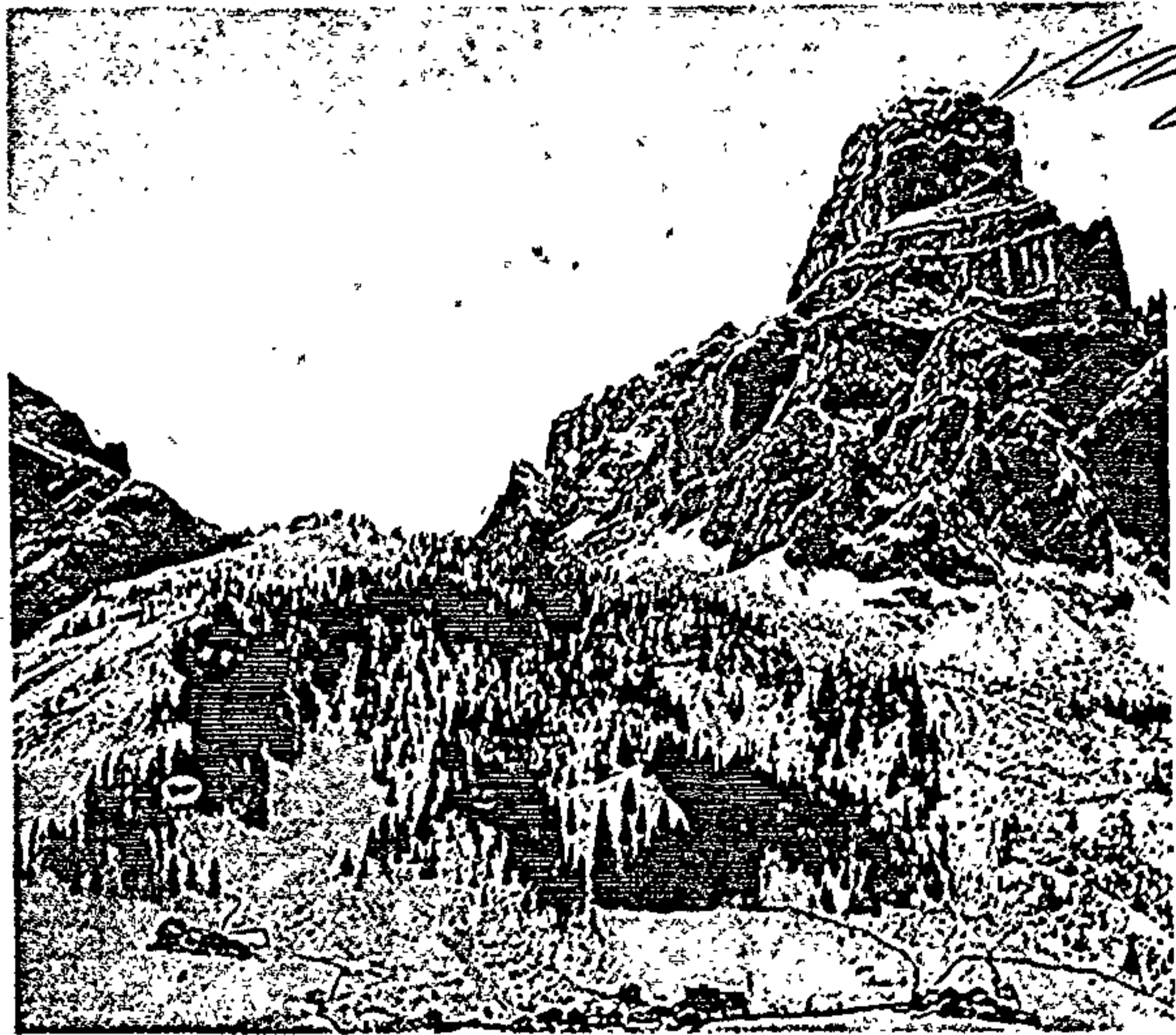


11/11 1980



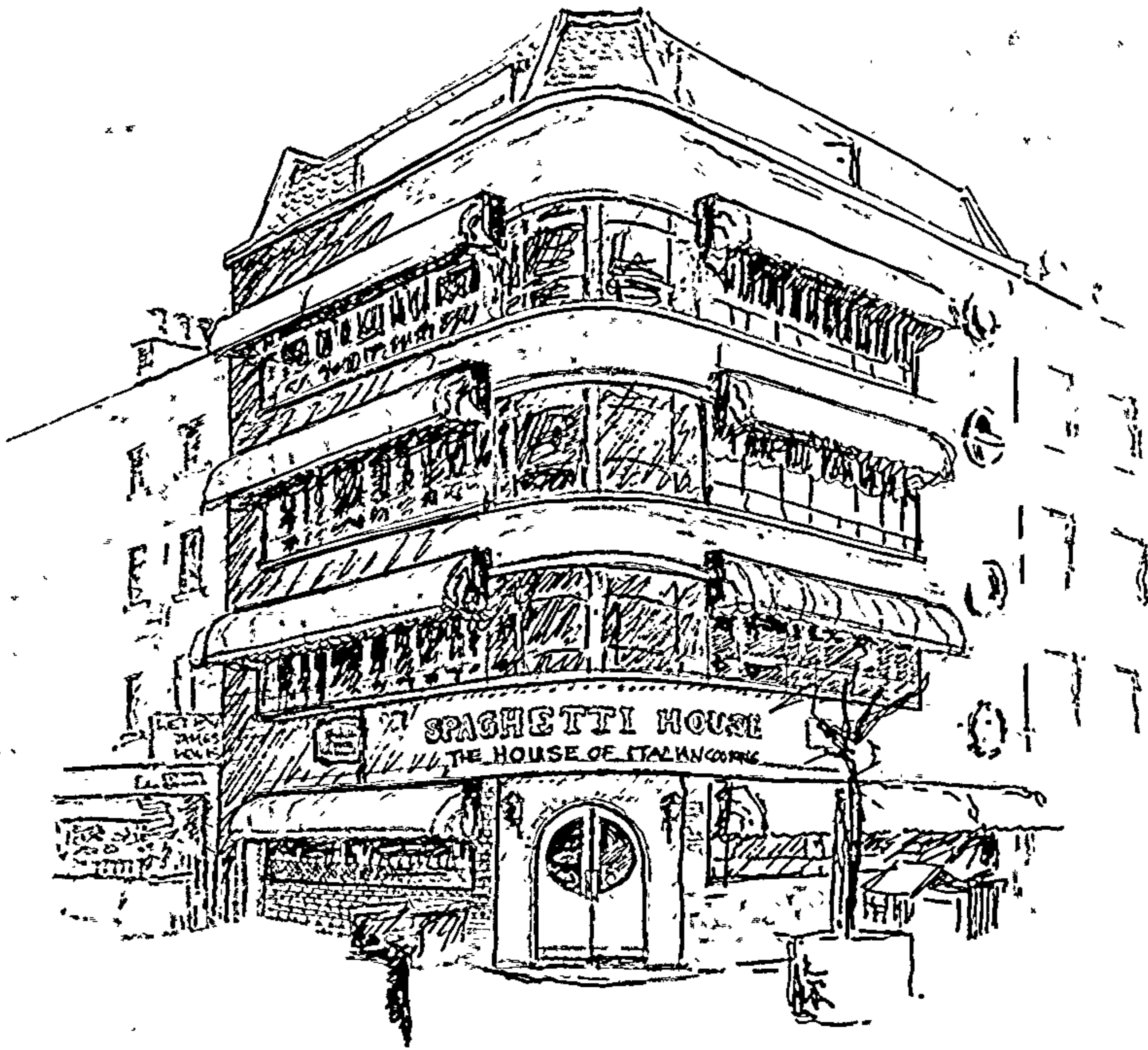
BACKHILL

Rivista della comunità italiana EC1



Nuova galleria sotto le Alpi

n.39 September '80 20p



La Spaghetti
house

nel suo 25^{esimo} anno
saluta la comunità
Italiana

◇ INTRODUZIONE EDITORIALE ◇

Sono quasi finite le vacanze ma purtroppo ci vuole un po' di tempo perché tutto sia normale. Così vedrete che ci manca qualche articolo regolare in questo numero di BACKHILL come 'CITTA' D'ITALIA', 'HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?' E 'WARDROBE'.

Speriamo che in ottobre potremo portarvi un' BACKHILL piu' 'completo'. Ma nello stesso tempo anche questo mese vi portiamo articoli vari da interessare a tutti.....

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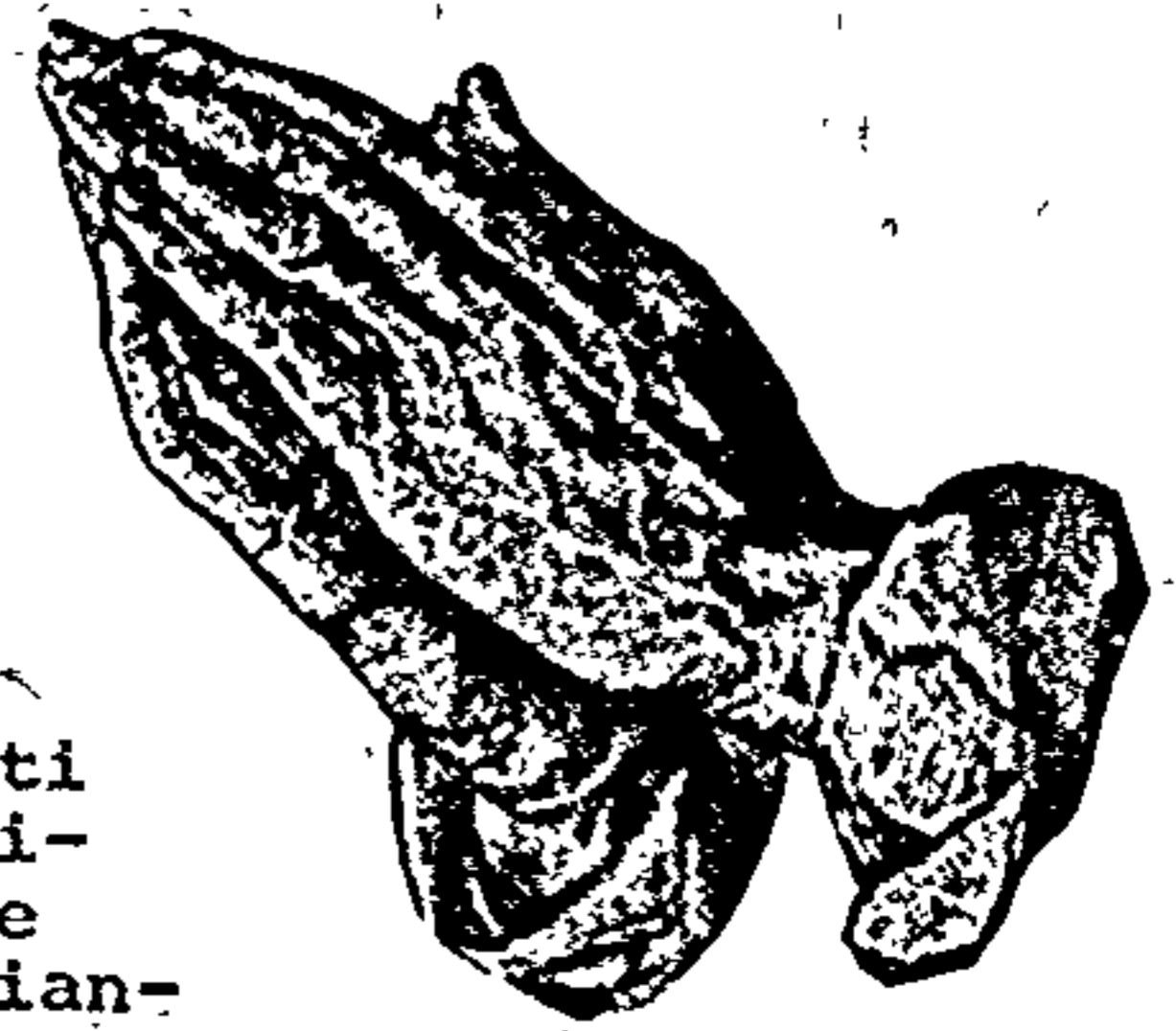
RICETTA

