

ALL MY SONS

Arthur Miller won the New York Drama Critics Circle award in 1947 with his play "All My Sons", a tautly drawn indictment of a war profiteer in particular and of the social philosophy of self interest in general. More specifically, it is the drama of a factory owner, Joe Keller, who in his anxiety over the possibility of losing war contracts, sells defective engines to the government, thereby causing the deaths of a number of American airmen during the Second World War. Having shifted the blame onto his innocent partner, Keller tries to enjoy the fruits of his dishonesty. His guilt is uncovered and he tries to kill himself rather than have his own son deliver him up to the police. Joe Keller's motive had been his desire to pass a thriving business on to his sons. However, one son knowing of his father's guilt, commits suicide and the other son, Chris, turns against him. Keller learns at long last that family loyalty is not enough for a member of the human race. Although the play is somewhat contrived in the way the

story is worked out, it is strongly characterised and offers some splendid parts. Malcolm Willey gave a really excellent performance as the uncomprehending Joe Keller, a man who having had nothing himself, sees basically no wrong in what he had done. As Kate, his wife, who deep down knows the truth and hides her pain in a fantasy about her dead son, Sonia Woolf was very moving. Philip Grant made one almost like the unbelievably idealistic son, Chris, whose determination to marry his dead brother's fiancée finally brings the truth to light. For Lydia (Andrea Hilsum) reveals that he deliberately crashed his airplane. Lydia is also the daughter of Joe's former partner and she and her brother, George (David Kidd) have never visited him in prison so deep is their loathing of what he is supposed to have done. There were telling cameos from Peter Bracken and Liz Amiel as Dr Bayliss and his discontented wife and from David Rance and Debbie Lane as neighbours. The play was directed by Joyce Holt. L.S.

Allotment competition

"Our eyes were opened. We had not realised before how many delightful allotment sites there are tucked away on the Suburb" said Tony Mandelson, co-judge with Diana Mansell of the Best Kept Plot competition sponsored by the Resident's Association as a contribution to National Environment Week at the beginning of May.

Because of the long Winter and late Spring not much crop growth was showing so general tidiness and freedom from weeds had to be the main criteria.

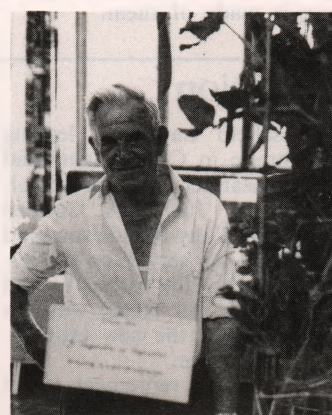
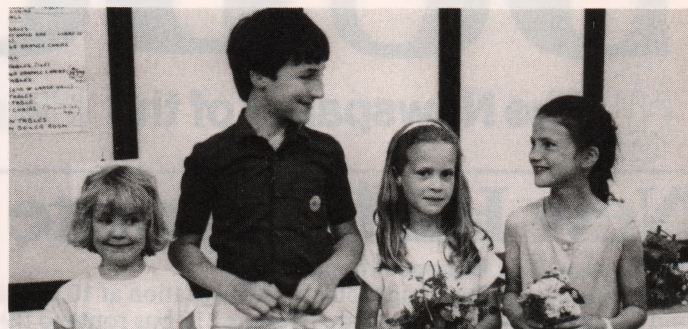
Setting out with the apparently simple aim of compiling a short list from which to pick a winner and runner-up, the judges found themselves confronted at the end of their tour by an unexpectedly long list of worth contenders. They debated whether to award commendations as well as the two prizes but came to the conclusion that they would then be faced with having to make invidious marginal comparisons. However, they were so impressed by one plot-holder's efforts at bringing into cultivation a plot that had been a wilderness of weeds only a year ago that they decided to award an extra prize for special merit.

