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The Tommy Cooper Joke Book

Tommy Cooper

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Extract

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TOMMY AND HIS DOG



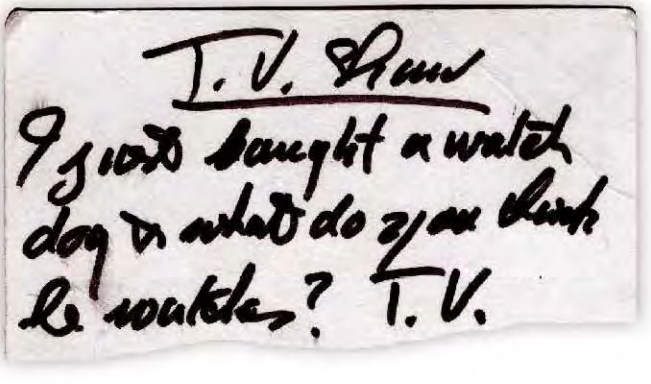
I was dog-tired last night – I slept in a kennel!

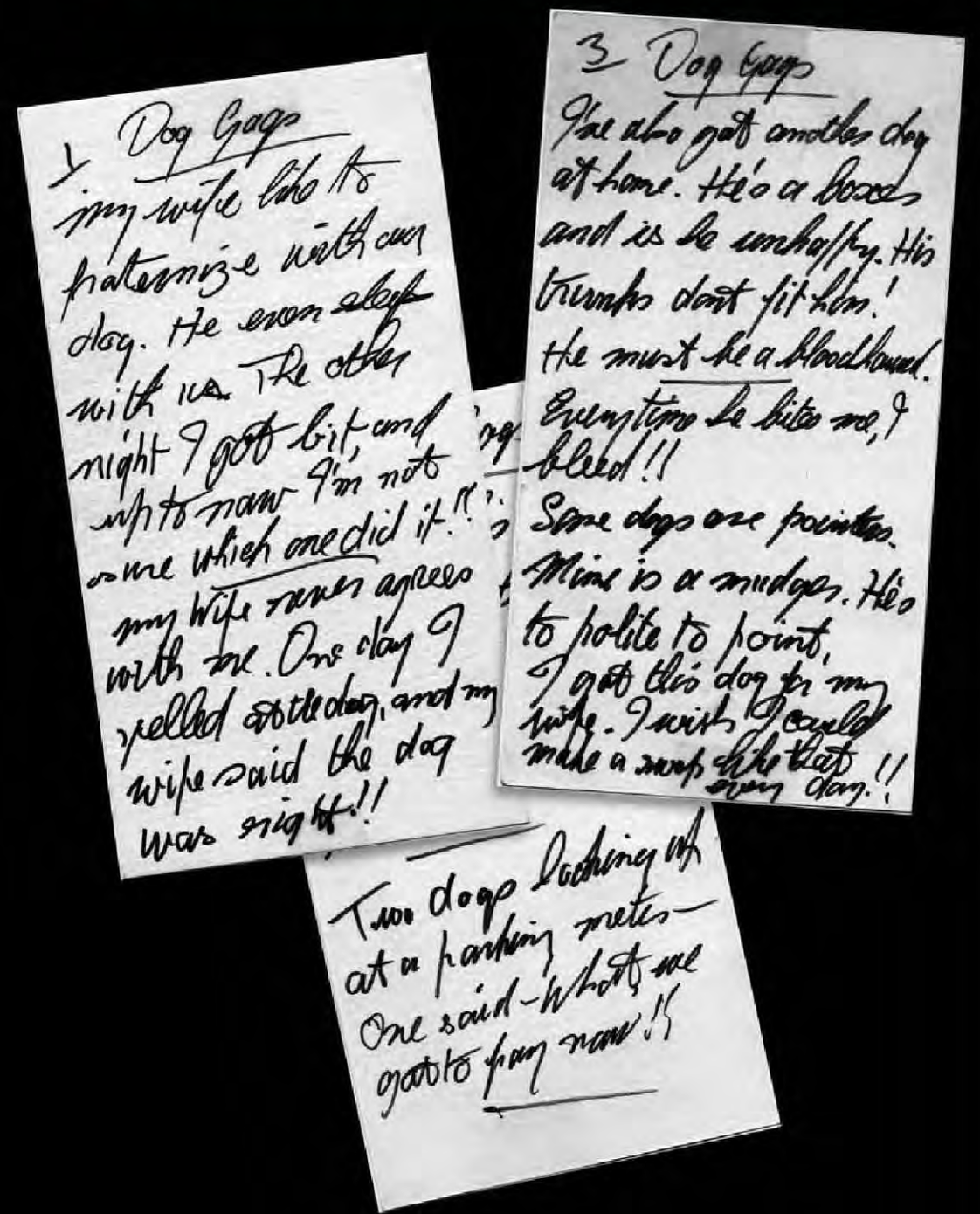
I've got a dog, you know.
I have. He's a one-man dog. He only bites me.

