

The Seven Seas Tattler Issue 7.06 – November 2023



Welcome to November and your latest Tattler! It would seem that spring/summer has arrived and the cold is behind us.

This month we feature interesting naval articles on unmanned "systems" and a gigantic new shed in which to build frigates; some shipbuilding history from the "Second City of the British Empire"; some chirpy stuff on commentators and a piece by Colette on "The Iceman cometh" and some interesting detail on main actor, Lee Marvin. Also our normal regulars: 50 years ago, funnies and more. We hope you will find some items of interest and have a chuckle at a bit of McIntyre at the end.

As always we are more than happy to receive your feedback, constructive critique and submissions. (to jonathanagolding@gmail.com or colettepatience@gmail.com).

Tattler - Some much appreciated feedback! Thank you Rhoda Moore.

Hi Jonathan

I congratulate you on a very interesting October issue.

I enjoyed all of it and thank you for the incredible effort you always make to publish a truly worthwhile read.

Please continue the good work!

With kind regards

Rhoda

Club Manager's Report

Congratulations to our October 100 Club Draw Winners

Mr S.B. Gourley - R300

Mr C. Black - R300

Mr J. Golding - R300

Mr R. Hartley - R1000

We wish the following members a very Happy Birthday. May the year ahead be filled with good health and happiness. For our usual bit of fun we note some historic events and dates.

Lt G.M. Munro (Ret) – 02 November.

1947: American aviator and filmmaker Howard Hughes piloted the Spruce Goose, an eight-engine wooden flying boat intended to carry 750 passengers, on its only flight—one mile.

Mr P.G. Horwill – 08 November.

1895: Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen discovered X-rays, earning him the first Nobel Prize in Physics.

Mr A.J. Ritchie – 10 November.

1775: The United States Marine Corps was established by the Continental Congress.

S Lt J.R. Potgieter – 12 November.

1929: Princess Grace was born.

Cdr M.G. Jardine (Ret) – 13 November.

1980: Martin Scorsese's Raging Bull, a biopic about boxer Jake La Motta, had its world premiere and became an American classic, especially known for the Oscar-winning performance of Robert De Niro.

Capt K. B. Wise (Ret) – 14 November.

1851: Moby-Dick, the novel by Herman Melville, was published in the United States.

Mrs. A. Stannard – 16 November.

1855: British explorer David Livingstone was the first European to see Victoria Falls (Mosi-oa-Tunya).

Mr K.Q. Taylor – 18 November.

1307: William Tell, a Swiss folk hero, was said to have shot an apple off his son's head with a crossbow, sparking the Tell legend.

Mr D.C. Le Roux – 18 November.

1928: Walt Disney released Steamboat Willie, the first animated film with sound to feature Mickey Mouse; the huge success of the cartoon helped make Mickey an iconic character and led to the Disney Company's dominance in the animated market.

S Lt B.E.J. Klocke (Ret) – 20 November.

1945: The Nuremberg Trials began, prosecuting prominent Nazi officials for war crimes and crimes against humanity following World War II.

Lt R.C. Maydon (Ret) – 21 November.

1620: The Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower reached Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in their quest for religious freedom.

Mr E. Potgieter – 22 November.

1963: President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

Mr W.E. Eiserman – 23 November.

1889: The first jukebox, known as the "Nickel-in-the-Slot Phonograph," was installed at the Palais Royale Saloon in San Francisco.

Cdr R.W. Henderson (Ret) – 27 November.

1895: Alfred Nobel signed his last will and testament, dedicating his fortune to the establishment of the Nobel Prizes.

Mr S. Bothma – 29 November.

1947: The United Nations approved the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, leading to the creation of the State of Israel.

Capt J.F. Gower (Ret) – 30 November.

1966: Barbados gained independence from British colonial rule and became a sovereign nation.

Mrs A. Palmer – 30 November.

1979: The British rock band Pink Floyd released their 11th studio album, The Wall.

New Club Members.

Mr Andre Wessels, married to Claire and resides in Lakeside. Andre is retired after 41 years of permanent force service in the South African Navy. He is a member of the MOTHS, the Scottish Freemasons and is also a Trustee of the Naval Heritage Trust.

Mr Ian Kelfkens and partner Hilary Loots resides in Forrest Hill Drive Simon's Town. Ian is a past Member of the Zwartkop Golf Club, the Nelspruit Flying Club and the Pretoria Silverton Rotary Club.

Aye,
Glen



<https://theplanetd.com/world-wildlife-wednesday-simons-town-south-africa>

The other day a police officer pulls over a man driving a bus over and walks on up to the side windows and he sees 20 penguins in there.

The officer questions the man "sir, are these your penguins?"

The man replies "yep, they are my pet penguins"

The officer then says "sir, I am going to need you to take those penguins to the zoo immediately!"

The man says "ok" to the officer and he drives off towards the zoo.

The following day the officer pulls over the same bus and is shocked to see the same 20 penguins inside all wearing sunglasses.

The officer looks sternly at the driver and says "I thought I ordered you to take these penguins to the zoo?"

The man replies "I did, and today we are all going to the beach!"

A local bartender was working late one Friday night when a patron comes running through the door.

Patron: "HELP! I need to know how tall a penguin is!"

The bartender puts out his hand and says "probably this tall"

The patron looks terribly concerned and he says "Oh no! I think I just ran over a nun!"

Penguin walks into a bar

Approaches the bartender and says "I've lost my parents, have you seen them?"

Bartender replies "What do they look like?"

October Quiz night

Another successful Quiz evening was held at the Club on the 11th October. We always witness and love the contrasting dynamics within the groups. There is the competitive spirit and the fierce concentration, but also the friendly banter the chirps about the questions and the happiness/amusement/"oh darn, I knew that" when the correct answers are revealed. Long may this continue.

