

The Rex North Column



LONDON IS MY TOWN. I am a Cockney who loves writing about London, but my town is changing—for better or worse I wouldn't know. Consider this story of just one street—only 820 yards long.

It is regally named Queensway, and it is not a thousand parking meters from Park Lane. Once, the cream of English Society lived there. Today . . . It is the street that seldom sleeps.

CHARLES CLORE owns No. 13. It is not unlucky for him. Number 13 is an ice rink—with hot profits.

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA, PRINCESS SHAHNAZ, the Shah of Persia's daughter and the **COUNTESS OF HAREWOOD** are among the 50,000 members who pay two shillings a year. Add up. That comes to £5,000 a year, a hundred pounds a week, and it helps to make the ice into gold dust.

In addition, the people described as "top society" gather there on Monday nights. Why they select Monday is a mystery. Says assistant manager John Prestland: "The place is packed. It is fantastic. We import a jazz group to play specially for the debs." As I walked down the famous street yesterday I saw how its character has changed. This is probably our character. Britain's character. Instead of private residences, there are many things, and some of them are very private—unless you have a membership card.

FRIXOS DEMETRIOU, Greek-born owner of one of Queensway's late night spots, the Olympic Casino Club, was financially bubbling over with good news about the place.

"You may not believe it, but we have the biggest games in Europe," he told me. "The other night one man lost £60,000 at chemin de fer and another won £52,000."

Frixos is in partnership with Ladbroke's, the bookmakers. They have nearly 5,000 members paying £2 a year. The secret of his success? "In the thirteen months we have been open the club has never closed before 6 a.m."

And it used to be a quiet street. . . .

MARIO BERTORELLI, whose famous family have owned the well-known Monte Carlo restaurant since 1938, is, in some ways, sad about the change.

"When we started twenty years ago it was difficult to get a cup of coffee after ten p.m. in Queensway. I think there were three small cafes then. The other day I counted 29 restaurants and coffee bars."

JACK MORAN, an ex-RAF officer, runs the Flare Path Club in Queensway. He said: "Queensway was the name of a station that one always seemed to notice from a Tube train, but never got off at."

Not now. . . .

DINO FRUZZA, an Italian who has lived in London for 17 years, meets many of the residents of Queensway. He is head of the European Language Department of the Queensway School of Languages.

"We have more than 120 pupils at present—a terrific increase on a few years ago," he commented. "Most of them come from abroad to learn English."

And all of this in 820 yards . . . just one of the streets in my London where life is changing so fast.



Princess Shahnaz

THE WAY-OUT WORLD OF MICK JAGGER



HIGH SPOT..

HERE'S a "bill-poster" who earns something like £100,000 a year. It's French mime artist Marcel Marceau doing a spot of clowning above the London traffic.

Marceau, the man they call The Silent Genius, is pictured outside the Adelphi Theatre in the Strand yesterday.

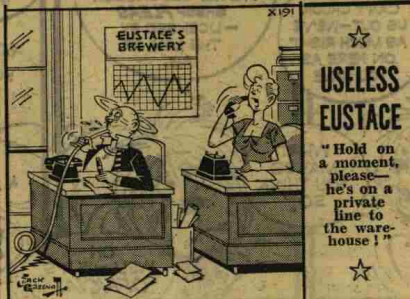
Last night his show "The Best of Marcel," opened at the Adelphi. It will run for four weeks.

Red sails in the Sound

A FLEET of Mirror dinghies from all parts of the country battled in driving rain in Plymouth Sound yesterday.

The boats were competing in the Mirror Class National Championships. The first events in the Championships, which go on all week, were seen by thousands of holidaymakers on the Hoe above the Sound during sunny spells.

The red-sailed dinghies will be racing for awards presented by famous Mirror writers. Yesterday's results were: 1. B. B. Thomas (Spectre); 2. D. Wines (Jaunty Jen); 3. A. E. Francis (Galco); 4. W. A. Durnett (G-Mid); 5. R. P. Tucker (226).



USELESS EUSTACE

"Hold on a moment, please—he's on a private line to the warehouse!"

By MIRROR REPORTER
LONG-HAIRED Mick Jagger, 21, leader of the Rolling Stones pop group, appeared yesterday in the Beale city of Liverpool—in a court where he pleaded guilty to motoring offences.

One offence was not being properly insured. Explaining how this had been overlooked, Jagger's solicitor told the magistrates: "These young people do not live in the same world as you or I."

The solicitor, Mr. Dale Parkinson, added: "They are probably thinking of the next time they are going to make."

The English workman and his tot . .

THE English workman is beginning to like his tot of whisky just as the Scots did 200 years ago. That was what Lord Cohen, president of the General Medical Council, told a London conference on the treatment of alcoholism yesterday. He went on:

"The cocktail party has superseded the tea party, commercial transactions are conducted too often at meals whose preliminaries are numerous short drinks."

Misery

"Dinner in high places finishes more often with brandy than with port. The victim of alcoholism gradually loses his efficiency as a worker and a spouse. Not only is industrial efficiency lessened, but alcohol brings on untold misery for himself and his family. The public must think of alcoholism not as a stigma or as simply the subject of music hall derision, but as a grave medico-social problem."

TV-IN-CAR DRIVER WINS CUT IN FINE

Anthony Smith, 26, who was fined for having a television set in his car, failed in his appeal at West Sussex quarter sessions yesterday against the £10 fine for the set being in a position where the driver could see it.

But Smith, of Alleyway, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex, had £9 10s. cut from the £10 fine for having the set where it might distract other drivers.



Mick Jagger . . . fined for car offences.

driving to a hospital to "cheer up" two injured girl fans. As Jagger sat in court before the hearing, girl clerks from other parts of the building went to him for autographs.

And he also talked to two 17-year-old London girls who had travelled north to see the Rolling Stones at New Brighton last night. They refused to give their names—because, they said, their parents thought they were both in London.

After the hearing, Jagger could not immediately produce a driving licence for endorsement. For souvenir-hunting fans had taken his licence in a raid on his car three days before.

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