

# 2/2. COMMANDO COURIER

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## The Spirit of Christmas

The season of Festivity is practically upon us. Soon the joyful Bells of Christmas will ring out their message of good cheer and goodwill to all men.

Another year has nearly reached its close and a New Year is about to be ushered in with its high hopes and optimism.

A word in season of good wishes to every reader will not be amiss. Firstly a warm Christmas Greeting and a Prosperous New Year to all the Members of the Association and their families then to kindred organisations we say the same. To those stalwarts who have made so much of our organisation in every State we say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, may you be spared long to carry on your good offices."

Now for our hopes and aspirations for the year to come. May a good providence shine upon us and may we have our fair share of Lady Luck in all we attempt to do to further the work of our Association in this year which is hard upon us.

To turn to our desires for the world in general and Australia in particular. Let us hope that the permeating spirit of Christmas will penetrate to the Councils of the world and that a love of fellow man will be uppermost in their minds when the big decisions are made, that the ever present threat of war will be overcome by the same spirit which enables us all to think so well of everybody at Christmastide.

Let us with every word, thought and wish, help to make this old globe a better place for the generations to come and reflect the whole year round the glorious fellowship of the Spirit of Christmas.

—C. D. DOIG.

# West Australian Whispers

## Association Activities

Our usual December meeting was held on the 2nd and once again have to report a most satisfactory attendance. We are definitely on the up and up with attendances recently and we can only hope the trend continues. Unfortunately our president, Gerry McKenzie, who was to give us the G.G. on the atom bomb was unable to attend owing to a fire at Northam Camp, so we had to fill in by other means. Once again we tried the debate as a fill in and everybody present appeared to enjoy themselves immensely especially when Fred Napier got into stride and treated us to a piece of oratory quite in the best Winston Churchill manner. The general feeling after the meeting was that we should have more of them.

The first Children's Xmas Party was held at 16th Battalion Drill Hall on Sunday afternoon, December 14, and proved to be an outstanding success. Over 100 children attended including some from the country, notably the Denmans, Turtans and Binghamns. Everybody co-operated magnificently to make the party go with a swing and there was never a dull moment. We owe our thanks to all those energetic chaps who worked so hard at their various tasks to make the afternoon as easy as possible for the mothers. Our special thanks to Mr. Booth who brought along the film projector and showed the films, also to Frank Fenn for his wonderful job as clown and general factotum of the show. To Alvin the Magician, for his illusions, ventriloquial act and Punch and Judy show; to the Swan Brewery for the ginger beer, and to Dick Demel for all the good work he put into getting supplies for us, and lastly to Visual Education Department for films. I won't disclose who we owe thanks to for Father Xmas but he did a wonderful job as the benign old gentleman

with the presents out of the top hat. We think our first party a real success and hope to improve on this in future years.

As stated in last issue there will be no meeting in January owing to the proximity to the Festive Season.

The Annual Re-union is to be held a couple of weeks earlier this year and will take place on Saturday, February 7, 1953, at Monash House, corner of Hay and King Streets. The date has been advanced as it is expected that quite a few chaps will be down in Perth to Country Week and also the burning off season will not have opened and therefore a few more chaps will be able to leave their farms in a little more safety. We want ALL who can to make this function a MUST. We know that once you attend one such function you will make it an annual.

Then there is the Commemoration Service on Sunday, February 8. This is definitely up everybody's alley. This is one function in the calendar which you should morally attend. If you are within reasonable distance of Kings Park on the 8th then it should be your boudoir duty to attend this service if you are not confined to a sick bed or forced by circumstances beyond your control to work or some thing.

If anyone is stuck for a party on New Year's Eve Merv Ryan has kindly asked any along to his place, cr. Murray Rd. and Wrexham St., Bicton, to a barbecue. Bring your own meat, the rest provided. Merv would also like to hear of Pete Alexander and if ever he is in town then there will be a bed available for him. Merv was also good enough to say that if any country folk were in town over Xmas and couldn't find accommodation, he might be able to assist with a bed for the night. This is what we are pleased to hear about, Merv, and the right spirit.

