COURT AND SOCIAL

Court Circular

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 23rd

The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this morning visited Legoland, Windsor, Berkshire, as part of the Fortieth Anniversary celebrations of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the South East Region, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr Philip Wroughton).

YORK HOUSE
March 24th

The Duke of Kent, Honorary President, the Royal Geographical Society, this evening departed Gatwick Airport for Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

The Queen has appointed Major Sir Shane Blewitt and Sir Kenneth Scott to be Extra Equerries to Her Majesty.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will distribute the Royal Maundy at the Maundy Service in Norwich Cathedral on April 4.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Sir Bernard Miller, Chairman, John Lewis Partnership, 1955-72, is 92; **Lord Quinton,** Chairman of the Board, British Library, 1985-90, 71; **Sir Peter Gibbings,** Chairman, Radio Authority, 67; **Gen Sir James Glover,** C-in-C United Kingdom Land Forces, 1985-87, 67; **Mr David Hicks,** interior decorator and designer, 67; **Mr Humphrey Burton,** writer and broadcaster, 65; **Lord Walker of Worcester,** former Conservative Government Minister, 64; **Lord Crawshaw** 63; **the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones,** Archbishop of Wales, 62; **Mr Geoffrey John,** Chairman, Food from Britain, 62; **Major Sir Shane Blewitt,** Keeper of the Privy Purse and Treasurer to the Queen, 61; **Mr Leif Mills,** General Secretary, Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, 60; **Miss Aretha Franklin,** singer, 54; **Mr William Taylor,** Commissioner, City of London Police, 49; **Mr Elton John,** singer, 49; **Mr Stephen Dorrell, MP,** Secretary of State for Health, 44; and **Mr James Male,** World Rackets Champion, 32.

Today is the anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Rome in 1957.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr J.A.W. Astor and Miss J.D. Valentine

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of the Hon Hugh and Mrs Astor, of Reading, Berkshire, and Janine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Valentine, of Reading, Massachusetts.

Dr H.E.R. Ford and Miss V.G. Pollock

The engagement is announced between Hugo, elder son of Dr and Mrs Edward Ford, of Balsham, Cambridge, and Victoria, younger daughter of Lady Cassidi, of Pitney, Somerset, and the late Dr Anthony Pollock, of Omagh, Co Tyrone.

Mr C.P.P. Swinley and Miss D.B. Rocca

The engagement is announced between Casper, elder son of Captain William Swinley, OBE, RN (Retd), of Flaxley, Gloucestershire, and the late Mrs Swinley, and Dawn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Rocca, of Brampton, Cumbria.

Mr C.S. Hartnell and Miss I.L.C. Brown

The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs C. St John Hartnell, of Cameley, Bristol, and Isobel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Brown, of Salcombe, Devon.

Mr R.J.G. Bushell and Miss C.L. Stanley

The engagement is announced between Roderick, son of Mr and Mrs Graeme Bushell, of Hargrave, Suffolk, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Stanley, of Crosby, Liverpool.

Mr M.W.A.M. Hancock and Miss B.L. Drury

The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Mr William Hancock, of Chelsea, London, and Mrs Michael Sheridan, of Wrexham, Clwyd, and Bridget, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Drury, of Melbourne, Australia.

WEDDING

Mr M.J. Tew and Miss K.L.H. Read

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 23, at the Church of St Laurence, Winslow, of Mr Mark Tew and Miss Katherine Read.

The bride was attended by Miss Emma Dixey, Miss Deena Hargreaves and Harry and Louise Read. Mr Angus Hilton was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Barbados.

SERVICE LUNCHEONS

3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club

Maj-Gen A. Yeoman, Chairman, Royal Signals Association, was guest of honour at the 44th reunion luncheon of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club held on Saturday at the Victory Club. Brig R. Stonham presided.

Task Force "Grapple"

The 25th annual Christmas Island reunion luncheon for officers of all three services who served on Christmas Island with Task Force "Grapple" was held on Saturday at the RAF Club. The Chairman, Air Vice-Marshal B.H. Newton, and Mrs Newton received the guests. Maj-Gen J.C. Woollett was the speaker.