INFORMAZIONI UTILI

BACKHILL

EC1

DUE PAROLE...



Queste nostre due paroline sentono in questo periodo proprio l'odore delle vacanze. Ora, passata la Processione alla Madonna del Carmine, fino alla fine di settembre è un continuo andare avanti e indietro fra l'Italia e l'Inghilterra. A turni familiari quasi tutti cerchiamo di andare a rivedere i nostri posti, a respirare la nostra aria, e a mangiare e bere con comodo le nostre cose. Portiamo con orgoglio i nostri figli e pianiamo di commozione con i nostri vecchi rimasti in Italia.

E una festa di incontri, di sentimenti, di affetti; è una festa che ci fa trovare la vera gioia della vita nell'amore reciproco e ci fa capire che questo amore che ci lega, è l'unico, vero valore della vita. Questo significa che Dio è amore. Quante volte sentiamo questa frase in Chiesa, e per capirla dobbiamo andare in vacanze, accolti dall'affetto di tutti. Affetto che diventa qualche lagrima quando si parte e si torna a Londra e si riprende la solita vita.

Perchè non cerchiamo di migliorarla un poco questa solita vita a Londra? Avete visto quando si sta bene quando ci vogliamo bene? Continuiamo allora a volerci bene, a incontrarci, a salutarci, a sorriderci. Ci può essere qualcosa di più bello del sentirci in pace con tutti, e con Dio?

Preghiamo, amici cari, preghiamo la Madonna perchè ci renda capaci di ricevere affetto e dare affetto.

Don Roberto Russo,
Chiesa Italiana di S. Pietro,
4, Back Hill,
London E.C.1.

Settembre 1980



ST. PETERS ITALIAN CHURCH RESTORATION FUND COMITATO RESTAURI CHIESA ITALIANA SAN PIETRO

Gli amici di Casanova hanno organizzato una festicciola in favore della Chiesa ed è l'ultima mangiata prima delle vacanze.

Abbiamo usato proprio di proposito la parola "mangiata" perchè è stata veramente una cena squisita. I nostri cuochi sanno fare veramente dei miracoli quando vogliono e ringraziamo Dio che questi miracoli li fanno proprio quando ci sono le feste della Chiesa. Si vede che San Pietro è con noi.

Evidentemente il buon mangiare ha portato la buona bevuta e tutte e due le cose messe insieme hanno mosso gambe e piedi in un ballo allegro, vivace, proprio da giovanottini.

Ringraziamo affettuosamente questi cari Amici di Casanova che si trovano sempre nella prima fila quando si tratta di organizzare qualche cosa in favore degli altri.

buongiorno, monsieur!

è aperto il traforo del Monte Frejus dopo 6 anni di lavoro

"Buongiorno, Monsieur". Ecco una frase che da un mese, forse verrà usata di più, cioè da quando è stato aperto il secondo traforo tra l'Italia e la Francia. Questo tunnel autostradale attraversa il monte Fréjus, passando sotto uno dei più alti della catena delle Alpi. Così, accorciando di ben cento chilometri (60 miglia) il percorso turistico da Torino a Chambery, verrà usato senz'altro da centinaia di Italiani per il solito viaggio Inghilterra-Italia.

Il traforo è stato aperto il 12 luglio senza il nastro tricolore, senza la banda, senza cerimonie. Per ora, con i suoi 13 chilometri (8 miglia), è il più lungo tunnel d'Europa. Dico "per ora" perchè fra pochi mesi sarà aperta la galleria del Gottardo, che è ben più lungo.

In confronto alla galleria del Gran Sasso (un tunnel per un'autostrada nell'Abruzzo), quella del Fréjus è stata un gran successo. L'opera, iniziata in ottobre 1974, è stata scavata, con l'aiuto di una gigantesca "talpa", ad un costo totale di 300 miliardi di lire. (Invece il disastroso traforo del Gran Sasso è costato, negli ultimi 12 anni, 15 vite e migliaia di miliardi, e ancora non è finito. Chissà se forse non sarebbe meglio sospendere defi-

nitivamente questi lavori giacchè esiste ad una distanza di 30 chilometri un'altra autostrada che serve adeguatamente questa zona?).

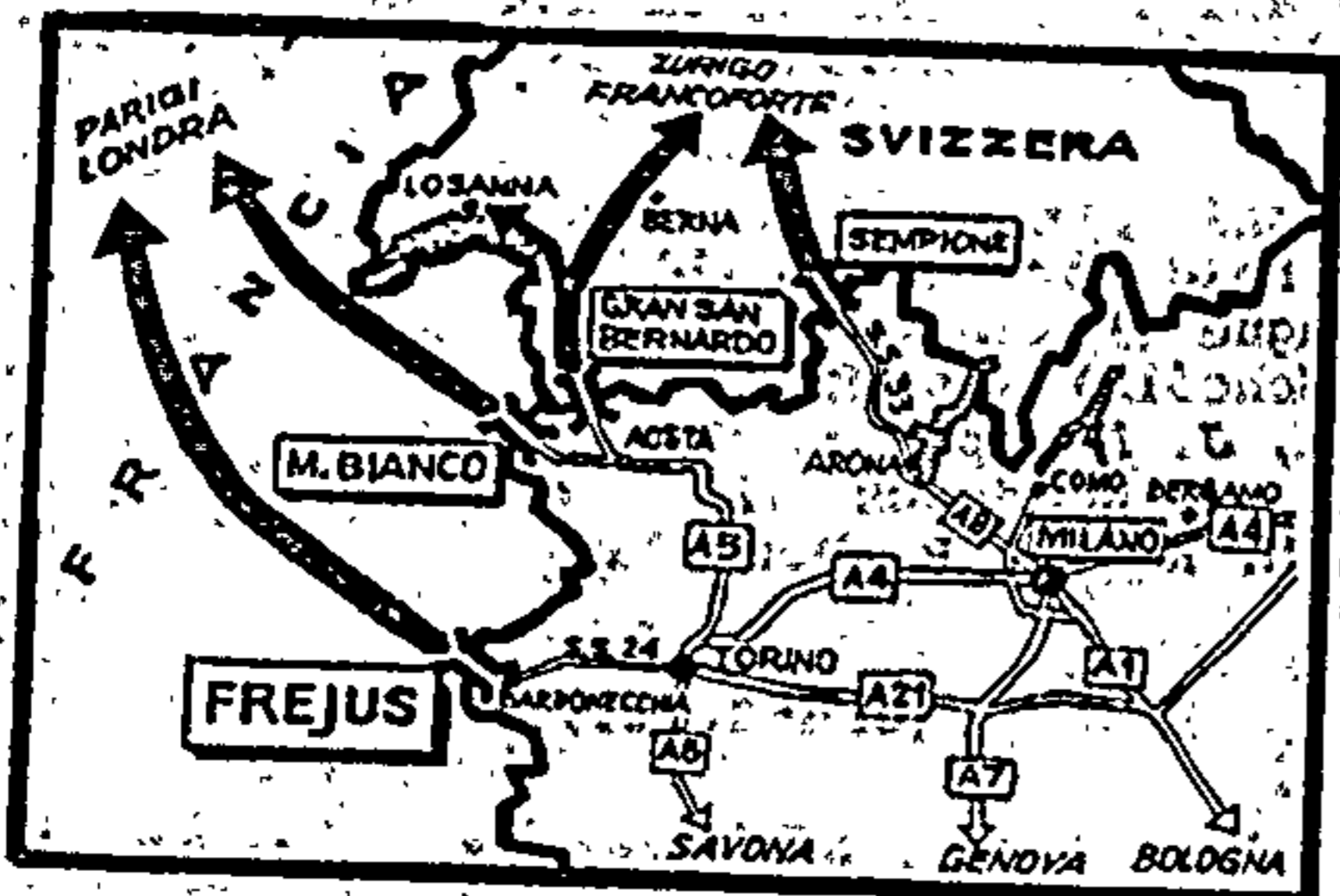
Il traforo del Fréjus, per alcuni mesi, non potrà essere usato dal traffico pesante, perchè le strade della valle di Susa, cioè dal lato italiano, non reggerebbero il flusso di tanti veicoli industriali, mentre dal lato Francese tutto è pronto. Tutti sappiamo quanto siano bravi gli Italiani a costruire autostrade, ma sappiamo anche purtroppo, quanto tempo ci si impiega.

La velocità consentita è compresa tra un minimo di 50 chilometri (30 m.p.h) e un massimo di 80 (50 m.p.h) il pedaggio varia secondo la lunghezza del veicolo: (solo andata) fino a 2.30m 17 mila lire, fino a 2.65m 11 mila lire, e fino a 3.30m 14 mila. Andata e ritorno costa poco di più. I veicoli industriali dovranno pagare tra le 30 alle 65 mila andata, 51 alle 103 mila andata e ritorno.

