



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered at the G.P.O. Perth, for transmission by post as a periodical)
Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth
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Editorial

IDEAS

Every now and again a germ of an idea comes to mind but from sheer boredom it dies before meeting the light of day. If only something had been done about it, a little initiative shown perhaps momentous events would have grown from that still-born idea.

It is from ideas that all the things of this world, whether big or small, have been accomplished. If Edison, or Newton, or any of the other "greats" had let their ideas stagnate what a different place this world would be today. It is only by the release of ideas that progress and change are made.

Your Association has been battling along for years with the same old few in each State providing the basis of ideas to keep it functioning. Slowly these stalwarts are running out of that precious commodity, ideas! Repetition is beginning to take the place of new and brilliant ideas. Repetition breeds boredom, boredom begets lack of interest and lack of interest is the disease that kills associations. Soon, even the stalwarts get sick of each other's company and a once lively Association disintegrates and apart from a chance meeting in the street, the social intercourse which was once so precious to us all is lost forever.

It is up to every member to do his utmost to bring new ideas to the organisation to start a new river of ideas flowing into the central channel which is your State Executive. Don't let those small ideas of yours die at birth because you do not think it will meet with universal approval or because you are too tired to sit down for a moment and drop a line to your Secretary enclosing the suggestion. From small acorns great oaks grow and so it is with small ideas, by the time a few chaps have added a little here and deleted a little there, it becomes something new to stimulate interest.

Please don't leave it to the other fellow because he is probably thinking the same. Don't be worried if your idea is not used, after all there would be nothing new if all inventors had been regarded as crackpots. If in every hundred ideas only twenty find a useage then the gain will be terrific.

Give the matter some thought and if in the near or distant future you do get an idea that will assist the Association, give your Executive the chance to use it by writing to the State Secretary or the Editor of your paper.

Just remember, you, wherever you be, can be the means of revitalising this organisation which we are proud to call our own. —"Seedy"

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 5th

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Monash Club on Tuesday, Sept. 17. Those present were Messrs. Green, McDonald, March, Smith, Doig, Geere, Bowden, Kirkwood, Gardiner and Holly.

At the request of the President Mr. McDonald, our vice president, occupied the chair.

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous Committee meeting and on the motion of Messrs. Doig and Green the minutes as read were accepted.

Business arising: Sports night was voted a good night by all who attended. Fred Napier again won the belt with Sprig McDonald a close runner up. The small roll up of members to the function caused a good deal of discussion and quite a few possible theories were put forth. It was finally decided to procure marked calendars to distribute to members. Mr. March volunteered to enquire into this matter.

Mr. March was then congratulated upon his last 'Courier' by all members of the Committee.

Ladies Night: This was considered to be the main business of the night and it was discussed very fully. All angles and points were raised and discussed. The following was then decided on.

Entertainers and orchestra: Al Thompson and his entertainers as had been engaged by Mr. Napier.

Catering: Mr. Hollis had accepted the job of catering for us, and the Secretary only had to discuss details with him.

Crockery: The following crockery and glassware was considered necessary: 6 jugs, 6 trays, 8 dozen five-ounce glasses, 3 doz. cocktail glasses, 6 doz. cups and saucers.

Mr. Slim Holly then volunteered to collect the crockery, etc., from wherever we decided to hire it.

Drinks: Three 10-gal. beer, 10 gallons less than usual. Wines, 3 bottles sweet sherry, 1 bottle dry sherry, 4 bottles sauturne, 3 bottles High Hat cocktail, 1 bottle port.

Mr. Green and Mr. Bowden were to arrange the making and setting

up of a small bar. Mr. Bowden was then appointed Officer in Charge of the bar and volunteered to obtain beer cooling equipment. Mr. March then loaned us a couple of decanters for use that night.

Admission: The price of admission was then fully discussed. Mr. Doig moved that the price of admission be raised to £1 per couple instead of 15/- per couple as in previous years. Seconded by Mr. Bowden and carried.

Guests: It was decided to ask Mr. and Mrs. E. Withell and Mr. and Mrs. J. Morrison to attend as our guests.

Circulars: A circular to be sent to members advising them of our Ladies' Night.

It was also decided to contact Colin Hodson re taking of a few photos also singing slides.

Correspondence: The Secretary read a letter from Lionel Newton, of Broken Hill. Also a letter from Mr. B. Langridge.

Our financial position was then reviewed and found to be anything but good. It has been ascertained that the reason we were refused permission to run a sweep on the Melbourne Cup was that we had only just concluded a sweep. It is hoped to obtain permission to run a sweep on the Perth Cup.

General Business: The Secretary was instructed to contact Mrs. Servante re applying to Canteen Trust Funds re funeral expenses also Mrs. Servante was entitled to full training in any previous method she may have had of earning her livelihood.

