

Boys with their own zoo

Two Shropshire lads who run their own private zoo will be guests of *All Your Own* in B.B.C. Junior TV next Sunday, 4th September. They are Russell Matthews (13) and Ross Lewis (14), of Church Stretton. Their menagerie consists of mice, hamsters, squirrels, baby owls, and similar small creatures, but recently they took over the care of an uncommon guest—a fledgling buzzard too young to fly.

Joanne Symons, who finds the boys and girls for *All Your Own*, tells me that Russell and Ross were uncertain whether they ought to have a "protected" bird like a buzzard in their keeping. However, by arrangement with the local R.S.P.C.A. representative, the boys were entrusted with the task of rearing it. My picture was taken a few minutes before the sad moment—sad for the boys but jolly for the buzzard—when it was allowed to fly away at the age of six weeks. A film of the flying-off ceremony will

be shown in the programme. Being birds of prey, buzzards have to be fed on raw meat. This one cost the boys between 6d. and 9d. a day. They make money for their zoo by washing-up in the local café during the school holidays. They also sell some of the animals they rear.

In Sunday's programme they will have several of their pets in the studio, including a tawny owl, a ferret, some hamsters, and a New Zealand rabbit.



Russell Matthews and Ross Lewis with the young buzzard they reared

All the thrills of motor racing

MOTOR racing (including kart-racing) thrills will be featured in the first of Associated-Rediffusion's Autumn serials in Children's TV.

It begins on Tuesday, 6th September, and its title will be *The Chequered Flag*. Producer Jim Pople is filming special sequences at Brands Hatch.

The story, by karting enthusiast, Ivan Berg, revolves round a school-leaver named Mike Brown (Jeremy Bulloch) whose ambition is to become a crack racing driver. He gets a lot of encouragement from a driving ace named Tony Gregory (Geoffrey Frederick) who runs his own garage and also makes karts.

There are exciting moments on the track and in the pits during the racing.

Scale models of Silverstone pits are being built for the studio sequences. A lot of filming showing actual racing will be included in the serial.

After the holidays

GOING to school after the Summer holidays takes some getting used to. This is the thought behind a talk which Norma Cradock is to give in B.B.C. television's *Sunday Special* next Sunday. Mrs. Cradock is one of the few women lay preachers in the West of England. Last year she was president of the Wesley Guild.

FILM CAMERAS AT OBERAMMERGAU

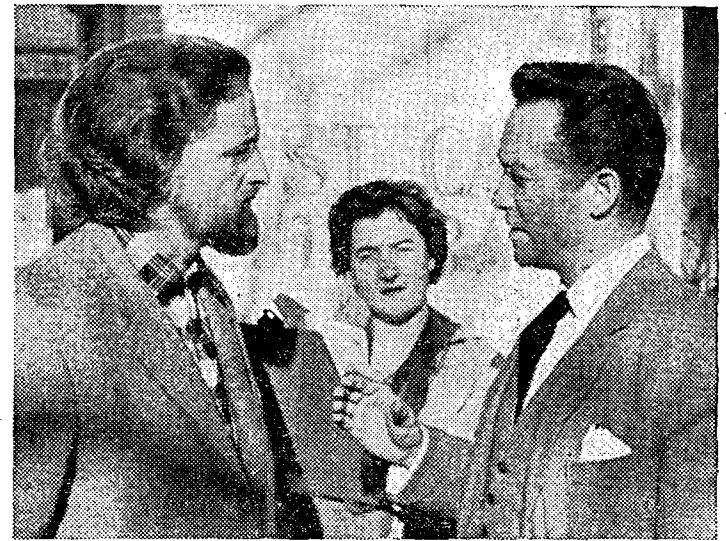
BECAUSE most children were in bed when *The Vow* was televised on Good Friday, B.B.C. television is to repeat this remarkable film about the Oberammergau Passion play at a time when everyone can see it.

Telephoning me the news, the producer and scriptwriter, Alan Sleath, said: "I'm delighted at this decision. After the final performance on 25th September, there won't be another Oberammergau play for ten years. I'd like the children of today to see all the preparations for it. In 1970 they'll be grown up!"

