

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

At our annual meeting I was pleasantly surprised and honoured to have been elected as President for year 1956-57. When I say surprised there seems no other word, as my attendance prior to 1953 was nil. However interest was reborn, aided by our life-line, the 'Courier', and a half nelson applied by George Strickland to escorted me to the Annual General Meeting. I was duly elected to Executive. From here, the eyes fairly bulged when confronted with accomplishments by past Executives and members, e.g. Subsistence, Honour Avenue with Water Scheme, Annual Re-unions, Kiddies' Xmas Trees, Ladies' Nights, Busy Bees, Sweeps, to mention a few, plus efforts by our country members who not only ably supported our functions but started us with memorable country conventions. Added to this Eastern State bodies flourished, N.S.W. regular subscribers of events in that area, Victoria with their mommath plans for an All-Unit Convention at the Olympics.

With so much work done, the assumption was that incoming Executives would follow a pattern. Not so old boy! These lads proceeded to bite off shuddering amounts of work that would benefit all members common interest, providing of course, these members could attend any of the scheduled functions.

So followed three years of renewing friends and most of all watching a group seldom seen in civvy life who could band together when needed, and have the knack of making all their functions a mighty success. The feeling one gets when attending these functions is: "This is the one place where I'm really wanted". Out come the bobby pins!

This year our Executive consists of: Sprig MacDonald, vice president; A. Smith, secretary; F. Napier, treasurer; W. E. March, editor and general secretary; Dick Geere, auditor; G. Laidlaw, "Blue" Pendergrast, "Dutch" Holland, "Ping" Anderson, Jack Carey, Jim Cantrell, members.

Can you imagine a greater bunch of villians to be assembled with? At the same time can you imagine as to what guarantee these fellows are going to have on the 1956-57 term being a bumper session?

News that our Olympic Delegate, Wilf March, has now been made final. Wilf is well equipped to carry out this important post, being a diligent worker since Association inception. His credentials as Editor and Olympic Secretary leaves him with a natural yen to glean information from Eastern States, also to impart his knowledge of our own movements. All the best Wilf. A note of sorrow about our other delegate, Col Doig. Col finds himself unable to make the trip. Bad luck Col, you'll be sorely missed.

—G. I. GREEN, President.

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

Committee meeting held at Monash Club, August 15. Those present were Messrs. Green, MacDonal, March, Napier, Smith, Cantrill, Prendergast, Anderson and Holland. Apology received from Mr. Carey.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and adopted on the motion of Mr. March, seconded by Mr. Prendergast.

Business Arising. Olympic Games Convention: There was considerable discussion over this matter and Mr. Napier moved that following instructions from the Annual General Meeting this committee appoints Mr. March as our delegate to the Olympic Games Convention. Seconded by Mr. Cantrill. As Mr. March accepted this appointment the motion was put to vote and carried.

Melbourne Cup Sweep: The Secretary reported that the dispersing of tickets was proceeding satisfactorily.

August Meeting: The picture show provided by the Dunlop Rubber Co. for this meeting proved most successful and enjoyable. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to the Dunlop Rubber Co. for their generosity. The Secretary was also instructed to contact the Shell Oil Co. with a view for our February meeting.

Guests: The question of guests being paid for at meetings was then brought up. After some discussion Mr. March moved that any member bringing a guest be charged 5/- for his guest. Seconded by Mr. Holland.

Mr. Napier then moved an amendment to Mr. March's motion as follows: That each member be charged 2/6 per guest. Seconded by Mr. McDonald.

The amendment was then put to vote and was defeated. The motion was then put to vote and carried.

September Meeting: As this is our annual sports night the following games were decided on: darts, quoits, table tennis, hookey, and throw the penny. The usual refreshments and eats will be provided.

October Ladies' Night: Venue, Crawley Bay Tea Rooms. After considerable discussion a sub-committee was formed to handle this event, consisting of Messrs. Prendergast, Napier and Smith, with the power to co-opt other members. Suggested members to co-opt were Mr. Dook and Mr. Doig.