SERVICE DINNERS

31 (City of London) Signal Regiment (V)

Maj-Gen (Retd) I.O.J. Sprackling, Honorary Colonel, 31 (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) was present, with officers and their guests at the dining out of the Commanding Officer, Lt-Col K.J. Bruce-Smith, on Saturday at Coulsdon Territorial Army Centre. Major P.A. Fredericks presided.

4th/5th Bn, The Essex Regiment (TA)

Col Roger Tomkins presided at the annual dinner of the 4th/5th Battalion, The Essex Regiment (TA) Officers' Dinner Club, held on Saturday in the Officers Mess, 1st Bn, The Royal Anglian Regiment, Colchester.

St Nazaire Society

The 54th anniversary reunion dinner of the St Nazaire Society was held on Saturday at the Royal Duchy Hotel, Falmouth. Mr Eric Dawkins was guest of honour.

DINNERS

The Maccabæans

Sir John Balcombe, President, accompanied by Lady Balcombe, was in the chair at the annual House Dinner of The Maccabæans held last night at the Garrick Club. The guest speaker was Rabbi Hugo Gryn.

Society of Old Framlinghamians

The annual dinner of the Society of Old Framlinghamians was held on Saturday at Framlingham College, Suffolk. The President, Mr B. Lorkin, was in the chair and Mrs Gwen Randall, Head of the College, was among the guests.

RECENT SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

Recent appointments in the Services include:

ROYAL NAVY and ROYAL MARINES

Commodore: P D Stone — COMAW SEA 4.10.96.

Captains: A K Dymock — Cornwall 1.10.96; P H Jeffery — RNAS Yeovilton 13.9.96; W H Kelly — Staff of 2SL/CNH in rank of Cdre 24.9.96; A M Willmet — Northwood 30.8.96;D Conley — Dolphin 2.8.96; R F Strange — Warior as CO 6.9.96.

Commanders: P J Couch — MOD Bath 20.9.96; M J Dale — Portugal 12.7.96; P Lambert — Coventry as Capt 6.8.96; A J Norton — Staff of 2SL/CNH 16.4.96; P M Egerton — Drake NBC 12.7.96; A R Forsyth — Nelson 24.5.96; P A Jellyman — Staff of FOSF 19.4.96; P D Kenward — Bristol 1.8.96; J A Lister — RAF High Wycombe 5.7.96; M F Prior — Staff of FOSF 30.8.96; M K Rothwell — Staff of FOSF 1.4.96.

Surgeon Commander (D): J D Victor — Staff of CINCFLEET 30.4.96.

Chaplains: D Barlow — Haslar 1.4.96; N J Kelly — Nelson 15.4.96; M Sharkey — Nelson 15.4.96.

ARMY

Major General: N W F Richards — To be GOC HQ 4 Div, 31.3.96.

Colonels: P R Horobin — To Primary Health & Dental Care Svcs(G), 25.3.96; P Lynch — To MOD, 25.3.96; J I Montgomery — To Primary Health & Dental Care Svcs(G), 25.3.96; A L Moorby — To HQ Land, 25.3.96; F R Steer — To IMS Brussels 31.3.96;A N Bellamy — To be Comd BATUS, 18.3.96; R S Jeffrey — To UK Sp Unit SHAPE, 20.3.96; S A Lane — To MOD, 18.3.96; J S K Swanston — To be Comd Med Lon Dist, 27.2.96 (Belated entry); A V Twiss — To be DA/MA Ankara, 19.3.96.

Lieutenant Colonels: G A R Adams AGC(ALS) — To HQ CDO Forces RM, 25.3.96; S J Barry PARA — To JHQ Implementation Team, 25.3.96; J J Bethell REME — To be CO SEME, 25.3.96; J J S Bourne-May COLDM GDS — To Staff Coll, 25.3.96; A Briard RGBW — To MOD 25.3.96; H C H Ellison RTR — To MOD, 26.3.96; D T Keattch RA — To MOD, 25.3.96; S J Oxlade RGBW — To be CO 2 RGBW, 25.3.96; N B Philpott RA — To be CO 16 Regt RA, 25.3.96; J J P Poraj-Wilczynski PARA — To HQ INF, 27.3.96; C Chapman PARA — To Staff Coll, 18.3.96; P M Gibson PARA — To MOD, 21.3.96; N C May REME — To MOD 18.3.96; P T McCarthy REME — To REME MRO, 20.3.96; J G Mullin RE — To MOD, 20.3.96; P D Raby RLC — To Staff Coll, 18.3.96; M R G Stockdale R Signals — To HQ UKSC(G), 18.3.96; A T J Stone RLC — To MOD, 18.3.96.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Air Vice Marshal C G Terry appointed Chief Engineer (RAF), 8.3.96.

