



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered at the G.P.O. Perth, for transmission by post as a periodical)

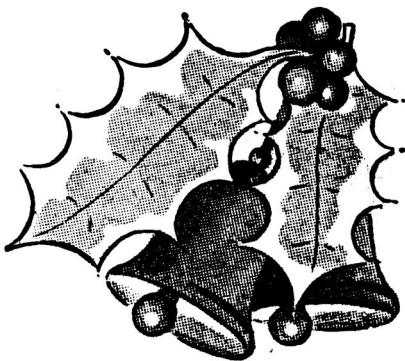
Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth

Vol. 12. No. 125.

DECEMBER, 1958

Price 1d.

A
MERRY
XMAS



Editorial

The Challenge of Christmas

In this present world of suppressed passions and national mistrust the advent of Christmas brings a message and a challenge which should be heeded by all. The message of Christmas is "Goodwill to ALL men," the challenge is to carry this message throughout the year to all the people of this troubled world.

Surely the common people of all nations want nothing but peace on earth and a chance to partake of the fruits of their labour and live in a

manner befitting to human dignity. Mistrust can eventually breed only one thing and that is a war on a scale and magnitude too horrifying to imagine.

A small amount of the Christian feeling of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All Men" is all that is required to bring harmony into the present discord. Let us all work and strive to do what we can to make this place a better world to live in and a more neighbourly haven for everyone.

The "Courier" brings to all its readers the Greetings of Christmas:— Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year



West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

The annual Children's Christmas Party was held at 16 Bn. Drill Hall on Sunday, Dec. 7, and a truly frightening mass of children turned up to show the adults how to really get rid of ice cream, lollies, ginger beer and cool drinks.

Well over 120 children of varying ages from babyhood to near teenagers made the afternoon a thoroughly enjoyable one for everybody. They were entertained by a clown in the person of Frank Fenn who worked like a galley slave to keep the show moving and introduced many small items to keep the kids in good humour. Thanks to the Visual Education Section of the Education Dept. and the National Safety Council we were able to exhibit an excellent programme of films right down the children's alleys.

The Old Gentleman in the red coat and trousers and with the beard and bag of presents duly made his appearance on a sleigh pulled in by all the kiddies, and dispensed presents to every child and handed out free advice to all of them for the future year.

Afternoon tea for the ladies and most of the gents, thanks to all who brought along the tasty eats, and to Bill Hollis who provided the extras to make it possible.

All in all a wonderful day for everyone and well and truly worth the work and effort put in by those who toiled to make it possible. The Association's thanks to all members who assisted so willingly and well to make the party such a wow.

Judging by the number of small children present these parties look like being a permanent fixture on our calendar.

WORKING BEE AT KINGS PARK

The working Bee held at Kings Park on Nov. 30 was an outstanding success. A wonderful roll-up of over 20 members soon had the whole area raked over and looking quite spick and span then Arthur Smith took those present around the area and introduced them to the portions their particular sections will tend for the future.

Those present were enthusiastic about the new scheme and immediately hopped in and started to get their sections away to a flying start. Many arrived with bags of grass and proceeded to plant areas which required further planting and even an amount of levelling was taking place in some areas.

Joe Poynton and John Burrige had got things away to a good start by working on their areas and these were a good carrot in front of the proverbial donkey as Joe Poynton's No. 2 Section area was already showing up to real advantage.

The Association's thanks to all who attended and we sincerely hope that this will only be a forerunner of big things in the near future and that the area will really be in wonderful trim by this time next year.

HISTORICALLY YOURS

Will be suspended this month, but we will pick this feature up in the January issue.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Sorry if this appears to be a scratchy sort of "Courier" but to meet deadlines over Christmas this edition has been very rushed.

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

REMEMBER

No Meeting in January

Do your bit in Kings Park

Your slogan for next year: "The Unit is fine in 59"

Personalities

Saw Fred Sparkman and his good wife at the kids' party and Fred tells me he is now a city dweller, having been transferred by the W.A.G.R. to the metropolitan area. We can look forward to seeing more than a bit of Fred at Association affairs in the future.

