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# Commando Courier

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## EDITORIAL . . .

### PROGRESS

It is a happy, satisfying thought to look back upon the progress that the Association has won, thus far. In reaching the point at which it stands today, many were the heartaches and failures of the past. These have only served to make those stalwarts of the early years, keener, wiser, and more heartened for the future, for once progress stops then stagnation would soon put an end to all past achievements. It is only by individual support that the vital progress of the future can be gained.

Membership, active, appreciative and sustained, or even critical, is like the applause of an audience for an actor, to executive members. Financial membership is the pulse of any organisation, large or small. A good healthy pulse shows a live, vibrant body of financial members. In this regard steady improvement continues. Few members remain without the fold—few forget temporarily. It is to these that future progress in the Association membership is addressed, but to all members the need for backing must be stressed.

Support, wherever and whenever possible keeps the member and the Association alive. In this respect, present domestic responsibilities do have a bearing on attendances at functions. Perhaps with the passing of a few more years these ties will lessen, but meanwhile endeavor should be made to support all such activities to the utmost, lest, when the time arrives, the rot and stagnation of disinterest has set a downward path. Therefore prepare for the future. Keep contact, keep interest. Then the larder will be filled with that which was put by in the past. To this end, now is the time to place finances in order.

With the growth of the Association greater financial stability should follow. This cannot be achieved by committees unless they are composed of moneyed philanthropists. It is the work of the members. No complaint can be laid at their door for past efforts. In the members' hands lies the responsibility for furthering the financial state of their show for the future. They, too, can gain confidence from the past, in order to eclipse previous efforts.

The Association has progressed, it must continue to progress or die. In our hands, in our efforts, yours and mine, lies the satisfaction, the pleasures of the future—IF WE KEEP ON PROGRESSING.

—A. Walsh.

# West Australian Whisperings

## Committee Comment

Your committee met on August 21 and owing to inclement weather, holidays, etc., the attendance was well below normal, but much business of moment to the Association was discussed.

As no replies were received to the request in the "Courier" to send in names and domicile of Creadoes and helpers in Timor, nothing further could be done in advising Army Headquarters of these particulars. Everybody who remembers the name of their personal Creado and where he came from, should treat this matter as urgent and send in particulars to the Editor immediately. Nobody was behind the door when it came to putting in claims for Act of Grace payments for service in Timor, so having received something for yourself, what about doing the right thing about your helpers during the campaign?

It was decided to conduct a Sweep on the Melbourne Cup again this year, on similar lines to the sweeps of previous years. Prize money will be £25 for First; £10 for Second, and £5 for Third, with 5/- to all persons drawing horses. Tickets will be forwarded to you in the near future and you are asked to sell them as soon as possible before the usual spate of sweeps on the Cup get about. Too much emphasis cannot be put upon the necessity for the success of our sweep, as it is the financial lifeblood of the show.

The meeting resolved that a brief resume of committee proceedings be read at all general meetings to keep everybody informed of what is being done for the Association and committee.

As you know, it was decided to have our area in Kings Park put under grass this year, and with that object in view, a working bee in King's Park has been arranged for Sunday morning, 23rd September, at 9.30 a.m. This is a job everyone can assist with and you are specially requested to keep this

date free and attend the Busy Bee. The meeting place will be the Perth Railway Station as near to 9.30 a.m. as possible and those with cars will then be able to transport us less fortunate brethren.

\* \* \* \*

## Association Activities

Once again have to chronicle a most successful get together on the 7th August, when Mr. Jerry Dolan was good enough to address the meeting on the subject of "Football". One of the best roll-ups for ages was present and gave Mr. Dolan an attentive and appreciative hearing on his subject, of which he is such an acknowledged expert. The thanks of the Association go firstly to Mr. Dolan for his informed commentary and to Mr. Jack Carey, who made the talk possible.

September meeting on the 4th should be one right out the box. Arrangements are on hand to try and get Mr. Florian to address us on the subject: "Behind the Iron Curtain". This talk has already been heard by other bodies in Perth and created a furore in the local press. The talk is acknowledged as one of the most forthright and well informed on the subject of Russia to ever be delivered in the City, so lads, here is an unparalleled opportunity to hear something of conditions existing in a part of the world so much in the news today.

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## Personalities

Noticed Len Bagley a couple of times recently. Len is getting as large as the proverbial barn door and looks as though he is enjoying life. He toils with West Australian Newspapers and as a shift worker finds it hard to make meetings.