Air Vice Marshal C R Spink — Air Officer Commanding No 11/18 Group, 1.4.96.

Air Vice Marshal R H Goodall — Chief of Staff of the Permanent Joint HQ, 1.4.96.

Group Captains: E G Samuel — HQPTC 29.3.96; N S Rooms — RAF Locking 29.3.96.

Wing Commanders: J S Alton — RAF St Athan 25.3.96; G J Gardiner — HQ AFNORTHWEST 25.3.96.

RECENT CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

Recent Church appointments include:

Revv David Ashforth, v, St Leonard, Balderstone, and dir of post-ordination training, Blackburn dio: to be also warden of readers. He will cease to be director of POT, 31.8.96; Stephen Bailey, p-in-c, St Michael, Betchworth & St Mary the Virgin, Buckland: to be r of the same, Southwark; Stuart Bain, p-in-c, utd benefice of Whitworth w Spennymoor & of Merrington: to be also r d of Auckland, Durham; Elaine Bardwell, dir of pastoral studies, St Stephen's House, Oxford: to be v, St Michael & All Angels, New Marston, Oxford; Simon Brignall, recently returned from South America (SAMS): to be t v, Thame team ministry, w responsiblity for Tetsworth, Adwell w South Weston, Lewknor & Stoke Talmage w Wheatfield, Oxford;

Revv Alan Cole, p-in-c, Gamlingay w Hatley St George & East Hatley & Gamlingay Heath, Ely: to be also an hon canon of Ely Cathedral; Arthur Dean, asst c (nsm), St Margaret, Eastney: to be stipendiary p-in-c (half-time), St Alban, Copnor, Portsmouth; Sheila Ellis, c, St Luke, West Derby: to be v, St John Chrysostom, Everton, Liverpool; Reg Forse, asst c (nsm), Christ Church, Gosport: to be asst c (nsm), St Mary, Alverstoke, Portsmouth; John Francis, c, St John & St George, Preston: to be r, Ribbleton, and bishop's adviser for leisure and tourism, Blackburn; Timothy Gaden: to be asst c, St Mary, Battersea, Southwark; Nigel Genders, asst c, Christ Church, New Malden, Southwark: to be asst c, Christ Church, Cockfosters, London;

Revv Anthony Hawley, t r, Kirkby, area dean of Walton and t v, St Chad, Kirkby, Liverpool: to be also an hon canon of Liverpool Cathedral; John Hindley, p-in-c, Tibrook w Covington & Catworth, Bythorn w Keyston; p-in-c Great Gidding w Little Gidding & Steeple Gidding w Winwick; and r d of Leightonstone, Ely: to be also an hon canon of Ely Cathedral; Richard Holroyd, t v, Wolverton team ministry: to be p-in-c, St Luke, Maidenhead, Oxford; John Howe, canon custos and secretary to the Lichfield dio advisory ctee for the care of churches: to be master of St John's Hospital, Lichfield;

Revv David Jones, r, Baschurch & Weston Lullingfield w Hordley, Lichfield: to be ministre/desservant/p-in-c, St Luke & St James, Jersey, Winchester; Stephen Jones, formerly v, Porthleven & Sithney, Truro: to be p-in-c, The Ascension, North End, Portsmouth; Dr David Miell, t v, Walton team ministry (LEP) to be t r, Upton-cum-Chalvey team ministry (LEP) Slough, Oxford, and has resigned as r d of Milton Keynes; Philip Need, ch to the Bishop of Chelmsford: to be dean of Bocking, Chelmsford; Frank Parr, v, Immanuel & All Saints, Oswaldtwistle: to be v, Tunstall, Melling & Leck, Blackburn; Rosalind Parrett, t v, Stantonbury & Willen team ministry (LEP), to be p-in-c, St George, Owlsmoor, Oxford;