While thinking of the old R.A.P. types, Mrs. Wares was telling me that "Scotty" was on the sick list as were a couple of the family and this kept him away from the party. Hope "Scotty" is well by the time this goes to press.

Mrs. Cooper was at the party with her family and told me Bill was away chasing the wily crayfish at Lancelin. This is the height of the season and naturally Bill was making hay while the sun shone.

"Blue" and Mrs. Pendergrast down from Collie for the "do" with their "chickens" and can't say I've ever seen "Blue" looking better. The climate and business of Collie must be doubly agreeable.

Joe and Helene Poynton, very proud of their new offspring and giving her an airing for all the ladies and lads to see.

After seeing all those healthy children I can assure you there is no truth in the old "atebrin story".

Beryl Griffiths tells me that Fred is now in the near metro. area working on the new Serpentine Dam and becoming more domesticated every day. Says he has finished with the wilds of the north and that the lot of suburbia will do him.

Heard the other day of Keith Beacham, one of our stalwarts in Boulder. Keith has built himself a new home in the Golden City and pulled the old place down so we have been sending the "Courier" to a vacant allotment for quite a while. Keith is always one of the early ones to return his sweep butts and does all he can to be a good member of the Association. Naturally living on the goldfields he finds it difficult to attend any of our get togethers but is keeping his fingers crossed and hopes to be in at an Annual Re-union one day.

A brief note from "Rocky" Williams with his sweep butts. Wishes to be remembered to all. "Rocky"

and wife and family also sighted at the Christmas Party.

The "Brooker" sent in his sweep butts and says he is now fine although had a bad trot with sickness in the family over the last 12 months. Still battling it out at the Zoo and still likes his job a lot.

"Doc" Wheatley wrote briefly to send his best to all the gang. Still market gardening at Byford and was currently picking peas and getting his tomatoes under way.

My thanks to Bert Burgess for a short note with his sweep tickets warning all that this small epistle was but a forerunner of more in the future. Thanks a ton Bert. Hope that there are more like you to gladden an editor's heart. Bert wants his best wishes for the festive season passed to all readers.

Norm Thornton is another who whizzed off a brief note with his sweep contribution with a threat to write a lengthy letter in the near future. Will keep you up to that promise, Norm, and your regards hereby passed to all and sundry.

Just a few lines from Kev Millington to say how do to the gang and say he was a busy man at Donnybrook.

That ace seller of sweep tickets this year "Dusty" Studdy, wrote to say good day and to request another book to sell. Thanks a million once again for your efforts, Dusty.

Eddie Craghill also sent in his butts and said he had started work once again after quite a period chasing a job. Eddie and his good wife and family of six also seen at the kids' party enjoying themselves. All the very very best to you, Ed.

The briefest of notes from Alan Brown with his sweep tickets and sending his good wishes to the gang especially Jack Fowler.

Mrs. Cantrill wrote to say Jim was working on Serpentine Dam and batching on the job but manages to get home some weekends to enjoy a little home cooking.

Fred Wilkes wrote from Brunswick to enclose his sweep butts and said Merry Christmas to the gang.

Glad to hear, if only briefly, from Bert Matthews who also sent in tickets and wished us every success.

Random Harvest

Tex Richards, of Bradshaw-st., Latrobe, Tasmania, writes:—

I have had Anne on my back to write you. Received October "Courier" last week. A great idea the history of our show. Can't say much yet. Never got to Foster until July, 1941, but will help all I can.

