

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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A President's Christmas Message

In bringing to you a message of good will for Christmas and New Year I can only say what a wonderful year it has been for our Association. We have lived happily upon one another since the start of the year and we have had success upon success with all our functions and now with the rapidly drawing to a close the beautification of our very own area in Kings Park is nearing completion after years of striving. The year 1954 will live long in my memory if only for this fact alone.

Christmas is a season of rejoicing for one and all and this year we have plenty to rejoice about. The world in my opinion is definitely beginning to be a better place to live in. The tensions of yesteryear seem to be gone and we fervently hope for ever. All the things hoped and striven for are slowly coming to pass and I am confident that wiser councils are definitely prevailing in the Councils of World Affairs so that a period of peace is upon the threshold. Let us hope that 1955 will be the year that brings this most desirable state of affairs to fruition.

As evidenced by our Childrens' Christmas Parties we are becoming very much an Association with responsibilities and, of course, these kiddies make Christmas a time for real enjoyment when everybody has a whale of a time just because the kids are happy. It is the pity that Christmas could not happen more often if only to boost to the sales of Bi Carbonate of Soda.

Let us however, in the midst of our own Christmas happiness, give a thought to those less fortunate than ourselves—those unlucky ones who for a variety of reasons cannot rejoice and make merry at this merry time. Let us if we can by word or deed make this particular Christmas more joyful for them. By bringing happiness to others surely we will also make our own Christmas happier for ourselves.

To each and every member of our Association
A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

—C. D. DOIG, President.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

Working bees have been the order of the day of recent weeks with the most recent being those at Kings Park on the Honour Avenue Water Scheme.

The first working bee held on November 28 was a huge success with 40 odd turning up laden with the impedimenta of hard work, to wit spades, shovels, rakes, etc. All turned to and did a grand job digging trenches, rotary hoeing, and laying about half a mile of piping and fitting sprinklers. It was indeed well worth the effort to see the water spraying when the job was done. The committee were very satisfied with the roll-up and wish to thank all who made the trip to Kings Park.

The second working bee held on December 12 was to even up the ground and plant grass. Unfortunately this time only 13 turned up and instead of cleaning up the job in one day it will necessitate further work being done in the new year. While it was disappointing to see few turn up those working did a grand job and bent their backs with a will. While the area planted is not great it represents a lot of hard work and once again the committee wishes to thank all who attended, but also wish to express regret and disappointment at the poor roll up. In the new year a further working bee will be called to endeavour to finish this job so when the date is announced ask yourself this question; "What can I do to further this scheme?"—then make a bee line for Kings Park. If you cannot manage to bring any shovels, etc., there are always plenty of jobs to do without them.

A lot of preliminary work was entered into for the Kiddies' Xmas Party and many willing workers helped in some way or other to make it a grand day. Parcels had to be wrapped and the hall decorated and a host of carrying jobs too numerous to itemise. To all those good folk the committee extends their heartiest thanks.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

KIDS! KIDS! KIDS! Dozens of them. And what a time they were having.

The annual Kiddies' Xmas Party was again a huge success—as only a Christmas Party can be.

The day finished without any casualties although I cannot vouch for the tummies next day. While they might only be small the huge quantities of ice cream etc. which they consumed leaves one wondering just how they do it.

Attendance this year was very good and while country representation was a little on the light side I saw several from wide spread areas.

Frankie Fenn the clown made his appearance into the hall with a big bang and proceeded with his usual role of keeping the children occupied and amused. Apples on a string and the inevitable cascade of small coins kept those juveniles working overtime. Eventually Frankie had to take the bite himself—not hard when you see the size of his mouth.

The magician with his rabbits and pigeons kept everyone rapt in wonder at his mystic ability. Where do those blinkin' rabbits come from? After the magician had expended his list of tricks, etc., he gave a "Charlie McCarthy" act with his doll. This is always a popular item and was well received by all. We were also given a Punch and Judy show. This kept the little ones occupied in thought and also entertained the elders.

A picture show, covering many different cartoons, etc., gave the kiddies and mums and dads quite a bit of enjoyment.

What a pity that an afternoon of this kind hasn't more time where we could give more of this valuable commodity to these artists who provide so much enjoyment for us.

Father Christmas eventually made his arrival and distributed his gifts to the young folks. As always he was well acclaimed and was the highlight of the afternoon (naturally). All the kiddies received books of some nature and were very happy about Father Christmas's selections.

Personalities

Steve Rogers

was in town quite recently. The genial Steve has been taking a living from the Gold Mine at Big Bell but has seen the writing on the wall and is to return to Brunswick early in the New Year. Steve had a few beers with Peter Barden at Mullewa on the way down and says Peter is going well—still playing a nifty game of football and cricket at Mullewa. Steve hopes to be in the Big Smoke for the Annual Reunion in February.

Dave Dexter

is returning to Australia shortly after a lengthy sojourn in Ceylon. He has finished his volume of the War History and it should be ready for publication very shortly.