Revv John Paxton, t v, Southampton city centre parish, Winchester: to be r, Christ Church, Southwark; Peter Pimintel, t v, Grays Thurrock team ministry, Chelmsford: to be p-in-c, St Paul, Barton, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth; Ian Pusey, r, St Mary's, Bletchley: is now also r d of Milton Keynes, Oxford; Paul Reily, asst c, Westcliff, St Michael & All Angels; to be p-in-c, Barkingside, St Cedd, Chelmsford; Jonathan Richards, r, Shirwell team ministry: to be p-in-c, Torridge team ministry, Exeter; Lesley Riley, par deacon, Christ Church w St Matthew, Blackburn: to be also asst dir of ordinands, Blackburn dio;

Revv Brian Robinson, p-in-c, St Mary, Widnes, area dean of Widnes and assoc co-ordinator of ACORA, Liverpool: to be also an hon canon of Liverpool Cathedral; Barry Rose, v, Halstead w Greenstead Green, and r d of Hinckford, Chelmsford: to be also a non-res canon of Chelmsford Cathedral; Barry Saunders, vicar, Treverbyn: to be v, Perranzabuloe, Truro; Andrew Sheard, asst c in the Uxbridge team ministry: to be t v, St Margaret's, Uxbridge, in the Uxbridge t min, London; Christopher Stone, nsm, Southfleet: to be also dio communications officer, Rochester.

OBITUARIES

Princess Shams Pahlavi

Reza Shah with Shams (centre), her brother Muhammad (later Shah) and sister Ashraf, 1923

PRINCESS SHAMS PAHLAVI, who has died in California aged 77, was the elder sister of the last Shah of Iran.

Unlike her brother and sister, she played little part in the political affairs of the ill-starred Pahlavi monarchy, which was overthrown by Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution in 1979.

Her father, Reza Shah, came to power in 1926 determined to introduce into Iran the kind of Westernising reforms that Ataturk was forcing on Turkey. In 1934 Reza Shah ordered his wife and daughters — including the 16-year-old Shams — to appear at the opening of a teacher training college in Teheran without the traditional veil or chador.

"For the first time," her younger sister Princess Ashraf wrote, "the people saw what the Queen and her daughters looked like."

Princess Ashraf, the Shah's twin, had the political ambition Princess Shams lacked, and by the time both were grown up Shams found herself pushed into the background.

When Shams was 20 and Ashraf 17 their father arranged husbands for them. Shams favoured the man intended for Ashraf, Fereydoun Jam, a handsome army officer, and exercised her right as elder sister to first choice. Ashraf ended up with a man she loathed. They were married in a joint ceremony in 1937 but both marriages ended in divorce.

Shams Khadija Pahlavi was born on Oct 29 1918. Her mother, Taj ol Molok, the matriarch of the dynasty, was Reza Shah's second wife, but the senior of his four wives as the mother of his son and heir.

Princess Shams spent her childhood in the women's quarters of the royal palace which her father had seized from the decadent Qajar monarchy. As a child, Shams was content to be her father's favourite, while Ashraf longed to be with her brother, who was groomed from childhood as heir to the throne, and was called "Your Highness" by his sisters.

In 1942, Britain and Russia invaded Iran and deposed Reza Shah in favour of his son. Reza Shah went into exile in South Africa, taking Princess Shams, his youngest wife, Esmat, and numerous children with him.

In 1946 Princess Shams defied her brother, who was by now Shah, when she eloped to Cairo with an Iranian, Azatollah Minbashian, who came from a family of musicians — an ancestry looked down upon in court circles. They were married in secret. They compounded their disgrace by converting to Catholicism, a matter of great sensitivity in a Islamic country.

It was only after the birth of their second child that they were permitted by the Shah to return to Iran, and only on condition that her husband adopted a new name and had no further contact with his own family. He took the name Merdad Pahlbod, and was later given the post of Minister of Arts.

By 1950, Princess Shams had returned to favour sufficiently for the Shah to entrust her with the delicate mission of sounding out the views of a beautiful 18-year-old girl named Soraya Esfandiari, the granddaughter of the chief of the notable Bakhtiari clan in Iran. His marriage to Queen Fawzia having ended, he was now offering Soraya the role of Queen. Princess Shams travelled to London to meet her, and suggested a shopping trip to Paris. In this pleasant setting, Shams conveyed her brother's proposal.

