THE DERBY

Epson! Derby Day! And Whitsun: It's a holiday of holidays, and half Britain seems to be here! More than half a million, says the official estimate - purl and plain! And like all good Derbies, there was a first class overnight sensation that set the cars eagerly rolling ... all the petrol you want and to blases with coupons!

Fill 'er up. Red, white or what have you! Forty cars a minute streaming through Epsom at a rattling good pace. Well, rattling, anyway! For once somebody showed some imagination and it's the biggest, happiest Derby Day since before the war ... wherever you look, cars.

Somebody hasn't heard the petrol news! Anyway, he isn't the only one that's got a horse! A one-man nickleodeon - got a nickle? Led by Her Majesty, the Royal party visits the paddock to look at the horses and meet old friends. The King unfortunately, hasn't a runner, but Captain Boyd Rochfort, who trains for His Majesty, is also responsible for the favourite, American-bred, Prince Simon.

Somewhere in the fashionable throng there's quite a number of stars and celebrities - see if you can spot them: we haven't time as here come the jockeys. It's time to mount. Prince Simon carries the hopes of half Britain and all America in a field of 25. He brings up the rear of the brilliant, colourful parade. Will it be a case of "the last shall be first?" Anyway, here come the 25 on their way to the start ... all that remain of the 572 original entries!

From the Royal Box Their Majesties watch as the horses come under starters orders. It's the richest Derby ever - 17 thousand of the best for the winner. Galcador's got the worst place, right over on the far rails, Prince Simon's somewhere in the middle.

A mile-and-a-half to go and the world waiting for the answer!

It's a steep 6-furlong climb to the Bushes, with Pewter Platter and Prince Simon leading. He's the one with spots so he's easily - er - spotted! Exactly.

Round the top and approaching Tattenham Corner. Pewter Platter and the Prince are still together, but Carr's got the favourite nicely placed and he means to be first round the corner.

Now the downhill begins. Tattenham Corner's just ahead. The favourite's taken the lead. His long, raking stride is making the pace a killer. If he can take the corner nicely, it'll take a good 'un to catch him!

And there he goes, beautifully round. Pewter Platter, Double Eclipse, L'Amiral and Galcador are bunched behind him as Harry Carr turns on the steam. And now watch his perfect action as our camera picks him up and holds him up the long climb to the finish.

And now here's Galcador moving up to challenge in one of Rae Johnston's swooping finishes. He lost in a photo-finish last year, but now he's caught Prince Simon and passed him! Harry Carr calls for a last effort and the gallant Prince responds. Can he do it? No, there's the post and Galcador wins by a head, Double Eclipse four lengths away third.

And so one more Derby goes to France, to a game horse and a brilliant jockey. For Rae Johnstone it completed a wonderful double - the Oaks and the Derby for the same owner - Marcel Boussac. Congratulations, M'sieur! To Prince Simon and his popular owner, Mr. William Woodward, hard luck for a very gallant try.

For the rest of us; home James and don't spare the horse-power.