



# 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

Vol. 12. No. 121.

AUGUST 1958

Price 1d.

## Editorial

This is the first of my real efforts into needling you lads into contributing to your journal. Remember with a very little effort on **your** part this could easily be the **best** magazine of its kind in Australia. Any paper is only as good as the news it purveys. We even see in the daily press what is called the "Silly Season". This is when "crossword" contents and the like are used to stimulate reader interest and thus circulation because of lack of news of real value that will bring the people flocking to the news boys.

When your harassed Editor has to recourse to the subterfuge of dreaming up news because the contributions are practically nil you will find this to be a dull issue.

Despite the appeals of last month only a few of the old hardy stalwarts, who always rally' around, came good with letters. You lads in sunny Queensland, and denizens of the Apple Isle, and Crow Eaters from South Aussie are the ones we would like a few letters from. Your doings and that of your family will have the rest of the boys agog for more.

The thing I want to impress most is this: "What you think is only of every day interest to yourself may be earth-shattering to people living remotely from you." Tell us what you do for a living. What your family is composed of. Where you live. How your garden grows, and a few other details such as members you have met recently and you will be surprised how well it looks in print to your cobbbers.

If you have troubled to read this Editorial so far let me assure you it is only one of the ways of getting you fellows to assist in making this publication really serve the purpose for which it was created, namely inter-communication between members.

Just watch this spate next month for the result of this article. If the result is good it may be watered down but if not so good the tempo will rise to a good loud scream. So buck in everybody and get that writer's cramp out of your system and give your mates a treat by letting them read about you.

**PASTE THIS IN YOUR HAT ! !**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING: Monash Club, on Tuesday 2nd  
Annual Sports Championship for the Title Belt**

**LADIES' NIGHT: Crawley Bay Tea Rooms, Tuesday, Sept. 30**

## West Australian Whisperings

### Association Activities

The August meeting held at Monash Club on the 5th, took the form of a business session owing to the proximity to the Annual Re-Union.

The roll up was quite good and new faces were quite numerous. Rocky Williams back from Cocos, Bobby Burns just out of the army, Bill Willis back from working in the bush, Ron Sprigg down from Albany and many others.

Final preparations for the Annual Re-Union were the main business of the evening. Members cheerfully accepted many tasks to ensure that the Re-Union and the Commemoration Service should be the best ever.

We were advised by the National Fitness Council that our application for land in the Pt. Peron area had been disallowed and advising us to make application to the R.S.L. which had secured 18½ acres.

Members were not imbued with this idea and it was decided to make another application to the N.F.C. stating that R.S.L. Sub-Branches would very quickly seize all the area available to that body and we requested that the N.F.C. meet a delegation from our Association to put our case for a grant of land.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks by the President to Colin Hodson for his wonderful effort in bringing our Honour Roll up to date by the addition of four names previously omitted.

### DONORS

Acknowledgement is made of the following donors to our funds during the last month and we thank them for their generosity in helping the Association to stay slightly better than solvent: Jim Corney, Jim Smailes, Bernie Langridge, Barry Lawrence, Percy McPhee, Clarrie Turner, John Burrige, Les Anderson.

This reminds us that subs. are now due and all are asked to make themselves financial as soon as possible. Just send them in to Box T1646 and we will gladly acknowledge.

### ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER

This happy function was held at Shenton Park R.S.L. Hall, on Saturday, August 16, and the roll call was the best for many years. Approximately 80 were present and a wonderful time was had by all. Most were heard to say at some time or other in the evening that they would have to make it a must for next year.

Ron Kirkwood occupied the chair. Col Doig was toast master. Fred Napier relieved all and sundry of the necessary "dibs". Tom Nisbet wrote out the name tags. Mick Calcutt, Curly Bowden and Herbie Thomas operated on the beer to wonderful advantage. Ron Dook and Bill Hollis did a marvelous job as always with the catering, providing a really sumptuous feast of soup, entree, meat and trimmings. Arthur Smith organised the whole function in his usual impeccable manner and not a detail was missed.

Would like to make special mention of the speeches of Geoff Laidlaw in responding to the toast of "The Unit" in which he extolled the wonderful mateship which had arisen from serving in our Unit, and of Jack Carey for a really outstanding, brilliant and sincere speech when proposing "Absent Friends". My only wish was that this effort had been taken on tape and repeated at all such functions. Sufficient to say that he held all enthralled for precious minutes and evoked great praise from later speakers.

After the formal side of the dinner ended members ear-bashed of events of yore and gathered around the piano and sang songs of nostalgic memories. Our thanks to Bill Westall for providing the music on the piano. Only disturbing note was the list of breakages and shortages to glasses, crockery and silver when the final count was made. It is a great pity that such a grand evening should be marred by petty vandalism like pocketing or wilfully losing spoons, etc. I can assure you the bill for this item will set the Association back quite a bit.