For the first time in our history the same team that were victorious the previous month were the winners. Congratulations!



We share a picture of that team along with one that shows the "quizzers" hard at work! We also repeat our invitation to those who were not present to come and join us. We will be in action again on the second Wednesday evening in November.



Here is a sample set of questions from the October Quiz. The Category is Movies and their Theme Songs.

- 1) In the 1937 movie "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", this song urged people to do what "while they work"?
- 2) "Somewhere Over The Rainbow," sung by Judy Garland, was in which 1939 movie?
- 3) "My Favourite Things" came from which 1965 film?
- 4) From the 1967 movie, "The Graduate", the seductress and this song have which name?
- 5) What kept falling "on my head" in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"? Provide the full song title
- 6) "Duelling Banjos" was from which 1972 movie starring Burt Reynolds?
- 7) The Beejees song "Stayin' Alive" appeared in which 1977 movie? (Grease, Saturday Night Fever, Flashdance, Footloose)
- 8) "Hakuna Matata" is from which 1994 film?
- 9) Celine Deon's song, "My Heart will go on" is from which 1997 blockbuster movie?
- 10) The same song, sung by Louis Armstrong was used in two James Bond movies. Firstly, in George Lazenby's sole Bond movie "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" and much more recently, in Daniel Craig's last Bond appearance ("No time to die"). Give the full title ("We have all the.....")

Answers elsewhere in Tattler.

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Maritime and Navy Stories, News and Sport

Unmanned Systems At Sea

Source: Maritime Executive

NATO Partners Test out over 90 Unmanned Systems at Sea.

The Royal Navy's R&D teams and robotics specialists recently joined a long-running, large-scale exercise in Portugal, which experimented with almost 100 uncrewed systems in a maritime environment.



Courtesy Royal Navy

Over three weeks, more than a dozen nations joined in the biggest autonomous war game event of the year. The Royal Navy sent members of its Develop Directorate alongside its new experimentation ship, the former crewboat XV Patrick Blackett. It marked the Blackett's first overseas deployment in British service.

Divers from the Diving and Threat Exploitation Group and other specialist units also joined the delegation. Back-to-back exercises focused on system development and real-world application, including protection of subsea infrastructure - a role which has taken on vital importance after the example of the Nord Stream pipeline attacks.

A broad range of NATO and near-NATO allies took part, including Sweden (which is awaiting Turkey's approval of its NATO membership) and Ireland (historically neutral). The UK, US, Portugal and Spain each set up a "virtual ship" command centre to provide command & control functions for the near-shore exercise. They tested out how more than 90 different unmanned systems from more than a dozen NATO partners could work together cooperatively, and how they could communicate and transfer tasking between them.

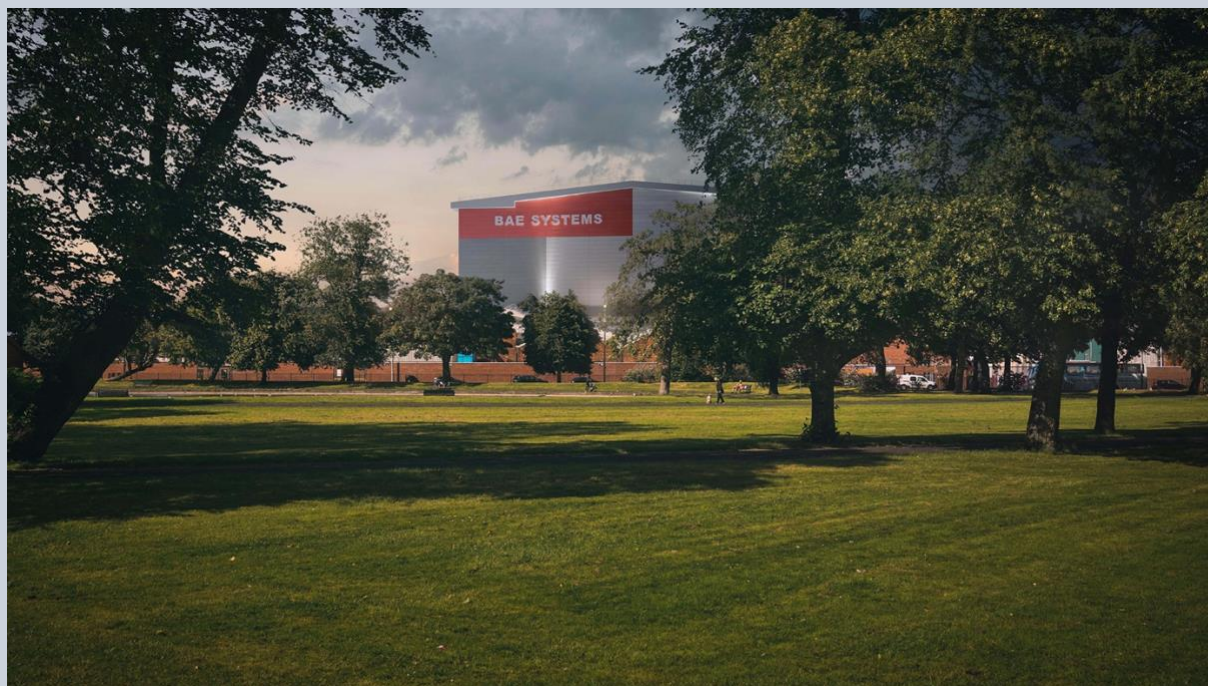
Missions included ISR, interdiction and payload delivery, among other tasks. Industry partners also demonstrated the use of a heavy-lift drone to launch a small torpedo, similar to the role played by an anti-submarine warfare helicopter.

