

'ANNIE' opened this week

Annie Jaeger's story

Millions of women in the world today are like Annie Jaeger. Go into the homes, supermarkets, churches, bingo halls, parks and seaside resorts of Britain and they are there. Yet Annie Jaeger, ordinary housewife, has been the inspiration for a West End musical *Annie* which opened this week at the Westminster Theatre, London.

Here is the story of this ordinary but remarkable woman written by her son, William Jaeger, an authority on the labour and trades union movements of the world.

MY MOTHER, Annie Jaeger came from a working class background in Stockport, where she was born in 1875. My father was a cabinet maker, and mother had a small hat shop and used to clean and dye all kinds of ladies hats, especially when big hats were very popular.

The shop was in Higher Hillgate, a typical workers' area. There was a cotton mill just behind the back-yard of the house, a brewery next door and there were pubs at every street corner—'The Old Ram's Head', 'The Shakespeare', 'The Star', 'The Wheat-sheaf' and 'The Flying Dutchman'. Over the road was a baker's, which made pies. The baker used to go to the pub four times a day for his beer. He would stop and talk to Annie or my father on the doorstep of their shop. He would put the jug down as he talked, the froth would go on the pavement, he would bend down, put the froth back in the jug and go home. This happened for many years.

My father's family were German. Many clashes took place during the First World War between my mother and her family. They were against Annie's husband having a German background, and my father in turn became bitter against Annie's family.

My mother, my father and I lived



ANNIE GOES 'ON THE KNOCKER'

Annie (Margaret Burton) encounters Liza Parks (Joyce Carpenter), wife of a leader of the unemployed in the East End of the 'thirties. This new British musical, 'Annie', opened in London's Westminster Theatre on July 27.

photos Morley

through the difficult period of the unemployment, hunger and poverty of the 1930's and like so many more we often lived on a shilling a day each for food. Mother had a heart of gold but did not know what to do, especially when father died and she found herself alone with me away at college. She was always eager to find some answer for her life and her nation, but never knew how to do so until I introduced her to MRA.

Annie and I felt very deeply the need to do something for the workers of Britain. The economic and social needs were obvious. But it was also becoming very clear in Britain that just to replace one class by the other was not enough. The motives of men had to be changed so they lived out what they talked about. Too many of our friends, when they went into political life and gained power, seemed to forget the people who put them



Annie sings 'Right for you' as customers try on various hats. From the left: Linda James, Paul Mead, Barry Monroe, Adrian Lawson, Margaret Burton, Philip Newman and Chris Channer.

there. It seemed true so often that when a homeless man got a house he forgot the man who was still homeless and when a man earned better money he seemed to forget the man who had no money.

So much of the history of our friends in the Labour Movement was that of sacrifice, struggle, success and then stagnation when apathy set in and the purpose of doing something for mankind was forgotten.

These were some of the issues that disturbed mother. She felt very deeply that it was no use having convictions unless you carried them out so that people around you became different.

At the age of 58 mother saw that if she really wanted to change her nation she would have to start with herself, which she did. She and I found a new relationship together. She straightened out the bitterness against her own mother and built a new friendship with her neighbours.

After she decided to change, the next day she was standing on the doorstep of her shop for fresh air. Over the road lived a woman who had seven children. She and her husband used to drink too much and fight a lot and then pawned the children's clothes in order to get more money to gamble.

This woman came over the street and said to Annie, 'What's happened to your face, it's different.' Annie said, 'Come in the shop and I'll tell you.' And told her about her decision to change. This woman then said, 'Do you think I could change?' They

talked things out and the woman got the one thought, 'Stop nagging your husband.' She went back to him and apologised. In two days all the seven children were yelling around the neighbourhood, 'What's happened to our parents, they don't fight any more and don't drink any more.'

This was Annie's first simple beginning in the application of Moral Re-Armament. She immediately felt every home was meant to become united and to be a uniting factor in the life of the nation. A sound home life, she believed, must become the foundation of the life of every leader in the country.

Then she sold her shop and all she had in the home for £40 and came to live with me in West Ham and East Ham in the East End of London where in 1938 Dr Buchman launched Moral Re-Armament on a world-wide basis.

My mother and I now took on as an aim seeing that the workers pioneered their next great step in bringing Moral Re-Armament to the world. Annie did this by visiting the homes of all kinds of people including the political, civic, trade union leaders in the area, and very quickly made friends with hundreds of people, many of whom invited her to stay in their homes. She often used to call on twelve homes a day. She had no car and did not always have the fare to come back from her visiting so she walked. She often used to take other wives with her and train them in how to do this kind of work.

