



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Price 1d.

West Australian Whisperings

HONOUR AVENUE

The germination of couch grass seed sown at the last busy bee is quite good although there is very little noticeable growth. Sprinklers are in pretty good shape even though cars run over them when parking off the road.

Brisbane Wunderlich have told us that we can have some pipes to place over them and protect them. These pipes are to be donated

SWEEP

The Unique Backward Sweep was drawn after the Anzac March. The result in respect to money received was quite good and will help the Association to remain solvent.

Here is the result of the draw:

1st: Absolutely Nothing: Jim Fitz, c/- Joe Poynton.

2nd: 1 doz Emu Labels: Arch Campbell.

3rd: 2 doz. Swan Labels: T. Nisbett.

4th: 1 Bottle Beer: Peter Pan, c/- Mercantile Club, Geraldton.

5th: 2 Bottles Beer: V. King, Wilfred-rd., Canningvale.

6th: 3 Bottles Beer: E. Thorne-ander, 8 Venn-st., Collie.

7th: 6 Bottles Beer: J. Hasson, Ballidu.

8th: 12 Bottles Beer: Loretta Keast, c/- Govt. Print.

9th: 24 Bottles Beer: R. Bartlett, c/- R. Sprigg, Albany.

10th: 48 Bottles Beer: 2 Pair, Hollywood Hospital, c/- J. Harding.

All other ticket buyers shared equally in the first prize. We thank you all sincerely and congratulate so many on sharing First Prize.

MARCH MEETING

At the March meeting Sam Fulbrook gave a very interesting discourse on his profession as a portrait and landscape painter and also his experiences whilst living with the natives in the Australian outback. It is not often we find a speaker who approaches his subject with such a vast fund of information and anecdotes that Sam was able to impart to us. His easy care free style was carried to his audience thereby making the subject doubly interesting. We thank you, Sam, for a very interesting evening.

During Sam's tale the usual drop of the doin's was passed around. The boys (quite a number of them) voted it a grand night.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Once again we had a good attendance for the march with the usual few from the tall timbers.

The day was cool but with plenty of sunshine.

After the march past we adjourned to the rear of the 16th Batt. Drill Hall and had a little refreshment and something to eat.

This year Geoff Laidlaw led the 2/2nd, whilst Mick Morgan carried the Unit flag.

REMINDERS

How are you situated in regards to your subscription? Are you financial? If you are not sure contact your treasurer or Colin Doig and rectify the matter. We don't want to have to remind you of a duty you owe to your Association.

OBITUARY

MAY

Sgt. D. Lilya, killed in action, Timor, 17th May, 1945. Age 21.

SOMEBODY'S ERROR

Gordon Rowley sends in this cutting from the Dec. 30 issue of the "Australian Post". It would appear that one Dos Santos Ricardo is a very sadly misinformed gent.

"I read with interest Hugh Buggy's article about the Timor campaign (Post, Oct. 28) but think it was unfair that no praise or mention was made of the great work the Portuguese did in taking Australians into their homes and helping them escape the Japanese. I was one of the Portuguese who lived in the hills for 18 months.

"The wireless in the article (used to contact Darwin) was stolen from the Japs by a Portuguese, Julio Madeira. It was not put together by Signaller Loveless as stated in the article. —Dos Santos Ricardo, Carnamah (W.A.)."

OLYMPIC GAMES CHARGES

Following numerous requests re admittance charges for each session of the various events at the games, a complete list is hereunder compiled.

Main Stadium (Opening ceremony, athletics, soccer final and closing ceremony): £3/4/-, £2/3/-, £1/11/-, £1/1/-, 16/-, 11/-, 9/- (reserved), 11/-, 9/-, 6/7.

Cycling (Olympic Park): £1/2/-, 13/6 (reserved), 6/7 (unreserved).

Road Cycling (Broadmeadows): 11/- (unreserved).

Boxing (venue undecided): £5-1/-, £3/4/-, £2/3/-, £1/2/-, (reserved), 11/- (unreserved).

Swimming (Olympic Park): £3-4/-, £2/3/-, £1/2/-, 11/-, (reserved).

Wrestling (Exhibition Building): 16/-, 11/-, 5/4.

Weightlifting (Exhibition Building): 16/-, 11/-, 5/4.

Basketball (Glaciarium): £1/2/-, 11/-.

Gymnastics (Glaciarium): £1/2/-, 11/-.

Fencing (St. Kilda Town Hall): 5/4.

Rowing (Ballarat): £1/1/-, 11/-, 5/4.

Canoeing (Ballarat): 11/-.

Soccer Preliminaries (Olympic Park): £1/2/-, 11/- (reserved), 6/7 (standing).