News to hand that Gordon Barnes is still in South Australia and driving a truck for a crust. Gordon is

enjoying his sojourn in S.A. and looks like making it a permanent bet.

Tom Bateman is the proud parent of a son, making it two, so he is doing everything to keep the name of Bateman on the Electoral Roll. Congrats. Tom, to yourself and your good wife on the happy event!

Merv Cash is another who came good with the Stork in the last month. Merv's offspring is a daughter. This makes four children in all to Merv, and I think he would be the leader in the Maternity Stakes for our crowd. Merv, who is a cow cockie at Karridale, shouldn't have any difficulty with the feeding problems, anyhow. Once again Merv, to you and your spouse, heartiest congrats from the Gang.

Joe Brand noticed in the Big Smoke during the month. Joe is one of those opulent wheat and sheep farmers up Ogilvie way and has made good use of his Soldier Settler farm which I believe is well on the way to being his very own.

"Gunner" Brown has joined the Korean Force and expects to be on his way very soon. Congrats. Gunner, or should I? Anyhow all the very best and keep the head withdrawn and the hinder part well down.

Had a letter from Dick Darrington, who is baking at Quairading with the Co-op there. He likes the place and says that living in the wheat belt is quite an experience after so long in the south west.

Saw Jack Denman in town during the month and he looks very well. Says Geraldton is a good spot to toil in, but that the housing situation is very grim.

Rod Dhu writes from Broome where he drives a grader for the Dept. of Civil Aviation. Says he gets round the remote spots on the north west quite considerably, building 'dromes for the Department. Rod has hope of being in the city for the Annual Reunion next year. Will forward you a Stat. Declaration for the Act of

Grace payment, Rod, and I think I will be able to fix up the J.P. business if you just fill it in.

The new vice president for this State is Bill Epps and we know he will fill the position to advantage to the Association.

Frank Freestone is once more a member of the Committee taking Bill Epps's vacated position. We wish both these gents a happy sojourn on the Committee.

Doug Fullarton has been holidaying at Carnarvon—must have wanted to see what they do with the excess water at that place. Doug, by the way, is now Yard Manager for Bunning Bros., the real white collar type!

Ivor Goodall has forsaken the Police Force for the call of the land. He has returned to Broomehill to assist his father with the running of quite a large holding in that area. Best wishes for success in your new sphere, Ivor.

The appointment of Jerry Haire as Manager of the State Schoolboys Athletic Side is one that will meet with the high approbation of all. Jerry should do a great job as manager, and is sure to be extremely popular on all sides. Our congratulations to your many others, Jerry.

Another of our members who has made the grade in the sporting world, is Don May, who has been appointed Captain of the Railway Institute Football Team to play in the carnival in Adelaide. Don is now living at South Perth and is hopeful that he will be able to see more of the lads at meetings, etc., in the near future.

Jack Hasson has given away the taxi business and returned to the land. I think he is back at Wyalkatchem, but would not be sure. Anyhow, Jack, good luck.

Had a note from Ron Kirkwood to say that after a hectic week or so, he has settled down at Kalgoorlie. Ron sends his congratulations on the "Courier", for which we are duly thankful, and his regards to all the boys.

Dudley Tapper is among this month's correspondents. He says the weather is bitter in South Australia, what with snow, etc., but he is bearing up. "Dud" had Max Davies staying with him for a few days and says Max is bigger than ever, which is definitely saying

something. About the only one of the boys that Dud sees with any regularity in S.A. is Gordon Barnes, who we have mentioned earlier. The water position in Adelaide has straightened itself out with the good winter rains and water rationing shouldn't be necessary next summer.

Alec Thomson has had the misfortune to have trouble with his baby. It was born prematurely and contacted some trouble that required a rapid ambulance trip from Pemberton to Perth. We hope that all turns out right for you, Alec, and that your efforts are not in vain.

Jimmy Ritchie was noticed back in the Big Smoke after a successful shearing run up north. He has now rushed off to the wheat belt to knock off a few more fleeces 'ere the season ends.

Arthur Marshall in to see me and smoke large quantities of my tobacco while in the process. 'Marsh' is still playing football at Harvey, but says he has to trip these young birds as they run past him to get them back to his level.

## Reminders

Don't forget the September Meeting on the 4th at Monash Club. This promises to be something out of the box in the way of Addresses. Roll up and see that the speaker talks to a large and appreciative audience.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 23rd, as a day to be remembered for that Working Bee at King's Park. We meet at Perth Central Station at 9.30 a.m.

