French, part of a larger force under Lord Roberts.

Robert George was 4 years-old when Lord Roberts came to Kimberley to receive the Freedom of the City which was bestowed upon him. Lots were drawn as to which siege baby should present Lord Roberts with a gift of diamonds. The lot fell upon young Robert George. He was dressed in a sailor suit and presented the gift of diamonds to Lord Roberts. (The typed transcription of Council Minutes of the time gives the surname as Wilson. Some years ago this was corrected by the Librarian when I pointed it out during a visit to the Kimberley Museum/Library?).

My father went on to volunteer for service in both WWI and WWII. He passed away in 1951 as a result of ill health that had already started when he was demobbed in Egypt in 1943 as medically unfit.

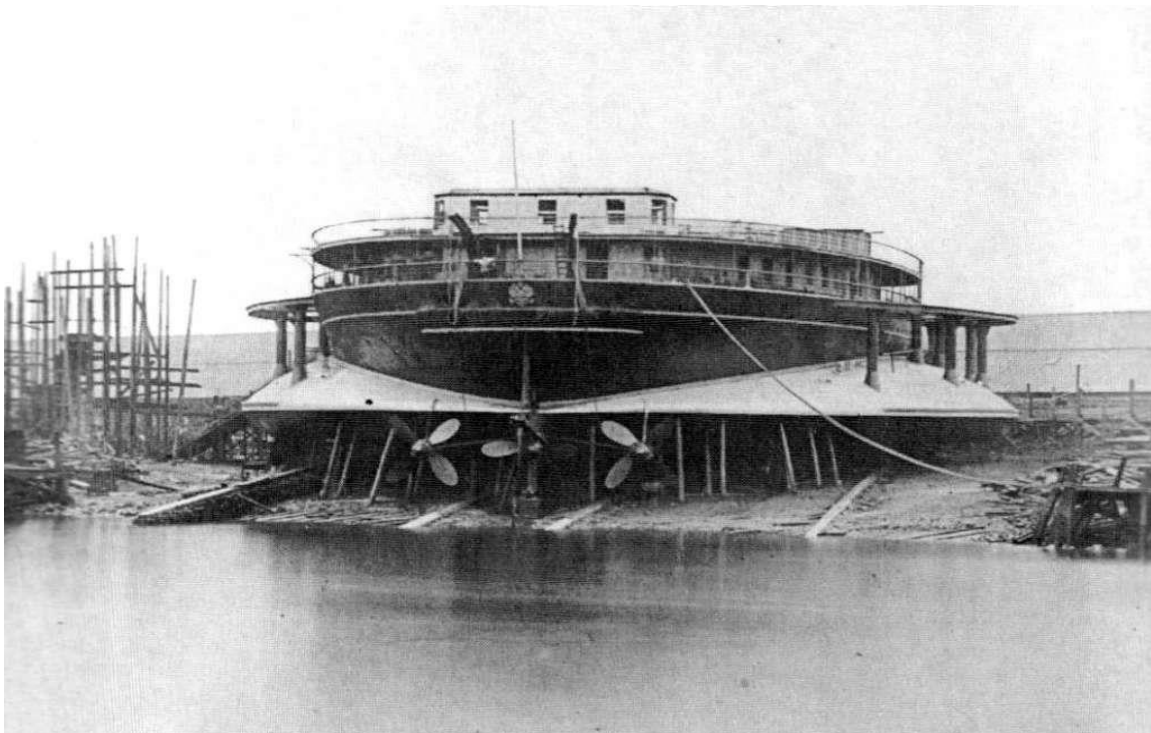
Vic Neilson Capt (SAN) Ret

October 2019

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## ***Strange ships***

### ***The Livadia***



The *Livadia* was an imperial yacht of the House of Romanov built in 1879–1880 to replace a yacht of the same name that had sunk off the coast of Crimea in 1878. The new *Livadia*, intended for service on the Black Sea, was a radically novel ship conceived by Vice Admiral Andrey Popov, designed by naval architect Erast Gulyaev and built by John Elder & Co. of Govan on the Clyde. The *Livadia* continued Popov's line of circular ships although this time Popov sacrificed geometrical perfection for seagoing capabilities. She had a beam of 153 ft (47 m) against overall length of only 259 ft (79 m). An extreme example of tumblehome architecture, she sported a conventionally shaped superstructure mounted on a wide, flat-bottomed, turbot-shaped submerged hull or pontoon.