November Meeting: To be held on the usual first Tuesday in the month at Monash Club. The programme for the evening has been left in the capable hands of our President.

'Courier': A discussion took place on the 'Courier', re costs, supply of copy, etc. There being no further business the meeting closed at 11 p.m.

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Personalities

Alf Longbottom:

Well, for years we have been wondering where you are and at last one of the boys has run you to earth. Slim Holly while in Bridge-town had a yarn with Alf and he is living there with his wife and working on a farm.

Les Wheatley:

(Doc's brother. You have all met him at sometime at the Re-unions) has had another accident. This time he was standing on some drums painting when a vehicle backed into them with the result that Les has a broken thigh. Tough luck, Les, and we all hope that you will not be too long in hospital. Accidents seem to go around looking for you, don't they?

Ian Ronald:

Please send full particulars of your name, etc. Am not sure whether I have name right and just at present have not necessary files available to find out. This 'Courier' should reach you by virtue of the address. Sorry to have kept you waiting but your address was mislaid. A letter telling us about yourself, etc., would be most appreciated.

T. Snowden:

Of Canberra. Hope this 'Courier' reaches you O.K. Your address has been obliterated on stencil, and files not available to renew same. Anyone knowing correct address please advise so as future 'Couriers' will arrive O.K.

Bill Cooper:

Ivy Cooper recently presented Bill with another son, John by name. That's fine Ivy and Bill. Hope that both new arrival and mother are well.

Sympathy:

Our sympathy goes out to Dot and George Bayliss. In our last edition of the 'Courier' it was reported that a son was born to Dot and George. The babe only survived five days. We cannot really express our feelings but wish you to know how deeply we regret to hear such news.

Fred Gardiner:

Left for a business trip to Sydney on Sept. 28 and expected it to be only a very hurried trip of one

week's duration. Fred hoped to find a little time to look up a couple of N.S.W. boys while over there.

Alf Coupland:

Recently ran into Alf in Perth and he tells me that he is fit as a fiddle and managing to eke out a modest living in the taxi driving game. He has to work very long hours but doesn't seem to mind it. Hope to see a bit more of you in the future, Alf.

LADIES' NIGHT

The menfolk can't expect to get it all their own way all the time as our Ladies' Night certainly showed us. The lasses had a whale of a time at this night of nights.

The weather treated us kindly and Crawley Bay Tearooms proved an ideal situation for the evening.

Our orchestra was in fine spirits and gave of their best with an occasional item in between.

Once the feeling of the evening had begun to seep in gay and happy laughter told us that all were enjoying themselves.

For the first time an attempt at making a special effort to have a bar with a little bit of "class" was introduced. Coloured lights festooned the area set aside for the bar and Mick Calcutt and Curly Bowden attired in white jackets and bow ties, certainly looked the part.

Supper was beautifully prepared by Bill Hollis and helpers. He is a great help to us and can always be relied upon to extend himself to something special.

We all join in thanking you Bill, for your grand effort in this direction.

The star turn of the evening was the Mannequin Parade. Compered by Mrs. Poynton the "little lasses" went through their paces.

Night attire, foundation garments beach wear and party dresses were all displayed. Dear little Gerry Green, Merv Ryan, Tom Towers, Arthur Smith (complete with holy underpants), Sprig McDonald and Charlie Gorton (with moustache attached) were the graceful mannequins and what they did with a few old bags and their imagination had the crowd in fits of laughter.

NOVEMBER MEETING

A guest speaker has been contacted by Colin Doig and will address us at this meeting.

Guest speaker nights have proved very successful in the past, so roll up and enjoy yourself.

BUCK'S NIGHT

Keep Dec. 17 free at all costs as this is the Annual Buck's Night. Bring along your guest and have a good time — remember last year? What a night!

KIDDIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Don't forget to advise us of any newly-arrived off-spring so as they can enjoy their gift from Father Christmas.

Please note that to save any disappointment that a child reaching the age of 14 years ceases to be eligible for a Xmas gift at the Kiddies' Party.

KIDDIES' AGES

I know this is a hardy annual, but one that doesn't seem to meet with much response—still I will try again.

If you West Australian members have had an addition to the family in the last 12 months please write to Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth, and let us know.

In this way we can save the disappointment of this kiddy not participating in the Xmas gift distribution at the Kiddies Xmas Party.

Whilst it is still quite a way off your committee is already tackling the problems attached to the party and wish to have all particulars well in hand before the day.

Now don't delay, write straight away.

DONATIONS TO FERTILISER FUND

All donations to the above fund will be acknowledged in the 'Courier'. Up to the time of going to press donors were Joe Burridge, Jim Corney, Bern Langridge, Jack Hassen.