Next up is exercise Dynamic Messenger, which will focus on using autonomous systems out at sea. "The operational experimentation of uncrewed systems, this year, in a more representative NATO task group structure has relied on integration between NATO partners and driven the UK's leading engineering," said Simon Lewinson, UK head of delegation. "This gave the virtual task group a common operating picture, including data feeds from each nation's unmanned assets."

BAE Systems begins construction on gigantic new ship building hall - Glasgow

Source: Maritime Executive

Work starts on a gigantic hall where two Type 26 frigates can be built side by side!



A mock-up of the new gigantic BAE hall for building frigates at Govan. Photo: Royal Navy

Work has begun on a gigantic new ship hall which will allow two Type 26 frigates to be built alongside each other – considerably speeding up the construction of a new class of Royal Navy ships.

Replacing the submarine-hunting Type 23 frigates, Type 26 frigates are set for delivery in the coming decade and will safeguard the Navy from submarine attack well into the 2060s. Once complete, the 170m-long new ship build hall will be big enough to have 500 people working on the frigate per shift, as well as housing two 100-tonne cranes and two 20-tonne cranes.

The name BAE Systems was created in 1999 through the use of the historic acronym for British Aerospace (BAe) combined with the 'Systems' section of partner company Marconi Electronic Systems (Marconi Electronics remains a registered trademark of sectors of that business which were not incorporated under the terms of the merger). The company was formed on 30th November 1999 by the £7.7 billion purchase and merger between Marconi Electronic Systems (MES) - the defence electronics and naval shipbuilding subsidiary of the General Electric Company (GEC) by British Aerospace, an aircraft, munitions and naval systems manufacturer.

"This new hall will give us some of the best facilities in the world and completely modernise our approach to shipbuilding," Simon Lister, managing director of Naval Ships at BAE Systems, said. Dubbed the City-class, eight Type 26s have been ordered – all named after major UK cities, led by HMS Glasgow.

The existing construction in Govan, Glasgow, only allows for fore and rear sections of the frigates to be built under cover. The giant segments are then joined together on the standing – completely exposed to the elements, which is where HMS Cardiff currently sits.

That means for months on end the ships are kept outside, with unfavourable Scottish weather restricting and slowing down construction. Work on the foundations – filling in a basin – has been completed and piling has started for the new hall.

The new complex is part of a £300m investment in BAE's facilities on both sides of the Clyde, which Mr Lister said "will ensure Govan continues to be something that the city of Glasgow can be truly proud of".

A look at Glasgow's Shipbuilding History

Glasgow, Scotland, has a rich history of shipbuilding that spans several centuries. The city was once known as the "Second City of the British Empire" due to its prominent role in shipbuilding and maritime industries. Here is a short overview:

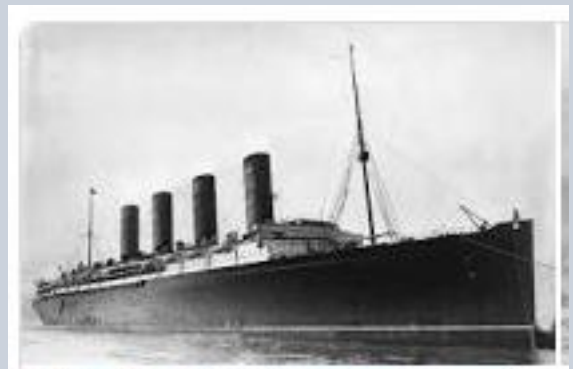
Early Shipbuilding: Glasgow's shipbuilding history can be traced back to the 18th century when the River Clyde became a hub for shipbuilding and trade. The Clyde's deep waters and accessibility to the sea made it an ideal location for shipyards.



Early Prominence: The city's shipyards began to gain prominence during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, building a variety of vessels, including merchant ships, warships, and steamships. The growing shipbuilding industry attracted skilled workers and engineers to Glasgow.

Influence of the Industrial Revolution: The Industrial Revolution greatly impacted shipbuilding in Glasgow. The introduction of steam engines and iron construction techniques revolutionized ship design and construction. This led to the construction of iron-hulled ships, making Glasgow a centre for innovation in shipbuilding.

Growth of Clydebank: One of the most famous shipbuilding areas near Glasgow is Clydebank. In 1871, the Clydebank Engineering and Shipbuilding Company was established which later became the John Brown & Company shipyard. Clydebank produced many famous ships, including the Lusitania,



Lusitania



Queen Elizabeth

World War Shipbuilding: During both World Wars, Glasgow's shipyards played a crucial role in building warships, including battleships and aircraft carriers. The shipyards worked around the clock to support the war efforts.

Post-War Decline: After World War II, the demand for large ships decreased, and the shipbuilding industry in Glasgow began to decline. The competition from overseas shipyards and changing market conditions contributed to the challenges faced by the industry.

Transition to Other Industries: As shipbuilding declined, Glasgow transitioned to other industries, such as engineering, manufacturing, and services. The city diversified its economy to compensate for the loss of shipbuilding jobs.



Queen Mary

Shipbuilding Legacy: While the shipbuilding industry in Glasgow may have declined, the city's shipbuilding legacy is still visible today. The Riverside Museum, located on the banks of the River Clyde, houses a collection of historic ships and exhibits that celebrate Glasgow's maritime history.

Modern Shipbuilding: Although the city's shipbuilding industry is not as dominant as it once was, shipyards still operate, focusing on specialized vessels, repairs, and ship design. Additionally, the Clyde continues to be used for ship repair and maintenance.

Although most of Glasgow's heavy industry disintegrated from the late 1960s, the city is still home to two major shipyards at Govan and Scotstoun in addition to one tiny commercial shipbuilder in Port Glasgow. Investments such as the BAE project is hoped to ignite the industry.

Now just who is this Soldier?