Hockey Preliminaries (Olympic Park): 11/- (reserved), 6/7 (standing).

Soccer Semi Finals (Main Stadium): £1/2/-, 11/-, 6/7.

Hockey Semi Finals (Main Stadium): £1/2/-, 11/-, 6/7.

Rifle Shooting (Williamstown Range): 11/-.

Clay Pigeon Shooting (Laverton): 11/-.

Modern Pentathlon (various courses): Riding, 11/-; swimming, 5/4; fencing, 5/4; shooting, 5/4; running, no charge.

Yachting (Port Phillip Bay): No charge.

Personalities

The Bill Willis Clan

Have moved out to Manning Park. They do not intend to make this their permanent residence but we hope you are comfortable there.

Fred Griffith

Has left the Geraldton area and come to Perth where he is welding for a living. Fred was in partnership in a lead mine but gave the job away as it wasn't much fun with his family in Perth.

Alby and Daphne Friend

Had an evening at their home recently and quite a few of the boys and their wives were present. It was a great night and a swell time was had by all. One of the highlights of the evening was the showing of some films taken by amateurs. Of special interest was one on New Guinea and brought back quite a few memories. Early in the evening darts and table tennis amused the men whilst the women-folk had their usual little chinwag and swapped ideas about what time their respective husbands arrive home from the Unit meetings. Later in the evening a sumptuous supper was served after which the carpet was rolled back and dancing was the order. It was those small hours in the morning that saw the last of the guests leave. Among those present were: the Ping Andersons, Mick Morgans, Jeff Laidlaws, Johnnie Burridges, Keith Mayes, Percy McPhees, Owen Friends, Arthur Smiths, Percy

Hancocks, Joe Poyntons, Wilf Marchs, E. Quinn, Curly Bowden, Doc Dunkley, Jack Carey, Mrs. Merv Ryan, Mick Calcutt. By the way, if any of you folk mentioned above left a plate at the Friend's home, please contact Alby as there were a few left by mistake.

Bob Smyth

Turned up for the Anzac march. Don't see very much of Bob as he spends most of his time tripping around places far removed from Perth. It is always good to see someone turn up at these occasions when they have the chance.

George Boyland

Was a notable absentee from the March this year, but there was a good excuse for George as his leg is far from being right and it would have been quite a job for him to march.

Ajax Harrison

That versatile type, came to the rescue when the refreshment ran out after the Anzac Day March. By methods of cajolery known only to the sacred few, he managed to spirit away a ten gallon keg from a nearby hostelry. The inevitable tarpaulin muster took place to reimburse him for its cost.

Northern Topics

(Editor apologises for these March notes not being included in the March Courier but that issue was entirely connected with the forthcoming Olympic Re-union.)

MARCH DOINGS

(By Jack Denman)

Weather has been very trying—following heavy February rains the mercury has frequently been above the century and the southerly breezes, normally reliable and welcome, have not been forthcoming.

Farmers are busy hand feeding and generally there is much speculation as to whether it will be an early season or otherwise.

The Abrolhos cray fishing season has just opened and everything points to a record season. 1954 catch from this area was approximately three million lbs. live weight or one million lbs. of processed tails. This industry is becoming quite a big dollar earner for the State.

The River came down at Carnarvon and that is all the banana planters ask for. Carnarvon's annual rainfall is only about eight inches yet the banana yield per acre is the highest known. Irrigation is by water pumped from the river sands at a rough estimate of two or three million gallons per hour. Water has to be of a very low salt content.

Personalities

Visitors to Geraldton: John Chalwell and wife with two of their three kiddies, are holidaying at the West-End. John operates a milk round in the metropolitan area and finds it very difficult to get away. He is fortunate at present in having his brother look after it during his absence. John is not seen much in Association matters but one of these days I hope that is rectified. In the meantime John, best wishes and good health to the Chalwells.

Local. Joe and Mary Brands keep well. Saw Joe in Geraldton recently and whilst Mary was doing her shopping we knocked over a couple of lemonades. Like most other farmers the recent heavy rain has adversely affected Joe's operations and instead of being able to sit back for a bit of a spell he's kept busy with his sheep.

I haven't seen much of Nip Cunningham in recent weeks. Occasionally I sight him either coming or going to work but Nip is kept pretty busy at the Mercantile Club. I'm sure if any of the boys are visiting here Nip will arrange access to the Club.

Bill Drage was one of only two Northernites to make the Annual Re-union and voted it an excellent show. Bill and Glad were in Geraldton recently for the big tennis attraction, McGregor and Pails, but I'm not too sure whether Bill sat it out—prior to the exhibition he

was heard to ask whether it was permissible to barrack. Bill's back still causes him a great deal of trouble but otherwise he looks well and 100 per cent fit, even though perhaps, a few stone overweight.

