



# BUXTON MAGIC

by KEN DE COURCY

Although the Tuesday afternoon saw the usual gathering of early conventioners, Alan Alan actually began the 23rd Annual Convention by escaping sensationally from a strait-jacket suspended upside down on the end of a burning rope, escaping just before the rope burned through and hitting headlines every where.

The younger members then took over in their own way to present the first show of the convention, "Youth takes a bow." At the civic reception the guests were treated to a brilliant cabaret starring Nadyne, the Gaunt Brothers and Haakon Edeling, and the Mayor and Mayoress stayed until the end, which is always a measure of the evening's enjoyment.

The Dealers' Demonstration attracted its usual large quota of prospective buyers, and the stands, this year all in one location, appeared to be doing good business. Oscar Oswald untraditionally demonstrated a card trick, and the Supreme Magic Co. proudly exhibited the Craig Trophy for the most attractive display.

The same afternoon, the Ladies of the Ring had a private session of Bingo and a show, and the patients of the Devonshire Park Hospital were entertained. Another party performed at the Buxton House for Aged Ladies.

The Shield Competition was memorable for its length, 18 p.m. to 1.55 a.m. and a rabbit-vanish from a perspex box presented by Shield Winners, Ralph Hall and Mollie. Harold G. Beaumont, as usual, won the Trophy for Originality.

At the Annual General Meeting Peter Warlock topped the committee poll and Francis Haxton became President-Elect.

This year's Micro-Magic Competition was won by Howard Peters, Harold G. Beaumont being runner-up.

The Banquet was enjoyable, but prolonged. However this was perhaps mitigated by the sweet, a "Magician's Surprise" with the chef descending from the ceiling to present two black and white rabbits to the President and his lady. Percy Abbott presented Bill Stickland with a silva-smoked cigarette-box on behalf of the I.B.M. (U.S.A.) in recognition of his years of faithful service, and the various prize-winners received their trophies.

The Mayor of Buxton delighted everyone by inviting all the Overseas Visitors to his Parlour in the Town Hall for cocktails the following day.

The After-Banquet entertainment was put on by the Back Room Boys (in other words, the committee), and Wilfred Tyler unswervingly accepted the help of the pianist who did all he could to stop a Willing Candle from wilting.

Saturday morning saw the Children's Playtime, with an audience of the young and not-so-young, then came the two houses of a Gala Show brimming with international artistes, such as Percy Abbott from America (probably the shortest Gala act on record) and Edward Mazakian and Partner from Czechoslovakia.

The New Era Show excelled in the cellars of the Palace Hotel. Not content with the usual madness, they'd prepared a film - to such good effect that the Keystone Kops are taking legal advice.

Peter Warlock's lecture, "Take Your Pick," was of the highest possible standard, then, after the simple service on the Sunday morning conducted by the Rev. Michael Seacombe, Percy Abbott spoke of "Down Memory Lane."

George Smallwood's Tombola, whilst below last year's takings, still took £65 for the Benevolent Fund. Will Norman projected magical films and Robert Johnson arranged a "Television Workshop" which went on throughout, culminating in advice from I.B.C. producer Barney Calehan.

A cocktail party in the Chatsworth Room at the Hotel brought this 23rd Convention officially to an end. Archie Tear installed Wilfred Tyler as the new president and, in return, received the Past President's Jewel.

It was generally thought to be a quieter convention than usual and the attendance figure of 672 wasn't a record. For all that, it was wonderfully enjoyable and gave us the chance to meet friends last seen twelve months before. If all the politicians in the world belonged to the I.B.M. it would be a happier planet.

New year it's Hastings! See you there?



ARCHIE TEAR, President.



WILFRED TYLER, President 1958-60.



FRANCIS HAXTON, President-elect.



## OUTSIDE STUNT Alan Alan



1. ALAN ALAN, Outside Show.	8. Hedley Fawcett and Vitma at competition.	15. Alastair and Shirley Ann.	22. Lewis Ganson, "Meet the Committee" Show.	29. Bob Bailey, Paul Graham, Edward Graves and Jeff Atkins.
2. His Honour Ernest Withered, John Ramsey, Alan Alan, Edward Graves, David Grant and Jean, celebrating their engagement on the opening night.	9. The President presenting Shield to winners Ralph Hall and Nancy.	16. Stewart Rivers "Sirevella".	23. Norman Rashleigh dreaming away with Jack and Mrs. Hughes.	30. Mr. and Mrs. Slack from Matlock and friend.
3. David Grant and Jean, celebrating their engagement on the opening night.	10. Donald Crombie, Mrs. Crombie and Lewis Ganson at Banquet.	17. So Very Tired.	24. Percy Abbott, Dem. at Supreme Stand with Edwin and Ray looking on.	31. Again at "New Era".
4. Sherry with the Ladies Trophy.	11. Francis Maxton trying to confuse Gus Southall and others.	18. Elizabeth at Ladies Afternoon.	25. David Budd & Rita "Youth Takes a Bow".	32. Francis Maxton, "Meet the Committee" Show.
5. Gus, Southall.	12. Gus, Southall in a close-up session.	19. Alex Emsley identifies the iron corner.	26. Stewart Rivers, "Sirevella" - Gala Show.	33. Gus, Southall.
6. Elizabeth, Freddy Carter, Francis Maxton and Elizabeth Warlock.	13. Stanley and Helen Thomas with daughter Madyne, U.S.A.	20. Hedley Fawcett and Vitma receiving their Trophy.	27. Mrs. Tear accepting gift of two rabbits from Grand Hotel Chef.	34. Theo, Speaker helps truss Alan Alan with Paul Graham.
7. Happy Fawcett at New Era. Can just see Truist Queen and Missy Dwyer.	14. The President with Mrs. Tear - Dinner with the Chef.		28. Hedley Fawcett and Vitma receiving their Trophy.	35. Our President with Mrs. Tear and the rabbits they received from Chef.
				36. Our President and Mrs. Tear with Mayor and Mayress of Buxton.
				37. Menk Vermyden, Jean Poisson puzzled by a rope trick.
				38. Geoff Robinson ready for bed at end of "Meet the Committee" Show.
				39. The Chef descending from the heavens with "Magicians' Surprise".
				40. Robert Johnson with Charlie Spratt.
				41. Elizabeth, John Salisse, Ken Green, Mo. Howarth, Arthur Culpin, Jean Passon, Mitch Davano and Claire Field.
				42. Kazakian & Partner, from Czechnoslovakia.
				43. George Davenport, Haskon Edling, Bobby Bernard, Kingsor and Betty Davenport.
				44. Harry Fletcher, George Smallwood and Margaret Wilson at Tombola.
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				46. Rev. Michael Seacombe and Mrs. Seacombe.