He took a chunk out of my leg the other day.
A friend of mine said, 'Have you put anything on it?'
I said, 'No, he liked it as it is.'

I'm only joking. He's harmless, really. But he's getting on a bit.
I said to him, 'Attack,' and he had one.

I just bought a watchdog and what do you think he watches? TV!





My wife likes to fraternise with our dog. He even sleeps with us. The other night I got bit and up to now I'm not sure which one did it!

My wife never agrees with me. One day I yelled at the dog and my wife said the dog was right!

I've also got another dog at home. He's a boxer and is he unhappy! His trunks don't fit him.

He must be a bloodhound. Every time he bites me, I bleed!!

Some dogs are pointers. Mine is a nudger. He's too polite to point.

I got this dog for my wife. I wish I could make a swap like that every day!

Two dogs looking up at a parking meter – one said, 'What! We've got to pay now?'

I had a dog that was so silly he chased parked cars!!

I bought my girl a lapdog, but she got rid of it. Every time she sat on the dog's lap it bit her!



COOPER'S LAUGHTER ALLSORTS



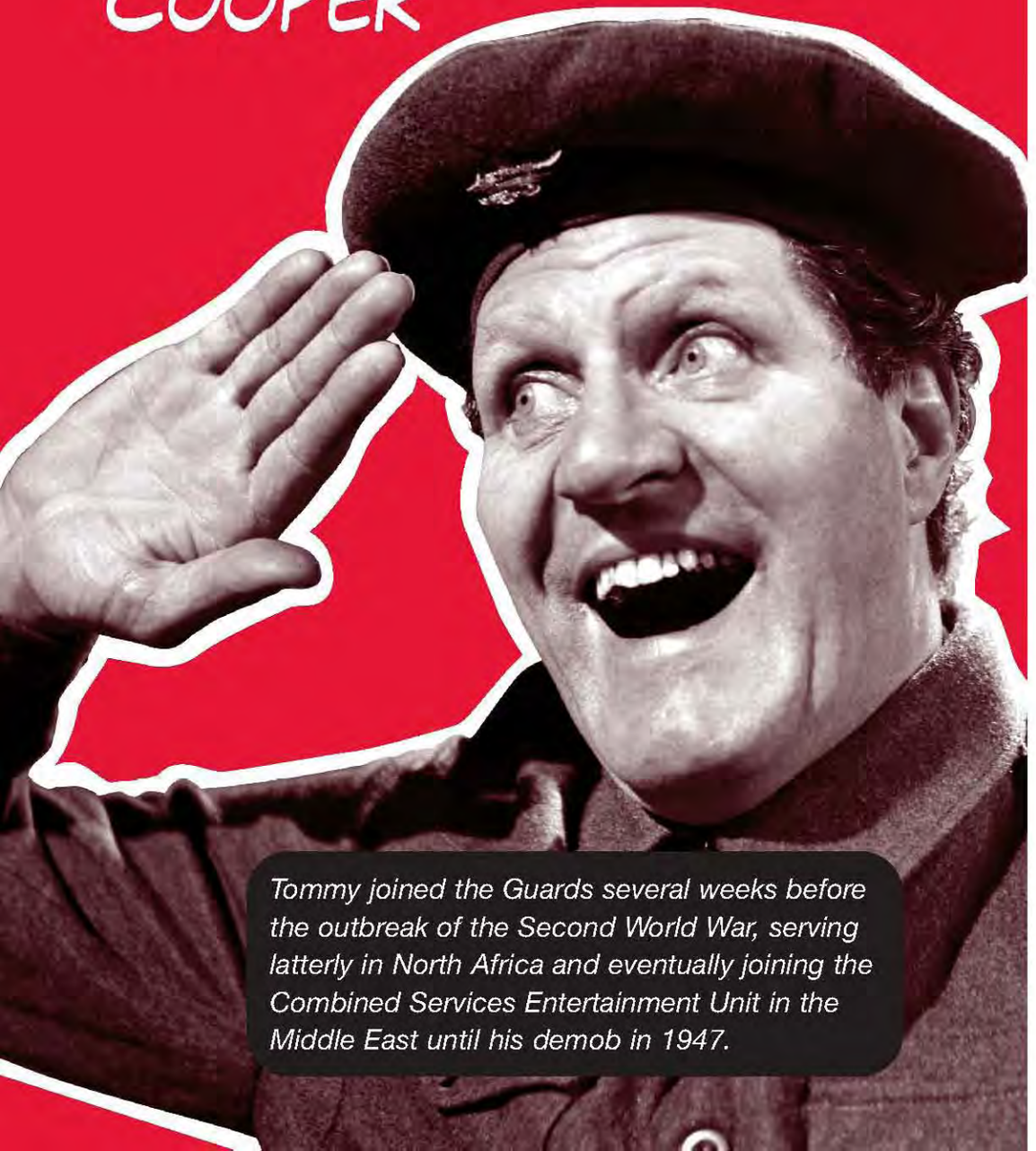
THIS FELLOW KNOCKED AT A DOOR AND SAID, 'HELLO. IS CHARLIE IN?' THE WOMAN REPLIED, 'CHARLIE DIED LAST NIGHT.' THE MAN SAID, 'HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT A POT OF PAINT, DID HE?'

