



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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A

Editorial

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The Season of Festivity is practically upon us. Soon the joyful bells of Christmas will bring the message of goodwill to all men.

MERRY

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

A word in season of good wishes to every reader will be not amiss. Firstly a warm Christmas Greeting and a Prosperous New Year to all the members of the Association and their families, then to kindred organisations all over the same. To those stalwarts who have made so much of their organisation in every State we say, "Well done good and faithful servant, may you be spared long to carry on your good offices". This applies most particularly to all those of the Victorian Branch who have worked so long and arduously to make the Re-union a dream come true.

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

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

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



.. A Merry Xmas ..

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

Committee Meeting: Minutes of meeting held at Monash Club on Nov. 21. Those present: Messrs. Greene, McDonald, Cantrell, Holland, Prendergast, Carey and Doig by invitation.

Minutes of previous meeting confirmed on motion of Messrs. McDonald and Cantrell.

An excellent resume of Wongan Hills convention was given by the president who said that the gathering was a great success both socially and from a business point of view. The Committee desire to thank all at Wongan Hills who assisted in making the function such a success with special reference to Charlie and Stan Sadler and their good wives.

Melbourne Cup Sweep

This proved to be an excellent financial success and the president thanks all sellers for their great efforts and also all those who worked so hard to make this sweep so excellent. Once again Arthur Smith came in for special mention for his terrific efforts on this sweep.

It was decided to have the editor of the 'Courier' advise that there would be no meeting on first Tuesday in December, but that a Bucks' Night would be held on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at which members may bring a guest.

Final arrangements were made for the Children's Xmas Party and the various organising tasks were apportioned out to members. The president reported that the presents had been purchased and that they were being wrapped. Further discussion took place on entertainers for this function and it was decided to once again employ Frank Fenn to assist with the general entertainment of the kiddies.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.45 p.m.

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Association Activities

A small working bee took place at Jack Servante's place at South Perth on Sunday, Nov. 25, when a general clean-up of the lawn area was made and these were top dressed and another small area was planted to lawn. Members will be called upon from time to time to assist this worthy cause.

CHILDREN'S XMAS PARTY

This party was held at the usual venue 16th Battalion Drill Hall, Bazaar-ter., on Dec. 9, and went off with a real bang. Like a bunch of chickens it was impossible to get a real tally on the number present but it must have been in the vicinity of 120.

Entertainment in the way of pictures, a clown and, of course, the old man with the beard, Father Christmas himself, kept everybody in a happy frame of mind from 2.30 to 5 p.m. with, of course, the usual ginger beer, cool drinks, ice cream, fruit and lollies with afternoon tea for the parents.

Speaking to a lot of the parents present they all voted the afternoon the best ever. Judging by the number of babies in arms seen at the function it seems as though this function will go on for ever!

Now for the credits for the success of the function. Firstly your worthy president, Gerry Green and his wife Lal, who selected and wrapped all the presents on behalf of the Association, adapted Father Xmas's sleigh and acted as general factorum to the whole afternoon. Secondly to Mick Holland and his wife who produced Father Xmas's suit out of thin air, then Bob Freestone, who did considerable decoration for us on the sleigh and in the way of wall cards, "Blue" Pendergast and wife who did a million and one details to make the function tick and then to everyone who worked so willingly without forgetting those two gents who comprised the "horse".

Just another wonderful function which is now history and which will be looked forward to with pleasure next year.

Personalities

Latest advice is that Jack Servante is still in I.D.E., Shenton Park and afraid cannot report good progress as Jack's condition seems to be up and down. Isobel is hopeful to have him home at least for Xmas even if he has to go back to hospital once again.

Merv Ryan is still in Hollywood, but hopes of the bone graft are much better this time. Hope to see you back at home and work very soon, Merv.

Peter Proctor (Butch to you) still battling along in Accounts Section of Forests Department, was instrumental in obtaining our Xmas tree for us from the Department. Peter is hopeful of being along to a few meetings in the near future.