When those sweep tickets arrive do your most rapid best to dispose of them and return those butts pronto and of course if you think you can sell more, ask for a further supply.

Your subscriptions will be ever so welcome now if you care to send them in.

Advice of your native helpers in Timor would be doubly appreciated as we wish to prepare a case for the Minister. Don't forget this means YOU. **DO IT NOW.**

## New South Wales News

### FRIENDSHIP

There are many really beautiful words in our English language, and not the least beautiful among them is the word "Friendship". How many of us ever pause to meditate upon the meaning of this mellow sounding noun. Look it up in any good dictionary and you will find it defined thus:— Noun. An attachment to a person, proceeding from intimate acquaintance, and a reciprocation of kind offices, or from a favorable opinion of the amiable and respectable qualities of his mind. There can be no friendship without confidence, and no confidence without integrity.

I believe this is as good a description of the word as one would find anywhere, but it doesn't give any idea of the immense power the feeling of friendship wields in this world today. Its a feeling which may exist in the minutest quantity

between two people, or a group of people, or between whole nations of people. The lack of it is the primary cause of devastating world wars such as we have all experienced in this twentieth century.

How very true is the old saying that a wealthy man without friends is a poor man indeed, but the poor man with many friends is enriched and happy in the knowledge that his particular brand of wealth has far more than monetary value. The fellowship which we enjoy in our little Association we can all be justly proud of, and we must all do our utmost to keep the Association progressing with the ultimate of co-operation between all members. We have many years ahead of us before we cross the great divide and doubtless there will be many of us who will at some time or other have need of a helping hand to prevail over the vicissitudes of life.

Up to the present we have been able to assist several members in a small way when the path hasn't been too smooth, but as time passes we are bound to have more frequent calls upon our resources and we must be fully prepared to live up to the old axiom of "A friend in need is a friend indeed". Friendship should be kept in constant repair and the repair station in our case is the meetings, smokos, picnics, etc.

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### PICNIC DAY

The picnic which we held at Hollywood Park on the 5th of August was an outstanding success, and augurs well for future ones. The roll-up was good, members present being Frank and Betty O'Neill, Tom my and Muriel O'Brien, Fred and Lyle Otway, Bill and June Bennett, Johnny and Nan Rose, Bernie and Gwen Weir, Fred and Beryl Stewart, Allan and Monica Stewart, Jimmy Ward and wife, Micky Mannix, Ron Hilliard, Jack Keenahan, Carl Maher, and Self. There were numerous offsprings, relatives and friends making up a total of about forty.

Thanks to the influence of Micky Mannix we had 28 gallons of beer, but as the afternoon became a bit chilly to keep the kids out we were forced to leave the last ten untouched, much to the utter disgust of one O'Neill. When I suggested another such day in two or three months time there was a howl of

protest, especially from the ladies. Why wait so long they reckoned, make it NEXT month. Anyway the next one will be decided upon at the general meeting and it has been suggested by Allan Stewart that he arrange a picnic cricket match against the camp personnel at Moorebank. In that way we will be sure of beer supplies and first class entertainment as well. So all you aspiring Bradmans practise up on your leg drives and put your name in to selectors O'Neill and Stewart.

Was very pleased to see Carl Maher put in an appearance and he promises to be a regular from now on. Some of the others present had not been as consistent as they could have, but we hope their period of hibernation has come to an end. Tom Martin was most unfortunate in having a bout of the flu and had to spend the day in bed. Alan Luby also was unlucky in not being able to wangle the day off from work. Better luck next time boys.

\* \* \* \*

### *Heard This?*

"You say your husband no longer spends his evenings at the club?"

"I soon broke him of that."

"How did you manage it?"

"Before going to bed I put two easy chairs close together by the fire, then held a match to a cigar until the room got a faint odor of smoke."

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## Personalities

The 'Courier' has borne fruit already. Have had several letters expressing pleasant surprise and appreciation of its excellence, not to mention the many verbal comments from contacts. Tom Snowdon writes from Canberra to say he was thrilled to get his first copy and read of the doings of old mates. Tom married a Canberra lass in 1949 and has one son. He is now in his fourth season as coach of the Canberra Football Team, and says the team did pretty well in the Australian Amateur Carnival until they met Victoria. Tom used to see Arthur Hirst a lot but lately no lookim; Dave Dexter also hard to find in the Capital. Tom issues an invitation to any of the boys visiting Canberra to spend the night at his place and wishes all the very best of luck. Thanks for your letter, Tom, and the sub.; will be writing to you as soon as possible.