Annie and I always made it clear that Moral Re-Armament was not political, but brought moral change and made men responsible for the whole of mankind. We felt that the anti-Communism of so much of the West and the anti-Americanism of so much of the East was wrong and would only lead to conflict. Moral Re-Armament was the next stage in history for both the Communist and non-Communist worlds, where both worlds learnt how to liquidate selfishness and hatred by giving man a big enough aim and helping him to live out what he talked about. God and a man's conscience could show him what to do.

Annie always remained the same—simple, straightforward, with the Northerner's directness and honesty. She had great insight into people and because they trusted her many asked her to help them in their homelife. This she did in many parts of Britain, in Holland, Sweden and America. She had the same aim for people from every class, race and nation.

She died of cancer in Philadelphia. When she died I heard from 500 families who wrote of what she had done to make their homes a united force. Annie believed the ordinary person was meant to be a remaker of the world, that the ordinary person would learn the art of changing people, and that war, unemployment, hunger and poverty would only be overcome as men became unselfish, and put right what was wrong in themselves and their nations. In this way she believed the workers could pioneer the next great stage in history for all mankind.



Joe Saunders (Gerard Hely), leader of the unemployed, talks to men in an East London pub and sings 'Come the day'.



BEYOND THE BARRIERS OF COLOUR

West Indians, Indians and Pakistanis were among thousands who came to the Westminster Theatre, London, to see *India Arise* and *It's Our Country, Jack!* this month. Following the Royal Garden Parties in Buckingham Palace, 170 Mayors and Council Chairmen and their wives streamed into the theatre. Each night, audiences heard West Indian Test cricketer Conrad Hunte, or Trinidadian nurse Carol Bartholomew, speak. Below is what Miss Bartholomew said:

I CAME TO BRITAIN three years ago. During my first two years I never felt that I belonged. I also felt very bitter towards the white people because of the colour question here.

Then a year ago I met Moral Re-Armament and saw men and women of all classes and colours living and working together in a relationship built on the basis of true respect, friendship and character and not on money, class or colour.

This made me decide to live beyond the barriers of colour, to start to care for Britain, to be responsible for her

and help to make her the great country she is meant to be.

I believe that the thousands of West Indians as well as the other minority groups in Britain are needed. They have a vital part to play in helping the British economy and in generating the

right spirit around them.

Together we can build a society that meets the needs in the world. A society that is an answer to the racial riots of America and the Red Guards of China and bring fresh hope to the world.

Said at Caux

Six hundred from 34 nations are meeting at a World Assembly for MRA in Caux, Switzerland. A main theme of the session is Europe's approach to the rest of the world. Below are three keynote statements:

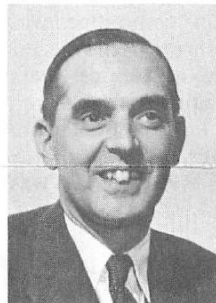
PURITY AND OVERPOPULATION

ONE OF THE MAIN DAILIES of the State of Kerala, South India, the *Malayala Manorama*, published an editorial (9 July) supporting recent statements made by Rajmohan Gandhi on purity and overpopulation. The editorial also said:

'Certain religious leaders and thinkers view with alarm the present day tendency to debase human existence by adopting programmes which do not give adequate place to moral and spiritual values. Intelligent men should not discard their warnings in the name of science and progress.

'Man may be tempted to use science for irresponsibility and immorality. But he should think of family planning in terms of giving the basic importance to self control, purity and moral values to the children. There are more dangerous problems that face man than overpopulation. Purity, Love, Toleration, Honesty, Unselfishness are the things that matter and which give meaning to life. The efforts to control population should not lead man to regard these values as unimportant.

'Those who reject the warnings and the stand of world leaders like the Pope and Vinobaji as unscientific and outmoded are forgetting certain fundamental truths of life.'



'WHEN we Europeans say we are going to help other continents in the development of their countries, what is our motive? Caux has shown me the way we as leaders in industry have to change in order to win back the confidence of the people who are working with us. What really is necessary is a change in our hearts so that we are as much or even more interested in the lives of the people we are working with than with the results of our companies.'

FRITS PHILIPS, *President of Philips' Electrical Industries.*



'TIME is not on our side in India, but the people are. I believe it is not in God's plan that Indian kills Indian and that economic and social injustices which create these situations remain unresolved year after year. It is not God's plan that the largest democracy in the world disintegrates. God has a mighty, rich and glorious plan for my country. The answer that radiates from Caux will be the one that will solve the situation.'

R M LALA, *Editor of 'Himmat', who was received by the President of India before flying to Caux.*



'OUR JOB is so to live and work that our 500 million people know that there is an answer for them. We want to demonstrate that a force of united men and women under God can do for Asia something far more interesting than what Mao Tse-tung is doing. I want all of you to be sure that we are going to be in time and that we operate with a depth and on a scale that is adequate for the issues we face. Everyone here could decide that the Moral Re-Armament of the entire world was going to be their responsibility from now until they die.'