Also the boys who volunteered to clean up on Sunday morning

said the hall was a real mess. Surely we can enjoy ourselves without unduly dirtying the surroundings and wearing out our welcome at hired halls. I am truly sorry to bring this note into what was otherwise a magnificent Re-Union, but think it should be brought to your notice.

Here is the list of those present: M. Wheatley, J. Burrige, D. Geere, E. Craghill, W. Epps, D. Hudson, H. Sproxtton, L. Bagley, D. Murray, S. King, J. Penglase, M. Holland, C. Sadler, L. Thompson, J. Haire, F. Freestone, R. Darrington, C. Varian, B. Lawrence, W. Rowan-Robinson, R. Studdy, G. Laidlaw, C. King, C. Holly, J. Fowler, H. Thomas, N. McCraig, W. March, M. Cash, W. Hollis, J. Carey, R. Burns, M. Ryan, H. Morgan, T. Towers, H. Calcutt, R. Sprigg, R. Dook, E. Harrison, A. Friend, R. Finklestein, B. McMahon, R. Kirkwood, R. Smyth, J. Menzies, T. Nisbet, K. Bowden, G. Boyland, J. B. Williams, W. Willis, C. Turner, C. Doig, G. Rowley, A. Smith, F. Napier, J. Corney, R. Harrington, E. Dinwoodie, G. Green, L. Anderson, A. Marshall, P. McPhee, D. Turton, J. Wicks, C. Hodson, B. Gile.

Guests: Jim Menzies, John Lillie, 2/3 Commando Squadron; Ron Wiseman, 2/16 Bn.; Harry Holder, Bill Holder, City of Perth R.S.L.; Les Wheatley, Small Ships; Johnny Morrison, 2/4 M.G.; Avon Payne; Colin McDonald; Dave Ross, Aust. Consul Dilli during our period in Timor; R. Westall, pianist; Geo. Fogarty, Air Force.

A write-up of personalities will be published next month.

### "LEST WE FORGET"

#### AUGUST:

Brown, Pte. L. J., killed in action, New Guinea, August 27, 1943, age 19.  
Holly, L/Cpl. W. I., killed in action New Guinea, August 27, 1943, age 23.  
Maley, Cpl. J. L., killed in action, New Guinea, August 12, 1943, age 33.  
Waller, Pte. D. G., killed in action, Timor, August 12, 1942, age 21.  
Cheverton, Cpl. W., killed in action New Guinea, August 27, 1943, age 19.  
Ewin, L/Cpl. R., killed in action, Timor, August 14, 1942, age 26.

### COMMEMORATION SERVICE

This was held with due solemnity and proper respect for the fallen at our portion of Honour Ave., King's Park, on Sunday, August 17.

Ron Kirkwood conducted this service and rendered an outstanding address. (This will be published in full in the next issue of the "Courier".) His obvious sincerity drew high praise from all present.

Tom Nisbet marshalled the parade and marched the concourse through the grove and I think all present were once again struck with the marvellous simplicity of the form of service and the quiet homage paid to those of us who did not return.

The thanks of the Association to Tom Nisbet and "Slim" Holly for all their work in preparing the area for the service, arranging for seating for the women folk and such like detail which makes this function so much more impressive.

About 45 members were present with a very large number of friends and relatives.

### Personalities

Bob Smyth present at the August meeting, looking extra well. Bob is senior partner in the firm of Smyth & Hickman, manufacturers representatives for a big range of lines from soft goods to electrical ware, including wines, spirits, etc. He ranges all the northern part of W.A. and has the agency for many lines in the metropolitan area. Has promised to act as scribe of those situated above the 26th parallel on future trips to Derby, Wyndham and Ports. Says he saw Sam Fulbrook at Derby on one trip. Sam still the irascible rascal of old.

It was with pleasure and some remorse that we met Ron Sprigg at the August meeting as he was looking a bit thin and drawn. He had been down in the city to consult a specialist about his trouble and the news was not so good. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery of health, Ron. He hoped to be in town for the Re-union. Ron said he occasionally sees Norm Thornton and "Gordy" Smith but their last meeting was some time ago.

Colin Hodson did a marvelous job

of adding four names to our Honour Roll and thanks to his wonderful tradesmanship it is now the complete article. Colin is now foreman for Campstons Engraving Works and says that the firm is very busy. It is good to know somebody is busy these hard times.

Out of the blue unheralded and unsung came "Rocky" Williams back from a long sojourn at Cocos Island where he had been doing a spot of carpentry for the Air Force base there. Hasn't changed a day except of a receding of the hairline at the temples. Says he intends to be a permanent resident in the metropolitan area from now on. Says something for holding meetings on a regular night at a regular place when "Rocky" can return after quite a few years and come to a meeting immediately without prior prompting. Methinks there is a moral there for somebody—I wonder who?

