

The man in front of the most popular jazz band in Britain.

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Victor, April 7,  
1962

WHEN HE WAS A BOY—

# Chris BARBER

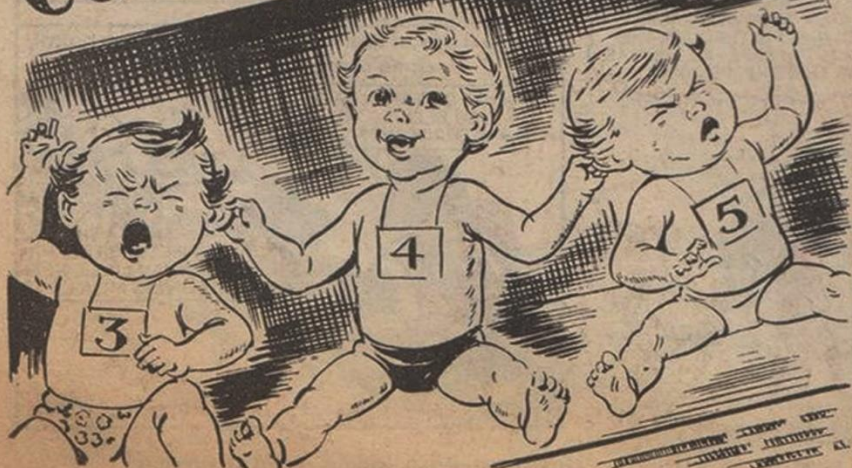
FAMOUS JAZZ-BAND LEADER, CHRIS BARBER, WAS BORN IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY, HERTS., IN APRIL 1930. HE COMES FROM A VERY TALENTED FAMILY. HIS FATHER, A STATISTICIAN AND ECONOMIST, INVENTED THE WARTIME CLOTHING COUPON SCHEME, WHILE HIS MOTHER WAS ONE OF THE FIRST WOMEN EVER TO TEACH AT THE FAMOUS CHRIST'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL, HORSHAM.

When Chris was two years old, his mother made a decision that was to make Chris hit the headlines at a very early age indeed.



A lucky Press photographer caught Chris when he was smiling his broadest—and next day, the picture appeared in a big national newspaper.

## COMING QUIETLY?



Chris's first school was King Alfred's School in Hertfordshire. He swotted hard every night and in his spare time, practised on the violin.





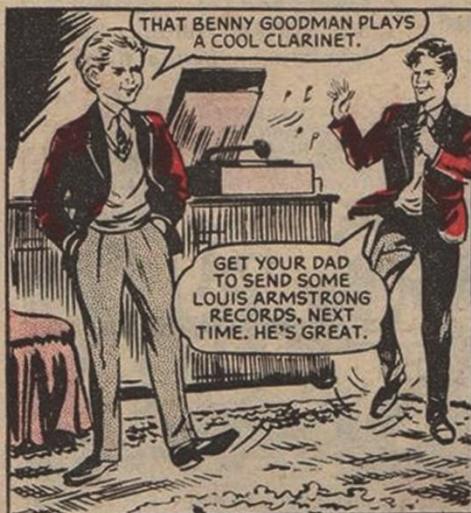
At this time, Chris was devoted to classical music.



At 11, Chris passed his exams for St Paul's School, Hammersmith. Because of the war, the whole school was evacuated to Malvern, Worcestershire.



While in Malvern, Chris received an unexpected parcel from home.



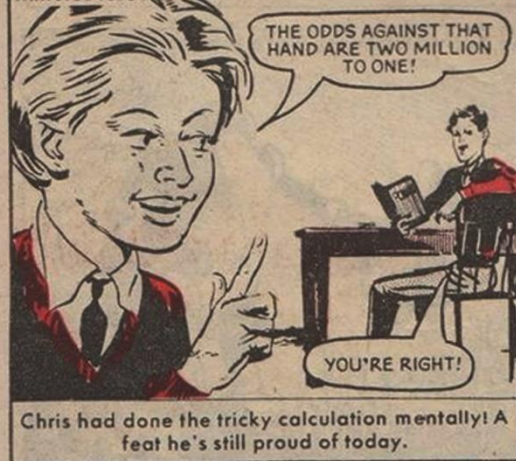
A few weeks later.



By his last term at school, Chris's trombone playing had improved—and his mathematical abilities had increased.

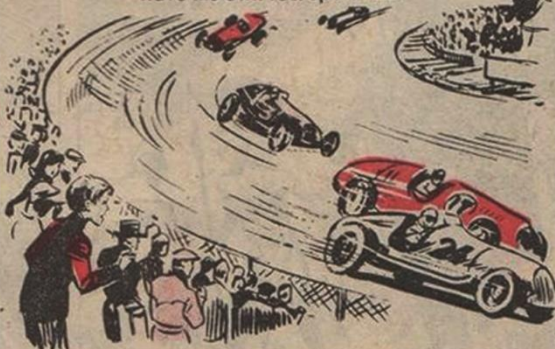


Minutes later.



Chris had done the tricky calculation mentally! A feat he's still proud of today.

All through his teens, Chris spent a lot of his spare time watching famous racing drivers like Sir Malcolm Campbell. One day, he vowed, he would have his own fast sports car.



Chris went into insurance when he left school, but three years later, had a row with his boss and left in disgust.



Soon, Chris left to form his own band. One of his star players was Lonnie Donnegan, whose skilled banjo playing and hill-billy singing helped Chris make a name for himself, before Lonnie formed his own band. Now, Chris has the car of his dreams, which he races at meetings all over the country, and his jazz band has been voted the most successful in Britain for the past five years.



NEXT WEEK—Mike Hailwood, one of Britain's fastest men on two wheels!