

GROUP 9.5 NEWS LETTER

We should now all be thinking of the Annual Get-together, that pilgrimage which to most members is a must each year when we meet old and new friends.

I would like you to try and purchase your tickets before the day, as this gives us some idea of how many to cater for in the evening, and as I am on the subject of the Get-together, will all you modest people who make films, please try and enter one for the annual competition and make this years entries the best we have had for years. I have seen many films during the year that are well worth sending in.

May I, as a member of St Gabriel's Branch of Group 9.5, ask all London Members to make a little effort and attend just one or two meetings in six months, it's very disheartening for the committee, also the person who takes the trouble to turn out in all weathers to put on a show for you, when only a handful turn up.

In this issue, we congratulate Colin C Gordon and A R Pulford who both had some of their films shown on B.B.C.2's Programme "Caught in Time"; I understand that there is to be a further series later this year, when we hope to see more 9.5mm films on our T/V screens.

This last two months I have had many visitors arrive at my door, and what a pleasant surprise to see our old friend from America, Charles F Miller and his wife. The following week, Jack Luccock and his wife from Canada came round to ask where they could obtain some 9.5mm film stock from. Then my very good friends from Holland, Ina Veenstra with husband Geoff and family, and as usual I put my big foot in it and say Ina when in Holland it is pronounced Ena. They informed me that they always bring their film stock with them as it's much cheaper in Holland, even after the film having first been sold by Ligonie to Schafer in Germany and then to Holland. This sounds very strange to me, must be a special higher price to England. Then last week I was visited by Dr Helmut Wissler from Austria who came over to see what he could obtain at the P.M. Films Auction on Saturday 12th August for his Museum in Vienna. His interest is in Cine Cameras 8mm, 9.5mm and 16mm and he hopes to get over again for the Get-together.

Don't forget Chiswick Town Hall, 21st October 2.30 pm. See you then.

Ken Valentine

MARKET PLACE

Wanted. Good condition second-hand Specto 9.5mm or 9.5/16mm Dual Projector, A Thompson, 14 Francis Avenue, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd.
Telephone: 0492 48852.

For Sale. Pathescope "Gem" 9.5mm Projector 200/240v A.C, excellent condition. Recent lamphouse conversion to take A1/186 lamps. Complete with carrying case £25.00.
Contact: J Creswell, Lullington Court, Nr Polegate, East Sussex.
Telephone: 0323870548.

Wanted. Pathescope Newsreels for 1949, 1950, 1953, 1957 and 1958. Good price paid, can exchange others.
Contact: Hugh Hale, "Normandy" Clarence Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Wanted Pair of 16mm Sprockets for Specto type "A" Projector.
Contact: P J Lawley, 80 Norwood Grove, Beverley, Yorks HU17 9HS.

For Sale. 8mm, 9.5mm and 16mm Sound and Silent films, shorts and features, lots of additions to previous lists.
S.A.E. for lists to K Mayes, 22 Conway Gardens, Mitcham, Surrey.

Market Place (continued)

For Sale Pratic 300 9.5mm Projector with 150w Truvector Lamp, 900ft arms, Reverse and Rewind, Pre-heated lamp, Variable Speed and modified to take Syncrodek. Price £80 o.n.o. with C/Case, also Bell & Howell Super 9.5mm Camera fully automatic, electric Zoom Lens, Reflex Viewfinder, Electric Power Driven, pistol grip, price £50 o.n.o. Contact: H Hale, "Normandy" Clarence Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex. Telephone: Bognor 5976.

Wanted The following 9.5mm films:-
"St Iago to Paris in 8 Days", "Conquest of the Air", "Dickens London" (Notched), "Paris 1910" (Notched), and "Life in Harem" (Notched). Also has any member any old silent 9.5mm films in poor condition they are prepared to let go cheaply, I would be glad to hear.
Contact: M Snellgrove, 50 Bienenheim Place, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8AQ.

Wanted 8mm, 9.5mm and 16mm Cameras, the older the better, good price paid, send details first to: Dr Helmut Wissler, Kuniglberggasse 3, A-1130 Vienna, Austria.