SWEEPS

As reported in previous 'Courier' an attempt was to be made to run a sweep on the Melbourne Cup. Unfortunately for us this has been disallowed by the Lotteries Commission.

It has been decided to run a lightning sweep on the Perth Cup in order to raise some direly needed funds.

It may not be possible to get these sweep tickets to all W.A. members but if you do receive them please sell them as soon as possible and return to Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth.

This is most important as our expenses have been very high of late what with the Re-union and Ladies' Night and the Kiddies Xmas Party looming up.

We have still to receive permission to run this sweep but have been directed to apply later on with a good chance of getting the necessary O.K.

The Secretary, Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth,

I was unable to attend the Annual Re-union on Saturday, August 10, 1957, because the date was unsuitable owing to family strife. Mum pranged car, broke her hand, etc. So Dad stops home, baby sitter, nurse, cook, etc. No dinner. No fun.—Wilkie.

(A typical answer to the questionnaire sent out re non-attendance at Annual Re-union.)

"LEST WE FORGET"

SEPTEMBER

Doyle, L/Cpl. C. E., killed in action New Guinea, September 20, 1943, age 22.

OCTOBER

Wordie, Pte. R. D., died of illness, New Guinea, Oct. 30, 1943, age 23.

Brown, Tpr. H., missing New Guinea, Oct. 25, 1943, age 29.

Mitchell, Pte. P. R., killed in action New Guinea, Oct. 25, 1943, age 20.

Nagle, Lieut. V. F., killed in action New Guinea, Oct. 4, 1943, age 28.

Random Harvest

Ivy Cooper (for Bill Cooper), of 42 Ostend-rd., Scarborough, writes:

Another few lines for the 'Courier'. Things are much the same as last time I wrote for this man-o'-mine, only that we have had our new addition which was another son. Now we have two of each. George is seven, Pam is five, Julie is two and John just five weeks.

Of course I suppose you know Bill and I were at the service in King's Park. Everyone would, seeing we made such a last minute dash. Nevertheless better late than never. Bill is working for a builder at present filling in time until the cray season opens again. As I said before I hope to go this time but no definite arrangements have been made as yet. If I do go it will be in December until May and we are going to let the house. We thought perhaps if there was anyone in the country belonging to the Association who would like to come down for awhile during that time they could contact us for the details but anyway we won't know definitely until about the beginning of December and it will be the end of December before I go. We had the Pendergrasts up to see us a few weeks ago. I must say Edie is looking better. I was pleased to see her so too as she was pretty sick for quite awhile. Only trouble was their stay wasn't long enough but these things can't be helped.

Well, Wilf, as that's the lot this time our best wishes to the Association.

(Glad to hear the news re the new arrival. Bill will certainly be puffing his chest out now. Will anyone wishing to let a house in Scarborough sometime after December please communicate with Ivy Cooper at the above address.—Ed.)

Lionel Newton, of 274 Kavlin-st., Broken Hill, writes:

My secretary, the wife, has refused to write any more letters for me, so here goes for my first attempt since being discharged from the army.

I was very sorry to hear of Jack Servante's passing.

In the latter part of the war he was my Sig. Sergeant and a finer chap you couldn't wish to meet.

I am always pleased to receive the 'Courier' each month, even though I never seem to get around to adding any news to it myself.

In Broken Hill there are two other members of the 2/2nd, Ian Ronald, or "Gus" as we all knew him, and Syd Hillard, "Drip". Ian is a dentist with his own practice in the main street, and on weekends he goes out into the outback to the smaller towns and carries on his profession. He has quite a nice new home, plus two motor cars, plus three children, two girls and one boy, so you see he has done better than any of us.

Syd is a miner at the zinc mine and also has a new home and one or two youngsters. Neither are Broken Hill boys. Ian comes from Adelaide and married a local girl, and Syd comes from Sydney and brought his wife with him.

I work on the New Broken Hill Consolidated mine underground as a miner and timberman, the jobs not the best but the money is good so I will stick it out. I have built my own home and I should say that in about another 10 years it will really be completed, and paid for (we hope).

I married a local girl, Elsie, and have two boys, David five years, and Keith 1½ years.

Last year Ted Timke passed through Broken Hill on his way out back to a station to work for a few weeks and he stayed at our place on the way out and return trip. He is a wool classer and a pretty good one so I believe. Young David used to climb into bed with him every night and we haven't seen old "Salt Bush" since.

I am sorry that I can't get over to see the boys but I am afraid that's right out of the question. Please pass my regards on to all.

Would you please publish Alf Harper's address if you have it as I would very much like to hear from him.