HERE'S A QUICK JOKE. THERE'S A MAN, SEE, AND HE'S SITTING ON TOP OF A BUS AND HE'S GOT A BANANA STICKING OUT OF HIS EAR. A BANANA STICKING OUT OF HIS EAR! WELL, ANOTHER MAN SAW THIS, COS HE WAS WATCHING HIM LIKE THAT. AND HE SAID TO HIMSELF, 'WELL, I MUST TELL HIM.' WELL HE WOULD, WOULDN'T HE? SO HE WENT UP TO HIM AND HE SAID, 'EXCUSE ME.' AND THE MAN SAID, 'SPEAK UP. I'VE GOT A BANANA STICKING OUT OF MY EAR!'

WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY IT'S BEEN. DO YOU KNOW IT'S BEEN SEVENTY DEGREES IN THE SHADE. I WAS CLEVER. I STAYED IN THE SUN! ACTUALLY, I DID A LITTLE BIT OF SUNBATHING. I WAS LYING OUT THERE TODAY. A LITTLE BOY CREPT ACROSS AND POURED SOMETHING ALL OVER MY BACK. HE SAID, 'THIS'LL MAKE YOU BROWN.' I SAID, 'WHAT IS IT?' HE SAID, 'GRAVY!'

DID YOU HEAR THE JOKE - THERE WAS A FOREMAN ON A BUILDING SITE AND HE LOOKED TO THE MAN AT THE TOP OF THE LADDER AND HE SAID, 'YOU - GET YOUR MONEY AND YOUR CARDS. YOU'RE FINISHED.' HE SAID, 'EH?' HE SAID, 'GET YOUR MONEY AND YOUR CARDS. YOU'RE FINISHED.' HE SAID, 'EH?' HE SAID, 'FORGET IT. I'LL SACK SOMEBODY ELSE!'

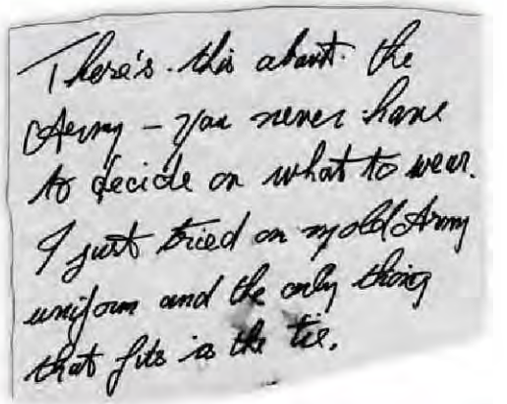
TROOPER COOPER



Tommy joined the Guards several weeks before the outbreak of the Second World War, serving latterly in North Africa and eventually joining the Combined Services Entertainment Unit in the Middle East until his demob in 1947.