George Boyland:

Still hobbling around on crutches and looking a little tired on it. I suppose you are wondering just how long it is to be before you get back onto your pins again. Cheer up, George, and we all hope you are soon able to give those old crutches to the wood heap.

Charlie King:

Saw Charlie at the Kiddies Xmas Party having the time of his life—was wondering who was the biggest kid there. By the way Chas, the address you asked me for is:

H.A. Holden,
Coolongolook, N.S.W.

WHERE'S MY PAL?

If you have any difficulty in locating the whereabouts of your particular pal write into the 'Courier' and I am pretty sure that we will either have his address or obtain it for you in a very short time. The 'Courier' mailing list is vast and a request of this nature will soon bring results. By the way, all requests will be published in the 'Courier' until satisfaction is obtained. —Ed.

CALLING GERALDTON CORRESPONDENTS

As soon as you are ready to put into operation your new correspondence scheme I will be only too happy to make available the necessary space in the 'Courier'.

RANDOM HARVEST

I'm afraid that during the last month my activity has been confined to work on the farm and haven't been about to contact any of the lads.

Some late rains that we received made a wonderful difference to the crops and some very good yields are being recorded. Seems to depend on what stage of growth the crops were hit by the severe dry spell in August and September and the first of October. Crops consequently are very poor or fairly good. The oats that I have harvested yielded 10 bags per acre.

Am hoping to see a substantial lift in wool prices as my clip is being offered in Perth this month—13-15 December.

How did the Geraldton Convention go? I was greatly disappointed at not being able to make the trip and the opportunity to see the boys up there. The Annual Reunion is definitely on the agenda of my programme of 1955 and am keenly looking forward to it.

I take the opportunity of wishing all throughout the Commonwealth a Merry Xmas and Prosperous New Year. —BERT BURGESS.

ANSWERING THE LADIES

Thanks for the letter Mrs. Harrington. Pleased to hear that you had an enjoyable time at the Ladies' Night. We will welcome a letter from you any time you feel disposed to write.

Mrs. Friend, the late 'Courier' has been a bone of contention for some time. Unfortunately I have had to put off the publishing of the 'Courier' while awaiting mail which did not arrive. In the future the 'Courier' will be published earlier in the month whether it is one page or more.

Mrs. Griffiths, your idea of providing entertainment for country wives at the time of the Reunion is a good one and receives the approval of all. It will necessarily have to be handled by the ladies in Perth and any assistance in the furthering of the project will gladly be given. It remains now for the ladies to organise their "own" little show. —Ed.

CORRESPONDENCE

This has been very lax this month, in fact NIL. Now, chaps, we can't run a 'Courier' on these lines and if you wish to hear something from your mates you must be prepared to correspond yourself.

Everyone says that they look on their 'Courier' as a means of information and guidance re the Units affairs, etc.

I have been hanging on waiting for YOU to do the right thing and send in your notes and consequently the 'Courier' has been coming out late. In the future the 'Courier' will be coming out early in the month and if it is not newsy you have yourselves to blame.

No one wants to read a lot of rot that is irrelevant and unnecessary and I for one have no wish to write same, so buck up and do the right thing and help to make your 'Courier' something worth while. This is not the first attempt that I have made in this regard, and no doubt you are beginning to be sickened by reading the same things. Well, ask yourself a question before you censure your Editor—"What have

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I done towards the 'Courier'?" If you can answer this question faithfully then don't worry but if you have been lagging in this matter make a resolve to send in some notes in the near future. —Editor.

MEETINGS

There will NOT be a meeting in January and the next gathering will be the Annual Reunion and Commemoration Service. Further particulars re the Reunion will be given in the January issue.

YOUR FINANCE

This form is for your use to fill in if you wish to pay your subscription or make a donation to the Kings Park Honour Avenue Water Scheme. Remittances are to be made to Jack Carey, 73 King-st., East Fremantle, W.A.

Herewith the sum of
being subscription for year ending

..... being donation
to Kings Park Honour Avenue
Water Scheme.

Name

Address

What's So and So Doing

Harold (Brook) Brooker:

Of 110 Goodwood Parade, Riverdale. Married and with one son. "Brook" is a keeper at the South Perth Zoological Gardens and has got on quite well in his job and has the responsible position of looking after the elephant and helping with the big cats. Previous to going to the keeping job "Brook" spent a period as a "connie" on the trams. A new home for the Brooker family is the latest on the menu.

Len Bagley:

No family as yet. Served a course as linotype operator under the Rehabilitation Scheme and is now employed at West Australian News-papers. Before the war and just after was a member of the staff of

Coventry Motors in Perth. Len is now residing in a new home at 38 Armadale Crescent in Mt. Lawley. The latest addition to the amenities of the Bagley household is a car.

Charlie King:

Married and has two sons, one 10 years and the other three years. He is working on a weighbridge at Cannington so is naturally a Merv Macintosh fan and barracks for Perth in the football season. Charlie has a 20-acre property which takes some looking after, seeing he was unfortunate enough to lose an arm in an accident some time ago. On the property are 60-70 fruit trees and he does his own ploughing and sawing of wood.