



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered at the G.P.O. Perth. for transmission by post as a periodical)

Vol. 8. No. 90.

NOVEMBER, 1954

Price 1d.

GERALDTON CONVENTION

Well, it's all over now, but, boy oh boy, what a time we had.

Everyone at sometime or other has enjoyed the brand of hospitality which only country folk seem to be able to give. The Geraldton and surrounding districts members of the Association certainly "turned it on" for the fortunates who were entertained for the weekend.

Those from Perth were Mrs. Griffiths whose husband Fred is working near Geraldton, Fred and Mrs. Napier, Geoff and Mrs. Laidlaw Slim and Mrs. Holly, Arthur and Mrs. Smith, Wilf and Mrs. March, Curly Bowden, Sprig McDonald and Jack Carey. Jack and Mrs. Fowler made the trip from Wongan Hills and Jack and Mrs. Hasson journeyed from Ballidu.

"Local" members were represented by Jack Denman, Eric Smythe, Nip Cunningham, Bill Drage, Irish Hopkins, Bruss Fagg, Fred Griffiths.

Cars were descending upon Geraldton from all directions up till about 3 p.m. Saturday when the usual few "tongue looseners" were partaken of under the generalship of the indomitable "Irish" Hopkins.

Saturday evening lads and lasses adjourned to the Denman hacienda where a barbecue had been arranged. It was a wonderful turnout and Jack and Mrs. Denman are to be congratulated on the handling of the evening. Chops, steak and sausages kept us all busy around the braziers.

Sunday morning saw all hands wending their way down town towards Shepheard's Inn where the much needed reviver was partaken of at the "Sunday Session".

Sunday afternoon the main business of the Convention was conducted in the Drill Hall. A full report on this is to be found elsewhere in the 'Courier'. The evening saw the entertainment side of the convention on its way again this time in the form of a Film Night. Several films (both amateur and professional) were shown throughout the evening and the Caulfield and Melbourne Cup races were pictured. After the filming of these shows we adjourned to Eric Smythe's new home and had a party. This went on to the early hours of the morning.

Monday saw the general exodus of a band of tired but very happy people, who were going home with that warm feeling in their hearts that is only caused by a true friendship.

At this juncture I would like to thank all you good folk from Geraldton for the marvellous time we all had. We all extend to you this hearty wish. "Thanks for a grand time."

All visitors to Geraldton were billeted with local members and made very comfortable. In general the arrangements and schedule for the Convention reflected great credit on those responsible. There is no doubt about it, Conventions are here to stay. —Wilf March.

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

The Committee met at 9 Barrack-st., on Tuesday, Oct. 19. Present were Messrs. Doig, Dook, Napier, Willis, Calcutt, Boyland, Green Strickland, March and the Secretary. Mr. Prendergrast was also in attendance to report on the Honour Avenue Water Scheme.

A "Post Mortem" held on the Ladies' Night brought forward the following points:

1. Although entertainer K. Connolly had put over a couple of good items, as compere he had not come up to expectations.

2. Mr. Dixon, the pianist, had done a splendid job and should be engaged for future Ladies' Nights if available.

3. Members asked to turn up earlier so the show could be got under way sooner.

4. Duties of cleaning up after the evening be arranged better so it would not be left for one or two to do as had been the case in the past.

Members were unanimous the evening had gone over extra well and had been a credit to the organisers Messrs. Calcutt, Dook and Willis.

On the motion of Messrs. Carey and March a vote of commendation to the organisers was passed with acclamation.

Honour Avenue Water Scheme

Mr. Doig reported piping and fittings had been delivered to Mr. Prendergrast's home. Mr. Green had supplied the M.W. Supply with a plumber's certificate and it was expected they would get on with their part of the job any day. Mr. Prendergrast then gave his ideas on the best method of installation of the piping. Following this a working bee, to prepare the piping for laying, was fixed for Sunday, Oct. 31, at Mr. Prendergrast's home.

It was decided that couch grass would be used to grass the area. A suggestion that the new superfine couch be used was discarded as the cost was considered to be too much.

Country Convention

Secretary advised the bus had been cancelled. A reply from Mr. Smyth, re accommodation at Ger-

aldton, was read. It appeared all members and wives (approx. 20) making the trip could be billeted. Alternative travelling arrangements were discussed and there appeared to be enough cars offering to cover those who intended going. The President regretted he would be unable to make the trip and undertook to write to Mr. Smyth and offer a few suggestions on the running of the Convention.

Xmas Party

Preliminary plans for Kiddies Xmas Party were discussed. Mr. Doig advised the 16th Batt. Drill Hall had been booked for Sunday afternoon, Dec. 5. His suggestion that this year each child be given a book (suitable to the child's age) in place of the Xmas boxes aroused considerable controversy. After every member had expressed his views on the matter it was moved Mr. Napier seconded Mr. Willis that "the gifts for this year be books". This motion was carried.