Construction of the *Livadia*, "a gigantic life-size experiment"<sup>[4]</sup> and a prototype for next-generation battleships, was supervised by William Pearce. Bruno Tideman and Edward James Reed acted as consultants, William Leiper and William De Morgan designed luxurious interiors. The *Livadia* turned out a surprisingly maneuverable and stable ship with a respectable maximum speed of 15.7 knots and her efficiency was comparable to conventional ships. Her performance at sea trials surprised most naval architects and was attributed to the favorable placement of the propellers.

The maiden voyage of the *Livadia* revealed that her wide flat bottom was highly prone to damage by wave slamming. She spent her brief career as a yacht in the docks and was used for her intended purpose only once, carrying Grand Dukes Constantine and Mikhail across the Black Sea. Alexander III had no interest in resurrecting an inherently flawed ship, and in August 1881 *Livadia* was moored in Nikolaev and then hulked and stripped of her former luxuries. Her engines were removed and reused on the Russian cruisers. The rusty hulk saw some use during World War I and was finally decommissioned in 1926.



## The LST – Landing Ship, Tank



Landing Ship, Tank (LST), or tank landing ship, is the naval designation for ships first developed during World War II (1939-1945) to support amphibious operations by carrying tanks, vehicles, cargo, and landing troops directly onto shore with no docks or piers. This enabled amphibious assaults on almost any beach. The bow of the LST had a large door that would open with a ramp for unloading the vehicles. The LST had a special flat keel that allowed the ship to be beached and stay upright. The twin propellers and rudders had protection from grounding. The LSTs served across the globe during World War II including in the Pacific War and in the European theatre.

The first tank-landing ships were built to British requirements by converting existing ships; the UK and the US then collaborated upon a joint design. Over 1,000 LSTs were laid down in the United States during World War II for use by the Allies; the United Kingdom and Canada produced eighty more.



## Did you know?

In a file very creatively and imaginatively entitled "File", our friend Planks van Aswegen has passed to me all kinds of interesting information, for instance:

What is "no man's land", a term so frequently used? - according to the file named file - " Dead centre, midships. Ratings were accommodated forward of the main mast, officers in the stern, the gun room was aft of the main, no one lived in the centre of the ship, which was a hold, hence the name!"

And the oft used "posh"? The "file" tells us it is "stylish, high-class". We all know that, BUT how about its derivation? "Derived from the days when passengers sailed to India and back to England. The best cabins for the outward journey were on the port side and for the return on the starboard side (to provide a view of the coast). These cabins were more expensive so wealthy people only were able to afford them, hence Port Out Starboard Home = POSH!

"File" also reveals that the term "touch and go" means a near thing (yep, we all know that) but goes on to tell us that it is the term when a ship touches or scrapes over a sandbank without its headway being impaired!

Marvellous stuff! More will follow in future editions!

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## 50 years back in history

### SALT - November 1969

The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks were two rounds of bilateral conferences and corresponding international treaties involving the United States and the Soviet Union, the Cold War superpowers, on the issue of arms control. The two rounds of talks and agreements were SALT I and SALT II. Negotiations commenced in Helsinki, Finland, in November 1969.

SALT I froze the number of strategic ballistic missile launchers at existing levels and provided for the addition of new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers only after the same number of older intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and SLBM launchers had been dismantled. SALT I also limited land-based ICBMs that were in range from the north-eastern border of the continental United States to the north-western border of the continental USSR. In addition to that, SALT I limited the number of SLBM capable submarines that NATO and the United States could operate to 50 with a maximum of 800 SLBM launchers between them. If the United States or NATO were to increase that number, the USSR could respond with increasing their arsenal by the same amount. This was signed by President Richard M. Nixon for the United States and Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, for the U.S.S.R. on May 26, 1972, at a summit meeting in Moscow.

