



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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## *Editorial*

### *Random Thoughts on New Year*

Most of us at this time of the year, especially early in the month of January, start thinking of what we should do in the year which has just newly dawned. Some go so far as to make new resolutions with every intention of keeping them, only to fall by the wayside ere the month is over.

Far be it for a humble sinner like myself to hurl the first brick at those that err, a proper case of "People who live in glass houses should always undress in the dark". If anyone wants to indulge in the harmless pastime of resolution making and breaking then go to it. It's all good fun.

Waking on New Year's morning is usually fraught with all sorts of expectations. Some greet the glad dawn with cheer, others make a swift grab for the "Alka Seltzer" especially if they have assisted at a wake for the old year. But it is much better to live in the present and plan for the future than worry about that which has gone. The past is for Historians and most of us would make poor writers of any type let alone history.

Some one once said that "Life was just one darn thing after another". Well, I suppose that also applies to years, they are like the water under the bridge, gone, never to be recovered, so why waste time on useless regrets when the glorious vista of the present lies in front of us and there is always a chance of peeping behind the curtain of the future to see even more marvellous panoramas.

This is a rather wordy method of wishing all readers the best of good things for the year of the Coronation. May all those things which you have hoped for and striven to obtain fall in your lap this year. May the sorrows of past depart from you as the leaves in an autumn breeze.

A final thought to everyone: "Do unto others before they get a chance to do you".  
—"SEEDY DOG".

## West Australian Whisperings

### Committee Comment

Once again a well attended Committee did battle with the many and varied problems connected with Association affairs.

The major matter was arrangements for the forthcoming Annual Re-Union and the Commemoration Service. As you have been previously advised the Committee is going to cater for the Re-Union this year and of course making final arrangements in this matter occupied most of the time. Thanks to the good offices of Mr. Dook the catering is now well in hand and a good spread is assured. Other things which go to make a success of the function are also well in hand and we can look forward to the Re-Union with confidence.

All the necessary details have been looked into in regard to the Commemoration Service and this Service will be well up to the standard set in previous years and it is hoped can exceed those if possible.

Working Bees to clean up our area in Kings Park were arranged and to prepare for the Annual Re-Union.

Everything possible has been done to have the Unit represented by a serving member in the Coronation Contingent. As our president, Major McKenzie, is an applicant, your Committee has thrown its weight behind his application and we have high hopes of success in this direction. You can rest assured that if we do miss out on this matter it will not be for lack of trying. Much good can come from us having someone with this contingent both from a point of view of prestige and also from the contact work which he will be able to do for us while in England with such people as Freddy Chapman, Michael Calvert and our counter parts the 2nd Commando in Britain, so you will see why we are so anxious to have a representative.

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

### Association Activities

Since the last 'Courier' the Association has, apart from Committee meetings, been in recess. No meeting was held in January and the February meeting, owing to its proximity to the Annual Re-Union, has also been deleted.

The first of the coming functions is the Annual Re-Union to be held at Monash House on corner of Hay and King Streets, Perth, on Saturday, February 7. This promises to be the best ever held and already quite a few country folk have expressed their intention of being present. If you live in a country area and know of a Unit mate in that area, what about a bit of contact work and bring him down to the Re-Union? This is definitely our big night and we want to make it bigger and brighter as each year passes. A special request is made to city members to get along as they have no problems at all compared with country members, it is mainly a case of catching public transport and presenting themselves at the door whereas the lads from the bush have to travel vast distances and also as most are engaged in the rural industry, have to make some arrangements to carry on the work they leave behind.

Now for the Commemoration Service to be held at Kings Park on Sunday, February 8. This will take similar form to previous years and will be in the capable hands of your president, Gerry McKenzie. Anyone with a vehicle is asked to assemble at the Perth railway station by 2.45 p.m. The Service is due to start at Kings Park by 3.15 p.m., and if those fortunate enough to own cars can help in transporting other folk from Perth to the Park it should ensure a better attendance. Once again let me press upon you the importance of attending this Service. It is our Association's yearly effort to commemorate and venerate those who gave their lives to the cause. Any one of us could easily be named in this grove and it is not much to ask that you attend one short service per year to once again remem-

ber those who are no longer with us. Metropolitan members in particular should find little difficulty in attending and should make every effort to attend and short of sickness or shift work no excuse should be accepted.

The meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 3, will be a picture evening and some good films are being teed up for your enjoyment, so this March meeting should be really good.

The April meeting on the 7th (day after Easter) should also bring you something of importance as the Committee is arranging with Mr. Colin McDonald, whose experience in China over a long period has been the subject of two previous talks, to once again speak on this area. His comments on the Korean situation in the light of his lengthy experience in China should be most enlightening.

Members will see from the above that a most interesting programme has been drawn up for the immediate future and should warrant their earnest attention. We have hopes that the Davis Cup film will be shown at the March meeting but this, at the moment, is in the lap of the gods, or should I say Slazengers?

□

### Personalities

Afraid after a bumper previous four months we have hit the doldrums as far as personalities or correspondents are concerned this month and there will be little to report.

Thank God for Bert Burges who always adds his monthly mite to this column. Bert says that as the Re-Union should be uppermost in the minds of all this month he will devote some space to this matter. He wishes me to suggest to members in his area (Broomehill) that both he and Alf Hillman will be going to the Re-Union and will be pleased to hear from anyone requiring transport. It is their intention to be in Perth by mid-day Saturday and leave p.m. Sunday. They will pick up at Katanning and Kojonup and can be contacted by

telephone, Alf through the Broomehill exchange and Bert through Katanning exchange. Bert is booked in at the Savoy and will be pleased to meet any of the gang for an odd noggin on Saturday morning. Bert reports harvesting complete in his area and some good returns despite storm damage and that feed and water position much better than for some years. Max Davies' address for your benefit, Bert, is: 155 Spring Street, Regent, N.19, Victoria. Max is hereby warned of Bert's intention to write and therefore the shock will be slightly cushioned. Bert sends his regards to the gang wherever they be and hopes to meet a big herd at the annual "do".

Gordon Rowley came good this month with quite a long screed of his personal doings in the Manjimup area. Gordon says he has only met one of the gang since the Convention, that was Tom Crouch. Gordon was most pleased with the Convention and has hopes that further of these functions will be held in the South West area. He thinks that each succeeding one will see an improvement both in presentation and attendance. Gordon had a most successful Xmas party at his place with 51 kiddies in attendance. Father Xmas arrived on a timber crane right on the job. The adults did pretty well too, lowering about 20 gallons of grog, so it seems a good time was had by all. Thanks very much, Gordon, for your donation of a couple of chooks, they are most gratefully accepted and you will be advised as to how and when we will require them. By the way, Gordon, you and Tom Bateman are the only donors to date, so your effort is doubly appreciated.

Saw Sid Jarvis recently at his ranch at Gosnells. Sid had done a tremendous amount of work in a brief space of time on this fowl farm and is managing to scrape out a crust. Sid has 18 acres of ground and the place has quite a high potential but like a lot of chaps, Sid suffers from lack of capital and so his progress is very slow and he suffers from all the set backs that lack of money brings with it.

Arthur Smith is about again but his arm is still in plaster and he

expects it to remain so for quite a time yet. His left arm looks like being a permanent disability as the elbow joint will be stiff for ever. He has a light job lined up at work which will be well within his range to encompass.

Mal Herbert seen in town recently and looking rather well. Says he had a fair season, much better than most in his area and he said also that Stan Payne had a fair return from his crop. It must be remembered that in this area crops in the main were total failures and most farmers would be lucky to get seed from their crops. Mal is hopeful of doing a round trip on one of the liners going to the East shortly. It is primarily a health trip for his wife who is not so well.