Further discussion on the party was deferred until the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11 p.m.

1955 PROGRAMME

January: No meeting.

February:

Annual Re-union.

Commemoration Service.

March:

Davis Cup film and Guest night.

April:

Guest Speaker.

Anzac Day Parade.

May:

Debate Night.

June:

Annual General Meeting.

Addresses You May Require:

President:

Colin Doig,

Box 1273, G.P.O., Perth.

The Editor:

W. E. MARCH,

3 Bricknall Road,

Attadale, W.A.

Secretary:

J. Carey,

73 King Street,

East Fremantle, W.A.

Association Activities

MELBOURNE CUP SWEEP

Here is the list of Melbourne Cup horses showing winners and drawers of horses.

1st: Rising Fast, 4568, Cap 10, c/- C. Narian.

2nd: Hellion, 412, Curley Bowden, 9 Barrack-st., Perth.

3rd: Gay Helios, 1965, D. Stainbury, R.G.H. Hollywood.

Drawers of horses: Sir Coral, 2176 E. Hoffman, Yarri. Tetrami, 1441, Andy, c/- Economic Store. Dunsinane, 171, H. A. Packer, 9 Barrack-st., Perth. Electric, 5940, Mrs. Francis, 36 Hubble-st., East Fremantle. Triloch, 2000, K. Harrington, Wyening, W.A. Sunish, 3301, F. Neil, M.W.S.P.W.D. King Amana, 2788, J. M. Glasham, S.E.W. Emphatic, 5309, Reg Dix, Nedlands. Photostat, 3008, H. White, Sunday Times. Great Performance, 4678, c/- Alf Walsh. Sunworship, 5185, Elaine, 98 Forrest-st., Boulder (c/- K. Beecham). Gay Gambler, 1713 A. Ralston, c/- Charlie Gorton. Beton, 3242, S. Morgan, c/- Skipper Bailey, Perth. Cerbere, 3785, C. Sadler, Wongan Hills. Sun Salute, 4295, L. Philippson, 26 Battle-st., Mosman Park. Cromis, 5230, Bob and Mum, c/- W.E.A. Harrison, Penfold Wine Saloon, Vic Park. Maynard, 1336, Hayes, c/- Woodcraft, Tuart Hill. Surmise, 5951, Mrs. Marlow, 8 Wardie-st., Sth. Fremantle. Master Proven, 3751, Mrs. Bagg, c/- Merv Ryan. Sphere, 2354, L. Higgins, Cranbrook. Frescot, 4973, K. Winston, c/- Ford Motor Co., Largs, S.A. Toastmaster, 1363, Tommy Foster, Annamah, S.A. Pandic Star, 3309, B. Landy, c/- E.D.O. M.W.S. Te Totara, 3761, 552 Lumper, c/- M. Ryan. Spearfolio, 5721, D. Pittendreigh, Manjimup. Ribera, 3092, Mrs. Carter, Crawford-rd., Inglewood (c/- D. May). Eight Bells, 3081, Mrs. Heweson, Commercial Agent, Perth, W.A.G.R. Gosportside, 4508, Don Turton. Silver Loch, 588, R. Tarbottom, 60 Herdmans Pde., Wembley. Advocate, 5785, G. E. Fewster, 143 Salisbury-st., Bedford Park. Punctuate, 4457, Mrs. O'Donnell, 32 Arundel-st., Fremantle. Livorno, 335 Ernie Bingham. Plato, 2203, Baby Holland, 87 Teague-st., Vic. Park. Royal Ascot, 5726, S. & A., 20

House, Hollywood, (c/- G. Rowley). Silver Hawk, 4925, Mrs. Zurawski, Burracoppin (c/- M. Nicholls). Commodore, 3222, G. Baldick, Perth (c/- M. Morgan). Gallant Archer, 3166, W. E. Monk, Latham. Franklin, 2965, M. H. Drummond (c/- Dept. Im. Canberra). Prince Delville, 1975, Petrie, R.G.H. Hollywood. Alcyone, 2177, E. Hoffman, Yarri. Aldershot, 3182, Irene Hasler, Osborne Park. Spritsail, 3389, Margaret Jersey, Wembley Hotel, Wembley. Surprise Ending, 4132, G. R. Sprigg, 80 Warne-st., Kerang, Vic. Dongarra, 1469, J. Gallagher, Tanner-rd., Kojonup. Sun Charm, 708, Peter Campbell. Crevasse, 3492, Ken Pepper, Moonyoonooka. Half Past 1297, V. Bagley, 2 The Reserve, Midland Junction. Lord Forrest, 5766, Lard Head, c/- Jack Carey, Perth. Sobriquet, 2160, Ron Jones, c/- Boans (Provisions). Gallant Rob, 4542, V. Varian, 26 Roseberry-st., Bayswater. Glen Ian, 757 John, 142 Gwentyfred-rd., South Perth. Austral Gem, 239, J. MacEntee, c/- W.A. Newspaper House. Wodalla, 3979, Joe Consentino, Geraldton. Captain Hunter, 3497. Janet Keep, Moonyoonooka. Oglethorpe, 5346, R. Rayner, 2 Richmond-st., North Perth. Just Caroline, 1650, T. N. Stewart, Hill Co., Albany. My Hero, 590, N. Budd, 7 Daphne-st., North Perth. Master Lament, 3969, Mrs. M. Beck, Geraldton (c/- E. Smyth).