Ron McArthur has been in Yaralla for a good many weeks and expects to be there for a long time yet, so anyone out that way might drop in to see him in Ward 31.

Bob Smith has come good again with a very long letter and says

how very pleased he was to get his 'Courier'. Bob and Joyce now have the pigeon pair, the last being a girl four months ago. Congrats. to you both Bob. Bob had a few noggins with Blue Beresford in Nowra a couple of months ago and Blue was looking in the pink—he's a married man with a recent addition to the family; how about writing one of these days, Blue? Bob says he is due for a transfer to a better station soon and thinks it might be one about 80 miles north of Newcastle. Many thanks for your letter and the cheque, Bob. I'll write to you very shortly and answer all the questions.

Bill Bennett recently paid a visit to Brisbane and spent a little time with Col Cubis at Ascot. Bill reports Col is doing extra well with his mixed business at the race course and says he is the local S.P. man as well. The Cubis menage was blessed with an 8 lb. daughter on the 26th of July. Congrats Col.

I heard Neal Bay being held up as an example for all young men of military age after one of the army's radio ads. appealing for recruits.

Am running a bit late for the press this month so will save the rest for the next issue.

—John Hartley.

## Victorian Vocal Venturings

### ITEMS OF GENERAL IMPORTANCE

The attention of Victorian members is drawn to the fact that a General Meeting will be held the second week in September. Further notice of this meeting will reach members in due course. The time has come to get together and discuss quite a few items of business long outstanding, and it is essential to have a meeting and get going on the road to progress.

The Branch is gaining ground in the financial sphere and total funds including Provident Fund are in the vicinity of £100. Please no not think that the fact that we have a

few quidlets in the old "tin tank" absolves you from paying those just dues. Contributions to the Provident Fund are always most welcome.

Afraid the address list is not as up to date as we would like it to be and in an effort to rectify same, have appended at the foot of the Victorian notes, a list of "Doubtful" addresses and also a list of those chaps who have not given us any address at all. If you can supply me with any of these addresses I would be most pleased.

My address for the moment is, c/- the Argus Broadcasting Services Pty., Ltd., 365 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, C.1.

## Personalities

Excuse me for a word or two about myself. My wife presented me with a daughter on 23rd July, making it a pigeon pair. Thanks for the congrats. Have transferred in my work to the Argus Broadcasting Services Pty. Ltd., as accountant, early in June, just in time for the annual balances, so of course the nose has been to the grindstone for some time but am gradually getting to the front and should be able to give away night work very shortly.

Some news of Arch Campbell. Arch also has found himself a new line of employment having given away Gilmours recently. He is now operating a brand new Austin A40 panel van as an express carrier doing anything at all. Incidentally, his telephone numbers if you require his services are Depot: FJ 3994, and Home: WM 1111. I know he will appreciate any business in the delivery way that can be put in his direction. All the very best of luck to you, Arch, in your new venture. I'm sure if hard working will make it a success you are already on the way to being a Rockefeller!

Have two old Unit members at the Argus with me in Tom Meldren and Jim Rominson, who are both doing very well.

Met Bert Dowsett in the city one day and although he is not able to get along to many functions, he nevertheless enjoys the newsletters, etc. Wrote out a cheque for a pound on the spot to cover two years' subscriptions and a donation to the Provident Fund. His new address: 49 Frater St., East Kew.

Saw Ron Eastick on Princess Bridge Station one night. He was minding his baby (of which he was very proud) while awaiting his wife. I think he said he was living at Rosanna.

A photo of Blue Southwell in the Argus about three weeks ago.

Nearly run over by a big car driven by a little man, name Bob George (Jacobs to you).

Have seen Peter Krause a couple of times in his capacity as typewriter fixer-upper.

Alby Martin looking very well, sighted in the city.

Stan Whitford was a very unexpected but welcome visitor a few months back. Stan looks exceptionally well and believe it or not, still playing football. Stan is on the land and has four or five kiddies.

Gerry Maley is still in the country at Noble Park a few miles from Dandenong, where he rides herd on large quantities of chickens. He has quite an extensive run and anticipates putting down a tennis court shortly. He says he reads a couple of books a week travelling to and from town.

