

### ONE WOMAN SHOW.

There's nothing like working on the railway for keeping you fit, according to 53-year-old Miss Dolly Palmer. Dolly's been at Althorne Station, in Essex, for 20 years, and she takes everything to do with the station in her stride - whether it's cleaning the signal glasses, way up aloft, or climbing down again because someone wants to use the level crossing.

What's the stationmaster up to, letting a woman do all the work? The answer's simple - Dolly is the stationmaster, and the signalman, and the porter - the lot. Althorne Station is open 18 hours a day, and Dolly and a male colleague run it in alternate shifts, each of them quite single handed.

And this isn't just a sleepy two-trains-a-day halt; thirty-two trains stop here every weekday, and fifteen every Sunday. What does Dolly do with her free time? Walks three miles to work and three miles home again.

Up to London for a one-woman show of a different kind; the place is the National Portrait Gallery, and the woman (well, just) is 17-year-old Mercedes Burleigh. She's squatting there in protest, with a painting by her father of Bernard Shaw. Father offered it to the Gallery as a consolation gift after a Goya portrait was stolen, and Mercedes is hopping mad because they turned it down. Now she wants to collect 10,000 signatures to a petition demanding that it hang in its rightful place on the ungrateful Gallery's walls. That's the kind of daughter a chap should have.