NOVEMBER MEETING

There was a good roll up at our last meeting where our good friend Colin MacDonald gave a most interesting discourse on his experiences in China. Whilst most of the talk was on the humorous side there was intermixed the pathos with which China is faced today. Colin is indeed an orator of the first water and we are fortunate to have him come along and entertain us with his vast knowledge of the Orient, gleaned in his many years as a press correspondent.

DECEMBER MEETING

This will be a Bucks Xmas Party and will be a guest night, so start giving this a bit of thought right now boys and bring a mate along. Try and make this night a record. The date will be Dec. 27, so make a note of it.

GERALDTON CONVENTION

Report on Convention meeting held at Geraldton on Sunday, Nov. 14, 1954.

Present

Messrs. Napier, March, Laidlaw, Bowden, McDonald, Holly, Smith and Carey, representing City members, and Messrs. Cunningham, Denman, Smyth, Hopkins, Drage, Fagg, Griffiths, Fowler and Hasson representing Country members.

In the absence of the President and Vice President, Mr. Denman was elected to the chair with acclamation, on the motion of Messrs. Napier and Bowden.

The chairman declared the meeting open and extended a hearty welcome to the visitors on behalf of the Geraldton members.

Correspondence

Mr. Smyth reported he had received a letter followed by a telegram from the Association President, Mr. Doig, expressing regret at being unable to be present at the Convention and conveying best wishes to all for a successful Convention.

Financial

The chairman enquired into the states of finances of the Association. Though he had no figures the secretary assured members present the Association finances were very healthy.

General Business

For general interest Mr. Denman, who had been the Association's first President, gave a brief resume of the Association's history. He outlined the sterling work of the Welfare Association in wartime and the great assistance both financially and morally given by that body when our Association first came into being.

As a mark of appreciation for their splendid services honorary life membership had been bestowed on Messrs. Tom Foster, Frank Gardner and the late Mr. Tom Murray, by the Association. He was pleased to see the progress the Association had made from 1946.

The Secretary followed with a short talk on current Association activities. The small attendance at the last Annual General Meeting had been disturbing but the election of new blood to the Committee in Messrs. Green, Dook and Strickland was a "good thing". He described how at the first Commit-

tee meeting of each year a programme was set for the ensuing year (this included picture, guest speaker and sports nights) and adhered to as much as possible. Attendances at monthly general meetings were on the improve, whilst the recent Ladies' Night function had been very successful. The Association had undertaken to water and grass its section of Memorial Avenue in Kings Park and it seemed this task would be accomplished before the New Year. The appeal for funds to cover this project was meeting with a generous response from members. Other items on the agenda included the Kiddies Xmas Party on Sunday Dec. 5 (and though members present would probably not be able to be present their children would each receive a gift) and the Annual Re-union and Commemoration Service in February. He hoped Geraldton members would endeavour to make the latter. In conclusion he apologised for the small representation of City members at the Convention but it seemed that Country Conventions were here to stay and he felt certain the numbers able to travel to country centres for future Conventions would increase as the years progressed. He hoped that by the time the next Geraldton Convention came around it would be attended by some 30 to 40 City members.

Mr. Drage enquired if it would be possible to have the Re-union and Commemoration Service on the first weekend in February, to enable the Country members to attend, whilst their children were still on school holidays. Mr. Smyth in supporting Mr. Drage's enquiry, said the committee might even consider holding the Re-union and service on the last weekend in January which included the Monday holiday.

In reply the Secretary pointed out the question of the most suitable time to hold the Re-union Remembrance Service had been thoroughly investigated by previous executive committees and as a result of circulars sent to all members it had been determined that February was the best month most suitable for holding a Re-union and Service. However Mr. Smyth's suggestion was worthy of consideration, but members in the South

West would have to be considered. To close the discussion it was moved Mr. Smyth seconded Mr. Fowler and carried that "this Convention recommends to the executive committee that Association members in the South West be approached to see if it would suit them to hold the Re-union and Remembrance Service on the last weekend in January."