Isn't it funny? Even in the army everything went wrong with me. It did really. I shall never forget when I first joined. They said to me, 'Would you like a commission?' I said, 'No – just a straight salary!'

There's this about the army – you never have to decide on what to wear. I just tried on my old army uniform and the only thing that fits is the tie.



When I was in the army my uniform fitted me like a glove. It covered my hand!

We had a sergeant and he used to call us out for roll call, you know, at four o'clock in the morning. Pitch black it was and he had a huge hurricane lamp in his hand and he used to say, 'Good morning, men' and we used to say, 'Good morning, lamp.' We couldn't see him!

And when you're on guard duty, they always teach you when you hear someone coming towards you in the dark to say with the rifle, 'Halt – who goes there – friend or foe?' You had to do that! 'Halt – who goes there – friend or foe?' *(Mimes drill)* Like that. And if they say 'Friend', you say 'Pass, friend.' Right. And I was on guard. I was on guard duty and it was very dark and I heard footsteps. 'Halt! Who goes there? Friend or foe?' And a voice said, 'Foe.' I said, 'How tall are you?' He said, 'Nine foot six.' I said, 'Pass, foe!'



I was seven years in the Horse Guards. It's like only yesterday. Now there's this sentry on guard duty and it's about four o'clock in the morning. It's very dark and he's got the rifle there *(Mimes accordingly)* and he's marching up and down and he's standing there about four o'clock in the morning and he falls asleep. Now that's a crime. I mean, they could put you inside for that straight away. So he's standing there asleep like that – he's standing there and all of a sudden the sergeant comes round the corner with the orderly officer. And now he's standing right in front of him. And there he is asleep *(Tommy looks dozy)* and there's the sergeant major like that *(Tommy looks fierce).* And all of a sudden the sentry opens his eyes just a little bit like that – not much – just a little bit, and he can see them standing there. So he's gotta think now, hasn't he? He has, or otherwise he's gonna be inside. So he waits for a second and he's standing there and he opens his eyes like that and he says, 'Amen!' Huh, huh. It's lucky I wasn't court-martialled!



COOPER'S FEZ TALES



Everybody asks me where it came from. I'll tell you. I was in Egypt. In the army. Used to wear a pith helmet in the act in those days. A pith helmet, can you imagine? Not quite the same is it? Anyhow, one day I lost the bloody thing. Had to grab the first hat I could find. Then this waiter came by wearing one of these. That was that.

Then a few years ago I went back to Egypt with the wife. There was this guy selling fezzes in the market. I went to try one on and he turned to me and said, *'Just like that.'* I said, 'How do you know that? That's my catchphrase.' He said, 'Catchphrase? I know nothing about any catchphrase. All I know is that every time an English person tries one on, they turn to their friends and say, *"Just like that!"'* And then he said, 'You're the first one not to say it.' Priceless, isn't it?