Source: Wikipedia / Military.com



Would you believe it is Jimi Hendrix?

Hendrix opened up about his army experience through a letter to his father saying, "There's nothing but physical training and harassment here for two weeks, then when you go to jump school, that's when you get hell. They work you to DEATH, fussing and fighting."

Military Service: Before his music career took off, Hendrix served in the United States Army. Young James Marshall Hendrix's stint in the Army wasn't necessarily voluntary. He was already honing his guitar skills in

1961 when a run-in with the law over stolen cars led to a choice; he could either spend two years in prison or join the Army. He was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division and was discharged in 1962 due to an ankle injury while parachute jumping.

Tattler - As we remember him! You can click on the image alongside to watch him play.

Jimi Hendrix, the legendary guitarist and songwriter, is known for his innovative and influential contributions to rock music. Here are some lesser-known facts about him:

Birth Name: Jimi Hendrix was born Johnny Allen Hendrix on November 27, 1942, in Seattle, Washington. He was later renamed James Marshall Hendrix by his father.

Left-Handed Guitarist: Hendrix was famously a left-handed guitarist who played a right-handed guitar upside down. This unique playing style contributed to his distinctive sound and stage presence.



Busking in Greenwich Village: In the early 1960s, Hendrix spent time in New York City's Greenwich Village, where he performed as a street musician. He was relatively unknown at this point, and his breakthrough was still to come.

Backup Guitarist: Before forming his own band, The Jimi Hendrix Experience, he worked as a backup guitarist for various famous musicians, including Little Richard, Ike and Tina Turner, and the Isley Brothers.

Debut Album in the UK: Hendrix's first album, "Are You Experienced," was released in the United Kingdom before it was released in the United States. The UK version had a different track list and cover.

Fender Stratocaster: Hendrix was closely associated with the Fender Stratocaster guitar, particularly the white one he played at Woodstock in 1969. He was known for setting his guitars on fire during performances, a signature move that contributed to his iconic status.

Woodstock Anthem: Hendrix's performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at Woodstock in 1969 is considered one of the most iconic renditions of the national anthem. It was a reflection of the tumultuous times and is often seen as a protest against the Vietnam War.

Last Performance: Hendrix's final live performance was at the Isle of Fehmarn festival in Germany on September 6, 1970, just 12 days before his untimely death. It was marred by technical issues and is not considered one of his best shows.

Lifelong Inspiration: Hendrix drew inspiration from a wide range of musicians, including blues legends like Muddy Waters and B.B. King, as well as rock and roll pioneers like Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry.

Jimi Hendrix's life and career were cut short at the age of 27, but his impact on music and guitar playing is enduring and profound. His unique style, innovative techniques, and stage performances continue to inspire generations of musicians and fans.

Editorial

Picture of the Month

This month we feature a beauty which is also from our neck of the woods!

The gifted Jon Kerrin has given us permission to feature his photograph.

Jon is an award winning photographer who produces a wide variety of photographs including landscapes, nature and night shots. He produces a great calendar which is now available. Why not email him for information at info@jonkerrin.com. To see more of his work visit Where The Light Is: Photography by Jon Kerrin ([www.facebook.com › jonkerrinphotography](http://www.facebook.com/jonkerrinphotography))



Commentating

Tattler - Indulge me by permitting me to have a little rant about sport's commentators.

Certain phrases, cliches and words seem to be completely misunderstood and misused by a lot of people performing commentary duties. Maybe your editor is a tad sensitive, or am I not alone?

1) (By commentators on various sports). "He is re-writing the history books"! Now can you imagine if this actually happened? All previous records expunged? Nope, you extend the history books. Or you add to history. Or you replace some other history-maker at the top, but you NEVER rewrite history!

2) (By cricket commentators). "that was a bad time to lose a wicket"! Sorry, but is there a good time to lose a wicket? Conversely - "That was a great time to take a wicket"! So, are there bad times to take a wicket?

3) (By many cricket commentators, particularly Shaun Pollock): "It may be a double-bluff". Now Shaun, if you ever play any poker you will understand that a double-bluff is actually bluffing that you are bluffing. It is not a big bluff as you seem to think.

4) (By commentators in a variety of sports): "He is chomping at the bit". Please! It is "champing" at the bit. I say this being perfectly aware that several decades ago dictionaries were added to by allowing the alternative word. It still irks though!

5) (All sports): "He is giving 120%" Or 150% or 200%! 100% is an absolute. It is giving everything you have. It cannot be exceeded. If it could, would a player giving 120% be lazy compared to his teammate giving 150%? Would a 120% become "only" 120% compared to one giving 200%?

6) (All sports) "He wants it more", or a particular team "want it more"! Measured how, exactly?

7) (By cricket commentators): "That's a great cricket shot"! Now what other kind of sporting shot should he be playing? A golf shot maybe?

Tattler - I won't bore you with more but invite your responses!

Here are some fun commentary quotes I found to settle down your editors pulse rate just a little..

Source: <https://www.thepoke.com/>



"They are the second best team in the world, there's no higher praise than that." – Kevin Keegan

Peter Schmeichel will be like a father figure to Kasper Schmeichel – Jamie Redknapp

"There's nothing wrong with the car apart from the fact it's on fire" – Murray Walker

"Every time he opens his legs he reminds me of Ryan Giggs" – Phil Neville

"There are 5 players in this attack. 6 if you include the other one" – John Motson

"When you've got a mountain to climb you may as well throw everything into the kitchen sink" – David Pleat

"He's an emotional lad; he wears his shirt on his sleeve." – Ron Atkinson

"We've lost seven of our last eight matches; the only team that we've beaten is Western Samoa. Good job we didn't play the whole of Samoa." – Gareth Davies

"I think they'll win by at least one goal." – Kenny Sansom

"I don't make predictions, and I never will" – Paul Gascoigne

“He is an interesting player – short back legs” – David Pleat



“Two laps to go and then the action will begin, unless this is the action, which it is.” – Murray Walker

With half the race gone there is half the race to go.” – Murray Walker

Can you even imagine?