(It may be only your first letter to the 'Courier' Lionel, but we are sure happy to have it. You have given us quite a resume of goings on in your area and it should be of interest to the boys. Alf Harper's address is Roberts-rd., Belmont, Geelong, Victoria.—Editor.)

In a letter to Gerry Green, Bernie Langridge writes:

Was very pleased to receive our 'Courier' and find it so full of news re the Re-union and other Association affairs. Glad the DO was such a success. I really missed seeing all the lads this year.

I am writing so promptly firstly because of my duty to yourself and the Executive, secondly because I think it is up to the country lads through their V.P.'s to attend to providing the Warden with fertilisers and such things. I suggest the Warden ascertain the amount of potato manure required, and divide it by five and let each one of the Country V.P.'s know how much they owe. I would advise using potato manure in preference to super, it is more costly but it contains nitrogen and potash, both very important plant foods.

I feel this is the least we can do as we are not present when busy bees are on the go, then we read of the volunteers who prepared things for the DO and cleared up after it and then there will be more volunteers required to prepare Ladies' Night, all towns people and very frequently the same team. Come on Country chaps, we owe this to the Association and to the meaning of our Honour Avenue.

Cheerio until I make one of your meetings. Sincere regards to all.

(This is a magnificent gesture on your part Bernie, and the Committee are very grateful for your assistance. As to how your proposition is received in other districts that remains to be seen. Whatever the outcome it will not preclude anyone from making donations to the fund.—Editor.)

Joe BurrIDGE writes:

Enclosed is cheque for £1/1/- towards fertiliser fund.

Also my firm handles potato manure and all other fertilisers. If you have not already made similar arrangements elsewhere I will supply whatever you need at cost price.

I am going overseas on Wednesday, Sept. 18, for six weeks so if you wish to take advantage of this

offer please ring or see Mr. Weedon our secretary, who will know all about it.

Jim Smailes, of 104 Harrison-st., Rockingham, writes:

I am back in W.A. for a few weeks on company business as well as private and will be resident at above address for some time. Please post the 'Courier' to this address for the time being. I have just received the July copy and glad to hear news of so many of the lads. Am very sorry to have missed the Re-union by only a few days. However I'm sure you all had a nice time and ample amber aqua. If at all possible I will attend the monthly meetings while down here. Some time ago I asked if any copies of my poem are still available. I would like to get a couple of dozen if possible. I will contact some of the boys while in Perth. In fact I called at B. & W. in King-st., one day this week but the old J.B. was on holidays. I feel that having been up north to our old area that I may be able to answer a few questions to interested members.

Since reading the July editorial of Fred Gardiner's, pointing out your acceptance of the job as Editor again for the 'Courier' I am tempted to put a few observations on paper in the form of an editorial to help you in your supply of copy. Again on this topic Wilf, I would like to speak on behalf of the isolated members of the Association, and congratulate you, and the regular old stalwarts on your efforts to keep the pot boiling and the boys together. In all sincerity I tell you your efforts are gratefully appreciated and valued. Following Fred's plea for supply of copy I would like to suggest to the boys in general that each could write occasionally describing his own environment or business or class of employment or industry. By this I mean, that however dull or routine this may be to the individual himself, it is surprising how little your mates may know of that particular aspect of life. We do live in a life of specialists more than a world of Jack of all trades, and surely some of our occupations are very little known to the gang in general. Many of our boys are farmers, but today that occupation is almost a science, and its particular problems and their application

would indeed make very interesting reading to the city dweller or factory worker. My reason for proposing this is because I have in recent years entered a new field from that in which I was reared, and have found an entirely new angle on an industry which before was entirely foreign to me. This has proved very fascinating to me and I'm sure at least interesting to others in other walks of life.

As I was never one to propose an undertaking without being prepared to take appropriate action, I will lead off with a modest attempt at describing my industry in broad terms, and if the interest is sufficient would gladly follow on with more detailed description of certain aspects of the mining world, or particular minerals. Even those fully employed in say gold mining may be interested to learn aspects of coal, iron or uranium mining. However that eventually falls under your pen Wilf, and will be deleted or accepted as the Editor feels required to do. It is the thought that I am proposing broadly and may be a source of some very interesting copy from the boys in general.

I made the journey from Darwin to Perth by car via Adelaide and had a most interesting journey. The road is quite fair and totalled 3,250 miles. I brought my wife and three children and carried all camping and sleeping gear. We did the trip in nine days spending 1½ in Adelaide, and averaged over 500 miles per day while travelling. We did not attract the same attention as the hard pressed Mobilgas drivers on 400 miles per day for two or three drives nor did we seek it, but we had a truly wonderful trip and saw a little of Australia. I may add that I can almost qualify to calling myself an Australian after seeing all States and having crossed it both East and West, North and South by car, train, plane and boat. It is a great country, but oh how vulnerable to the north. Observation on this angle too, could make interesting reading for the more serious minded reader, who, having experienced the last Asiatic threat to these shores may feel more than a little uneasy with recent political trends in our immediate north.

