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LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



MEMORY LANE

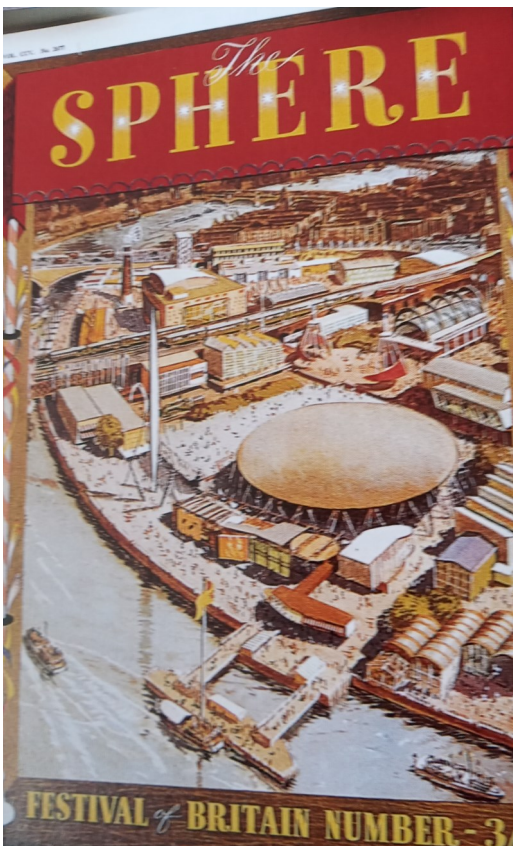
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THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN 3 MAY — 30 SEPTEMBER 1951

The Festival of Britain was a five month national exhibition and fair. Although centred on the South Bank in London it was a national event. 'Abram Games' distinctive logo adorned the promotional posters, leaflets, souvenir compacts, embossed soap and Nestlé chocolate bars. While the Dome of Discovery and the Skylon served as symbolic icons of the future. It was the Royal Festival Hall that became the permanent legacy and today the 2,700-seat concert hall is one of the world's leading performance venues. *See next page for photos.*



The Festival was a huge success, trips were organised and people flocked to the South Bank site to wander around the Dome of Discovery, gaze at the Skylon, and generally enjoy a festival of national celebration. Up and down the land, lesser festivals enlisted much civic and voluntary enthusiasm. A people curbed by years of total war and half-crushed by austerity and gloom, showed that it had not lost the capacity for enjoying itself... Above all, the Festival made a spectacular setting as a showpiece for the inventiveness and genius of British scientists and technologists. Some of our older readers may have been lucky enough to visit and perhaps still have souvenirs.



The above cost 3 shillings (15p). 3s would have gone a long way in 1951



The Skylon



ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL



William Howarth

William Howarth, known as Bill, was born in Moorside, Oldham, on 29th August 1921. His father, also named William, was a warehouse foreman in the cotton industry. His mother, Lily Howarth, {née Martin} was a cotton operative. Bill went to Higginshaw School and upon leaving, worked as a grocer's manager.



He joined the RAF in 1941 and was eventually selected for Air Gunner training, which he completed in August 1942.



He crewed up with Les Munro, Jock Rumbles, Percy Pigeon and Frank Appleby at the end of September 1942, during heavy bomber training. These five would serve together, uninterrupted, for another 20 months.

Like his colleagues, Bill had completed some 20 operations by the time he and Les Munro volunteered for transfer to the new 617 Squadron, which was based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire. It was formed for the specific task of attacking 3 major dams in the Ruhr industrial region of Germany. Codenamed “Operation Chastise”, the raid was carried out on 17th May 1943. The squadron flew in Lancaster Bombers and used the famous Barnes Wallace “Bouncing Bomb”. In order to develop the necessary tactics to deploy the bomb, part of the men’s training took place in the Upper Derwent Valley in Derbyshire.