1.7 Billion Dollars

... what a single ticketholder in California snagged last month when winning the Powerball jackpot – it's the second-largest in US lottery history. In Rands this would be over R30 billion - You could give *everybody you have ever known* a million bucks each without making a dent in it!

How long would it take you to spend a billion dollars at \$1000 a day?
If you were given a billion dollars and told that you could spend it at a rate of \$1,000 a day, it would take you about 2,740 years before you ran out of money. That equates to \$5,000 a day for more than 500 years or \$100,000 every single day for 25 years.

Their biggest jackpot was over \$2 billion

Did you know??

The Rio Tinto Group in Australia uses giant autonomous trains — the world's largest and longest robots — to transport iron ore across the vast Outback. Since 2018, the vast majority of journeys across Rio's 1,900km rail network in Western Australia's Pilbara region have been completed without human drivers.



Large pyramids

You think they were all built thousands of years ago!

A pyramid is a 3D polyhedron object with its base as a polygon along with three or more triangular-shaped faces all combined by the apex.

Here is the 9th largest pyramid in the world. The Memphis Pyramid, formerly known as the Great American Pyramid is a pyramid-shaped building located in downtown Memphis, Tennessee, United States, at the bank of the Mississippi River. Built in 1991.



The Pyramid of Djoser, also spelled Zoser, is widely believed to be the oldest pyramid in the world. It dates back to around 2630 BCE, while construction on the Great Pyramid of Giza began in 2560 BCE, roughly 70 years later.

Source: Discover magazine



So you think you have seen a large car?

How's this one for size?



Jean Bugatti poses with the Bugatti Type 41, 1932

This colorized photograph should put a smile on the face of anyone who loves anything about automobiles. It shows Jean Bugatti posing beside one his father's coolest works. Ettore Bugatti's plan was to earn loads of dollars by selling the Bugatti Type 41 Royale Esders Roadster to the members of the royalty. However, that plan wouldn't pan out in the middle of the Great Depression.

Vintage Photos

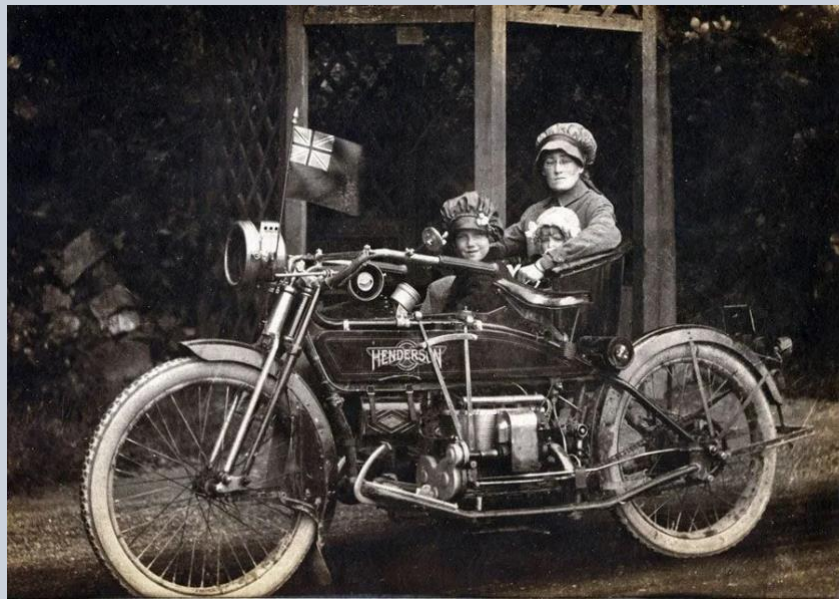
By JJ Foster - 7/5/22



1904 – Time Square



1946 - new shoes - outside of the Am Himmel orphanage in Vienna, Austria, by Gerald Waller.



1912 - somewhere in Australia

October Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Whisper | 6) Deliverance |
| 2) Wizard of Oz | 7) Saturday Night Fever |
| 3) Sound of Music | 8) The Lion King |
| 4) Mrs Robinson | 9) Titanic |
| 5) Raindrops keep fallin' on my head | 10) We have all the time in the world |

This month in History 50 years ago

General

3 November - At 12:45 (0545 UTC) in the morning local time, NASA launched Mariner 10 toward the planet Mercury. On March 29, 1974, the Mariner would become the first space probe to reach that planet).

6 November - Pioneer 10, launched from Earth on March 2, 1972, began returning its first photographs of the planet Jupiter, starting from 16 million miles (25 million kilometres). It would make its closest approach to the solar system's largest planet on December 3.

10 November - The captors of J. Paul Getty III, who had been kidnapped on July 9, confirmed that the abduction was not a hoax and that they had Getty as their hostage, cutting off his ear and mailing it to the Rome newspaper Il Messaggero along with a ransom demand.

14 November - In the United Kingdom, Princess Anne, daughter of Queen Elizabeth, married Captain Mark Phillips in Westminster Abbey. They would divorce in 1992.

17 November - At a press conference in Orlando, Florida, U.S. President Richard Nixon told 400 Associated Press managing editors, "People have got to know whether their President is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook. I've earned everything I've got."

23 November - The sinking of the Cyprus cargo ship Annette killed 21 of the 24 crew after the ship struck a harbour wall at Ashdod in Israel.

27 November - The United States Senate voted, 92–3, to confirm Gerald Ford as the 40th Vice President of the United States.