## Personalities

Met Steve Rogers for the first time for umteen years the other Saturday morning and of course the ear bash was on for young and old. It is remarkable the different tales each bloke has to tell and that proves the inadequacy of a Unit History if everybody didn't have his chance to say his piece. Steve looks rather well if a little on the fine side. He is plagued by a permanent limp but otherwise O.K. He is still in the bakery game at Brunswick but is seriously thinking of giving it away and going to Kalgoorlie. Says his wife's health has been indifferent since moving from Wiluna to Brunswick and he thinks that the Kalgoorlie climate would suit her better. We hope having cracked the ice that we will see a bit more of Steve.

Les Glasson called to see me quite recently. He is having a well earned holiday and is travelling the south west with a friend. Les looks in the pink but admits to being quite a bit tired and reckons a holiday away from work will do him good. Les still says business is alright in his line at Kalgoorlie but says Kalgoorlie is definitely not the place of old.

Jim Smailes also seen but his errand to Perth not so happy. Jim recently lost his father and was in town for the funeral. Our most sincere condolences on your bereavement, Jim. Jim has now completed his Mining Diploma exams. at Kalgoorlie School of Mines and passed with credit. Only three out of the 12 who took the Diploma course this year passed and as Jim got a credit pass it shows just what a good effort it was. On this effort Jim, we extend our heartiest congratulations. In the 50 years of the school's existence there have only been 48 Mining Diplomas issued so that shows that the course is a tough one. Jim thinks he may do the necessary couple of units to complete a Geology Diploma next year and so be a double barreled mining man. If you do decide to continue with your studies our best wishes Jim.

Another visitor was Georgie Smith, down from Denmark. The

Smith looked in excellent trim and says he is doing alright with Norm Thornton. He has his own home at Denmark all paid for and generally going well. Geordie and Norm hope to be among those present at the Annual Re-union in February, and also have long range plans for the Olympic Re-union. Work in the building trade at Denmark and Albany is plentiful still and generally the future is rosy.

Ron Sprigg is on long service leave for a couple of months and called to see me. Ron was a picture of health which says something for the Albany. He is hopeful of heading up Geraldton way in the New Year for a holiday and a bit of fishing at the mouth of the Murchison River.

A long report from Fred Sparkman to give me some doings of the boys in and around Bridgetown. He recently contacted Charlie McCaffery and urged him into sending in 10/- for subscription fees. "Sparky" recently saw Ted Loud at Pemberton and had the usual couple of noggins. Ted was most disappointed at not making the Bridgetown Convention but he was doing a Forestry School at the time and couldn't arrange transport. Fred also saw Key Waddington in Bridgetown recently and said he was looking so well he mistook him for his brother who is the local S.P. merchant at B'town. Sparky has returned to driving the "Iron Horses" after a spot of stand down owing to the Metal Strike. Says he doesn't know how people can possibly exist on the basic wage. He was working as a builder's laborer on jobs around farms and managed to keep the wolf from the door. Fred and his family will not be able to make it for the Xmas Party but hope to be in town later. He wishes me to send seasons greetings to any of the gang about the place.

Had a letter from Jack Penglase to say that he and his family will be at the Kiddies' Party. Jack still having a thin patch of luck but cheerfully reckons its a long lane with no pubs in it. Jack sounded just a wee bit crooked on raffles and things with very good reason too, as tickets seem to be flying in all directions. Course we too, are

in the swim so we can't poke the finger of scorn.

John Burridge having a spot of annual leave in preparation for a hectic year ahead. Didn't find out where he was going to spend it but he hoped to be at the Children's Party so he can't be going too far away. Joe is the busy City Executive these days and his time is at a premium.