Brush Fagg has again taken on the secretaryship of the Northampton Sub-Branch R.S.L. Brush appears to keep reasonably well and can always raise a smile despite hot beer and trying weather. He also, of course, has to look after Bill and Joe and keep them in order.

Bernie Giles and wife were back in Geraldton recently on a weekend visit. Bernie has been employed for some months on the new hospital at Meekatharra and looks very fit. When I saw him he was loaded up with parcels and I'm sure Mrs. Giles had plans of loading him further.

Gordon Hislop was absent from Carnarvan at my last visit. He captains the local cricket team and was in Perth for Country Week. Gordon serves good ale at the Carnamah hostelry, so anyone passing through can be sure of a welcome.

Have not seen Fred Griffiths for some time but understand that temporarily at least he has returned to the metropolitan area. Fred has been lead mining in this district and may be considering returning to Onslow area now that the winter is approaching and lead is a reasonable price.

Irish Hopkins is still at Shepherds Club Hotel. It's amazing how quickly Irish becomes known to everyone—I don't suppose there would be many men from Port Hedland to Geraldton who have not made the acquaintance of the indomitable Patrick Hopkins. Don't forget Irish, the second Friday in every month for Geraldton R.S.L.

Have not seen much of Dick Pepper lately but believe he has not been enjoying the best of health. Temporarily at least Dick has left the store at Moonyoonooka but any correspondence addressed to that centre would still find him.

Eric Smyth was the other Northerner to answer the roll call at the Annual Re-union and reported it one of the best shows to date. Before I forget, Eric and Bill Drage were both very much impressed with the King's Park Service. Eric has been extra busy of late moving office to Eleanor-st. Troubles never

come one at a time. Young Philip is in hospital, removal of appendix, and Terry has had to take over temporarily from the Northern Districts Clinic Sister. However Eric still finds time for yachting but judging by the last occasion I saw him put out the spinnaker (early March) he's not as good as he used to be or he was suffering badly from a Saturday night hangover.

Saw Herb Thomas recently, the first time in many years. Herb has not changed much since Timor days a bit longer in the tooth of course. His foot still gives him a bit of trouble, but from all accounts does not prevent him turning out some good horses. I believe Herb was leading trainer and rider in Carnarvon for a couple of seasons—hope you can do likewise in Geraldton Herb! Best of luck!

The Denman household keeps well. Kerry Lynette is the latest addition—born Jan. 20. Yours truly has been elected President of the local Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. and looks like having a busy year. I was pleased to meet a few of the boys during my holidays. Merv Cash's address by the way is Wilcock Street, Cannington. Best wishes to all.

APRIL NEWS

(By Bill Drage)

Well here goes and any rude remarks and head over turkey someone will go, and it won't be me.

Had a day in Geraldton a couple of weeks ago and of course, had to call in and see the old Irish who, as usual was in good form. We had a few beers and a bit of a natter. Irish introduced me to a chap named Daley who worked at the same place as Jack Carey, of course he gave us the low down on all Jack's going ons. All in all we had a couple of enjoyable hours.

There was an R.S.L. re-union at Nebairah a few weeks ago, the Denman arrived there with a car load from Geraldton. I took a car load over including Bruss Fagg. An enjoyable time was had by all. The only trouble was getting home after. We had a few bottles for the road, which we stopped to drink, then the game was on—who won the ruddy war. As you might

guess old Bruss and myself were too many for the rest. We managed to make the cot by 4 o'clock.

A few of my mates and myself decided to go fishing last weekend. Port Gregory was the beach chosen. We invited Jack Denman along with us, boy oh boy what a trip. A few bottles, a hell of a lot of fish and very little sleep. We caught 490 fish in one haul and that's no lie, then of course the game was on. We had to have a bottle or two to celebrate. Don't get the idea that we folks in the country go

for this hot grog. We have a big ice box which will hold two hundred weight of ice, so you can see we had real cold grog. As we were on our way up to go fishing we passed the old Joe Brand and a few of his mates on the way back and they had caught themselves a very nice haul of fish.

The season so far is very dry, could do with some rain, here's hoping. Well this is a petty long letter for me so will close. Hoping to see most of you in the near future or some time.

LORD'S PRAYER

Here is a New Guinea Fuzzy Wuzzy's translation of the Lord's Prayer sent in by a correspondent. The quaint way of expressing themselves certainly impresses indelibly on the mind, doesn't it?