She also described to Soraya the rivalries with which she would have to contend at court, and made it clear that she sought her as an ally against Princess Ashraf. Ashraf, since Shams's disgrace and exile, had established herself as the dominant woman at the court of the Peacock Throne.

In 1952 Muhammad Mossadeq became prime minister, with the radical goal of nationalising the country's growing oil industry, and, if possible, deposing the monarchy.

Within a day of coming to office, he ordered the Shah's mother, Taj ol Molok, now styled the Empress Dowager, and Ashraf into exile, on charges of "treasonable intrigue". Princess Shams chose to accompany her mother, staying in a rented house in Beverly Hills, California.

Mossadeq's bid for power was ultimately unsuccessful; and in 1953 he was overthrown. With the help of American and British intelligence forces, the Shah's position was strengthened, and the Princess and her mother returned to Iran.

The Shah relished the trappings of kingship and made his rule increasingly personal and imperial in style. Although Princess Shams preferred domestic life to practical politics, the Shah made her patron of a number of national organisations, principally the Red Lion and Crescent, the Iranian equivalent of the Red Cross. Its work was largely concerned with earthquake relief.

She also played an active role in the Pahlavi Foundation, a controversial charity established by the Shah which handled huge sums of state money. She was later unsuccessfully sued in American courts by the Iranian Republic for the return of some of it.

Princess Shams bought an estate 30 miles outside Teheran, and built a flamboyant house (described as "more like a casino than a private home"). She gave lavish private entertainments, including a vast party to celebrate the 21st birthday of her daughter Shahrazad in 1973.

"My sister Shams sold some of her land and set herself up in style," the Shah explained. "She has the most exquisite palace and a luxurious lifestyle, yet nobody bears her a grudge because she's been completely open and frank about what she was after."

Princess Shams visited Moscow as head of the Red Lion and Crescent in 1973, an invitation she at first rejected because it did not come from the Soviet president.

In 1975 she made a trip to Rome, and was received by the Pope. The Shah countenanced the visit "provided she doesn't make a great song and dance about her meeting with the Pope".

She bought a £2 million mansion in Beverly Hills in 1977, and, as the Shah's grip on the country began to weaken, she left Iran for good in 1978, taking her 18 dogs with her.

The Shah left Iran in haste in January 1979 and died in 1980. Within days of his departure, militant students tried to storm the mansion in Beverly Hills where Princess Shams was living with her 90-year-old mother. They left the house under the escort of the US State Department and were taken to safety to an estate in Palm Springs, California. It belonged to Walter Annenberg, the US Ambassador to Britain during the Nixon administration.

In April 1979, Islamic Revolutionary Guards auctioned off her wardrobe at her estate outside Teheran.

She is survived by a son and three daughters.

Air Cdre Denis Wilson

AIR COMMODORE DENIS WILSON, a distinguished radiologist, who has died aged 94, volunteered to fly through an atomic cloud as a scientific guinea-pig.

On Oct 26 1953 he entered the cloud of Britain's second atomic bomb detonation at Emu Field, near Woomera in Australia.

The highly polished RAF Canberra was piloted by an RAF doctor, Wing Cdr Geoffrey Dhenin (later Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Dhenin). Wing Cdr Edward Anderson, a wartime Pathfinder, was navigator.

Each officer received an immediate award of the AFC. The data obtained from this first manned atomic cloud survey proved invaluable.

Wilson sought answers to the many questions raised during the build-up of the RAF's nuclear deterrent force. Since no one had yet flown through an atomic cloud, the effects of physical and radiation stresses were unknown. For example, could a contaminated aircraft safely and expeditiously be rendered fit to fly again?

What sort of protection could be afforded to crew and aircraft against external and internal radiation? Could air crew fly more than one mission?

Wilson was also keen to investigate the extreme turbulence of an atomic cloud rising at speed to the stratosphere, and the effects of the debris sucked up into the cloud.

These were the questions on Wilson's mind as Britain's second bomb was exploded in the Australian emptiness from the top of a 100-ft tower.

Wilson was responsible for deciding, after obtaining radiation readings, when it was safe for the aircraft to enter the cloud.

