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## Duke's Award for cycling instructors

Boys, aged 15 to 19, who are aiming at a Silver or Gold Award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme can now, as one qualification, help to train young cyclists under the National Cycling Proficiency Scheme. More details can be obtained from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Safe Cycling Department, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

## HALF A TON OF WISHES

When a wishing-well at Great Yarmouth was drained recently it was found that, over a period of years, visitors had thrown in nearly half a ton of halfpennies, pennies and sixpences to bring them luck with their wishes. The money—amounting to £161 8s.—has been distributed among local good causes.

## The answer was—nuts

A tractor was taken to an engineering works in East Dereham, Norfolk, because something had jammed. It took a hacksaw to free the machinery and find the trouble. Inside were 120 hazel nuts, the winter store of a dormouse.

## A VALLEY FULL OF PIPERS

Continued from page 9

"Well, we sort of fixed up they were to go out and join one of the gangs, but I clean forgot that it's Friday tomorrow and all the gangs will be coming in. So I just thought I'd drop up and arrange it for Monday instead. Do you reckon you could let them know?"

"I reckon I could," I said.

"Good. Well, I may as well get back."

After George had gone it struck me that there was no reason why I shouldn't go back to bed.

I had a look at Vince when I got inside and half thought of waking him up and telling him not to go up to the sawmills. But he was flat out and snoring, so I thought I would leave it and tell him first thing.

### Muzzy with sleep

The next thing I knew was Mum poking me with her hard finger and saying, "My word, but he's sleeping heavy."

I was so muzzy with sleep, after being up in the night, that I clean forgot to pass on George Triffitt's message. I didn't think another thing about it until Leonie and I were on our way down to school about two hours later.

"Why can't we go with Vince like we always do?" Leonie said.

"You know very well . . ." I said; and then I remembered.

I suddenly felt cold and shuddery, like I did the time Grassy Gleeson put the fire extinguisher nozzle down the neck of my shirt and turned the tap on.

To be continued

# WINDFALL FOR A STAMP DEALER

One evening about 90 years ago Pierre Mahé, a Paris bookseller, was closing his shop when a man paused at his doorway. Taking a rolled bundle of paper from his pocket, he asked M. Mahé if he was interested in foreign stamps.

As well as being a bookseller, M. Mahé was also a stamp dealer and so he invited the stranger into his shop. Inside the bundle were complete sheets of all seven values of the first stamps of Greece, issued in 1861.

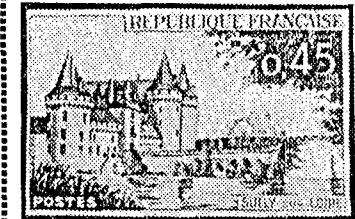
The stranger was prepared to sell the stamps for 180 francs (then worth about £7) and a copy of a particular book which his wife wished to read. M. Mahé was happy to agree. Later M. Mahé sold the stamps at a handsome profit. Today, they would be worth at least £30,000.

The centenary of these Greek stamps has been celebrated in

Greece by the issue of a special series of seven values, one of which is pictured here. Each of the new designs reproduces one of the stamps of 1861 in its original colours.



## Pictorials from France



FRANCE issues so many beautiful commemorative stamps for special occasions that stamps of the ordinary series—called "definitives"—are sometimes overlooked. Seven of the low values are, in fact, large-size pictorials in attractive colours.

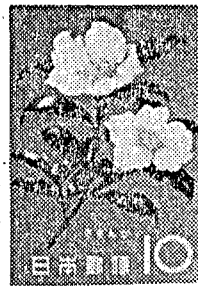
Pictured here is the 45-centimes value, which shows the stately chateau at Sully-sur-Loire, in central France. The design is in dark blue, brown, and green.

Other values have views of the seaport of Calais, the vineyards of Cognac, and the seaside resort of Arcachon, in the south-west.

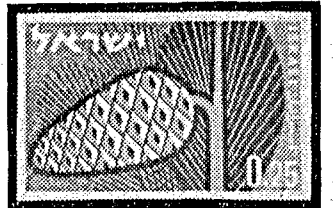
## Evergreen in Japan

JAPAN has also been issuing some beautifully coloured stamps.

The 10-yen value pictured here features a spray of sazanka, an evergreen tree which grows wild in the mountains of Kyushu and Shikoku. Its white flowers appear during the late autumn and winter.



## GROW MORE TREES!



FROM Israel come two new stamps to help the "Grow more trees!" campaign. For the 25-pruta value shown here, the artist has used a fir-cone design.

C. W. HILL

## MATCHBOX LABELS

50 diff. Japan 2/9 | 100 World 4/3  
30 diff. Jugoslavia 2/3 | 100 Asia 4/6  
Album 3/6

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