Saw Ray Aitken the other day, looking really well. Ray will continue teaching at Nyabing for another year and his movements after that problematical. Ray has been doing a spot of duck shooting in the Great Southern lakes area and has got some nice bags. He also did fairly well in the clay pigeon shoot at Katanning for the State Championship finishing third, only two points away from the winner. Says his shooting was bad and much below his previous form and if he could have struck a patch at all the title would have been his as the winner's tally was not really good. When he left me he was rushing out to make something favorite at the local horse sports. Hope he had good luck.

Jack Spencer called to see me recently and he is back at work again and apart from some stiffness in his ankle is fully recovered from his accident of fifteen months ago. Jack maintains a happy frame of mind and still can crack a joke. Says work was hard to take after so much inactivity but he is now firmly settled back. He went to Collie recently for a brief holiday and saw Eric Thornander and Roy Watson. The "Pluggie" still going along nicely and sends his regards to the gang. Eric himself is well but his wife is suffering from an irritating recurring rash on her body which seems to defy the best medical efforts to cure. Jack says that after sundry bees with

Roy and Eric he just managed to catch his bus back to the big smoke

Another member who has struck a bad patch with wife sickness is our good State Secretary, Geo. Boyland. Mrs. Boyland is in St. John of God Hospital recuperating from a major operation and latest reports show improvement. We hope that all will be well by the time the next 'Courier' comes from the press.

"Curly" Bowden had a brief visit to the South West area during the Xmas vacation but have no details of whether he met any of the gang. "Curly" is now back at the hard grind of factory foreman to Tom Parkinson's Furniture Works.

"Mick" Holland took unto himself a bride just before Xmas and we add our congratulations to all the others "Dutchy" and hope that the marriage will be as successful as you hope it will be. Have seen the "Dutchy" since and the double harness seems to suit him as he looks much more sprightly and full of beans than a newly married man just back from his honeymoon should be.

Bernie Langridge has just become a papa again, a son. Once again our congrats., and hopes that the sleep won't be too deeply interfered with. Suppose this new addition will interfere with any plans you may have had for attending the Annual Re-Union, Bernie? Hope to see you in the near future and drink an odd noggin for old times sake.

Have had word that Stan King was in town recently but did not see him personally. Reports are that Stan will be in town for about a month around about country week cricket time which, of course takes in the Annual Re-Union, so we can look forward with pleasure to seeing Stan on February 7.

Ron Dook is now on annual leave and hopes to spend some time in getting some work done on his home at Joondana Heights. He is another of the self help builders and we wish him every success. Ron has done a really remarkable job as hostel manager for migrant workers, a most difficult task and can assure you when your holidays loom up you are very pleased to grab them to get away from the job

## Reminders

Firstly, the Annual Re-Union and Commemoration Service on February 7 and 8. Try and make both these functions, boys, and turn 1953 into a record year. The venue of the Annual Do is Monash House, cr. King and Hays Streets, Perth.

The year is progressing considerably and still quite a few subscriptions are outstanding. If you think for one moment that you owe a subscription, send in a dollar and we will credit it to your account. Don't be afraid of being a bit in front, it's good for the conscience.

Hope you made it a New Year's resolution to pay more attention to your Association this year and that we will see you at a few more of our meetings on the First Tuesday in the month at Monash Club, 10a King Street, Perth.

## Random Harvest

The Random is hardly a Harvest this month as only a couple of pieces of news to hand. This is a great pity as comments from lots of sources put this column high on the list of likeable features of the 'Courier'. What about it you chaps from the jungles of Queensland, S.A. and Tasmania, an odd note now and again to the Editor so that the folk elsewhere in Aussie will know of your doings.

First piece of news from Peter Mantle who as you know by now, is with the Bureau of Information at Canberra, and has to supply the advertising and write up material for lots of odd things to do with Government departments. He recently had an assignment to write a piece about a PROTONSYNCHROTON, which if you ignorant types don't know what it is, is a queer business to do with nuclear physics. The thing the scientific types bombard atoms of uranium and what-have-you with. This particular piece of devil's equipment is being built in Canberra to the design of Professor Oliphant

and by all the luck in the world was just at that state of erection to be able to incorporate a new something, lately discovered in America. If it had been further advanced in building it would have missed out and now with the new American whose-he-whats-it, it will probably be the best of its kind in the world. Of course, Uncle Sam will build a better one eventually, but it's nice to lend if only momentarily, says Peter.