In una diramazione della galleria gli scienziati studieranno la "vita atomica" del protone. Perchè scegliere proprio questo luogo? Perchè essendo coperto dall'enorme monte, è riparato dai raggi cosmici del sole che altrimenti avrebbero disturbato queste osservazioni.

Quindi il traforo del Fréjus è una via commerciale ma anche un laboratorio scientifico.

Luigi Sterlini



THE HILL

DIARY OF ST. PETER'S ITALIAN SCHOOL

We continue the diary of Mr. Kee, loaned to us by Bruno Besagni.

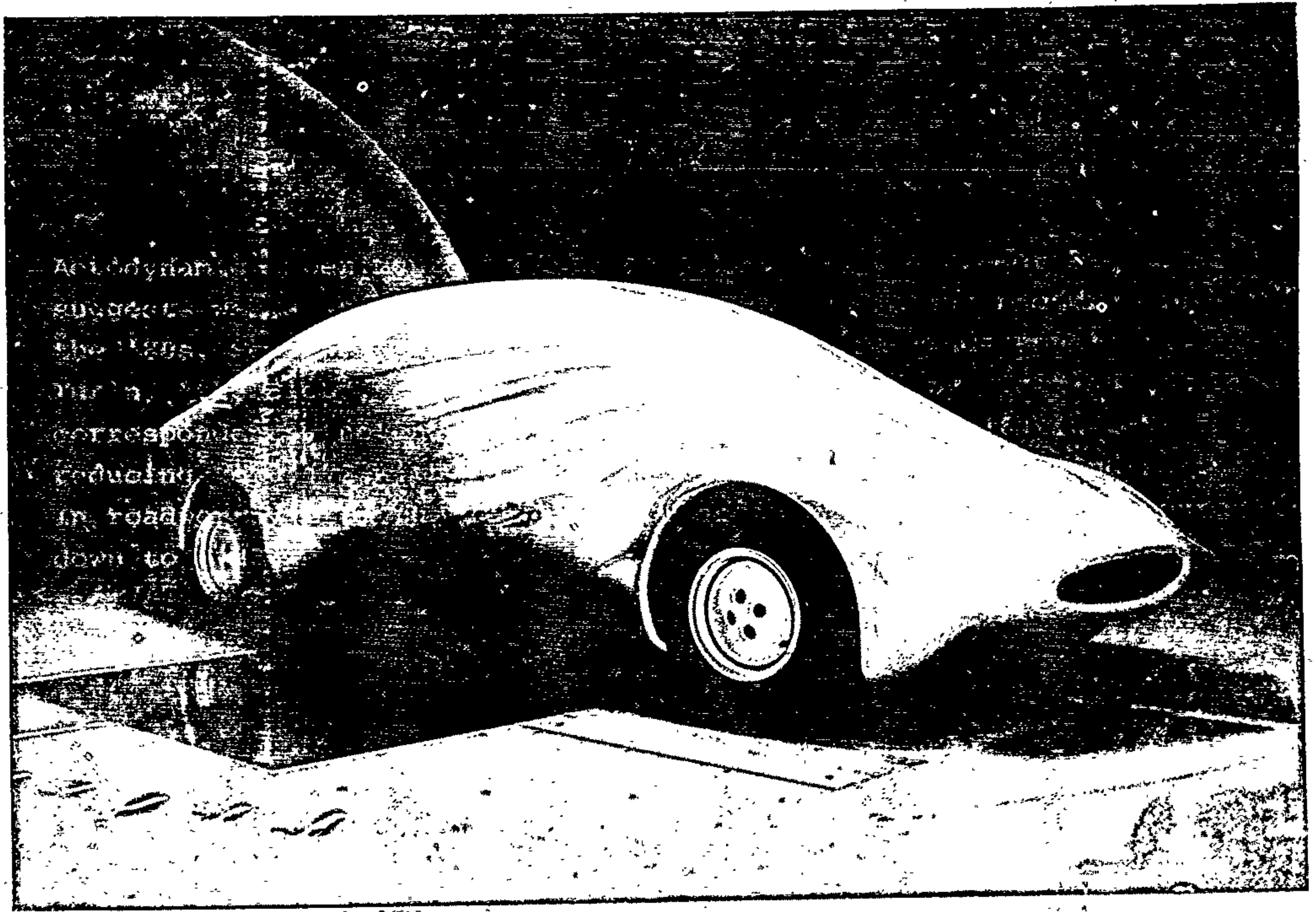
- 18/1/33 - Diocesan examination by Frs. Murphy and Darbey.
2 Superior Certificates of Merit, 13 Certificate of Merit and 7 medals awarded.
- 27/1/33 - Report (Diocesan Examination)
This school gained the general mark "very good".
- 1/3/33 - District Inspector (Mr. Pegrin) called regarding numbers for year 1933-34. My estimate to him (December 1932) was for 310 children on books after Easter 1933. Several children, apart from average scholars have since left, and the estimate is now 300, which will not justify an additional assistant as requested.
- 3/7/33 - Mr. Mennea, Assistant Org. Phys. Training came to judge team of boys for senior schools' Potted Sports Event. Adjudged good enough for final (one of six schools).
- 2/11/33 - Numbers up to 308.
Consent of District Inspectors given for the formation of special class with "Floating Staff" Teacher. Mr. S.F. Walker commenced duty as such today.
- 29/1/34 - Report (Diocesan Examination)
This school is again classed "very good" and it approached the mark "excellent".
There was very good attendance and the boys were well advanced for their age, many boys presented in Division F and G. The answering was generally very satisfactory but Division F and G, though knowing the words of the Catechism very well indeed were not so good in doctrine.
Religious music was sung very well on the whole, but Division E rendered the Credo only partly well.
The prayers were said reverently and with hardly a mistake.
Canon Sutcliffe
2 Superior Certificates, 10 Certificates and 7 medals awarded.
- 25/7/34 - M. Cassettari became 100 yards schoolboy champion of the Islington and District Schools at the recent schools athletic meeting-cup held.
G. Bebbington (half mile) P. Fuschillo (half mile)
M. Cassettari (100 yards and team) and H. Zanelli (reserve 100 yards and team) were included in the Islington and District schools A.A. team.
This team won the district championship cup which we, as providing part of the team, are to hold for one month. The Championship of the Cricket League (Islington and District S.C.A.) B Section (South Schools) was won and H. Zanelli, A. Rabaiotti, B. Armani, J. Alzapiedi, G. Bebbington, J. Piacenti, R. Cavalli, A. Woodcock, M. Cassettari, L. Dainesi, T. Meares, M. Kelly, R. Pozzilli all received medals.

(contd....)

THE HILL (contd...)

- 4/7/34 - The Potted Sports Competition inaugurated by the SIM SALA DIM club and open to all London Elementary Schools, and conducted by the organisers and assistant organisers of physical training of the L.C.C. was won, and the trophy, a replica of a large crow in brass, is held for one year.
- The following 16 boys comprised the team: G.Bebbington, J.Meares, P. Fuschillo, J. Maganelli, H.Zannelli, C.Ferdenzi, J.Dogan, R. Pozzilli, A.Rabaiotti, G.Sidoli, M.Velini, C. Mitcher, R. Cavalli, J. Resteghini, P. Meglio, J. Marciaro.
- 31/10/34 Permission given by Education Officer to continue employing a "Floating Staff" supply teacher: Mr. S.F. Walker, who has been working in this capacity since 2/11/33 leaves for a permanent appointment and Mr. J. Wheelan commences work in his place (F.S. Supply) on October 31st 1934.
- Reason for having an F.S. Supply teacher is because of the language difficulty and not numbers.
- 17/01/35 Diocesan Examination...
Frs. Murphy and Graves - 4 Certificates, 1 Superior Certificate, 6 medals.
- 23/01/35 Report (Diocesan Examination)
This school, as usual gained the mark "very good" and again approached the mark "excellent".
- 4/3/35 We have carried off the trophies of both the senior and Junior Divisions of the Holborn Schools football League. The seniors (boys under 14 on Sept. 1st 1934) lost one match only - 2 points. The Juniors (Boys under 11 on November 1st 1934) drew one match only - 1 point.
- Both teams winning all their matches but one.
- 28/3/35 The senior team has won the Holborn Schools Football Cup Competition, beating Macklin St. School by 7 goals to 1 in the final game.
- 16/7/35 The "Potted Sports" competition open to schools from all over London was won for the second year in succession. The following 16 boys comprised the team:
- J. Magarelli, T. Meares, G. Sidoli, J. Resteghini, A. Lombardelli, G. Losignani, A. Cavaciuti, J. Piacenti, G. Beschizza, J. Lawson, J. Boffa, J. Mevo, S. Miserotti, G. Rizzi, U. Servini.
- 27/8/35 The school did not reopen today as it would normally have done at the conclusion of the Summer vacation, because the interior painting and decorating was not completed. I attended to all outstanding correspondence today.
- 2/9/35 The school re-opened today after the summer holidays. Mainly due to stopping, visiting Italy, and extended holidays.
- 11/10/35 Class III, consisting of boys whose average age is about 11 and three quarters, charges of Mr. Stevenson, spent today at Hackney Marsh Open Air School. The class will spend the whole of every Friday throughout the year there, and as much time as possible has to be spent in taking the lessons in the open air, although there is an excellent indoor accomodation. A charabanc takes the children to and from Hackney Marsh leaving here at 10 am approx. and arriving back at 4.30 pm.
- 15/10/35 Notification received today from the Education Officer that the authorised staff as from 30/10/35 is to be a Head and seven assistants. This means that the services of the floating staff supply teacher uathorised with on 2/11/33 is now to be dispensed with.
- 7/1/36 I have been instructed by Fr. Kennedy to close the Boy's Department until Monday next, January 13th whilst repairs to the lavatories are being carried out.

TO BE CONTINUED



THE BLOB

Aerodynamic experiments by Italian coachbuilder/engineer Pininfarina suggests we may be seeing shapes like the one in the picture above in the '80s. Seen here in the advanced Pininfarina wind-tunnel near Turin, "the Blob", as it was irreverently dubbed by visiting motoring correspondents, notched up aerodynamic figures of 0.161 in bare form, reducing to 0.172 with ventilation vents, cooling system and so on. In roadworthy trim the Italian firm hopes to keep the final figure down to 0.23.