GROUP 9.5 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

This is to remind you that your annual subscription of £2.00 is now due. A form is set out on the last page of this News Letter for your convenience. PLEASE enclose S.A.E. for new Card.

G R O U P 9.5

LONDON (ST GABRIEL'S BRANCH)

The annual slide competition was held on Saturday 27th May. 52 slides in a variety of shapes and subjects were entered. There was even one nude.

The winner this year was Ron Price with a view of Inverness Castle. In joint second place was Monty Pain with two portraits. One of his aged father, the other of a young girl. The definition on these two slides was fantastic. It was strange, but 35mm Slides came nowhere. The winner was size 6 x 4.5cm. Agfa CT18 taken with an Ensign Selfix Camera. The second and third were Half Frame taken with a Yashica camera.

Ron Price now holds all three awards from St Gabriels. The Holiday Film Cup, the Open Film Shield and now the Open Slide Cup.

One further comment. Only three members attended on Saturday. I realise that it was bank holiday weekend, but three - its ridiculous!

ST GABRIEL'S Forthcoming Programme

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| September 2nd | Feature Film "Oh! Mr Porter" 16mm Sound Film starring Will Hay Graham Moffatt and Moore Marriott. |
| September 16th | Members to project their latest films. How much have we improved our techniques? |
| September 30th | Ken Finch, Group 9.5 Librarian presents a Pathescope Film Show, both optical sound and silent prints, these are from the Group's Library and Ken's own Collection. An evening not to be missed. |
| October 14th | Planning for Get-together at Chiswick, allocation of Group members duties etc. |

Group 9.5 London (St Gabriel's Branch) continued

- October 21st Annual Show and Get-together at Chiswick Town Hall 2.30-9.30
- October 28th An Informal discussion on the Get-together. Is the format right for 1979. The evening will conclude with club films if time permits.
- November 11th Hugh Hale presents his "One Man Show".
- November 25th GROUP 9.5 Annual General Meeting (now is the time to let off steam).
- December 9th Malcolm Cutmore shows sponsored films 16mm sound including London Transports "The Nine Road".
- December 16th ST GABRIELS Cheese and Wine Party.
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Member A Pulford of Sleaford Lincs informs us that Humidifier for keeping films moist in their cans can be obtained from E.V.T. (Bexleyheath) Co Ltd, 333 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 8EA. Price £1.35 per small bottle.

New Lab's set up to give a faster return of your Ektachrome 9.5mm films at no extra charge. Photo-Studio 13, Hohenstaufenstrasse 1, 7022 Stuttgart-Echterdingen, Germany.

The 1st Festival International de cinema amateur takes place in ANDORA, films must arrive by 30th September and will be returned after 26th November. Films should be sent to Cercle des Arts et des Lettres, 24 Avenue Carlemany, Las Escaldes, Principaute d Andorre.

Welsh International Amateur Film Festival 1978 takes place at Monico Cinema Cardiff. Public showing of the award winning films on Sunday 19th November 1978. Entries must be received by Saturday 14th October. Entry forms from Mr G C Marks, 17 Alltmaur Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff CF2 6NQ.

Group 9.5 open film award 1978. Films must arrive by 30th September 1978. Entry forms available from Hon. Sec. Ken Valentine, 65 Mora Road, Cricklewood LONDON NW2 6TB.

Get-together tickets for Saturday 21st October are £1.25 each from Ken Valentine at the above address. Please send S.A.E. and make cheques and postal orders payable to "GROUP 9.5". Also, why not pay your Subscription at the same time or pay £2.00 at the Group 9.5 stand at the Get-together, this will save you postage.

PLEASE do not forget to bring unwanted photographic equipment to put into the Group 9.5 Auction or the Bring and Buy stand.

The Malta Amateur Circle presents XVII The Golden Knight International Amateur Film Festival which will be held from 8th to 11th November 1978. Films should be sent to The Secretary, Golden Knight International Amateur Film Festival, P O Box 450, Valletta, Malta G.C. Not later than 30th September. (Entry Forms, Entrance Fee, Return Postage, Synopsis are to reach the Secretary by 15th September.

