A draught in the model girls' dressing-rooms

TIMES are getting hard, boys, and hardest of all, it seems, for the girls in the modelling business.

"It's becoming a much tougher business," says **Leslie Kark,** head of the Louise Clayton model agency, who expects some agencies to go to the wall in the scramble for work.

"There will be a thinning out," says Mr Kark. "Good models are still making a good living but times are hard even for them. In 20 years' experience I've never known such a situation."

People who know the British modelling world well say that it thrives and declines in accordance with the country's economic state. Over to you, **Mr Barber.**

* * *

First there is a mild recession in advertising. Then the photographers start to suffer. And then, in their turn, the models.

Too many girls chasing too few jobs, experienced models looking for other kinds of work, a glamorous world which is losing a bit of its glamour.

"About one girl in 20 makes a go of it," says Manchester model **Barbara Bell,** of the Pamela Holt agency who has worked in Milan and London during her six-year career.

"More and more girls seem to think it's a glamorous life," she says. "It's not. It's hard. When you start out the month without doing a job at all."

* * *

The girls in the North seem to have the dice loaded against them, anyway. "Some of the Manchester girls are just as good as the London girls, but we never get a chance of doing magazine work."

Many of the jobs Manchester girls do are for mail order firms ("Just another one of you standing by the dishwasher, dear") and that's not the stuff international reputations are made of.

Mr. Manchester's diary

Hurry up

MORE THAN 73,000 people queued at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London last month to look at the exhibition of costumes from the award-winning BBC TV series "The Six Wives of Henry VIII."

They've seen them in Harrogate. They've seen them in Scotland. They've seen them in Bethnal Green. But Manchester will have to wait.

"There is no plan at the moment to organise a showing in Manchester," said the girl at the BBC, "but anything could happen." I hope it does. Soon.

Over 30 of designer **John Bloomfield's** 300 Tudor costumes are included in the exhibition, which also features the brilliant make-up job which transformed Henry from a youth into an old man.

Chivalry is the urge a man has to protect a woman from every man but himself.—Carruthers.

Catchment area

HOTBED of men's lacrosse that it is, the Manchester area will not exactly go unrepresented when the English Universities Lacrosse Association team flies to America next week.

All but two of the 24 players are Old Boys of Manchester Grammar School, William Hulme's GS, Manchester, Stockport GS, and Cheadle Hulme School. And the other two also come from the area.

The team will play eight matches against East Coast university sides during the three-week tour. Tour organiser is **Nigel Wayne,** ex-pupil of Stockport GS and now a student teacher at Sheffield University, who tells me that the squad still has another £250 to raise for the trip.

Chipping in

THIRTY local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire have been asked to support the Manchester-based Northern Dance Theatre for the first time.

Salford will chip in with £100 for the year 1971/72 and St Helens and Southport have also agreed to dig into their kitties.

The theatre is already assured of £28,000 in grants next month from the various bodies and local authorities who already back it, says publicity officer **Jeff Jones.**

Dolls in fashion

FOR 12 months staff at the Gallery of English Costume, Platt Hall, Manchester, have been hard at work restoring the Greg collection of dolls and their clothes.

They've been cleaning the wax heads and repairing the clothing of the dolls which were transferred there from Queen's Park Art Gallery in 1968 for extensive conservation work.

* * *

Now many of the dolls are on show in an exhibition at Platt Hall called "Fashion in Miniature."

The 40 dolls on display have been chosen because they reflect the adult fashions of their time. The oldest exhibit is a wooden doll of 1700.

A second exhibition at Platt Hall features the use of feathers in fashionable dress from 1770 to 1950.

Plumes became part of court dress, surviving until 1940 when ceremonial presentation at court ceased. The exhibition includes examples of these twentieth century plumed headdresses and photographs and prints of earlier wearers.

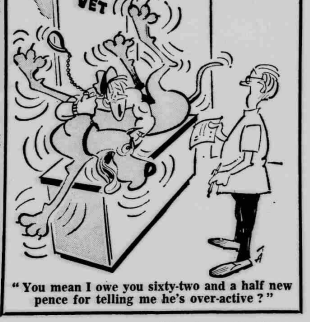
In the 1880s whole small birds were used to decorate hats, muffs, and fans and only after a 30-year fight did the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds win protection for the birds used in fashionable millinery.

The 20 cigarettes non-smoker ERNEST JOHNSON found the other day are part of a Christmas present sent in 1914 to his brother, William, in the trenches in France.

Retired club steward Mr Johnson discovered them in a tin while rummaging through old possessions at his home in Elmstead Avenue, Withington, Manchester.

Also in the box were an ounce of tobacco and a message from Princess Mary: "With best wishes for a happy Christmas and a victorious New Year."

Mr Johnson, aged 67, tells me: "My brother, now dead, was badly wounded by shrapnel. He brought the tin home and I forgot all about it."



"You mean I owe you sixty-two and a half new pence for telling me he's over-active?"

The crumbs . . .

PLEASANT memories and 20 lbs of cheese are all that remain of the second Italian gastronomic festival to be held at Manchester's Hotel Piccadilly.

The festival ended last week—so what to do with the cheese?

The Provolone cheese, weighing over one hundredweight, was presented by the chefs to raise money for the Bishop of Middleton's shelter for homeless men. Diners each received a portion in return for a donation to the charity.

The uneaten remains could have caused the bishop a smelly problem. But luckily, diminutive **Mr Robert Hill** has stepped in.

