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NEWS FLASHES:

The Metropolitan Police experiment of providing lightweight motor cycles for constables on the beat has proved such a great success that more officers are being trained to use them at the Police Driving School in Hendon. By next October, 90 of these machines will be in use in the outer divisions of the Metropolitan District. The idea is to make up for the shortage of manpower by having longer beats than a constable can cover on foot or push-bike. He'll still do parts of the beat - (tactfully called the "vulnerable" parts) on foot. Underworld, please take note - these machines are practically silent!

St. James's Theatre, not far from Piccadilly, is under a death sentence. The L.C.C. has given permission for it to be pulled down to make way for offices. The L.C.C. thought it was all settled. So did financier Mr. Felix Fenston, whose company bought the site. But one famous actress had other ideas - Miss Vivien Leigh. Miss Leigh comes to a friend's house to talk it over with Mr. Fenston. Unobtrusively, husband Sir Laurence Olivier slips away through the back door - leaving Mr. Fenston to face the most distinguished lady ever to create a distriburance in the House of Lords. It was sculptress Peire de Henriquez who arranged the meeting. The outcome? Wait and see!

But in Berlin, nobody argues about the demolition of the Lehrter Bahnhof, a railway terminus which has been derelict for years. It was bombed during the war, and after the partition of Berlin was put out of service, because although it's in East Berlin, it used to serve Hamburg and areas now in the Western Zone. So it's useless. So down it comes.

It's a sad way for a terminus to terminate.

Wherever the British motorist goes, the A.A. goes - and since British visitors can now tour parts of Russia, the familiar yellow patrol car is there with the first cars over the border. In Moscow the visitors pay their respects to the capital's founder Yuri Dolgoruky. Fleming Davis of the Times and Patricia Smyllie of the Daily Express are in this pioneer contingent.

The tourists stay at a hotel near the famous Bolshoi theatre. They're not all journalists - Michael Eden and William Jackson are farmers, among those going to see for themselves.