Children's Xmas Party: Mr. March was given the job of bringing our list of members' children up to date.

Country Convention: As it is now Wongan Hills' turn for the convention the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Fowler re this event.

Correspondence: Inward and outward correspondence was then read and received on the motion of Mr. Napier seconded by Mr. MacDonal.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.30 p.m.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING SPECIAL OLYMPIC NIGHT

On Sept. 19, third Wednesday in September, the Committee will meet and have decided to ask any member of the Association who so desires to attend. The venue is in Monash Club, King-st., Perth.

The reason for extending invitation to members outside Committee is to receive any ideas regards forming a complete guide for Olympic delegate to report to E.S. members. Anyone who considers he can assist in the formation of the information for the delegate is requested to attend.

Post and future work of the Association will be on the agenda for the night's discussion.

"LEST WE FORGET"

September

L/Cpl. C. E. DOYLE, killed in action New Guinea, Sept. 20, 1943.
Age 22.

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

GUEST EVENING, FILM NIGHT

We had a grand evening at the August meeting. This took the form of a film night and we were fortunate enough to secure some real good films. A Dunlop representative came along and showed us a film of the 1954 Redex Trial. This is one of the finest films of its kind and we felt that we were actually in the trial cars. It was a wonder that any of the cars reached their destination at all.

Quite a good turn-up showed their appreciation of a good evening's entertainment.

MELBOURNE CUP SWEEP

Once again our lifeline, the Melbourne Cup Sweep, is under way. At the August meeting, Arthur Smith, the secretary, distributed tickets to those present. If you have not received your tickets by now, well keep your eye on the mail box because you can expect them at any time.

While I don't think there is any great need to remind you of the need to make this a success I must ask you to hop in and sell your tickets as soon as possible and so make the accounting of same an easier job.

LADIES' NIGHT

October 9

The sub-committee has held a meeting and quite a considerable amount of work was carried out.

The entertainment side was taken care of and something different from the usual has been arranged. The number expected was taken into account and handed to our caterers, who assured us that the catering is receiving very special attention. There will be the usual refreshments available and a good time for all is assured, so be sure and make a note of this date as a special treat for yourself and the wife.

Don't forget it—the 9th of Oct., 1956. **The Tuesday of Royal Show Week**, at the Crawley Bay Tearoom from 8 p.m. till ?

Make this night a must. We are all looking forward to meeting our country members and their wives at this function.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The famous incident at Atsabe when our Airforce (yes, that lone plane that used to stunt around Timor) came over to do over the Nipponese one beautiful day and smartly picked on one of the few postos still in our temporary possession at Atsabe. Being excellently trained and disciplined troops, Gerry Green and his worthy sappers smartly flew into their already prepared slit trenches to await the shoot up. Glancing up they noticed one of the Portoes (who usually scampered at the first sign of air power, either "ours" or "theirs") nonchalantly leaning against a wall watching the fireworks. Gerry and Co. thought that they'd better smartly get out of the holes as soon as the raid was over as it looked bad for our boys to be funk-ing in the ground while our "neutral allies" stood out and watched the "fun". Gerry went over to our Porto friend to find out the reason for his new found courage, and was he amazed to see said Porto was petrified into his position by sheer fright and couldn't have moved if he tried.

Or that other incident at Remexio when Harold Newton was walking along as a good soldier should properly armed with his Tommy Gun on "automatic" and as everyone knows how the slightest brush against anything will smartly fire a burst from the "Tommy", which the firer will probably not know a thing about owing to lack of recoil. That is just what happened to Harold, one minute walking along without a care in the world, next second a nice burst of "Tommy Gun" fire from what he thought behind him. The usual acceleration from a slow walk to a fast gallop by the Newton. Porto from Remexio Posto charges out of Posto screaming Nipponese, rushes full tilt into low hanging clothesline, promptly lifted up for split second then hurled onto flat of back by said clothesline, screaming, "Marti Ouna". All very funny for onlookers who saw the whole of play but for Newton and Porto not so hot.