Pink-cheeked, 62-year-old Mr Hill, who is 5ft 1in tall and runs The Cheesery in Regent Road, Altrincham, has bought it to sell to his customers.

He has paid £10 for the cheese to the fund, to which he will also pass on the money it brings in the shop, about a further £12.

"I've no doubt I'll be able to sell it," he says. "No difficulty at all."

O, dear!

AN "O" TURN is when a woman driver starts a "U" turn then changes her mind, says a road safety booklet issued by Cheshire police.

The Road Safety Review just being delivered in the county also passes on another light-hearted tip: "Arrogance is no protection, yet too many pedestrians and too many motorists live by it."

And further: "We have to get proper driving attitudes instilled into the young people—older drivers seem beyond redemption."

"The dog next door should have his licence endorsed."—Lulu Trimble.

Water hazard

IT WILL BE like the days when lost paratroopers used to drop around Rudyard Lake in the war. Soldiers will be dashing and splashing around there this weekend in the Western Command field and medical competition.

They will cross the lake with stretchers and "patients" and then hurry off to go over an obstacle course at Anzio Camp, near Leek.

Teams of 14 from TAVR units from many areas, including Manchester, will be taking part.

The ghost hasn't said 'Hallo'

IT is about time Edward the ghost introduced himself to licensee **George Barnett** and his wife, **Brenda.**

They moved into the Ring O' Bells Inn, Middleton, six months ago and since then Edward hasn't creaked a floorboard, rattled a pint pot, or slammed a door.

The theory put forward by a friend of the Barnetts who dabbles in physic research is that Edward will not show himself until he has got to know the couple.

"I must say I'm looking forward to our first meeting with mixed feelings," said Mr Barnett.

* * *

Edward is believed to be the ghost of a cavalier murdered in the nearby cemetery during the Civil War. Legend has it that his body is buried beneath the pub's cellars and haunting is his way of demonstrating that he wants to be reburied in consecrated ground.

Edward appeared resolutely when **Mrs Mabel Peniston** was the licensee. She was once sitting at the piano and she found herself playing a tune popular in Edward's day and her husband, **Duncan,** once saw a glass float off a shelf and disappear.

A seat in the snug has been proved to be several degrees colder than any other in the pub and Mr Barnett says that several strangers have been known to rise suddenly from the seat and leave their drinks unfinished.

Memory seat

ON ITS WAY to Hong Kong soon will go a child's stool with a carved top with a child's full name, age, and parents' initials interwoven into a three-leafed shamrock and daffodil.

The parents, one of whom is Welsh, wanted something to remind their child of Britain and have commissioned the work from **Mr Lionel Hughes,** a Caernarvon cabinet maker who retired a short while ago and then became busier than ever.

Welsh societies in different parts of England ask him to design their badges and other orders have come from Spain.

PS:

O, ye Gods, grant us what is good whether we pray for it or not, but keep evil from us even though we pray for it.—Plato.

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LAST NIGHT

Music?

AFTER surviving more than 90 minutes' bombardment of din and fleeting musical sounds (gratefully received but not understood) I slipped out of the Royal Manchester College of Music unseen. The place was in darkness, and the students' union concerts society had given me one of the dear seats near the Gents and, more important, the exit. A convenient place well worth the 50p to those who paid for a quick get-out.

What AMM stands for is a secret, but that is the name of the group I left in noisy action—Eddie Prevost, Keith Rowe, Christopher Hobbs, Lou Gare, and Cornelius Cardew on the floor of the Lees Hall doing their thing, which included non-stop electronic and experimental music in the dark, and would we take our interval break any time we lusted for refectory coffee, any time between 8.15 and 8.45?

Before I left the audience in the round with AMMplified sound (and three young people dossed down comfortably at the back) and a saxophonist making sounds like a wounded heifer wandering round turning off lights (there's a badly expressed thought), and before escaping to the comparative quiet of the sodium lighted city roads, I had been baffled, bored, and stimulated in turn. That, I think, was the idea. But 90 minutes sapped the stamina.

AMM presented some remarkable sounds from a strange collection of instruments. Occasionally, they lapsed into the conventionally jazzy, relying on their powerful sense of rhythm. Most of the time they played real loud and when they softened someone clapped in error or in irony and someone else in the audience made a rude sound and proclaimed "experimental burp". I know how he felt.

JOHN ROBERT-BLUNN

Stables Theatre Club

Guernica and the Labyrinth

ONE LAVATORY, invisible, with one woman trapped inside by bomb damage, is all very well. In war, anything can happen.

But when the second play on this Arrabal double bill of premieres opens on another one, not only visible but the setting for much of the action, one wonders if the man is obsessed by them. One cranes for a closer look. No loud cane be seen, so presumably it is one of those inconvenient Continental conveniences. But the cistern, though ancient, is enviably efficient, ready to flush again before it has stopped gurgling.

And that lovely china handle—can it possibly be the work of our own dear Royal Warrant holder Mr Crapper?

* * *

"The Labyrinth" does get very tedious as the lavatory swooshes and characters dart harassedly in and out of the blankets backing the stage. But still, go to the Stables, Arrabal is the intellectuals' OK playwright just now, and at least the first half of the show is very fine.

"Guernica" was the town bombed in the Spanish Civil War, and it could have been like this—an old woman trapped and moaning in the rubble while her husband tries, though not very hard, to comfort her and the planes swo again.

Paul Hu n's direction blends sound, lighting, and action in a nerve-twisting hour.

An excellent cast includes Richard Howard, Joanna Tope, Malcolm Terris, and Paul Nicholson.

BERYL JONES.

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