

PIMLICO *PASSPORT* "The name of Burgundy has denoted very -All ZB Stations. July 1

diverse political and geographical areas at different periods of history and as used by different writers."—Encyclopaedia Britannica.

URING the early part of the war a German pilot dropped a dud bomb on already - devastated site in Miramont Place, Pimlico, London. Years later, after the war. some small boys playing on the site accidentally rolled a heavy metal wheel into the crater and exploded the bomb.

The immediate effects were slight—

Benny: Went right up in the sir. I did.

Just like a rocket:

Monty: I went higher'n you. Come down

on my funny bone

But the echoes travelled further. They rattled the tea cups in the offices of Whitehall, disturbed the slumbers of Cabinet, and threatened to distract the attention of UN delegates from their pretty secretaries. And why? Because a grocer named Arthur Pemberton fell into the bomb crater and found there

an iron-bound chest.

Like most ancient chests, the Pimlico one contained treasure: crowns and ducats, golden goblets, pitchers and ewers to the value of £100,000. More important, it contained evidence that balked the British Exchequer's claim to the treasure trove. Along with the coat-of-arms of Burgundy was a charter of Edward IV granting Miramont House to Burgundy's Duke and decreeing that the entire estate be recognised as Burgundian soil. Miramont Place and its it seemed, belonged not to the British Crown but to the heirs and descendants of Charles the Rash. Just to clinch the matter a young Frenchman named Sebastian de Charolais turns up with the simple announcement: "I am the Duke of Burgundy.'

Passenger: Does this bus go to Belgrave Road? Pimlico reacts with characteristic wit-

onductor: No, lady. We're going to England.

Licensing laws, ration books, gaming regulations go by the board. Spivs flog "export" cars in the Bungundian markets. While Foreign, Home and War Office functionaries strive to foist the

case on each other, Pimlico steps high, wide and handsome toward anarchy.

For the newly liberated Burgundians. however, life is not all black-market whisky and skittles. Britain's govern-ment takes a "serious view" of the goings-on at Miramont Place. The frontier is closed, customs barriers set up and the water supply cut off. Pinilico retaliates by stopping the Underground trains at its borders and insisting on passports and customs declarations— "Anything to declare, madam? Any foodstuff, livestock, linen, silk or cotton

Arthur Pemberton and Professor Hat * Peggy Walker

"Now then, what's going on here?" --- Constable Spiller discovers that English licensing laws don't apply to Burgundian territory

goods . . .? Any muskrats, meal worms, motor cycles, hasheesh, prepared opium or agricultural machinery? Between the tiny duchy and its powerful neighbour a cold war develops. The Burgundians' attitude is best expressed by Arthur Pemberton's vife Connie: "We always were English and we always will be. And it's just because we're English that we're sticking out for our right to be Burgundians." His Maiesty's Government, of course, "is always ready to consider any reasonable proposals.

All who saw the film Passport to Pimlico will know how, in time, the diplomats of the duchy and the kingdom hammered out a treaty. Those who didn't, and the many who would like to hear it over again. (and catch the jokes lost theatre laughter), should watch for the coming broadcast of a radio adaptation of the

film story. T. E. B. Clarke's screen play has been adapted by Charles Hatton and produced by the NZBS, with players of the Stratford-upon-Avon Company in most of the leading roles,

According to Bernard Beeby, who produced the show for the NZBS, the Stratford players enjoyed their Pimlico performance immensely, taking it as light relief from the high and exacting demands of Shakespeare. The stars of the production were Leo McKern and Joan MacArthur, taking the parts of

ton-Jones respectively. The Professor, a somewhat eccentric but highly learned lady from London University, is called in to confirm the authenticity of the documents found in the treasure chest. In the film the part was given a memorable performance by Margaret Rotherford During the Stratford Company's tour, Leo McKern played Iago in Othello, Touchstone in As You Like It, and Glendower in Henry IV. Joan

MacArthur was seen Emilia in Othello, and Audrey in As You Like It. She is the wife of Raymond Westwell (Roderigo Duke Frederick, and Worcester), who plays the part of Wix, banker and chancellor of Pimlico's exchequer, in the NZBS production. Others of the Stratford players in the cast are Wynne, Kenneth James Grout, Jane Holland and Ian Bannen. The local actresses Peggy Walker and Sohier are heard in the play as Connie and Shirley Pemberton, wife and daughter of Arthur. the grocer who unearths the treasure.

Passport to Pimlico first show in the TB Stations' Sunday Showcase, which re-places ZB Book Review at 9.35 p.m. It will be heard from all ZBs on Sunday, July 4

LEADING players "Passport to Pimlico" are (lelt, from top): Leo McKern and Joan MacArthur, of the Stratford Players; Ria Sohier and



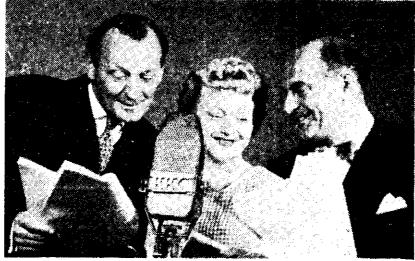




Much Binding Fleet Street 1n

YOW back with the BBC after a spell in commercial radio, Richard Murdoch, Kenneth Horne, Sam Costa and Maurice Denham really make news in the Much Binding series which begins at the ZBs on July 4. They break into

Fleet Street, take over a newspaper with a circulation of two, and in their first few editions produce a side-splitting crop of literary and typographical errors and misleading household hints, And, of course, when news falls short the old



BBC photograph Key staff of the "Weekly Bind": Richard Murdoch (editor), Dora Bryan (fashions), Kenneth Horne (City notes)

firm is not too ethical to make their own. Determined to scoop Fleet Street. and undaunted by the lack of real bank robberies, the staff of the Weekly Bind agree to stage one.

A newcomer to the aforesaid "old firm" is Dora Bryan, a rising young comedienne of stage, film and radio. Her tips on "How To Run Up a Fancy Dress." her glimpses of Mayfair's "Autumn Modes," and above all, her "Pleasant Thoughts for the Day" (by Prudence Gush, nee Costa), are among the most misleading features that sprinkle the columns of the Weekly Bind. Originally a straight actress. Dora was encouraged to enter revue by the London impresario, Hugh Beaumont, who was impressed by her performance of a "party piece" at a back-stage theatrical celebration.

Ably supported by the BBC Men's Chorus and the BBC Revue Orchestra under Harry Rabinowitz, Much Binding is produced by Leslie Bridgmont. The scripts are written by Murdoch and Horne. The show will be heard at 8.30 p.m. on Sundays, beginning from the four ZB stations on July 4 and 2ZA on August 1.

A reshuffle of ZB Sunday evening programmes places London Studio Melodies at 7.0. Palace of Varieties at 7.30. the Sunday serial at 8.0, Much Binding at 8.30, and The Bing Crosby Show