RICCARDO GADESELLI

VAL-SERCHJO

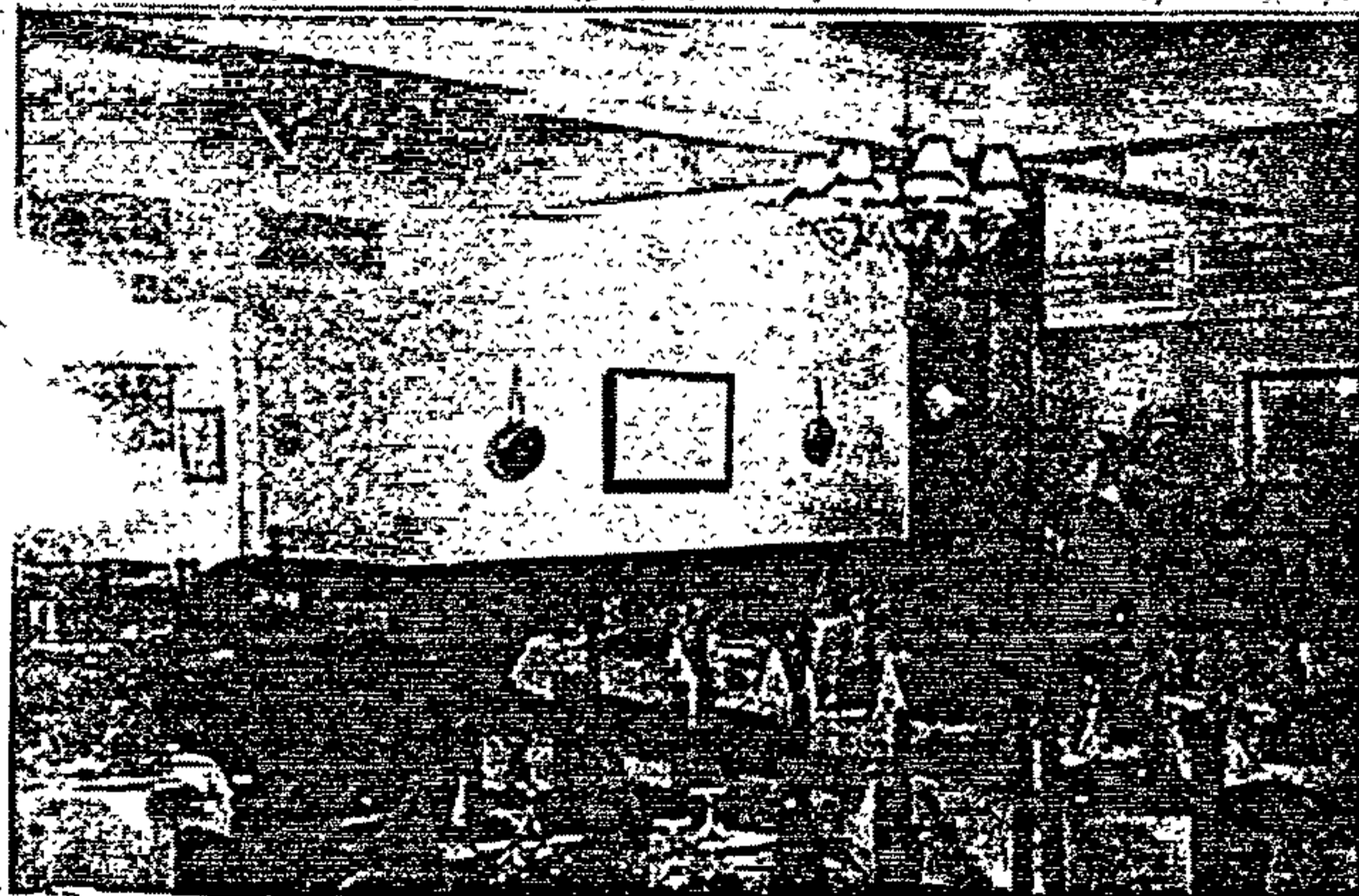
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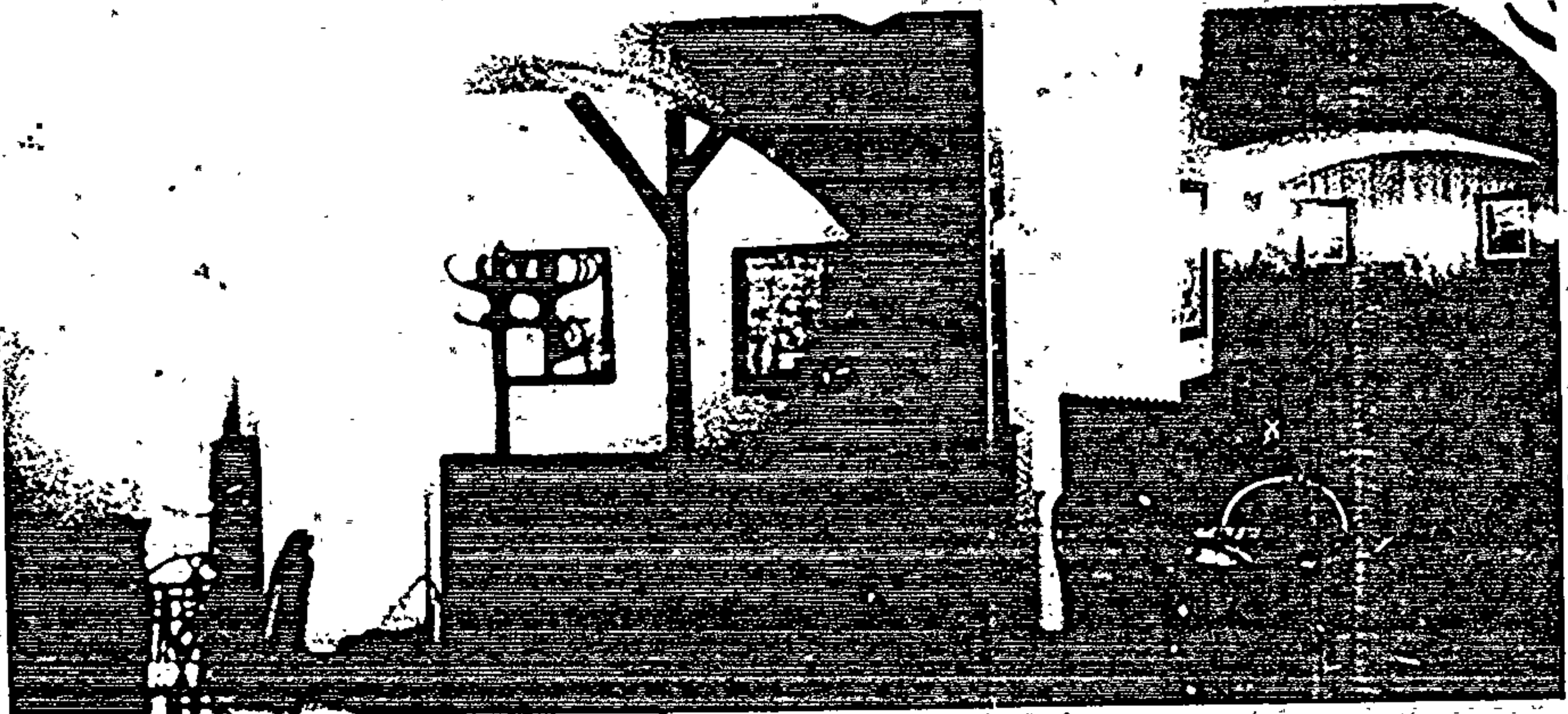
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Ricchi Cristiani in un'età di fame



Nella storia dell'uomo ricco e del povero Lazzaro, Gesù non dice che il ricco sfrutta Lazzaro. Egli semplicemente dimostra che non si cura del mendicante pieno di piaghe che giace davanti alla sua porta. "Vestito in porpora e bella biancheria", l'uomo ricco festeggiava sontuosamente ogni giorno". D'altra parte, Lazzaro sarebbe stato contento degli avanzi della tavola dell'uomo ricco. Negò l'uomo ricco a Lazzaro persino un pezzettino di pane? Forse no, ma ovviamente egli non si curò di lui. Tale iniqua trascuratezza infuria il Dio dei poveri. Quando Lazzaro morì Dio lo confortò in grembo di Abramo, ma quando l'uomo ricco morì fu confrontato dal tormento. Il significato del nome di Lazzaro, "Uno che Dio ha aiutato", sottolinea il punto. Un noto scrittore inglese ha certamente ragione quando dice che una "storia come quella di Lazzaro dovrebbe esplodere nelle nostre mani quando la leggiamo mentre siamo seduti alle nostre tavole inbandite di ogni bene, mentre il terzo mondo è fuori della porta e si contenterebbe di un solo piccolo pezzo di pane."

Noi ricchi o benestanti dell'occidente abbiamo un problema, attualmente crediamo di poter appena andare avanti con quattro o cinque mila sterline all'anno dei nostri guadagni. Quando le nostre paghe aumentano di altre cento sterline, noi pensiamo che abbiamo bisogno di più. Come possiamo salvarci da questa delusione? Come possiamo rispondere allo stato di disperazione in cui si trovano i milioni di poveri nel mondo? Migliaia di persone muoiono ogni giorno per mancanza o insufficienza di cibo e milioni di altri sono mal nutriti. Come noi sappiamo, il problema è che le risorse del mondo non sono imparzialmente distribuite. Noi viviamo comodamente circondati da un'umanità affamata. Come possiamo rispondere a questa enorme ineguaglianza? Ma quanto dovremmo dare? Dovremmo congratularci col milionario cristiano che dà fedelmente la decima parte annuale dei suoi profitti?

Un famoso religioso inglese, John Wesley, diede una sorprendente risposta a questa domanda. Uno dei suoi spesso ripetuti discorsi era: Matt. 6.19.23..... (non accumulate tesori per voi stessi sulla terra). Tutti i cristiani degni di questo nome dovrebbero dare via tutto per i poveri, eccetto quello che è strettamente necessario per vivere, che è cibo, abiti puliti e abbastanza per poter condurre i propri affari. Ognuno dovrebbe guadagnare quanto e quello che può, giustamente e onestamente, ma tutte le altre entrate dovrebbero essere date ai poveri. Sfortunatamente, disse Wesley, non vi è una persona su cinquecento in qualsiasi città o paese Cristiano che ubbidisce ai comandamenti di Gesù. Qualsiasi Cristiano che prende per sé più di quello che ne ha strettamente bisogno, Wesley insisteva a dire, vive in un modo contrario alla legge di Dio. "Egli ha guadagnato per l'inferno".

Wesley viveva secondo il modo che predicava. La vendita dei suoi libri gli portava un reddito di circa 1400 sterline all'anno, ma per i suoi bisogni ne spendeva solo 28. Il resto lo dava ai poveri. Una volta disse: "se lascio dietro di me 10 sterline, voi e tutta l'umanità siete testimoni che ho visuto e che sono morto da ladro".

