

Commentary of
Warwick Films'
sections of story.

Mr Gummings

REEL
ONE

Foot
88

On October 10th, 1927, a great idea grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It flourished abundantly and spread out all over the world, taking root in distant places from Canada to New Orleans and Mexico to Japan.

One small seed grew up in the ancient City of London this is a page of its history.

123 London, an ancient city with a great heart and a great welcome for all that is new. For over two thousand years the story of London has been the story of progress. All that grows here finds itself flowering anew in the good earth that only the breeding centuries can provide.

152 Here you are at the heart of commerce - and also, at the heart of history. To walk the streets is to journey through the past bound up with the glorious swirl that is today.

Signs of the times - but still pointing the way to the majestic steps of Saint Paul's, heart of the nation's spiritual life. On week days typists with an hour for lunch can listen to the music of Sousa from the land of Washington and Lincoln.

200 London has been here so long it seems to have everything and Fleet Street to tell the world all about it.

212 Fine restaurants set in surroundings like the palace gardens of a renaissance prince.

228 Great hotels where you can live, have a wonderful time, enjoy yourself, go exploring.

242 London truly has all things for all men monuments, museums, fountains and theatres. When a man is tired of London he is tired of life All things change but to watch for change in London is like studying the hour hands of a clock.

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- 287 Some things seem always the same ... some things with a rock-like strength from the past. Westminster Abbey, begun eight centuries ago and still filling and emptying with its daily tides of worshippers and visitors.
- 295 This is when London remembers what she is and how she weathered the changing centuries.
- 327 This is the London which swells with pride and love ... this is the Heart of a Nation.
- 358 Buckingham Palace, where the heart of Britain beats with national pride.
- 366 Piccadilly, the Heart of Variety, for here meet a group of men united in one great task, that British Showbusiness might combine to bring a fuller share of health and happiness to the sick, needy and distressed children of Britain. They gather in a gracious room of the National Sporting Club and are members of the Variety Club of Great Britain.
- The present Chief Barker, or President, is Film Producer Mike Frankovich and his Committee, like all of Variety's five hundred Angl American members, are at the top flight of every branch of Showbusiness.
- 428 This brochure covered in red velvet made a total of nearly five thousand pounds, fourteen thousand dollars, in the sale of its advertising space. These are but a few members of the British Variety Club founded after World War II (and in Variety's own colourful circus language known as Tent 36). Members, who are unceasing in their tributes to those pioneers who first banded together in Pittsburgh.

REEL
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- 489 A new leaflet finds approval, It welcomes members of Variety International to London in 1956. No warmer British welcome will go out to anyone than to men gathered from countries scattered throughout the world who place all of their spare time and influence at the disposal of others less fortunate than themselves.
- 523 For all must be proud of any movement which distributes over thirteen million pounds among tens of thousands of young people, without thought of colour, creed or religion.
- 545 The youth of our civilisation are the trustees of posterity, and each and every one of us would agree that in every city, behind such fine streets as this: where anything can be bought from diamonds to fishing nets: there are still streets where those who shop are not so fortunate.

END
OF
REEL
ONE

REEL
Two Ft.

- 2 It is here, no matter how wise a Government or how self-sacrificing its child welfare authorities there will always be those who cannot help themselves, and the dearest and most needy of all the children.
- 26 Soiled blossoms in the dust mothered by the streets often without care and sometimes without a proper home.
- 40 These boys and hundreds like them are the living inspiration of Variety Club members who are working with the team spirit that only dedicated enthusiasm can bring and who have made an all out effort to support any group which works for the assistance of under-privileged children.

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84 They have donated thousands every year to charities such as the National Playing Fields' Association, the Royal Institute for the Blind and the British Youth Appeal.

112 Today the children of Lambeth Walk run from the dangers of back street rubbish heaps to adventures in their own Lollard Playing Field.

130 Here, but a stone's throw from Westminster, a bold experiment is taking place on a plot where a child at any time may dig a hole, play a game or paint a fence, in fact do whatever he will.

152 These buildings, though temporary, were one of Variety's first gifts to the children of South London.

166 Behind the great pile of Tower Bridge is Bermondsey Playing Field. Eight hundred children run here every day.

184 Framed by the skeletons of war-torn buildings and new dwellings, this sundial counts the hours in a children's paradise raised from the bomb scarred earth.

