



St Dunstans
REVIEW
FEBRUARY

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 627

FEBRUARY 1972

5p MONTHLY

New Year Honours

St. Dunstaners will want to join us in hearty congratulations to **Mr. A. D. Lloyds, F.C.A.** and **Mr. A. H. Simcocks** on awards in the New Year Honours List.

Mr. Lloyds has been appointed Commander in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.). He joined St. Dunstan's in 1938; he served with the Royal Artillery during the War and was appointed Secretary of St. Dunstan's in 1955. He is Chairman of the R.N.I.B.'s International Committee, the Senior United Kingdom Delegate to the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind and a member of the Blind Persons Committee

of the National Advisory Council on the Employment of the Disabled.

Howard Simcocks, a St. Dunstaner, has been appointed a Member in the same order (M.B.E.). He has a busy legal practice, is a Member of the House of Keys, and holds other appointments. He has for many years been an extremely active member of the Royal British Legion, holding high office in the Isle of Man. The award has been made for these services.

Warm congratulations to Mr. Lloyds and Mr. Simcocks have reached us by telegram from Lord and Lady Fraser in South Africa.

Cover Story — New Telephone Equipment

Seated at the telephone console in the reception area of Kalamazoo's sleek new four-storey office building at Northfield, Birmingham, Douglas Cashmore is the first blind telephone operator in England to use Swedish Ericsson's auxiliary unit which enables a blind telephonist to operate their latest automatic switchboard.

The compact unit is linked to the normal console and is an exact replica reproducing its light signals by tiny vibrating pins, one for every light. With his left hand Douglas reads by touch the signals a sighted operator sees as flashing lights, while with his right hand he presses the appropriate keys on the normal console to answer calls, connect them to the correct extension or initiate the sophisticated procedures available with this new equipment.

Douglas Cashmore, who lives in Bromsgrove, has been a telephone operator for 25 years—the last seven with Kalamazoo Ltd., the famous business systems firm. Within hours of taking over his new board he was operating it as deftly as if he had been working on it for years. Mrs. Lillian Brown, our Telephony Supervisor, who spent two days in Birmingham helping Douglas learn to cope with the new board said: "The changeover has gone extremely well. Douglas has done really remarkably well because he has come direct from a

standard cord board to an entirely new automatic system for a blind operator.

Explaining that Ericsson's have designed the blind unit at their own expense, Mrs. Brown concluded, "It proves that where you have a manufacturer who is interested in blind operators and who is prepared to provide modified equipment for his most modern board, it can extend the field for blind telephonists."

Doug has had to learn 165 new extensions as a result of the move of 330 staff into the new office building, including lines to the Company's Computer Service centre nearby. He also taught his fingers the way around his new switchboard, which can accommodate up to 30 outside lines.

A spokesman for Kalamazoo said, "We are full of admiration for the way Doug has approached the problems attendant with a completely new system, and the speed with which he has learned to operate the equipment, especially as this has involved learning to read the signals with his left hand, he normally reads Braille with his right hand. In addition to familiarising himself with the new equipment, Doug has done a great deal of 'homework' on the theory of the system. It is thanks almost entirely to his mastery of the new system so quickly that the changeover has been such a smooth one."

2

Clear Path Our Way

by Joan Williams



Last Spring, working from the National Mobility Centre in Birmingham, St. Dunstan's began a series of acceptance trials with the binaural sensor (ultra sonic spectacles) invented by Dr. Leslie Kay using it in conjunction with the long cane. John and Joan Williams were among the volunteers who took part in these trials, which last four weeks, during the latter part of 1971. Married as recently as November, 1970, John is congenitally blind and Joan lost her sight at the age of seven. They are both highly motivated people and now have this latest mobility aid in daily use in the Croydon district where they live. Both John and Joan have had experience of every type of mobility aid available in this country, white stick, guide dog, torch, long cane and binaural sensor, and we therefore asked them to compare these aids as they found them in practice. They have kindly co-operated in producing the following article which Joan wrote.

At the outset, I think it is important to define precisely what we mean by the term Mobility. For the professional instructor, mobility begins with teaching the newly blind client to walk about independently

within the confines of his own home. Those of us who have been blind from childhood take all this for granted; and guide dog owners will expect to be able to enjoy walking at a good speed, even in unfamiliar surroundings, provided they can obtain verbal directions or a tactile map. Blind schools in the old days gave us plenty of scope for the enjoyment of physical activities: swimming, games, PE, and long country walks, when those of us who were totally blind were guided by other pupils who had a good degree of residual vision. Though this did not wholly prepare us for getting about independently in the outside world, it did establish a desire to find the best way of getting about freely when the time came.

Shortly after qualifying as a physiotherapist, I was offered a part-time post in a West End Clinic and decided to devote the rest of my time to establishing a private practice, which involved doing some domiciliary work. During the War and for some time afterwards, the volume of traffic was so small by present-day standards that it was not difficult to establish a satisfactory mobility technique using good ears and a short cane. The stout wooden poles, which were all we

3

could buy before the introduction of collapsible ones, were adequate equipment for the detection of kerbs and variations in ground surface, despite their unwieldy construction.

Guide Dog

When I eventually decided to apply for a guide dog it was not, as in many cases, because I longed to be able to get from A to B without a sighted guide, but because I wanted to be able to travel with less strain and to enjoy walking for its own sake. My husband and I were both fortunate in having dogs that worked well throughout their long and happy lives. In different ways, both my dogs were lovable companions. They afforded me a degree of relaxed mobility which my husband has described as "luxury travel".

It can be argued, of course, that guide dog owners are not independent at all—in fact the criticism, to which I do not subscribe, has been that a dog destroys what confidence the owner may have previously possessed, so that he becomes entirely dependent upon the dog. Even so, it can fairly be said that a guide dog owner needs less sighted assistance than any other blind traveller. It is difficult to imagine that our present combination of aids will enable us to manoeuvre freely in a main-line London terminus as many guide dog owners do. It is pointless to compare a guide dog to any other mobility aid. No aid can compare with sight and, when a dog uses its eyes in the service of a blind person, despite the fact that it cannot read the indicator board and may sometimes have difficulty in interpreting the directions of its owner in a complex situation, it can achieve an astonishing degree of efficiency. At the same time, the guide dog owner has to rely on the public for a quite exceptional degree of goodwill and tolerance. At work, in restaurants or on Public Transport, especially in wet weather, I was often very aware that complaint would have been fully justified.