At the meeting in mufti after many moons in uniform was "Bobbie" Burns, lately of the S.A.S. Company stationed in W.A. He has recently been discharged and had obtained a job at the Metropolitan Markets with Glendinning and Co. Reckons it is good to be a civvy again.

Bill Willis sighted for the first time for an age. Has been working at his trade as bricklayer in the south west but the rising flood waters of a record breaking July rainfall had forced him back to the city awaiting a dry out. Had managed to land a few jobs in the city to carry him on. Said he struck Roy Watson at Busselton and Roy told him Gordon Pendergrast was going well at Collie in the plumbing game. Good luck to you, Blue. Hope you make a fortune. You deserve it! Rumour has it Roy Watson will be working with "Blue" in the near future.

Another visitor to the big smoke was "Boomer" Giles. Bernie had recently met with an accident turning over his vehicle and breaking his right arm rather severely. Was in town for an operation and was hopeful of getting quite a bit of use back into his arm. Being a carpenter by trade it is a big thing to break your right arm and we all wish "Boomer" a speedy and wholly

successful recovery. He was hopeful of making the Re-union.

News to hand of Frank Freestone per medium of son Bobbie. Frank had not been in best of health recently but had recovered completely at time of writing and Bob says he was capable of giving a power of cheek still. Frank is a cable joiner with the P.M.G. Dept., and was stationed at Claremont not so far from where he lives. Hope to see you at a meeting or two in the near future, Frank.

The Association sends sincere condolences to Fred Sparkman on the loss of his sister who died very recently. Hope you will take this as a heartfelt token from all your mates, Fred

Must let you all into a real prime joke. Elsewhere in this issue is a letter from Bernie Langridge in which you will see he is announcing the expected arrival of his fourth child, and saying this looks like being enough for the Langridge clan. The day I received the letter an announcement in the "West Australian" stated twins to Bernie and his good wife so fate decreed otherwise. Geo. Boyland wants to know Bernie which one you are going to give away! Congrats. from the gang, Bernie. Afraid to say keep up the good work. Must be all those good Donnybrook apples.

See Kev Waddington in the street quite frequently and he is looking very well. Kev is a clerk in W.A.G.R.

### JUST A BIT ABOUT YOUR EXECUTIVE

#### President:

Ron Kirkwood, has been a very staunch worker for the Association since its inception. Was originally a committee man. Was Secretary for a term in the late forties and then Vice President. Then he was transferred in his employment as a Commonwealth Bank officer to Kalgoorlie, but still managed to take an interest in Association affairs and attended many Re-unions despite the distance to travel. On his return to the city last year he was again elected to the Committee and worked most assiduously. This year he is your most worthy President and it would be difficult to make a better choice.

#### Vice President:

Ken (Curly) Bowden, has been a Committee man on the Association practically every year since the show started. Had a break of a year a couple of terms ago but came back to the fold last year. Very strong and able in debate with sound and constructive ideas, not afraid to fight hard for what he thinks is right. A most pleasing election to a high office. Ken is a carpenter/cabinet maker at present employed by P.W.D.

#### Secretary:

Arthur Smith elected to this office for the third year in succession. Has put in a tremendous amount of work and time to Association affairs. A most meticulous organiser of affairs and functions with a great mind for detail. The Association is extremely lucky to have Arthur in this onerous position and it behoves everyone to hop in and help him as much as possible. Arthur has been connected with Association affairs since formation and is a real stalwart. He is a Technician with P.M.G. Dept.

#### Treasurer:

Fred Napier once again for the third time of asking. Fred like the foregoing, has been in office with the Association since the day it was born. A keen "looker after" of the pence of our organisation. A strong and able debater able to make himself heard and understood by all. Has worked hard and long to bring the Association to its present pitch. Fred is employed in the Print Room of the Architectural Division of the P.W.D.

#### Auditor:

Geo. Boyland. Geo. is in his first year as Auditor but has many years of service to the Association behind him, having served a couple of terms as Secretary, one as Treasurer, and one as Vice President, and quite a time on the Committee. Geo. has given a lot of good work to the Association but of late years his health and his job have precluded him from taking a very active part. Should fill the office of Auditor admirably. Geo. is an examiner with Dept. of Social Services.

#### Editor:

Colin Doig: Far be it for me to talk about myself, except to say I'll do my best.

#### Warden Kings' Park:

Cyril (Slim) Holly, for the second year in succession. Slim has been a real hard and conscientious worker on behalf of the Association. Rarely over the 12 years of our existence has he missed a meeting, always ready to work and has turned on a wonderful job as Warden. Has hopes of making King's Park into a show place before his term expires. Slim is a cleaner with Education Dept.

#### Committeemen:

Gerry Green. Past President for two years and a really sterling job, too. Has been on the Executive for the past four years and has worked with a real will. Much of the good work at King's Park Honour Avenue has been the result of Gerry's hard work and provision of implements and transport. Most pleased to see Gerry still on the Committee. Gerry is a High Tension Foreman with S.E.C.