Tom Nisbet called to see me a few days ago and he was looking particularly fit. He was making enquiries about the various chaps all over the place and was able to say that he tries to keep the flag flying among the bush members while he is on his many country trips. We haven't been able to see much of Tom of late but he is

#### ANNUAL RE-UNION

Owing to the high price of catering, the Committee has decided that this year they will arrange their own catering. With this end in view they ask any member who feels inclined to donate towards the dinner in the way of poultry, salads, fruit, etc., to contact C. Doig, Box R1273, G.P.O., Perth, and let him know what they are sending along. If this is done promptly the committee will then know just how they stand. Do it now!

a busy man with country travelling and of course as C.O. of 16th Battalion his time is most limited. He has been very good to us with the arrangements for the Xmas Party at the Drill Hall.

Bert Burges wrote to say that all is still well with him. He is kind enough to congratulate all office bearers for a good job in 1952 and sends his best wishes and seasons greetings to all the gang. Says the mild weather they have been experiencing in the Great Southern has held up harvesting somewhat as although grain is ripe a lot of the straw is still green. Bert says Alf Hillman saw Geo Timms in Katanning recently and reports all well with him. Bert hopefully suggested that though his screed was brief that I would be the recipient of

many letters with the advent of Xmas but sorry to disappoint Bert but the reverse is the case, probably reaction from the above normal number of letters received during the currency of the sweep.

Gordon Holmes who was down in the city for a wedding, called to see me and he looks really well. He especially asked me to send his best wishes to the gang and to Bob Palmer in particular. He was hopeful of contacting Bert Delbridge but afraid I was of little assistance as Bert is not on our mailing list.

Arthur Smith was briefly out of hospital, called to see me and I was surprised to see him looking as well. He still had his left arm in a sling and was not hopeful of it mending quickly but otherwise he has made a really great recovery. He rang me later to say he had been re-admitted to hospital to have a bone graft done on his arm as X-ray has revealed that a bone was not knitting and that a bone graft would be required. This operation, Arthur seems to think, will set back his return to work about three months.

Mrs. Cooper wrote on behalf of Bill to say how disappointed he was at not being able to attend our last meeting but he is back on night shift and just couldn't make it. Bill has been occupying his day light hours assisting his mother redecorate her home and Mrs. Cooper reckons its a case of "When father papered the parlor".



#### Reminders

There will be no meeting in January so please don't turn up at Monash Club.

The main dates now as far as you are concerned with the Association are Saturday, February 7 for the Annual Re-union and Sunday, February 8, for the Commemoration Service at Kings Park. The Annual Re-union is to be held at Monash House again so you should all know the venue by now.

An Address You May Want  
C. D. DOIG,  
Box R 1273,  
G.P.O. Perth, W.A.

#### Random Harvest

Major Love has written once again to give us some of his doings and to bring some news of our old friends Mike Calvert and Freddy Chapman. The good Major had received letters from both Fred and Mike and both were well. Mike said he had been made a political scapegoat and that he was entirely innocent of the offence with which he was charged. Freddy Chapman had thoroughly investigated the case and was definitely of the opinion that he was innocent of the charge and at the very worst was guilty of indiscretion. We who knew both men so well are most glad to hear these tidings and will agree that Freddy Chapman's judgment is good enough for us.

Another piece of excellent news for the gang from Major Love is that the book written by Bernie Callinan on the Timor Campaign has been accepted by Heinemanns, the big London publishers, for publication. The introduction is to be written by the noted author, Nevil Shute, who is Heineman's ace seller and the Major and Bernie have already given him a thorough briefing in the background of the Timor campaign. The book will be titled "False Crests" and we look forward eagerly to its eventual appearance on the booksellers' shelves.

While on the subject of books, Mike Calvert's epic story of the Burma parachute landings, "Prisoners of Hope", is now available at city booksellers (Alberts, Booklovers and others) at a cost of 26/6. Also Tom Hungerford's "The Ridge and the River", the story of a Commando patrol in Bougainville, is available at 18/-. Tom was a member of the 2/8th Squadron.