Mr. March speaking as editor said lack of news from Country members was making his task of producing a worth while 'Courier' much harder. He would appreciate if members in general would take more notice of coming events listed in the 'Courier'. His suggestion that a permanent correspondent be appointed in the Geraldton area to supply regular information to him for the 'Courier' was taken up by Mr. Smyth. His suggestion was that instead of one correspondent being appointed five or six members from his area be delegated to provide news in turn to the Editor. Mr. Smyth said if Geraldton members were agreeable and he could get an assurance from four or five of the members present to write to the Editor he could not see why his idea would not work. The Geraldton members agreed to this proposal some indicating they would only be too willing to forward information when required. Mr. Laidlaw wryly remarked that it was a pity some of those members who wrote pages and pages and had become accomplished correspondents during the war years couldn't perform similarly in peace time when news was so badly needed for the 'Courier'.

Mr. Denman asked what the policy of the Association was as regards the admitting of other members of ex Commando Units to the Association. In reply Mr. Napier said though the requirements for admittance to the Association were clearly set out in the Rules and Constitution, this matter had been discussed at various times over the years by the different executive committees who had always agreed the rules for admittance remain unaltered. Mr. Napier pointed out there were quite a few members belonging to ex Commando Units who would dearly like to be members of our Association but whilst these chaps were welcome to come

along to some of our functions (Anzac Day for instance) they had been advised they were not eligible to join the Association.

On the motion of Messrs. Fowler and Hasson it was moved and carried that "this Convention supports the policy of the Association in confining membership to Unit members".

Mr. Laidlaw had a few words to say on the N.S.W. activities. He also said he had been very impressed with the successful way the W.A. Branch of the Association was functioning. It was a great thing to see the understanding, tolerance and comradeship formed during the war years enduring so strongly.

He moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham, that "this Convention conveys to the President and Committee its loyal support and full co-operation". This was carried un-animously.

Mr. Smyth said it would be appreciated if letters of thanks be sent by the secretary to those people outside the Association in his district who had contributed in some form or other in assisting him in the organising of the Convention. He instanced cases where people had gone out of their way to make his job easier.

The Secretary said he would be only too pleased to send out letters of thanks and would do so as soon as Mr. Smyth provided him with a list.

On the motion of Messrs. Fowler and Smith it was moved "that a vote of thanks be recorded in the Convention minutes to the Geraldton members for their overwhelming hospitality". Mr. Napier in support said he would also like to see a message of thanks appear in the 'Courier', not forgetting to include the wives of members who had gone to great trouble to ensure the success of the social functions. This was agreed on.

The chairman, Mr. Denman, said the Geraldton members were deeply appreciative of the work performed by the executive committee on their behalf and moved a vote of thanks to the committee be incorporated in the minutes. This was seconded by Mr. Drage and carried.

The Secretary asked members to bear in mind the Melbourne Re-union to be held at the time of the

Olympic Games and to endeavour to plan ahead for it if possible.

Before the meeting concluded the question of costs of the Convention was discussed. It was moved Mr. Napier, seconded Mr. Bowden that "a subscription of 10/- be imposed on members present to help defray the cost of the Convention." An amendment increasing the amount of subscription to 15/- was moved and seconded by

Messrs. Fowler and Smyth. On a show of hands the amendment won the day. A further motion by Mr. Laidlaw seconded Mr. Drage, that "a recommendation be made to the executive committee to consider the matter of fixing a set charge for future Conventions", was carried.

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

The Women Have Their Say

This letter is a little be-lated, but it has been my intention to write to you ever since Ladies' Night (blame four very lively sons for the delay) and congratulate you and all the boys for the lovely evening you put on for us. Believe me, I have never enjoyed an evening so much for a long time and I think every lady there would be of the same opinion. I do think you are all doing a grand job in keeping the Unit together and I must confess I am quite as interested in the 'Courier' as Reg—he reads it when I've finished with it.

Reg is busy harvesting peas at present with an attachment that he invented and made himself and is proving very successful, so much so that other farmers are copying the idea.

We were in Ballidu last week and saw Jack and Norma Hasson, who are looking forward to their trip to the Convention in Geraldton. Unfortunately we won't be able to make it but sincerely hope it is a success and that you all enjoy your selves.

Must away now. Thank you all once again for a very memorable evening. Yours etc.—DOROTHY HARRINGTON.

Please find enclosed cheque and sweep butts from my husband. As usual he is running late with them so hope they make the draw.

Also he has asked me to enquire if something can be done about his monthly 'Courier'. He has been intending to be at some of the meetings when it is convenient for him but is unable to keep track of the dates of meetings, ladies' nights

etc., as we never receive our newsletter until about three weeks after events have taken place and as we now have our five nips off our hands and could organise a baby sitter for special nights we would like to be kept more up to date on the Association activities.