It is often said that guide dogs enable their owners to make new friends, but it was also my experience that public reaction could be very worrying—particularly the almost universal urge to pet the dog or to give it titbits. One cannot accept offers of help without considering whether it will affect the dog's training adversely, par-

ticularly with regard to crossing roads. For some, a dog may break down the barriers of self-consciousness, but both my husband and I now very much appreciate being able to chat to fellow travellers on topics other than "doggy" ones. Of course, I also remember the fun I had with Biddy on holiday and the comfort of hearing her sleeping in my room at night when I was alone in the house. Guide dogs, incidentally, provide protection, particularly for blind people living alone.

Torch

In 1965 I had the privilege of talking to Professor Kay in a BBC interview for the "In Touch" programme. From this time I became interested in the possibility of being able to enjoy getting about with an alternative aid to a dog. During the following year, when St. Dunstan's arranged a conference on sensory devices, I met Fred Gissoni, the well-known American user and exponent of Sonic Aid technique; and it was in the corridors of the Great Western Royal Hotel that Mr. Gissoni gave me my first experience of using the "Torch". Later that year, Ultra Electronics, Ltd., the manufacturers, generously pro-



Using the sonic torch outside Croydon General Hospital.

vided me with an instrument on loan. My early technique consisted simply of using a 36 inch cane and exploring with it the objects which I detected with the sonic beam, so building up a sound picture of the environment as I walked along. In effect, I was using my cane as a dictionary to the language of the aid.

Rebuffed

Sighted people often complain that they are rebuffed when they offer help to blind people. I regret that my own response was sometimes less than courteous when I began the struggle to adapt myself to this new method of mobility—especially as almost every offer of help was preceded by, "Whatever has happened to your lovely dog?". When I first became a guide dog owner I was delighted to find that people no longer pitied me, but regarded our partnership as a wonderful thing. Without my dog I found myself once more the object of alarm and despondency. This stage passes as proficiency develops, but it is something that both John and I have had to work through with each new device we have tried. The modern term is "motivation". Putting it in plain English, you can say that it takes a lot of courage to go out and master a new technique, especially when you have been accustomed to managing ably with the old one. Though I enjoyed walking with the torch in quiet streets, I often felt horribly inept in noisy conditions.

I have always had a boundless urge to talk about my new ventures and it was through doing so that I was introduced to John, a fellow sonic aid enthusiast. He had bought a sonic aid as soon as they became available for purchase. By contrast with my somewhat haphazard technique, he had worked out his own system of very rapid scanning. As soon as he demonstrated it to me, I realised the advantages of his technique. My letter published in the *New Beacon* of September, 1968, described this method in detail. Its essential feature is that the aid is used as a "clear path finding" device to enable the user to avoid obstacles rather than to examine them, except when environment sensing is necessary for purposes of orientation, or to detect particular landmarks—gateway, letter box, or bus stop, etc. As a result of this letter, the late Dr. Alfred Leonard approached us and,



Joan, with Biddy, her second guide dog.

after a visit to his laboratory at Nottingham University where our techniques were evaluated, he incorporated them into the programme for sighted sonic aid instructors which he established.

Editor's Note.—

We think it should be mentioned that Dr. Leonard also had the advantage of possessing the St. Dunstan's Training Manual, produced by Mr. Edward Elliott, a Member of our Scientific Committee, after a long evaluation period with about twenty-five blind people. This manual established for the first time the need for a co-ordinated scanning technique when using the aid. Mr. Elliott explained his method at the 1966 St. Dunstan's Conference and the manual was made available to every blind person concerned in the official evaluation of the torch at home and overseas.

It was, however, always realised that the hand-held sonic aid had certain grave weak-

nesses. In my view the torch's electronics are now out of date and unreliable. The transducers deteriorate with use and are liable to be upset by heavy rain. This causes a deterioration of the signal-to-noise ratio, resulting in high background noise, which will mask the sound of an approaching car engine. The case of the instrument is not strong enough to protect the circuitry from the rigours of everyday life. The lead connecting the instrument to the earpiece easily gets caught up and broken. Ambient noise on a busy road makes it almost impossible to hear the subtler sounds which are necessary for the detection of low obstacles and down kerbs.

Head Mounted Sonic Aid

In an attempt to overcome the problem of low obstacles and down kerbs, Dr. Leonard and Dr. Armstrong modified the aid so that the transducers could be worn on a band round the forehead, leaving the right hand free to manipulate the long cane. We tried out this modification during the Summer of 1969. We felt it proved too cumbersome and unsightly for general acceptance and, for this reason, John was never really interested, but, having an entirely unwarranted faith in my own originality, I tried wearing the head band round my neck. In this more static position it could only operate as a warning of obstacles directly ahead of me, but it was certainly more acceptable than the forehead mounting—possibly because for so many years I have only turned my head to get a fix with my ears on a particular sound source and not to glance around visually. I was sufficiently impressed with my "neck-set" to procure a long cane which I could use in conjunction with it.

Long Cane

We bought our original long canes from a fishing-tackle shop. They were hollow fibre glass rods coated with white cellulose paint, tipped with nylon and they had adhesive foam rubber for the hand grip. We learned the long cane Technique from an American publication on the subject and were filmed by Dr. Leonard and his Research Team from Nottingham, using this equipment. As they are feather-light, we found fibre glass rods easy to manipulate and less likely to alarm other people than the standard issue.

John's enthusiasm for using the long cane derived mainly from our desire to participate in the evaluation of the Sonic Spectacles (Binaural Sensor). To take part in this project we needed to be long cane users. We had been using our "fishing tackle" for only a few months when we decided to rely upon it exclusively during our Summer holiday at Eastbourne. We walked on the Downs and along the Promenade without apparent alarm to our fellow holiday-makers despite the deep drops to the beach below, and we were very impressed by the way in which we were able to locate and deal with unexpected flights of steps, etc., with our long canes. The highlight of the holiday came with the news that we had been officially accepted for training with sonic spectacles.