Jack Carey. One of the real stalwarts of the show. Has been on the Executive since the very first. Three terms as Secretary, and what a secretary! Practically amounts to assistant secretary to Arthur Smith at the present time. Jack is a very sound and able debater, able to bring sound reasoning to bear on any contentious subject. What we would do without him I just don't know. Elected a Life Member in recognition of his outstanding service at the last Annual General Meeting. Jack is a clerk with W.A. Meat Export at Robbs Jetty.

Mick Calcutt. Another with a record of terrific service to the Association. Foundation Secretary, Committeeman, Vice President, President and now again after a gap of a couple of years Committeeman again. Work, work and more work has been the aim of Mick as far as Association affairs are concerned. Created a Life Member a few years ago to crown his wonderful achievements for the Association. Chock full of sound and constructive ideas Mick is one the Association is very proud to own. The absolute ideal Vice President in his ability to relieve the President of detailed work in the more pressing occasions. Mick is a carpenter by trade and a very keen bowler playing in the lower pennants with East Fremantle.

John (Joe) Burrige. Returning to the Committee after a stanza as Auditor in the previous term. Johnny was our second President, taking over from Jack Denman. Was President for three years and previously Vice President in what were our formative years. We received a tremendous amount of creative ideas from him at a time when we were in the doldrums and his wonderful suggestion and provision of Guest Speakers in the early years really sparked the fire which made the Association leap to life. John was our second Life Member and we are happy to see him return to the Committee. John is an executive in the family firm of Burrige & Warren, importers and exporters and general traders in produce and agency lines. Still keen on golf.

Ray Aitken. Ray was a foundation Committeeman and worked very hard in the early years to put the organisation on a sound footing. Was then transferred to many country appointments in his profession as State School teacher. He only returned to the metropolitan area this year but immediately accepted office on the Committee. Should be a welcome adjunct to a strong body. Ray is currently Headmaster at Coolbinnia State School. His main pastime, shooting, the shot gun variety.

Tom Nisbet. Tom is making his first appearance as a Committeeman as after many years of other activities such as baseball and the army he is now better positioned to give more time to the Association. Tom has always been an avid supporter of the Association and very few working bees at King's Park have been conducted without his being present and toiling profusely. Also owing to his good offices with the army the 16 Bn. Drill Hall has been available to us for the Children's Christmas Party and for Anzac Day. Few will remember it but it was at Tom's suggestion that the original News Letters which grew into the "Courier" were started in 1947. For that suggestion alone he must be highly regarded as the inter-communication of the Association and its resultant growth has much to thank the "Courier" for. As mentioned earlier Tom was and is a keen baseballer and has just stood

down from quite a long term as president of the Baseball League. He was also Brigadier of 13th Mixed Brigade until recently. Tom is manager of Yellow Cabs a firm connected with Skipper Bailey Motor Coy. dealing mainly with petrol sales and repairs and maintenance. He should bring a wealth of new ideas and strength to the Committee.

Joe Poynton. Joe is another new to the Committee this year and should add further strength to the Committee. Joe is another who has attended working bees in a big way and has given quite a deal to the Association. He has found it difficult to give a great deal of time to Association affairs in the past as other interests including Rugby and night school for his Builders Reg. Ticket have taken up a lot of his spare time. Joe is still an active rugby player and is currently touring the Eastern States as vice captain of the West Australian Rugby Union team. He has worked and played hard for the Nedlands Club which to a large extent due to his perseverance, has risen from a lowly position to one of the leading clubs in this State. Joe should bring a new touch to the Committee and we are pleased to have him. He is a carpenter by trade and is building in partnership with a mate.

#### Country Vice-Presidents:

Great Southern, Don Turton. Don is one of our really outstanding members. Elsewhere in this issue is a write-up of the seeding of 10 acres of oats which Don is donating to the Association. This and hundreds of other generous gestures are typical of the man. Am certain Don will prove to be a real boon as Country V.P. for his area.

Great Northern, Bill Drage. Bill is another generous supporter of ours and has made many Re-unions despite long distances. Am sure he will rally the boys of the north to the banner. A good clarion call from Bill's powerful lungs will have them coming on the run.

Midlands, Stan Sadler. Stan has helped the Association no end in his quiet unobtrusive way. No person to hang a sign on, all he has done, and it has been plenty especially in connection with conventions at Wongan Hills. Stan can be relied upon to keep the Midlands

area in touch with the Association.

South Western, Bill Rowan-Robinson. Robbie has proved over a lot of years to be one of the outstanding correspondents to the Association and in a hundred and more ways has given his valuable assistance. A good organiser and a keen business brain. He should be really valuable to us in his zone.

Goldfields, Peter Campbell. Although a bit off the beaten track at Esperance we are sure that Peter will do all he can to keep the old Double Red Diamond flying in the Goldfields area. Peter is another who in many quiet ways has assisted the show along. Owing to the great distances involved we don't see as much of him as we would like but he is still a very keen member.

