

NORTHERN COMMAND TATTOO

The Northern Command Tattoo, to be held this week in a great natural amphitheatre at Roundhay Park, Leeds, is officially described as "the greatest military spectacle of the year." It is estimated that, given good weather, half a million spectators will see the display by nearly 2000 troops. Princess Margaret will attend on Saturday evening and take the salute.

The underlying theme of the Tattoo is The Infantry Soldier Through The Ages, from the Roman occupation of Britain to modern times. The set-piece in the Park will be a representation of Hadrian's wall which stretched from the Solway Firth to the Tyne.

Among the famous Regiments taking part are the Gloucesters, the Cameronians, The Coldstream Guards, and the Royal Horse Artillery; the latter is represented by The King's Troop in their stirring Musical Drive.

One popular item will be the Physical Training Display by boys of the Army Apprentices' School at Harrogate; the Boys' Training Regiment (Royal Signals), Beverley; and the Infantry Boys' Battalion, Tuxford, Notts.

SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO

The Charge of the Light Brigade is among the highlights of the Searchlight Tattoo at London's White City this week. With a thunder of hoofs the horsemen gallop the length of the arena while "Russian guns" give a realistic display of fire and smoke at the other end.

Another exciting episode is a reproduction of the 6th Airborne Division's D-Day landing. A heavy bomber flies overhead and gliders land in the arena.

One of the biggest gatherings of pipers ever seen in London, together with massed bands with some 700 performers, add to the impressiveness of this great military spectacle, which is in aid of the Soldiers', Sailors', and Air-men's Families Association.

Steps to Sporting Fame

Yvette Williams



Carrying the confident hopes of all New Zealanders in the forthcoming Empire Games is Yvette Williams, world-long-jump champion and Olympic gold medallist.



It is a little over seven years since Yvette went to a sports meeting held by the Otago Ladies' Amateur Athletic Club, having just left school at Dunedin. Her interest aroused, she there and then decided to take up athletics herself.



She soon began to set up records for putting the shot, throwing the javelin and discs, and for long jumps. Her great moment was at Helsinki in 1952, when a jump of 20 feet 5 3/4 inches earned her a gold medal and a new Olympic record.



Last February, Yvette proved herself best in the world when her 20 feet 7 1/2 inches exceeded Fanny Blankers-Koen's previous world record by one and a half inches. A typist in the Auckland Y.M.C.A. office, Miss Williams was made an M.B.E. in 1953.

HOW THEY KEEP COOL OVER THERE

Out in the mid-west of America the thermometer is climbing steadily into the hundreds, writes a C.N. correspondent. But, he adds, people there know how to act when the heat tops the hundred.

In a big city like Chicago the humid atmosphere lies heaviest in those areas where the tall canyons of the skyscrapers seem to hold the heat and press it down on the pedestrians. Cool clothes come out, and the shops shout the advantages of material that lets the air into the skin and takes the perspiration away.

SUITS, NOT SHORTS

There are as few adult walkers in shorts as there would be in Britain. The American citizen seems to prefer his palm-beach suiting, or his "sucker suit" which can be washed and hung up overnight ready for next morning.

Along the hot streets of downtown Chicago a merciful municipality sends water wagons with gentle hoses which play on the streets. There are vast sprinklers, too, along the park water fronts of Chicago to keep the grass green.

For a breeze there is always a ride in the car. The roads round Lake Michigan are lined bonnet to bumper with a slow moving procession of cars in which the family is trying to get a breeze.

America knows what to do when it gets hot, and instead of grumbling about it, makes plans to keep cool.

SECOND CHANCE

Increased protection is being given to many varieties of South African eagles which have been threatened with extinction through being shot because they preyed on young cattle.

In the Eastern Cape Province they were declared protected game last year, and this protection has now been extended to include other areas in the Cape and the Transvaal.

GOODBYE TO THE MIDSHIPMAN'S GUNROOM

The Gunroom, traditional home of the Midshipman at sea since the days of Nelson, will soon disappear from our warships. This will be one result of the complete reorganisation of the training of R.N. officers, recently announced by the First Lord of the Admiralty.

At present, cadets enter the Naval Training College at Dartmouth at about sixteen and a half and leave between 18 and 19. Then they spend the next three and a half to four years first in a training ship, then in ships of the fleet as Midshipmen, and finally in a series of shore establishments as Acting Sub-Lieutenants, before going to sea as Sub-Lieutenants.

Midshipmen sleep in hammocks in the "half deck," a name originating in sailing vessels, and eat and spend their leisure in the Gunroom, which is probably so named because, in the days of sail it was at the end of the gun-deck and was the quarters of the chief gunner. It eventually became the quarters of the junior officers and finally of the Midshipmen.