Random Harvest

Alf Hillman, of Broomehill, writes:

I have to send this to your address as it is the only one I can find of any of the present Committee.

I regret late despatch of sweep tickets contained herein but I have been in bed for a few days with flu too flat out to care whether the cow calved or broke its flamin' neck, and look like being here for a couple more days yet.

I don't know if Jack Carey passed on my last letter about failure of trip to Melbourne. Twelve months ago I split up the partnership with my brother-in-law on the farm and started on my own. This meant that every penny I had saved or could beg, borrow or steal had to be used to stock my half of the farm and supply me with working plant. This wool clip will just about put me out of debt but still leave me nothing for luxuries.

Season has not been too kind down here this year. All wool clips are down a bit on last year and many crops will not need harvesting. However feed supplies and water are up to average.

Bert Burges is the only one of the boys I have seen for quite a while. He has been acting as supervisor

Syd McKinlay is back from Cocos Island and will start with Shell Oil Coy. at North Fremantle. Syd has acquired a new home at 1 Letchworth Centre, Salters Point. Unfortunately, Syd will be going on to afternoon shift in his new job and will be unable to attend meetings.

Any country or town members wishing to see Colin Doig please note change of business address which is now c/- Department of Labour and National Service, cnr King and Wellington-sts., Room 16, First Floor.

Mick Holland is in the throes of moving to a new home in Carlisle. Good work Mick! "Spriggy" McDonald has had his chest poked out a mile because his cricket team, Bassendean, has been leading the 'A' grade competition for a short while. They say pride goes before the fall. Look out "Spriggy".

and general expert during the building of our local R.S.L. Hall where we have been doing as much as possible ourselves to save cash.

Sorry to see about change of time for Re-union as that time of year rules me out. I can't make it then as that is about my busiest time for the next four or five years. I have to repair or rebuild (mostly the latter) about five miles of fencing a year during that time as most of my fences are nearly 50 years old and all repairs for several years have gone into the half of the farm I didn't get, leaving me to carry on the rest alone.

Well, I have sat up in bed about as long as I can to do this, so will have to relax.

(Bit tough having to get back to scratch once again, Alf, but will probably be all to the mustard with the passing of the years. Thanks for being such a grand correspondent over the years. —Ed.)

Don Murray, of York, writes:

As usual I'm running as late as hell with my tickets. However, they're enclosed with the dough. The extra is for subs. I don't know how I stand.

Haven't seen much of the country lads lately—Dick Crossing and Wendel Wilkie I see at Goomalling. Only thing wrong there is that invariably when I poke my nose around the door that "bloody menace" has got a job for me.

Wendel is still that great member of "lager lovers".

Bumped into that villain, Stan King, in the Wandering pub of all places recently—knocked over a couple during a bit of a natter.

I've been making promises to be a correspondent of yours for a long time now so it's time I did something about it. In future, I'll be covering a lot more of the State than in the past and I should see a lot more of the lads. I'll keep you posted if you let me have another list of addresses.

An interesting point perhaps is that the "Bull" has climbed the ladder at Ampol.

He is now General Sales Manager for West Australia. So you metropolitan consumers had better be on your toes now as well as the country boys.

Nearly forgot—went over and welcomed "Sparky" to Northam recently. Fred and his wife are very happy about their move and hope to see more of our functions in the future.

Must do something about getting these letters away now. Cheerio for now, lots of luck to yourself, the 'Courier'.

(Looks like you are appointed country canvasser for the 'Courier', Don. Glad to receive a batch of news such as this any old time.—Ed.)

Mrs. Dulcie Ryan, of Bicton, writes:

Enclosed £2 for Melbourne Cup sweep, butts have been sent in.

Would like you to give mine and Merv's thanks and deep appreciation to the boys who came out and had a busy bee at home. After his day off from hospital Merv went back feeling very pleased with every thing.

Merv had another skin graft on his leg (his fourth) and was feeling a bit down when I saw him today as once more it didn't take. So that means another trip to the operating theatre for him. After 6½ months he figures he has had it. We are both hoping for a good result next time and with a bit of

luck he may be out by Christmas.

Must mention the Ladies' Night. We both voted it as a champion night and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

You might mention in the 'Courier' that the only refreshments we had for the boys after the busy bee was a wee bottle of whisky Ted Loud left at the hospital for Merv and they all decided though the brand was O.K. the size of the bottle wasn't—it was only a teaser. Ted was a bed-mate of Merv's in Hollywood for six weeks. He had a bone graft done on his leg. One night when Ted was having a penicillin injection he thought it was a blunt needle and hurt a bit but being an ex-commando decided to grin and bear it till he happened to glance over his shoulder and spotted Merv jabbing at his rear portion with a sharpened match while the orderly who should have been giving the injection and the rest of the patients were having a good old laugh at Ted's expense.

Must close now and put the nips to bed—cheerio for now.

(Thanks for the sentiments, Mrs. Ryan. Hope Merv is O.K. shortly. Only to pleased to assist all we can.—Ed.)

Eric Weller, of Northam, writes (per his wife):

I am enclosing the ticket butt, plus a cheque for £2 to cover Eric's subscription. I am sorry to have left these so late but misplaced them and they have only just been found.

Eric is over building at Goomalling—we have settled down at Northam as you will see by the address.

Eric is keeping well except for a bad hand that he jambed in the buzzer bench.

I have not bothered to fill in the butts as they will be too late but I guess the cash is what is needed.

Our family are all well and growing fast as I guess you know we have three girls and a boy.

I hope everyone down there is well. We get our 'Courier' so late that everything is over before it's begun.

(Thanks Mrs. Weller for writing on Eric's behalf. A sure cure for writer's cramp is a little goanna salve worked well into the palm. Try it on Eric some time.—Ed.)

Doug Fullarton, of Sarikei, Sarawak, writes (per Joe Burridge):

Don't think I have forgotten you but the last month has been slightly hectic. Floating from one plant to the other. Any way I am now settled in one spot so have the time to settle to a little correspondence.

If you happen to come up this way I can quite easily accommodate you. The place where I am stationed is overnight on the boat from Kuching. My abode is a good sized bugalow. Fans in all rooms with refrigerator, etc., tossed in. Definitely roughing it in a big way. Brings back memories of Timor with slightly more comfort. Guess I can fill in my time here without complaint.

My work at the moment consists of getting the logs to the river forming them into rafts and getting them to the mills by tug. Have 250 men in the bush on logging.

Malays, Dyaks and Malanos. Pretty good team on the whole but go a little haywire when in the grip of the grape. All logs here are man-handled to the railway track, sometimes a distance of half a mile. They pull them in on a sled over branches of trees. The whole area is one big swamp so it is useless trying to work any machinery. The weather is reasonably mild. Seldom rises over 85 deg. and besides there is a plentiful supply of Scholl beer (Danish). Very nice drop I must say.

Remember me to the team. Excuse the writing paper but am too comfortable to walk over to the office for a supply. All the best.

(Thanks for letter, Doug. Would be tickled pink to have you as a permanent correspondent, Doug, in that far off neck of the woods. What about it, boy? —Ed.)

GLOSSARY OF WEST AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS

Printed hereunder is a glossary of W.A. members. These are facts as far as we know them. At any time this proves to be wrong please write to the Editor and he will amend accordingly.

RAY AITKEN: State School, Dumbleyung. Married, two children, boy and girl; State School headmaster. Hobby: Shooting, both gun club and game.

PETER ALEXANDER: 48 York-st., Boulder. Married, two children, boy and girl; mine storeman, Boulder Perseverance Mine.

LES (Ping) ANDERSON: 47 East-st., East Fremantle. Married, four children, three boys and a girl; waterside worker, Fremantle Wharf. Hobby: A few lagers and some weekend work, mostly house painting.

LEN BAGLEY: 38 Arronadale Crescent, Mt. Lawley. Married, no children; newspaper linotype operator with West Australian Newspapers.

GORDON BARNES: War Service Land Settlement, Rocky Gully. Not married. Farmer in the making on new land at Rocky Gully which is intended to carry sheep and fat lambs.

TOM BATEMAN: Wilfred-rd., Canningvale. Married, three children, three boys. Public servant with State Health Department at present employed as driver-clerk with Salk Polio Vaccine Mobile Clinic. Hobbies: A few lagers and the trots.

KEITH BEACHAM: 54 Chaffers-rd., Boulder. Married, two children, boy and girl. Underground miner at Boulder.

ERNIE BINGHAM: West Pingelly. Married, three children, two boys and a girl. At present employed by Don Turton as general farm hand, but is slowly knocking a farm of his own together in the same area.

ALF BLUNDY: c/- P.O. Beverley. Married. Shearer, general farm hand, working mostly in the Beverly area.

A. C. (Tony) BOWERS: Orchid Valley, Kojonup. Married, two children, boy and girl. Timber mill proprietor with a large spot mill at Kojonup, mainly cutting sleepers and scantling.

K. C. (Curly) BOWDEN: Point Walter-rd., Point Walter. Married, four children, two boys and two girls. Cabinet maker foreman with Hardies Refrigeration, Fremantle. Mostly engaged in the making of hotel bars, butchers' cool rooms, etc. Has been committeeman of Association for years.

GEORGE BAYLISS: 2 Cullen-st., Bayswater. Married, two children.

GEO. BOYLAND: Double View. Married, two children, both girls. Commonwealth public servant, pension assessor with Department Social Services, Perth. George's health has been very poor for last few years. Has been an executive officer of Association for many years until this year when poor health forced him to resign.

ALF BRADY: c/- P.O. Wongan Hills. Unmarried. Railway ganger with W.A.G.R. at Wongan Hills.

JOE BRAND: Ogilvie Siding, Ogilvie. Married, two children, both girls. Has been farming a War Service Land Settlement farm at Ogilvie most successfully for quite a number of years.

NEIL BRADY: Harold-rd., East Midland Junction. Married, three children, two girls and a boy. Bread carter at Midland Junction.

HAROLD BROOKER: 110 Goodwood Parade, Rivervale. Married, one boy. Keeper at South Perth Zoo and, amazingly, likes it very much.

B. H. (Alan) BROWN: 26 Scaddan-st., Wembley. Married, one boy. Newspaper storeman with West Australian Newspapers.

BERT BURGESS: Broomehill. Married, no children. Farming W.S.-L.S. farm at Broomehill, mostly a sheep proposition and Bert is doing very well. Bert is one of the Association's greatest stalwarts and a most regular correspondent to the 'Courier'.

J. C. (Joe) BURRIDGE: c/- Burridge & Warren, King-st., Perth. Married, three children, two boys and one girl. Senior executive with import and export firm of Burridge & Warren dealing in export of fruit and produce to Far East and import of such merchandise as typewriters, etc. Hobbies: Golf and 2/2 Commando Association.

H. H. (Mick) CALCUTT: c/- Royal George Hotel, East Fremantle. Still a benedict. Carpenter and joiner. Has been working for past couple of years on building for Crippled Childrens Society at Rockingham. Hobbies: A little ale and a lot of bowls. Mick has been one of the outstanding stalwarts of the Association. Was foundation secretary, has held practically every office and is Immediate Past President, and owing to pressure of work had to resign this year.

PETER CAMPBELL: Southern Hills, via Norseman. Married, two children. In conjunction with his brother runs a sheep station at Southern Hills and a property on the Esperance Plains which is currently in the boom owing to fact that a big American project is under way in that area.

ARCH CAMPBELL: Moulyinning. Married, no children. Farming his father-in-law's farm at Moulyinning and as usual working like a tiger. Hobbies: Coaching Dumbleyung football team in winter and tennis in summer time. Arch has been a terrific worker for the Association in three States, N.S.W., Victoria and W.A.

JIM CANTRILL: 144 Gwentyfred-rd., South Perth. Married, four children, two girls, two boys. Heavy earthmoving machinery operator for Bell Bros. Jim is a Committeeman of the Association at present.

JACK CAREY: 44 Forest-st., East Fremantle. Unmarried. Clerical worker with W.A. Meat Export at Robbs Jetty and a very busy man too. Hobbies: President of East Fremantle Amateur Football Club and 2/2 Commando Association. Jack has been an outstanding worker for the Association, and was Secretary for three years and has been a Committeeman practically since inception.

BILL COOPER: Scarborough. Married, three children. Baker with Scarborough Bakery.

JIM CORNEY: Albany-rd., Cannington. Unmarried. Foreman carpenter and joiner with Dept. Works, Perth.

EDDIE CRAGHILL: 169 Vincent-st., North Perth. Married, five children, four boys and one girl. Electric welder with Hume Steel (W.A.) Ltd.

COLIN CRIDDLE: 124 Nanson-st., Wembley. Married, three boys. Transport supervisor with Midland Railway Co. Bus Services.

DICK CROSSING: Konongorring. Married, three children. Farmer at Konongorring, mostly wheat and sheep.

W. A. (Wock) CROSSING: Address unknown. Married, no children. Shearer and general farm hand, mostly in Central Midlands.

TOM CROUCH: "Burnside", Manjimup. Unmarried. Dairy farmer at Manjimup. Keen civic worker for most things in Manjimup area including tennis club, bush fire brigade and Farmers Union. Takes quite a keen interest in Association.

F. P. (Nip) CUNNINGHAM: 182 Augusta-st., Geraldton. Married. Steward at Commercial Club, Geraldton.

DICK DARRINGTON: Brisbane-st., Perth. Unmarried. Baker with Brown & Burns, Perth.

A. (Tony) DAVIDSON: 13 O'Bertha-st., Kalgoorlie. Married. In company with partners runs a big vegetable mart at Kalgoorlie.

JACK DENMAN: c/- Vacuum Oil Coy., Geraldton. Married, three children. Sales executive Vacuum Oil Coy at Geraldton. Jack was foundation President of the Association.

ERNIE DINWOODIE: 212 South-tee., South Perth. Married, two children. At present a trainee Motor Mechanic at Perth Technical College after a long period in Hollywood Hospital.

CHARLIE DODGE: 77 Davies-rd., Claremont. Married, three children. Male nurse at Claremont Mental Hospital.

KEN DOAK: c/- Lineyards, Albany. Married, five children. Telephone linesman at Albany. Originally a member 2/1st Ind. Coy.

COLIN DOIG: 73 Rosedale-st., Floreat Park. Married, no children. Commonwealth Public Servant. Secretary Local Trades Committees, Dept. Labour and National Service, Perth. One of the Association's greatest workers. Past President.

PADDY DOYLE: 31 President-st., Kalgoorlie. Unmarried. Miner at Boulder.

BILL DRAGE: Northampton. Married. Farmer on his own account at Northampton, mainly sheep. Bill takes keen interest in Association affairs.

Doctor C. R. DUNKLEY: Ellen-st., Fremantle. Married with a grown up family. Practices his profession from chambers in Adelaide-st., Fremantle, having an enormous practice. Seen occasionally at functions and has proved more than useful to any of the gang requiring Repat. assistance.

GERRY EDWARDS: French-rd., Melville. Married, three children, one boy and two girls. Itinerant worker.

W. T. (Bill) EPPS: 12 Hackett-st., Greenmount. Married, two boys. Newspaper linotype operator with Swan Express, Midland Junction. Bill has printed, wrapped and despatched the 'Courier' ever since its inception. Has proved a most keen Association worker over the years. Hobby: Baseball umpiring.

F. C. (Buss) FAGG: Box 39, Northampton. Married. Plumber and sheet metal worker on his own account at Northampton.

RALPH FINKLESTEIN: 519 Beaufort-st., Perth. Married, two children, one boy, one girl. Furniture and shop fitting manufacturer at the above address. Has had considerable publicity with displays of very high quality furniture. Still follows soccer and boxing in a big way.

JACK FOWLER: Wongan Hills. Married, two children, one boy, one girl. Farming on his own account at Lake Hines, near Wongan Hills. Jack has supported the Association most strongly ever since its inception. Still interested in cricket and R.S.L. matters in his district.

SAM FULBROOK: Somewhere north of the Tropic of Capricorn. Unmarried as far as is known. Artist and general knock-about. Means of communication smoke signals.

ALBY FRIEND: Melville Heights. Married, five children. Conducts a butchers business with his brother at Hilton Park.

FRANK FREESTONE: Lock-st., Claramont. Married, two step-children, one boy, one girl. Linesman cable jointer with P.M.G. Has just returned from a session at Maralinga Test Range. Frank served for a long time in the early years of the Association on the Committee.

DOUG FULLARTON: Married with several step-children all grown up. Timber mill manager for Bunning Bros.

JIM GALLAGHER: Denninup Vale, Kojonup. Unmarried. Farm worker and contract worker in the Kojonup area.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Our yearly drawing of the Cup sweep went off with its usual swing—this year owing to the George-st. Drill Hall being required for Olympic functions we adjourned to Bruce McLaren's business premises in Flinders Lane and had the sweep drawing there. Our thanks to Bruce for making his premises available on such short notice. The sweep was duly drawn and it was good to see Des Williams of the 1st Coy. drawing "Redcraze" and so get a prize. Des is a good worker in our various shows, and makes a crackerjack Father Xmas. Jack Hartley, of N.S.W., also drew a horse. Our profit this year was not quite up to our usual standard but we should clear approx £125. This is mainly due to our having to pay more expenses than usual—as in other years we have shared expenses with N.S.W.—but owing to circumstances out of our control, there were no tickets sold in N.S.W. because Jack Hartley who handles distribution over there has been moving about a bit and the mail was just following him around, and by the time Jack had finally settled in at Point Piper his present abode, and the tickets caught up with him, it was too late to send them out to N.S.W. members. So Jack bought £10 of tickets himself. Thanks, Jack, that was a nice gesture.

We had a few visitors along. Bill Tomasetti was down from New Guinea on leave, looking very well, has put on considerable weight but hasn't changed much.

Kiwi Harrison is also down on holidays taking in the Melbourne Cup and Olympic Re-union (sporting a beaut beard) but this disguise couldn't hide his identity. Kiwi has fined down a bit, but otherwise is the same old bloke. He is doing fencing contract work

way out, the N.S.W.-S.A. border, back of Bourke.

Gordon Stanley's was a welcome face to see, looking particularly fit. We had our usual crop of letters from country members returning their butts. Our usual eposide from Smasho who put up a great performance this year selling over £20 worth of tickets. Thanks a lot Smash, you are still the Champ. Ticket Seller and retain the belt.

Mitch wrote from 100D Bandiana sending back money and butts. Arch Clary writes Bert from his new address Carboor, via Milawa, which is up near Wangaratta. Arch has gone up on some new venture and will tell us all about it when he settles in. All the best Arch in your new venture.

Bob Snowdon from Talgamo Roadside, via Wodonga, writes his usual letter at this time tending down butts and money and wishing he could be down here for one of our Olympic functions but it is one of his busiest times of the year but sends his regards to all the boys.

Lionel Newton from Broken Hill writes sending butts and money and hoping he can get down to see us during the Olympics.

We had a committee meeting on Nov. 19, at the Wayside Inn. Present were Max Davies, Bruce McLaren, Des Williams, George Robinson, Bill Tomasetti, Gerry McKenzie, Johnny Roberts, George Humphries, Jim Fenwick, Gerry Maley, Harry Botterrell (in chair). This was a very successful meeting and we finalised all arrangements for our Olympic functions and made the final allocation of Olympic Opening Day tickets. Bert was unable to attend this meeting owing to the death of his mother and we all extend to Bert and family our deepest sympathies at the loss.