28 November - The first deliberate ramming of one jet plane into another jet in combat took place as Soviet Air Force Captain Gennadii N. Eliseev failed to bring down an Iranian Imperial Air Force surveillance aircraft with air-to-air missiles or gunfire, and rammed his MiG-21 into the F-4 Phantom II. The crew of the F-4, an Iranian Major and a U.S. Air Force Colonel, ejected safely in Soviet airspace and were captured, while Eliseev died when his airplane exploded.

Sport

3 November - Arnold Taylor of South Africa won the World Boxing Association bantamweight championship in Johannesburg by knocking out titleholder Romeo Anaya of Mexico in the 14th round.

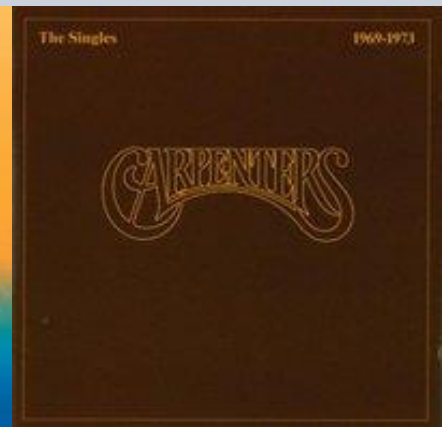
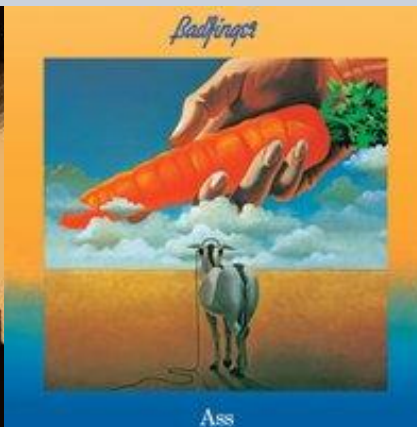
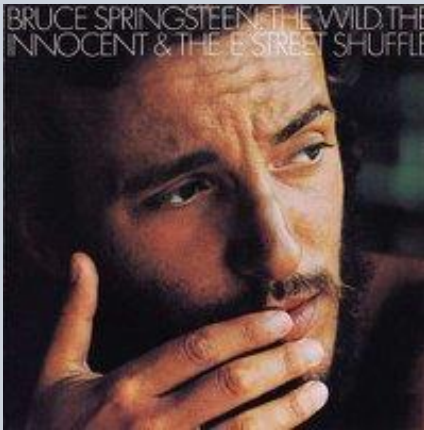
10 November - Rugby: Ireland beat Argentina 21-8. Hugo Porta scored a try.

21 November - In one of the stranger qualification games for soccer football's the FIFA World Cup, the Chilean team showed up, as scheduled, for the match in Santiago against the Soviet Union, which was boycotting because the game was being played in the Estadio Nacional, where political prisoners had been tortured and executed after the September 11 coup d'état. With 15,000 fans in the stands and the scoreboard activated, the Chilean team took the field and worked their way down to the empty goal in the next 30 seconds, and team captain Francisco Valdés kicked the ball into the net to make the victory official. FIFA referee Erich Linemayr then signalled a victory for Chile.

24 November - Rugby: Scotland shaded Argentina 12-11. (Tattler - the Scottish side included Andy Irvine, Billy Steele, Gordon Brown, "Mighty Mouse" McLaughlan, all of whom toured SA with the Lions the following year.

27 November - Cricket. A South African Invitation XI drew with a DH Robin's XI at Newlands. (Tattler - I watched most of this game. It was scheduled for only 4 days and SA ran out of time to win it. The SA team was Barlow, Richards, Ackerman, Pollock, Irvine, Procter, Biggs, du Preez, Smith, Swart and van der Bijl. The Robin's XI included Francis, Edrich, Younis Ahmed, Shepherd, Close, Lever and Gleeson).

Music



So, to which songs were you listening fifty years ago? To play the songs, click on the images below!

Possibly the Carpenters?



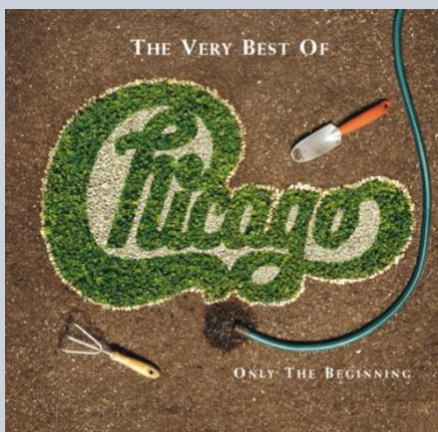
Or maybe Ringo



Or was it Elton John?



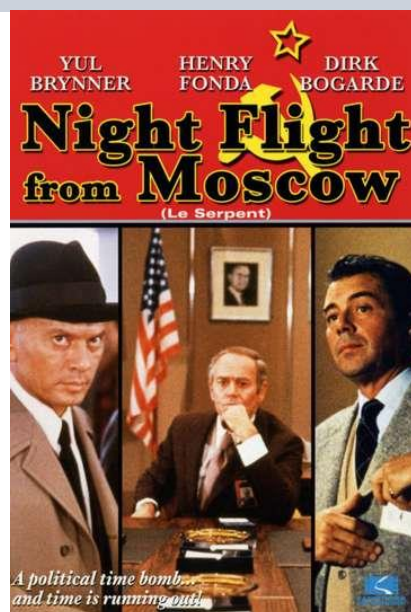
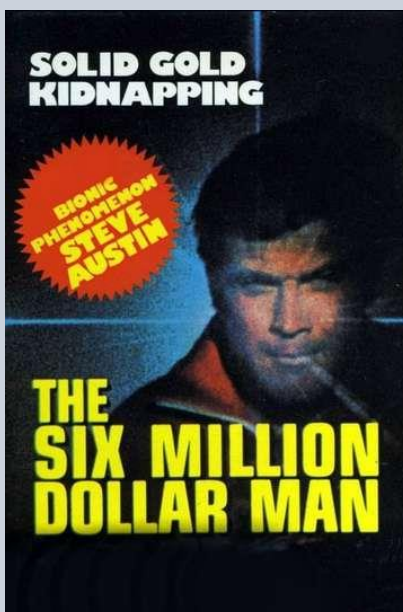
Or, perhaps, Chicago? (Tattler - a personal favourite!)