Premieres, Galas and Star Matinees are part of a procession of events organised not only in the capital but throughout the country to provide funds for such rewarding results as this.

228 Among the finest sports grounds of England no name stands out more boldly on the scroll of honour than that of the Variety Club Playing Field provided through the London County Council at Hurlingham Park on the north bank of the Thames

254 Here throughout the year, children can fill their days in ways which only a child knows. Since October, 1949, Tent 36 has sent out almost a quarter of a million pounds to fulfil dreams like this one.

288 Boys clubs.

292 Youth centres.

REEL
TWO
contd. Pt.

- 296 Children's homes....
- 300 and holidays are among the countless charities, none too small and none too large to merit a gift.
- 315 Yes, there is hardly a game you cannot play here at Hurlingham. Anyone for leapfrog? Next year they are organising a baseball team, and then it's all out for the world series.
- 345 These girls can show the Harlem Globetrotters a thing or two.
- 350 John Masfield, Poet Laureate to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, tells us:
- "He who gives a child a treat,
Makes joy bells ring in heaven's street,
And he who gives a child a home,
Builds palaces in kingdomecome."
- No place was ever more like home than this fine old house.
- Built by Cardinal Wolsey in the fifteenth century, it stands on the banks of the Thames but little distant from the towers of Hampton Court.
- 400 St. Agnes' Home ... for orphan children ... who live here from two weeks old until ready for their chosen occupations.
- 413 Mother here is selfless and devoted Sister Katherine ...
- 419 ... and her children really belong and are truly loved.
- 428 The gates are open to any child whatever age, denomination or colour.
- 438 Charming twenty-two year old Nurse Mary Malley, except for her training, has lived here since she was twenty-one days old.
- 450 Yes, each child shares Sister's love yet each child has it all
- 459 When they grow up these boys will still come home on holiday the girls may be married from here ...

REEL
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483 St. Agnes is a real home and its inmates a real family, rather big,
without a proper mother but with many fathers, all members of the
Variety Club.

506 Come into the playroom - and live again a moment of your childhood.

515 Remember your red train?

520 Your little toys?

525 Your book? .. Oh what wonderlands it told about!

532 Your toy horse?

544 It was when James Carreras was Chief Barker that among many gifts ...

551 ... the television set arrived ... a new key to the world outside....

564 ... and when it is television time nobody wants to go to bed.

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TELEVISION NEWS

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END
OF
REEL
TWO

REEL
THREE Pt.

16 MALE VOICE

Raised on a Welsh hill overlooking the sea, a symbol of the ideals of which modern civilisation is most proud ... Southerndown is for all time a memorial to the Club and to the endeavours of its associates, the Tenevus Committee.

48 FEMALE VOICE

The road ahead of any child appears long and straight but for a little blind infant like Cynthia, just three years old, the long and lonely way must seem without end. Almost as hard is the task of a mother who comes to leave her baby to the care of strangers.

Trusting and courageous, she knows that only in such a Home, today maintained by the Royal Institute for the Blind, can the experience, friendship and love be found to help her little one in her conquest of the dark.

100 To be matron of such a home must be the most rewarding job any woman can find.

You might imagine it is rather sad. No, "Sunshine" was well chosen, for the children bring a wondrous brightness and their uninhibited joy of living pervades everywhere.

138 MALE VOICE

"These eyes, though clear to outward view, of blemish or or spot
Bereft of light: of seeing, knewest not.

Nor to their idle orbs doth sight appear of sun
Or moon, or star throughout the year,
Of father or of mother dear."

165 "And yet she argues not against heaven's hand or
Will, but must grow up, as all from here grew up, to steer
Straight on, till that long distant day
When Paradise shall seem no less fair
To she who shared no earthly sight."

- 208 Her mother gone. Cynthia cries. But the blind must lead the blind and two new little friends, Stevie and Maureen, are determined she shall venture forth and meet those special friends who abound at Southerndown.
- 295 Confidence is born of many things but none better than pride in achievement ... and achievement can be driving a little red train round a corner.
- 311 Among the treasured souvenirs of many children in primary schools for the blind are tales of Daffydd, the Welsh donkey at Southerndown. What woodland sprite brought to Daffydd the knowledge of those who know no light?
- 335 For when a blind child calls - he comes ...
- 341 ... but for them who see he stays.
- 350 These young lives are not cloistered by their blindness, they are free of the field, and the garden, and in the enjoyment of that freedom they acquire the greatest of all blessings, the memory of a happy childhood.
- 384 A child counts the hours by the time to eat
- 392 ... and to watch the children playing in their toy kitchen, brushing, sweeping and tidying ... is to forget their blindness and fall victim of their natural charm.