I had a great time when I managed our football side to Melbourne. I looked up a few of the boys. Had dinner with Bert Tobin, counter lunch with Alby Martin, also had a couple of beers with him. Invaded George Kennedy, joined in the five to six crush with him then went to his home, had tea with the family, viewed T.V. George drove me back to the hotel I was staying at, had a few bottles then retired to the cot. Went out to Royal Park, looked up Mac, looks a ball of muscle, the army must treat him well. Also looked up Alf Grachan. He also looks well. I rang Kev Curran up and he told me to come up for a few days. I stayed a week. My word he looks well, has an extra beer pub. We had quite a few sessions with the big man, Japs were piled high up his passage near the hole in the wall. This six o'clock closing in Victoria is very weak. Kev wishes to be remembered to you all. Had that much grog ended up fighting myself in bed. I brought a big fish home out of the Murray. Told the wife I caught it. She said: "Yes, with a rod and line over Curran's bar." Quite true. It cost me £1, but was very good to eat when I finally arrived home. Best holiday I have had for a long time. By the way Mrs. Curran looked after me like a mother. He has just spent quite a sum doing his pub up. Told me all about the welcome you boys gave him when he went over to Perth with a Victoria football side.

I hope to make Perth for the Empire Games, that is if I stay as I am at the present time. It is my health I am talking about. I get a sting every month now. Haven't lost much time at work this last year. Must be improving with age.

Haven't been to Hobart for a while so I haven't seen the other Tassy boys. Usually see Vic Pacey

every time I go down. I always see him doing battle with the book-makers. Don't know how he makes with them but myself I haven't had a winning day for ages.

This day, Sunday, the time 6.30 p.m., my kids have just come inside after being in their canvas swimming pool. They can't have any feeling at all. The temperature wouldn't be much over 60 today. Boy, what to be young again.

Glad to hear Joe Poynton is in the news. A special hello to No. 2 and 4 sections. Kev brought back to my memory the little show we had in the hanger on the drome with Indian Joe. Said we pinched his vealer. The boys altered his mind when they strung poor old Joe up by the neck for a few seconds.

Don Turton must be doing a mighty job for the Association with his land. The land around Latrobe is chocolate. It will take plenty of water, very good farming land.

I still work for the Goliath Portland Cement Co. This last year was the greatest production year of all time, 3,000 ton more than the previous best. Our little town is growing a little. We have opened our new hall. It has a floor space of 60ft. by 90ft., plus a stage which will hold 150 persons, plus a supper room. Our new hospital, one million pound job will be completed in another year. A laundry at £240,000 is being built next to the hospital. It will do all the hospital laundry on the north west coast. So you see we are growing a little.

We are going to appoint a new football coach within the next fortnight. One of your clan could get one of the jobs. His name, Col Maynard, of Swan Districts. His scrap book says he isn't a bad boy at all. He is a bike rider and is now in training for our big carnivals for Latrobe Christmas day and Boxing Day and all the towns along the north west coast to Burnie on New Years Day.

I can't think of much more to say so my family will wish you all the good cheer and a bumper year 1959.

Charlie Sadler, Box 24, Wongan Hills, writes:—

Sorry that I gave you the trouble of sending me a reminder about my sweep tickets. I am enclosing tickets and cheque. The extra is for the Children's Christmas Party.

We have started our harvesting operations but up to the present have not made very much progress. The weather has been most unsettled, a few hot days and then a thunderstorm and after that a cool change.

We are having a lot of trouble with fly strike this year. Dieldrin, which has been most effective in other years, appears to have lost its sting or I should say, the flies are becoming immune to it.

I saw Jack Hasson and Fred Gowns a few weeks ago, both appeared to be in excellent health.

Regards to all.

Bernie Langridge, "Crawlea," Donnybrook, writes:—

Just a few lines to enclose with sweep butts. As you will see if the family was twice the size we could sell another book.

How are all the boys keeping?

The season is winding up quite well with some late showers to prolong the period of green feed. I have a big irrigation project nearing completion. Big in the financial sense anyway.

Christmas greetings to all the gang. Hope to see many of them at Re-unions, etc., next year.

Ilma and Tom Martin, Box 40, Mil-ling, writes:—

Enclosed with sweep butts is an extra pound to go with best wishes towards a happy Christmas Party.

Sorry I can't oblige the editor with a little news, especially after his "little petunia in an onion patch" plea. But things are not happening in our district worth mentioning.

Tom is happy with his crops, but of course will be happier when harvesting is over and that won't be until the new year.