Film actor Richard Todd went with a B.B.C. film unit to Oberammergau last November. They spent a fortnight there, meeting all the people of the village, children included, and were allowed to film the first rehearsal.

They were also admitted to the village church to film the choir singing the Hallelujah Chorus. The party stayed at the hotel run by Anton Preisinger, who played Christ.

No one is more pleased with the film than the people of Oberammergau. "We went back for its showing in the local cinema," said Sleath. "Raimond Lang, the



Anton Preisinger (who plays Christ) with Richard Todd

Burgermeister, made a speech of thanks and I did my best to reply in German! They've screened the film again several times. You see, they recognise themselves and their friends in many of the scenes."

The Vow will be televised on a Sunday afternoon in the near future.

Shrieking locomotives and talking animals

NEXT Monday (5th September) B.B.C. Children's Hour is to bring out the recording of *The Carved Lions*, the popular four-part serial by Alice de Grey, first heard 18 months ago.

It is based on a strange and exciting novel by Mrs. Molesworth, who had a great following among children in Victorian times.

The heroine is Geraldine (played by Ann Totten). Alice de Grey says Geraldine has some most trying adventures and would be in a really bad way without the help

of her two faithful friends, the Carved Lions. David Kossoff plays Leo, and Timothy Bateson is Rex.

Noises, worse than the exhaust of a multi-engined jet airliner, will be heard. They will be the Effects Department's attempts to imitate the shrieking and fussing of Victorian steam engines in a station.

There are some animals, too, which have a convenient way of talking to help the story along.

PROGRAMMES and PEOPLE on TV and RADIO by Ernest Thomson

Busy time for Ginger LEARNING TO FLY AND ANSWERING FAN MAIL

ALTHOUGH Ginger in the *Biggles* series knows all there is to know about aircraft, John Leyton, who plays the part, is still a beginner. "Until this year," he says, "I'd only had a ten-shilling flit over Hendon, but, thanks to *Biggles*, I've been up several times recently and had a flying lesson."

John shares a flat in Manchester during the week with *Biggles* himself, Nevil Whiting. But he spends weekends at home in Hendon, with his father, his 13-year-old sister Sarah, and 10-year-old brother Hedley. His mother died three years ago.

Off screen, John's main interest is sport. During the soccer season he plays inside-right for Highgate School Old Boys.

His father says he is so quiet at home that one might sometimes think he was out. This is because he spends a great deal of time answering stacks of fan letters.



Ginger (John Leyton) helps his sister Sarah with her homework

The great life-saver

MORE exciting than any shooting match is a story in B.B.C. television at nine o'clock this Thursday evening (1st September). It is about a man who saved countless lives. He was Lord Lister (1827-1912), the founder of antiseptic surgery, which marked one of the greatest turning points in medical history.

Richard Attenborough will be narrator in *Joseph Lister*, which will tell how this courageous surgeon left Edinburgh, where he was respected, to endure sneers and humiliation while trying to convince doctors in London.

One dramatic sequence will show how, in the year 1877, at King's College Hospital, in London, he applied his principles in an operation which saved a man from becoming a life-long cripple.

At last the medical world was convinced of the importance of antiseptic methods. Lister was President of the British Association in 1896 and was given a peerage a year later.

NAVIES IN TIME OF WAR

THE part played by the Royal Navy in winning the Second World War is to be shown on TV for the first time. The war in the air and on land has already figured in TV series, but *Sea War* is the first large-scale collection of actual war film, British and German, dealing with the struggle at sea. It begins in Southern Television next Monday at 8 p.m., and on A.T.V., London, on the following Saturday (10th September) at 6 p.m.

Made by the Rank Organisation, with Admiralty co-operation, this 13-part series has been written by Captain Jack Broome, R.N. The narrator is Rear-Admiral Roy Foster-Brown.

Producer G. Grafton Green and his scriptwriter had to choose from 400,000 feet of film in Admiralty and German archives. The story covers operations from the Arctic Circle to the Pacific Ocean.