In your glossary of W.A. members' names I may help you with

the old Jack Sheenhan's particulars and my own.

Jack lives at 36 Piccadilly-st., Kalgoorlie. Married, six children, four girls and two boys. Firewood contractor and still keenly interested in horse racing and two up.

J.P.S., living at 104 Morrison-st., Rockingham, at present. Married, three children, two boys and one girl. Mining engineer employed as manager of uranium mine at Adelaide River in N.T. Is post-war graduate of W.A. School of Mines in Mining Engineering and has held managerial positions in W.A.

Enclosed is £1 to put the sub position in credit, and will forward money required for the two dozen poems if available. Regards to the boys in general and I hope to meet a few while down this way.

(That is certainly just what I am looking for as regards mail from the boys. You have written a most interesting and informative letter Jim, and I only hope that it stirs some of the others into doing likewise. Thanks a lot.—Editor.)

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

Don't drop dead old cock, but I thought I had better write and put you wise to my matrimonial status. After reading the 'Courier' the wife objected to my being classed as "single" after 14 years too, so for the record I am married with three kids, Victor 12, Eileen 10, Trevor eight, and no more prospects as yet. Wheat and sheep cocky, with a yen for more sheep than wheat.

Well, that's that, so will get on to more important affairs, namely the annual do. As usual I had a wow of a time, and must add my congratulations to many others, on the way the organisers handled the hard task of pleasing everybody, which they certainly did. Also I think that quite a few more of you country blokes should make the effort and attend. I was in the middle of shearing at the time, but still made it, and will be there next year with bells on, shearing or not. You were certainly right about the jumper episode, Mum sure would have gone crook and you've got it wrong about Len Bagley keeping me quiet, it was the other way round wasn't it Len? (Bite)

Went down to the Katanning ram sales last week and ran into Stan

and Charlie Sadler, both looking well, and noticed Stan nodding his head at the auctioneer quite a few times. Must have known him well, eh Stan? Half your luck, mate, a couple of those rams wouldn't have gone astray in my flock. The season here has been pretty dry this year. A few points of rain occasionally to give us hope, but not heavy enough to fill the dam, so it looks like water carting again this year. Three new dams down and no water in them, wouldn't it?

Just dipped the sheep today and believe it or not, I'd just chucked the last sheep in and the dip collapsed. However, as it was built about 20 years ago it's a wonder it has lasted as long as it has. Looks like a travelling dip next year.

Saw our team win the grand final last Saturday. It was the first time in history we've reached that far let alone win and I'll leave it to your imagination what I felt like next day, in fact I haven't got over it yet.

Well that's the lot for now. My regards to all the boys and will endeavour to keep the pen going in the future, but no promises.

(Thanks for letter Stan, and pleased to hear you had a great night at the Re-union. Don't forget to look us up if you hit the big smoke in the meantime.—Editor.)

Mrs. A. Jacke, of 113 Maude-st., Geelong, writes:

With regard to the 2/2 Commando 'Courier'. Each month you have been forwarding a copy to my brother, one John R. McLauchlan.

I regret to say he passed away on August 24 so naturally you will know to cease sending the 'Courier'.

I would like to say how very much my brother looked forward to receiving and reading your copy.

(All the Unit join with us in expressing our deepest sympathy at John's recent passing.—Editor.)

Jim Corney, of 1306 Albany Highway, Cannington, writes:

Having just received the 'Courier' at the weekend and have read where funds are a bit on the light side, am enclosing cheque for £10. Half to go to the fertiliser fund and the other half to the fund for the Kiddies' party.

I missed the annual Re-union as I was not aware it was on. I was

under the impression that it was to be in February. Whether I missed out on the 'Courier' with the information about the Re-union in or not I cannot say but I did not have any idea it was on.

I do not go out at nights much now owing to health reasons, and week nights are out as I have no energy left after the day's toil, having to rise at 5 a.m.

Wishing you the best of luck.

(Your donation of £10 is a magnificent gesture Jim. Bad luck missing the Re-union but hope that your health improves enough to enable you to make one of the meetings.—Editor.)

Arthur Marsh, writes:

My work is the only thing that held me back from the Re-union. I was in Perth up till 2 o'clock that Saturday, but as it was a load of furniture and a chap's family I was shifting down here I could not ask them to wait. It was too late by the time I got home here to Harvey and unloaded. You ask Charlie King, he saw me at Cannington and I was fairly drooling at the thought of what I had to miss.