A Lancaster Bomber



Practice reservoir for the Dambusters: Derwent Valley, Derbyshire



Air Gunner Bill Howarth



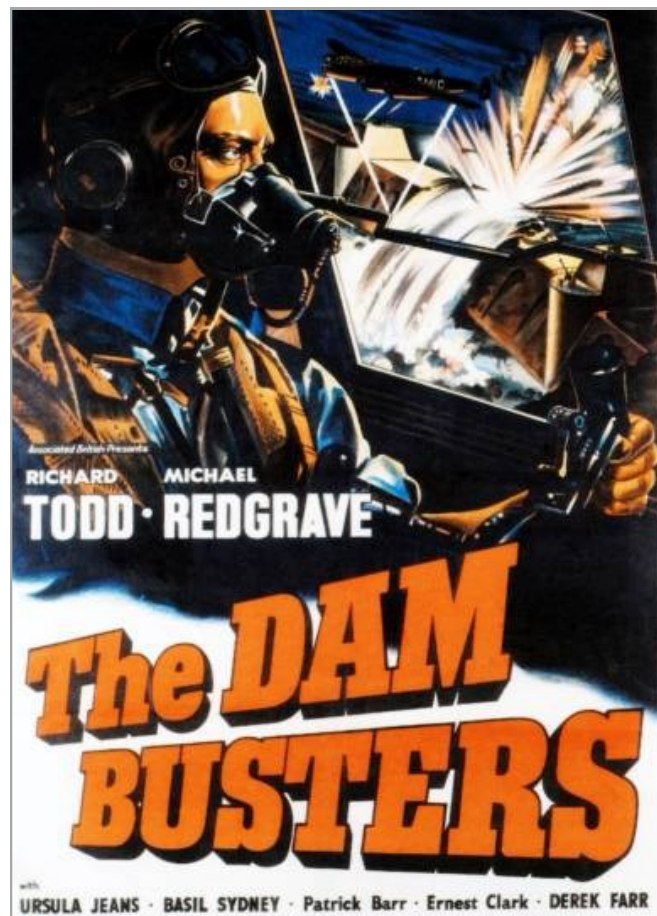
On the night of the raid, the enemy suffered a crippling blow. Two dams were breached and the third one was cracked.

Eight planes were lost, 56 men killed and 3 taken prisoner.

People of Oldham by Rosemary Bailey

Bill was one of the survivors. He flew in the second raid and was positioned in the front gun turret. The plane was badly damaged by flak over the Dutch coast, and limped back home with electrical failure, its mission aborted.

The story of the daring wartime raid was made into a highly successful film, released in 1955 and called “The Dambusters”. It starred Richard Todd and Michael Redgrave.



Bill went on to complete more than 50 operations with Les Munro by the time the crew were taken off operational duties in July 1944.

He was commissioned in June 1944 and spent the remainder of the war in various training roles, rising to the rank of Flight Lieutenant, and acting as Gunnery Leader in several training establishments.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal for his wartime service.

Bill Howarth



The DFM



Bill left the RAF in June 1946 and returned to his former job in the grocery trade for a short time, before joining Prudential Assurance Company where he worked until his retirement.

He married Doris Hall, a munitions worker, on 3rd July 1943 and they had 3 sons, one of whom died in infancy.

During both his working life and his retirement, he was actively involved in fundraising for the Leonard Cheshire homes.

He died in 1990, aged 68 years at his home in Scouthead.

A View of Scouthead



WHIT WALKS

Freda Millett wrote: I remember Whit Walks St Mary's Roman Catholic School was on Cardinal Street and we used to come down from St Stephen's, they would bring their banner across Horsedge Street to stop us getting down — course we had to stop and the Vicar for St. Stephens was up to fighting with the Priest. This seems hard to believe but I remember my late mother telling me this story and also added that they had allotted times when they walked and would be arguing over a couple of minutes. It would probably have been in the 1920's. Thank goodness times have changed. *(Joan, Editor).*

St Mary's Roman Catholic School



Polish community (1960) Town Centre



Wesleyan Chapel, Derker, Oldham



Holy Trinity, Shaw, early 20th Century, walking on the cobbles carefully avoiding the tram lines.



Kiln Green, Diggle 1924



Right -1950's Union St Methodist Church and Temperance Billiards Hall in Background



SOPHIE

Sue's poem this month has been specially written for our colleague and friend Sophie who is moving on to pastures new. Sophie worked as a Life Story Co-ordinator and was only just out of her teens when she first joined Age UK Oldham and the Life Story project and met the volunteers she would be working with. We are all old enough to be her gran or dare I say it great-gran but it didn't faze Sophie, she fitted in straight away with her computer knowledge and willingness to help.