PANE PER IL MONDO. Pane per il mondo è un movimento di cittadini Cristiani fondato negli Stati Uniti d'America il cui scopo è di far cambiare la politica governativa in tutto ciò che concerne la gente che soffre la fame. Ogni mese i membri di questa organizzazione vengono informati sulle attuali attività amministrative e legislative a tale riguardo. I membri del movimento influenzano la legislazione, visitando e scrivendo ai rappresentanti del Congresso ed a Ufficiali governativi. Pane Per il Mondo, è un'esplicita organizzazione Cristiana. La preghiera è una parte regolare dell'assemblea, che ha luogo ogni mese. **PANE PER IL MONDO PRATICA QUELLO CHE PREDICA.** Il Direttore di questa lodevole organizzazione vive a New York City, con solo 8400 dollari all'anno. Gli stipendi vengono pagati secondo il bisogno e non secondo la loro posizione. La maggior parte delle attività dell'organizzazione vengono eseguite da volontari, e le entrate vengono in gran parte dai membri che pagano 10 dollari ogni anno di onorario. Fondato nel 1974, questo movimento cresce continuamente e nel 1978 il numero dei suoi membri era di circa ventimila.

Y... ..
Ricchi Cristiani in Un'Età di Fame (cont..)

A seguito dell'interesse di quest'organizzazione approvata dal Congresso nel 1975, una risoluzione fu sottoposta al Senato e ai membri del governo che : "Ogni persona negli Stati Uniti, e in tutto il mondo, ha diritto di avere il cibo sufficiente per il proprio mantenimento, e che questo diritto è in futuro riconosciuto come pietra fondamentale della politica degli Stati Uniti d'America."

BREAD FOR THE WORLD, offre ai cittadini Cristiani un modo effettivo per formare un sistema che significherà la vita o la morte per milione di persone nelle prossime decadi.

L'indirizzo di PANE PER IL MONDO/BREAD FOR THE WORLD è: 207 East 16th Street,
NEW YORK, NY 10003,
U.S.A.

Vi sono certamente numerose altre organizzazioni nel mondo che hanno per obiettivo il medesimo scopo. In Inghilterra per esempio vi sono una ventina di queste organizzazioni. Nominiamo solo alcune:

THE CATHOLIC FUND FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
CAFOD, (for information)
Soho Square, London W.1.

CATHOLIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
1 Cambridge Terrace,
London N.W.1 4JL.

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London N7 9BE

CHRISTIAN AID
(Catalogues free on request)
P.O. Box 1,
London S.W.9 8BH

Io credo che se tutte queste organizzazioni potessero centralizzarsi in una unica organizzazione mondiale, come la Croce Rossa Internazionale, la distribuzione di viveri ai popoli che soffrono la fame diventerebbe più sicura, equa, e soddisfacente per tutti.

La fame non è solo uno spettro spaventoso ma anche un rimorso per il mondo. Non si può mai lodare abbastanza tutte queste benemerite organizzazioni che abbiamo menzionato, ed altre, che con vero spirito cristiano dedicano tutti i loro sforzi ed energie per alleviare le sofferenze dei popoli che soffrono la fame ed ogni sorta di privazione.



NEWS FROM ITALY



YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Gunmen in a passing car shot and killed Vito Lipari, 42, Christian Democrat Mayor of Castelveirano, as he was driving to his office.

Italy said it thought that the pilot of a Soviet built MiG 23 who died when it crashed in Calabria was a Libyan fleeing his country.

A series of slight earth tremors were felt in towns throughout central Italy and in suburbs of Rome. No damage or injuries were reported.

An Italian homosexual demonstrator and three western newsmen were arrested by Soviet police when the Italian tried to chain himself to a fence in Moscow's Red Square, during the Olympic Games.

Italian financier Michele Sindona was jailed for 25 years in New York for fraud and conspiracy in connection with the 1973 Franklin National Bank collapse - the biggest failure in U.S. Banking history.

A gunman killed an Italian Roman Catholic priest in San Salvador.

Aerospatiale of France and Aeritalia of Italy have signed an agreement to study the possibility of jointly developing a commuter aircraft seating between 40 AND 50 passengers for the service starting in 1985.

Challenging the ever widening power of the Calabria Mafia, a Rome based public works consortium has publicly refused to pay one billion lire in protection money to ensure completion of a 25 mile superhighway across the southern tip of Italy.

Left wing terrorists staged a spectacular raid on a train near Turin. Six men and women, who later claimed they belong to the 'front line' movement, stopped the train and distributed propaganda leaflets to all the passengers before disappearing in the countryside. A police search failed to catch them.

Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister and Sig. Francesco Cossiga, his Italian counterpart, agreed to press ahead with long-delayed plans for the Italian government to buy Nuclear Reactors from Canada.

A Sardinian bank cashier, arrested in April in connection with the kidnapping of the Schild family, has been released while awaiting trial.

Fiat needed to recall 20,000 131's in Britain for a second time to check their steering.

The Italian Innocenti car group is seeking to import up to 150,000 engines a year from Japan to equip vehicles produced by the company.

A watercolour of an Austrian village scene, signed A.Hitler, 1911 was bought for 320 pounds sterling in a Penzance auction by an Italian dealer who believed it genuine. Auctioneer David Lay rated the picture ugly.

The Italian company which produces 'Jesus Jeans' is to build the first jeans factory in the Soviet Union.

A Frenchman who fell in love with the girl he abducted was jailed for 18 years on charges of kidnapping in Rome. Daniel Nieto was arrested in 1978 after he had held his victim prisoner for 74 days. Nieto was so infatuated with her that after freeing her for a 400,000 pounds sterling ransom he telephoned her at home and fixed a meeting on the fashionable Via Veneto. He turned up with a bunch of flowers, but found only the police waiting for him.

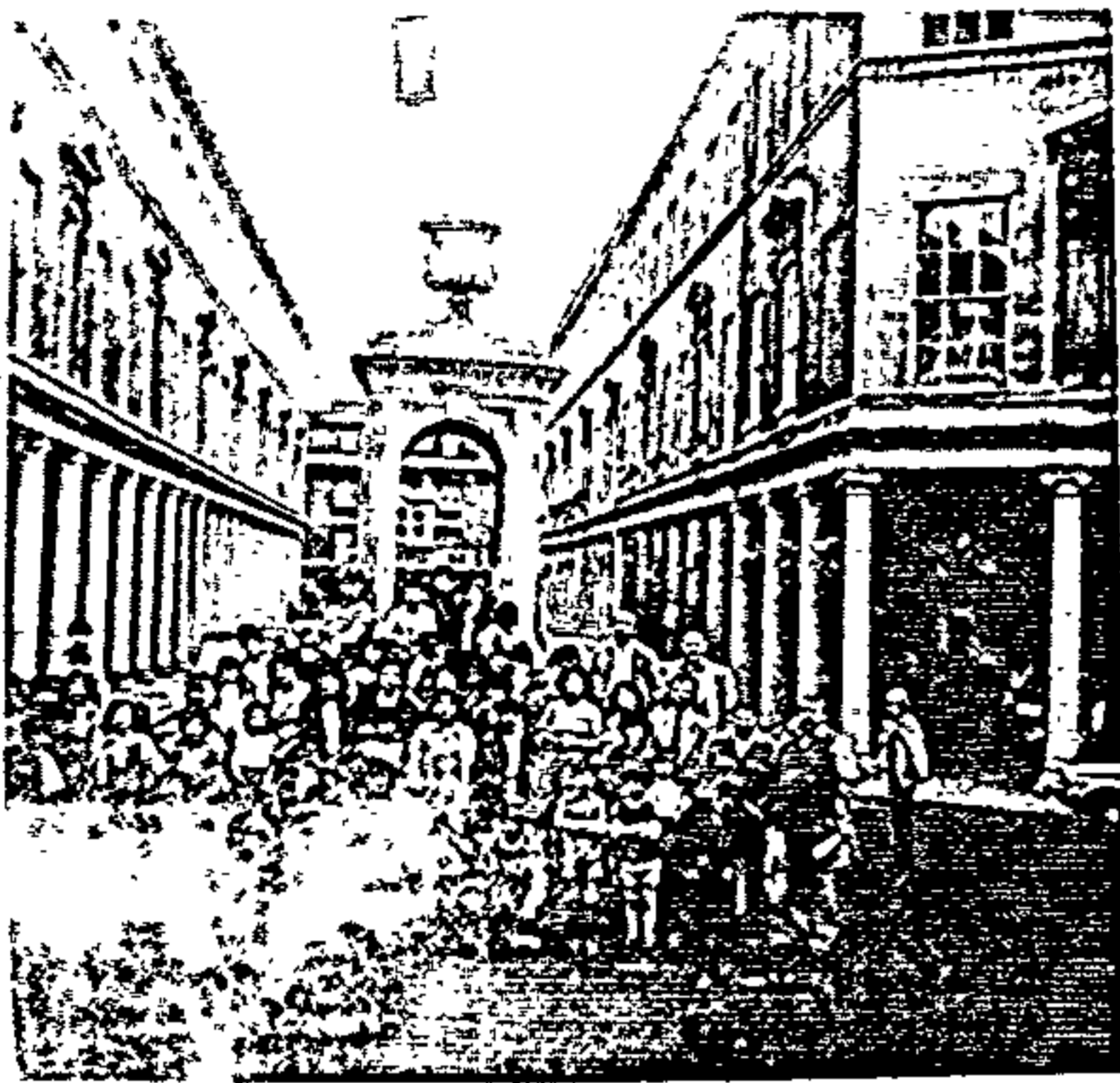


Lea Valley News

Hello everyone, we hope you had a nice holiday. Our holiday started in June when I dragged a rather unwilling Maria to Bath. The trip was organized by the Ponders End and Waltham Cross Italian School Committees.

When we arrived at Bath we were guided round the ruins and then had a picnic in a park.

Actually it turned out to be quite an interesting and educational day, and Maria enjoyed herself as well!



In July Leila and I went on an Italian coach trip to the seaside resort of Littlehampton. It turned out to be a successful day even though it rained for most of the time. There was an indoor fair where everyone sheltered and enjoyed themselves. Mind you I bet it would have been better if we had gone to Naples and come back with a tan rather than go to Littlehampton and come back with a cold!



You may remember our May issue when we featured Mr. Sullivan who was searching for his lost relatives. We are now pleased to tell you that he has in fact found a relation. If anyone can advise of future events please let us know.