Binaural Sensor

St. Dunstan's has generously agreed to train some 14 blind people and to provide them with sonic spectacles on loan as Britain's part in the International evaluation of the spectacles which will be carried on for at least two years. Our month's training with our Instructor, Mr. Peter Ryding, at the National Mobility Centre in Birmingham was an extremely happy time for us both. Systematic training with the standard long cane was included in the programme as well as the training for spectacle users, which consists of controlled exercises—manoeuvring round and under precariously positioned poles of 1 inch diameter, and walks graduating from quiet streets to the hazards of the City centre.

Deceptive Optimism

As with the acquisition of other skills, there is an initial stage of deceptive optimism. The very fact that for convenience the ultrasonic equipment is mounted in spectacle frames tends to convey the impression that they confer upon the user perception comparable with sight. This, of course, is not so. No aural impressions can in any way compare with visual perspective. A system which relies upon sound reflection has the essential drawback that reflections from various obstacles will mask one another. In town conditions, the level of ambient noise varies so tremendously that one must be constantly prepared to adjust the volume control. Too high a level is meaningless



John Williams with binaural sensor and long cane crosses a road watched by Peter Ryding.

and overwhelming, whereas if the signal to the ears is not high enough it will become inaudible.

The beam spread is 30 degrees in the vertical and 60 in the horizontal plane emanating from a point source, which is quite unlike the normal field of vision. Low obstacles which can be heard at a distance disappear under the beam as one approaches them. When walking towards a pole which is slightly to one side it is heard, but then "lost to view" unless held in focus by turning the head. As did my "neck set", the spectacles operate as an early warning device, but more efficiently. Their beam, which has a range of 12 feet, is almost twice as long as that of the "neck set" and its binaural quality (operating in both ears) enables us to position obstacles accurately and when people move across the beam the direction of their path can be clearly determined.

Despite our comprehensive training, we could not form a valid judgement on the spectacles until we began using them in every-day life—the turmoil of railway stations in the rush-hour and weekend shopping in the high street. After several months' experience we are now prepared to say that this is the best yet. Used on its own, the long cane affords safety, but it is inevitably a somewhat crude means of negotiating the hazards of the highway. One can only discover the presence of people or posts by tapping them, however gently, with the tip of the cane. We may know that this is harmless to all concerned, but bystanders are liable to intervene, fearing a head-on collision. It may be impossible to hurt anyone by a tap on the heel, but it is embarrassing to hear exclamations of surprise and alarm. Using the spectacles one need no longer be troubled by incidents of this kind.



Using the binaural sensor on a training exercise, Joan Williams successfully negotiates the 'gateway' with its head-high obstacle.

The operation of the spectacles is based on the same principle as the sonic aid. The up-to-date transducers are more efficient and much smaller—less than half an inch in diameter. The torch has two transducers, one transmitting the beam of sonic energy and the other receiving the signal as it is reflected back. The spectacles have three transducers, all mounted in the bridge of the frame. The lower one is the transmitter, above which are the other two, suitably angled to one another, each receiving part of the reflected signal. Obstacles on the left or right of the user are heard in the left or right ear, thus giving a stereophonic effect. The signals are conveyed from ear microphones in the arms of the spectacles through short pieces of plastic tubing which terminate in the ear, kept in position by specially designed skeleton earmoulds which do not block out ambient sounds. Normal hearing is in no way interrupted but, at least in the early stages, a good deal of concentration is

required to take in natural sounds as well as the signals from the aid. As with the torch, the bleeping sound becomes deeper in pitch as an obstacle is approached.

Cosmetic Considerations

It would not be realistic to imagine that we could walk about without sight in present-day conditions without making ourselves conspicuous. Even those with some degree of residual vision need to carry a white stick to indicate their handicap. My present situation is reminiscent of my early days as a guide dog owner. Even in the coldest weather I can walk quickly enough to keep myself warm and I have no fear of causing or sustaining an accident. John's and my blindness is apparent, but equally so is the extent to which our combination of aids enables us to overcome the handicap. On long walks, or when loaded with shopping I find a standard long cane a tiresome encumbrance. As a physiotherapist I am bound to say that I

find the prescribed position of shoulder and arm cramped and uncomfortable. My hope is that in due course new and light-weight materials will be utilised and prove more convenient. In the meantime, I have had to learn to manipulate the cane with my left hand so that I can change over and give the right hand a rest.

To some readers it may seem that equipment as complex and expensive as the Binaural Sensor ought to provide a complete mobility aid without the need for additional protection at ground level. However, it seems unlikely that the present device can ever be modified to give full protection and, in any case, many blind people find that physical contact with the ground ahead is reassuring and they would not be prepared to dispense with the cane. It may be that some blind people would prefer the simpler display of a gadget like my "neck-set" to the more complex information derived from the sonic spectacles—particularly, perhaps, the congenitally blind who have not grown up with the habit of glancing around as sighted people do.

Let me add that, for our part, John and I find it difficult to express our gratitude to St. Dunstan's. Words fail to convey how much we appreciate this latest means of overcoming the restrictions of blindness. To Professor Kay we owe a special word of thanks, for without his invention of the sonic torch and our mutual interest in it John and I might never have developed our highly successful partnership. We continue to derive increasing benefit from the spectacles, but to do so one has to develop more and more alert perception, I feel. I hope, therefore, that the idea of a simpler display will be kept in mind, as being more



During their stay in Birmingham the Williams used their "spectacles" in off-duty time. Here John arrives at their temporary local, Ye Olde House at Home!

suitable for some blind people. This was what Dr. Leonard was keen on developing when we last saw him in May, 1971. From the R.N.I.B. we have just received collapsible long canes—a two-piece and a four-piece—for us to use as part of the field trials which they are conducting with these canes. We hope that new developments will continue all the time, of course, and that we shall be able to play a part in an ever-improving field of opportunity.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.

Herbert Cummings of Whitchurch, Cardiff, who joined St. Dunstan's in January, 1972, served in the Army in both Wars. His sight later failed as a result of mustard gas in 1918. He is married and retired.

John Ninian Collins of Cardiff came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1972. He served in the South Wales Borderers in the Second World War. He is married.



IT STRIKES ME

World Contact

I have received the first issue of a new magazine for the blind published in Braille with a letterpress edition. It will be bi-monthly and subscriptions for Braille or letterpress are 60p per year. It is called *World Contact* and is intended to be an international link among the blind, to quote the title page.