Peter also had a private showing of Australia's copy of Magna Carta. Says he felt very historic while dropping the optic on it.

He says we are lucky we don't live in Canberra, as it is around Xmas (this letter arrived before Xmas) and still feels like winter with electric heaters on in the office, wind howling and hot water bottle in bed. Well, we in Perth weren't a great deal different at the same time and all the local Knowalls blaming the Monte Bellos business for upsetting the weather.

Peter's latest story: The pilot

was trying out the latest on faster-than-sound aircraft. After a few routine tests he thought he'd see what happened when he pulled the joystick right back. He did so and the thing shot upwards at a terrific pace. "Jesus Christ," he gasped, and a voice replied, "Yes, My Son?"

That ends Peter's contribution. Thanks for the letter Peter, hope you can send on a few more in the New Year.

Dudly Tapper is the other contributor and his letter was most brief. Just sends his best wishes to all the gang for a proper New Year and says he and his family are well.

So ends the Random Harvest for this month.

## Victorian Vocal Venturings

Owing no doubt to the season, there is a very poor supply of Committeemen's reports for the January issue—to be precise, exactly nil. There are no reprimands going out, however, as I am taking heed of the old proverb: "People in glass houses should not throw stones", and at the moment I am very much in the glass house category. With the letting down process which took place over Christmas proving rather hard to get out of, it is difficult to pick up the threads, but no matter what else we are, I am sure we can be classed as triers, and that is the main thing.

Arch Campbell spent the festive season in the big city of Sydney, and though nothing has been seen of Arch since, we can be sure he enjoyed himself.

I spent a very happy New Year's Eve at Gordon Stanleys. Managed to see the New Year in, but only just. As far as I was concerned, the 1st and 2nd of January were a complete write-off. Gordon passes on news of Bert Bache who is doing well with Foy & Gibsons, in Adelaide, and has recently acquired a sparkling new Mayflower.

Out of the mail bag comes word of "Judge" Rutherford, now domiciled at 58 Everett Street, West Brunswick ('Courier' please note).

## NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

We are sorry to report that owing to circumstances outside our control the N.S.W. correspondent is unable to supply notes for this issue.

We appeal most strongly to all N.S.W. members to co-operate to the fullest extent with Jack Hartley in supplying the necessary news and views. An odd note say every couple of months makes a correspondent's life a pleasure. It is no trouble to write notes when you have the material, but when you haven't any news, then the job just engenders wild ducks in the guts. —Editor.

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

Just goes to show how important it is to notify a change of address. "Judge" has received all the mail we have sent him, but by the time he got it, it was too late to do anything about it. "Judge" is working with Tom Mildren at the Yorkshire Brewery. Tom has had a spell in Heiledberg, wish we had known, but pleased he is out again. Sorry we haven't seen you lately, "Judge", but hope you will be more often in evidence after you move to Clayton at the end of February.

My No. 9 correspondent, as he calls himself, has not let me down, and I can trustfully say I was pleased to get Blue Sargeant's news of Traralgon. Blue thought the editorial by Col. Doig and Jack Hartley's poem, very good, certainly food for thought, and I agree. Blue had a week's fishing trip to the Lakes, bucks party, and says it was one time the big ones didn't get away. He has had a few with Tom Coyle, but has come to the conclusion that Cam Rodd, Harold Bickerton and Ted Mulcay are hibernating. (It was the right word Blue, only wrong season.)

Now an apology. Bernie Callinan and family and Major Love arrived at Asperdale for our Xmas Party a little late and could not find

us, nor could he find to where we had transferred. We do express our regret, Bernie, only through a misunderstanding was no word left to redirect any late comers. We would have been delighted to see Major Love, Mrs. Callinan and the boys, and will be on our guard to prevent a similar happening in the future. We would appreciate your passing on our apologies to Major Love and Mrs. Callinan.