That completes the Executive for this year and I hope what has been written will give all readers a good understanding of those in the saddle and trust you will assist them to do a good year's work.

#### THAT WEEKEND AT DON TURTON'S PLACE!

As the Association had accepted the offer of a donation of 10 acres of oat crop by farmer Don Turton, of Wandering, it was with keen enthusiasm that the Committee received advice from "The Turt" that the ground was ready to commence seeding. As the notice was unavoidably short, and accommodation limited, it was decided to draw the voluntary labour for ploughing and seeding from Committee members, with their wives as Mrs. Turton's "staff".

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Burrige and family left Perth bound for Wandering about 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 31, and although the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (Napiers), the Secretary and Assistant Secretary (Smiths), left shortly after, their travelling time was some hours longer than "Speed" Burrige, owing to the many way-side delays.

After a very warm welcome on arrival, host Turton explained the absence of Joe from the afternoon-tea circle. He was already aboard a tractor doing a fine job of ploughing, two miles up the road. Everyone enjoyed a sight-seeing drive over portion of the farm in Don's

all-purpose Landrover before the men folk set off to offer their humble services to the capable Burrige. Just as the work party was leaving for the scene of operations, a cloud of dust heralded the arrival of Ron Kirkwood and volunteers Curly Bowden, Mick Calcutt and Les Haskell. However operations proceeded, while the new arrivals settled in. Shortly after, President Green threaded his way through the homestead trees to the "parking area" with wife, Lal, and daughter Janet aboard, accompanied by Sprig McDonald with Betty and son Neil.

At sunset, the full compliment of would-be farmers with their wives and families gathered on the terrace and lawns, gay with coloured lights for a barbecue tea and a very welcome keg—or two. The notorious reputation of Wandering's chilliness belied itself completely, and a most enjoyable evening was spent outdoors with original items including the "Burrige Fire Dance" and singing to the accompaniment of Neil McDonald's guitar. In view of the busy day ahead, all retired for the night at 11 p.m. and several bobbing tail lights disappearing down the drive indicated that the menfolk would soon be tucked snugly in bed at the "Lodge"—the old homestead.

At dead of night across the grapevine passed the message "Jerry is 21 today". Instantly a convoy bearing the morrow's work-force was heading for the Wandering local.

Sunday dawned with a thick haze of fog—mentally, for some—soon to be followed by a beautiful sunny day, bringing forth many optimistic mushroomers, and several "seedy" farm hands. The mission being completed by the afternoon, Jerry Green, Ron Kirkwood and parties bade farewell and set off for home. A happy, restful atmosphere prevailed as tea of mushrooms, etc., was served round a blazing log fire in the living room. After the hard day's work the Lodge residents departed early to well needed rest.

Such is the life of luxury lead by the tillers of the soil—at the crack of dawn (5 a.m. or perhaps earlier) on Monday, two little budding housewives of the mature age of six or seven years, appeared at each bedside with a morning tea tray,

and generous offers of bright conversation from a vantage point on the foot of the bed. All efforts to postpone the entertainment an hour or so, and return the "little women" to their beds, failed hopelessly, and with the whoops of fun and laughter bursting forth from the boys' dormitory, it was evident that youth had triumphed and the day had already begun.

After breakfast—served in relays as each group appeared—Don called for volunteers and was overwhelmed with offers to feed the sheep and inspect fences in the Landrover. An exciting morning was spent sightseeing over the vast property and gathering mushrooms. Lunch took the form of a barbecue on the lawns, and preparations for the homeward journey began. With many warm handshakes and rather sad farewells, the last of the cars slowly pulled out from under the tall gums and gathered speed down the drive to the road leaving Don, Vida and the children waving them on their way.

Such a colossal undertaking could not have been attempted without

the tireless energy and unlimited generosity of such a host and hostess as Don and Vida. Everyone joins in extending to them, most sincere thanks for their wonderful hospitality, and appreciation of the organisation and work involved.

—Assistant Sec.

#### A Few Who's and Why's

Who suggested going to the Wandering local at 4.30 p.m.?

Who pinched whose bed after returning to the Lodge?

Who slept in the car for the remainder of the night?

Who screamed around the Lodge for the rest of the evening, or was it morning?

Who wanted everyone out on P.T. at 6 a.m.?

Who went for some "hair of the dog" at midday?

Who was the best tractor driver present?

Who was driving the tractor when it seized up?

Who picked all the mushrooms?

Who ate them?

Who was instructed to die in an exhaust pipe?

