

Parminder unearths ethnic crafts



PARMINDER—more to Asian culture than curries and saris. — "Echo" photo.

"Echo" Staff Reporter
IF YOU are, or know, a member of a minority group practising any form of ethnic art or craft, Parminder Vir would very much like to hear from you.

Indian-born Parminder has been commissioned by the Southern Arts Association to carry out a survey of such work and recommend ways in which it can be encouraged and appreciated.

The study is based on the belief that a rich variety of such activities, important both to the minorities themselves and the community at large, is being overlooked to the point of decline.

As 22-year-old Parminder puts it, there is "so much more to Asian culture than curries and saris, or to West Indian culture than reggae" which ought to be more widely practised and appreciated.

Now she aims to draw up a register of groups and individuals in the region who are active in such fields as wood-carving, embroidery, painting, music and dance.

Parminder came to England from the Punjab in 1965 and now lives with her family in Shirley, Southampton, after gaining a B.Ed. degree in Physical Education at Dartford College of Education.

INTERESTS

Combining two of her interests (she has also made a study of classical Indian dance), she says: "I would like to see classical Asian and West Indian dance in schools PT — they would be culturally and physically rewarding."

Her project arose from a meeting with Naseem Khan, who runs the Minority Arts Advisory Service in London and is author of a book called 'The Arts Britain Ignores.'

METERS ROB MOTORISTS SAYS SURVEY

Despite vast revenue — £56 million since 1958 — rate-payers have to make up a large deficit.

An RAC spokesman said: "The motorist is being robbed, the rate-payer is being robbed — and in cases where the motorist lives and parks in the same area, he is being hit in the pocket twice — through the meters and the rates."

Now the RAC is calling on local authorities to review their parking schemes as a matter of urgency.

In London, 15 boroughs subsidise meters from the rates, according to an RAC survey published today.

Only Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, and the City make enough money from meters to provide any substantial amount of off-street parking.

In the ten years (1967-1977) Southampton has had its 1,404 parking meters, they have collected £841,100. The operating costs amount to £805,200, leaving a surplus of £35,900.

"It has been amply demonstrated by forward-looking local authorities such as Cheltenham, Oxford, Carlisle, Birkenhead, Ripon, Harrogate and Guildford, that parking can be controlled perfectly well by means of disc and other schemes which neither 'soak' the motorist nor involve the ratepayers in added burdens," said the spokesman.

"Moreover such schemes provide more parking space than the restrictive meter bays."

Since the last RAC survey was undertaken, Luton has decided to scrap its parking meter scheme, while Westminster is proposing to lift meter restrictions in some areas on Saturday mornings to aid shoppers and shopkeepers.

Massive change

"Echo" Staff Reporter
"ECHO" editor Mr. Roy Wardale said today that it was not correct that strike action had resulted recently in delays in newspapers and readers receiving the paper.

"Quite the contrary," he said. "We are running in a new press and switching our production methods to the high technology of photo-composition."

"It is a massive upheaval in the life of any daily newspaper. Some, when they make it, are unable to publish at all for several days."

"We have been doing well and this is due to the co-operation and extra hard work of staff throughout the building."

"In the long run it will produce a bigger and better paper. At the moment it isn't. But we are moving the right way. Every day brings improvements as we learn the tricks of a complicated new trade and iron out problems with the new equipment."

Naseem suggested she back a sixth form Arts to survey.

SAA duly offered £1,200 for the study and Parminder, meantime doing a holiday job at the Applemore Sports Centre, Hythe, has already begun work in Southampton.

Anyone who can help with her researches is invited to write to her c/o Southern Arts Association, 19 Southgate Street, Winchester.

Caldwell's world



"THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW NEAR MISSES, BUT YOU'RE THE FIRST TO HOLE IN ONE"

CAT COMFORT CUT

INFLATION has caught up with top cat Blackie, who inherited a £20,000 estate three years ago.

He has been living in his own three-bedroom detached home with a housekeeper to serve his needs since his owner, Mrs. Ivy Blackhurst, died at the age of 80.