After the Emu Field test Wilson remained actively engaged with all the other kiloton trials and with the Operation Grapple megaton series at Christmas Island.

Denis Aymard Wilson was born on Dec 3 1901 into a medical family. He was educated at Epsom College and the Middlesex Hospital, where he graduated in 1925.

He ran for London University. He developed an interest in motor racing and flying, and obtained a pilot's A Licence at the de Havilland aerodrome in north London.

Wilson was commissioned into the medical branch of the RAF in 1927 and saw service in Iraq with Nos 30 and 84 Bomber Squadrons as well as with No 1 Armoured Car Company at Basra.

Home postings, including a radiology course, followed, but he was back in the Middle East when war broke out. At the fall of Crete he was among the last British personnel to be evacuated in a Sunderland flying-boat with, as he recalled, no fewer than 186 people aboard.

Wilson retired from the RAF in 1958 and took up a supervisory position at Windscale, later becoming Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations at the Central Electricity Generating Board. Finally, he returned to clinical radiology as consultant to Farnham and later Frimley Park hospitals.

Wilson was mentioned in despatches in 1940, awarded the AFC in 1954 and appointed CBE in 1958.

A kind, modest and rather shy man, whose civilised qualities overlaid and concealed great determination and drive, he is survived by his wife, Angela, whom he married in 1959; they had a son and a daughter.

Sir Hugh Mais

SIR HUGH MAIS, the former High Court judge who has died aged 88, presided at the trial of the so-called "terror pickets" at Shrewsbury Crown Court in 1973.

The defendants were the ring-leaders of 300 flying pickets who had swarmed onto a Shropshire site during a building strike in 1972 — "like a frenzied horde of Apache Indians", according to the prosecution. They chanted: "Kill, kill, kill, capitalist bastards. This is not a strike, it is a revolution."

Urged by Mais to ignore political or social considerations, the jury found them guilty of conspiring to intimidate workers to abstain from work.

Sentencing the six men to periods of up to three years' imprisonment, Mais observed: "Some of you were clearly determined to strike terror in the hearts of those who continued to work. Your conduct was totally unacceptable in this country."

The verdict removed fears that existing laws were not strong enough to deal with terror tactics in strikes. It also followed Government pressure on chief constables to abandon their reluctance to act in industrial disputes because of anxiety about the political consequences.

Robert Hugh Mais was born on Sept 14 1907 and educated at Shrewsbury and Wadham College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar by Inner Temple in 1930 and began practising on the Northern Circuit from chambers in Manchester.

During the Second World War he served in the RAF Volunteer Reserve.

In 1958, Mais was appointed a judge of the West London County Court. He transferred to Marylebone two years later.

He was a member of the Winn Committee on personal injuries litigation in the late 1960s. The committee recommended a series of changes in procedure aimed at hastening the settlement of claims for damages.

He was knighted and appointed a Judge of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court in 1971, and presided at several heavyweight criminal trials.

In 1975, he jailed a Provisional IRA bomber for 12 years. The man, a new recruit on his first mission, had heard his companion blown to pieces as the bomb planted at the Coventry telephone exchange exploded prematurely. Shortly afterwards Mais was presumed to be the target of a letter bomb which exploded in a postman's sack near his Berkshire home.

In another case, Mais jailed a fraudulent bank manager who had assisted an

Mais: 'terror pickets'

£800,000 swindle, telling him he had been a "complete and utter mug". But Mais was later criticised by the Court of Appeal when another defendant in the case complained about the private "plea bargaining" discussions he had held with counsel during the trial.

Occasionally, Mais himself sat on criminal appeals, most notably that of the Birmingham Six in 1976. He and his colleagues turned down the appeals against conviction, rejecting complaints that newspaper coverage had prejudiced the case or that the trial judge had shown excessive hostility to the Six during his summing-up. The Six were eventually freed in 1991, following the discovery of new evidence.

Mais sometimes seemed austere, with a tendency to stand on ceremony. In 1973, he ordered the arrest of a man who had made a V-sign at his passing car in Newcastle. The man spent two hours in the cells before Mais accepted his apology together with his explanation that he had mistaken the judge for the mayor.

A devout churchman, Mais was appointed Chancellor of the diocese of Manchester in 1948 and held the post for 23 years. In 1950 he was appointed Chancellor of the dioceses of Carlisle and Sheffield as well.