## Random Harvest

**Jim Smailes, of Box 7, P.O. Guyra, N.S.W., writes:**

Just when I was thinking that you folks in the West must have all died, I received the July "Courier" and read with great satisfaction that you are all very much alive. This is the first I have had since Christmas, and did not even know if you had received my letter of last March informing you of my change of address to N.S.W. However, I am very pleased to hear of so many of the old names, and to see that you have so gallantly taken on the editing of our valued little paper. May I add my congratulations, and offer any help that I can in keeping up a bit of data for you to print. I would also like to place on record my personal appreciation of the wonderful job Wilf Marsh has done over the past five years in that capacity. It is not an easy job, and copy is very hard to come by if some of the boys are a little thoughtless.

I also note that the Annual Re-

Union is to be held next Saturday night as usual. Well I certainly would very much like to be present and will be thinking of you all as you tap the amber brew in true 2/2nd style. Do pass on best wishes to all and any of the gang that manages to make the grade. The enclosed cheque for £5 will help in some small way to offset some of the expenses in making the evening its usual success. My regards to J.B., Ron Dook, George Boyland, Jerry Green, Mick Calcutt, "Doc" Wheatley, Steve Rodgers, etc. Have a good time of it.

This job here is proving to be most interesting and profitable for me, and although there has been great difficulties to overcome, the way is much easier now and the mine is now showing a steady profit. I was called down to Melbourne recently to meet the Board of Directors, and received quite a nice appreciation of the effort that I have put into the job over the past six months. With increased ton-

nage and closer mill supervision, we are now producing a higher grade of concentrate, and thus receiving a very much higher price per ton. By introducing some Kalgoolie mining methods into the underground procedure here I have also been able to extract pillars of ore which were regarded as lost. Yet for me the experience and opportunity to study a new mineral is valuable. Also to compare labour and mining law in a new State is of great interest. I would say from my short experience so far, that W.A. is far better off in wages, working conditions, and employer relationship than over here.

The schooling of my children at the Armidale High School is proving to be highly satisfactory, and well worth the expense to dad. After the poor schooling they have had in outback W.A. and the N.T. this has come at an ideal age, and I would like to stay for five years so as to get the two boys through their Leaving at least. There is even a University here if they run to such ability. Even our little girl of eight is living at a girls' hostel and attending primary school. All three come home at weekends and eat us out of house and home in true school boy fashion.

Well, Col, I'll try and give you a few lines of copy in the very near future. Cheerio and regards to you and yours.

**Albie Friend, of Erlistoun Station, Laverton, writes:**

Howdy boys.

Well, Anzac Day has passed and for the first time that I can remember I missed the march and of course the rest that goes with it.

As you can see by the address I'm quite a way from Perth at the moment. We are now shearing at our furthest station and from now on we will be working our way back home again.

News has travelled around ahead of me that I was a member of the old 2/2nd and everywhere I go someone asks me about some member of the old gang.

The Laverton crowd knew Jim Smailes. The manager of Erlistoun Station, Jimmy Barratt in particular. Have had several enquiries about our late member, Cpl. Jack Simpson, from the folks around Leonora, and from Kalgoolie tales

about Jack Sheen, etc. I have heard a lot about one Ernie Hoffman around these parts. Our cook spent a lot of time in a wayside pub with Ernie and after several hours drinking decided to run the cook back to the station. They climbed into Ernie's old bomb and left the pub. They also left the road but this didn't seem to upset Ernie any. After some distance the cook pointed out this fact to him and Ernie replied, "That's O.K., the road takes a left hand turn up ahead. We will catch up with it there."

Well, I'm not a great hand with the pen so will say regards to all the mob. Hope to see you all at a meeting soon, possibly about two months time. I'm saving up my thirst till then. I have been on the square for the past two months and I may last that much longer without drying up or drying out altogether.

**Bloss Lawrence, of Fire Station, Fremantle, writes to Col Doig:**

I'm sorry to hear you have been sick. I didn't know until I walked down to your saltmine to deliver Damier Papers "Men of Timor" to you and some of the lovelies employed in said S.M. told me. Arthur Smith took delivery so all is O.K. on the film side as I hope you are ere you receive this.

I take up my pen but seldom, not having a great deal of news to pass on usually, though personally I regard chasing fires and the technical problems that arise from them as being of high interest. Other people may not. However this time I have to report on a recent trip to Sydney and the tremendous brand of hospitality served up by the boys there. I had little spare time in the fortnight I was there doing a C.M.F. qualifying course for further promotion, but they managed to arrange two get-togethers at short notice and quite a few familiar faces showed up. Faces, O.K., but names were another problem in most cases although it was only a short time before the memory was going right.

The first do was out at Northbridge at Frank Coker's place (Bill's brother). This boy is really geared for entertaining visiting firemen, and one of his artists imported at great expense was a fellow who said nary a word but brought the house down. His name strangely enough

was Silent George. He only proved something which you said years ago in the crisp Doig manner: "Bull dust baffles brains" (unquote).