Was it Eddie Kendricks?



Movies





Very successful was *The Iceman Cometh* (1973), a solid adaptation of the Eugene O'Neill play; Frankenheimer made no attempt to disguise its stage origins, and the drama offered acclaimed performances by March, Robert Ryan, Lee Marvin, and Jeff Bridges.

The film, 3 hours 59 minutes in length, had two intermissions. *The Iceman Cometh* was on the year-end list of the best films of 1973.

First of all, the cast was stellar. Robert Ryan played his last film role here, and it was perfect.

Fredric March played his last role here too, as Harry Hope. Also an excellent performance.

"The question everyone would be asking about is Hickey, played by Lee Marvin. Was he up to the role? To my surprise, Marvin couldn't have been a better choice."

Hickey was a salesman, and a rare one at that. He was the type of salesman that could knock on your door and convince you that what he had to sell was what you needed. A salesman like that had to exude a sense of complete self-confidence. They would have to be totally sure of themselves and show it. Lee Marvin did that perfectly.

The tragedy of Hickey was that he was his own best customer. He was a tortured soul until he came across a solution that made him feel that he could live with himself again, thus creating his own pipedream. His mistake was to think he found a solution that would save humanity.

Unfortunately, in Harry Hope's dive, pipe-dreams and illusions were the only thing the patrons had to live for. Tampering with that created disaster.

Based on the play by Eugene O'Neill, this drama begins as the sad-sack patrons of a New York City bar await the arrival of salesman and drinking buddy Theodore Hickman (Lee Marvin). Known to the regulars of the watering hole as Hickey, he passionately encourages his fellow alcoholics to give up their pipe dreams and embrace their harsh realities. As Hickey makes his case for letting go of all delusions, to the resentment of his friends, secrets from his own past are revealed.

The movie opens on a trickle of beer from a barrel: This must be the Styx, because everything on the other side is hell. The camera tracks to the back room of an Irish saloon in Greenwich Village, summer, 1912, where the regulars are tossed about like sleeping rag dolls. Snores, snorts and cries of terror from fearful dreams. In the corner, one man remains awake, his cynicism too deep to allow easy dreams.

The man's name is Larry, and he used to be a Wobbly before he abandoned the movement for his own personal scorn of faith. The bartender wearily joins him at the table and they wait for the day. There are so many men in the room that it seems impossible we will eventually get to know them all, but we will, and also the three whores upstairs, and especially the man they are all waiting for, the iceman, Hickey.

The owner of the bar is named, ironically, Harry Hope. He has so long ago abandoned any hope that he has not even stepped outside his establishment in 20 years. This place is the end of the road, the bottom of the sea, Larry says. But every man except Larry has a "pipe dream" - something to keep him going. Tomorrow one of them will sober up and get his job back. Tomorrow the assistant bartender will marry one of the whores and make her respectable. Tomorrow. Eugene O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh" is the work of a man who has very nearly abandoned all hope. The only characters in it who summon up the courage to act (not to act positively, but to act at all) are Hickey, who kills his wife, and the boy Don, who kills himself. Larry, who is always the most intelligent man in the room, comes to the conclusion at the end of the play that death is not to be avoided but even to be welcomed.

And yet the play sings with a defiant urge to live. The derelicts who inhabit the two rooms of this seedy saloon depend upon each other with a ferociousness born of deep knowledge of each other. The two old soldiers, for example, one British and the other, a Boer in the South African War, have almost gotten to love each other, so deeply do they depend on their ancient hate.

O'Neill's play was not only so despairing but also so long (four hours and one minute in the film version) that it was not produced on the stage until 1946, seven years after he finished it. It's staged infrequently, despite its stature as the most ambitious play of America's 'greatest playwright. The American Film Theatre production of it, directed by John Frankenheimer, is thus all the more welcome. The play was clearly too difficult to be done as an ordinary commercial movie, but now it has been preserved, with a series of brilliant performances and a virtuoso directing achievement, in what has to be a definitive film version.

There isn't a bad performance in the film, but there are three of such greatness they mesmerize us. The best is by the late Robert Ryan, as Larry, and this is possibly the finest performance of his career. There is such wisdom and sadness in his eyes, and such pain in his rejection of the boy Don (who may possibly be his own son), that he makes the role almost tender despite the language O'Neill gives him. It would be a tribute to a distinguished career if Ryan were nominated posthumously for an Academy Award.



Lee Marvin, as Hickey, has a more virtuoso role: He plays a salesman who has been coming to Harry's saloon for many years to have a "periodical drunk." This time he's on the wagon, he says, because he's found peace. We discover his horrible peace when he confesses to the murder. Marvin has recently been playing in violent action movies that require mostly that he look mean; here he is a tortured madman hidden beneath a true believer.

I also liked old Fredric March, as Harry Hope. He's a pathetic pixie who tolerates his customers for the security they give him. To be the proprietor of a place like this is, at least, better than being a customer. But not much better. And so for four hours we live in these two rooms and discover the secrets of these people, and at the end we have gone deeper, seen more, and will remember more, than with most of the other movies of our life.