19 November 1969

The very famous Soviet nuclear ballistic missile submarine K-19 collided with the American nuclear attack submarine USS Gato in Barents Sea. K-19 suffered damages (bow sonar and covers of the torpedo tubes), while the American vessel suffered none.



*Photo of K-19 took during the famous nuclear incident when the crew prevented a nuclear explosion.*

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*Just how good was Australia in **men's tennis** 50 years back? In the 1969 National Tennis League (this was the period when pro tennis was starting) the year ended thus:*

RANK	NAME	PERIOD	PRIZE MONEY
1	Rod Laver	30 weeks	\$123 405
2	Roy Emerson	30 weeks	\$62 655
3	Ken Rosewall	20 weeks	\$46 800
4	Pancho Gonzales	22 weeks	\$46 320
5	Fred Stolle	28 weeks	\$43 115

## Music

<b>ALBUM</b>	<b>ARTIST</b>
A Way of Life	The Family Dogg
Willy and the Poor Boys	Creedence Clearwater Revival
Cream of the Crop	Diana Ross and the Supremes
The Allman Brothers Band	The Allman Brothers Band
Space Oddity	David Bowie
Ballad of Easy Rider	The Byrds
Live/Dead	Grateful Dead
To Our Children's Children's Children	The Moody Blues
Blue Afternoon	Tim Buckley
Almendra	Almendra
Eight Miles High	Golden Earring
100 Ton Chicken	Chicken Shack
Changing Horses	The Incredible String Band
Four in Blue	The Miracles
Hollies Sing Hollies	The Hollies
Keynsham	Bonzo Dog Band
Joe Cocker!	Joe Cocker
Joy of a Toy	Kevin Ayers
Manfred Mann Chapter Three	Manfred Mann Chapter Three
Monster	Steppenwolf
Mott the Hoople	Mott the Hoople
The Rod Stewart Album	Rod Stewart
Rock Salt & Nails	Steve Young
Scott 4	Scott Walker
Town and Country	Humble Pie
Valentyne Suite	Colosseum
Volunteers	Jefferson Airplane
Your Saving Grace	Steve Miller Band

□ **Movies**

November 10 -Change of habit  
-Marooned

November 15 - Goodbye Mr Chips

November 18 -The Arrangement

November 19 -The Comic

November 27 - The Undefeated

### ***Springbok Rugby Tour - not much to write home about!***

OPPOSING TEAM	FOR	AGAINST	DATE	VENUE	STATUS
Oxford University	3	6	5 Nov 1969	Twickenham, London	Tour Match
Midland Counties East	11	9	8 Nov 1969	Welford Road, Leicester	Tour Match
Newport	6	11	12 Nov 1969	Rodney Parade, Newport	Tour Match
Swansea	12	0	15 Nov 1969	St Helens, Swansea	Tour Match
Gwent	8	14	19 Nov 1969	Ebbw Vale	Tour Match
London Counties	22	6	22 Nov 1969	Twickenham, London	Tour Match
North West Counties	12	9	26 Nov 1969	White City Stadium, Manchester	Tour Match
Ulster	0	0	29 Nov 1969	Ravenhill, Belfast	Tour Match
New Brighton/ North of Ireland	22	6	30 Nov 1969	New Brighton	Tour Match

#### **Cricket**

Nov 08, Sat - Nov 11, Tue

PAKISTAN vs NEW ZEALAND, 3rd Test  
Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka  
Match drawn

Nov 04, Tue - Nov 09, Sun

INDIA vs AUSTRALIA, 1st Test  
Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai  
Australia won by 8 wickets

Nov 15, Sat - Nov 20, Thu

INDIA vs AUSTRALIA, 2nd Test  
Green Park, Kanpur  
Match drawn

An Afghanistan diplomat visiting the US for the first time was being wined and dined by the State Department.

