

Whitsun: Everybody ready for a holiday except the sun. No wonder they call it flaming June. Many stay-at-home Londoners decided that the Zoo was the best place to dodge the showers - as long as the bars stayed closed.

Regent's Park, of course, offers a double attraction. For the van-horses also took a holiday. A little spit and polish and they're ready to grace any parade.

Unfortunately, in this age of speed, their faithful ranks are dwindling. There were only sixty horses on show - the smallest entry for years. Unlike our friend the horse, the woman's role in our National life ~~is~~ is indispensable. At Wembley, the "Festival of Woman" paid richly-deserved tribute to the housewife and the career-girl.

Few industrial spheres are without highly-skilled woman operatives: but cigar-making surely beats the band!

The weather did its best to mar the Herefordshire Festival of Youth - staged at Hatfield House: but the benefits of the occasion will be felt on future winter evenings.

However, the sun smiled in welcome as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother arrived, to grace an occasion dedicated to the provision of mixed Clubs for the Youth of the County.

Meeting the many voluntary helpers, Her Majesty shared a ^{joke} ~~task~~ with comedian Norman Wisdom. So here at least, the holiday spirit reigned - and a silver lining, too, the generous contributions towards raising £10,000 in a worthy cause.

Another youth occasion, at Greenhithe, Kent, where over five hundred Sea Scouts welcomed their Commodore, Admiral Earl Mountbatten, to the London Jubilee Meet - in the grounds of H.M.S. Worcester.

During his visit, the First Sea Lord shared the boy's training-activities: and let's hope that they remembered to put a chip of wood in that camp fire tea...

H.M.S. Worcester is a Nautical Training School. Lord Mountbatten presented an engraved Salad Bowl to its Captain, Captain Steele, who is retiring this year.