Could you also let me know if the book on the Unit's part in the war is still on sale as I would like to get hold of one for a Xmas gift to my husband.

Wishing the Association all financial success in the sweep. Yours etc.—Mrs. D. M. FRIEND.

Whilst in Geraldton enjoying the recent Convention I made a suggestion to a few other guests which proved popular. It was that we city folks provide accommodation if required and entertainment of some kind for the country wives whilst our husbands are absorbing nourishment and reminiscing at their re-union in February.

I, for one, would be proud of the opportunity to return the wonderful hospitality of our country friends. However as I am somewhat busy rearing a clutch of little Griffiths it would be appreciated if your chief organisers would consider the idea and take what action they consider best. Yours etc.—BERYL GRIFFITHS.

Heard This?

No matter what side of an argument an intelligent man gets on, he always finds some people with him he wishes were on the other side.



Well, not exactly—but still the correspondence situation could bear a bit of a brush up. One good point which has come about with the Geraldton Convention is that a correspondence roster has been formed in that area. This means that the boys in the district have banded together and each one will take his turn to be the correspondent for the month. All news items

from the area will be collated and passed on to me each month. This is a great idea and while it may not work in a lot of other districts I do think that if one section can make an effort to supply the 'Courier' with the necessary news well then others should follow suit. See what you can do about this matter in the near future.

Thanks.—Editor.

Personalities

Jim Cantrell:

Of South Perth, popped around to see me the other night. He was wanting to make sure his Melbourne Cup sweep butts were in so he rang me and then came over. We had a glass of the "amber" and had a bit of a chinwag. By the way Jim has just invested in a car—not a new one but one he will have a lot of pleasure from—he hopes.

Gordon Hislop:

Carnamah. Several car loads of Conventinonites called in on Gordon at the Carnamah Hotel and had a chinwag and a noggin with him and his wife. Gordon is looking forward to seeing any of you folk who may be passing through.

Irish Hopkins:

The luck of the Irish, they say! Did you know that while the Convention was on Bill Drage tossed Irish seven times for a quid. Yes, you've guessed it, Irish only won one toss. Irish even goes so far as to say that the "old wether Drage donated to the barbecue" was in the long run bought by himself. By the way Bill Drage is like the side of a house. There must be something in that Northampton air.

Nip Cunningham:

Hasn't changed a bit and still rearing to go when a keg's been tapped. Through Nip's good graces members visiting Geraldton were made honorary members of the Mercantile Club for a month. This privilege was duly used in the appropriate manner.

Curly Bowden and Sprig McDonald had some of the biggest cigars I've ever seen at the Geraldton barbecue. They must have been at least a foot long. To see these two puffing away it sure looked like they would be heading for the cot the next day but up they came bright and early—and looking for more cigars.

Clarrie Turner:

Of Elgin, popped in to see Col Doig the other day. Clarrie is one busy man playing nursemaid to a bunch of milking cows.

Heard This?

1st Femme: "Your boy friend must be a millionaire."

2nd Femme: "How can you tell?"

1st Femme: "Well, look at you! Money talks."

2nd Femme: "Not in this case. These clothes are hush money."

Random Harvest

Charlie Sadler:

Of Wongan Hills. A letter to hand from Charlie together with a subscription for the King's Park Water Scheme. Thanks Chas., the funds are beginning to swell now. The season in the Wongan area turned out better than expected, the crops being reasonable and the feed positions satisfactory. Pressure of business precludes Charlie from making the trip to Geraldton for the Convention but he has high hopes of meeting all his old mates at the Annual Re-union.

Stan Sadler:

Also of Wongan Hills. Only a short note, but nevertheless welcome. Stan's property is adjacent to Charlie and Stan also mentioned the good rain making all the difference to his crops (about one bag extra to the acre). It's good to hear that you received a good price for your wool, Stan, even if you didn't reach the price of the previous year.

Ron Kirkwood:

Of Kalgoorlie, has just returned to work again after a month's spell in hospital. Sorry to hear that Ron. I am sure if we had known we would have contacted you. Hope that you pick up your health again in quick time. Thanks for the "little something", as you call it, towards the King's Park Water Scheme. We would appreciate a word or two from you now and again Ron, to give us an idea how you Kalgoorlieites are faring.

Bob Palmer:

Of Cowaramut. Have just spent a considerable time deciphering Bob's notoriously bad handwriting. Thanks for the cheque for the Water Scheme, Bob. There has been a bundle of work for Bob to do lately and it has been about 8.30 p.m. before he gets in for tea. Eight years of hard work has been put into Bob's property and he says that it is only just beginning to look like a farm. Bob sends his regards to all.