In her will she stipulated that Blackie, her constant companion, should stay on at her home in Bocking Lane, Beauchief, Sheffield, with the bills paid by the interest on her estate.

But the National Westminster Bank, trustees of the estate, have reluctantly decided

Blackie should have a smaller home.

A London -pokesman for the bank said: "Taking into account inflation over the past three years it is not possible to continue this arrangement."

The £17,000 house is up for sale and the proceeds will look after Blackie until the end

of the Blackie days when the capital will run out.

Meanwhile Blackie has moved in with kennel owner Mr. Willis Channan at High Bradfield, near Sheffield. He is still cutting six meals a day of his favourite foods—fresh liver, cod, salmon, and rabbit.

'ECHO' COMMENT

Boom & gloom

BEEN feeling slightly less pinched around the pocket lately? Don't smile — here come the experts again to tell us it's only a brief gleam heralding more gloom . . .

Exports, it seems, have been growing slowly while imports have grown rapidly (the July trade gap was up to £150 million). One reason for this is seen in the current "consumer boom" — financed, it is claimed, by rebates due to the tax cuts and earnings that have increased far more sharply than the ten per cent Phase Three guideline. A further result of the latter is that British industry becomes less competitive.

The latest report by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research indicates renewed stagnation in 1979, with an 11.2 per cent rise in prices and unemployment up to 1.5 million by the end of the year.

In a nutshell, it seems we are still living well beyond our means; and trying to enjoy it while we can.

Law deal

MANY a citizen has his own minor horror story of dealings with solicitors, although usually the response to the episode involves no more than exasperated re-tellings of the tale.

Evidence given to the Royal Commission on Legal Services last week, however, revealed that the Law Society receives some 5,000 complaints a year about solicitors — or one for every 6½ in the land.

More revealing still was that the Society maintains no separate statistics on the nature of the complaints and takes the view that isolated allegations of negligence are not a matter for the Society but for the aggrieved client to remedy . . . through the courts.

Only if a solicitor is accused of negligence "four or five times in six months" does the Society consider bringing him before its disciplinary tribunal. Even the secretary of the Society's own professional purposes committee felt obliged to agree with a Commission member that "that's an awful lot." A suitable case, we would say, for treatment.

Wrong decision was fatal

"ECHO" STAFF REPORTER

A LORRY DRIVER'S decision to take a 57 feet load from Southampton to Winchester on a 40 feet trailer cost him his life, an inquest heard yesterday.

Mr. Alfred Digby Jay (45) of Sussex Street, Winchester, died when his lorry jackknifed and overturned on the Chandler's Ford bypass in May, spilling his 18-ton load of steel girders.

Pc Richard West told the inquest the 12 girders, each 57 feet long, were unsuitable for the 40 feet trailer. The length of the girders meant that 42 per cent of the weight was behind the back wheels, causing see-sawing and danger to other motorists.

The lorry, belonging to National Carriers, was on hire to British Rail. Mr. Jay, and his co-driver, Mr. Anthony Varnham, were to deliver the girders from British Rail's Southampton yard to the Winnall trading estate, Winchester.

Mr. Varnham, of Southampton Road, Fareham, told Coroner, Mr. R. S. L. Bowker: "We were doing about 35 mph downhill when the lorry started to sway badly. I thought

we were going to jackknife."

"I hung on to the seat, then felt the cab swerve. The wheels screeched and I felt the cab rise into the air. It turned over. I'm sure I lost consciousness."

In recording a verdict of misadventure, the coroner said: "The overhang was known to Jay, but he raised no objection. He thought he could go it safely. I find that he died when the lorry went out of control due to the overhanging load and overturned."

PLASTIC ON FIRE

FIREMEN were called to Unimarine, Quayside Road, Southampton, after plastic sheeting in a yard caught fire. The blaze was caused by a spark from nearby burning rubbish. There was little damage and the fire was quickly put out.



With a driving test looming up at the end of the month, pretty typist Sue Lemon (20) needs a chance to relax. What better place than the calm of a cornfield near her home in Wicklow Close, Basingstoke? — Photo: David Bearne.