The second evening was in Arncliffe at Jim English's and although the stay was practically over the course was behind me which meant I could really relax and enjoy the show without having to face up to the daily exam. as on the previous Friday night. Whilst here I saw the annual scene of so many of the 2/2 actions refought, namely the Arncliffe R.S.L. Club, a very nice layout and the Charlie Anderson memorial is also in this club. It takes the form of a landscape painting, nothing elaborate but very fitting nevertheless. Although it was fairly late in the evening I was admitted without question after the magic words: "He is a mate of Jim English," were spoken. It was all arranged by said Jim who incidentally has not been in the best of health. His father is a semi-invalid and the family are likely to be evicted in the very near future. He has his plateful of troubles but still found time to organise the function as well as the feeding of the early birds. A good sample of the wonderful spirit that prevails over there. To Jim, Jack Hartley and Bill Coker fell the work of contacting people all over Sydney and inducing them to meet together wholly for the purpose of meeting some creep from the West whom a lot of them barely knew. That they came at all was due to the persuasive powers of the three organisers. Chowder Bay whereat I was located is an inaccessible place but Jack Hartley was there with his horse on both occasions and went to no end of trouble both in the pick-up and delivery. Jack is the true "Silent George" type, no noise but the work sure gets done. I would say from the brief visit I had, Jack is truly the motive power over there, certainly he gets a goodly share of support from the stalwarts, and he has an able successor in Bill Coker, but only a non drinker could appreciate his true worth for the time and effort he puts into any of the shows they have.

Bill Coker is still the affable, friendly type of old, although he doesn't say no as often as he did in

his "Q" store days. Thanks incidentally for the gift, Bill, one which is much appreciated in this household. You should have heard from me by the time this appears in print as will Jack H. and Jim E.

Those present were: Bill Bennett, Jim Hallinan, "Drip" Hilliard, Eric Herd, Bill Hoy, Blue Harris, Merv Jones, Jack Keenahan, Curly O'Neil, Ron Trengrove, Snowy Wendt, Harold Newton and last but not least Johnny Rose.

All of them look well and prosperous, a little older maybe, but the years have dealt fairly kindly with them. Snowy Wendt though has not changed a scrap. He must have discovered the secret of eternal youth, one worth millions to him if he can commercialise it.

Allan Cardey I also saw at Chowder Bay. The Commando H.Q. and training area is at Georges Heights just above Chowder Bay and Allan is Adj./Q.M. of 1 Commando Coy. He was away at Williamstown when I arrived doing a parachute school and would have been the oldest army member post-war to qualify. He sprained his ankle so did not complete the course and a more disappointed man you would not find. His misfortune was the means of me seeing him as well as wringing a Commando badge out of him. The design of the badge is a dagger with a boomerang insert with the motto inscribed thereon: "Strike Swiftly". Neat but not gaudy.

2 Commando Coy. in Victoria, after a period in the doldrums, is looking to the future with promise as the present O.C. is being, or has been, replaced with a native son of our fair State fresh from the Royal Marine Commando School in Britain (a six month course). I do not know him personally but he comes from Fremantle which is enough recommendation for anyone. The motto of our bustling city is "Nec Prece Nec Pretio," which broadly translated means, "I careth not for thee Jack."

With those few words I should close but cannot do so without mention of Bert Tobin. The weather in Melbourne was at its worst or best as you prefer, fog at 3 p.m., etc., but the fire was burning brightly at Bert's place and after an excellent dinner we got down to a good gum

bumping session. Time was very limited in Melbourne, barely 24 hours so saw no one except my host although I did speak to Harry Botterill and Alan Stewart per phone.

Red and I intend overlanding next year so should see plenty of the old gang in Victoria then. Bert looks thinner but is quite well and is in the high income bracket so finance is not a problem there.

I can't remember half the people I had good wishes for but rest assured if you can make it to Sydney you will have a stay to look back on. See you at the Re-union.

Some random thoughts have occurred to me and I pass them along for what they are worth.

Sydney beer has improved out of all knowledge and it is not necessary now to hold your nose whilst drinking.

It is not true that Curley O'Neil has a harem at Narrabeen. He just shares the same roof.

Nor is it true that the girls take turns to carry him down to the bus. He says (and who can deny him), they stopped doing it because the neighbours jeered at him. He does have one of the finest views you could see. He is married to a first rate cook (how he trapped her I'll never know) and generally enjoys a very pleasant existence, and who wouldn't with three women to pick up after him. See you in '59.

#### Bernie Langridge writes:

Firstly I must apologise for allowing so much time to elapse before writing. There are numerous reasons and all combined they did the trick. However I have no doubt you will accept my apologies, particularly, with this effort to make amends.

Congratulations, Col, on once more becoming Editor of our little magazine. There is no doubt you deserve more help than you get in compiling our grand little paper.