Work hasn't been that plentiful down here this year that one can knock anything back, and when a job came up on that day and the chap wouldn't alter the date I just had to take it. Any time of the year suits me because my work is not constant and as I've said without I'm forced to work I should be there.

I'm coming up to the Ladies' Night so make that lager good and cold.

(I think that even your vast appetite for cool lager was satisfied at the Ladies' Night, Arthur. It was certainly a great night wasn't it? —Editor.)

Jack Hasson, of Ballidu, writes:

I am enclosing cheque for £5 for the fertiliser fund, also the questionnaire received recently.

At present I am hay cutting. The weather here is real summery but I'd love to see it rain. The crops round here badly need it.

Regards to all.

(Your cheque to hand and very acceptable. Hope that your crops received the necessary juice before too late. Will see you when in Perth again.—Editor.)

Alf Hillman, of Broomehill, writes:

I should have dropped a line long ago but just recently have been too busy to even pay bills, let alone indulge in any other correspondence. However, your little questionnaire has stimulated me into doing something.

For any news the only one of the boys I have seen for some time is Bert Burges. I had to go out to his place three weeks or so ago to collect a dog. My old one savaged a kid we had staying here without any warning so I had to destroy him a fortnight before shearing, leaving myself in a bit of a jam. However I was lucky in that Bert had a youngster to pass on and she promises to be very good.

The season here has been pretty bloody until the end of June it looked good but since then it has been a record dry spell. Grass is now mostly dead and a lot of crops are the same though I have been lucky there as most of mine are still above average.

I finished shearing 10 days ago. About the same weight of wool as last year. It will be in next Albany sale. Prices don't look too good just at present. I refused 78 on the place the day before I railed it and now looks as though I may get less. Farming is the greatest gambling game in the world.

Since then I have completed all drafting and dipping and tomorrow must start cutting hay.

Will have to close off now to scoot into town for a couple of bags of cement to finish blocks for an overhead tank on a dam for water to the house as the well we have used for 45 years has now gone too salt.

Regards to all the mob.

(All work and no play Alf, is no good, so you had better grab yourself a couple of days off (somehow) and come to Perth. We will see that you are looked after.—Ed.)

Kev Curran, of Bendigo, writes:

Please find enclosed £5/5/- for subs. Many thanks for the paper and congrats for the way you run the show over there. Cheerio and regards to all.

P.S. Tailers Guide for Caulfield Cup.

(Oh, how wrong you were, Kev.—Editor.)

Bob Palmer, of Cowarannup, writes:

Am enclosing your questionnaire as requested. It asked for a brief reason so I gave one. At that time of the year the cows are in full production so it is impossible for me to get away at all for even a milking. As far as I am concerned February or March are the only two months I could be reasonably sure of being able to attend but I also realise that those dates may not suit the majority of others so will just have to put up with missing out I guess.

While on Association matters, some time ago in the glossary of W.A. members in the 'Courier' you had me listed as having three children, whereas actually I have four, Ann 12, John 10½, Bruce 7½, and Helen almost six.

Not a great deal of news from this neck of the woods, as I rarely see any of the old hands down this way.

(Have noted your reply to questionnaire. Bad luck missing the Re-union but may see you in the near future. Cockies certainly don't get much time on their hands to be visiting the city, do they?—Editor)

Ralph Finkelstein writes:

Sorry about the last re-union. I was looking forward to meeting up with all of our old "Sallywags," with an excuse to partake of Swan. Unfortunately I was called out on a country job at the last minute.

The factory is busier than ever, and we hope this will keep up, as we are getting good class jobs such as the shopfronts to the Perth Town Hall, and just completing the fitting out of the State Insurance Building with partitions and counters.

I would like you to remember me to the boys and at present my wife intends to accompany me to the Ladies' Night on the promise that I will not consume more than one gallon of the amber liquid.

(Haven't seen you for ages, Ralph, so you had better organise that leave pass very soon.—Ed.)

An Address You May Need:

President:
Gerry Green,
158 Landsdowne Road,
South Perth, W.A.

AN INTRODUCTION TO MINING

Every single item on this earth falls into one of the three great kingdoms, animal, vegetable, or mineral. It is also true that the animal kingdom, which includes the human race, entirely depends upon vegetable kingdom for its existence, and to a lesser degree upon the mineral kingdom. The mineral kingdom however, depends on neither of the others and is therefore the basic supporter of most life on earth.

The exploitation of mineral as an industry has developed with the advance of civilisation into a major contribution to our way of life, and in fact next to our food and clothing is most important. Our modern agriculture would be doomed without the trace elements of copper and zinc in fertiliser, or sulphur for our superphosphate, and arsenic for our insecticides. Modern farm implements are made entirely of the products of the mining world, such as iron, steel, tin, copper, zinc aluminium and countless alloys of the rare metals. These tractors and engines generally turn daily to the mineral petroleum, for their very life and power. This also applies to all our modern transport system embracing all motor cars, trains and aeroplanes. The machines and fuel are products of our mines.