Roy (Plugger) Watson:

Of Collie has let us know he is still in the land of the living and

has sent in his membership fees. Reports that he is simply exuding good health as is his wife and two children. Roy anticipates being in Perth sometime in January as he is spending his holidays with Joe and Helen Poynton. Eric Thornando is still living in Collie although Plugger hasn't seen him for some time. Also states that Don Hudson has arrived back from Geraldton after spending four months in those parts. If any of you boys should be in Collie have a look around the Federal Hotel as Roy usually sinks one or two there.

Arch Campbell:

Of Moulyinning, wrote a short note to return his sweep butts and says that he has been kept very busy with his farming interests. He hopes to see you all at the big "do".

Sid Jarvis:

Of Gosnells. Another who does not find much time for the pleasures of life having to spend eight hours per day under the watchful eye of a master (as he so aptly puts it). Sorry we couldn't arrange that the winning ticket came out of your book, Sid, better luck next time. Keep on selling and trying next year.

E. H. Craighill:

Of North Perth. Received your ticket butts and cash, thanks. Hope you can manage to make it to the next meeting.

Harry Foster:

Of Nedlands. Thanks for the sweep butts and cash. Have noted your new address, 74 Stanley-st., Nedlands.

Lew Thompson:

Of Mooliabeenee, writes in answer to a letter requesting him to return his sweep butts. It appears that Lew didn't even receive them. Never mind, Lew, those things do happen now and again and they will probably turn up any old time now. A true-blue cockie is friend Lew and he has been having a good old grouse about the lower prices for wool and the bad season for crops. Thanks for King's Park donation.

"Boomer" Giles:

Now domiciled in Meekatharra and working on the Meekatharra Hospital project. He is still with his old firm Geraldton Building Company with whom he is works foreman in charge of his present job.

Colin Criddle:

Of Wembley and working with the Midland Bus Company, says that he finds it very hard to get along to the meetings because on the Tuesday night he is doing an over-night trip from Geraldton. He considers himself a social outcast these days but has hopes of landing a base job in Perth in the near future.

Don Young:

Writes a short note from Salt Spring Gully, Bridgetown, where he has been giving his brother a hand out while he has been in hospital. Don expects to be back in his old job as soon as things get straightened out.

Ted Loud:

From Pemberton, has also written in to say that he has been very busy down his way and that his arm is quickly improving and will almost straighten out.

Charlie Pierce:

Another from the South West are—this time Albany. Charlie says that he is with the Public Works Dept., bulldozer driving. He has been at it for five years now and intends to keep going until the Melbourne Olympic trip. He assures us that he is a definite starter and will be travelling overland by car, having just purchased a big Chev.

Ted Monk:

Latham. Thanks for the donation to the King's Park Water Scheme. Would appreciate a longer letter Teddie, with a bit of news

Reg Harrington:

Of Wyening, writes: The big rush is approaching us again. The pears are ready to strip now but I am not ready for them. Have been busy putting a power lift on the header to save a lot of backaches. We are in a very favourable position in this neck of the woods.

The feed made quite a run in the end and the wheat crops are about average, or better than on a normal year, so we have little to complain about.

Well I must away and do my Boy Scout act. Have to take an old chap down who has had a stroke and about had the bomb.

Bobbie Burns:

Ingleburn, writes: Things here at the moment are a bit "topsy turvy" as everyone is waiting to see what is going to take place, for all talk is about us going to Canungra—remember it, one thing is sure, they will have to find another job for me, for I am sure I am getting too old to go running around training "Diggers" for "jungle warfare", especially when I think of some of those hills up there. Still I personally can't see any move before January 1955.

W. J. Connell:

"San Jose" Estate, Nambour, writes: Having just received my mail and my copy of the 'Courier' I thought a line or two might be welcome. I have been waiting anxiously for this last issue as I have my Melbourne Cup butts to return and didn't have Gerry's address. However, I shall get them away today.

Today is a black day for me. I am laid up in bed with a boil on the inside of my thigh. Not big, but quite painful. Anyhow it's raining, so what matters. For those interested I took a course in carpentry through the Repat. and have stuck to the trade since being discharged. I am NOT at present in N.G. as Norm Tillet thinks, although I did go back to Morseyby for a few months, two years ago. Accommodation was a problem, so I couldn't take the family with me. This Nambour is quite a pleasant little town, 75 miles north of Brisbane, and as the crow flies, about five miles off the coast. Maroochy-dore being the nearest beach. We have a house here in Nambour and three weeks ago I bought a block of land at Caloundra and have started a house there. To be built during holidays and weekends and as finance is available. I guess I'll have a real working holiday during this coming Xmas. What about a working bee, eh?