Poppa belong mefella 'e stop on top,

(Our Father Who art in heaven)

Name belong You 'e good fella tumus,

(Hallowed be Thy name)

You catchim place belong You, suppose You like mefella can do something, mefella can do 'im down below allee same on top

(Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven)

You givin mefella kai-kai along today

(Give us this day our daily bread)

An suppose mefella makim something no good, maski You cross

(And forgive us our trespassers)

Allee same mefella no cross, time alegeda 'e do something no good along mefella

(As we forgive those who trespass against us)

Suppose mefella like makim something no good you fasin me

(Lead us not into temptation)

An loosin al elsomething 'e no good

(And deliver us from evil)

'Cos alegeda place belong You, You strong fella tumus, You savvy blas

(For thine is the Kingdom of Heaven, the power and the glory)

Alletine finis.

(For ever and ever — Amen.)

Heard This?

He: "Why wait until we get home before you tell me if you'll marry me or not?"

She: "I'm scared. This is the very spot where my father proposed to my mother."

He: "So what?"

She: "Well, on the way home the horses ran away and father was killed."

An inspector boarded a tram and was astonished to see the conductor sitting at his ease enjoying

a cigarette, while one of the passengers was collecting fares.

"What does this mean?" demanded the Inspector. "You have no right to allow a passenger to collect fares. That's what you're supposed to do."

"That's all right, Dig," replied the conductor cheerily. "He's a stowaway I found on board. He couldn't pay his fare, so I'm making him work his passage."

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Victorian Vocal Venturings

Johnny Roberts was along to our last Committee meeting and as a result we are hopeful of having our Honour Roll completed by Anzac Day. We need a suitable piece of timber for mounting purposes, and what more suitable than a piece of curly jarrah, straight from the West? Gerry McKenzie thinks it likely that Tony Bowers could fill our needs here, and Jack Servante, on a business trip to Groperland, has been commissioned to pass on our request. The size of the piece we want is three feet by two feet, and we would be grateful if it could be freighted over quick smart.

A couple of reminders for Victorians. Do your best to return the Olympic Games screeds as soon as possible. This is most important.

I leave the balance of this month's column to Toby.

A few items of personal news came in last November when our chaps, particularly the country members, were sending back their sweep butts and money. Sorry I haven't passed them on sooner but they may still be of some interest and might help to fill up a little space.

Pat Moodie

Has changed his address and in order that proper amendments can be made to address lists the new one is as follows: W. P. Moodie, Pine Lodge North, via Shepparton, Vic. Pat has 450 acres with some irrigation and is running cows and sheep.

Lionel Newton

Was working shift work on his job at the mines at Broken Hill. This enabled him to spend quite a bit of time on his home building, with particular emphasis on the erection of an eight foot verandah right around his house. Sends regards to all.

Alf Harper

Apologises for not making any of our get-togethers recently. Alf has been running about 1,200 fowls as a sideline and these have kept him pretty well tied down without proving very profitable. Family is made up of a wife and two kiddies. Alf sends regards.

Wally Kerr

Of the First Company sent back butts and money and advised of the necessity of splitting sales be-

tween ours and tickets for his R.S.L. and his cricket club. Stout effort anyway, Wal. Wally is a dough-pusher and this prevents his attendance at some of our functions

Bob Snowdon

Advised that it wasn't exactly a bumper season with a low rainfall at that time. However Bob said he was a bit fortunate in being on a river flats farm with the River Murray running past the door. (Hope you haven't since been washed away.) Bob drove straight home after the last re-union, getting back at Wodonga about 3.30 a.m. without falling asleep.

Terry Paull

Was head cook and bottle washer of the Paull household. It is to be hoped that Mrs. Paull is now having a better spin—she was just congratulating herself on getting out of hospital when she tripped and fractured her jaw.

Ivan Brown

From Hobart, advised that Joe Loveless was going on a trip to North East Tasmania to set up some P.M.G. equipment to contact Wilson's Promontory—some permanent radio-telephone gear, it was believed.

Among the country chaps who sent brief notes and their greetings to all were Dick Adams, of Yarra Glen; Bill Petersen, of Poverty Ridge; Bluey Bone, of Carlisle River; Stan Weppner, of Colbinabbin; Sandy McNab (2/1), of Athlone, and W. L. (Robbie) Roberts, of Traralgon.

Drop Hilliard

Had been laid up at Broken Hill with torn shoulder muscles. That was not so good as you don't receive the lead bonus when you are on compo. Hope by now all is O.K. again, Drop, and you are coining the big dough. What about putting your head together with Lionel Newton's and the two of you coming down to Melbourne one day?

Neal Bray

Is now radio manager of Warwick Advertising Service in Sydney. He is a keen rifleman these days but recently was suffering from a sprained ankle which he collected on the rifle range.

