

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 38 - APL. 1997

PRESIDENT
Val Amery
(052) 631852

SECRETARY
Shirley Forsyth
(052) 631430

TREASURER
Loris Pavia
(052) 631529

SURF COAST SHIRE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Although at the time of posting the January Newsletter a few of us were in 'the know' having proposed a member of the Society for this prestigious award, it was not until Australia Day that it was officially announced that Myrle Smithwick was a joint winner for 1996. Myrle went on to win a further award - so double congratulations to you from all members and friends.

ACQUISITIONS

We are still gathering, thanks to generous and thoughtful folk. Through an approach to Joan Murch we have memorabilia from the late Sir William Somerset - this includes some very interesting maps.

A monetary donation from Mr. Len Newman.

Mrs. May Paton has donated a WW11 gas mask still in its original box - thankfully never used.

An addition to our library from John Von Brandenstein - a colourful volume of "Historic Public Buildings of Australia". We are grateful for these items. Our extensive range of photographs is one of the highlights of our collection - it was agreed recently that \$200 should be spent on adding yet more photos for display purposes - these will be 10 x 8's, put into albums.

We have been extremely lucky to have had such varied subjects presented by guest speakers during our first 3 monthly meetings. Brian Wardle chose "Publishing your own writings" and explained the hazards it could present! Betty Lloyd reviewed one of our own books - The Cato Letters - this volume had been donated to the Society by Miss Marion Borrett some time ago - and not many of us realised that the Cato involved was indeed one of the co-founders of the famous grocery chain, Moran and Cato. In March Max Lawless entertained us well with his story about the First Fleeters and where his family fitted in to the picture. The numerous charts exhibited by Max provided additional interest. To come in May we have Margaret Tricker whose subject will be "Quilting and Patchwork".

The Society is providing 2 plaques for important Anglesea landmarks. The first, unveiled on Anzac Day at the Loveridge Lookout commemorates the volunteer aircraft observers who manned that particular post on a 24 hour roster from 1942-45. The other placed in the "new village" precinct will announce the square as INVERLOCHY PLACE and the reason for this choice.

A small plaque will also be placed on a Museum wall acknowledging the new chairs as a gift from the Norman Must bequest.

Our first excursion for 1997 was enjoyed by 20 members. Private cars were used for the trip to Camperdown when a community bus took over to convey participants to the various spots of interest. The Camperdown Historical Soc. members were great hosts for morning tea and rightly proud of their Museum exhibits. After viewing the attractive sights near the Lakes, Botanical Gardens, Mt. Leura we journeyed to St. Marks Priory where we were welcomed by Sister Mary Phillips. After lunching in the attractive reception area and enjoying tea and coffee supplied by the monastery, we moved into the chapel where we were given a brief history of the founding of the Order and how St.

Marks Priory came to be built in Camperdown. A visit to the beautifully furnished St. Pauls Anglican Church completed our sightseeing for the day. Unfortunately the key held by our guide wouldn't open the door to the staircase inside the century old clock tower in the main street - but perhaps it let us off the hook - we didn't have to make excuses for not attempting the ascent!!

Recently our researcher Lindsay Braden was given some papers written by Professor Ian D. Rae who is Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the Victoria University of Technology. The subject matter of these papers is the Mining and Processing of Jarosite Near Torquay in the 1920's. Lindsay has already written an info. sheet about the mine and was delighted to receive this extra material. It was quite a coincidence to find in the latest Victorian Historical Journal an article by the said Prof. Ian Rae and M. Williams on the very same subject some of which is copied for your reading.

