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From MRS. CLARICE HARDING (SIDMOUTH): The C.D. Annual as always is packed with excellent stories and articles, with generous illustrations. How I loved "Happy Hours with Mrs. Hippo". She is such a dear and so also is naughty Tiger Tim. I am still working my way through the happy reading, but have enjoyed Margery Woods, Dennis Bird and Bill Lofts especially, and *of course* Charles Hamilton's "Silverwings," and the introduction to this by Una Hamilton Wright.

From BETTY HOPTON (CARMARTHEN): Thank you for the superb Annual, which was one of the best ever. I sat down to read it on Christmas night, instead of being glued to the telly, but there was no contest really, the C.D. Annual won, hands down.

X **From MARK TAHA (LONDON):** I write this letter after - as usual - enjoying the Annual on Christmas Day. Roger Jenkins' article on the occasions when Quelch was at a disadvantage reminded me of reading Magnet 407 and not being very impressed with Wharton & Co: after laughing at Skinner's 'Jape of the Season' they ragged Skinner for perpetuating it. I must also say that the Greyfriars staff might be said to deserve our sympathies. It seems that Greyfriars was their home and they were rather at a loose end outside it. Is this generally the case with the staff of boarding-schools?

On another point, I enjoyed reading Una Hamilton Wright's article on the 'Birth of the Magnet', as her uncle's real life is always interesting. Perhaps she would be willing to clear up a few things I've been wondering about? For instance, did Charles Hamilton ever have an enemy called Gerald? I ask because every character he invented with that name - Loder, Knox, Cutts, George Gerald Crooke - was a 'rotter'.

I know that he wrote with authority about people who thought that they could spot winners or 'break the bank' at roulette, but did he also lose money on the Stock Exchange or through dealings with lawyers? It is just that his writings on city gents and solicitors seem to have almost had a personal grudge to them.

Finally, a suggestion for a future feature. How about an item dealing with what you and other Magnet readers took to reading when the Magnet folded in 1940? I know you once told me that you turned to the Girls' Crystal, but what did others do?

From DAVE WESTAWAY (EXMOUTH): In my early childhood I was captivated by a children's novel featuring a toy called 'JOINTED'. I remember a train journey and a villain called "Mr. MURGATROYD". Just recalling that much gives me an inner glow. It would have been published around 1949-52. Can anyone help me with the title or author please?

From RONALD FRAGNOLINI (LEICESTER): Bill Lofts' interesting article in the November C.D. about the probably origin of Netley Lucas's detective character, Tom Mex, suggested that the name was "borrowed" from the famous Western movie star TOM MIX,