Maria & Leila

The Lucchesi nel Mondo Association

ANNUAL SCAMPAGNATA

SUNDAY 29.06.1980

The weather did not win any prizes at the annual Scampagnata of the Lucchesi nel Mondo Association on Sunday, June 29 - but others did! Eight year old Colin Southgate took the right steps and won the 50 yard race at the Scampagnata which took place at the Essex Show Ground, Chelmsford.

(See photo no.1)

Colin who attends Wells School, Woodford Green, Essex, was proudly



watched by his father as he received his prize from Sports Committee Member, Giovanni Farina.

Over 250 people took part in the Scampagnata which began with Holy Mass, celebrated by Father Vittorio Colafranceschi, of St. Peter's Italian Church.

(See photo no.2)

After a late lunch, the sports events took place, and there were races for the various age groups.

The last event of the day was the raffle, which landed Mrs. Florinda Fabbri with a first prize sandwich toaster.

It was presented to her by the Association's Honorary President Mr. Mario Giannotti.

(see photo no.3)



3) A WARM SMILE FROM TOASTER-WINNING FLORINDA FABBRI.

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- 48 Dewhurst Road, London, W.14 OES

Founded in the early 1960's, Opera Italiana was formed by its present Director and Maestro, Mr. Alexander Bryett, whose work was inspired after a period of study in Italy with the aid of an Italian Government Scholarship.

Opera Italiana made its debut with a concert performance of Verdi's opera "Giovanna d'Arco" (Joan of Arc) in collaboration with Gerald Glover.

Whilst based at the Working Men's College, Mornington Crescent, N.W.1., Opera Italiana has travelled widely to influence the culturally less well off areas. They have presented programmes of Rossini at Lamport Hall, Northampton and at Princethorpe College, Warwickshire. Regular performances have been given at Ham House, near Richmond, where Opera Italiana has a large and appreciative regular audience, and a variety of different venues have been used in London for performances.

In 1967 Opera Italiana was able to assist the Florence Disaster Fund, and in 1972 it came to the aid of Venice in Peril Fund, with its presentation of music at St. James' Church in Piccadilly.

The highlights of the following year included Opera Italiana's first appearance at Edinburgh, during the Festival, performing Scarlatti's "La Giuditta" (Judith) the Cambridge version, and Vecchi's "L'Amfiparnaso".

This opera group has given many concerts representing a variety of Italian composers, some of which are rarely, if ever, heard in Britain. However, due to the popularity of Rossini as a composer, the Rossini Society became a focus of attention to Opera Italiana and was incorporated into the organisation in the early 1970's. Special concerts to commemorate the composer have since been given. During the celebrations to mark the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Regent Street, two of the artistes sang before Princess Anne.

In December 1976 Opera Italiana appeared for the first time at the Italian Institute in the presence of the Italian Ambassador and Professor Montuori, Director of the Institute. This performance, in association with the Byron Society, consisted of music inspired by his writings.

During 1978 three programmes of Rossini's works, under the title of "Rossini in February" took place. In August a concert was given at Lamport Hall, Northampton, the home of the late Sir Gyles Isham (the first vice-president of Opera Italiana) in aid of Mental Health (a cause very dear to Sir Gyles' heart). The "presumed" 300th Anniversary of the birth of Antonio Vivaldi was marked by a concert at St. George's, Hanover Square, on October 27th.

In February of last year, a special concert was given at the Royal Academy, in conjunction with the exhibition "Painting in Florence 1600 - 1700", which proved to be quite successful, in spite of the harsh weather conditions on this particular evening.

We have many plans for the future, but our success depends on the support of those who appreciate our efforts. If you are interested in becoming a member of Opera Italiana and would like to have details of our future events please write to the address above.



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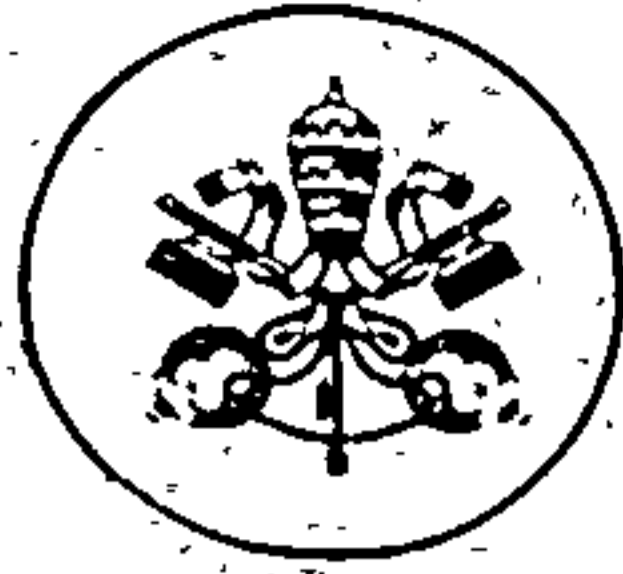
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Letters

The Editor,
 BACKHILL,
 136 Clerkenwell Rd,
 London, E.C.1.

Lettere

Councillor Michael Mansi,
 (London Borough of Enfield)
 Lakenheath,
 Southgate,
 London N14 4RS

Sir,

As a councillor for a London Borough for some years, I feel there is a desperate need for a residential home for aged Italians. Quite often aged Italians are admitted to local authority homes as they are without relatives, or have relatives who are unwilling or unable to look after them. They are of course, well treated in these establishments, but are frequently unhappy because they miss the companionship of other Italians, and are sometimes misunderstood by the staff in charge. The food is so different from what they have been used to all their lives.

If they are reasonably active someone may bring them to mass on Sundays, otherwise the only contact they may have with the church is when a priest visits them.

Many ethnic groups have made their homes in this wonderful country and have made provisions for the elderly.

Accordingly I feel the time has come for the Italian Community to consider the possibility of having their own home where the elderly can spend the autumn of their lives in a christian atmosphere amongst their own people with staff who will understand their problems and care for them

Yours faithfully

Michael Mansi

Ashurst Avenue,
 Saltdean,
 Brighton,
 Sussex BN2 8DR

Dear Editor,

can you clarify why no Italian Government Department or other official Italian source ever challenges the oldwell worn assumption by the British, that the Italians as a race are moral cowards, animals and filthy, etc., etc., (I had hopes of your magazine)

Is there no official or semi official Italian voice to refute British Correspondents all bad aspects of Italians, in particular David Willey, (B.B.C. Rome correspondent) who lives it up in Rome, who never paints even a moderate picture of either Italy or the Italians. Only this morning, he categorically stated on the radio that the Italians stab both friends and enemies in the back, and spoke of the very poor standard of education there, all this in the light of Signor Cossiga's effort in helping Britain in her E.E.C. economic problems.

As an Italian, I for one at least do not accept the general British view of the Italians. Having lived with my own countrymen I know that they are no less intelligent, courageous or lacking in personal cleanliness than the British or for that matter anyone else. However I can only uphold the good name of Italy amongst the British social and business acquaintances I know; surely some stronger means of representation is needed.

Forgive me if I have aired my views to you, nevertheless you may be able to inform me to what Italian department I can best make these protestations.

The Italian Embassy, perhaps correctly, though regrettably, appear too aloof in such matters,

Yours sincerely

Edoardo G. de Rosa



'OTHELLO' at the Aldwych

and

'THE LIFE OF GALILEO' at the
Olivier

You see, speaking as your ordinary plebeian theatre goer out for a thrill, 'Othello' is Iago's play. Here is an arch villain, constantly endearing himself to the audience, usually providing the only comedy of the evening, the machinator of the entire plot and, I might also mention, he has the largest part.

Be this as it may, Donald Sinden is Othello, a respected foreigner, whose refined location does not desert him whether convincing the senate of his probity or agonizing over Iago's insinuations, upending Desdemona on the floor or throwing bedlinen around the stage having scanned the sheets for signs of infidelity. But I'm not fully persuaded by this Moor; throughout the gamut of emotion he is Mr. Sinden still - with a black face. In fact, to be perfectly *lèse majesté* in my attitude, I'd like to see as Othello, one of our breed of actors who can sink their own personalities completely in a character. No offence to Mr. Sinden whose style contrasts so well with Bob Peck's.

His blunt Iago calls a spade ashovel; (well, actually he doesn't but we'll have no pedantry here) he is ostensibly, a source of strength to all his victims and, what is essential, honest. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of the rational, prosaically spoken ensign who stands viewing the progress of his toils with military indifference. The only person capable of shattering his calm is his wife, not played as a garrulous matron but as a sensitive young gentlewoman by Susan Tracy.

Suzanne Bertish's superb Desdemona would surely have been a contender for a literary salon had she not been done away in her prime. No idle vapourings for Miss Bertish, no noisy, tearless ranting; her feelings like her kisses are plucked up by the roots ignoring any suggestion of unwholesome sentiment. Horrified by Othello's ridiculous behaviour she is dismayed but undaunted. Miss Bertish makes me more exasperated with Othello than usual.

There is some rather undistinguished acting among the minor roles and speaking of minor roles, Brecht's 'The Life of Galileo' at the Olivier is full of them and all splendidly adequate. This is one of the National's pull out all the stops productions, the likes of which have been known to end in falmboyant disasters. Despite the painstaking B stream approach to this play and the profusion of scenes and devices it unites into an impressive whole; what is more unusual for this sort of epic, it is very moving.

There is a fine central performance from Michael Gambon whose aging process is entirely attributable to his own talents not any superficial aid. Thirsty for knowledge but always mindful of his physical comforts Galileo has a run for his money, but at the last recants under the gentlemanly persuasion of the Roman Inquisition. Those with a healthy interest in pontifical ostentation should pay a visit solely for the robing of the Pope, a magnificent display, while the urbane, intelligent Inquisitor puts forth his argument. Can this possibly be Stephen Moore, the archetypal irresponsible young man, who commands so much respect? Had I not been so overpowered I would have genuflected in the aisle.

Leisure Page

SO HOW MANY CAN YOU ANSWER?

A few questions to get you going... (no peeping at the answers at the bottom of the page).

1. Which is the second largest country in the world?
2. A dozen is 12. How much is a gross?
3. Who was the second man to step onto the surface of the moon?
4. Which is larger: a litre or a quart?
5. Where is the house of keys?
6. Why is Andrew Jackson famous?
7. What is the only animal to sleep on it's back?
8. In which film does 'Raindrops keep falling on my head' feature?
9. Which is the oldest national flag?
10. What does O.P.E.C. stand for?
11. What do four quadrants make?
12. What is the fastest production car?
13. What was Superman's other name?
14. Which is the largest bone in the human body?
15. What is a sextant used for?

QUOTATIONS/PROVERBS

A magazine is a means of communication but the greater the communication the greater the area of misunderstanding is. So we have chosen as our first quotation.....