The diplomat was not used to the salt in American foods (French fries, cheeses, salami, anchovies, etc.) and was constantly sending his manservant Abdul to fetch him a glass of water.

Time and again, Abdul would scamper off and return with a glass of water, but then came the time when he returned empty handed.

"Abdul, you son of an ugly camel, where is my water?" demanded the diplomat.

"A thousand pardons, O Illustrious One," stammered the wretched Abdul.

"But a man is sitting on the well!"

In the 1960's there was a TV game show called Hollywood Squares. Stars were asked a question by the host, and the contestants had to guess whether their answer was correct or not.

But the real power of the show was the one- liners that the stars answered the question with, before giving their real answer. Some of the best responses are below!

Q. Do female frogs croak?

A. Paul Lynde: If you hold their little heads under water long enough.

Q. If you're going to make a parachute jump, at least how high should you be ?

A. Charley Weaver: Three days of steady drinking should do it.

Q. Paul, what is a good reason for pounding meat?

A. Paul Lynde: Loneliness!

Q. True or False, a pea can last as long as 5,000 years.

A. George Gobel: Boy, it sure seems that way sometimes.

Q. You've been having trouble going to sleep. Are you probably a man or a woman?

A. Don Knotts: That's what's been keeping me awake.

Q. According to Cosmopolitan, if you meet a stranger at a party and you think that he is attractive, is it okay to come out and ask him if he's married?

A. Rose Marie: No. Wait until morning.

Q. Which of your five senses tends to diminish as you get older?

A. Charley Weaver: My sense of decency.

Q. What are 'Do It,' 'I Can Help,' and 'I Can't Get Enough'?

A. George Gobel: I don't know, but it's coming from the next apartment.

Q. As you grow older, do you tend to gesture more or less with your hands while talking?

A. Rose Marie: You ask me one more growing old question Peter, and I'll give you a gesture you'll never forget.

Q. Paul, why do Hell's Angels wear leather?

A. Paul Lynde: Because chiffon wrinkles too easily.

Q. Charley, you've just decided to grow strawberries. Are you going to get any during the first year?

A. Charley Weaver: Of course not, I'm too busy growing strawberries.



Q. It is considered in bad taste to discuss two subjects at Nudist camps. One is politics, what is the other?

A. Paul Lynde: Tape measures.

Q. Can boys join the Camp Fire Girls?

A. Marty Allen: Only after lights out.

Q. When you pat a dog on its head he will wag his tail. What will a goose do?

A. Paul Lynde: Make him bark?

Q. If you were pregnant for two years, what would you give birth to?

A. Paul Lynde: Whatever it is, it would never be afraid of the dark.

Q. According to Ann Landers, is there anything wrong with getting into the habit of kissing a lot of people?

A. Charley Weaver: It got me out of the army.

Q. Back in the old days, when Great Grandpa put horseradish on his head, what was he trying to do?

A. George Gobel: Get it in his mouth?

Q. When a couple have a baby, who is responsible for its sex?

A. Charley Weaver: I'll lend him the car, the rest is up to him .

Q. Jackie Gleason recently revealed that he firmly believes in them and has actually seen them on at least two occasions. What are they?

A. Charley Weaver: His feet.

Q. According to Ann Landers, what are two things you should never do in bed?

A. Paul Lynde: Point and laugh

Do you like travelling and visiting strange places? For us all -

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work. I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older. One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! And, sometimes I think I am in Vincible but life shows me I am not. People keep telling me I'm in Denial but I'm positive I've never been there before! I have been in Deepshit many times; the older I get, the easier it is to get there!!!!

*And to close*

On a beautiful summer's day, two English tourists were driving through Wales.

At Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, they stopped for lunch and one of the tourists asked the waitress: "Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?" The girl leaned over and said: "Burr... gurr... King."