Lee Marvin was a renowned actor known for his tough-guy roles in movies, but there are some lesser-known facts about him that are worth mentioning:

War Hero: Before his acting career, Lee Marvin served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He was wounded in action during the Battle of Saipan and awarded the Purple Heart.

Early Jobs: Before making it big in Hollywood, Marvin had a variety of jobs, including plumber's apprentice, salesman, and even a stint as a professional boxer.

Painter: In addition to his acting career, Marvin was a talented painter. He even had some of his artwork exhibited in galleries. He often credited painting with helping him deal with the psychological scars of war.

Academy Award: Lee Marvin won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in the 1965 film "Cat Ballou." This comedic Western was a departure from his usual tough-guy roles and showcased his versatility as an actor.

Record-Breaking Salary: In 1966, Lee Marvin became one of the highest-paid actors in Hollywood when he received a \$1.5 million pay check for his role in the film "The Professionals." This was an unusually high sum for an actor at the time.

Friendship with John Boorman: Marvin had a close working relationship with director John Boorman, and they collaborated on two notable films: "Point Blank" (1967) and "Hell in the Pacific" (1968). Boorman once described Marvin as "a beautiful, tragic figure."

Passion for Sailing: Marvin had a passion for sailing and owned a sailboat named "Dirty Edna." He often sailed along the California coast and even participated in races.

Early Stunt Career: Before breaking into acting, Lee Marvin worked as a stuntman in various films. This early experience likely contributed to his ability to perform his own stunts in later roles.

Voice Acting: Marvin provided the voice for the character "Bob Cratchit" in the 1971 animated adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

Influential Career: Lee Marvin's gritty, anti-hero performances in films like "The Dirty Dozen," "Point Blank," and "The Killers" had a significant influence on the portrayal of tough, morally ambiguous characters in cinema.

Lee Marvin had a diverse and fascinating career, both on and off the screen. His experiences in the military, love for painting, and versatility as an actor make him a unique figure in Hollywood history.



And, 100 years ago (November 1923)

2 November - U.S. Navy Lieutenant Harold J. Brow set a new flight airspeed record at the Mineola airfield on New York's Long Island, becoming the first person to fly faster than 400 kilometres per hour and the first of more than 250 miles per hour.

3 November - Crown Prince Gustav Adolf of Sweden married Louise Mountbatten at St James's Palace.



8 November - The Beer Hall Putsch began in Munich as Adolf Hitler and 603 members of his Nazi Party's Storm Troopers surrounded a large beer hall, Der Bürgerbräukeller, where Bavaria's State Commissioner Gustav Ritter von Kahr was making a speech to 3,000 people. Hitler announced that the Bavarian government of Eugen von Knilling had been deposed and that General Erich Ludendorff would form a new government.

14 November - Germany suspended the payment of its reparations, explaining that France and Belgium had broken the Treaty of Versailles by occupying the Ruhr and that payment would not resume until they left.

20 November - U.S. patent no. 1,475,024 was granted to African-American inventor Garrett Morgan for the first three-position traffic light (with a red-amber-green signal for stop, caution and go respectively) still in use a century later. Morgan had applied for the patent on February 27, 1922. He also invented this canvas hood breathing device which became a pre-cursor to a more modern gas mask (see images below).



Colette's Kitchen

Coronation chicken salad is a classic that was created in 1953 to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The dish was first prepared by Rosemary Hume, a food writer and chef, in collaboration with Constance Spry, a well-known florist and domestic science teacher, for the banquet of the coronation. They were tasked with creating a special dish for the banquet that would feed around 350 people.

The dish they developed was a cold chicken salad that featured diced, cooked chicken in a creamy, lightly spiced curry sauce, mixed with apricot puree and mayonnaise. The inspiration for the dish came from the flavours and spices associated with Indian cuisine, as curry was a popular and exotic ingredient in post-war Britain.

Despite being created for a specific event, coronation chicken salad has remained a classic dish and is often served at picnics, luncheons, and as a sandwich filling. Over the years, there have been many variations of the coronation chicken salad, with different chefs and home cooks adding their own touches.

The reason I'm posting this recipe is that Coronation Chicken is often forgotten about when we are deciding what to serve. The summer weather is perfect for it, accompanied by a simple green salad and crusty bread. If it's good enough for a royal banquet it definitely is a winner at home!

This particular version I sourced from the Daily Maverick. It is delicious, a little more sophisticated than some but well worth the effort. The recipe is made in two stages. First, onion is simmered in oil until softened, then spices, bay leaf, tomato purée and red wine are added for it to sauté until the liquid has reduced. Then it is cooled before mayonnaise and other ingredients are stirred in.

Ingredients

600 g cooked chicken (chopped / pulled) – chicken can be cooked any way, also use left-over chicken
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 small onion, finely chopped
1 bay leaf
1 red chilli, chopped
1 tbsp curry powder/ Durban masala or similar
1 tbsp tomato purée
50 ml dry red wine
2 Tbsp peach /mango chutney
4 pieces of dried apricot, diced small
2 Tbsp golden sultanas
200 ml mayonnaise (can use half thick cream and half mayonnaise)
Salt and pepper

Method

Simmer chopped onion with the bay leaf in cooking oil until softened but not caramelised. Add the chilli, masala, tomato purée and red wine and simmer until much of the liquid has cooked away.

Leave it to cool, then stir in the chutney, tiny pieces of dried apricot, sultanas, and mayonnaise, and season with salt and pepper to taste. Finally, add the chicken and fold in with a wooden spoon until everything is coated in the sauce. Serve with a simple green salad and lovely crusty bread.

Tattler – Laughs



The brilliant Michael McIntyre



Tattler - That's it for this month folks!