GOODBYE SOPHIE

*We wish you well in all you do
We hope that life is kind to you
When we first met you were so shy
But your confidence grew as time went by
You quickly seemed to understand
That we often needed a helping hand
And so as you go on your way
There's nothing more for us to say
Except thank you Sophie for being our friend
We're really sad it's come to the end
And even though you're moving on
We won't forget you when you've gone
Don't look back but remember us please
Good luck from all us O.A.P.'s*

Goodbye!

OLDHAM & FAILSWORTH CARNIVALS THROUGH THE YEARS

The orchestra
Oldham Carnival 1910



Eric Sykes & Hattie Jacques



Valerie Monk 1959
Oldham Carnival Queen

1950's



Below: 2017
Failsworth



1924

CIVIL DEFENCE

The Civil Defence Corps was disbanded after the end of the World War Two and then revived in 1949 as a civilian volunteer organisation. Their purpose was to safeguard the civilian population in the event of a national emergency. As volunteers they gave up their free time to undergo training that would keep casualties down to a minimum in the event of a real disaster. This became increasingly relevant as a nuclear attack became a threat, as the cold war raged between east and west after the end of WWII. The ladies in the pictures, shown below, were members of the County Borough of Oldham Mobile Catering Unit, supplying hot food and drinks to mock casualties of the Civil Defence Corps, in the early 1960's. In the field, the women had to be creative and a kiln had been constructed from bricks and mortar and a couple of empty dustbins.

Note from Joan, Editor:

In 1960 I was a Girl Guide and our troupe took part in this exercise. I think it was at some kind of scrap yard on Rochdale Road, not far from Oldham Hospital. We were acting as casualties and were each given a card with our mock injuries on. We were all spread about the yard and had to sit quiet and wait until a Civil Defence volunteer found us and attended to our mock injuries. I remember one of my injuries was a broken jaw which meant I had to lie face down on the stretcher in the Civil Defence Ambulance that took us to their head quarters for a drink and sandwich.

The Oldham Chronicle came and we were told to look sad as we were now supposed to be homeless children.

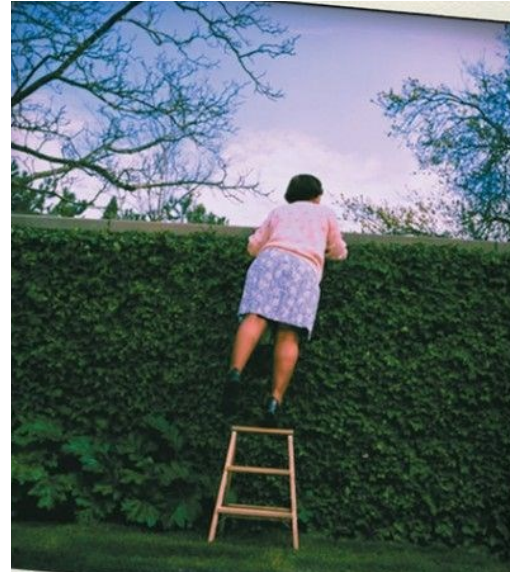
The photo appeared in the Oldham Chronicle, everyone looked sad except me, I had a big grin on my face, my friend Marie, wasn't impressed. I must admit I did spoil the ambience we were trying to convey. Now many years later it's a shared memory for me and Marie, happy days as Girl Guides.

Does anyone else remember taking part in this exercise? If you do and would like your story published just contact Age UK Oldham. Perhaps you have photographs you would like to share.



SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE

NOSY NEIGHBOURS



Jean's recipes from around the world:



HOLLAND



DUTCH BEETROOT

Serves 2

Ingredients:

2 large cooked beetroots.

2½ oz butter.

1 shredded onion.

4 sour apples.

Salt and pepper.

Nutmeg.

Method:

Peel and slice the beetroots and put them in a saucepan with the butter, onion, finely sliced apples and seasoning.

Simmer slowly until reduced to a pulp.

Serve hot as a vegetable.



Jean's recipes from around the world continued...

HUNGARY

PAPRIKA PORK

SERVES 4

Ingredients:

1½ lbs lean pork diced

8ozs onions

2tbsp cooking oil

1/4 pt chicken stock

1/2 tsp caraway seeds (optional)

1/4 tsp garlic granules

3tsp dill weed

2tbs Hungarian Paprika

1/2 tsp salt

1lb sauerkraut

1/2 pt soured cream



Method:

Using a large saucepan:

Fry the pork and onions in the oil until meat is browned.

Stir in stock, caraway seeds if using, garlic, 2tsp of the dill weed, paprika and salt.