RAJMOHAN GANDHI, *responsible for the work of MRA in India.*

Brazilian Education Ministry's support

THE BRAZILIAN Ministry of Education and Culture last month published a booklet entitled *Civic Education and National Aspirations*, saying that civic education was a matter of national survival.

In a chapter on worldwide thinking, it cited Moral Re-Armament as a source for such thinking. It said:

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT. With the objectives of the present chapter in view, we draw attention to the following principles of the Moral Re-Armament Movement, founded by Frank Buchman in 1939:

- 1 There are absolute standards for human society, just as for engineering. What sort of building would result if architect and builder did not employ recognized standards?
- 2 It is because we do not apply absolute standards to our living that society is in danger of collapse, and in every place—each country, each factory, each trade union, each university, each newspaper—materialist ideas reach out to grip men's minds.
- 3 The four absolute standards are as follows: absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and

absolute love. If they are not absolute, they are not standards.

- 4 In the age when we have learnt to split the atom, we must learn to unite humanity.
- 5 There are countless problems which need to be solved, problems of peace and war, capitalism and communism, feeding and population. The most important of all the problems, however, is the one that each one of us must face: How do I begin to make my own personal contribution in the task of remaking the world?

Action Committee in Panchgani

CITIZENS of the town of Panchgani, where the MRA centre is being built, discussed frankly at a meeting this month the radical changes needed in their town. They aimed to make it a pattern for the rest of India. The meeting was proposed by Hiralal Jedhiya, the town's head sweeper who had recently toured Europe with *India Arise*, and convened by the President of the Municipal Council, Dr Savant.

The President outlined the newly-elected council's proposals for im-

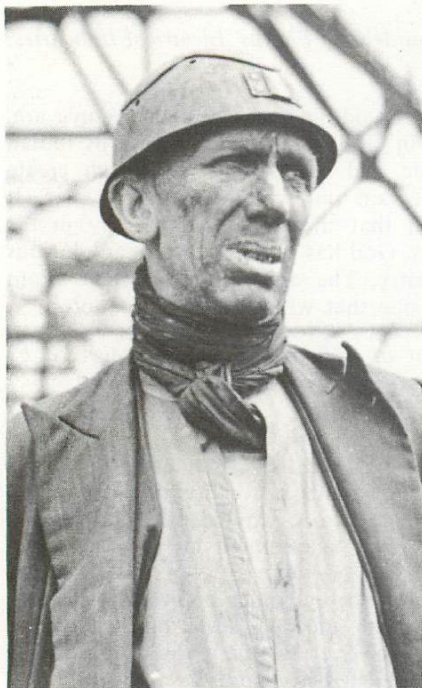
provements in the town. He expected the MRA centre to play an important part in the life of the town and said Rajmohan Gandhi was giving a valuable lead in the country. He welcomed further practical proposals.

A citizens' action committee was proposed to carry through the necessary changes in the next three years with Gandhi as chairman. However, as he would be so little in Panchgani Major David Young, in charge of the construction of the MRA centre, was

nominated. Representatives of the schoolteachers, doctors, hotelkeepers and the professions were asked to join the committee. Jedhiya was selected to represent the workers.

A Panchgani citizen said that in his thirty years in the town he believed it to be the first time such a diverse group had met.

Jedhiya, a leader of the Harijan caste in Panchgani (formerly known as the 'untouchables') described the event as 'God's doing'.



Brought new spirit to mines

AARON COLCLOUGH, for many years a miners' leader in the North Staffordshire coalfield, died at his home in Longton earlier this month. He was one of the men who, through applying Moral Re-Armament, brought a new spirit to his coalfield and later played a decisive part in bringing MRA to the Ruhr in Germany. Among other countries which Aaron Colclough visited was Sweden where he addressed a large meeting in Stockholm Town Hall attended by the then Crown Prince, now the King of Sweden.

In 1947 Aaron Colclough, Union Branch Secretary at the Glebe Colliery, was one of the thousands who packed the Queen's Hall, Burslem, to see *The Forgotten Factor*. This industrial drama by Alan Thornhill, author of *Annie*, had been officially invited to

the coalfield by the President and the Secretary of the NUM for the area. As a result of seeing the play Colclough, always a man of courage, put right the relationship with his under-manager, with whom he had been fighting for the past 15 years. The new spirit between these two men immediately made itself felt in the pit and showed in production figures.

It was at a time when the government was crying out for more coal and when the flag was flown at the pithead when the production target was reached. Aaron Colclough said later: 'Before Moral Re-Armament came to our pit we had never once hit our production target. In the weeks following the showing of *The Forgotten Factor* we beat the target so regularly that the Coal Board, in co-operation with the miners, raised the target.'