Garden tokens valued at £10, £8 and £5 were presented to the prize winners by Tony Mandelson at a pleasant informal ceremony at the start of the Allotment Committee's meeting on 12th May. He said that he

and Mrs Mansell had had little difficulty in picking out the two best kept plots but placing these in order of merit had been a problem, so close to perfection had they both been. The first prize went by a short head to Mr R Holme for his plot on the Asmunds Place site and the second to Mr K King for his plot on the site bounded by Wordsworth Walk, Coleridge Walk and Hogarth Hill (known as the Big Site). The special merit prize went to Mr T T Broomhall whose plot is at The Orchard.

There is at present a short waiting list of applicants for plots on sites near their homes. At other sites under the control of the Allotments Committee a few plots are immediately available. The Hon. Secretary, David Meyler, 34 Wordsworth Walk (tel: 455 0691), has the details. There are also vacancies from time to time at the Council site next to the Brookland School, Hill Top, which is administered by Finchley Manor Allotment Society Ltd. Enquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, M Pope, 16 Brookland Rise, NW11 6DP. DM

FLOWER SHOW



The Horticultural Society's June show was a triumph for Suburb gardeners coming, as it did, after a cold wet Spring. The Free Church Hall was a mass of spectacular blooms and ever more spectacular vegetables.

Shown here are Jack Previtt, left, with his winning peas; Jimmy Dyson, above, was gathering more prizes and, top the children's classes were as popular as ever, here Jaqueline Murrell, Ben Bromilov, Lucy Handley and Anna Bromilov show off their winning entries.

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Britain's voice overseas

This was the title of the Eighteenth Dame Henrietta Barnett Memorial Lecture presented on Wednesday, 21 May 1986 in the Institute Hall by Mr Gerard Mansell, CBE lately Managing Director of External Services of the BBC. Dr Edward Hoblyn, MBE presided.

The lecture was packed with interesting information interspersed with humorous anecdotes which kept the audience very much alive throughout.

The BBC Overseas Service operates from Bush House at the bottom of Kingsway and staff are working there round the clock with the Newsroom producing 250 news broadcasts every 24 hours.

The service uses 37 languages including English and research studies have shown that regular listening to the Overseas Service as a whole is about 120 million worldwide of which 100 million listen to the foreign languages broadcasts and 25 million to the World Service in English. The BBC has the largest following of any international broadcaster.

The war had a marked effect on the Service which was broadcasting in 15 languages by the end of 1939 and had risen to 45 by the end of 1942. Ours was the largest broadcasting effort by any nation on either side.

Mr Mansell also produced some illuminating statistics which emphasised the revolution in listening created by the transistor. For example — at the end of the war there were only 150 million sets in North America and Western Europe and in 1955 the figure was still only 237 million. In 1983, however, the figure for the world had risen to 1,500 million — one for every three members of the human race although they were not evenly distributed. To take but three examples, in 1983 India had nearly 50 million sets, China 90 million and there were 39 million in Black Africa.

Mr Mansell summarised the important features of the British Overseas Service as:

1. Dissemination of, and giving worldwide currency to, a British version of events round the world. One that carries credibility and

inspires confidence. It is accurate, impartial and dispassionate.

2. In a troubled world it contributes, through comment and backgrounding in current affairs programmes, to a better understanding of the true significance of events as they unfold.
3. Dissemination of our own values — tolerance, freedom under the law, pluralism, government by the people and for the people, freedom of speech, and so on — values that are precious to us and that many envy us.
4. Projection of our own cultural, scientific, artistic and technical achievements — and incidentally a significant contribution to exports through the publicising of British goods and services.

The lecturer added that one American journalist once said of the External Services that they to the free mind what OXFAM is to the hungry.

The appreciation created by the lecture was well demonstrated by the many thoughtful questions which were addressed to the lecturer.

It was an occasion which would have given great pleasure to the Dame. E.H.

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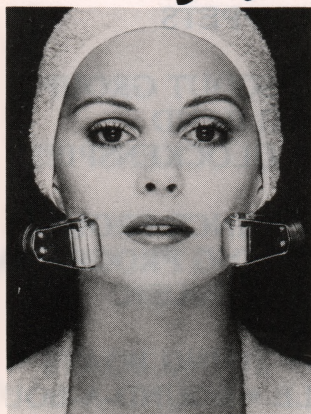
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