His tasks as Chancellor included the censuring of errant incumbents, and ordering the removal of unauthorised memorials from churchyards.

Mais enjoyed trout-fishing and the countryside. He was especially fond of the village of Mobberley, Cheshire, and prevented it becoming a new town in the 1950s.

He never learned to drive, and once brought the High Court to a standstill during a rail strike after his request for overnight accommodation or a car went unheeded.

Hugh Mais married, in 1938, Catherine Kessler (*née* Pattinson) who predeceased him; they had one son.

WAY OF THE WORLD

AUBERON WAUGH

Back to basics

WHEN I reported last Monday on some scientists in Nashville, Tennessee who had announced that watching television was a healthier occupation than reading and writing — it burns up more energy, promotes a trimmer figure — I did not realise that this would be part of an emerging pattern.

Scientists in California (of all places) recently claimed that listening to Mozart for 10 minutes or so broadened the spatial reasoning skills of children. No doubt infuriated by this, a scientist at the Institute of Learning in London arranged for Megalab to run a test on 11,000 children in 250 schools across the country. One group listened to a Mozart Quintet, another to pop music by Blur and other artists, a third to a talk.

Needless to say, the group listening to pop music came out on top. The claim that listening to pop music makes you more intelligent seems to me one of the wickedest that you could make to a child, even worse than the suggestion that watching television makes it more beautiful.

Spatial reasoning, a new jargon word for de Bono's lateral thinking, also known as general intelligence, was measured by special tests made up of "square completion tasks" and "paper folding tasks".

But folding paper and completing squares have nothing to do with education in Britain as we have known it since Shirley Williams. The basis of modern British education is the Plasticine worm. Perhaps it is to hide the scandal that some 46 per cent of secondary school-leavers can no longer make a proper Plasticine worm that the Institute of Education now introduces paper folding and square-completing as a soft option. We should not be fooled.

Listening to pop music has all but destroyed a whole generation's ability to make decent Plasticine worms. Soon the study of Plasticine worms will be confined to the top universities and institutes of higher education. It is all part of our relentless decline. The best music for making Plasticine worms might be Ravel's *Bolero*, or, for the more reflective, Schubert's *Trout Quintet*.

Try almost anything once

MANY people will have been shocked by the story of Philip Hall the ornithologist who made a long trek to the banks of the river Niger in search of the incredibly rare Rufous Fishing Owl, only to be shown the remains of one which had been eaten by villagers the night before.

I hope he took the opportunity to ask if he could nibble at the remaining leg. Ornithology is a respectable science, and gives many people pleasure, but gastronomy is the more important of the two, affecting, in its way, the whole human race.

If the Rufous Fishing Owl proved exceptionally delicious, it might be worthwhile to mount an expedition to secure a pair and breed them up for the table. Somebody always has to try these things first or we would never know, for instance, that rabbits are good to eat, rats are not.

Being a bird-lover should be no impediment. It may not be completely true that every man eats the thing he loves, but I, who am Founder, President and only known member of the Dog Lovers Party of Great Britain (and a patron of the Canine Defence League) once ate dog in Manila. My attempts to eat giant panda in China were frustrated, and I caused grave offence once in Adelaide by asking where it was possible to eat koala, but I think one has a duty to try everything.

The answer to our present beef crisis is obviously ostriches.

I ate ostrich several times in South Africa, and liked it, while mentally taking off my hat to the person who tried it first. Another suggestion is that we should eat alligators from Florida. I ate crocodile once in Cuba — it tasted halfway between lobster and pork — but am not sure I would welcome its cousin from Florida. There are times when we have to allow health considerations to come first.

Sorely missed

WAY of the World's annual Business Award this year goes to Madame Tussaud's, always one of London's greatest attractions, which, in reopening its famous Chamber of Horrors after a £1m facelift, has decided to dispense with American horrors.

Previously, visitors were able to study a waxwork of Gary Gilmore, who chose to be executed by firing squad rather than continue the interminable process of appeal, and Bruno Hauptman, sitting in the electric chair waiting for American technology to take its erratic course. Instead, the exhibition now concentrates on British and European murderers.