In an excellent article on Captain Malik a Pakistan Army Officer who lost his eyes and hands in an accidental explosion, the writer Miss Patricia Parsons, herself blind, pays tribute to St. Dunstan's Research Engineer, Norman French for the help he had been able to give Captain Malik during a stay in England in 1963.

Managing Editor, Ian Maclean Barclay, writing his first editorial, says "I extend the hand of friendship through this, the first edition of *World Contact* to you all wherever you may live. . . . But it is not just a hollow hand: first among the objects of our new organisation is procuring—by begging, borrowing or stealing, in a manner of speaking — Braille books and material which we shall send to those parts of the world that really need them."

World Contact begins with admirable objectives and I wish its editorial staff every success.

Number Ten

Among the famous, the diplomats and the politicians visiting 10, Downing Street in December, were two St. Dunstaners, **Eric Bradburn** and **Leslie Webber**. On 7th December Councillor and Mrs. Webber were invited by the Prime Minister to a recep-

tion in appreciation of the hospitality extended to him when he was the guest of Tewkesbury Borough Council at lunch.

"The Prime Minister, accompanied by his Parliamentary Secretary, greeted each guest on arrival," Councillor Webber told me. "They were mainly politicians of both Houses and included the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Anthony Barber and Mr. Geoffrey Rippon. Mr. Heath mentioned that the Spode Plate which I presented to him in July was kept in his study. On a table in the Dining Room were trophies won by *Morning Cloud*."

Six days later it was the turn of Eric Bradburn who is seen in the photograph leaving Number Ten with a message from Mr. Heath intended for publication in Eric's magazine, *The Wightman*. The Prime Minister also gave him a signed photograph which appeared on the front cover of the December issue. In his message Mr. Heath spoke of the Isle of Wight as, "a source of relaxation and a place of many friends and happy memories."

Who is the V.I.P.?

Answer: Eric Bradburn leaving Number Ten Downing Street.

Photo—The Wightman.



Dominoes King

Front page news in the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* on 6th January was the Dominoes Championship at the Beehive Hotel, Cherry Tree, Blackburn—and the man who put the story on the front page was St. Dunstaner, **Bob Britton**, "the dominoes king", as the *Telegraph* described him.

Alongside a photograph, the report described how Bob played through five rounds to win the silver trophy. He and 57 other competitors, with the landlord and other customers raised £83 through competitions and collections in aid of the Leukaemia Research Fund.

Bob told the reporter, "The other players have to tell me what dominoes have been put down, and I can normally remember what they are. If any of the other players hesitate then I generally know exactly what dominoes they have left."

Going on the Air

Sid Jones has been looking at developments in the City of Manchester and as a result he has begun what might be thought an unlikely branch of his launderette and dry cleaning business. He has opened a private hire car service.

"The impending completion of a motorway network providing more efficient links between Manchester and other parts of the Midlands and North together with the extension of facilities at Manchester Airport which is situated close to my home and business, should bring an increase in car hire services on this side of town," he told me.



Sid will still maintain his launderette business in a field which is becoming more competitive but he has ambitions for his car hire firm. "Things are developing reasonably well, and I am hoping to install radio in the near future as part of a link-up with two other firms." His model is Concord Cars, the firm which often supplies vehicles and drivers for St. Dunstaners travelling through London. Those among my readers who have been driven by them will know Sid is setting high standards indeed.

MAGOG

OVINGDEAN NOTES

We are, you might say, battered but triumphant! Speaking on behalf of the staff at Ovingdean and perhaps a few St. Dunstaners too! So much seems to have happened here in the last month and Christmas has been such a whirl that now we suddenly find, with all our guests departed, that having lived through such a lot, we are feeling somewhat deflated. So we have to pull ourselves together and try to tell you all about it. Small wonder the old brains are rather sluggish at present, so perhaps the best thing to do is to begin at the beginning—of the month of December, that is.

On the first day of the month we had a whale of a time at the Grocers' Annual Christmas Party, held at the Grand Hotel as usual, with a great crowd of St. Dunstaners all very pleased to be with our kind hosts on this occasion once more. Our friends the Grocers are always specially associated with Christmas at Ovingdean, firstly because of this wonderful party to which we always look forward, and secondly because of their Christmas Day visit. This year Mrs. Lillie and Mr. Ken Phillips brought several friends once more to greet us and we were pleased to drink together the sherry they kindly provided.

We jump ahead too rapidly. One unusual event early in the month was very much enjoyed, when Ilana Davids, a charming and very brilliant pianist played for us in the Winter Garden. What a joy it was to hear her! She will be playing in the Wigmore Hall in January and we sincerely hope her audience there will enjoy her performance as much as we did.

The event which always seems to start off the Christmas season in earnest is the Staff Dinner and Dance which took place on 16th December. The Dining Room and Lounge were transformed for this occasion and made a gracious setting for our annual high jinks. Our Chairman, Lord Fraser, presided over the excellent dinner and his presence, with Mr. Lloyds, gave us much pleasure. We were only sorry that Lady Fraser was unable to come this time and we missed her very much. Lord Fraser, in his after dinner speech, which was much appreciated, thanked the Staff for all their work throughout the year, then shortly afterwards had to leave as he and Lady Fraser were departing for South Africa very early next day. Our best wishes went with them for a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Christmas

After this event, the days seemed to race along towards Christmas itself and soon the house was thronged with holiday visitors. Christmas Eve celebrations took the form of a Barbecue with Staff Cabaret, around Ye Olde Log Fire again, with a little of what you fancy during the interval. The Lounge was so crowded it was difficult to see how to fit in any more people and we feared the supply of hot dogs might run out too soon. Breathe again—everything was all right and no-one, so far as we know, went hungry. Commandant and Matron made excellent chefs in their tall white hats and dished out the hot dogs and mince pies in a very competent manner.

With some very jolly carols to sing and some very gay numbers performed by the Staff, a happy evening was spent by all present and the volume of sound that arose when everyone joined in the singing was wonderful and very moving to hear. Apart from the Carol Singers, among whom were most of the V.A.D. Staff, all in their prettiest dresses, individual items were given by Joyce Briant, Ruth Warden,

Dorothy Williams, Jean Dennis, Enid Lane, Mildred Dagnall, and Skiffers Frankie, Roy, Phil, Henry, Bob and Peter, with John Beech giving general support, and accompaniments played by Mildred Dagnall.