No senior officer ever enters a Gunroom without permission. Even the Captain removes his cap

first. The senior Sub-Lieutenant, the "Sub of the Mess," is in control and he exercises an authority similar to that of a public school prefect. Many senior officers have looked back with affectionate memory to their Gunroom days.

Under the new scheme, which operates from May 1955, cadets will not enter the Royal Navy until they are about 18 years of age. They will spend their first two years at Dartmouth in the Britannia Royal Naval College, with spells in training ships.

They will still be promoted Midshipmen after one year of service. But they will be acting Sub-

Lieutenants and not Midshipmen (or "snotties," as they are nicknamed) when they first join the fleet. Consequently the Gunroom will no longer be required, and will probably be incorporated into the extra space needed to accommodate the increasing number of Wardroom officers.

The Midshipman's uniform will not disappear, although it will no longer be seen afloat, except in training ships. It includes a short, round jacket, with white patches on the front of the collar. These patches are supposed to originate from a white collar, which was protected at the back from the powdered hair once fashionable for men.

The present uniform was introduced in 1748 although, until 1856, when the dirk was brought in, Midshipmen, like other naval officers, carried swords on ceremonial occasions. Indeed Paymaster Midshipmen carried swords until 1936.

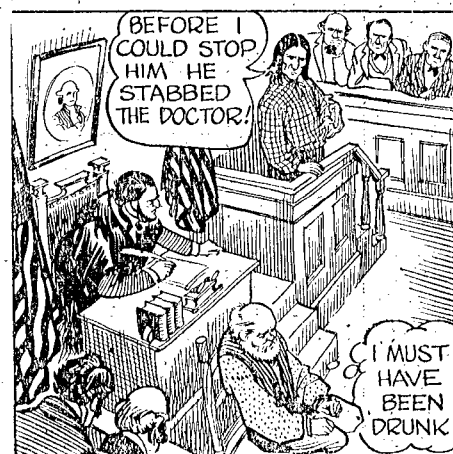
The changes in recruitment of future R.N. officers bring the Navy more into line with the other two services, and with present day conditions.

FISH ON SHOW

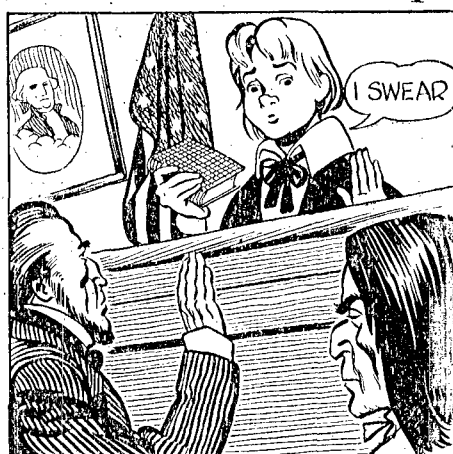
Among the entries at the annual show of the National Aquarists' Society held in London, were radar fish, which swim backwards as though guided by radio direction.

Other unusual specimens were three Chinese celestial goldfish which were insured for £500, and the puffer, which takes in air and water when attacked and blows itself up to four or five times its normal size.

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER—picture-version of Mark Twain's famous story (7)



At the trial of Muff Potter for the murder of Dr. Robinson, Injun Joe's lying evidence was unshaken. Poor Potter sat pale and haggard, timid and hopeless. He had no idea of what had really happened on the fatal night, for he had been knocked unconscious. Tom loitered miserably outside the courtroom, hearing only distressing news. The villagers he spoke to had no doubt that the jury's verdict would be guilty.



Next day there was a sensation in court—Potter's lawyer said: "Call Thomas Sawyer!" The night before, Tom, unable any longer to keep his dreadful secret, had visited the lawyer and told him all he knew! He was badly scared now. After he had taken the oath he was asked: "Thomas Sawyer, where were you at midnight on the 17th of June?" Tom glanced at Injun Joe's iron face and his tongue failed him.



Then he found his voice and gave his evidence. He was about to describe how Injun Joe had stabbed the doctor, when there was a crash. Quick as lightning, the half-breed had sprung for a window, jumped out, and disappeared! Muff Potter's innocence was proved and he was released. Tom became a glittering hero once more—the pet of the old and envy of the young. His name even went into print—in the village paper!



Tom's days were days of splendour and exultation to him. But his nights were seasons of terror. Injun Joe infested all his dreams, and always with doom in his eye. Rewards had been offered for the capture of the murderer, and the country had been scourged, but Injun Joe was not to be found. Nothing could now persuade Tom to stir abroad after nightfall; and poor Huck was in the same state of wretchedness and fear.

Will Injun Joe seek his revenge on the boys who have made him an outlaw? See next week's instalment