LETTERS

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Reading Maurice Trace's interesting article on "Picadilly" in your most recent issue, prompts me to write of the time in the early thirties, when I knew one of the stars of that film - Anna May Wong.

LETTERS continued

It was one evening in 1934 when I was comfortably settled in a first class diner en route for Liverpool (one could afford to go "1st" in those days) where I was going on a business journey, that just before the train left Euston, the Guard staggered in with several smart white suitcases and put them on the rack opposite my seat. This rather annoyed me as I had been looking forward to putting my feet up on the empty seat after a good meal and relaxing in comfort for the rest of the journey.

However, immediately after the luggage, a most attractive young woman came and sat down directly opposite whom I had no difficulty at all in recognising as Miss Wong. Perhaps I ought to mention here that Anna May had long been a schoolboy pin-up of mine, ever since I had seen her in that famous "oldie" with the original Douglas Fairbanks - "The Thief of Bagdad" - so I was already acquainted with the lady's charms to some extent.

After dinner her eyes closed and, as far as I could tell she fell asleep. This was the chance I had been waiting for. I used to paint and draw a bit then and after summoning the steward to ask for a supply of paper, I began to make various sketches of my attractive neighbour's features. She woke before I had finished the drawings and made me promise to send her the completed picture when ready - which I later did do.

At Liverpool, my taxi drew up at the same well known hotel as Miss Wong's, we happened to go up in the same lift to the first floor and both went to our respective rooms - she to what I afterwards found to be a V.I.P. suite, and me being of humbler means, to a single with bath.

That evening the local papers carried advertisements of the Empire Theatre extolling the virtues of "Anna May Wong, the famous film star" who was appearing in person for one week only. This gave me another idea! Why not make a movie of her stage show?

I had no camera with me and being unable to beg, borrow or hire a 9.5 one, I regrettably had to hire an old B & H 16mm camera from a shop in Lord Street. This was loaded with fast black and white stock and the following evening saw me seated in the front row of the stalls with camera at the ready.

Incidentally, all the stalls were sold out for that week so I had to appeal to the star herself, who soon fixed me up with a good seat.

During the filming, the motor made such a noise that I was almost in danger of being thrown out and Miss Wong herself afterwards told me how disconcerting it had been, especially during her singing. However, luckily the whole 100 feet came out remarkably well when one considers that only the stage lights were in use, and I have the original film to this day, together with a copy on 9.5. Anna May herself was pleased with the result and insisted that I should let her have a copy, which I was glad to do - together with the finished portrait made from my sketches, with which she seemed equally pleasantly surprised.

In conclusion, let me say that after getting to know her better, I formed a very high opinion of Anna May Wong as a person and had great respect and admiration for her, for she possessed talent and brains as well as beauty. Alas, she died a few years ago at a comparatively young age, and there must be many of us elderly folk who will never forget her.

Colin C Gordon

Dear Editor

You conclude your current article "Nine Fivers in the news" with the words - "You never know who may be out there".

How true, and readers may be interested to hear about my recent adventures with a Japanese film unit, who were advised by the B.B.C that I was the owner of a film which was shown in the programme "Caught in Time" on 29th January

LETTERS continued

with a title "Restless Water" The Company TV Man Union, Inc had been commissioned by ANB-TV of Tokyo, Japan to produce a 90 minute educational documentary film on the subject of the Industrial Revolution for the Ministry of Education of Japan. The director of the film happened to be in the United Kingdom on 29th January and watched the programme in which my film was shown. Subsequently I was contacted to secure permission to use part of my film and if so, what would be the cost. Their London representative, Shigeo Kitano, phoned to tell me that he had been to the B.B.C and viewed my film and the final decision would rest with the director. About a week later after the filming team had returned home, he phoned again telling me that they had finally decided not to use my footage, which was a rather sad anti-climax to an exciting month. Anyway, all is not lost yet, and at the time of writing, a canal carrying company is showing some interest in the film, and I hope to be able to give you some interesting news about this at a later date.

Dear Editor

In the March issue of our News Letter, Mr D E Mason write about 9.5mm being almost non existent, and mentions that the younger generation has never heard of the gauge.