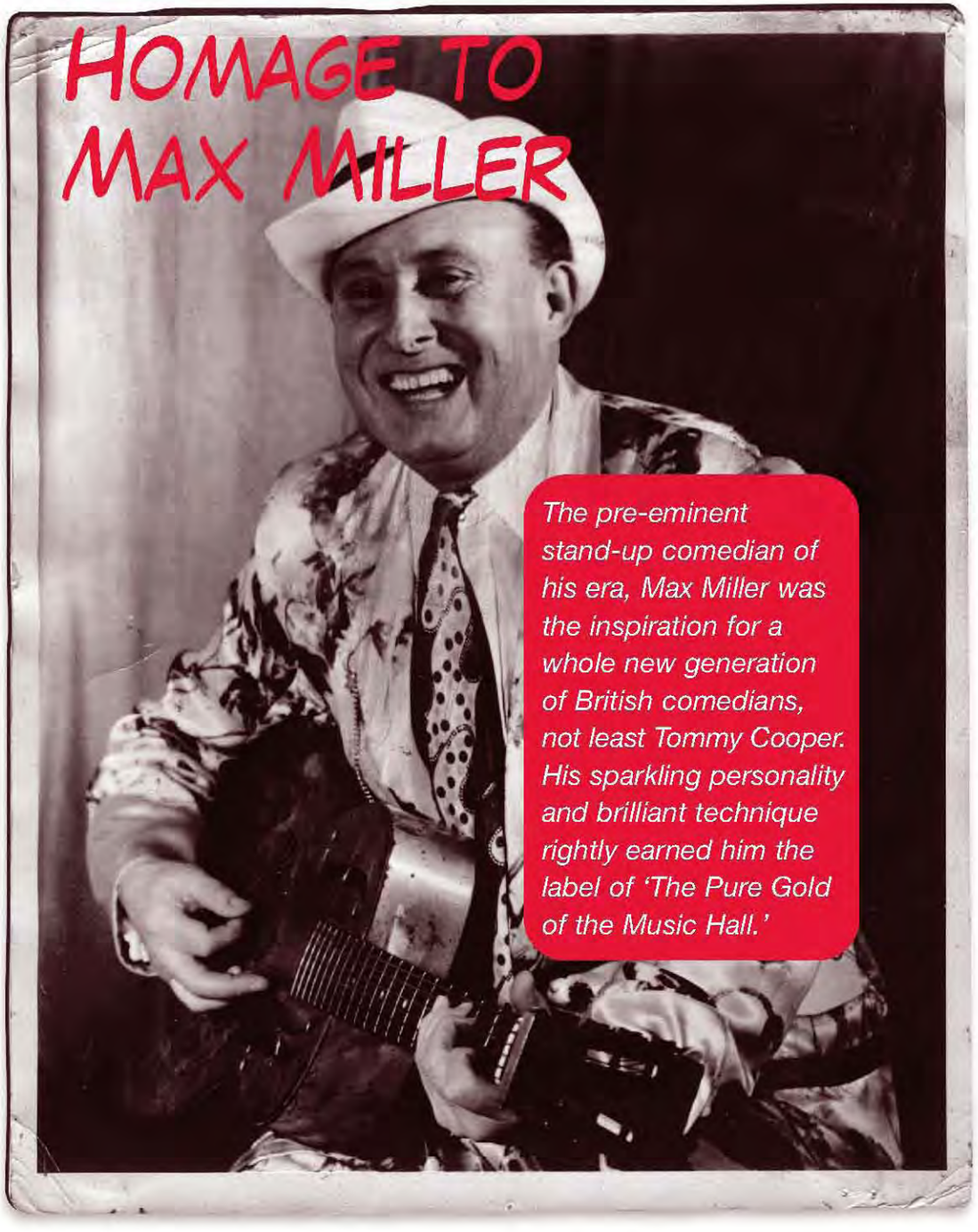
TOMMY IN THE JUNGLE



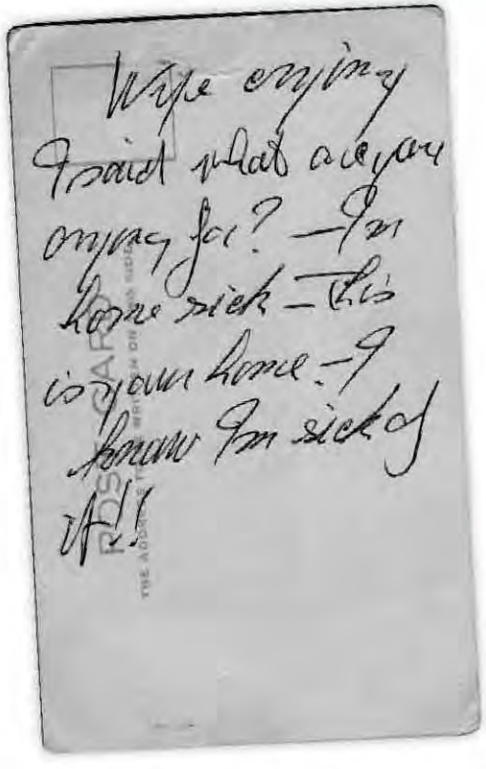
Now, here's a quick joke. What was it? Oh yes!