Bernie writes amongst other things of his meeting John Zylstra Adjutant captain to Colonel Van Straten in Dilli, and who now has a sheep property at Narrandera, New South Wales. Also he had a few beers with John Whitaker who was with Dave Ross in Dilli when we went there. He is back in the navy as a Lieutenant-Commander and may be coming to Melbourne to live. We all look forward to meeting him if and when he does.

Harry Botterill advises that his Olive is doing well, and in all respects life is going along quietly. He damaged his ankle a week or so ago, but a day in bed and a bit of care soon fixed it up again.

Bert Tobin is ready to get into harness again. The £100 Olympic Bond is now in safe custody, and he's probably thinking up fresh schemes to get some more into kitty. All Toby's family are well.

Have another blood bank visit on Thursday, January 29, together with Max Davies and Bert Tobin. Probably some other of the lads will be there too. Harry Botterill went last week. Anyone who wishes to assist will be smartly fixed up if they contact either Arch Campbell or myself.

One other letter came in from Percy Hancock, whose wife and two girls are on route to Brisbane shortly. Was pleased to get your news Percy, and will write at length in the near future.

That's the lot for this month.  
Cheers 'n beers,  
—GERRY MALEY.

An Address you may want:  
G. MALEY,  
10 Agnes Street,  
Noble Park, Victoria.

## Heard This?

The Arab was riding comfortably on his donkey and his wife was trudging behind him with a bale of hay on her back. When a young American officer reproached him for riding while his wife carried the burden, she defended her husband, inquiring: "Do American ladies like for their husbands to come home tired at night?"

A bride was asked what she thought was the biggest thrill of marriage. "It certainly was thrilling when Jack and I went to the registrar for the licence. It was another thrill when the minister pronounced us man and wife. It was exciting to watch Jack sign the hotel register. But the biggest thrill I got was being able to look the morning-tea maid in the eye."

Just before she stepped into her bath that morning, the lady of the house mounted the scales. As she peered hopefully down at the wavering needle, her husband came in through the kitchen and paused at the door of the bathroom. "How many today, beautiful?"

"One, sweetheart. And be sure not to leave that ice carrier on the back porch where the neighbors can see it."

## EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

A well-known daily newspaper, offering 5/- each for Embarrassing Moments letters, received the following epistle:

"I work on an early night shift in a factory. I got home an hour early last night and there found another man with my wife. I was very embarrassed. Please send me 10/-, as my wife was embarrassed too."

The editor, so we are told, sent a cheque for 15/-, admitting the possibility that the stranger, too, might have been slightly embarrassed.

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

## QUESTIONNAIRE RE OLYMPIC RE-UNION 1956



As you will have noticed in the 'Courier' on more than one occasion Melbourne metropolitan members are to act as hosts to interstate travellers to the Olympic Games to be held in Melbourne in 1956. This will include providing accommodation for husband and wife only and also function to entertain everyone.

The organisers are desirous of having some prior statistics of those who if things remain normal could be in a position to attend.

This questionnaire is designed to provide that information and we ask for your fullest co-operation in completing this and returning it to the appropriate person.

Those residing in W.A. return questionnaire to C. D. Doig, Box R1237, G.P.O., Perth, W.A.

N.S.W. to Jack Hartley, Creek Road, Benowra, N.S.W.

S.A. to A. Campbell, 23 Hazel Street, Camberwell, Victoria.

Queensland to A. Campbell, 23 Hazel Street, Camberwell, Victoria.

Tasmania to A. Campbell, 23 Hazel Street, Camberwell, Victoria.

1. I will be attending the Re-Union (a) with my wife (b) on my own.
2. I will/will not be requiring accommodation.
3. I will be travelling (a) by train (b) by plane (c) by car.
4. I could take ..... passengers in my car.
5. Please book me ..... seats for the Games.

Name .....

Address .....

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