Our modern cities look to coal entirely for such every-day things as electric light, cooking, refrigeration, air conditioning, and cinemas. All modern buildings are products of our steel, cement, tile and brick works drawing daily on the crust of the earth for these accepted minerals. Even our synthetic nylon stems from coal, our paints from lead, our galvanised wire and roofing from zinc, our electric generators and conductors from copper, and our rails and railway engines from iron.

Such a common thing as a wrist watch may contain a dozen different minerals, such as steel, chromium, silver, gold, copper, platinum, phosphorous, gems and stones, etc.

The exploration and development of almost any of the minerals is a romance of its own, and any or all would need volumes to describe their geological occurrence, discovery, extraction and recovery. Very few minerals are used as found in nature (such as coal). Most require a very complicated metallurgical process for their ultimate recovery. All the allied sciences and professions relating to this wonderfully fascinating and important occupation come under the heading of mining, and are playing an ever increasing role in the development of our industry and Australia generally. —JIM SMAILES.

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.

ARTHUR SMITH: 17 Conan-pde., Applecross. Married, no children. Technician with P.M.G. Dept. Present Secretary of Association and Olympic representative. Has served on Committee of Association for many years and does a tremendous job for the Association.

G. H. (Gordon) SMITH: c/- N. D. Thornton, Denmark. Married. Carpenter and joiner working with Norm Thornton at Denmark-Albany area. Rarely misses Annual Re-unions.

J. R. (Bluey) SMITH: 1 Faraday-st., Mt. Hawthorn. Unmarried. Postal carrier with P.M.G. Dept.

ERIC SMYTH: Box 42, P.O. Geraldton. Married, three children. Accountant at Geraldton. Brilliantly took his accountancy through C.R.T.S., topping Australia in most subjects. He and his wife did a great job as hosts at Geraldton Convention. Very keen supporters.

BOB SMYTH: c/ Smyth & Hickman, 34 King-st., Perth. Married, no children. Manufacturers representative covering mostly the north and north-west of State. Good newsgatherer for 'Courier' when on trips to north of State. Excellent ticket seller for sweeps.

FRED SPARKMAN: c/- Railway Dept., Northam. Married, three children. Engine driver with W.A.G.R. at Northam, operating to Wongan Hills. Has been great assistance to Association.

JACK SPENCER: Morley Park. Unmarried. Roofing fixer with J. E. Hardie Pty. Ltd. Just completed building his own place at Morley Park. Rarely misses Annual Re-union.

RON SPRIGG: 42 Hill-st., Albany. Married, three children. Railway guard with W.A.G.R. operating from Albany. Good correspondent to 'Courier' of Albany doings.

HENRY SPROXTON: 52 Roberts-st., Bayswater. Married, two children, one boy, one girl. In partnership in a building business building spec. homes in various suburbs. Has served on Committee of Association and a regular attendant at all functions. Good worker in Association affairs.

GEO. STRICKLAND: 15 Cyril-rd., Rivervale. Married, two children. With his brothers conducts Express carrying business and agency of Russells in Perth and suburbs. Geo. served a couple of terms on Committee and is a very regular attendant at functions.

R. A. (Dusty) STUDDY: Address unknown. Unmarried. When last heard of was working at Midland Abattoirs.

VINCE SWANN: Salmon Gums. Married, two children. Farmer on his own account at Salmon Gums, sheep and wheat. Rarely misses an Annual Re-union.

R. (Doda) TATAM: Scarborough. Married, two children. Cooper at Emu Brewery.

LEW THOMPSON: Wannamal. Married, family unknown. Runs small mixed farm at Mooliabeenie and works on contract around the district. Regular attendant at Annual Re-union.

ALEC THOMPSON: Dunsborough. Married, two children. Managing a large farm at Dunsborough, mostly dairying and fat cattle.

HERBIE THOMAS: c/- 166 Eton-st., Leederville. Single. Itinerant worker around State, camp cooking for geological parties, race horse training and general work. Usually bobs up at Annual Re-unions.

ERIC THORNANDER: Venn-st., Collie. Married, with family. Miner in coal mines at Collie.

NORM THORNTON: Denmark. Married, family unknown. Builder and contractor in Denmark-Albany area. Rarely misses Annual Re-union.

TOM TOWERS: 4 Suffok-st., South Fremantle. Married with family. Waterside worker.

GEO. TIMMS: c/- P.O. Kojonup. Married, five children. Conducts with his brother, a large sheep farm at Kojonup.