My wife (Irma) is a very interested reader of our paper, having been in the A.W.A.S. and knows a lot of the boys by name and photograph. She would like to know what has happened to all of my section, who wrote to the girls in her section while we were in N.G. Some we still hear of but some have never been mentioned in the 'Courier'. She still has a "poem" written to the A.W.A.S., edited by Jack Hartley, while in our last position in the Ramu. (I have forgotten the name of the place).

Do you have any news of the following: Snowy Perkins, Freddie Janverin, Jimmy Dent, Ron Goodacre, Tom Towers, Col Holly, Ernie Nichols, Pat Moodie, Des Lillier, George (Sadsack) Smith? I don't remember seeing their names in the 'Courier' at all. Would it be possible to publish an occasional photo in the 'Courier'? I have quite a few here which I would willingly make available providing they could be returned.

Well, this is about the longest letter I've written since I last had to write to my wife so its been quite an effort for me. Here's hoping that something out of this rabble might help fill our paper.

Cheerio for now and here's hoping the time doesn't come when the "whole show will without a doubt fold up" as Gerry Maley puts it.

H. A. Burges:

"Burlands", Broomehill, writes:

Each time I receive a copy of the 'Courier' I feel so ashamed at once again letting a month go by without having penned a few lines.

As you know I was completely tied up a few months ago with spinal trouble and now even though it is considerably improved thanks to a chiropractor by the time I get through my day's work certainly don't feel like writing cheerful letters.

Tony Bowers I saw at the Royal Show and Alf Hillman in Katanning recently but of the other chaps about here neither sight nor sound. You will probably see Alf around Nov. 20 as I understand his sister is being married in Perth that day.

The Katanning Show held Oct. 29 and 30 despite adverse seasonal conditions and unsettled weather during was an outstanding success. Alf Hillman and his brother-in-law

won a cup for the most prizes in Sheep Section and Mr. Hillman Sen. several prizes for roses amongst which was the Champion Rose. I only went for a couple of hours Saturday afternoon and spent most of that time watching ring events which were very good indeed, there being a total of 73 hacks in splendid condition.

Recent rains have made a pronounced difference in conditions here and will greatly benefit late crops. Early this week I anticipated getting a start on oats harvesting by today but now considerably delayed. Grain prospects are reasonably good.

It was good to see Geoff Laidlaw it took me back to times when he used to explain situations to us all.

Kindest regards to all.

Heard This?

One day Little Audrey was playing with matches. After a while she set the house on fire and burned it right down to the ground. Mama said: "Uh-huh, I told you so. Now, young lady, just wait until your papa comes home. You certainly will catch it." Little Audrey just laughed and laughed. She knew all the time that papa had come home an hour early and had gone to bed to take a nap.

* * * *

A Scot was engaged in a lengthy argument with a train conductor as to whether the fare was 2/- or 2/6. Finally, the exasperated conductor picked up the Scot's suitcase and tossed it off the train just as they passed over a bridge.

"Mon!" screamed the Scot. "It isn't enough to try to overcharge me, but now you try to drown my little boy."

* * * *

Arriving home earlier than usual the husband found his wife in the embrace of a friend. Friend asserted himself: "Now that you have trapped us, let's have this out man to man. I love your wife and she loves me. Will you play a game of gin rummy to decide between us?"

"Sure," said the obliging husband, "but how about stakes of a penny a point on the side, just to make the game interesting."

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Regret these notes arrived too late for October 'Courier'. —Ed.

Am sorry to report that Gerry McKenzie has been laid up for a while in Heidelberg Hospital. Hope you are fit again ere this reaches you, Gerry. Owing to his temporary illness Gerry has been unable to prepare his interim report on the Olympic Games front, but it is his number one priority and he hopes to have something for publication in the next issue.

Recently had a visit from Gordon Stanley who reported that wife Joan recently had to undergo an operation. We all hope Joan is back home and fast returning to normal, Gordon. Thanks for the butts and cash, you had quite a successful sales campaign.

Sweep tickets are also to hand from Bill Connell, Lionel Newton and N. E. Baxter. Thanks boys, I have sent them on to Toby for inclusion in the draw.

Blue Sargent sent in a cheque with his butts (£10, a grand effort) and said that his wife reckons she is not going to let him sell any next year as he struck the same time as the football club's sweep and he now has about 300 in that. Every chap he fronted had a book or two and he had to do the right thing. Blue saw Tom Coyle recently and Tom is the same as ever. In closing, Blue wished to be remembered to everyone and hopes to see us all at the Christmas Party.

Bernard Callinan recently became a daddy again, Mrs. C. presenting him with son number five. We are happy to congratulate you Bernard and trust the family are all well for a change. The Boss came to the rescue with some notes for the 'Courier' and though I am afraid I cannot decipher a great deal I am attaching them in the hope that our good friend Wilf March can make something of them.