Christmas Day was very happy from morning till night. After present giving and sherry drinking in the morning, a very excellent Dinner was served in the Dining Room, which satisfied the inner man in a very comforting manner. With good things to eat, snow white linen, crackers to pull and many greetings from friends far and near, our guests enjoyed themselves hugely. During the evening, remembering our interesting try-out with the St. Dunstaners' Do-it-yourself Party last year, we repeated this and found it even more successful.

St. Dunstaners Entertain

Apart from a couple of prize-winning competitions and a short pause for sherry and mince-pies, the entire evening was filled by St. Dunstaners entertaining the rest of us. Now we, the staff, and all others present, found this to be a wonderful and quite unique experience and one that gave us much joy. It was all so spontaneous and impromptu and engendered such a happy feeling that all those St. Dunstaners who took part are to be congratulated. Songs were sung by Wally Andison, Danny Daniels, Tiger Martin, Ted Porter, Margaret Stanway, Tommy North, Harry Boorman, Cyril Eighteen, Joe Fowler, Frank Heyes, Andy Black, Blodwyn Simon, Thelma Meredith, Vera Kemmish, Tommy McCann and Ted Kirman. Frank O'Kelly gave an excellent recitation, Will Fester played his guitar, Micky Robinson his harmonica and Don Donnarumma the piano, while Mr. John Hatfield told us a most interesting Chinese proverb. Well done, and thank you, all!

Play Reading

Sunday intervened this year, of course, and a play reading was given on that day with a cast consisting of Commandant, Matron, Miss Dagnall, Miss Feaver, Mrs. Williams and Mr. James Fawcett. The play, a comedy, was called "The Peacocks must Go" by Dennis Driscoll, and was enjoyed and much applauded by our audience. And here we might mention that our audiences and gatherings for every

form of entertainment this year were very numerous and responsive, which is so encouraging.

We had some very attractive and original costumes at the Fancy Dress Dance on Boxing Day, when our Vice-President and Mrs. Ion Garnett Orme were our very welcome guests. Mr. Garnett Orme joined by Mr. and Mrs. D'Oyley John of Rottingdean, very kindly judged the Fancy Dress for us and prizes were presented by Mrs. Garnett Orme to the following:—

Sammy Webster The Common Market?
A Fishy Business!

Winnie Edwards Scarecrow

Nellie Robinson Ernie

Blodwyn Simon, Vera Kemmish, Thelma Meredith, Miss Roffey, Mrs. Wellings
The Gay Nineties

Joyce Briant, Les Halliday Adam and Eve

George and Mrs. Stanley Baby and Nurse

Mrs. Joe Fowler Cracker

Ferdy Bennett Clown

Marjorie Ball Jamaica

Miss Walker Harem Girl.

After the judging, dancing went with a swing and a very jolly time was had by all. Another very successful dance was held on New Year's Eve and with Commandant acting as M.C., plus a lot of co-operation from the dancers, we had a marvellous evening, tripping the light fantastic, joining in the games and making fools of ourselves when called upon to do so. All in a good cause, folks! We saw the New Year in with hot punch and many good wishes and went to bed tired but happy.

It would be impossible to tell you all the details about everything, with so much happening all the time. We sent parties to the Theatre and the Dome for the pantomime and out for afternoon drives in the country. We had some good prizes and lots of pleasurable suspense on Grand Bingo Night and very sociable gatherings for the Whist Drive and Domino Tournament.

The last thing we must include, and though it took place on 2nd January, it belonged to the Christmas programme, was the anthology "Journey into Winter", which was presented by Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Williams and Miss Dagnall, with words and music arranged by Miss Dagnall and

Mr. Tom Eales. This followed the success of our Easter experiment, "Journey into Springtime", and again found a most responsive audience. These anthologies are a very different kind of entertainment from anything else we have ever done and St. Dunstaners seem to like them very much. Yes, we promise to do another one when we can get round to it and would like to place on record our debt to Tommy Eales, who does so much to help us by taping the music so splendidly.

Of course, other people must be thanked for all the many things they do to help all of us and where would we be, not only at Christmas, but on every other occasion, without Mr. Ridge, Mr. Feldwick and all their assistants to feed us so well? And where would we be without the orderlies, the linen room ladies, the domestic and servery staff, the drivers, the maintenance department, the office staff and all our other helpers? It all goes on throughout the year—the back room work without which we couldn't operate.

Many Blessings

We have many blessings to be thankful for and as the New Year gets under way, we at Ovingdean send our greetings and best wishes to all our friends and fellow St. Dunstaners. We cannot do better than conclude by offering for contemplation the poem by T. S. Eliot, with which we ended "Journey into Winter", and which seems to sum up everything for us in a way we cannot possibly do for ourselves.

*'Home is where one starts from. As we grow older
The world becomes stranger, the pattern more
complicated*

*Of dead and living. Not the intense moment
Isolated, with no before and after,
But a lifetime burning in every moment.
And not the lifetime of one man only
But of old stones that cannot be deciphered.
There is a time for the evening under starlight,
A time for the evening under lamplight
(The evening with the photograph album).
Love is most nearly itself
When here and now cease to matter.
Old men ought to be explorers
Here and there does not matter
We must be still and still moving
Into another intensity
For a further union, a deeper communion
Through the dark cold and the empty desolation
The wave cry, the wind cry, the vast waters
Of the petrel and the porpoise. In my end is my
beginning.'*



Holiday makers at Sitges, Spain.
Photo—British European Airways.

The man who can smooth out your holiday arrangements. John Proctor seen at his Rottingdean Travel Agency.



Where to This Year?

Some time this year you will want a holiday and your wife will want one too. You may feel that you deserve a really good break, and who will say "no" to that? Why not arrange your 1972 holiday through John Proctor of Rottingdean? With his wife, May, and his brother-in-law, Charles King, our St. Dunstaner has over twenty years experience of organising travel by air, sea and rail. The address is:

**John Proctor Travel,
2 Marine Drive,
Rottingdean, Brighton,
BN2 7JJ. Brighton 33448.**

From the Chairman's Postbag

Lord and Lady Fraser have received many letters appreciating their Christmas card. They desire to thank all those who have written to them.