"I know you believe you understand what you
you think I said, but I am not sure you realize
that what you heard is not what I meant."

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Money is a good servant but a dangerous master.

A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on.

Drive as if you owned the other car.

DATE CORNER

- 1516-Thomas More wrote 'Utopia'.
- 1580-Coffee was imported into Italy.
- 1595-Abolition of the bow and arrow as a weapon of war.
- 1699-Billingsgate opened as a market.
- 1720-Wallpaper used in England.

ANSWERS:

- 1. Canada. 2. 144 3. Edwin Aldrin
- 4. A quart 5. Isle of Man 6. 7th President of the USA 7. Human Being 8. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid 9. Dutch 10. Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries 11. Circle 12. Panther VI 13. Clark Kent 14. Femur or thigh bone 15. Navigation.



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.....backhills spotlight.....

RICHARD EVANS WRITES:

It is the September issue once again and time for my annual eye-witness report on the past Summer's cricket.

On the last Friday in May, along with 25,000 other people not at work, made my way to Lord's for the second one-day Prudential Trophy game. I was pleasing to see in the nets before the start, new Captain Ian Botham sitting and discussing matters with Geoff Boycott, as in the past, for variety of reasons, England have not always made the best use of the Yorkshire player's superb cricketing brain. It was also comforting to see Bob Willis back with the squad after a poor Winter tour and injury which had kept him out of the first rain-interrupted game at Headingley.

Botham won the toss and as Brearley had done in the Final last year, put West Indies into bat.

The rejuvenation of Willis was now complete and he was the pick of the England bowlers, eventually ending up with figures of 2-25 off 10 overs including a quite remarkable last over in which four wickets (2 run-outs, 2 clean bowled) fell and Holding also had his stumps knocked over off a no ball.

There was no outstanding innings although Bacchus promised well before being run out by Old for 40. Richards made 26 and one was left with the feeling that by his own standards his batting had been inhibited possibly by the responsibilities of captaining the side in the absence of Clive Lloyd. Nevertheless most of the side made runs and the score was 235-9 after the allotted 55 overs. It could have been much less, however, because Botham, clearly bowling at half pace because of a back injury was hit for 71 runs including 33 off his last 2 overs. Strangely Lever, who had bowled very tightly in his opening spell was only used for 7 of his possible 11 overs and ended up with the creditable figures of 0-23.

So the target was steeper than it need have been but by no means impossible. Willey, opening with Boycott, survived an early chance off a hard hit square slash to Bacchus, made steady progress so that England were 41 without loss at tea after 16 overs.

Boycott, clearly learning from last year's Final, was keeping the scoreboard ticking along and the first wicket did not fall until the 32nd over when 135 runs had been added (23 more than West Indies who had 2 wickets down at a comparable stage).

The stage was set for a memorable victory and with a little composure the middle order should have been able to finish the job off easily. But wickets started to fall, Tavare, Boycott (for a Man of the Match, 70) Gooch and Gower all departed and England were 178-5 with all hopes resting upon their captain.

In a finely disciplined innings assisted first by Somerset colleague Vic Marks (who had earlier bowled 11 good overs of flighted off-spin) and then pugnacious David Bairshow, he guided his side home to victory in the last over, even if there was a distinct feeling that Botham rather than Bairstow had been run out in the over before.

One left the ground with renewed hope for the forthcoming Test series and Botham's 42 not out indicated the captaincy may have given to his batting a maturity and responsibility it had lacked on some earlier occasions. It was to be Botham's only significant innings for the rest of the Carribean Summer.

After a closely fought (and lost) Test at Trent Bridge, attention was turned to Lord's. On the first day Gooch made his maiden Test century and from the commanding position of 165-2, England slumped to 269 all out. On the second day, Richards plundered a majestic 145 and I think all England supporters

CONTINUED

SPORTLIGHT CONTINUED

making their way to St. John's Wood on the Saturday realized they were in for a day of unremitting carnage. The situation was not helped by the news that Hendrick was injured and would not be on the field all day.

Resuming at 92 n.o., Haynes went on to make 184, the highest score ever by a West Indian at Lord's. Clive Lloyd entertained the afternoon crowd with a breezy 56 demonstrating his repertoire of powerful hitting for probably the last time in a Test at H.Q. Deryck Murray chipped in with 34 largely scored through the covers off Botham who again was the most expensive bowler ending up with 3-145. West Indies were finally all out at 5.40 in the evening for 518, a mere matter of 249 runs ahead. The only light relief came when Willis, apparently running across to the crowd with rude gestures, in fact was only keeping count of his wicket-tally for the benefit of a £5 wager with a Caribbean supporter. Boycott had also entertained by reversing the peak on his customary cap before bowling each delivery. Lighter moments, aside England were left with a nasty 40 minutes batting but apart from the odd alarm survived with more comfort than most expected. Gooch looked in tremendous touch, and at long last it looks as if England have found a dominating batsman of real world stature. That was more-or-less to be the end of the match because rain fell on the Monday and Tuesday and the match was drawn. Indeed rain was to affect the rest of the series and no further results were obtained. By the game at Headingley, Rose had been introduced into the side and his name couched as a possible future captain. If only the selectors had read their past issues of Backhill, but as they say, "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink".

My next visit to cricket was to a strange venue - Stamford Bridge. In a carnival atmosphere, 11,073 people turned up to watch the first ever Floodlit Challenge match between Essex (replacing Surrey) and West Indies. Viv Richards won the toss and elected to bat and it was not long before Greenidge hit the first six. Three little men suddenly flashed up on the board jumping up and down in congratulation and Greenidge had to pull away from the next ball suffering from a major dose of hysterics. Indeed humour was rife with a Bob Willis impersonation by Graham Gooch on a hat-trick ball and then Ray East later rushing onto the field bearing bucket and sponge to soothe Gooch's injured foot.

In between time there was also some very good cricket. The artificial wicket had a low bounce which took all players (including Richards) a little time to adapt to but then Viv struck 25 off one over from Acfield to show he was master of the situation. The look of disgust on his face when he was out to a full toss from East left no one in any doubt how seriously he was taking the game.

Although there was talk of uneven light, Gooch did not seem to have any trouble seeing the ball, hitting 111 including one six (amongst many) which cleared the roof of the West Stand. The game finally came to an end with what many consider to be the greatest single objection to floodlit cricket in this country - the weather. At 9.40 rain descended in torrents and half an hour later the match was abandoned with Essex winning on a faster scoring rate having made 192-1 off 28 overs as opposed to 257-9 off 40 overs by the West Indies.

It was an evening of great entertainment and the idea of watching cricket during the week after work is an attractive one. There are numerous problems however, not least the suitability of grounds bearing in mind the need for decent-sized boundaries and uniform lighting. Meanwhile I hope the experiment will continue and I look forward to future evenings of entertainment such as Essex and West Indies provided on August 15th.

I have two further days of cricket to watch this Summer (1st and 3rd days of the Centenary Test) but regrettably copydate waits for no man and so I shall have to try and slip something in next month.





Amici di Casanova

L'Associazione Amici di Casanova Valceno ha organizzato ancora una festa a beneficio dei restauri della Chiesa di San Pietro e, come sempre ha avuto gran successo (vedete la foto sopra). I premi della lotteria sono stati generosamente offerti da Lega of Regent St. Ltd.

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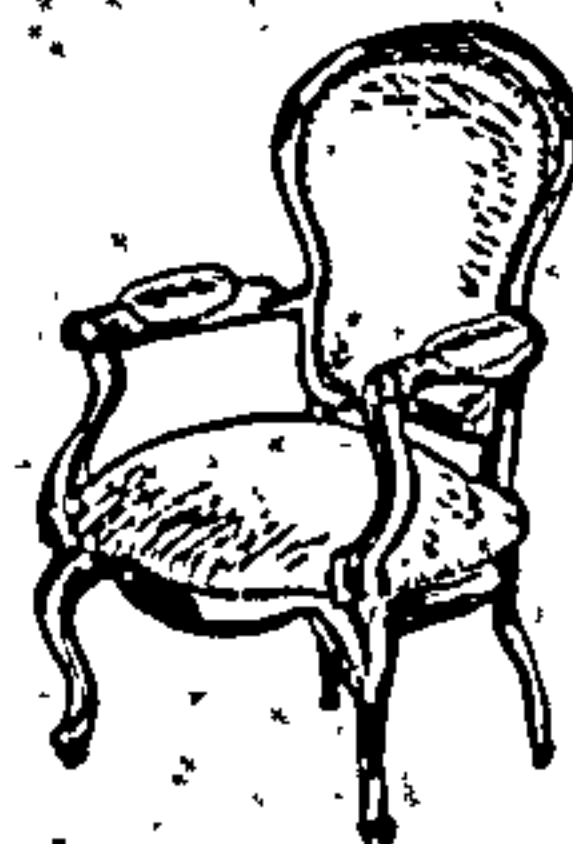
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1 cucchiaino cannella
2 cucchiaini bicarbonato di soda
1 cucchiaino sale
1/2 lb noci tritati