Every girl has two sweethearts—the one she marries and the one that amounts to something.

From The Editor's Mailbag

P. Campbell, Southern Hills-st., Norseman, writes:

Just a note to suggest any of the boys coming overland to the Olympic Games would like them to make here a port of call. We are only 15 mile off the Eyre Highway and quite a good graded road all the way. Our turn off is 55 miles east of Norseman. You could let us know if going to call in by wire: P. Campbell, Southern Hills, Kalgoorlie. If all going by convoy could put on a bit of a barbecue, etc. The only thing to bring would be bread as ours is not of the best at times.

Enjoying a very good season up here at present and in a few years might take a trip back to the old places.

Enclosed sweep tickets. Only a native and his gin here. The extra £1 for membership and anything else owing by me, if not use it up.

A bit dry up here at present but wool has gone up so why worry.

(Thanks for your prompt effort at selling the sweep tickets, Peter. Would appreciate a nice long letter to the 'Courier' one day telling us all about your outback interests. —Editor.)

W. H. Rowan-Robinson, Bridgetown writes:

Having read the last 'Editor's Mailbag' and having enjoyed it, I feel it is up to me to drop a few lines, though it is difficult (as I don't own a semi trailer) to know how to make it interesting.

Firstly I must add my humble thanks to the out-going committee and officers and wish the new ones all the best during their term of office.

Sorry to hear that Jack Carey has been not the best in health during the past year. Remember Jack, if ever you want a spell in the bush we can always put you up for a short or a long time, just turn up any time you like.

Local news, First of all the long Sparkman and family have left Bridgetown. I understand that he was transferred to Northam. As most of you know he is an engine-driver, another one of those people who don't have to work for a living.

Have not seen Bernie Langridge

for some time but he has definitely given the cows away. Fruit and sheep now keep him occupied most of the time.

As for myself there is not really much news. Things are going on all right. The stork has kept away and our youngest goes to school next year. Had a quick trip to Fremantle when Westralian Farmers opened their new wool store earlier on in the month (I don't know much about wool stores but the Scotch was excellent). Met Don Turton there. He was making a quick trip up to the city, trying to get everything together to build a new mansion for himself and family. Hope everything is going well Don. This may not be news, but he tells me that "Bing" now has his own property adjoining. Good luck to you Bing, and I wish you all the best. You can't beat having your own place.

That is about all the news I have to offer. Don't seem to see many of the boys these days.

By the way I don't know if I'm financial or not but I'm enclosing a quid in case I'm not. If I am put it into kitty.

Jim Smailes, of Sunshine Reward Gold Mine, Edward's Find, Southern Cross, writes:

Your circular to hand and two books of tickets to sell, for which I thank you. I would like to inform you of my new address, so as I can receive my 'Courier' as usual. We have been here a couple of months now and find this place a lot more civilised than out Laverton way. It was certainly in the bush up there, 650 miles of it, but I gained some mighty valuable experience in mine management which has put me well on the road to success in this ever expanding industry.

I do wish I could see more of the boys and take part in the affairs of the Association, but I am too far out, and fled to the job too much to get down regularly. However I do wish you every success in the future and always let me know if I can do anything to help. As regards the tickets, I am not in a position to sell them about the

place, so I will take them all and please put them all in the name of the Association in case of a win. I am sorry to hear finances are strained. I remember once before in 1942 we were in a fix but with a united effort we pulled through. May be we can do it again.

Please accept the enclosed £10 as a contribution towards the sweep. Take out my sub. and buy tickets with the balance in the name of the Unit.