Bring to the boil, cover and simmer gently for approximately 45 mins or until the meat is tender.

When the meat is cooked, stir in the sauerkraut and the cream **EXCEPT 2 tbs.**

Stir well and simmer for 5 mins.

Mix the remaining dill weed into reserved cream.

Transfer meat mixture into a serving dish and garnish with swirls of prepared cream.

Serve with boiled potatoes and crispy bread.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

SATURDAY PICTURES

Saturday morning pictures were film shows put on in British cinemas between the 1920s and 1970s for children. They were shown on Saturday mornings and only cost a few pence. At their peak, nearly 2,000 British cinemas put on a Saturday children's matinee show, but by 1978 this had dropped to 300.



The films were usually short, typically including comedies by Laurel and Hardy or the Three Stooges, and Westerns featuring immaculately clean and well-dressed cowboys such as Roy Rogers, Tom Mix or Hopalong Cassidy.

The films would vary according to the decade, you were a 'minor' but the excitement and coming out of the cinema pretending to be the person you had just watched on the big screen would be the same.

A version of the ABC 'minors' song:

We are the boys and girls well known as

Minors of the ABC

And every Saturday we line up

To see the films we like

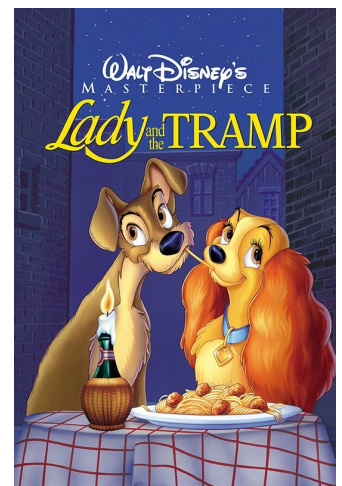
And shout aloud with glee

We love to laugh and have a sing-song

Just a happy crowd are we

We're all pals together

We're minors of the ABC.



PEOPLE AT WORK

This month's story is a little different it's about a Mariner that lived a very eventful life and survived the sinking of the 'Titanic'. The story, however, is based on his life mainly before and after this event.



People at Work

Did anyone famous visit your place of work? Did you play a part in the visit?

Did you go to any interesting places relating to your job?

Did you work at a famous place>

Do you remember any funny stories you can remember from your working life?

If you have a short story that you would like to share with us

CONTACT: 0161 633 0213

CHARLES LIGHTOLLER TITANIC SURVIVOR



Charles Herbert Lightoller DSC & Bar, RD, RNR

Born: 30 March 1874 Lancashire

Died: 8 December 1952 Richmond

Spouse: Sylvia Hawley-Wilson
(m. 1903–1952)

Children: The couple had five children
Frederic Roger, Richard Trevor, Sylvia Mavis,
Claire Doreen and Herbert Brian.

EARLY MARITIME CAREER

Charles Herbert Lightoller was born in Chorley, Lancashire, into a family that had operated cotton-spinning mills in Lancashire since the late 18th century. His mother, Sarah Jane Lightoller (née Widdows), died of scarlet fever shortly after giving birth to him. His father, Frederick James Lightoller, emigrated to New Zealand when Charles was 10, leaving him in the care of extended family.

At age 13, not wanting to end up with a factory job, Charles began a four-year apprenticeship on board a small sailing ship the *Primrose Hill*. On his second voyage, he set sail with the crew of the *Holt Hill*, and during a storm in the South Atlantic, the ship was forced to put in at Rio de Janeiro. Repairs were made in the midst of a smallpox epidemic and a revolution. Another storm, on 13 November 1889 in the Indian Ocean, caused the ship to run aground on an uninhabited four-and-a-half-square-mile island now called Île Saint-Paul. They were rescued by the *Coorong* and taken to Adelaide, Australia. Lightoller joined the crew of the clipper ship *Duke of Abercorn* for his return to England.

Lightoller returned to the *Primrose Hill* for his third voyage. They arrived in Calcutta, India, where he passed his second mate's certificate. The cargo of coal caught fire whilst he was serving as third mate on board the windjammer *Knight of St. Michael*, and for his successful efforts in fighting the fire and saving the ship, Lightoller was promoted to second mate.

In 1895, at age 21 and a veteran of the dangers at sea, he obtained his mate's ticket and left sailing ships for steamships. After three years of service in Elder Dempster's African Royal Mail Service on the West African coast, he nearly died from a heavy bout of malaria.