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Sbattete le uova, lo zucchero, l'olio
e l'essenza di vaniglia insieme.
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cannella, le noci ed il bicarbonato
di soda mescolando molto bene finché
avrete una crema densa.
Versate il composto in due tortiere
imburate.
Cuccinateli nel forno No. 5 per 1 ora.
Togliete dal forno e lasciateli
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toglierle dalle tortiere.
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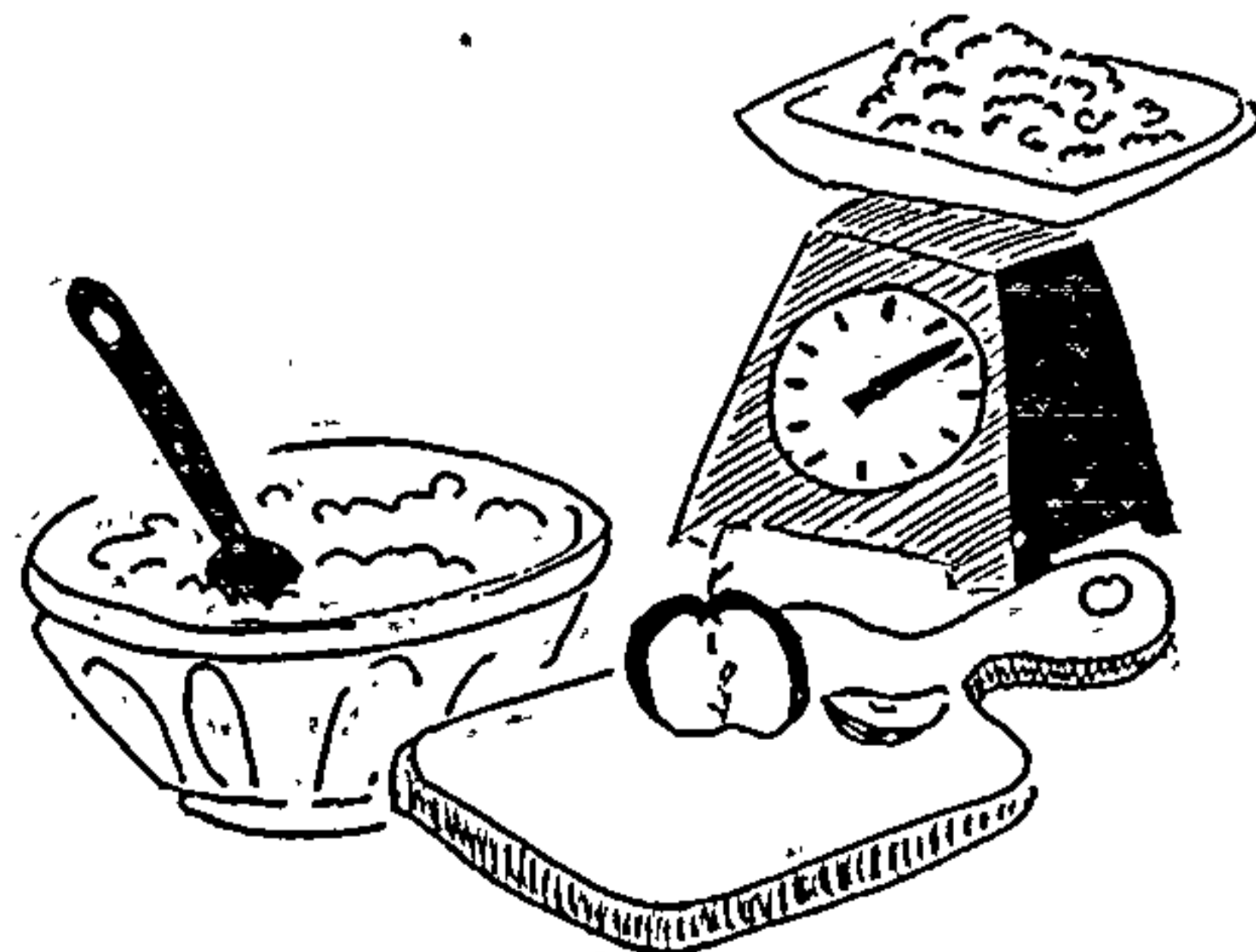
THIS RECIPE WAS SENT TO ME FROM
AMERICA BY UNCLE AL

Ingredients

3 well beaten eggs
1 lb sugar
about 14 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
3/4 lb coarsely grated zucchini
1 lb sifted self-raising flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 teaspoons bicarbonate of soda
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 lb chopped walnuts

Method

Beat the eggs, sugar, oil and
vanilla essence together.
Then stir in the zucchini, the
flour, the cinnamon, salt,
walnuts and lastly the bicarbonate
of soda, until you obtain a thick
mixture.
Pour into two greased and floured
bread shaped tins.
Bake in oven No. 5 for 1 hour.
Remove from the oven and allow to
stand for about 20 minutes before
removing from the tin.
Can be eaten hot or cold.



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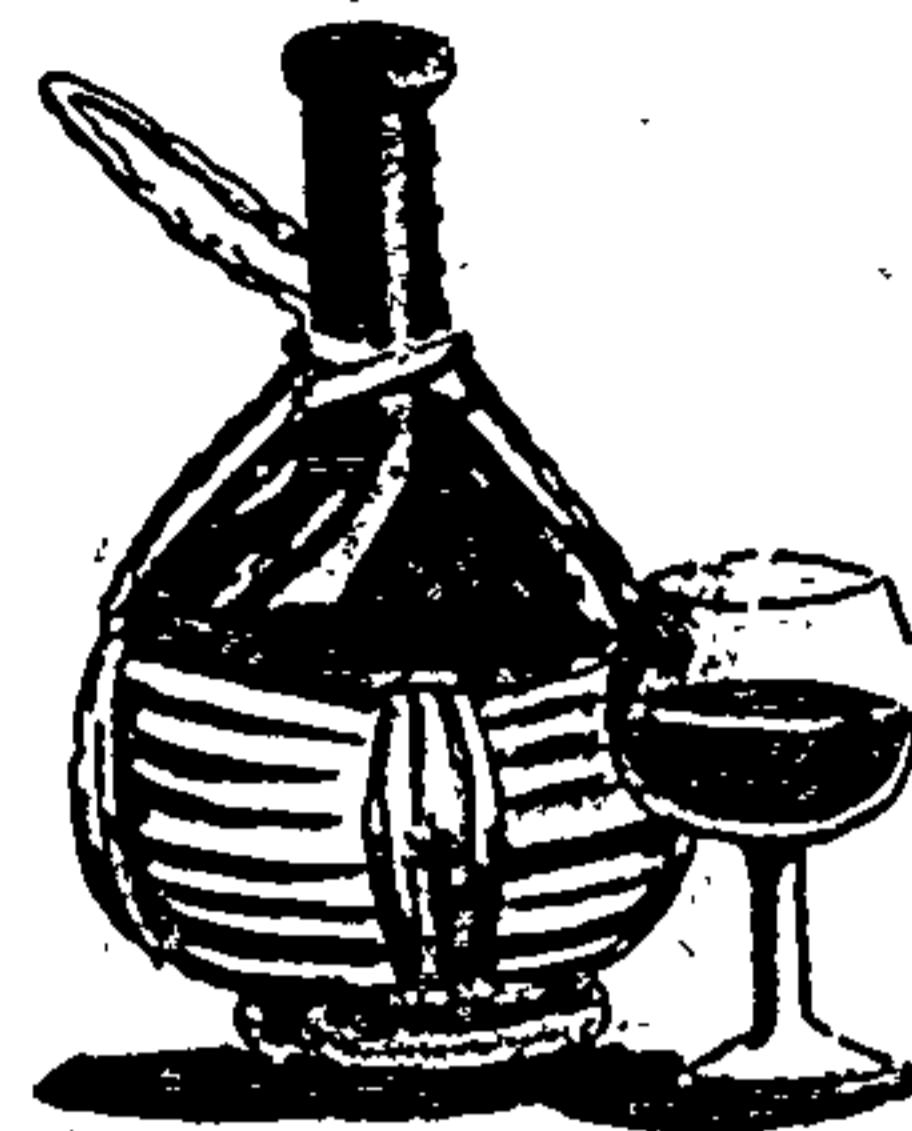
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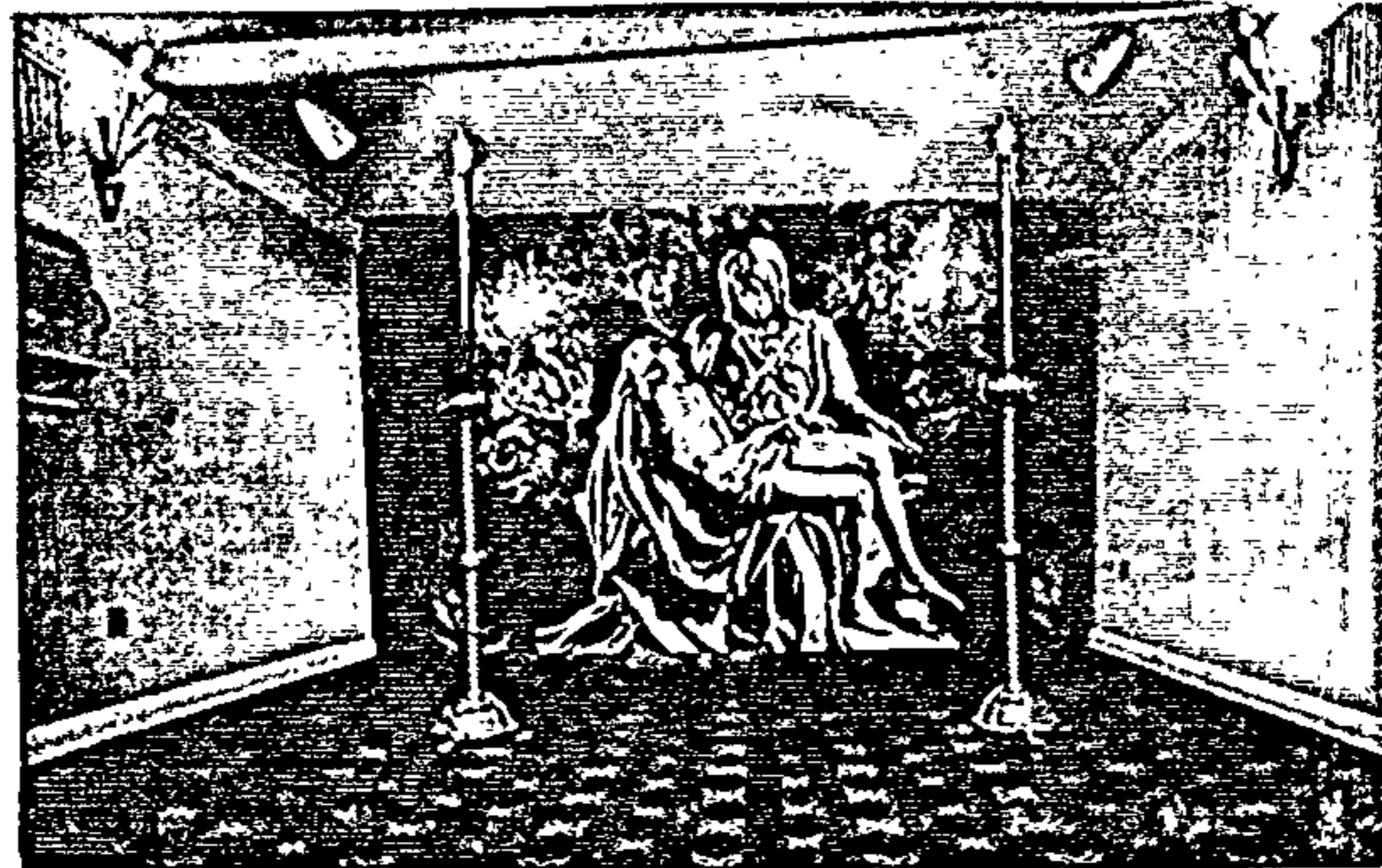
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