Kev. Curran still playing good footy for Hawthorn—asks me to pass on his best wishes to all his friends in W.A. for the good time he had in that State. He broke a bone in his hand in the Adelaide game and was out of footy for a week or so.

Max Davies has been to S.A. for his annual holidays and should be back in harness 'ere this.

Now for those addresses. Here is a list of chaps whose addresses are doubtful: R. Adams, E. Bourke, A. G. Coats, R. Eastick, W. Eley, J. Fenwick, D. A. Fryer, W. Gilchrist, G. Humphrey, A. L. Mitchell, W. J. Mountford, E. Mulcahy, T. Paull, B. Smith, V. P. Wilby.

This list is of those persons of whom no addresses are held. If any one reading this can help with an address or two, I would be most obliged: Keith Beer, Fred Bryant, A. E. Elder, Sam Fulbrook, D. C. McCallum, J. McLaughlin, Chas. Pickering, Tom Snowden, Gerry Touhy, Wally Wordie, "Sailor" Ward—passing any knowledge you may have on to Arch Campbell, 23 Hazel Street, Camberwell; Col. Doig 9 Barrack Street, Perth, or myself at the aforementioned establishment.

—Bert Tobin.

## Heard This?

Friend: What is your favorite sport?

Doctor: Sleighing.

Friend: No, I mean apart from business.

THIS SHOULD INTEREST YOU

## The Hydrogen Bomb

Reviewing the Hell Bomb, by William L. Laurence (a new book published by Knof in America), J. Bronowski, in London "Observer", draws on the book for some of his nightmare details of what the experimenting scientists are striving to achieve and the frightful things that could follow.

In the less technical information, it is mentioned that, hydrogen being built into helium in the sun and the stars at about 20,000,000 degrees centigrade, there was no hope of starting this reaction on earth until this temperature could be reached, which was "unthinkable fifteen years ago". The atomic bomb solved that problem; at detonation it reaches 50,000,000 degrees. Hence a hydrogen bomb contains an atomic bomb simply to act as detonator and set the hydrogen off.

That, however, is only one problem solved. "The atomic bomb holds its 50,000,000 degrees only for a millionth of a second, and this will not start and sustain the fusion of ordinary hydrogen. Even hydrogen extracted from heavy water will not fire in this short flash. If a hydrogen bomb is to work at all, it must contain at least some extra-heavy hydrogen (tritium) made in an atomic pile. We think, although we are by no means certain, that either this extra-heavy hydrogen alone, or a mixture of it with hydrogen from heavy water, can be detonated by an atomic bomb."

If the bomb, as expected, is made to work, perhaps this year, there would on technical grounds be no limit as to size, "nothing against setting off a ton of hydrogen":—

"A bomb of this size, if fully effective, would be a thousand times as powerful as the Nagasaki bomb. This means that, exploded at a height of 10,000 to 20,000 feet, it would cause irreparable damage over a circle on the ground which measures 20 miles across. It would kill roughly half of all those living within this circle, whose area is nearly 250,000 acres . . .

"The largest city in the world, the wen of Greater London, measures 30 miles across. In that circle of 300,000 acres it contains nearly 9,000,000 people and a quarter of Britain's industry. The hydrogen bomb would damage irreparably the inner half of this area, from Hounslow to Woolwich, and from Barnet to Croydon, and burns and fires from it would reach through the outer half. The death-roll is unimaginable: in London as it is today, without evacuation, an effective hydrogen bomb of one ton would kill far more than 1,000,000 people. A flash measured in millionths of a second would surpass Britain's military death-roll from 1914 to 1918.

"The hydrogen bomb could also induce radioactivity on a massive scale. Indeed, if the bomb were deliberately encased in a metal such as cobalt, which becomes strongly radioactive, the dust would drift fatally over Europe for years.

"Five years ago," says the "Observer" writer, "I closed a report on the atomic bombs in Japan with the word sombre. Now, by comparison, we are almost inclined to find the atomic bomb cosy, with its modest circle of destruction two miles across and its 50,000 dead. For the hydrogen bomb is more than a weapon; it is the curfew of the civilisation built on cities."

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## Heard This?

"Nine out of every ten stammerers are men." But women are to blame for it. They shouldn't ask for explanations.

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## PERFECT WIFE

Pete: I'm going to get a divorce. My wife hasn't spoken to me in six months.

Al: Better think it over. Wives like that are hard to find.

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