Continued...

Cont..

Lightoller went to the Yukon in 1898 to prospect for gold in the Klondike Gold Rush. Failing at this, he then became a cowboy in Alberta, Canada. In order to return home, he became a hobo (*travelling worker*), riding the rails back across Canada. He earned his passage back to England by working as a cattle wrangler on a cattle boat and arrived home penniless in 1899.

While on the *Medic*, on a voyage from Britain to South Africa and Australia, Lightoller was reprimanded for a prank he and some shipmates played on the citizens of Sydney at Fort Denison in Sydney Harbour. In 1903 he found himself in Sydney again, having been transferred to the SS *Suevic* - possibly as punishment for another indiscretion. During the voyage, he met Sylvia Hawley Wilson, a St Jaret (*Roman Catholic Parish*) returning Australian whom he married in Sydney and took back to England on the return passage.

He later joined the SS *Majestic* under the command of Captain Edward J. Smith in the Atlantic. From there, he was promoted to third officer on the RMS *Oceanic*, the flagship of the White Star Line. He returned to the *Majestic* as first mate and then transferred back to the *Oceanic* in the same position.

In 1912 and with a lifetime of experiences he joined the RMS *Titanic* as the Second Officer and the most senior member of the crew to survive the *Titanic* disaster. As the officer in charge of loading passengers into lifeboats on the port side, Lightoller strictly enforced the women and children only protocol, not allowing any male passengers to board the lifeboats unless they were needed as auxiliary seamen.

Lightoller served as a commanding officer in the Royal Navy during World War I and was twice decorated for gallantry. During World War II, in retirement, he voluntarily provided his personal yacht and sailed her as one of the "little ships" that played a part in the Dunkirk evacuation saving many lives.

Following Dunkirk, Commander Lightoller joined the Home Guard, but the Royal Navy engaged him to work with the Small Vessel Pool until the end of World War II. The Lightollers' youngest son, Brian, was in the RAF as a pilot. On the first night of World War II, he was killed in a bombing raid on Wilhelmshaven. Their eldest son, Roger, went on to join the Royal Navy where he commanded Motor Gun Boats. During the final months of the war, he was killed during a German Commando raid on Granville on the North French Coast.

Lightoller was 'demobbed' in 1946 at age 72. He went on to run a boatyard called Richmond Slipways, building motor launches for the London River Police.

In 1934, apparently at the urging of his wife Sylvia, Herbert Lightoller wrote and in 1935 published his memoirs, a book he entitled "*Titanic and Other Ships*".

It's been described as '*in many ways a poetic, dramatic and anecdotal book. But for the historian it is rather self-absorbed, lacking in specifics and with questionable accuracy.*' (As we know age and time can fade the memory).

THE MOST POPULAR NAMES OF THE 1960's & 1970's

1960's BOYS

1960's GIRLS

1970's BOYS

1970s GIRLS

Terence	Suzanne	Brian	Wendy
Adam	Carole	Julian	Vanessa
Vincent	Clare	Gavin	Heather
Geoffrey	Yvonne	Phillip	Christine
George	Lisa	Marc	Laura
Clive	Jill	Nathan	Tina
Duncan	Debbie	Robin	Kath
Howard	Michele	Brett	Denise
Dennis	Frances	Roger	Debbie
Allan	Shirley	Malcolm	Patricia
Gregory	Sara	Iain	Elaine
Francis	Kay	Samuel	Alexandra
Terry	Amanda	Abdul	Heidi
Gary	Elizabeth	Daniel	Rebecca
Philip	Janet	Jonathan	Susan
Timothy	Julie	Stuart	Deborah
Paul	Tracey	Mark	Claire
Michael	Sharron	Christopher	Joanne
Richard	Ann	Matthew	Karen
Shaun	Fiona	Thomas	Anne
Dean	Mandy	Colin	Maria
Joseph	Mary	Barry	Natalie
Carl	Maria	Dean	Suzanne
Adrian	Anne	Gary	Zoe
Thomas	Melanie	Benjamin	Jennifer
Malcolm	Barbara	Shane	Gillian
Robin	Janice	Dominic	Ann
Mohammed	Ruth	Tony	Sandra
Julian	Claire	Jeremy	Kirsty
Russell	Heather	Nigel	Natasha
Phillip	Katherine	Joseph	Rachel
Leslie	Lynda	Trevor	Linda

ANIMAL CORNER

THE NATIONAL ANIMAL OF ENGLAND



TOWER OF LONDON

The lost Tower

In the 1300s, visitors to the Tower would have first crossed a drawbridge to the Lion Tower (demolished in the 1800s) named after the beasts kept there.