Major Love sends best wishes to all members for a Merry Xmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Rod Dhu is now domiciled in Victoria, writes to wish everybody all the best. Rod reckons he has managed to get his share of the grog since being in Vic. but the beer strike has closed down supplies considerably. He belongs to a

couple of clubs and manages to get a fair supply of tobacco and beer but it works out to be a bit expensive. Rod says he has met Arch Campbell quite a few times and that Arch is now quite a hockey fiend, plays every week-end. Rod says the weather has been terrific half through November and still like winter. Well, we had the coldest November on record and the early December days were more like winter than summer but believe me at the moment it is plenty hot enough the mercury up around th century. Rod made it for the two "Cups" and said the Melbourne Cup is most spectacular but he couldn't back a winner. He had a bad run when he first went to Vic, broke an ankle (says he was dead sober at the time) and then believe it or not, down with the mumps. Reckons the bad times are behind him now and he has high hopes for the future. Thanks for the letter, Rod, don't know when I'll be able to get around to answering it personally, as am pretty busy man and it takes me all I know to find time to get the 'Courier' together.

#### Heard This?

The missionary was remonstrating with the native chief on the number of wives he possessed.

"It is wrong to have more than one wife," he ranted. "Tell all except one that they must go and no longer look upon you as their husband."

The poor old chief shook his head. "You tell them," he countered.

#### THE THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

Daily life is narrative of mean happenings—little people.

# New South Wales News

Firstly let me thank one and all for the excellent results of the recent Cup Sweep. As yet I have not been able to make a final audit as some unsold tickets have not yet been returned and two or three lots of cash are still outstanding. If you are still holding any cash or unsold tickets will you please shoot them along to me as soon as possible, so that I can complete my records. It is expected that final figures will be approximately £180 worth of tickets sold in N.S.W. and the nett profit after all expenses are paid will be something over £140, which is a pretty good effort first up.

A special general meeting was held on November 28 to farewell Alan Luby who has been promoted to Superintendant and transferred to Gilgandra, where he will be Head Serang with a fourteen roomed residence. Congratulations, Alan, upon your advancement—we are undoubtedly going to miss your leadership in N.S.W. and the happy gatherings we have had at your home, but we are all very pleased to see you get the break you have earned. Good luck, mate, and thanks for all that you and Penny have done for the mob.

To return to the meeting, 20 members were present and Mr. Luby occupied the chair. Apologies were received from Ron Hilliard, Russ Symons, Tom Martin, Frank O'Neill, John Rose and Roy Harris.

A report was made on the results of the sweep and it was moved that a letter of thanks be sent to the Victorian Branch for their work in organising the sweep and allowing us to participate.

A motion that we maintain our affiliation with the Council of the 8th Division and outstanding dues be paid was carried unanimously. It was mentioned by Mr. Bennett that a few of our own members were P's.O.W. and as the Council has been instrumental in gaining at least partial recompense for them, we should still therefore continue to support the Council to the best

of our ability. It is felt too that with Dr. Fisher, the Council's President, also being a member of the medical board dealing with pensions cases, it may be of benefit to some of our members in the future.

A motion that we take steps to secure an Honor Roll similar to the one owned by W.A. was carried, and it was agreed that the Roll should be hung in Mr. Luby's home for a selected period of time and after that shall be in the custody of each succeeding president.

It was moved that the Association's bank account be transferred from Head Branch to the Gordon Branch and converted to a Society Account for the convenience of the secretary. The motion was carried.

The Social Committee was instructed to make arrangements for a Picnic Day, with the suggestion that we descend in force upon the O'Neill menage at Collaroy some Sunday morning.

At this stage Mr. Luby's letter of resignation as president was read and regretfully accepted. A presentation of a burnished copper fruit dish, suitably inscribed, was made to Alan, and Mr. Trengove and Mr. A. Stewart each made a few well-chosen remarks commending him for the way in which he has always worked for the Association's progress. Mr. Luby thanked all members for their support in the past and asked that even greater co-operation be given to his successor in the future. Mr. Allan Stewart was then elected to the position of Acting President for the remainder of the year.

