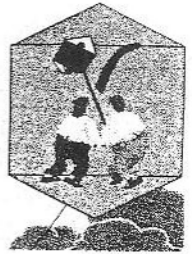


ROMAN CANDLE 43.



THE JOURNAL OF THE BEARLY MADE IT SKYDIVE SQUAD. THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHER AND SISTERHOOD OF PARACHUTING FAUNA AND THE U.K. TED DEVILS. MINDLESS DRIVEL CONTENT EXCEEDS 100%, WE CANNOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR SOME OF THE USES THAT THIS JOURNAL IS PUT TO AS THEY CAN LITERALLY WIPE THE SMILE FROM YOUR FACE AND MAKE YOUR EYES WATER.

TV'S GLOBETROTTER BEAR REACHES JOURNEY'S END

By BILL MOULAND

IN the furry tale world of celebrity bears, he never quite achieved the cult following of Winnie the Pooh, Superted or Sooty.

But in his own way, Teddy Edward, an adventurous member of the BBC's Watch With Mother children's series during its twilight years in the Seventies, had quite a history.

His owner, photographer Patrick Matthews, took him on assignments world-wide — photographing him in exotic locations from Katmandu to the Grand Canyon.

The bear's exploits spawned books, annuals, and a 13-episode run of Teddy Edward films on the BBC, narrated by Richard Baker.

Now, with Mr Matthews a frail 82-year-old, he and his wife Mollie have decided to part with Teddy Edward and his various trappings at Christie's annual teddy bear sale in December.

'We are far too old to go traipsing around the world photographing a bear,' said Mrs Matthews, from Hove, East Sussex. 'But he has been one of the family for 40 years and we will sorely miss him.'

'We hope he goes to a good home — somebody who understands bears.'

On the face of it, Teddy Edward was just a run-of-the-mill bear bought originally for the Matthews' daughter Sarah.

Then Mrs Matthews suggested her husband, studio manager of Conde Nast — publishers of Vogue magazine — take photographs of all Sarah's cuddly toys to sell as nursery pictures.

She ended up writing five illustrated books about Teddy Edward.

But it is the bear's subsequent fame as a television star in countries such as Britain, New Zealand, Norway, Finland and Albania, which is expected to boost bidding for him and various other associated lots to between £4,000 and £6,000. Included in the



Partner: Mr Matthews

auction are photographs, books, films and props — including a bright orange jeep, helicopter and castle — plus cuddly friends called Snowy Toes the Panda, Bushy the bush baby and Jasmine the rabbit.

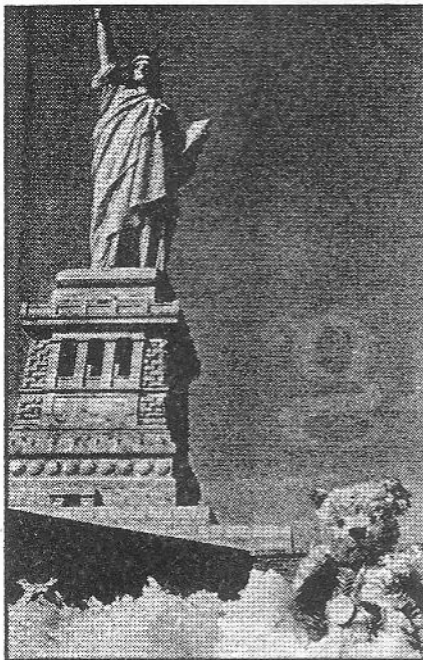
Christie's teddy specialist Leyla Maniera said yesterday: 'Teddy Edward is definitely a one-off, with a character all his own.'

'He is a very brave and adventurous little chap with a wild imagination and a mischievous streak.'

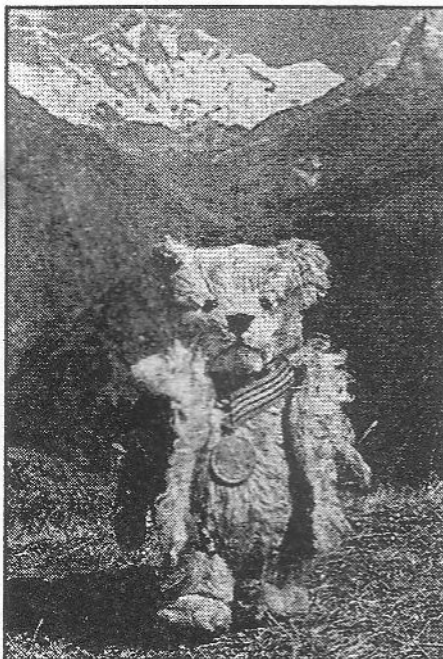
'He must be the world's most-travelled bear and he even has a certificate for riding to the bottom of the Grand Canyon on the back of a mule.'