The Tower was once the home to a collection of weird and wonderful beasts. In 1826 the Constable of the Tower, the Duke of Wellington, dispatched 150 of the beasts to a new home in Regent's Park. The Menagerie closed for good in 1835, with many remaining animals sold to other zoos or travelling circuses.

The national animal of England is the lion, which is interesting because you can't actually find lions in the wild in England. The only way you'll see a lion in England is to visit one of England's top zoos.

The lion is England's national animal because of its strength, courage, dignity and pride – all qualities us English people like to think personify us. Back in the Middle Ages lions were kept in the Tower of London although that all stopped when we realised animals have rights too.

If you look back in history, Richard the Lionheart is our most famous lion lover – and was once the King of England. Apparently, he loved a castle!

Signed by one Herbert de Grassen, evidently a "senior warden", sealed with an imposing blob of crimson wax, and with the stern warning "It is requested that no Gratuities will be given to the Wardens on any account", **it summoned recipients to witness "the Annual Ceremony of Washing The Lions" at the Tower of London.**



SPORTING GREATS

'BABE' RUTH



George Herman "Babe" Ruth Jr. was an American professional baseball player whose career in Major League Baseball spanned 22 seasons, from 1914 through to 1935.

Born: 6 February 1895, Pigtown, Baltimore, Maryland, United States.

Died: 16 August 1948, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, United States.

Babe Ruth has been called by many nicknames. Some of the most common are: **"The Great Bambino"**, **"The Sultan of Swat"**, **"The Colossus of Clout"**, **"The Titan of Terror"**, and **"The King Of Crash"**.

At age seven, Ruth was sent to St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys, a reformatory where he was mentored by Brother Matthias Boutlier of the Xaverian Brothers, the school's disciplinarian and a capable baseball player. In 1914, Ruth was signed to play minor-league baseball for the Baltimore Orioles but was soon sold to the Red Sox. By 1916, he had built a reputation as an outstanding pitcher who sometimes hit long home runs, a feat unusual for any player in the pre-1920 dead-ball era. Although Ruth twice won 23 games in a season as a pitcher and was a member of three World Series championship teams with the Red Sox, he wanted to play every day and was allowed to convert to an outfielder. With regular playing time, he broke the MLB single-season home run record in 1919.

Over the course of his career, Babe Ruth went on to break baseball's most important slugging records, including most years leading a league in home runs, most total bases in a season, and highest slugging percentage for a season. In all, Ruth hit 714 home runs - a mark that stood until 1974.

Ruth has been described as one of the first celebrity athletes and although married for most of his baseball career he was asked to tone down his lifestyle and due to his performance during the 1922 season being disappointing attributed in part to his drinking and late night hours he was asked to sign a Contract Addendum with a Moral Code.

As a young left-handed pitcher with the Red Sox, he was one of the game's heroes. But later as a power-hitting outfielder for the Yankees, Ruth became an icon – transcending sport. Ruth became the first star of a world where virtually every citizen could share in common media experiences.

continued...

Ruth Knocks Ball Over Seven Falls

List this one along with catching a ball dropped off the Washington monument and tossing one across the Potomac river: Babe Ruth, on his third try, knocked a baseball over the top of the uppermost of the Seven falls.

Melvin Weimer, general manager of the Seven Falls company, reports that it is 266 feet from the base of the bottom cascade to the point where the stream makes its first fall. The jutting ledge of rock prevents a straight shot at the top of the stairway paralleling the falls, so Weimer took the Babe to a shoulder of rock above the falls pavillon.

There the Babe laced into a few, fungo fashion, with the third neatly clearing the falls to the accompaniment of cheers from guests at a Ruth-honoring picnic.

The Ruths were to leave today for Salt Lake City, where Babe is to give an exhibition on Tuesday with one in Ogden the following day. During a five-day stay at the Broadmoor hotel, Ruth gave a July 4 exhibition at Sportsmans park and a Sunday demonstration in Pueblo.

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Life Story

Every life has a story...