REEL
THREE
contd. Ft.

418 FEMALE VOICE

To care for, to train, these children is a labour of love. Without love nothing can be accomplished with a child whether one be teacher, mother or nurse, the effect of true devotion is immeasurable but at Southerndown with an average of twenty-four children one can readily measure the physical work. Here in a year we wash eighteen thousand smalls, give seven thousand baths, serve over two hundred thousand meals and prepare at least one hundred and forty-four thousand drinks of orange juice. One must be ever ready, for the cry of a little child touches the hearts of us all: but the cry of a child who has lost its most precious gift is a part of our hearts.

500 Every day is a new adventure - another stage on the journey to independence.

560 MALE VOICE

"O say! What is that thing called light
Which I must ne'er enjoy?
What are the blessings of the sight?
O tell this searching boy".

584 FEMALE VOICE

Beside Billy Bach the goat is Willie the Welsh sheepdog. Most of the children speak Welsh and it is the language Willie knows best. Tyduna Ruwan, they say, as he watches over them throughout every waking hour. He too shares the knowledge of their care and the secret of their games.

666 With the Spring another joy ... to feel the first leaves ... and smell the first flowers.

REEL
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sound. Ft.

682 MALE VOICE

"Spring returns, but not to him returns. Day, or the
Sweet approach of even or morn,
Or sight of this early bloom, or summer's rose,
Or flocks, or herds or human face divine,
But cloud instead and ever during dark."

738 FEMALE VOICE

To end the day's adventures, the orchestra play, for through music
the children's delicate hearing, and sensitivity of touch, are
developed.

754 Everyone joins in, for whatever the music one can always feel the
pleasant caress of soft winds. There is little else children like
ever-smiling Lilian, sitting in her little pink suit, can enjoy

For Lilian is not able to see, not able to speak, neither can she hear
nor walk... The world in which Lilian lives is one in which she must
indeed live alone.

MALE VOICE

"Mute, sightless visitor, from
What strange uncharted world hast thou
Voyaged into life's rude sea and with what
Guidance scant didst thou set forth
As we watch your smile
Of thoughtfulness, we say, "Not thou but we
Are blind and deaf and dumb if we
Learn not the lesson that you teach".

END
OF
REEL
THREE

11 FEMALE VOICE

It is like having a family of twenty-five or so nimble, mischievous and entirely lovable children, mostly normal in all things save for the lack of sight. Blind in the eyes but not in the brain. Bed-time is time for dreamland - dreamland where all children are equal.

Before going upstairs they give yet another triumphant performance of what to us would be the simplest task. Then it is time for bed and constant prayers of thankfulness for all the blessings with which they know they are endowed.

74 MALE VOICE

"Their hearts are full of whispered sounds,
Their blindness is their sight,
The shadows that we fear so long
To them are full of light".

112 FEMALE VOICE

Hundreds of miles away in the South of England at the St. Agnes' Home it is also bedtime and time for prayers and such children as these tiny orphans gathering in their chapel and those sightless mites in the South of Wales preparing for prayers beside their beds, must surely symbolise countless children all over the world who owe so much to a fine ideal, and must teach each one of us the lesson of humility and thankfulness.

218 MALE VOICE

"Children come amongst us
Fresh from the hands of God.
Those that help them
Shall surely find the keys to Paradise,
For such is their just reward."

241 (Children sing prayer)

"Jesus tender shepherd hear me
Bless this little lamb tonight
Through the darkness be Thous near me
Keep me safe till morning bright."

REEL
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contd. Et.

351 (BLIND CHILD'S PRAYER)

"Oh Lord thank you for giving us
This lovely day and filling it with
Lots of music and happiness -

Please look after everybody everywhere
Who is kind to little children.

An' please - please, God -- lighten
Our darkness, don't let us be frightened
In the long night, but take us by
The hand and always be our guide."

Amen.