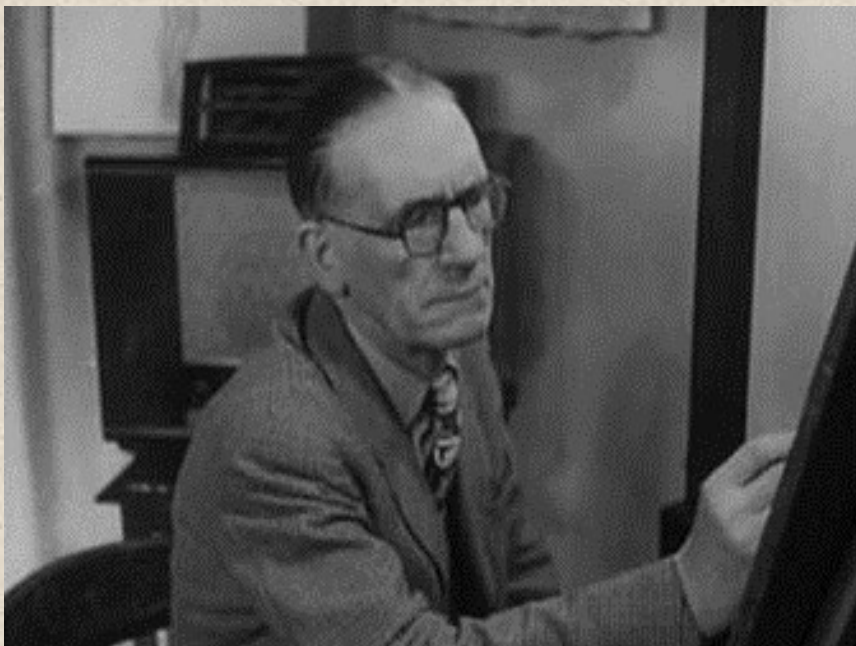


Norman Pett - Cartoonist

PETT WAS BORN ON THE 27TH OF APRIL 1891 IN SMETHWICK, NEAR BIRMINGHAM AND LIVED FOR MOST OF HIS CHILDHOOD IN GILLOT ROAD EDGBASTON. HIS FATHER WAS THE JEWELLER



JOHN ERNEST PETT. AFTER BEING INVALIDED OUT OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, HE STUDIED ART AT THE PRESS ART SCHOOL. LATER, HE TAUGHT ART AT THE MOSLEY ROAD JUNIOR ART SCHOOL AND AT BIRMINGHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL OF ART.

AFTER TAKING A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE IN DRAWING FROM PERCY BRADSHAW'S PRESS ART SCHOOL IN LONDON, PETT BEGAN TO CONTRIBUTE CARTOONS TO *PUNCH*, *PASSING SHOW* AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS, INCLUDING CHILDREN'S COMICS.

IN 1932, HE SET OUT TO CREATE A COMIC STRIP THAT WOULD BE AS POPULAR TO ADULTS AS THE FAMOUS 'PIP, SQUEAK AND WILFRED' WAS TO CHILDREN. AND SO, JANE WAS CREATED. FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS, PETT'S WIFE MARY MODELLED FOR HIM BUT EVENTUALLY HE STARTED TO USE PROFESSIONAL MODELS INSTEAD, THE MOST FAMOUS OF WHICH WAS CHRYSTABEL LEIGHTON-PORTER WHOM HE MET WHILE SHE WAS MODELLING FOR A CLASS IN BIRMINGHAM AND WHO EVENTUALLY MODELLED FOR HIM DURING WORLD WAR TWO. UNTIL THE WAR, JANE HAD A LITTLE DAILY FUNNY STORY, BUT AT THE START OF THE WAR, SHE BECAME A CONTINUOUS STORY.

"THE TURNING POINT IN JANE'S CAREER, WHEN SHE BECAME A SUCCESS WAS WHEN WE TURNED HER FROM A DAILY JOKE INTO A CONTINUOUS STORY. IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN SHE WAS STRIPPED IN BOTH SENSES OF THE TERM," PETT TOLD PATHÉ NEWS IN 1943.

PETT RETIRED FROM DRAWING JANE AFTER DRAWING HER FOR 16 YEARS IN 1948, AND THE STRIP WAS CONTINUED BY MICHAEL HUBBARD.

