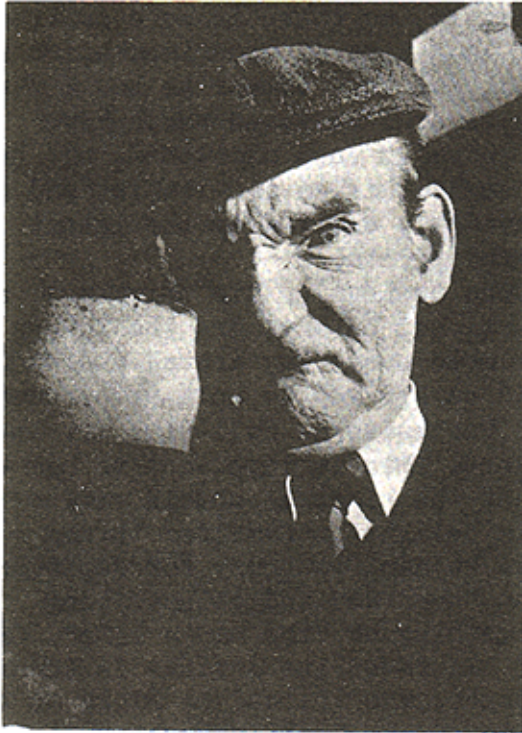


JAN. 1980

8.



Down the Pub

DES
O'BRIEN

It was my first interview with the new Editor, and the oak panelled door swung open revealing - smoke. Hmmm, so the Cap'ns handed over to Mephistopheles, not surprised - smoke clears, reveals figure putting out Havana modelled on stair rod. "You aint Victoria Plum" says figure. Explain name O'Brien, do pub column. "Yer" he says, looks very sad, studies paper in front of him, looks up - has grown six inches, not sad, peeved.

"You bin missing out on the column incher?" Shuffle feet, try to explain, no inspiration, no news worth writing, no talent. "Wot's inspiration and talent got to do with it? I never 'ad inspiration, talent, I got Editor aint I?" Ed subsides into morocco leather, strokes beard.

"You bin doin any secondary research lately? Bin seen with folder under yer arm at any disco's - ecology party meetin's? Ner, course you aint." Gulp, shuffle some more. Consider position, not good, probably only paid up conservative party member he's ever seen, only writing column in case S.W.P. catching on, if dictatorship of proletariat sooner be dictator than

prole.

Reverie interrupted by Ed smiling, step back struck by imminent vision of doom, he speaks. "Nar then son, can't 'ave yer out of the paper can we. Winston wouldn't like it." A stuffed gorilla in the corner started to move, I point at it. "Gerback Winston!" Shouts Ed, "Doncher know it's rude to point?" Wait till twitch in face subsides. "Nice lad" says Ed philosophically, "Got thrown out of the W.R.P. for bein' too rough, socially deprived incher Winston". A two inch gap of teeth appear between beard and nose, while the head nodded, "Gonner do it then?" I gulped, inclined my head and succumbed to the inevitable.

BEER OF THE MONTH

For a few brief weeks in the months of December and January, Adnams release on to the market their 'Special' for the season, 'Tally-Ho', a draught barley wine.

Tally-Ho is available 365 days a year in bottled form, but to get the real stuff landlords have to place their orders in September, which is why you don't see much of it about, even in Adnams tied houses. The other reason is the small quantities in which it is supplied (usually 4½ galls) and its considerable popularity. If you haven't tried it before, don't be offended if a landlord gives you a third of a pint when asked for a whole one, he's got your best interests at heart! The O.G. of this