Random Harvest

Ken Doak, of 10 Katoomba-st., Albany, writes:

Enclosing sweep butts and a trifle towards the Kings Park Scheme. I feel very much at fault for not having previously made some sort of an effort in that respect, and I fear the only excuse I can make is that I have five very hungry mouths to provide for, plus the battle to complete a home for the owners of the mouths. The salary of a lesser public servant is not over-generous. Nevertheless that makes a mighty poor excuse when a matter such as your scheme is concerned, and if I weren't so sadly conscious that there must be many others like myself, who are inclined to just let things ride on the other chap's back, I would be amazed that the call for funds did not meet with an immediate and full response.

Regarding this sweep! Should a ticket of mine draw one of the major prizes—this in itself would be a miracle—perhaps you could sell or auction it and use the proceeds as you think best.

Another matter which I have been a long time in expressing my appreciation of, is that of the Children's Xmas parcels. These were a very happy surprise, not only to the nips, but also to the wife and myself. You chaps certainly don't believe in doing things by halves, do you? And the year before, when in Katanning, we received a couple of parcels for the youngsters but there was no clue as to where they came from. These latter remained a bit of a mystery until this Xmas when we saw the light. To realise just how much these Xmas gifts are appreciated needs to see the kiddies with them, especially first thing Xmas morning.

I'm afraid there is little in the way of news that I can pass on to you from down here. Ivor Goodall is the only ex-2/2 chap I ever see and fulfilling his job of Traffic Inspector apparently keeps him busy. He does a really good job here, but of course is more appreciated by visitors to the Port than by the majority of the Portites. It is a most comforting sight to see him every week day marshalling scores of infants, and getting them

safely across the highway to and from their class-rooms. (Just one of his jobs.)

I see from recent 'Couriers' that the old Boyland has been having rather a stiff trot. He is by now, I trust, on top again. Does he still keep the keg running till four in the morning after meeting nights?

You have a truly grand Association, and believe me I'm really proud to have been permitted to become a member.

All the best to the boys.

K. McEachern, of 56 Langler-st., East Victoria Park, writes:

Just a short note to let you know that I am still kicking, and again living in the city. If anybody ever gets me to go to the country again, well, you know what they can do.

Am enclosing a money order for £1. 10/- being for the sweep tickets, and 10/- for my subscription which I fear must be a bit overdue. I haven't been to any of the meetings as yet as I have been having spine trouble which makes me a bit of a stop at home.

I had trouble with my back when I came out of the army and the doctors said it was fibrositis, and were treating me for such for a long time, but as it got worse I insisted on another X-ray, and they then found that I had two cracked discs in the lower part of the spine, which they kindly told me would get worse and that there was nothing they could do about it.

I got a pension out of them and a clerical job in the Telephone Installation Branch, so let me know if any of our chaps want a phone on and I might be able to speed things up a little.

Well Col., that is enough moaning. I will certainly make an effort to get along to a meeting soon.

I am getting my holidays in May and hope to go down to Augusta and do a spot of fishing if the weather is favourable.

All the best to the boys.

Col Criddle, of 124 Monson-st., Wembley, writes:

A short note along with my ticket butts, with two 10/- postal notes covering same, and also 10/- for my sub.

Hope with all sincerity to join in the march on Anzac day this year, for as it is at work these days, with more work than we can handle, and with another four new trucks coming in the yard this month, making more work. I may be given five minutes to get ready and shoot a truck through to Geraldton, and connect a truck coming in from Carnarvon with bananas, and being on the phone I get called out at any time, even early hours of the morning on break-downs.

So you see I can't make any plans on my social sphere.

Best regards to all the boys.

Arthur Marsh, of 7 Peet-st., Harvey, writes:

Thought I had better drop a few lines with the butts, though writing and me never did get along very well. I've been kept pretty busy lately. What with helping shift 28,000 tons of wheat at Bunbury, and still doing a bit of baling on irrigation country, and fitting an odd semi load of lime or timber to different places down south. There doesn't seem to be much time left over for cricket. With winter coming on now though I should be able to get through a fair bit of reading. If it is like last year I shouldn't do anything between May and September. I saw Bluey Wilkes the other day. He was driving a new Holden van and he had that big grin all over his face.

P. Campbell, of Southern Hill-st., Norseman, writes:

Enclosed £1 for sweep tickets. One book filled up. Fill up another for the 2/2nd Association and if it gets a prize have a beer on me. A good season up here so far. Water everywhere. What a difference it can make.

Hope to be able to make the Re-union someday. The very best to all who make the 'Courier' a success, and enjoy it.

Bert Burgess, of 'Burlands', Broome hill, writes:

Received a book of tickets in a sweep in aid of water scheme funds but apparently the book was put away too carefully and cannot be located. However the 10/- enclosed will compensate and if the book of tickets can be found will enclose in this.