I would appreciate a few notes for inclusion in my 'Courier' Venturings, even the Committee members comments would be of assistance. Cheers 'n beers, —Gerry Maley.

Father Crowe is in St. Vincent Hospital after having a couple of months in Mt. Saint Evans Hospital. He has had within the last few days

a very large operation on his spine and the result is still awaited.

I went to a re-union of 13 Squadron R.A.A.F. (Hudsons). Their association is only just beginning but they are anxious to establish relations with us. 2 Squadron, R.A.A.F. (also Hudsons) have a strong association complete with Provident Fund.

Major Love is doing well and sends his regards.

Had a letter from Sousa-Santos who is well and living in Mozambique. His wife has been ill. Their daughter is married to a captain in the army and they are expecting their second child about now.

Herewith a few excerpts from a letter received by Colin Doig from Bert Tobin.

As requested we send you herewith cheque for £25/14/7 representing Victoria's share of the cost of the 'Courier' for the 12 months to 31/5/54. I would greatly appreciate it if you would immediately send me a bill for our share for the six months to 30/11/54 and thereafter regularly each three months. We have found that the time lag prevents the 'Courier' being any use to us for notices of meetings and functions. However the Vic. boys are still enthusiastic about the personal news items therein. We have quite a large bill still for secretarial expenses but the 'Courier' is still dirt cheap.

You will also find enclosed a second cheque, this one being for £10/10/-. This represents a donation from the Victorian Branch towards your Kings Park Water Scheme. I was instructed at the last meeting of our committee to send the cheque along with our very best wishes. A number of glowing reports have come back to us concerning the Association's allotment in the Park and although we are many miles away we nevertheless like to feel that we are a part of it. We appreciate the fact that the names of all the Unit's fallen are recorded. We also appreciate the huge amount of work that the W.A. members have put in to make it such a fine and worthy Avenue of Honour. Our donation may be regarded by some as a small one but we ask you to accept it so

that we may feel that in a small way we have helped to create the memorial.

There seems to be a bit of a hoodoo on our organisation for the Olympic Games Scheme. Arch Campbell was of course our original O.C. for this and when he went back to the West so suddenly it took a couple of months for us to pick up the threads again. We then roped Gerry McKenzie in and he became a willing "boss cocky" of the scheme. Gerry was on the point of sending you over reams of screeds, questionnaires and general information when he was shot off to hospital. It's a month since I visited him but I understand the news lately is not so good and they still have him "garaged" at Heidelberg. In any case you will probably hear from us in the comparatively near future when we will be requesting quite a lot of space in the 'Courier' among other things. I personally feel that it is time we were getting as accurate an idea as possible of those whose present intention is to make the trip.

As treasurer of the Vic. Branch I am a little worried that we will not have enough money in 1956.

Our committee generally agrees that we will spend every penny we have got then but I fear the amount in hand may necessitate us modifying our entertainment somewhat from what we would like to do. We have about £400 in hand at present and all being well will add about another £200 in the next two years.

I don't think I ever thanked you personally for your help and guidance in getting our Melbourne Cup Sweeps under way. We would like you to know that your vast amount of labour and administration is very greatly appreciated by us all.

We are of course still running our Melbourne Cup Sweep in conjunction with the N.S.W. Branch. This year the Victorian sales were over £260 from which we will clear about £180. I don't yet know the N.S.W. figures but would estimate that they would clear about £80. I feel that this is a pretty good all-round effort. We had invited Jack Hartley over for the sweep drawing and the Cup but he cancelled his trip at the last minute which was most unfortunate as we were looking forward to an exchange of ideas to our mutual benefit.

All the best, —Bert Tobin.

What's So and So Doing

Bert Burgess:

Broomehill. Is married but as yet has not been blessed with any children. Bert is raising sheep and farming at Broomehill on a War Service property and is doing quite well. One of our most enthusiastic supporters and a country correspondent who writes in regularly with news items. The Bure. Rotary Wool Table was invented by Bert and in time we can expect to see this table in use at many small sheep farms.

Peter Alexander:

Address: 48 York-st., Boulder. Peter is employed as a storeman on the Boulder Perseverance Mine. Peter is married and has one girl. Chasing the elusive fish is one of his hobbies when he can shoot down to Esperance.

Tom Foster:

Amama Station, Brinkwork, S.A., finds Tom. Tom is married but it is not known whether he is blessed with the patter of little feet. Formerly of W.A. Tom went to South Australia after the war and is now Station Manager and Stud Master for Hawkers at Anama. Sheep dog breeding for a hobby has brought Tom quite a lot of success in the show rings.

T. M. Bateman:

Married, with two boys and one girl and residing at Wilfred-rd., Canning Vale. A clerk with Wapet after having been with Australian Whaling Commission for a considerable time. During his spare time is a poultry cockie.

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