Firstly - do you know why the product is so called ? Jarosite is a hydrated double sulphate of potassium and iron, named after the location of its first discovery in Barranco Jaroso, Spain. It is seen as belonging to a group of related minerals which includes the sodium analogue, natrojarosite which is found in Western Australia: the 'jarosite' waste from zinc refining which has been dumped in the sea south of Tasmania is the ammonia analogue and contains small quantities of toxic metals as impurities. The mining venture discussed in this particular paper enjoyed a short life in the 1920's on the southern coast of Victoria near the city of Geelong, with its remaining legacies being Jarosite Road, a mine site designation on maps of the area and an abandoned site which is remote. (As we know in the Ironbark Basin between Anglesea and Torquay,) The deposit was discovered by G.S. Affleck in 1909 and occurs as randomly dispersed yellow nodules in the Tertiary Sediments of the Torquay Embayment. These rich beds were said to be up to 10 feet thick and to average 4 feet. in thickness, extending for approx. 2 miles as outcrops in the cliffs which characterise this region of the Victorian coast. The Jarosite company was formed with a capital of six thousand pounds, mostly small shareholders from the Geelong area and Emerald where one of the founders, an Archibald Nobelius had settled. He was a Finn of Swedish descent who had arrived in Australia in 1868 (included in his family tree a branch of Alfred Nobel (Prize fame) The other founder, along with George Affleck was David Avery who was a strong advocate for the production of pulp and paper from Australian hardwoods. In 1926 he was involved with a company who successfully produced newsprint from Eucalyptus regnans. It is not known how he actually became involved with the project. The company had less capital than it needed to see it through the starting-up period and because of various other factors it failed to survive pre-depression days. A visitor to the site today will find nothing above knee height to witness the endeavours of the 1920's. The relics of the plant, the machinery foundations, low walls, door steps and an inground cylindrical structure - probably a water storage or the chimney base are all located on the western side of the gully which drains this end of the basin. Towards the sea the mined gully is heavily eroded, but still terminates in the cliff edge to the beach. Jarosite nodules protrude everywhere from the gully sides. We may be able to hear first-hand from Prof. Rae sometime in the future - and should he be in a position to accept an invitation to speak at a Sunday meeting it has been suggested that we take a walk in the Ironbark Basin during the morning - it should prove to be a most interesting exercise.

Don't forget - MAY MEETING - Sunday afternoon - 2p.m. on the 4th. Watch Elsie's column in The Echo "Around the Towns" for news of speakers in the following months.

EARLY ANGLESEA HOLIDAY-MAKERS

The Curnows (Edith Lawn)

What happens if after travelling from Ballarat to Lorne for your annual holidays, rain literally buckets down and floods your camp site? - this happened to the Curnow family during the 1925 summer holidays.

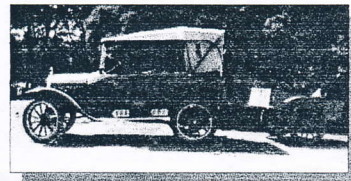


The tent and 'Bruiser' the dog were dampened

heavy that the noise drowned out the synchronised melodies from the accompanying effects pianist. When the drenched trio arrived back to their once delightful site, instant calamity! Mrs Curnow's bed was literally floating, and the poor old 'Bruiser' the family dog (left chained up) was up to its neck in water.

The immediate requirement was to get out fast! - but it was not as easy as that - the Gt. Ocean Road was impassible and closed.

It was two days before the new highway was re-



The trusty T Model was the way to travel

opened to traffic. The unmade road was slippery, and even though the T Model Ford's narrow rear tyres had ropes tied around them, the trip around the cliffs was rather hair-raising.

Three hours later when they reached Anglesea, a Ballarat acquaintance directed them to the Camping ground. To their delight this had not been effected by rain, and better still they almost had the place to themselves - only another 3 tents there - *that's how Edith found Anglesea!*



The Curnows afloat in 1931

The family loved the area, and from that time came annually to the Camping Ground. Edith met her husband to be (Jim Lawn) at this holiday site - they were married in 1937.

After WW2, her parents built a pre-fab holiday cottage in Noble Street. In 1972 Jim and Edith retired to their lovely house on the hill in Frederick St.