Regards to any of the boys you see, particularly Gerry Green, Doigy Calcutt, Dooky, Joe Burridge, and the gang in general. I was impressed with Joe's editorial on Apples earlier in the year. I hope to give you one on mining soon. I am kept very busy here and don't get much time for anything other than three meals and half a bed, but who cares as long as the job is interesting, and pays well.

I am boss cocky here and getting the place going nicely, have house and furniture supplied, car, wood, water, light and extras free and 2½ thousand chucked in.

Am enjoying perfect health now, in fact never felt better since the war. How do I go as a typist? No complications doing it myself. Bon Dia Tuan.

(Thanks Jim for your very generous offer regards sweep tickets. I hope "we" win a prize. Your letters are always a looked-forward to item, so make it a little more often if you can find the time. Cheers, —Editor.)

CORRESPONDENTS

This month our 'Courier' is a poor old one. Our usual correspondents have let us down hence the dearth of news.

While Victoria are pretty good correspondents I'm afraid that New South Wales and South Australia are falling by the wayside.

I could sit down and fill half a dozen pages of the 'Courier' with a lot of rot which has nothing to do with Association affairs but that is NOT what you want.

There are times when one doesn't see any of the boys around and I find it hard to find enough interesting news. It is only by co-operating and letting us know how things are in your own district, etc., that we are able to print a 'Courier'.

I would be most obliged if our former correspondents from Geraldton would resume their good work. Those letters were full of meat and looked forward to by all.

Tom Bateman, who has been travelling around the countryside with the Salk Immunisation Group tells of some of the lads he recently met:

We left Perth on July 2, starting at Mogumber Mission which holds about 500 natives. We had quite a time rounding them up but you must give credit where it is due, they do not cry half as much as our own white children.

The natives are really quite humorous. They roll up with their kangaroo dogs by the dozen, and you have to be very careful when immunising their kiddies that the dogs don't tear a lump out of your pants, as every time the kids cry the dogs snarl and get ready to attack.

I met Peter Barden and Irish Hopkins at Geraldton and quite a session with them. Peter took me to a football social which I really enjoyed. There was plenty of everything to be had and believe me I mean plenty. Also met Nip Cunningham who seems to be doing O.K. working at the club at Geraldton. On my way back down the Miling line I met Rip McMahon who is now pulling beer at the Dalwallinu Hotel.

Jack Hasson found out I was around that way and chased me down to Pithara and we made some arrangements about having a get-together when I do the Meekatharra-Esperance run as it takes in Jack's town at Ballidu.

I also met Don Murray in Dalwallinu. He was doing a run of some sort for Ampol up that way.

We will have quite a time at Meekatharra on this run as they are combining the Meekatharra races with our polio injection so it should be quite a day.

"Thank heavens, we're alone at last. What'll we do?"

"You silly fool . . ."

"Right!"

Personalities

Understand on best of authority that Tommy Foster is coming back to the Golden West to manage Eric Smart's huge merino flock at Eragulla Springs and places north. Believe the flock numbers something like 35,000, so Tom will have plenty to keep his time occupied with acting as nursemaid to a bunch as large as that.

Don Turton seen about recently. Don thinking most seriously of building a new home down on "Our Selection". Says the old one starting to show the signs of heavy wet seasons and the extra wear and tear of the Turton young family.

Ron Dook about to move from Dunreath to Graylands Hostel. Ron has had a long sojourn at Dunreath and as this is closing down he is moving to Graylands after taking some annual leave and generally getting the system back into position after the hectic time of closing down Dunreath.

Ernie Dinwoodie has been declared fit by the doctor to resume work again after a long sojourn in hospital and hopes to start a course in Motor Mechanics in the near future. Glad to know Ernie is back in circulation again and hope this time its for keeps.

Any of you blokes want a Candid Cameraman for your weddings, birthday, etc.? Well, Colin Hodson is your man. He casts his eye over the crowd at Canterbury Court two or three nights a week, also does weddings, etc., on Saturdays.