In particular, Lord Fraser is delighted that the rowing picture gave so much pleasure, especially to First War St. Dunstaners who personally remember rowing on Regents Park lake or at Putney.

Pension Reviews

On the 16th December, 1971, Sir Keith Joseph, Bt., the Secretary of State for Social Services, stated in the House of Commons that the Government had decided to review pensions and related benefits including War pensions and Industrial Injuries every year instead of at two-year intervals as has recently been the practice. Sir Keith Joseph announced that there will be an uprating in the autumn of 1972 and every year thereafter with, of course, a review of contribution levels. The uprating in 1972 will be in October and in subsequent years the upratings will take place regularly in the latter half of November. It is also proposed to make annual reviews of Public Service and Armed Forces pensions and these reviews will take effect from 1st December each year beginning in 1972.

Full details will be published in the *Review* just as soon as possible after their announcement.

The decision to review War pensions each year followed strong representation to this effect in Parliament by Lord Fraser and others.

D. J. G. JONES,
Legal Officer

Coming Events

H.M.S. DAEDALUS

To all campers—we have been invited by the Royal Navy for a week's Summer Camp from Friday, 18th August, to Saturday, 26th August. Full details next month.

Presentation Fund for Lord and Lady Fraser

We, the undersigned, the members of the Committee formed to arrange a presentation for Lord Fraser to mark his 50th Anniversary as Chairman of St. Dunstan's and for Lady Fraser, feel sure that St. Dunstaners will be pleased to know that the response to our letter inviting contributions has been most gratifying. To date the splendid sum of nearly £1,000 has been received and overseas contributions have still to come.

We have held two meetings and have consulted Lord and Lady Fraser as to a suitable gift and one which they would both like. We ascertained that it would give them great pleasure to have a clock, especially as one they previously possessed was destroyed in the blitz during the war. Accordingly an antique mantel clock with chimes has been chosen and will be suitably inscribed; we have also asked Lady Fraser to choose some article especially for herself, as we know it is the unanimous wish of St. Dunstaners that she should have a personal gift.

As mentioned in our letter to St. Dunstaners, it is the intention to make the presentations to Lord and Lady Fraser at the London and Brighton Reunion on 29th April next, which is being held at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London. A recording will be taken of the presentation ceremony, and extracts from this will be played at the Bristol and Liverpool reunions being held subsequently.

We take this opportunity of thanking all who have forwarded subscriptions to this fund and send you our very good wishes.

L. SWALES, *Chairman*
L. DAVIES, E. RUSSELL.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Margaret Stanway at St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean.

On behalf of the girls in Dormitory 2 in particular, and the St. Dunstaners who were here at Ovingdean for the Christmas festivities, I wish to say what a wonderful Christmas it was, and to thank all members of the Staff for their efforts to make it so.

Frank Reviews

Cat. No. 643

The Dangerous Islands

by Ann Bridge

Read by Stanley Pritchard

Colin, a junior member of the Foreign Office, is on holiday sailing around the Westward Islands of Scotland with a family party. Landing on one island with his cousin Julia, he is amazed to see a small radio aerial appear from out of the turf. Further investigation makes him suspicious and he contacts London.

When Colonel Phillip Jameson arrives he is both intrigued by the gadget, and Julia. We, the readers, can now follow his hunting down of these Russian Satellite tracking stations, which they prove to be, throughout the rest of the Scottish, Irish and Scilly Islands, helped in no small part by Julia. So here we have romance in full blossom, set against the sinister threat of Russian belligerence.

I found the author's descriptions of the peoples of the Islands delightful. To my mind a most enjoyable work of light fiction.

Cat. No. 1116 (2)

The Gale of The World

by Henry Williamson

Read by Anthony Parker

Phillip Madison, old soldier from the first World War, is heartbroken by the death of his son who has died while flying in the R.A.F. during the last week of combat in 1945. His second marriage in ashes, Phillip, a writer and poet, takes himself off to a shepherd's cottage in Devon. Women are fascinated by him, yet he chooses to live in the horrors of the past, while planning his next novel. Phillip, who is a pacifist, is horrified by the Nuremberg trials and the subsequent hangings, whereas his friend "Buster", Lord Cloudsley, a former commando with a smashed face, has ambitious plans to rescue Hess from Spandau Prison by a cleverly conceived glider raid.

The message of the book, evil breeds evil, is pursued throughout. Although the author often waxes poetical I do wish the

reader hadn't used so much dramatic mimicry in the dialogue between the neurotic sister and Laura, Phillip's would-be mistress. Nevertheless, Anthony Parker has excellently brought the characters to life.

Cat. No. 677

Surgeon at Arms

by Richard Gordon

Read by Michael de Morgan

The author departs from his usual humorous works to draw the character of a Plastic Surgeon. Trevoise had spent his pre-war years in pursuit of money, making pretty faces and bosoms for the wives and daughters of the wealthy. Now on the outbreak of war he looks to the Services for an outlet for his talents. Finding that he would be under the command of a fellow "plastics man" and antagonist, Trevoise elects to work as a civilian and found his own emergency unit.

There is much of the Archie McIndoe story within this plot, although the author makes an early explanation that McIndoe is working elsewhere.

Altogether an entertaining novel.

Cat. No. 929

Prisoner at the Bar

by Geoffrey Ashford

Read by Arthur Bush

A young successful barrister is accused falsely of the murder of a peeping Tom. The circumstantial evidence is piled up against him and he finds that telling the truth will be more harmful to his cause than a lie. Certain that one man knows the truth but will not come forward, he gambles on getting sent to prison and making a counter attack from there.

An interesting little story, showing clearly that even a man well versed in the law can find himself trapped by evidence deliberately withheld from the court.

About seven hours of easy if thought-provoking fiction.

CLUB NEWS

LONDON

On Thursday evening, 6th January, our Club members returned after their Christmas recess. We were, indeed, pleased to see so many of our friends, both old and new, return to the fold.

All our members were happy to see Jim and Pat Padley return after Jim's spell in hospital. Have good health in 1972, Jim. A hearty welcome to our new members, Mr. and Mrs. R. Pringle. We hope they will thoroughly enjoy their leisure time in the London Club.