This seems eminently sensible. No native Briton wishes to see American horrors, when we have only to turn on our television sets at any hour of the day or night to see Americans punching and shooting each other. Similarly, there are unlikely to be any further American tourists to please in this way.

London is really no place for the American tourist nowadays, what with our mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, our Creuzfeldt-Jakob disease (very catching), our incurable new super-TB, our bulimia and our IRA bombs going off the whole time. They will be sorely missed, but we will quite understand if they prefer to stay at home and watch their own domestic horrors unfold. Already, in the United States, people can watch their fellow citizens being executed, whether in real life or on television. They have no need of waxworks to give them the idea of it. Everything is done better over there.

Recent wills

□ **Wing Cdr James Stewart Higgins,** AFC and Bar, of Cheltenham, Glos, a former bomber pilot during the Second World War, and later a security officer at GCHQ, Cheltenham, who died last November, aged 78, left estate valued at £270,868 net.

□ **Ms Diana Margaret Turner**, of Somerton, Somerset, who died last December, left estate valued at £2,837,965 net.

She left a number of personal bequests, £5,000 to the British Field Sports Society, £2,000 and Pylewell Orchard, Foddington, to the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt, £2,000 to the Somerset Archaeological Society, £200 each to Babcary Parish Council, the Somerton and Frome Conservative Association, Distressed Gentlefolks Aid Association, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and British Horse Society, her silver mounted Hussar to the RGH (Royal Gloucestershire Hussars) Charitable Trust No 6, her properties Standerwick Farm, and Elm Cottage, Babcary, and effects there appropriate to these properties, and Standerwick Cottage, subject to a prior interest, to the National Trust, and the remainder of her estate to Chailey Heritage.

□ **Prof Robin Oliver Gandy,** of Oxford, the mathematician and logician, former reader in mathematical logic at Oxford, and founding president of the British Logic Colloquium in 1978, who died last November, aged 76, left estate valued at £385,121 net.

He left £5,000 index linked and effects to personal legatees; £10,000 index linked to his Trustees to apply the income and/or capital towards charitable institutions or purposes at such times and in such manner as they think fit; and the residue, including his literary estate, to Wolfson College, Oxford.

Other estates (net before tax):

Mr Brian Milner COWBURN, of Knutsford, Cheshire	£536,645
Ms Jean Radford DOW, of Grange over Sands, Cumbria	£745,627
Mr Herbert Maurice GASS, of Highbridge, Somerset	£649,467
Mr John Marshall GREENWOOD, of Balderstone, Lancs	£883,689
Mrs Joyce Pauline Dorothea HEPPER, of Harrogate, N Yorks	£645,437
Mr Roger Edmund Fulke KERRISON, of Wroxham, Norfolk	£674,650
Mr Clifford Harold KERSHAW, of Sheffield	£595,354
Mr Robert John PEARCY, of Cullompton, Devon	£891,687
Mr Donald Ryland SMITH, of Baddiley, Cheshire	£628,469
Mr Walter Norman SMITH, of Driffield, N Humbs	£690,850
Mr William Gwynfor STOKES, of Pontardulais, W Glam	£637,720
Mr Robert David HENDERSON-TATE, of Esher, Surrey	£987,039
Mr Derek Cecil BUTLER, of Blakedown, Hereford & Worcs	£848,946

S.T. Dupont PARIS

PRIZE WINNERS OF CROSSWORD No. 21,822

The first three prize winners: Mr C J S Wood, Culcheth, Cheshire; Mrs J G Heffernan, Hythe, Kent; Mr David Sherwood, Brixworth, Northants. Consolation winners: Mrs W Blake, Bembridge, IoW; Mr D C Barrett, Rendall, Orkney; Mr L Attawat, Maidstone, Kent; Mrs Joy Freeman, Altrincham, Cheshire; Mr M Du Sautoy, Allestree, Derby; Mrs J Luker, Aylesford, Kent; Mr D Tipler, Barnsley, S Yorks; Mr N R Edgar, Spondon, Derby; Mrs A Leppington-Clarke, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon; Mr P J Roberts, Port Talbot, West Glam; Mr W Hall, Aston, Sheffield; Mr N Fisher, Harpenden, Herts.

"Princess Shams Pahlavi." Daily Telegraph, 25 Mar. 1996, p. 23. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0701754120/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.