On Aug. 17, Roy Baldwin passed through Fremantle on the 'Orantes' bound for England. "Baldy", who is a teacher at a Geelong Grammar School, is on 12 month's exchange to England. At the completion of his term there he intends to take three months' long service leave before returning to Australia, so it looks as if this country will have to do without his services for 15 months.

Baldy was met at Fremantle by Eric Smythe and his good wife and also Jim Corney.

Eric had a car and in no time had Baldy aboard after a breakfast at Fremantle, and went via Honour Avenue in King's Park to National Park and Mundaring Weir. After

this trip they had time for a cup of tea, a beer at the Australia Hotel Fremantle, where they were joined by Gordon Holmes, and back to the Orantes. I managed to contact them about 20 minutes before the boat sailed, where I extracted the above information.

Baldy hasn't altered in appearance and is still just as I knew him last. He threatens to break his journey here on his way back East when he is returning home, as he wants to see some of the old faces.

Baldy sends his regards to all.

OLYMPIC BULLETIN

The following have already accepted for the Olympic Games reunion: Bill Holstein, Cliff Paff, Merv Jones and wife and kiddie, Ted Cholerton who hopes to come for a few days, Dud Tapper and wife, Keith Dignum and wife, Bill Bennett and wife, Ivan Brown, and the likely ones are Jack Hartley and wife, Stan Luby and wife, Ray Cole, Bob Field, Jack Fowler, Pidgeon Pearce, Vic Swann, Lionel Newton.

Heard This?

One evening a jealous wife, searching through her husband's pockets, came across a card upon which was scribbled: "Mignon Black Main 821". She confronted him with it.

"Mignon Black?" he exclaimed. "Oh, that's just the name of a race horse I was given."

"Oh, yes? Well, explain what 'Main' means!" she demanded.

"Oh, that's the name of the street where my booky lives."

"821," she challenged. "Get out of that one—if you can."

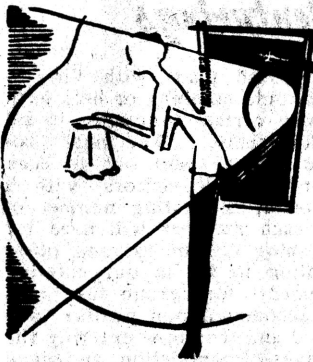
"Why, darling, those are the odds—eight to one," he said, in hurt surprise.

"Hm," was the wife's only reaction as she dropped the matter.

The following night when he came home he greeted his wife blithely.

"Anything new today, dear?"

"Oh, nothing much," she replied idly, "except that your horse called up."



Headlights

Tillie: "You men like us girls who pet better than those others."
Billie: "What others?"

The right foundation garment, smooth clothes, and a good paint-job may take 20 years off a woman's appearance—but she can't fool a long flight of stairs!

"Was there any shade in the desert?"

"Yes, but I couldn't get in it."

"Why not?"

"Have you ever tried to sit in your own shadow?"

"How long should I cook this spaghetti?"

"Oh, about nine inches."

Judge: The officer states that he found you two fighting in the street.

Defendant: That's wrong, judge. When he arrived we were trying to separate each other.

At a wedding reception the young man remarked: "Wasn't it annoying the way that baby cried during the whole ceremony?"

"It was simply dreadful," replied the bridesmaid. "When I get married I'm going to have printed right in the corner of the invitation, 'No Babies Expected'."

She: "My boy friend thinks he's a plumber."

He: "Always forgetting himself, eh?"

She: "Oh, no, only he spends every night looking over my pipes."

Liza: "Ah wants a pair o' shoes foh mah little gal."

Salesman: "Black kid?"

Liza: "You just mind yo' own business an' git me dem shoes."

You can take a rabbit to slaughter, but you can't make it mink.