Since being a Country V.P. (nearly 12 months now) I have given a lot of thought to this organisation and how best to keep it going. As I see it it is essential to remain solvent. Firstly, at any rate, otherwise the "Courier" would cease to reach us. If that should happen the only effective means of keeping us in touch with one another would be lost. To simplify the administration—which fairly obviously will

for many years be the same willing few—I suggest we drop a lot of our present activities. (1) We must help members in distress. (2) We must, as an organisation, fight together for our own good (such as Timor subsistence). (3) Keep the "Courier" going. (4) Hold our Annual Re-union. Funds for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 could be raised by a levy of say £1 or £2 per head per year. I think also our membership fee should be £1 and I would recommend looking into a bank order method of payment. No. 4 is self-supporting, I think. I think maybe there would be trouble collecting the levy and it may even be better to increase the membership fee

As a suggestion for next year would it be possible to hold the Annual Meeting at 4.30 or 5 p.m. on the evening of our Re-union? Have the agenda fairly small and it would be more or less the election of officers and then an expression of opinions and it could be that some good ideas would come from it.

I hope you don't mind my suggestions re dropping some of the things that keep the willing few busy. I have in mind the Christmas Tree, Bucks' Night and I hardly like to express an opinion about Ladies' Night as I have never been able to get there. But I do feel it is something which requires a lot of organising.

I am sorry I haven't been up to one of the meetings yet. Bert Burges and myself did hope to be present together at the February meeting but something went wrong—there was no meeting held I think it was—then next month the fruit start and then there is no time for anything but essentials—and I regard the 3 S.S.S. as non-essentials—so you will appreciate I am flat out.

Not being a type to get around much I don't see many of the boys. Saw Don Hudson in Bunbury some time ago. Clarrie Turner at the Busselton Show and run into (Robbie) Bill Rowan-Robinson fairly frequently as we have common interests and our wives are good pals. He built a very nice dam for irrigating his orchard, only he was one year too late. It really was a shocking summer for fruit growers last year.

We did discuss making the Re-union together this year but I am afraid I'll have to pull out of the arrangement because my wife is not co-operating. Despite all our foresight and planning the arrival of our fourth child would have to clash with the Re-union. I did my best to dodge the shows and ram sales and hay raking—however it is not the first mistake I have made, somehow I think four will be our family.

I am enclosing a letter from Ken Monk which I meant to do months ago. I saw some of the boys in Melbourne last year—I was a delegate to a Federal Council meeting of the Australian Jersey Herd Society. I also bought a Romney Marsh ram for my stud. This is all for now. Good luck to you all and my sincere apologies with deep regret that I'll be missing you all this year.

**Ken Monk, of Wayside Delivery, Pcoowoong East, writes to Bernie Langridge:**

Here is a few lines in with Christmas card with what little news I have of self, family and what I know of the boys.

I received your note about your departure back to the West and was sorry you could not manage to find the time to look our place over. We have 98 acres of hilly country with a small creek running through the front of it. This creek goes dry in the summer but for one place which has a spring in it. From this I pump into a 5,000 gal. tank. Also have a spring in the back and three dams over the place. It is very hard country to get dams to hold above the rock which is about three feet down. There is very little clay.

We are milking 46 cows and send whole milk with a 27 gal. city contract which I find quite enough to keep up in the winter time.

As you know I am keenly interested in the Pure Bred Jerseys and am thinking of showing in the local shows early next year if all goes well.

I finished doing Ensilage about a week ago. I cut about 14 acres and have a nice stack which should do them for a few months. It is quite the thing around here now that the tractor and buckrake have taken the hard work out of it. Do you do any over there?

I finished cutting for hay last night and am keeping my fingers crossed that the weather takes up. It has rained every night for the last week. Hope to get about 700 bales from less than seven acres.

Now for the family. We have four kids, two girls first then two boys, ages 9, 8, 5 and 3. Names Barbara, Elva, Colin and Robert. The three eldest are going to school.

The Association Christmas Treat was held on the seventh of the month and I managed to get the brother to milk for me as it is held too late for us to get home to do the milking. There was a fair mob of kids but I don't think there was quite the roll up of the chaps as other years. I very rarely see any of the chaps other than on these occasions. We are hoping to have Harry Botterell up between Christmas and New Year. He has been coming for quite a while but his wife's mother is not the best.

Gerry Maley got half way up and one of his nips got crook and he had to turn back. Just as well he didn't get here that day as we were flat out on the Ensilage. I even had Margaret out on the stack.

### *Heard This?*

Birth announcement: The baby has its mother's features and its father's fixtures.

\* \* \*

A lawyer was defending a party to an auto accident and was cross-examining a girl who was undeniably beautiful.

"Have you any idea what caused this accident?" asked the attorney.

"I think so," sweetly replied the girl.

"Then tell the court what happened," said the lawyer.

"Well," said the girl, "I was standing at the corner and that man turned to look at me and ran into the other car."

"Ah," snapped the lawyer. "He turned to look at you. That makes you an accessory before the fact, madam."

"I think it was the accessories he was looking at," murmured the witness.

---

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