Also regret that I have not replied to the Melbourne Re-union questionnaire. We are both very much hoping to make the trip and afraid that is as definite as I can be at present. It is a difficult time of the year for land types which means the slower transport facilities will be out.

Even provided the Games are held in Melbourne, which seems doubtful, they will be of little interest to me except the opening ceremony. Accommodation in Melbourne will not be required. Met Alf Hillman recently from whom I learned of the overland suggestions—could be alright.

Have had a wet Easter here too, but we are very jubilant as two inches of rain has been recorded to date and it is really wonderful how the feed that was dying off has responded.

Cheerio, regards to all.

Ken Mackintosh, of Bridgetown, writes:

Enclosed are butts for the raffie which you intend conducting, together with my cheque for £1-0/6d. and it would be appreciated if you would take out a second book in my name.

Should I be successful in winning any of the prizes listed, please dispose of this to the best advantage and add the money to the Association finances.

Stan King, of Pingaring, via Lake Grace, writes:

Just a short note to return the sweep butts and dough. Things aren't too bad around these parts now, after the five inches of rain we got in February. We have just had another 70 points and most of us are flat out working the fallow up. The feed is coming along nicely, so it looks like being a good year. We can just about do with it too, after the poor season last year. Sorry I couldn't make the 'Do' this year. I was in Perth on the day but had to attend the mate's wedding and reception, etc., then home again on the Sunday. A very smart trip. Had a barbecue here yesterday, the local P. & C. after funds, and managed to get through 28 gals. of the best and numerous lbs. of steak. A good time was had by all.

Regards to the mob.

Mrs. Alf Blundy, of Smith-st., Beverley, writes:

Please find enclosed 10/- raffle money. I am sending it down for Alf as he doesn't get much time these days. He's busy crutching at present. Leaves before seven of a morning and not home till after seven at night so it's a long day. It's usually tea when he gets home, then by the time he has a bath its to bed with the paper.

Do hope the raffle is a success.

Alf Hillman, of Broomehill, writes:

I told Bert Burges a fortnight ago that I would get this off but owing to a rather unseasonal burst of activity required have taken longer than expected to get down to it.

I met Bert first at the State Hardcourt Tennis in Katanning. The wife and I had entered together but met some of the Perth tops, so never got very far.

At our annual general meeting R.S.L. we landed Bert with the job of treasurer for the year. I myself escaped for this year.

The rains in February made things a bit messy round here. I woke at daylight to find water running over my back verandah which fortunately is six inches below the level of the rest of the house. Water finally rose to four inches below floor level and then dropped. At its highest we were surrounded by water 200 yards at front where main creek runs and 800 yards the other over flat country. We lost three miles of fencing but no stock though a neighbour lost 200 sheep over a mile from creek.

Grass germinated beautifully and grew well, so that for a while we had more feed than at any time last year. However it is now dying raidly and unless we get rain soon look like having the worst season in history as with no seeding last year there can be very little left to grow again if present lot dies.

We still have supplies for quite a bit of hand feeding but these soon disappear if you really have to get down to it. Stock have picked up well and are now in good condition but will soon lose some of that if they have to chase about looking for green feed.

I have started seeding some oats for early feed but now need rain to germinate it.

W. A. Drage, of Box 117 Northampton, writes:

Received tickets, sold the lot very suddenly and am forwarding same to you. Will enclose £1. 10/- donation. Hope you receive it O.K. Hoping you receive success with this, also hoping you and the rest of the mob are in the pink. Things are not bad in this part of the world.

Ron Sprigg, of 42 Hill-st., Albany, writes:

Just a few lines in with raffle butts, it is so long since I wrote I am almost ashamed to now. Everything going O.K. down this part of the globe. Ron Saddler was the only visitor I saw this summer. He came up one evening and we had a glass or two and a chin wag. Geoff Laidlaw said at the re-union he would be down this way in a couple of weeks but no sign so far. I am still looking for him. Weather still keeping fine and dry here, hardly a sprinkle since the floods. Like most places rain badly needed.

This is short but no news. Regards to all.

Jim Smailes, of Laverton, writes:

Your circular re sweep tickets to hand and I note your urgent appeal to help with the funds. Herewith is the butts for my book of 20 together with 10/- to cover value. Also a donation towards the Kings Park Water Scheme which I have not yet had the opportunity of seeing nor have I been able to help in any way. However I do hope the few bob will help and that the general financial position will soon be rectified.

I myself am feeling fine and getting along very nicely. The position of the Co. is fast improving and will soon be an active mine again. We still are operating but paying our way on a smaller scale. About two months ago I was appointed General Manager in W.A. and entail responsibility for the whole show. Any day now I will be made Attorney. The dough has been further increased and so has the headaches, but believe you me I thrive on it and am just lapping it up. A big South African Co. is interested in taking it all over and their head man was here a few days ago to make preliminary arrangements. On the subject of future

policy as regards management he assured me that I would be retained in present position and taken into their world-wide organisation.