Winner of our Football Pontoon Sweepstake was Mrs. R. Evans with Aston Villa. The "Booby" prize was shared by J. Huk and R. Pacitti with Everton and Ipswich respectively.

Winners of our Domino Game on Thursday, 6th January, were as follows:—

R. Armstrong, J. Padley.

W. MILLER.

MIDLAND

Our Christmas festivities reached their climax on Saturday, 18th December, when we had our Christmas dinner.

Once again, it was held at the Royal British Legion, Northfield, Birmingham. A beautiful meal was put out for us, which included turkey and Christmas pudding, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

A very sincere vote of thanks was given to Mr. G. Queen, the branch chairman and to all other officers present, also to the chef and the waitresses for making things so good for us.

A very enjoyable evening was had afterwards, with dancing and "Elbow Bending". There was also a fancy dress competition which was judged by four St. Dunstaners' wives.

Owing to weather conditions and illness amongst our members and their families, we had a very quiet meeting on Sunday, 9th January.

Nevertheless we found plenty to talk about including a number of suggestions for different events and outings for the coming year. We also made the draw for our domino competitions for this year.

A delicious tea was arranged for us by Mrs. Marjorie Hordyniec and we all thanked her very much. Our Chairman, Joe Kibbler said that it was a great pity there had not been more members present to have enjoyed it.

Next meetings—**Sunday, 13th February,** and **Sunday, 12th March.**

D. CASHMORE,
Secretary.

BRIDGE NOTES

The first Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 8th January. The results were as follows:—

R. Bickley and A. Smith	83
F. Matthewman and J. Chell	71
H. Kerr and R. Goding	63
W. Scott and M. Clements	63
A. Dodgson and W. Burnett	59
S. Webster and F. Griffie	51
F. Rhodes and J. Whitcombe	43

The first Individual Competition of the London Section was held on Saturday, 8th January. The results were as follows:—

P. Nuyens and Partner	71
H. King and R. Fullard	64
H. Meleson and W. Allen	64
W. Lethbridge and F. Dickerson	61
R. Evans and W. Miller	59
W. Phillips and M. Tybinski	59

P. NUYENS,
Hon. Secretary.

Christmas Bridge Drive '71

by R. W. Evans

Once again it was a gay and colourful scene that greeted a large number of players and guests who had assembled at St. Dunstan's headquarters on December 11th for the Bridge Drive to be held there that afternoon. This, the last Bridge Drive of the year, has come to be known as the Christmas Bridge Drive, and it rounded off a series of happy and successful events which St. Dunstan's bridge players had enjoyed throughout the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Smith had worked hard to decorate headquarters and deserve our warmest praise for helping to create the air of festivity which everyone enjoyed and appreciated. Among the forty-eight players who sat down to bridge, the old and the tried, the new and less experienced, husbands and wives and good friends of St. Dunstan's, were all well represented.

Congratulations to W. Phillips on his success in his first Christmas Bridge Drive. Congratulations, too, to Joe Carney who came second, to Harry Meleson, Harry King and Gerry Lynch who showed that St. Dunstan's bridge players can be united in luck no less than in love when they, too, took their places among the prizewinners.

Arrival of Lord Fraser

Play finished promptly at half-past five in time for us to hear of the arrival of Lord and Lady Fraser who were given a warm welcome by Roy Armstrong, Captain of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club. The prizes were then presented to the successful competitors by Lady Fraser. There then followed a pleasant ceremony in which Lady Fraser and Mrs. Flora Smith were presented bouquets of flowers by Sam Webster and Miss Vera Kemmish.

After the distribution of prizes, Lord Fraser, in lively and reminiscent mood, thanked the visitors for their attendance and commended the Bridge Captain and his Committee.

In his reply of thanks to Lord and Lady Fraser for joining the company in the Christmas Bridge Drive, R. Evans took the opportunity of extending the congratulations of everyone present to Lord Fraser on the occasion of his having received the Helen Keller Award. Proceedings came to an end once again with the free for all raffle, a raffle in which all were prize-winners. The raffle took place during tea, giving everyone present time to appreciate their well-chosen and well-varied prizes.

Prize-winners

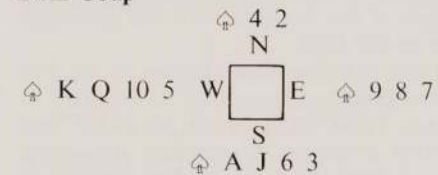
- 1 W. Phillips and Mr. S. Lightning
 - 2 Joe Carney and Mrs. Horstead
 - 3 Mr. and Mrs. Meleson
 - 4 Mr. and Mrs. King
- Parity Mr. and Mrs. J. Lynch
Booby E. Carpenter and Mr. J. Armstrong.

Coup or Two

by Alf Field

These "Plays" are interesting even if you never use them. I will endeavour to illustrate one or two which are named.

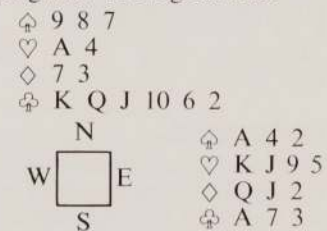
Bath Coup



South plays in 3 NT and West leads Spade King. North plays 2, East plays 7 and South plays 6! South "Ducks" and by playing the 6 instead of the 3 hopes West will believe his partner has the 3 and is signalling to continue the suit, by reversing his discards.

Deschappelles Coup

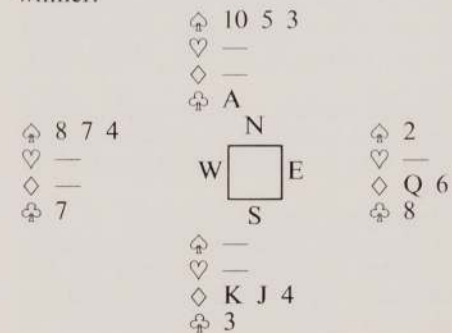
This is a thoughtful but logical one.



West leads Spade 3 against South's 3 NT. East takes the first trick with Ace and ponders:—Declarer could make 5 Club tricks unless the Heart Ace (entry card) is knocked out at once. East, therefore, leads his Heart King and then, later, holds up his ace of Clubs until 2nd or 3rd round.