CLARRIE TURNER: "Killora," Elgin. Married, three children, two boys, one girl. Managing and in partnership in his father-in-law's horse stud and dairy farm at Elgin. The successful sires Agrion and England's Glory stood at this property.

DON TURTON: West Pingelly. Married, four children, two boys, two girls. Farming his own sheep property at West Pingelly. Very keen supporter of Association and forms very close liason on his frequent trips to city.

CLARRIE VARIAN: East Victoria Park. Married, two boys, two girls. Bus driver for W.A. Govt. Tramways with whom he has been since the war. Very keen on Association matters and good ticket seller.

KEV WADDINGTON: Claremont. Married, five children. Clerical worker with W.A.G.R. Very sick man with a heart condition.

NORM WALLACE: c/- Forestry Settlement Jarrahwood. Married, three children. Forestry worker with Forests Dept.

ALF WALSH: 54 Kirwan-st., Floreat Park. Married, one child. Audit clerk with State Govt. Audit Dept. Served as auditor for one term and treasurer for five years. A keen hard worker for Association in past. Life member of Association.

A. (Scotty) WARES: 60 Birkett-st., Bedford Park. Married, two children, boy and girl. Transport Supervisor with W.A.G.R. Railway Road Services.

ROY WATSON: Lot 6 Raymond-st., Collie. Married, two children. Miner at Collie coal fields. Has been coach to various football teams at Collie for years.

ERIC WELLER: c/- P.O. Moora. Married, with three children. Builder on his own account at Moora.

M. L. (Doc) WHEATLEY: c/- P.O. Byford. Married, three children. Market gardener at Byford specialising in growing tomatoes and beans for W.A. market. Has shown quite an interest in Association and always attends Annual Re-unions.

JACK WICKS: 33 Second-ave., Morley Park. Married, two children. Truck driver and general worker in transport and allied trades. Turns up with reasonable frequency at Unit functions.

R. (Wendel) WILKERSON: Goomalling. Married, two children. Farming a nice sheep and wheat property at Goomalling. Never fails to get to Annual Re-unions.

GEO. WILSON: Morley Park. Married with a family. Bus and taxi driving usually for a living.

F. (Blue) WILKES: Brunswick Junction. Married with a family. Railway gang worker at Brunswick. See very little of "Blue" but fair correspondent.

BILL WILLIS: Manning Park. Married, two boys one girl. Brick-layer and plasterer on his own account, contracting around the metropolitan area. Bill served for four terms on Committee and was also Warden of King's Park for one year. Can be counted among the regulars at Association functions.

J. B. (Rocky) WILLIAMS: Cocos Island. Married with a family. Carpenter with Dept. Civil Aviation at Cocos Island at present.

DON YOUNG: Could be anywhere. Single. Mostly working on stations and farms. Seen frequently enough to know he is still alive.

New South Wales News

Enclosed please find our cheque for £23/10/- to cover our share of costs for the 'Courier', and may I say how very grateful I am for the way in which you chaps in the West have borne the brunt of the work in keeping the 'Courier' going these last few years.

Sorry I haven't forwarded this before but have been out of touch with my fellow trustee, Bill Cocker, who has been tied up for some months getting settled into a home he has purchased a little off my beaten track. My own spare time is limited to a few minutes at a time while I'm waiting on the rank for fares, and naturally anything I write tends to become a little disjointed as it is rather continually interrupted.

I gather from your letter that there is some question about the 'Courier's' future. Personally, I would be very sorry indeed if it should become necessary to make any drastic changes in the present set up. I fully realise however, the great demands which are made upon the time and energy of those concerned in preparing the paper and getting it away to us each month, and in view of this I suggest that if you are considering any cut in activities that the 'Courier' could be made a quarterly magazine instead

of monthly. This would allow the Editor and various Secretaries to collate their material at their leisure and I think a bigger and better 'Courier' would result from it. I would like to see the paper printed on a better class of stationery (no offence to Bill Epps), with one page devoted to photographs of members and their families. I've forgotten what a great many of you chaps in the West look like and I'm sure I would feel the bonds of friendship tighen if I could just gaze upon your ugly mugs once again. It was a wonderful and heartwarming experience renewing acquaintances at the Olympic Games but I found that although every face was immediately familiar, in many cases I just couldn't fit a name to it. Perhaps it's senile decay retarding my memory, but I can distinctly remember being asked on numerous occasions, "Who's that little skinny joker," or "Who's that big fat bloke over there?" and more than once I was extremely embarrassed when someone shook me firmly by the hand and said, "Surely to Christ you remember me?"

Well have just received the cup sweep tickets from Victoria so must set to work and get them off to my sellers.