Well Mr Mason, I am only thirteen and I have been using 9.5mm since 1975. I too probably would not have known about 9.5mm had it not been for my father who started on 9.5mm in 1939 with a coronet camera and a Specto Projector. The camera and projector had never been oiled since my father purchased them, and the projector speed control had to be set on full speed to work at 16 f.p.s. after I oiled and greased the mech it worked very well. The camera started to stick and after a lot of nagging from me, my father sent the camera away to the person who we obtained our film stock from, and until I joined Group 9.5, I thought that George Whitfield was just a dealer, not knowing he was known over far and wide having written for some years in Movie Maker.

I thought that Mr Mason and Group 9.5 would like to know that at least there is one teenager who knows what 9.5mm is.

N J Strange, North Waxsham, Norfolk

Dear Editor

I was very interested in Mr D E Mason's letter about 9.5 equipment and the future position of the gauge. It certainly does cover the big problem of 9.5mm.

What is being done to get new recruits? Mr Mason asks. I think the answer is nothing, so where do we start?

With money? If we want new recruits we then need money to get them. Where do we get the money? Certainly not from Group 9.5. They loose some 60/80 members every year, fortunately kept made up by new members. Many drop out because of the large cost of membership fee of £2 and this goes up rather than comes down. The news letters takes the place of the magazine in order to keep the cost in printing down, but we would all prefer a magazine to a news letter, so there is no money there. But we do have members, Good Members, and Very Good Members, like you, Mr Mason.

A few years ago, Mr John Hall and I could see that there would be difficulties about future 9.5mm film supplies, so we formed the Amateur Film Co. A meeting was held at Mr Hall's house. Ken Valentine, Ken Finch, Jack Smith and Pat Flynn all put money into this venture. A duplicated letter was put into the 9.5 magazine asking those who were concerned for the future of 9.5 (and certainly today, Mr Mason is one of those) to join us, not a single member (or non-member) replied to our request or offered to support our quest for capital, for film cannot be paid for with shirt buttons. Fair enough, the 9.5mm amateur had made his point. So Mr Mason, there is no money to be had there. What next? Please do not say "Social Security". It is only by our own efforts will we get new

LETTERS continued

recruits. We could visit clubs with our equipment and show the flag, (on second thoughts, this might be a bad idea) - I remember a very keen member taking along a pre-war projector (not fully in working order due to lack of spares) to a club to show the flag and the visit was not the greatest success ever recorded. As the member said, "We need new equipment". How many members have new equipment they could use? And by new, I mean less than five years old, since design and manufacture, that is.

Mr Mason asks for regular items in magazines like "Movie Maker". Good, but what do we write about? New equipment? Or give news about Pathe Equipment, now more than 25 years old? Or would this be history and not news? What new equipment is there to fill 12 articles in a monthly magazine, or 52 articles in a weekly magazine? I am at a loss, but the idea is good.

If we had money we could go on tele or roadside hoardings or national dailies. So we come back to the root of all evil. Any grey haired ailing 60 year olds good at robbing banks?

Just one final thought, over a recent 2½ year period, I sold 2 x 50ft spools and one "P" charger of film. The remaining £1,000 of stock went into the river because it was so terribly out of date. Any chance of the bank robbers making good my losses on 9.5mm dealings.

E M Smith, Whitton, Twickenham, Middx

Dear Friends of Group 9.5

I am at a loss for words to show my heartfelt thanks and gratitude towards everyone of you for your affectionate remembrance of Bob by sending him such beautiful flowers from Group 9.5 which he thought so much about. I am sure Bob, my beloved husband, will be missed by all his friends as he seemed to have lived for his hobby, making films, and still doing it to the very end a "Ghost Cartoon" for this year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Bayley
Moseley, Birmingham.

To: Ken Valentine (Hon. Sec. Group 9.5)
65 Mora Road
LONDON NW2 6TB

I herewith enclose cheque/postal order (made out to Group 9.5) for £2.00 being my annual subscription.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Name:

Membership No:
(if known)

Address: