



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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## Editorial

### CONTROVERSIAL LIVING

For some strange reason, or lack of reason, many intelligent people endeavour to avoid controversy. Those folk who do not seem to realise that controversy is the life blood of democracy, in fact live an inevitable living experience for each; none is spared from its forceful influence upon his personality and character.

To promote democratic education, controversial subjects must be presented to students, and people generally, for the very obvious reason that controversy sharpens our thinking, stimulates us to read more widely, that most important controversy produces virtually all our best and most original thinking.

How can one live in a truly dynamic society without argument, debate and controversy?

Controversy is created when conflicting viewpoints clash. The real worth is established by one simple test: "How free are the participants to say what they really feel and believe?"

Democracy, therefore, must have controversy to survive, and anything that stifles controversy or the exchange of ideas and opinions is detrimental to the welfare of any progressive and expanding society—a society which represents the fundamental worth of the individual.

One may violently oppose ideas, but yet, as an independent thinker, he has the full responsibility for the protection of the rights of others to express themselves and to present freely controversial matters.

Controversy keeps us on our toes and because of the importance of having all ideas and philosophies freely made available to everyone, even if we dissent from certain views, we must constantly insist on the free exchange of ideas. Errors and mistakes will always give way to truth and enlightenment.

—G. S. ROBINSON.

*No Meeting Tuesday, Dec. 4*

*Kiddies' Xmas Party Sunday, Dec. 9*

*Bucks' Night Wednesday, Dec. 19*

# West Australian Whisperings

## Committee Comment

### COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Monash Club on Oct. 17. Those present were Messrs. Green, McDonald, Napier, March, Smith, Pendergrast, Anderson, Cantrill.

Minutes of the previous committee meeting read and received on the motion of Cantrill, seconded by McDonald.

### Business Arising

Ladies Night: This night was considered to be a great success. A good turn-up, and everybody appeared to enjoy themselves. The Committee recorded a special vote of thanks to Mrs. A. Smith, Mrs. G. Pendergrast, Mrs. Colin Doig, Bob Freestone and Mr. and Mrs. Sampy, for their very special work which contributed in no small way to the success of that evening.

Wongan Hills Convention: Members going to Wongan are required to furnish their names immediately so accommodation can be arranged. The Editor was asked to make a special note in the 'Courier' re this matter. The itinerary as set out by Mr. Sadler to be followed. Private arrangements to be made as regards transport.

Minutes were adopted on motion of Mr. March, seconded by Mr. Napier.

### General Business

Melbourne Cup Sweep. Reminder letters to be sent to all who have not yet returned their sweep butts. It was moved by Mr. March seconded by Mr. Cantrill, that the sweep be drawn on Oct. 29, at the home of Mr. Pendergrast. Motion carried.

Busy Bee: A small busy bee was arranged at the home of Merv Ryan. Merv has been in Hollywood for six months and the grass was getting a bit long.

The Treasurer then spoke about members yearly subscriptions. Some of these appear to be well in arrears. The Secretary was instructed to look up our constitution regarding this matter.

November Meeting: Mr. Cantrill to arrange a guest speaker for this evening.

Children's Xmas Party: Secretary to arrange hall, venue 16th Batt. Drill Hall, Bazaar Terrace, date Dec. 16. It was moved by Mr. Napier, seconded by Mr. March that an internal sweep be conducted at Xmas tree to augment Xmas Tree Fund. Motion carried. Considerable discussion then took place re presents, entertainment, etc. Quotes for books to be obtained.

Melbourne Convention: The photos of King's Park were discussed and enlargements were decided upon.

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

## Association Activities

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Unfortunately the guest speaker scheduled for the November meeting was unable to attend. This speaker is an authority on automation and we will endeavour to secure his services at a future meeting.

A rattling good turn up of members took place and the evening was spent by different members speaking ad lib regards matters such as migration, the benefit or not of the narrows bridge, etc. This proved to be quite popular, the lads enjoying the impromptu discussions. What the speakers lacked in knowledge they certainly made up for in earnestness. The usual few drinks were indulged in with the gathering petering out with the keg—around midnight. All in all a good evening despite our initial disappointment at not having our guest speaker.

### KIDDIES XMAS PARTY

To be held this year on Dec. 9, at 16th Bn. Drill Hall, Bazaar Terrace, at 2 p.m.

A busy bee is required to prepare the hall in the morning so pop in, you chaps and lend a willing hand.

Ladies are requested to bring a plate to assist with the afternoon tea.

Usual fun and games for the kiddies are being arranged by President Gerry Green and Treasurer Fred Napier.

## Personalities

JOE BURRIDGE is the latest to announce his intention of visiting Melbourne for the Olympic Games Convention. Joe intends flying over and leaves Perth on Nov. 24, arriving in Melbourne on Nov. 25. Joe was at the November meeting and looks a picture of health and vitality. Melbourne will certainly know that Joe has been there, what with his ready wit and good natured banter.

NORM THORNTON was having a chat with me at the meeting recently and he tells me that unfortunately he will be unable to make the Olympic trip. That's bad luck for him after so much planning.

MERV CASH is back in Perth again. Had quite a chat with him and he says that he thinks he is in Perth for keeps this time.

MERV RYAN is still in Hollywood. The last skin graft on his leg was not successful so it looks like a longer stay than was at first anticipated. By the way TED LOUD, if you read this, we had a nip out of that little bottle of whisky you brought Merv the other day when we were on a working bee at his place. Merv says next time make it a large bottle and we can all get tanked.

### EDITORIALS

The subject of editorials is always a contentious one and I, as Editor, have reached the stage where I feel that we should have more contributions of this nature sent in for the 'Courier'. A man writing editorials month in and month out, becomes set in his ideas and bores even himself.

If you feel that you have any subject fit for an editorial it will be welcomed with open arms. This month a contributed editorial from one of our Victorian members appears. It is greatly appreciated and I hope is only the forerunner of many more from that very active body in Victoria.

### NOTE!

During December, both your Editor and Secretary will be in Melbourne at the Olympic Convention. Don't let that deter any of you scribes who intended writing. The

mail box will be regularly cleared and a 'Courier' will be prepared even though from a distance. Any assistance that can be given in the nature of personal paragraphs, etc., should be sent in so as to make the job a little easier during our absence.

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Some of our correspondents have expressed their delight at the "Do You Remember?" section of the 'Courier'. We are pleased that you enjoy this section and hope to be able to provide further items later.

If you have some humorous anecdote that you recall, please write in and we will print it in the first available 'Courier'. There must be hundreds of authentic stories just itching to be told. Now come on chaps, see what you can do.

### "LEST WE FORGET"

#### November:

Tpr. L. B. Kemp, killed in action New Guinea, Nov. 12, 1943.

Pte. J. E. Thomas, killed in action, Timor, Nov. 11, 1942, age 29.

Pte. A. Smeaton, killed in action, Timor, Nov. 11, 1942, age 24.

Cp. Stanley Ludlow, killed on service, W.A., Nov. 18, 1945, age 28.

### COUNTRY CONVENTION

Wongan Hills was the scene of festivity when Association country members from surrounding districts entertained members from Perth at the Annual Country Convention.

This was the second time that Wongan has turned it on, and believe me it was sure a great turnout.

Our hosts and hostesses were Blanche and Stan Saddler, and Mavis and Charlie Saddler.

Country members in Norma and Jack Hasson came down from Ballidu, Dick Crossing and wife from Goomalling, Fred Sparkman and wife from Northam and Royce Wilkerson from Goomalling.

The president, accompanied by Lal and daughter Geraldine, were fortunate enough to be able to make the trip and arrived in Wongan Hills on the Sunday morning.

Roy and Mavis Harris who are in



W.A. on holiday from N.S.W. had been staying for a few days with Stan and Blanche Saddler. They are making their way to Kalgoorlie where they will freight their car to Port Pirie and thence home to N.S.W.

Secretary Arthur Smith and his wife, Beryl, drove from Perth on Saturday, arriving in Wongan late afternoon. They were accompanied by Glad and Fred Napier, our general treasurer.

Wilf March, editor, with wife Lorraine, motored up from Perth on Sunday morning, arriving at 9.30 a.m. Along with them came committeeman, Gordon "Blue" Pendergrast and wife Edie.

There was no organised entertainment for Saturday night owing to several members not being able to make the trip until Sunday.

Came Sunday morning and at 11 a.m. actual business side of the convention was attended to in the local R.S.L. Hall.

Country members were asked to voice their opinions regarding management of our affairs and also to offer any suggestions they saw fit for the betterment of the Association in general.

All members expressed their faith in the work the management committee had done in the past. It was most gratifying, from a committee point of view, to find that their labours were appreciated so wholeheartedly as they were by the Wongan boys.

At the conclusion of the Convention business members adjourned to the "local" and had a few of the cups that cheer—Sunday notwithstanding.

After the perpetual West Aussie thirst had been assuaged we made tracks for the Saddler boys' farm. It was here that the festivities were really "on".

All country members had joined forces to turn on a spread one does not see very often. Poultry, savouries, etc., were in abundance and we really went to town on it.

The weather was quite warm and it wasn't long before the inevitable keg was broached. The thirsts proved too much for it and Jack Hassen and Charlie Saddler made the round trip of 30 miles to the township for some more "grog". Eventually Jack and Charlie arrived

back to the accompaniment of loud cheers.

It was towards mid-afternoon when a short range target shooting tournament was organised. The ladies all tried their hand and the eventual winner was Beryl Smith. Beryl turned in quite a good card for a novice. It was noticeable that Arthur went pretty quiet afterwards. Mum's hidden talent kept him on the qui-vive. He will surely have to behave himself if Beryl has him lined up in her sights.

Later the men had a pop. This resulted in a tie between Gerry Green, Dick Crossing and Reg Harrington. In the shoot off Reg proved the better marksman.

Towards dusk the barbecues were started and huge piles of steak, chops and sausages were cooked. There's no need to relate how that can be made to disappear.

Fred Napier was in fine fettle and gave several impromptu skits and sang a few ditties. Mrs. Dick Crossing, and Edie Pendergrast also lent a "hand" and kept the sing-song going.

Later in the evening we dispersed to the various farms where we stayed overnight.

Monday morning found a lot of very seedy types wandering around. We drove into Wongan again and saw the doctor at the Wongan Hills Hotel. He worked wonders and after taking a few doses of his prescription felt as good as ever.

Off to the tennis courts then, where some shameful acts were perpetuated. A tournament between town and city members was agreed upon. Do you know that those countryites cheated, called wrong scores and did everything that is not in the Lawn Tennis Association book. Naturally we poor city folk went under—but only just. The scores were 6-0, 6-0, 6-1, or something like that. Close wasn't it.

Still the cityites were undaunted and will keep in memory some of those dastardly acts for future reference.

It was in the vicinity of 5.30 p.m. Monday before we left our country friends, very tired, full of chicken, beer and thoughts that we were leaving some grand folk.

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## Random Harvest

**Bob Palmer of Cowaranup, writes:**

Just a few lines with the sweep butts. As usual we have taken the book ourselves as I don't get about much to sell some down this way. Hope the sweep turns up trumps for the Association once again this year.

Things have been pretty good down this way this season. Plenty of feed and all that but once again butter fat had to be dropped in price just to keep things hard for the cow-cocky. We still manage to get plenty of tucker and a good bed so I don't suppose we can growl too much.

Am afraid I mislaid the proforma the Association sent out earlier in the year—or at the end of last year—regarding the children. If you could pass on the information to the Association officials requiring same, I'll list our four herewith: Ann 11, John 9, Bruce 6, Helen 5. At this late stage I would like to thank all those concerned who were responsible for the parcel last Xmas. It is a very good thing for the kids out back.

Hope to make the Annual Dinner this year. Was forced to miss out last year as Barb had tried the car out on a tree and the tree didn't shift. Barb spent about 10 days in hospital as a result and I didn't get the car out of hock until the Monday after the dinner.

Well I had better give it away and rest your eyes for you. Hope you have a good trip to Melbourne and back. Give my regards to all over there and I hope to make a private trip before too many years go by.

Regards to all the gang and hope to see most of them at the Annual Dinner.

(Bob. After about half an hour's study I have deciphered your letter—once again. What a wonderful thing to hear about a "cocky"—cow, or otherwise—who says that things are "pretty good our way". You must be crook old boy. Better have a check up because when a cocky loses his grip that is the last straw. Thanks anyway, Bob, hope that Roy Harris saw you when he was on his south west tour.—Ed.)

**Jack Fowler of Box 73 Wongan Hills, writes:**

Am enclosing sweep butts, and hope they are winners to help me on my way to the Olympics. I am flat to the board trying to get things done up and in order before we go, as we are, or hoping to, leave by the end of this month. Staying in Adelaide for awhile. I have been on the hay baling. The hay or grass isn't so good this year. We have only managed to bale 8,000 bales this year, also the hay baling season this year has been short. The season started off extra well then August and September let us down and things were beginning to look in a bad way. Anyway we had 135 points last week so that has helped us along extra well. We do look like harvesting a few bags of wheat this year which at one stage looked like a failure.

I hope the Wongan Convention is a success and I regret missing out but hope all who attend enjoy themselves as I am sure they will.

Regards to all the boys.

(Appreciate continuity of your letters Jack. They are a breath of fresh air for those not fortunate enough to see you every now and again.—Ed.)

**Fred Grownes, of Box 34 Ballidu, writes:**

Very sorry about the delay in returning these butts but I had mislaid the darn things and only found them the other day. Hope they reach you in time and that it has not inconvenienced you very much.

(Thanks for short note Fred. I hope that you will be able to come down to Wongan Hills for the Convention.—Ed.)

**Bert Burges, of "Burlands", Broome hill, Phone Katanning 350K, writes:**

Sorry about these tickets. Snowed under with work here at present and the time just crept up on me. Best wishes for a successful sweep and that someone deserving may have a win.

(Certainly a short note for you Bert, but still you have spoiled us with those long screeds. Our most regular correspondent has set himself a standard, hasn't he.—Ed.)



**Archie Campbell, of Moulyinning, writes:**

Herewith ticket butts and cheque for £2 to cover same. Hope the sweep is a great success.

Manage to keep extremely busy on the farm but guess it is a good way to be.

Visits to Perth are few and far between so convey my best wishes to all old friends near or far.

Kept an interest in football by coaching the Dumbleyung-Lake Grace Association team. Had a good season and were beaten only by the ultimate winners, Narrogin.

Ron Dook called in at the carnival and it was great to see he and Agnes looking so splendid in health. See Stan King from time to time and he seems 100 per cent. Have also seen Bert and Marie Burgess on a few occasions—what a charming couple. Saw Alf Hillman at Katanning looking a picture of health. Ray Aitken is the very popular Headmaster at Dumbleyung and looking very fit.

Glad the old team East Perth managed to annex the premiership after 20 years. Makes one feel old!

Do hope the Olympic Re-union is a huge success and am most disappointed at being unable to attend. My best wishes to all making that grand trip.

Sorry to hear Col's mother passed away—she was a grand little woman and as sharp as a needle at 88 years of age. A replica of Colin and now I know where Col inherits his quick wit and ready humour.

Cheers for now and my best regards to old Gig and your good self and all the lads.

(Congrats on grand footy season effort, Arch. Also thanks for your very newsy letter. It is certainly a break to receive a bit of "meat" for the 'Courier'.—Ed.)

**Charlie King, of Wilfred-rd., Canning Vale, writes:**

Please find enclosed money and butts for the sweep. Trusting I am not too late.

(How's everything your way these days, Charlie? Haven't seen you for quite some time. We would like to see you at a meeting if you can manage it. The keg still tastes just as good.—Ed.)

**A. W. Blundy, of Smith-st., Beverly, writes:**

As work has kept me so busy the last few months the sweep tickets had slipped my mind until I received the urgent note. I had no trouble in selling both books of tickets but as I have left it so late I hope you will excuse this short note as I will have to have this posted this morning.

Had a wonderful run of shearing this year in the end was looking forward to a drop of rain, if only to have a day's spell.

Enclosing cheque for £2/5/6 for sweep tickets and to make me financial for another 12 months.

Hoping this finds you O.K. Regards to all the mob.

(Cheque received O.K., Alf. That is good news to hear that you had a very successful shearing season. Look us up when you hit the big smoke again.—Ed.)

**G. P. Rowley, of 20 Hospital Ave., Mangimup, writes:**

Please find enclosed butts of two books of tickets and cheque for £3/0/6 with the extra £1 you can put another book of tickets in the name of Rowley.

I sent to you for extra tickets about a fortnight ago and have not received them as yet, so if they do not arrive today they will be too late.

Sorry this note is to be so short but duty calls.

(Received cheque O.K. Gordon, and have noted your new address. Hope everything is progressing well

**Harry Holden, of Joondanna, writes**

Sorry that I could only sell one book of tickets but as I had books from four organisations I had to even them out a bit. £1 and an unsold book is enclosed as well as the butts.

(Thanks for your effort Harry. Every little helps.—Ed.)

**in Mangimup.—Ed.)**

**Ron Sprigg, of 60 Hill-st., Albany, writes:**

Just a few lines with what seems to be my annual much as I am ashamed to say.

Things are pretty well the same with me, I still only have three children, two girls and a boy, and still managing to get three meals a day and half a bed.

Was surprised to run into Jack Servante down the street early in October, during his short visit to Albany and we spent a nice quiet evening at home and I got some first hand information on the Victorian boys. When I said goodbye to Jack 11 years ago little did I think I would entertain him in my own home.

Also ran into Ron Dook as I was on my way to work during the school holidays, unfortunately I was on afternoon shift and Ron was only in Albany for the one night, I was unable to see any more of him. Have been expecting to see something of Don Murray. Believe he is expected down this way soon. See Ernie Nic occasionally, never changes.

Well, that's about the lot for this time, wish you every success with the sweep. Regards to all the boys.

(Thanks, Ron, for your letter. While we don't hear from you very often it is always welcome when a letter arrives from your neck of the woods.—Ed.)

**Stan Sadler, of Wongan Hills, writes**

Please find enclosed sweep tickets with a cheque for same, the additional to go to the Christmas Tree fund.

I know how things are trying to get a definite number that are coming to the Wongan Hills Convention. It's very difficult, but if you can give us a fairly definite number a clear week before the show, that will suit.

Glad to hear you are making the Olympic trip. John Fowler leaves about the end of this month. He is staying a while with relatives in South Australia before going to the Games.

The season is quite fair here. We had an inch of rain a week ago which did some good, but was too late to be of great benefit. If it had come a month earlier the season would have been a bumper.

Brother Ron is leaving for Queensland at the end of next week. He has sold his interest here to Charlie and I. His wife is a Queensland girl and Ron likes it over there. Ron joined the Company in New Britain, but has never been interested in the Association since the war. By the way my initial is S. not S. E. as is always on my mail from the Association. Ron's

initials are R. E., that is how the mix up came about I guess.

Last one of the W.A. boys I saw was Ralph Finklestein, some months ago he came up to Wongan for a run to get out of the city for a break. Came out here to lunch. He is doing pretty well evidently in the furniture and fittings business. Has his own factory and at times 30 or 40 men in his employ.

Roy Harris and his wife from N.S.W. stayed with us for a few days. They are touring this State, calling in on old mates on the way. Roy was always known as Blue—being red headed—and was with us in New Guinea and New Britain, finishing up in the O.M. Store. He is intending to stay in this State until about Nov. 20, so guess he will be seeing quite a number of old mates.

If anyone sees him tell him his hat fits me nicely. He left it here. I think he and his wife may be coming back for the Convention. I hope so.

That's about all for now, regards and all the best for your visit to the Games.

(A very newsy letter, Stan. By the time this 'Courier' is printed your Wongan Hills Convention will be over, all the same I hope that your untiring efforts to make it a good show are not unavailing.—Ed.)

**Dick Pepper, of Geraldton, writes:**

Enclosed please find cheque for £2/0/6, together with butts of sweep tickets, hope I'm in time. Best wishes to yourself and all Association members.

(Haven't heard from you in ages, Dick. Hope that all is well with you these days. I see that you are now with 6GE in Geraldton. How do you find it after being a store-keeper all these years?—Ed.)

**Tom Towers, of 4 Suffolk-st., Fremantle, writes:**

So sorry I am late with my raffle tickets but I think you will find the right amount.

While I am on the subject, will you find out how much I owe in fees as I will pay them up to date, and be up with the rest of the hill-climbers, even though I do not attend any of the meetings, although my very good wife is always on my back for not going along.

Owing to the unsettled hours on

the waterfront and the shifts, as well does not always permit us to join the happy throng but as soon as I get a night and the meeting is on I will hop along and join the rest of the gang, but I must say this now, that I work on the waterfront I might be able to spend a little more time with the crowd.

As you know the time is moving around and the bed looks the best place at the moment. I think I will close this with best regards to all in the Association and hope to see you all the next meeting and don't forget to let me know what I owe the Association.

**(Thanks Tom. Your request will be attended to. We certainly hope that you and your wife will be able to attend some of the functions, etc., organised at times throughout the year. Do your best to make the next meeting.—Ed.)**

**Bernie Langridge, of "Crawlea", Donnybrook, writes:**

Sorry to be so late replying with sweep butts but it is one of those things a chap says "I'll do tomorrow night" and before one knows it his time is up.

As you will see I have made out every fourth ticket to the Association and the remainder are divided between my three sons, aged 5, 3 and 1½. I hope the Association has a win on one of the tickets as I am sure they have a much more urgent need for it than my boys.

Well I do want to express my appreciation for the little paper we get monthly. I would like to assure you people at the helm that silence does not mean falling interest in the Association and the great service it is doing us by keeping us informed of the doings of some of our old tent mates. I venture to suggest only a very few of us would remember the date of poor old Cyril Doyle's passing if it were not for the 'Courier'.

The items appearing under "Do You Remember?" are also particularly useful and amusing. I say useful because it focusses the line of thought onto a scene which was once a very real part of our lives. I feel sure you will understand what I mean. I do want to emphasise the fact that the silence, or failure to write does not indicate falling interest in each other or the Association. Rather it indicates that we

are all very busy in our own jobs and on our own little ways doing out bits towards making this country a desirable place to live in and really we owe that to chaps like Cyril Doyle because really that is what they died for.

As for myself it is just 10 years since I started farming here. I can truthfully say I am just as busy now as I was 10 years ago, but in a different way. When I came here I was clearing, building and fencing and putting down pastures, etc. Now I am busy in routine work. Spraying, pruning and cultivating the orchard, picking and packing apples, drenching, shearing and crutching the sheep, etc., tending to my 30 odd cows and cutting and carting hay. I also spend quite a bit of time irrigating the orchard from a dam I put in on the main creek that runs through my farm.

As Robbie mentioned I have given the cows away, my chief reasons that I didn't need them with the orchard and also they involved the whole family in early and late hours and meals at all hours and the future for butter fat will, I think, always be a very competitive one with many countries with geographical and climatical advantages.

I had an opportunity of buying a Romney-Marsh stud complete and founded on N.J. blood and I feel there is great scope for fat lamb raising combined with dairying with advantages to both in the south west.

Well let me congratulate the new office bearers, wish them good luck and a happy year of office and on behalf of country chaps let me say thank God there are still chaps like yourselves willing to do voluntary work.

My very best wishes to the entire gang.

**(A very interesting and informative letter, Bernie. You make it sound as if our job on the Committee is a great one. Actually it is a very enjoyable job and in the nature of a hobby. We all get a great kick out of doing our bit and when we can be kept posted of the doings of you country folk we feel that our labours are not in vain. At times news is very scarce and it is then that we feel that we are being let down. Thanks once again for letter, Bernie.—Ed.)**



**Ted Monk, of Latham, writes:**

I am enclosing sweep ticket butts and cheque to the value of £3. £2 for sweep and £1 for membership.

As yet I don't know where the next country convention is to be held, but if at Wongan Hills, work permitting, hope to be there with family.

The only members of the Unit I have met up with recently are Joe Burrige in Perth last week. Think he looks a picture of health and can understand why as we sampled some of his diet. Also had a few ales with Eric Smyth at a field day at Mingenew. Eric looks fit and has not altered much since the old Unit days.

Please convey my regards to all the boys.

**(Your sweep butts and cheque to hand, Ted, for which I thank you. Pleased to hear that you are contemplating making the journey to Wongan Hills for the Convention. Will have a bit of a chin wag there.—Ed.)**

**Ernie Dinwoodie, of 212 Eighth Terrace, South Perth, writes:**

Just a few lines to let you know that all is well in the Dinwoodie household, also I am enclosing my two books of tickets plus my 5/- for my membership and I wish you have a great roll in of books and the sweep is a huge success. By the way, how about a horse or two this year to make the game a bit more interesting.

I am kept pretty busy copying out all that I learnt at school during the day. I rather like it down at the Tech, but I have no idea when and where I will be going when I leave there as yet. Mum reckoned she had a wonderful time at the Ladies' Night, that includes me too, of course. I thought it went off real well.

Well, I don't know I am stumped for something to say. If I had a few of those nice frothy schooners under my belt I may be able to do better. So will say cheerio for now once again wishing the Unit every success.

**(Have received postal notes O.K., Ern. Thanks for letter. The Ladies' Night was a night, wasn't it? Glad that you enjoyed yourselves.—Ed.)**

**"Rip" McMahon, of Dalwallinu Hotel, Dalwallinu, writes:**

Enclosing sweep butts and the £2 for the Melbourne Cup sweep, which I hope turns out even better than last year.

Am still in the beer trade and have met quite a few of the boys at different times. One I see very often is Alf Brady, who is the length runner between Wongan and Dalwallinu—and he is about 16 stone these days and feeling fine. Also met up with "Pop" Harding in the betting shop here last Saturday. "Pop" tells me he is driving the kids to school over at Kalannie. Says he is making out fairly well and will do better next year when he gets more passengers and on a better run.

Ken McIntosh dropped in to the pub the other day after a sheep sale here and looked pretty fit and brown. Did not have much of a chance to talk to him except to say hullo and see you later.

Don Murray and Tom Bateman passed through here a few weeks back and settled in for a nice little session. Don is looking well and Tom also. Saw Johnno Johnson on one occasion but for a very short period. Johnno was going through on some farm business and was in a hurry to get going. Ran into Herbie Thomas at Ballidu and had some good old sessions with him. Herb is with the bulk handling crowd and has as much cheek as ever. Jack Hassen I meet quite often and also Freddy Growsns. Both seem to be doing pretty well on the land. Jack Fowler also called in one day and said how, but had no time to stop.

It has been very dry up this way and things were looking pretty blue for the farmer. However Saturday brought the rain—about 40 points—and so everybody is reasonably happy again.

When you see Jack Servante will you give him my regards. I have not seen him since we were at Canungra. I saw by the 'Courier' that he is living here now. Well all the best and regards all round.

**(Well that's a letter and a half, Rip. Chock full of news about members in your area. Thanks, pal, I can use a few more correspondents like you.—Ed.)**

**Alan Brown, of 26 Scaddan-st., Wembley, writes:**

How are you these days? Long time no see, eh? Well, still on night work at W.A. Newspapers, and don't get much of an opportunity to attend the gatherings. All the same I eagerly look forward to the monthly 'Courier', and the latest doings of the boys. There have been big changes down at the newspapers since the boys were conducted through there. Now we have the most up to date printing machines in Australia and it sure makes work a lot easier. On us hard workers, anyway.

Have enclosed ticket butts and £2 and wish you success. All's well with us here and hope this finds all O.K. with you.

**(Received cash O.K., thanks. The sweep has once again been a great success. That night work has whiskers on it, hasn't it? A man becomes a social outcast while the night shift is on. See you at a meeting when back on day work.—Ed.)**

**"Bruss" Fagg, of Northampton, writes:**

Just a few lines with the sweep butts.

The two books are mine and Joe Brands. Running to his usual form old Joe lost your address so brought his butts into me to forward. He is the world's best at getting himself into a spot.

Well cannot write much, in a hell of a hurry.

**(Received sweep butts O.K. Bruss. Thanks for letter and hope you are able to drop us an occasional line and let us know how everything in Northampton is.—Ed.)**

**Clarrie Turner, of "Hillora Stud", Elgin, writes:**

Just a very quick note to return sweep tickets. Sorry I haven't done so before, but I just hadn't given them another thought. This year has been a really bad one for me and I don't know whether I am coming or going.

Felled a tree on myself in April and had a broken neck plus being unconscious for a week. My wife has had a nervous breakdown and been in Perth at Harrow Hospital for nearly four months and thank goodness I think this weekend will

see her out of it. Last Thursday splitting wood a wedge flew and split my lip and broke a couple of teeth off. Had three stitches in the lip. I am due back to the Dr. at 10.30 this morning and it is now 10.15 so I must hurry.

So you see playing father, mother etc., and a 60 cow dairy leaves me little time to think of the other chaps. Make tickets out to Unit.

**(My word Clarrie, you have been having a rough spin of it lately. We hope that your run of bad luck has ended and that you will find things a lot easier from now on.—Ed.)**

**Eric Thornander, of 8 Venn-st., Collie, writes:**

Find enclosed postal note for 30/-, £1 for sweep and 10/- to help keep the pot boiling.

In previous correspondence I have mentioned the fact I am now the possessor of a family, and as I understand the Association remitt presents to the children at Christmas I submit my list: Glennister 10 yrs., Warrick 8 yrs. and Margia 9 months. Like all kids they delight in receiving.

**(Your family list has been noted Eric, and we are certainly glad to hear from you. Please contact one of us if you get up to the city at any time and we will have a get-together.—Ed.)**

**Alf Brady, of P.O. Wongan Hills, writes:**

Herewith cup sweep tickets and cheque for £2.

Sorry to be so late in returning these tickets.

Have not much to say as news is very scarce up here and I am a poor old writer at the best of times. I wish you and all other members all the best for the future.

**(See you at the Wongan Convention, Alf. I don't think I have seen you since we last met at the first Wongan Convention. You were like the side of a house then so can expect to see you looking even fatter. There must be something in this single life.—Ed.)**

**Lew Thompson, of "Granite Ridge" Mooliabeenee, writes:**

You will find enclosed butts and cheque for £1. I hope it comes this way. Sorry I have been unable to come to any meetings. I



have only missed one annual dinner and that was through getting the dates mixed—but will (D.V.) be along next time. Not having a decent bus is a big handicap, this I hope to remedy in the near future.

Regards to all and sundry.

(Hope to see you at the next reunion if not before Lew. Hada'n't heard from you for such a long time I was wondering if you were still mobile.—Ed.)

**Nip Cunningham, of 132 Augusta-st., Geraldton, writes:**

Just a few lines to let you know I have sold my two books and am enclosing a money order for £3. Hoping the sweep is a success. The extra pound is for my sub.

Herb Thomas called in to see Irish the other day and has headed back Carnarvon way. Fred Griffiths and I had a night out before he left for Onslow. I will not make a selection for the Cup this year as I have retired from the turf in defeat. All the farmers up this way are reasonably happy with the season. The tomato growers are getting £8 a case for their tomatoes.

Best wishes to all the boys down that way.

(Letter and cash received O.K. Nip. Thanks for letter.—Ed.)

**Doc Wheatley writes:**

Am enclosing butts with cheque to cover.

Things just usual with me at this time of year, mostly a waiting time for crops to grow and looking forward to the summer which seems to be held up. I hope this cold spell finishes soon as I've still not much meat on my bones.

This is just a note while I'm in Perth. I'd like you to give my regards to any of the boys you see, and I'll say cheerio for now.

**Ernie Hoffman, of c/- Porphyery P.O., via Kalgoorlie, writes:**

How are you, Old Boy? One of these days I'll make a trip down instead of going east, and your petty cash will rise.

The cheque enclosed should cover the sweep tickets and subscription and the carry over as you think fit.

You can tell the boys that the strip on 'House Breaking Your Dog' created the laugh of the year up here.

By the way, if you should see Kieth Hayes and he has been to Kalgoorlie, fine him a quid at a mock court, and should you get the £1 I'll match it.

I have nothing to report in the way of news as it's still the same old programme.

Best of success to all the Unit's ventures and regards to the gang of — (Fellow Slaves).

**Fred Sparkman, of 176 Duke-st., Northam, writes:**

Enclosed please find ticket butts and a cheque for a couple of quid and exchange.

Congrats to Gerry on being elected President, and to Arthur, as Secretary, and to those on the committee who are doing a good job. Should you get any headaches let's know and I'll nip a few Aspros up.

As you know via Robbie I've left Bridgetown and am now domiciled in Northam at the above address. My travels take me far and wide from here, Perth, Wongan Hills, Wyalcatchem, Merredin and Narrogin. So far have met Chook Fowler, Laurie Tapper, also Don Murray popped in from York (don't forget those dahlias) and hope to meet more of the mob now I'm nearer the big smoke.

Sorry I couldn't make the Ladies' Night. My Mrs. must have been a horrible brat, I'm sure they don't take after me. However we hope to go to Wongan for the Convention this year and see as many of the mob as possible.

Well folks, news is scarce as usual, would like to see anyone that is up this way or passing through. Would particularly like to hear news of Curly Bowden, Scotty Wares and Ron Kirkwood.

Regards to all and the best to the Association.

### *Heard This?*

She was only an optician's daughter but two glasses and she made a spectacle of herself.

\* \* \* \*

Nurse: "It's a boy."

King Sol: "Curses! I wanted a girl."

Nurse: "Patience, Oh King. There'll be three more this afternoon."

## Victorian Vocal Venturings

Committee meeting held Wayside Inn, Oct. 3, Bernie Callinan in chair, Gerry Maley, Gerry McKenzie, Gerry O'Toole, Bluey Southwell, Bert Tobin, Johnny Roberts, Alan Munro, Jim Wall, Alan Stewart, Harry Botterill, Bruce McLaren. Apologies from Max Davies, who is undergoing new course of treatment for his complaint and is reporting a bit of improvement.

A letter received from Ray Splatt was read out. Ray is at present in New Guinea on business for his firm (Australian Petroleum Co.) and said that he had visited the War Memorials at Port Moresby and Lae describing them as beautiful places and kept remarkably clean and well kept. He is going to lay a wreath on behalf of 2/2nd (when he returns to Port Moresby, Nov. 11) on the grave of a 2/2nd member there.

Treasurer's report was received from Bert in his usual thorough manner.

Arrangements were made for the drawing of the sweep which will be held at the drill hall in George-st., Nov. 1, with the usual proceedings and refreshments.

It was decided to donate £10 to the Victorian Commando Association to help defray their costs for their paper the "Double Diamond" which all our members receive. It was recorded in the minutes, our regrets of Jack Servante's illness and that the Association will assist wherever possible, and our thanks to the West Aussie boys who are rallying round Jack and Isobel and giving practical help.

The rest of the night was taken up with Olympic Re-union functions to be held and the planning is now getting the final touches to what should be a very enjoyable time. It was decided to hold a meeting at Bert's office on Monday, Oct. 15, to make the final allocation of tickets for the Opening Day ceremony of the Olympics. The meeting closed with the usual refreshments.

Meeting at Bert's office duly took place on Oct. 15, and the final allocation of tickets for the opening ceremony took place after a lot of discussion. It had to be decided the best and fairest way of distribution because we had more ap-

plicants than tickets available—and it was decided to give all members and families first choice, a certain number of tickets were held over for our visitors and families, and then we allotted one ticket each to all applicants which left us with a few over which are being held over in case any late members who may not have heard about them being available.

Victorian members will learn with regret of Jack Servante's recent relapse, and Jack is a very sick boy. At present he is in the public hospital at Perth, where he has undergone an operation in connection with his illness and we all sincerely hope Jack recovers quickly. Jack has lost the use of his legs and can only just move his arms and fingers but cannot write or feed himself. He has had his case before Repatriation Commission and has been knocked back twice—and his appeal comes up on Oct. 18. We all wish Jack and Isabel and family every success with the appeal as if ever a man deserved help from Repat. it's Jack, a fine soldier and a real white man. Col Doig has put in a lot of effort in helping Jack with his appeal—and to Col we say thanks pat.



### Heard This?

Traffic Cop: "Use your noodle, lady; use your noodle."

Woman Driver: "My goodness, where is it? I've used every darned other thing!"

\* \* \* \*

She: "Stop!"

He: "I won't!"

She (sighing): "Well, at least I did my duty."

\* \* \* \*

Magistrate: "How did the accident happen?"

Motorist: "Why, I dimmed my lights and was hugging a curve."

Magistrate: "A-ha! that's how most accidents happen."