The Grand Coup and the Trump Coup

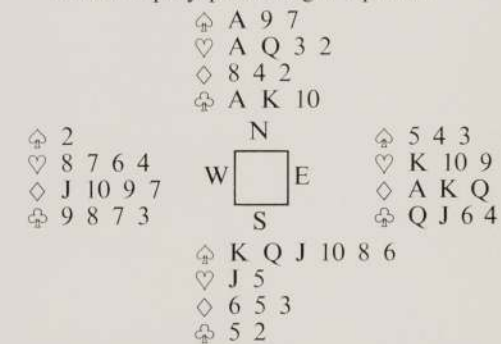
These are somewhat similar, you either discard a winner on a winner or trump a winner.



Diamonds are trumps, the lead is in Dummy (North) and South needs four tricks. South must ruff a spade to shorten his trumps for an end play, then he enters dummy with Club Ace. South now over-ruffs East's Q 6. The Spade 10 is a "Master" card (it could be an Ace) and if South ruffs the 10 (or Ace) it is the "Grand Coup" and if he ruffs a small spade it is a "Simple Trump Coup".

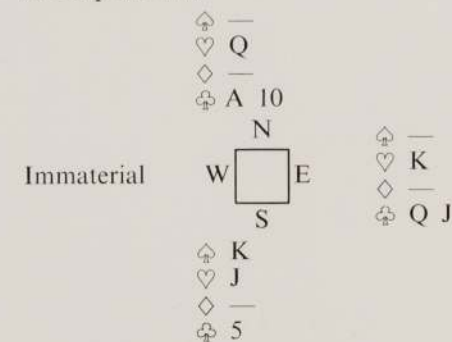
The Vienna Coup

This is a play preceding a squeeze.



East opened "One N.T." South Bid Two Spades which North raised to "Four". West led Diamond Jack. East takes A K Q of Diamonds and gets off lead with a Spade 3. South is almost certain that East holds Heart King and prepares for an end play by playing Club King, Heart Ace and then "runs" four more trump tricks leaving this position.

A Coup for Two



South now plays Spade King and discards Heart Queen from dummy. East is squeezed, being forced to discard a potential winner.

Naturally there are many more coups and also variations of those I have mentioned.

FAMILY NEWS



Alison, daughter of the late LESLIE (TEX) ROBINSON and Mrs. Anne Robinson, of Rothesay, Isle of Bute, Scotland, was married to James Low of Mount Stuart, Rothesay, at their local Registrar's Office, on 27th November, 1971. We wish the couple a long, happy and prosperous married life together.

Birth

Many congratulations to EDWIN AND EUNICE BUNTING of Scarborough, on the birth of a daughter, Anne, born on 14th December, 1971. She is a sister for Mary.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. HAROLD COUPE of Preston, Lancs., who celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary on 12th December, 1971.

Warm congratulations to MR. AND MRS. JOHN COWAN of Boreham Wood, Herts., who celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary on 11th January, 1972.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. DANIEL WATKINS of Wanstead, London, E.11, who celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary on 21st December, 1971.

Ruby Wedding

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. THOMAS MILLWARD of Brighton, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary in August, 1971.

Grandparents

Congratulations to:

THOMAS MILLWARD of Brighton, Sussex who announces the birth of a daughter to his son Leslie and his wife. This is Mr. Millward's fourth grandchild.

EDWARD GEORGE MARDON WARREN of Porthcawl, who announces the birth of a grandson on the 14th December, 1971, to be called Robert Mark.

ROBERT FORSTER of Leeds announces the wedding of his son, Ian Robert Forster to Katharine Hillary Snowden on 22nd October, 1971.

PATRICK SUTTON of Manchester is proud to announce the marriage of his son Stephen to Miss Mary Murphy in Ireland on 18th December, 1971.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:—

TOM CHEAL of Salford, Bristol, who mourns the death of his wife in hospital on 14th December, 1971. They had been married for nearly 50 years.

LEWIS COUSSINS of Southwick, Sussex, on the death of his wife who was taken ill and died in a Glasgow hospital on 19th December, 1971.

LUKE SHERIDAN of Wollaston, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, who mourns the death of his wife, Lily, on 7th January, 1972.

Mrs. Tom Higgins, wife of our St. Dunstan, TOM HIGGINS of Yeovil, Somerset, whose father died on 21st October, 1971. She was his only daughter.

In Memory

It is with deep regret we have to record the deaths of the following St. Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, families and friends.

Donald MacLeay MacLeod. *General List, Infantry.*

Donald MacLeod, of Henfield, Sussex, died at Ovingdean on the 11th January, 1972, at the age of 64 years.

He farmed and had other civilian interests and served and was commissioned with the Army in Kenya. After being blinded, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1954 and remained in England, training and working as a poultry farmer for some years until his retirement. He was a keen guide dog owner and gave many talks for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and St. Dunstan's. His health had deteriorated over some years until latterly he was very seriously ill.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family.

Ernest Sheppard. *Royal West Kent.*

Ernest Sheppard of Hove, Sussex, died suddenly at home on 30th December, 1971. He was 76 years old.

He enlisted in the Royal West Kent Regiment in 1915 and served with them until November 1917 when he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained in netting, tray making and picture framing. Since his retirement he and his wife have led a quiet life in Hove.

Mr. Sheppard leaves a widow, Mrs. Florence Sheppard and a daughter, Gwendoline.

William Wall. *Leinster Regiment.*

William Wall, of Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, Eire, died in hospital on 5th January, 1972. He was 76 years of age.

He served in the Leinster Regiment in the 1st World War and was wounded in 1915. His sight did not, however, deteriorate until later in life and he became a St. Dunstaner in July, 1969. Unfortunately Mr. Wall's ill-health precluded visits to Brighton or training and he suffered a stroke recently. He leaves a widow.

Arthur Wood. *2nd West Yorkshire Regiment.*

Arthur Wood of Leeds, Yorkshire, died on 15th November, 1971. He was 81 years of age.

He served in the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment from 1915 to 1916 and was wounded in France. His sight did not deteriorate until later in life and in fact he only came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1971.

He was a widower and he leaves a grown-up family.