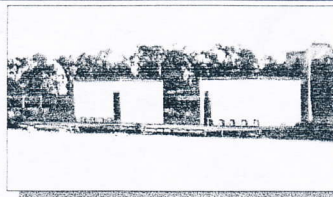
□ *Lindsay Braden.*

'Let's go and try Anglesea'

Edith and her parents established their camp at Love's Orchard (left of today's Supermarket). It was in such a picturesque position - right next to the Erskine River. That night they decided to attend Jarrett's silent picture show in the tin shed (near today's swimming pool). Halfway through the screening the heavens opened up with a torrential downpour - the rain was so

Trivia

WHERE WERE THESE FACILITIES?



QUESTION.. These facilities were very popular during the 20's and 30's. Where were they to be found?



ANSWER.. Before Roadknight was opened up and surfboards became popular, it was fashionable to swim at the old bridge. These two sheds just south of the structure were change rooms for the public. Ladies to the right, gents to the left.

EARLY ANGLESEA FAMILIES

The Brearleys and Appletons

During 1852 Sharpe and Joseph Brearley built a Tannery on the south side of the river at Mar-shalltown, it employed 100 men.

Sharpe withdrew from this business in 1888, and with his wife Jane, commissioned Geelong Architect J. S. Jackson to design tender and arrange, the building of a retirement home for them at Anglesea River.

This establishment (built to the east of Camp Road) was one of the first substantial dwellings to be erected in the emerging area. It was constructed of timber, painted white with (surprise surprise) a *corrugated red roof*, and surrounded by a large orchard. Over the years this productive



Sharpe Brearley

garden acted as a buffer zone, and is said to have help save the house from several serious bushfires.

The cottage set well back from the main road faced west towards the river. When the opposite land was subdivided into home sites in 1916, the family purchased two of these new blocks to protect their view of the tranquil stream

Sharpe Brearley was a very keen angler, and first came to Anglesea with the original fishing parties from Geelong.

His boatshed on the river bank was gutted by the 1908 fire.

After Sharpe and Jane died, the property was used by their two daughters

manoeuvres with the Mounted Rifle Corps.

In 1914 he headed off to WW1. As a Colonel in charge of two troopships. His name appears

on the honour board at the Anglesea R.S.L.

The Colonel was a staunch supporter of the Anglesea and Recreation Sports Club from its inception - even President during 1937/8/9. He

rowed in the first regatta during 1911, and was also listed as the Club's official starter. Festivities after the race were often held at the Appletons residence.

After George died in 1945, aged 95, his sister in-law Blanche Brearley subdi-



George & Annie Appleton present the 1937 Regatta Cup

vided the property. She then gave instructions to Geelong Agent Frank Roadknight to Auction a portion of the land (14 allotments) on Saturday 19th January 1954.

If you reside in the area bordered by Camp Road, McRorie Street and Brearley Court, you dwell on a part of what was once the 5 acre site of Brearley's retirement home and orchard □

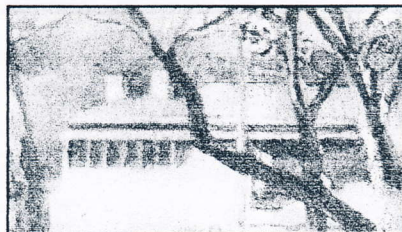
Lindsay Braden.

'Colonel George proudly flew the flag'



Blanche and Annie. Blanche did not marry, and Annie became the wife of Geelong Auctioneer George Appleton, an early member of the Army Reservists, who preferred to be addressed as 'Colonel'. He was described by an 'Advertiser' reporter as being jovial.

While Colonel George was 'in residence' at Anglesea, a Union Jack flew majestically at the top of the flagpole in front of the house. This prominent piece of bunting could easily be seen from the main track into town, or even



Brearley's 'Merimbula'

from the river.

When George first came to Anglesea as a eager Lieutenant, he visited Sichlau's "Norsewood" and went galloping towards Lorne on