Did you hear the story of the king of the jungle? You know – the king of the jungle – the lion. And one day he woke up – he had a very bad temper – and he said to himself, 'I've just got to go outside now and teach them all who's the king of the jungle. Just to teach them.' So he gets up and he goes, 'Ooaarrhh!!' He was really mad. You know what I mean. 'Ooaarrhh!' And he saw a little chimp and he said, 'You! Who's the king of the jungle?' and he said, 'You, you're the king of the jungle.' 'Well that's alright then – alright.' And he walked along a bit more and he came across a laughing hyena and he said, 'Hey you, laughing boy.' And he went 'Hah hah hah hah hah! Hah hah hah hah hah!' He said, 'Who's the king of the jungle?' 'Ooh, hah hah hah! You are, you are.' So he walked on a little bit further and right at the very end was an elephant and a gorilla talking. And this gorilla looked at the elephant and he said, 'Here he comes, Jumbo. He's gonna do that king of the jungle bit again. He always does it.' He said, 'I'm not gonna stand it any more. I'm gonna leave you.' And he went up a tree. He said, 'I'll give you a trunk call later!' Hah hah hah! So the lion went up to this elephant and he said, 'Hey you!' He said, 'I'm talking to you big ears.' He said, 'Who's the king of the jungle?' And this elephant got his trunk and wrapped it right round him and threw him up in the air and as he was up in the air coming down he was going, 'Who's the king of the jungle? Who's the king of the jungle?' And he hit the ground hard and the elephant picked him up again and he threw him against the tree and he threw him against the other one. Then the other one and the other one! And the lion sank to the ground like that. It may have been like that. No, it was like that! And he said to the elephant, 'Look, there's no good getting mad just because you don't know the answer!'

HOMAGE TO MAX MILLER

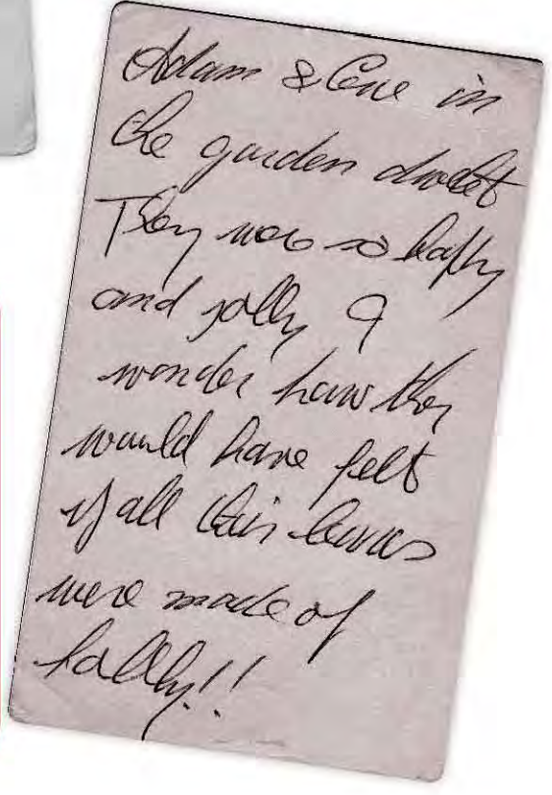


The pre-eminent stand-up comedian of his era, Max Miller was the inspiration for a whole new generation of British comedians, not least Tommy Cooper. His sparkling personality and brilliant technique rightly earned him the label of 'The Pure Gold of the Music Hall.'



Wife crying
I said what are you
crying for? — I'm
home sick — this
is your home — I
know I'm sick of
it!!

I've got the best wife in England. The other one's in Africa. 'Ere!'
The other day I came home and the wife was crying her eyes out.
I said, 'What are you crying for?' She said, 'I'm homesick.' I said, 'This is your home.' She said, 'I know. I'm sick of it!'



Adam & Eve in
the garden dwelt
They were so happy
and jolly I
wonder how they
would have felt
if all the leaves
were made of
holly!!

Here's a little rhyme now.

Adam and Eve
in the garden dwelt,
They were so happy
and jolly.
I wonder how they
would have felt
If all the leaves
had been holly!