The sale also includes the copyright to Teddy Edward — which, says Miss Maniera, could mean he might one day make a comeback.

'This could open some exciting doors for those with imagination,' she added.



Big Apple bear: In New York harbour



Fur bear: Warmly wrapped in Katmandu



Star of India: Getting his

bearings at the Taj Mahal

ANY LOWER, HE'D BE IN THE BASEMENT.....

You may remember Mike Dallmer doing the Worlds first Fauna drop from a Kite indoors some time back. This if course was inside the Hindenberg Shed at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station and was from about a height of 100ft(33m).

Recently Dropnik Billings went to the other extreme when he did the U.K.first indoors from a Kite at a height of, wait for it, 30ft(10m) Thats right, we kid you not. On Oct 20th at the Middleton Hall Shopping Centre at the Indoor Kite Event they had there.

Steve says, that on arrival at the venue, conditions at first did not seem ideal for a drop as the Roof was only 30ft high ad there were Chrimbo decorations hanging from it as well, shortly followed by a S* $\frac{1}{2}$ #@:r that caught on one.

Steve goes on to say, that he noticed one side of the Hall appeared to be relatively free of decorations so this is where he made his attempt. Six small Teds (5") with basic square Chutes wer placed in a Bag, which was attached to the line on a 8ft span Wycombe Delta, the line being about 40ft long. After a short run the Kite was up to the Roof and after a sharp tug the Bears were dumped and all the Chutes deployed. This took place in front of a fair crowd of shoppers, one even videoed it. Suffice it to say that later, when Steve was requested to repeat the drop fpr the benefit of the Kite Passion Smudger, not all the Chutes deployed, but Steve still thinks he got a photo or two.

Steve therefore claims, 1. u.k first indoor drop from a kite. 2.U.K. first indoor dump from a kite, and 3. Worlds first indoor dump from a Kite. Unless you know different we'll recognise the claims as official BMISS Records, with the rider that somebody will have to go some to lower Steves altitude.

WEIRD S**T HAPPENS, STILL HAPPENING, AGAIN,AND AGAIN AND.....

Ooo'er missus, Dragon number Four has just turned up, Holy Cow, much more of this and we'll have Mulder and Scully on the case. Number Four, when released from his box told us his name is Ivor Bakpak, no doubt because of the Pack or Satchel he has attached on his back(soddin hell, we thought it was a hump, and he would start on about "The Bells, Thé Bells)but no matter.

Ivor reckons he's searching for his Great Uncle Clifford (he slung his hook way back pal) a Big Green Dragon of great age and wisdom(and Alcohol capacity, why d'ya think we give him the boot) Ivor says that the last he heard G.U.C was shacked up at BOF Towers,(he was, he was) thats why Ivor arrived here, as he heard it was a good place to Shack Up. It is Ivor, boy, and yes thse stories you heard about parachutes and Kites are true, but we bet you dont think its so good when you find out the cost of shacking up at Bof Towers.

Gordon Bennett, 3 Dragons and one Dick the Devil, and all we keep hearing is Firestarter by the Prodigy at full volume and we aint got the record, hold hard, maybe Dick the Devil do look a bit like Keith Flint..... weird.

NAH, GREAT AUNTY WINTERGREEN AND F.H.B. AINT BEEN AT IT, NO WAY.....

Another new arrival at BOF Towers is a Squit type Young Orang utan. Hmm, probably about 3 months old, but looks about 85. The Lad (no girl could be that ugly) hasn't got a name as yet, but as he looks half a kip, maybe Dozy would suit? however be that as it may, thanks to Dingley and The Guv'nor for sending him along, all are welcome, even those blessed with a Boat Race that would stop a clock.

GREEN FAUNA HOIST AND NET BOMBERS.....FROM SMALL ACORNS?