The unemployment situation was discussed and these suggestions are made to N.S.W. members. If you need employment contact the secretary immediately, giving details of the type of work you require and the district you prefer it in. If you have some work you want done remember that we have tradesmen of all types among our own crowd who may be looking for just that sort of employment. If you can't afford to pay for it don't be

too damned proud to say so—we will organise working bees at week ends and any attempt to supply a nine gallon for afterwards will be frowned upon. Just a couple of examples of the kind of assistance available—Ron Trengove will be happy to give expert advise and assistance to amateur brick layers and John Darge has offered to repair the shoes for the family of any member who is feeling the pinch, all for free, and in these days of high prices that's a pretty generous offer to make.



## Personalities

Col Holly wrote from Kingaroy, where he has just sold out his interests in the local boozier and was hoping to obtain another in that lovely place, Maryborough. Allan Stewart and I caught a spy up there during the war when we were training at Frazer Island. The Security crowd had been after him for months but we got the goods on him in about half an hour. Col met a friend of Paddy Kenneally up there, also has seen Col Cubis. Paddy's address is 2 Rickard Road, Strathfield, Col.

A note from Gordon Olde sending regards to all the boys. Gordon is now in his own place in Canley Vale—saw Willy Wilcox recently and says he is a pretty beefy boy these days. Shadow was at the last meeting and I had to count him twice when calling the roll.

Frank Press another welcome stranger. Frank struck the jackpot in the shape of a 825 acre block of paradise at Carcoar, and to top it all off Ted Cholerton drew the neighboring block and Frank says "the laugh" is going great guns. Frank has 80 odd head of cattle, 360 sheep and numerous rabbits to keep him going from day light to dark. While in Bathurst recently Frank ran into the Bull and had a bit of a session and chin wag with him. Geoff hasn't altered any and plays a pretty good game of golf these days. Frank gives Bernie Callinan a pat on the back for his editorial re Mike Caivert. The only address I have for

Bernie is Haydens Road, Beaumaris, Chel. 1427, Vic. but I imagine he is still there, Frank. The best way to contact me in the city, Frank, is to ring Gordon Taxis, JX 2371, where I have one of the hacks or home number, Berowra 326. Thanks for your letter and remittance, Frank.

A note from Tommy Yates enclosing a couple of subs and regards to all the boys. Lionel Newton wrote from the Hill way back in August wishing he lived a lot closer to the city so he could join in the re-unions. He'd had a few beers and ear bashes with Sid Hilliard a bit previously, but hadn't sighted Gruesome Gus Ronald who has a dentist's practice out there, and reputedly doing well for himself. Lionel is now living in his own home and at time of writing still had a few finishing touches to apply. The last address I can find for Alf Harper is Seaview Parade, Belmont, Geelong, but for Bruce McLaren suggest you write c/- Gerry Maley, 10 Agnes St., Noble Park Victoria. Lionel and wife Elsie, were expecting their first infant about the end of August. Trust all went well. Thanks for sub, Lionel.

Apologies to Johnny Lett for not having complied to his request for information on the Timor Campaign. Relegated that literary genius Curly O'Neill to nut something up for you Johnny and will get on his back again.

Russ Symons reports having had Kel Carthew, wife and daughter, down from Queensland recently for a holiday, and he and Kel had a few beers with Harold Newton. He saw Sandy Eggleton at Cronulla looking very fit, but Sandy said he had been in Concord for nine months with cerebral malaria and still gets a touch of it. Thanks for the cheque, Russ.

Received a note and cheque from Cliff Paff. Sent a couple of books of butts into the sweep for you, Cliff, but you didn't do any good. Hope you get the beer quota for the new club, Cliff, a dry club is not much good to anyone, is it?

Jim Fenwick got mixed up with a fire a few weeks ago and was singed about the face and arms, and at time of writing was still wearing

bandages on the arms. Tony Adams helped Jim to sell his quota of tickets in the sweep. Jim will be facing the preacher man at the end of January if the army doesn't send him away, and after his marriage hopes to get a posting back to the south.