It appears to be the thing and could lead on to anywhere and a very bright future.

Cheerio and regards to boys.

Bob Smyth writes:

Principally owing to business activity requiring prolonged absences from the city, I must confess I have not been of much practical help in Association matters. Your circular received has given the conscience a needle and I would like you to enter the enclosed under Anonymous. The girls in the office have sold all the tickets.

I am still as busy as a one-armed paperhanger, having recently moved into new offices and warehouse space in King-st. The previous tenants were the Army, Navy and Air Force Recruiting Centre, and we are still being worried by potential recruits.

You may care to advise those who are interested in battling with the big ones that the best surf on this coast is at Trigg Island, which I can with confidence claim to be on a good day, equal or better than Sydney's best. Saw Ray Parry looming in like mighty mouse on a mountainous green one last Sunday, and Sam Fulbrook doing likewise the previous week. I understand that Sam may not be a recipient of the monthly 'Courier', but a phone call to MU2750 will locate his address.

Jack Hassen, of Ballidu, writes:

Am enclosing butts and 10/-, please see that I draw 10th prize.

Had a trip down south during our holidays and had hoped to see some of the boys but the floods caught up with me. Got into Albany about six one evening, raining like blazes, couldn't get a bed so left again by eight. What a trip. When we got to Kojonup the next day we were told we wouldn't get through to Perth but luckily we made it through Manjimup, Boyup Brook. Next time I decide to do the trip think I'll get a weather forecast beforehand.

Met Reg and Dot Harrington and had a beaut time together. One night Reg put on a picture show for us and it was real good. Merv

Ryan and Ping Anderson and family were also present and I think we all enjoyed Reg's show.

Went to tennis on Sunday and found that a day's cricket was also in full swing. Semi finals or something. Am not a cricket fan but anyway Norma met Jean Fowler and learned that Jack was among the cricketers. Saw him later at the corner house but unfortunately for Jack and his mates they played cricket too long and the bar had just closed down.

Regards to all the crowd. Hope to see you Ladies Night if not before.

Bill Tomasetti, of Kairuku, Central District Territory of Papua and New Guinea, writes:

It is now many months since I last was in touch with the 'Courier' and the old crowd for which I apologise and plead, as Jack O'Brien would have said, "an overload of the white man's burden".

First I must thank all concerned for the regular receipt of the 'Courier' which is a grand means of refreshing the memory with names if not numbers and seeing how well the majority are doing for themselves.

After a few years I had five months' leave in Australia last year and it was spent in N.S.W. and Victoria. I had ideas of tripping over to the West but flats are so expensive in Melbourne that I finally could not afford the fare. In any case we returned to the Territory one month before we were due which shows that the place is not without its own appeal. I was in Melbourne for Anzac Day (54) and went along to the march and the session afterwards and had a splendid time although I must confess I did not see too many familiar faces which is my own fault for leaving the Unit in '43.

I think I mentioned in my last letter that, like most of the crowd, I married after the war and now have two daughters, respectively eight and five years old. You will probably recognise my address as being the same as when last I wrote. I was fortunate enough to be posted here again after my leave. It is a good place with a lot of conveniences and a comparatively large population. It also has the virtue of being my own section. My con-

firmation as assistant district officer came through last year so I now spend a little less time tramping around the bush than of yore although the whole service is so badly understaffed that there is still plenty for all—at least it does some thing to keep my weight down to about 13 stone.

You may not know that there are many Western Australians in the Territory and connected with it. Firstly the minister, Hasluck, is from the West as is the Administrator, Brig. Cleland, and quite a large part of the public service—there must be something the matter

with the place to make so many people leave it.

That seems to be all the news in brief. Could you please publish a cheerio from me to all the old push?

Bernie Langridge, of Donnybrook, was up in Perth recently but the visit was a hurried one and he was unable to attend the meeting and get around amongst his old mates. Apologies from Bernie and he hopes to repair the damage in the near future. Bern's apple crop this year was good and the quality was "extra" too.

Minister For Interior Visits Asian War Cemeteries

During his recent Asian tour, the Minister for the Interior, Mr. W. S. Kent Hughes, visited war cemeteries where Australian service men and women are buried in Indonesia, North Borneo, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Formosa, Japan and South Korea.

Mr. Kent Hughes was a colonel in the 8th Division A.I.F. when Singapore fell in February, 1942, and spent the following three years and seven months as a prisoner in Changi, Formosa and Manchuria.