Capt Dick of the Rainbear Skydive Corp, as well as Bombing, Bear making, Quilting etc, also collects and renovates old Sewing machines. He's often wound the line onto an old Machine and uses the Ankle Biters to do the hoisting.

Capt Dick also says that he is now on the Internet, but there seems to be a dearth of Fauna Bombers on line. Contact Capt Dick on "captaindick@acmenet.com", and Mike Dallmer of P.A.W.S. on or at mdallmer@arserrc.gov and pretty soon there'll be a whole squadron of Bombers Terrorising the Net.

WE GUESS THEY FLASHED THE BITS.

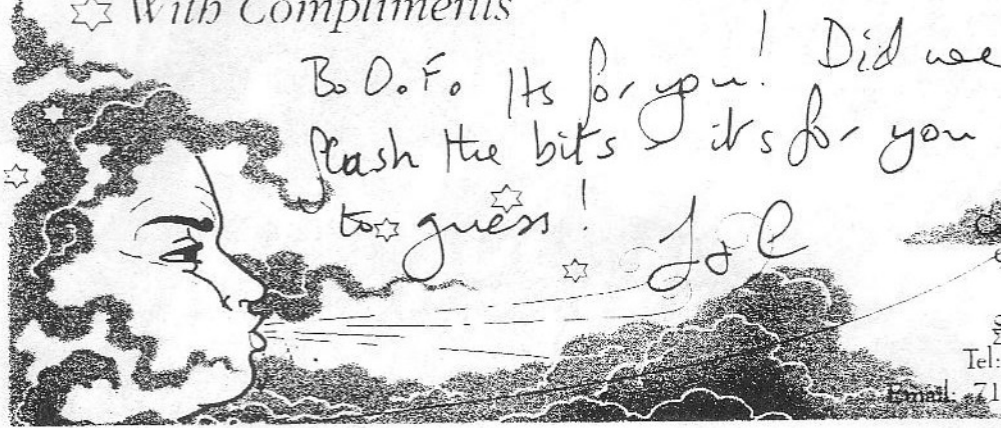
Dropniks Jerry and Carolyn Swift have been Bombing in exotic places. Using the Brick Wall Rok and the Tri pulley closed loop lift system manually hauled, they bombed for the three days of the Fuerteventura Kite Festival. They would have taken the electric motor, but where do you recharge the batteries and £60 excess baggage YOO WOT?

Much amusement all round for the locals on the fest site who may not have seen bombing before. The Union Flag was attached to one side of the rig so that as the Fauna went up, the Flag came down, and everyone knew what was about to happen. Applause for a successful drop.

A new use for Wel'ard the Brighton based Royal Marine Bear, who was jumping for Queen and Country. Came the time for the Festival Team Photo and Wel'ard came into his own.

What you may not know is that this Fest is held on a very large Clothing Optional (thats Naughty Naked Niuddy to you and me) beach. One of their German friends was called from a swim to get in the Photo and, guess what, he was being Optional. Wel'ard immediately sprang to the rescue, covering the Naughty bits, so that modesty could be preserved. Clearly a former Boy Scout, always prepared.

☆ With Compliments



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Giving up the City for a bear market



BILL ELDER/MAN ON SUNDAY

WHEN Ian Pout abandoned a successful City career and opened a teddy bear shop, his friends doubled up with laughter.

He says: 'The idea caused more than a little mirth among friends and relatives, who all thought I was mad.'

Now 49-year-old Pout runs a successful shop called Teddy Bears of Witney in the idyllic Oxfordshire market town.

He says: 'I had always wanted to be a bachelor in the City and a married man in the country. I thoroughly enjoyed being a Stock Exchange dealer — it was a gregarious and fun lifestyle. But in 1974, I decided before I had the responsibility of a family to set up an antique shop in the Cotswolds.'

Antiques had been a lifelong interest for London-born Pout, who already owned an extensive personal collection.

At first he worked with an antique dealer for two months to gain experience, and read countless books on the subject. He says: 'I soon realised that reading books was a waste of time. It is only when you start buying and selling,

using your own money, that you begin to learn.

'The main problem with antique dealing is that you can't delegate the buying. If you're ill or on holiday the business grinds to a halt. In the antiques trade it is vital to have fresh stock coming in all the time.'

Seeking a suitable alternative, Pout alighted on the idea of selling the universally loved teddy bear. He soon realised that there were few specialist shops in the UK selling bears, and he took advantage of a gap in the market.