Dave took unto himself a wife, and away they went to their farm. The first year they came to town to get groceries, they had a new baby with them. The next year they had another baby along. The third year rolled around and they showed up with a third baby. When the fourth year arrived, Dave came to town with his wife and the three children. Looking them over the storekeeper said: "Well Dave, no new child this year?"

"Nope, Y'know—my wife and I finally found out what was causing that."

Wife: "I'm afraid my husband will be in hospital a long time."

Friend: "Did you see the doctor?"

Wife: "No, but I saw the nurse."

He: I wish I had your five thousand pounds.

She: Is that a proposal of marriage?

Distraught man to taxi driver: "Drive over a cliff; I'm committing suicide!"

This happened after World War III, when atomic bombs had killed every last human being. After three or four days, when the dust and debris had settled, a couple of monkeys came out of their cave and solemnly surveyed the desolate landscape. After several minutes, the small monkey turned to her friend and said: "Well, honey, shall we start the whole thing over again?"

There's a story going around about a young newsboy who stuck his head in the wrong door at the station and yelled: "Paper!"

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Committee meeting held Wayside Inn, August 23, Bernie in chair. Present were Gerry Maily, Gerry McKenzie, Gerry O'Toole, Bert Tobin, Max Davies, Bruce McLaren, George Robinson, Jim Roberts, Harry Botterell and Vin Maguire (Secretary of the Victorian Commando Association).

Minutes of last committee meeting and the minutes of the annual general meeting were both read so as we could discuss matters of interest arising out of them.

Gerry McKenzie gave us the latest information on the progress of our Honour Board and it should not be long now before it is ready.

Vin Macquire was introduced to the meeting and explained that he was there by invitation from Bert, to discuss plans re a Memorial Plaque to be erected between the four trees that have been allotted to the Commandos on the western approach to the Shrine. The Commando Association has put a lot of work and time into it and must be congratulated on their efforts especially in getting four trees, instead of the one they thought they would be lucky to get. He also had plans of the Memorial Plaque and it will be a very impressive memorial. He asked for our help and co-operation from our members for financial support, which the committee unanimously gave, and fully support as all thought it was something that we should be right behind. The Victorian Commando Association is going to circularise all our members calling for donations, and your committee asks you to give it the full support you can.

They have arranged a dedication service for this memorial to be held on Sunday, Nov. 25, subject to the Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooks being available to perform the ceremony, and we have rearranged our Olympic programme to fit in with these plans—but we will be hearing more of this a little later when final plans are made.

We then discussed our main item on the agenda which was the finalising of our Olympic programme. We have had to make some changes now that we have a fairly accurate count of members who are likely to come over from other States, and

also discussed plans with Vin, so that we could combine or help each other with certain functions, to aid them financially. The final programme will be sent out to each member, and all visitors, with a questionnaire, requesting number of tickets each member will need for the Opening Ceremony, and other information to aid in our catering arrangements for certain functions.

The accommodation position was discussed and it is now entering the final stages of completion, and when this is done, we will give a full list of visitors coming over and their respective hosts.

Usual refreshments ended a very good meeting.

"Baldy" has left our shores. He departed at 5 p.m. on August 11, on the "Orontes", sailing to England on an exchange of teacher scheme. "Baldy" will be teaching at a place called Cheltenham in England and will be back with us by Xmas, 1957.

Max Davies has just returned from a motoring holiday to the sunshine of Queensland. Called in at Southport hoping to see Bash Adams, but he was away.

Enclosed is a couple of editorials by courtesy of George Robinson—hope you can use them.

(Thanks for editorials. Will definitely use them as soon as I can.—Editor.)

Heard This?

An aircraft rigger recently failed in an examination on hydraulic components. He thought an inlet was a small pub.

* * * * *

"What! Broken off your engagement to Mary?"

"Yes. She wouldn't have me."

"But did you tell her about your rich uncle?"

"Yes. She's my aunt now."

* * * * *

She: "My boy friend has cold feet."

Old maid: "Shame on you! In my day we didn't find out these things until after we were married."