

## BAROMETER

FAIR TO FINE: "The Maggie."

MAINLY FAIR: "The Black Shield of Falsworth."

## THE BLACK SHIELD OF FALSWORTH

(Universal-International)

DON'T jump to the conclusion that *The Black Shield* (director, Rudolph Mate) is just another case of Yankees at the Technicolor Court of King Arthur. It isn't. This time it's the court of Henry IV, Part II (Henry, whom we meet early in the piece, is noticeably past the stage at which he would rouse any enthusiasm in a life-insurance salesman, and Prince Hal is obviously warming up). Around the throne gather the schemers, led by the Earl of Albion (David Farrar), undefeated jousting champ of All England and a plus-two man with a battleaxe; and the goodies who (if you exclude Hal, who is only pretending, at great personal inconvenience, to be a drunken sot), are led by the Earl of Mowbray (Herb Marshall, in a marcelled beard). Into this whirlpool of conflicting ambitions comes a simple lad, Tony Curtis, whose only claims to notoriety are strong arms and an aristocratic shortness of temper which is always landing him "in the soup"—to use the quaint idiom of the time. He enlists in the Mowbray light infantry, but before you can say "In-out-on guard" he's gotten himself a commission in the armoured corps and bought a fight with the perfidious Albion. And who is this mysterious lad who gives Albion a lance in the pance—who is this champ of champs? Of course you've guessed—it's Superknight!

## ODD BODS

JULIUS CAESAR (according to Shakespeare, of Stratford) was struck down for ambition though he thrice refused the crown; Joan of Arc (according to Shaw, of Ayot St. Lawrence) was handed across to the English and burnt after she had saved France; Benjamin Lomond (according to Alison Atkinson, of Whangarei) now rots in a foreign jail after he had brought glory (in the shape of six unicorns) to his country, Nova Caledonia.

At school, Ben was nae guid at the pipes—"he couldna' co-ordinate his breathin' and his squeezin'—but he was richt guid at saying 'Och!' an accomplishment which gave him the right to act as compère for Scottish Half-hours. Among his other accomplishments is the ability to breath down the nostrils so that minute grunts are produced which attract animals close enough for him to breath down *their* nostrils, thereby taming them as the aboriginal tribes of South America tame wild horses.

More details of Benjamin Lomond's life and disappearance will be told by Mrs. Atkinson in her talk on the series *Imaginary Persons*, to be broadcast, starting at 4YC on February 5, at 7.40 p.m. In the same series, the story of Horatio Fulsome and the radio show, *Loser Takes All*—the only man who thought Washington was the capital of England, and they made sure of his ignorance by using a lie detector, won the freezer—is told by Dennis McEldowney.

Hubert Cornerham Montmorency is described by Pauline Quinlan-Stafford. Apparently Mr. Montmorency keeps dropping in to visit, parking his immaculate Rolls Royce outside the door. Trevor Williams, a self-made expert on the subject, describes Igloo the Eskimo Comic; David Wentworth tells about a man from Mars; and Beatrice Ashton gives a biography of the first woman Prime Minister of New Zealand.

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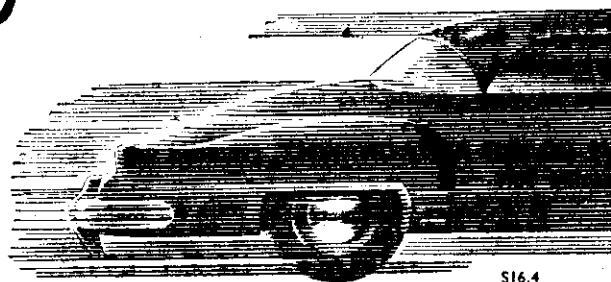
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