Les Isenhood reports having sired another daughter, this being the fourth, and says any old tradesman can leave bits hanging off them but it takes a first class man to make a clean sweep. Congrats., Les and wife. Les unfortunately still has a lot of trouble with war disabilities and was waiting to front the Pensions Tribunal again, but apart from that is very happy with his growing family. No wonder your putting additions on to your cottage, Les. Cheers and thanks for the sub and sweep money.

Bill Walsh broke a long silence with a note from Kempsey. Bill is married with three heirs. Has seen Ron Orr at Grafton and Bob Smith a few times. Bob is now the lighthouse keeper at Smoky Cape. Thanks for the note and cash, Bill, and will correct your initial and address.

Mal Lindsay another to abandon his bachelor life on the six hour week end. Congratulations Mal, and good luck to the new wife.

Well chaps, thanks to the sweep I have miles more notes on hand, but I don't think 'Courier' space will allow any more this month, so if you haven't had a mention this time please don't be offended and vow never to write again. I'll deal with them next month.

Metropolitan members can look forward to a circular early in January about a cricket match being arranged for January 18 at Cabramatta.

Thanks to all for their interest over the past year and I hope the coming year will see the Association make further progress in all States. In the meantime a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to everyone.

—JACK HARTLEY.

#### An Address You May Want

J. F. HARTLEY,  
Creek Road,  
Berowra, N.S.W.

#### MYSELF.

I have to live with myself, and so,  
I want to be fit for myself to know,  
I want to be able as days go by,  
Always to look myself straight in the eye.  
I don't want to stand with the setting sun,  
And hate myself for the things I've done.

I don't want to keep on the closet shelf,  
A lot of secrets about myself,  
And fool myself, as I come and go,  
Into thinking that nobody else will know  
The kind of man I really am,  
I don't want to dress myself in sham.

I want to go out with my head erect,  
I want to deserve all men's respect.  
But here in the struggle for fame and self,  
I want to be able to like myself,  
I want to look at myself and know,  
That I'm not bluster and bluff and empty show.

I never can hide myself from me,  
I know what others may never see,  
I know what others may never know,  
I never can fool myself and so  
Whatever happens I want to be,  
Self respecting and conscience free.

—Jack Hartley.

## Victorian Vocal Venturings

as far as our fireside relations are concerned. It was as lame that our first attempt should have been marred by such shocking weather, but all things considered, the roll-up was very good indeed, and you can be very proud of the manner in which your committee organised the party.

As friend Blue Sargeant is out of committee report forms, and has threatened me with a fate worse than death should I send him some more, I will endeavor to summarise his news. Firstly, Blue's new address appears in Toby's department and it is requested that the 'Courier' be mailed there. I might try that one too. I am now two down. Tom Crouch can shift his menage near to Sargent's in Traralgon where he can have all the rain after the first 100 inches. The Latrobe River is in flood for the 22nd time this year. I will send along the addresses of Ted Mulcaj and Gordon Rowley, or better still they may drop you a line on reading this note. Your seasonal greetings are heartily reciprocated by all down here, Blue. Give that Tiger a suck for me.

Other business undertaken was mainly on the financial side and I feel certain your worthy treasurer intends to expound himself on that subject. Also I believe every man should stick to his job and as I have a blister on my writing finger as a result of spare time painting, I have no desire to encroach on Bert's territory just now.

The Xmas Party was held on Saturday, December 6, on the lousiest, wettest, coldest December day Victoria has ever turned on. Imagine our mob, about 30 strong, jammed in the Aspendale Hall with about 1,000 squealing, squawking, howling urchins intent on enjoying themselves come what may. Ah, no, not for us, and at 3 p.m. we up anchor and paddled our way to a nice spot at Bonbeach, the Life Saving Club no less, whose worthy members generously extended a welcoming hand. From then on we all enjoyed ourselves, mum and the kids reckoned it was alright, too. By 5 o'clock I'd had ice cream and sweets, and WHISTLES (Tobin you rat!) and was glad all was over, and I was free to hie myself off to the Chelsea pub to enjoy a beer or two with Alan Munro, Bill Tucker and Max Davies. A fitting end for a day which I think has done our Branch the world of good

Committee men report as follow:

BER TTOBIN. There still remains a couple of details to clean up before we can call our 1952 Melbourne Cup Sweep finalised but Victoria's share of the spoils will be within a pound or two of £158. In addition the N.S.W. Branch will make a substantial profit also. Thanks to all for their splendid efforts.