Now Teddy Bears of Witney, housed in a 17th Century building, is renowned for its collection of

unique and famous bears. Pout made history in 1989 when he bought Alfonzo, a rare red Steiff bear once owned by a Russian princess, for £12,000. Aloysius, the long-suffering bear from the television drama Brideshead Revisited, is also part of his collection.

Pout says: 'Customers and collectors come from far and wide to see Alfonzo, and several foreign clients make their way straight to Witney as soon as they touch British soil.'

He is glad to have left the hectic City life. 'Working with teddy bears is almost a spiritual profession. They are so disarming and wholesome, and everyone leaves my shop smiling.'

Offering advice to others who have romanticised about a fresh start in the country, he adds: 'Follow your hunches and you'll do best at what you enjoy most.'

Gaynor Pengelly

GO ON, HAVE A GOOD WHINGE.....OR, SAD OLD GITS CORNER

We knew that some Kilters were boracic Lint, but we never realised, judging by a recent letter in the M.K.F. News, just how strapped some were, even to the extent of using Roman Candle as Bog Paper.

We quote "Finally, should you decide to carry on printing one or two pages of toilet paper, usually at the back of the journal, would you please ensure that they are unbleached, perforated for ease of removal and not covered in thinly veiled obscenities"

Oh dear, how sad, never mind. Though in the spirit of our current Nanny Society, we felt that we should issue a safety warning. You dont wanna do that. That could wipe the smile off your face and probably make you eyes water, and even lead to you needing some counselling and maybe some legal aid, to sue yourself for making your Backside Sore and your eyes red.

Mind you, if thats what some of these sad cases are up to in their small rooms having run out of torn up copies of the Grauniad. We can seeevast future employment opportunities for a whole Army of social workers, counsellors, outreach co-ordinators and their ilk, as the incidence of yet another trendy affliction, i.e. Red Eye Sore Ass rises.

YIPPEE, ROMAN CANDLE, SOCIAL ASSET.....

CAN WE GET R.C. PRINTED WITH A SHELL-GRIP ANTI-SKID COATING?

HMM, THAT'D WIPE THE SMILE FROM THEIR FACES.



GET THEE BEHIND ME TEDDY?.....YOU'RE A CATASTROPHIC MENACE.....

A Michigan Clergyman in the early 1900's was reported to have said that the Teddy Bear was a Catastrophic Menace that could destroy Motherly Instincts and so lead to Universal Human extinction. But then of course it was a well known fact that in those days the only career open to any Half Baked product of a good Family was the Church. Probably still applies if the truth be known.

MORE BANG PER BUCK ?Nope, more like, More Ugly, LOADSA Bucks.

Recently we were given a copy of the latest Teddy Bear Magazine, to come onto the market. The Teddy Bear Club International, phew wot a gobful, This Mag joins with Teddy Bear Scene and Teddy Bear Times in catering for the apparent current insatiable market for "COLLECTOR" Bears.

All three Mags are nicely produced with excellent Photography etc, but all three seem to be featuring Bears which we wouldnt give house room to, even if we could afford them. Are we alone in thinking, after looking at lots of these so called Bears that stick the word "COLLECTOR" on anything which to our mind resmbles an Anorexic half drowned Rat, and its licence to print money.

Dont get us wrong, it is of course a free country? and anyone is free to buy what they like, and one mans meat is another mans poison. but theres not many of these Bears that ring our Bell. Not too sure either if it would be a good idea to subject these up market fauna to the rough and tumble of the average mob of Parachuting fauna.

Hmm, Distressed Mohair at £25 ametre, really would be distressed after a session with the H.Q. Mob

Once again we've managed to huff and puff up four pages of mindless drivel so its the usual to the usual. The Teddytorial, c/o the B.O.F. 48 Laurel Lane, West Drayton. Middx, UB7. 7TY. (U.K.)

P.S. If any of you out their are on the Internet, and are finding not a lot Parachuting Fauna wise, send us your Callsign ?, Log on Logo? or whatever you like to call it (we dont know, we're computer illiterate) we'll publish it, and who knows, before long, maybe there'll much more, right up your street. Psst, make a change from trawling through loadsa dross about S* $\frac{1}{2}$ +?* $\frac{1}{2}$ + and their ilk.....