His Interior portfolio includes Ministerial duties as head of the Anzac agency of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

Brigadier A. E. Brown, Secretary-General of the Anzac Agency of the Imperial War Graves Commission, accompanied the Minister on his visits to the war cemeteries at Palembang, Medan and Djakarta in Indonesia, Labuan in North Borneo and Kranji in Singapore.

In nearly all the countries he toured the Australian Minister also visited the national war cemeteries.

Summing-up his impressions the Minister said that generally speaking he had been most impressed by the sites chosen for the cemeteries and by the way the officials concerned, particularly Asian caretakers and maintenance staffs, were carrying out their duties.

In certain countries there had been difficulties over the acquisition

of land for the cemeteries and internal disturbances had meant unfortunate but unavoidable delays.

"Although work on all the cemeteries is not advanced as far as I had hoped, arrangements are now going ahead satisfactorily and it is expected that all the cemeteries will be completed this year," Mr. Kent Hughes said. "It has been a big task because the area covered has been so extensive.

"I am sure that all Australians would appreciate—as I did—the obvious care taken in choosing attractive scenic sites for the cemeteries and the dignity and kindness shown by all the various government officials and others concerned with their administration and upkeep."

The Minister laid wreaths on behalf of the Australian people at Kranji on Australia Day (January 26) and at Kanchanaburi in Thailand on Jan. 29. There are 3,796 Allied war graves, including more than 1,500 Australians, at Kranji, and 6,959 Allied graves, including those of 1,363 Australians, at Kanchanaburi. The Minister also laid a wreath provided by the local authorities at the Dutch war cemetery at Palembang in Sumatra where there are nine Australian graves, four of them of Australian Army Nurses (Senior Sisters Pearl Beatrice Mittleheuser and Winnie May Davis, and Sisters Gladys Laura

Hughes and Rubina Dorothy Freeman).

The sites at Labuan in North Borneo, Kranji in Singapore, Kanchanaburi and Chungkai in Thailand and Salwan Bay in Hong Kong appeared particularly to him, the Minister said.

There were 3,992 graves at Labuan of which 1,500 were Australian. Nearly 2,500 names of those who had no known graves were commemorated on the bronze tablets on the walls within the cemetery memorial. Of these the great majority were Australians who died on the death march from Sandakan to Ranau. Fifteen hundred set out. Five, all Australians, survived. The first headquarters in Labuan of the Ninth Division A.I.F., which played a major part in liberating Borneo, were within 50 yards of the site chosen for the cemetery's Cross of Sacrifice.

From Kranji there was a magnificent view of the town of Johore Bahru and the Johore Straits overlooking the stretch where the Japanese first crossed from the mainland of Malaya to the island of Singapore in 1942.

Kanchanaburi was set in a "beautiful, peaceful spot" while Chungkai, situated alongside the old hospital site between the railway and the river, was another magnificent site guarded by the surrounding hills.

Salwan Bay where Col. D. C. Pigdon, C.O. of the 2/13th Australian General Hospital and a former prison camp colleague who died at Mukden in July, 1945, is buried, was another "lovely location" overlooking one of the approaches to the main Hong Kong Harbour. At the nearby Stanley Bay cemetery he was struck by the headstones carved with loving care by some of the Allied servicemen imprisoned in Hong Kong.

At Kanchanaburi the Minister was interested to hear that a high Buddhist dignitary, when on a retreat recently, had visited the cemetery and provided a sum of money for the propagation of trees and shrubs for its beautification. He was impressed, too, by the fact that the local boy scouts organisation had, on Jan. 28, laid two wreaths on the Cross of Sacrifice at the cemetery in honour of Kanchanaburians who had died while working alongside Australian and other Allied war

prisoners on the Burma-Siam railway.

"One minor criticism is the absence of, or the few trees, shrubs, and flowers at some cemeteries," Mr. Kent Hughes said. "However, I understand plans are in hand to rectify this lack. At Kranji a new road is being built leading to the centre of the cemetery and this road is to be lined with trees from various countries of the Commonwealth."

Heard This?

A sultry looking blonde was seated in the witness box. Her dress was the type that showed more of herself than otherwise. As she crossed one leg and then the other the dress crept up and up, leaving not too much to the imagination.

The judge was just about to tell her to step down when her lawyer spoke to him. "Your Honour, I've just thought of something."

The Judge gave him a look and then looked at the girl and retorted:

"I don't believe there's a man in the courtroom who hasn't."

* * *

A young city girl was vacationing in the country, and became friendly with a farmer boy. One evening as they were strolling across a pasture they saw a calf and a cow rubbing noses in the accepted bovine fashion.

"Ah," said the farmer boy, "that sight makes me want to do the same."

"Well go ahead," said the girl. "it's your cow."

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