Our committee decided that part of the profit was to be used to build the Victorian Provident Fund up to the even £100. In addition we have bought a £100 Government Bond maturing in August, 1956, so that that amount at least will be set aside for use at the time of our Grand Re-union. Other States please take notice that Victoria is awake to what a super-colossal time can be had by all Association members in 1956 and has

already taken a few tangible steps to bring it to fruition.

My wife reckons that the men-folk had the most fun of all at our Christmas Party. However she and our two kids are quite enthusiastic and already have their names on the list for next year.

Our patron, Major Stuart Love, has sent along a generous donation with his good wishes for the prosperity of our Association. Major Love advises that his new (and permanent) address is 31 Irving Road, Toorak.

Had a lengthy letter from Norm Tillett who had a few constructive and welcome ideas on 1956 for the committee. At the time of writing Norm had one or two business worries but he and his family were in good health.

Received years-overdue letter from old mate Jack Peattie who is a starter for 1956 even if it means letting his wife push him here in a billy cart. Jack is happy in the teaching service at West Tamworth and has developed a great interest in trout fishing in leisure hours. With his wife and himself very interested in hockey I can see some lengthy discussions looming in 1956 with Arch and May Campbell.

A number of letters and notes came to hand with sweep butts. In one "Smash" Hodgson gave notice of intention, thus: "Having heard that the bookies have hoarded really unwholesome amount of bullion I'll hoist Jolly Roger and sally on them with pirate's intent next Saturday. Recently bookies have repelled boarders to such good purpose that I have Dunkirked swift-o doughing dough."

Father Crowe wrote from Yarram to express his appreciation of being admitted an associate member of the Association. He has many happy memories of the days on Wilson's Promontory, wishes the Association every success and in particular desires his greetings to be passed on to Clarie Turner, Don Turton, Col Doig, Arch Campbell, Kev Curran and "Mddy".

Vic Pacey kindly sent me a cutting from a Tasmanian newspaper listing all the horrible things likely to happen to anyone connected in any way with swamps in that State.

Kev Curran expressed satisfaction with his treatment in Bendigo and anticipates kicking on wit-hurst for a while yet.

Pat Moodie thought he might have been behind in his subs so he made his total remittance a tenner, no less. Pat has a small farm about 16 miles south of Yarrawonga on the Benalla-Yarrawonga road.

All of the following who sent a note with their butts succeeded admirably in avoiding all mention of how they were or what they were doing with life: Tom Coyle, Alf Harper, Bill Peterson, Dick McLean, Arthur Coats, Keith Beer, Stan Weppner, Bill Weir, Don Polan, Ivan Brown, Dick Adams, Alan Mitchell, R. E. Webster, Mac Walker, Ian Briggs and Harry Bickerton. However their sweep efforts were much appreciated and possibly they will find an opportunity to drop a line to Gerry Maley in the new year giving a resume of their personal doings.

H. BOTTERILL. Very little news, Jerry, but would like to mention that I enjoyed the Xmas treat immensely and that it was a great success.

Happy Greenhalgh has informed me that he has met "Beaky" Smith who now resides at Kempsey, N.S.W., and heard news of Russ Blanche who is still at Bangalow, N.S.W.

Must duck off now, still on the trail of the not so elusive as it was not long ago grog. Happy New Year and

Cheers 'n beers,  
—GERRY MALEY.

#### An Address you may want:

G. MALEY,  
10 Agnes Street,  
Noble Park, Victoria.

#### Heard This?

She: "I'm afraid to go down this street; it's so dark."

He (the cur): "But I'm with you."

She: "That's why I'm afraid."

(Printed for the publisher by "The Swan Express", 10 Helena Street, Midland Junction, W.A.)