Here's wishing all a very happy Christmas.

**Address All Your Correspondence:
Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth**

Johnny Moore, of Dwellingup, writes:—

Just a few lines to let you know who the enclosed butts are from.

I am sorry they are late because I thought that as long as they were in a couple of weeks before the draw they would be alright.

It is a long time now since I have met any of the chaps, am always telling the wife I must go to the dinner, but somehow I never seem to make it but one of these days I will.

We have got a son now, just two and a half and believe me he keeps us on the move.

Wishing all the best.

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

Just a note to return the ticket butts and the £2. Things are going along fairly well here. We're in the middle of harvesting oats and most of the cockies seem to have a fair crop. The season, although late, has been extra good, one of the best we've had for a long time. Plenty of feed and the stock are looking extra good. I never see any of the mob around here so have not got any news about them. I had intended to bring the wife down to the Ladies' Night but the kids had to pick that time to have the measles, better luck next year.

Well, must away to the harvest, so regards to all the mob.

Beryl Griffiths, of 166 London-st., J. Heights, writes:—

Please find enclosed butts and a cheque. After reading your desperate appeal I managed to get Fred to fill in the butts and actually tear them off. However after this super effort he developed that peculiar disease of the right arm which seems to afflict so many of your members. They can't think of a thing to write about and in fact can't hold the pen. I suggest you write direct to their wives for information occasionally!

Fred has been working at the Serpentine Dam since February and manages to get home reasonably often. He is at present on shift work on the pumps so was unable to attend the work party last Sunday. Hope you had a good roll up.

Some of us will be present at the

party on Dec. 7, with the two boys.

Fred and I (shift work permitting) hope to attend the barbecue.

Congratulations to all your hard-working members and best wishes for the future roping in of more of the same type.

R. Johnson, Box 7, Koorda, writes:

Enclosed please find butts of one book of tickets and money of £1, hoping that the Christmas tree will be a big success. I wouldn't mind being there with the boys too, but I am stuck right up in the middle of harvesting and it looks like a long job this year. Remember me to all the 3 Section boys. Do you or any of the boys know the address of (Bludger) Wally Congdon, or his whereabouts? The last I heard he was in Queensland, but I have lost touch with him.

(W. Congdon's address: Higlett St., Redcliffe, Queensland. That's the "Courier's" address. —Editor.)

Shirley Alexander, 48 York-st., Boulder, writes:—

Please find enclosed sweep butts and postal note to cover same. Have been trying to talk Peter into dropping a line but seeing the butts are needed early I thought I'd best get busy. Pete would probably get around to it when the sweep had been drawn.

We will be in Perth next month on our annual holidays so he might see a few of the Unit. He'd like to see Merv Ryan. Had a lot of tries last year but couldn't catch up with him. We haven't his address.

Will close now hoping the Christmas party goes off O.K., also that the sweep is a big success.

(Merv's address is: Cr. Wrexham Street and Murray Road, Bicton, W.A. —Editor.)

W. A. Drage, Box 117, Northampton, writes:—

Well it is sure some time since I have written so here goes.

How are things with you and the boys? I haven't been to the big city for some time so haven't had the chance of seeing any of you shiny bum jobs chaps. Things in this part of the world are pretty good. Some very good crops around, but I am afraid I have not

got very good ones, too wet for my part of the world.

I saw Jack Denman in Geraldton the other day and he is looking very well again now, but still on the ponies. Also saw Don Hudson last night in Northampton and needless to say we consumed several schooners, in fact one or two too many. Don is up here on the P.M.G. so will probably see a lot more of him. The old Brand and Flagg are still going strong. The Brand is still as good a liar as ever.

You will find enclosed one lot of butts, the other book you can take out in the Association's name. Also enclosed will be my cheque for £5, take out the price of the tickets and if I owe my sub take that out of it also, the rest of the money can go to Association funds.

Well, will close for now wishing all the boys all the best and hoping the sweep is a success.

Ron Sprigg, 60 Hill-st., Albany, writes:—

Just one of the many that shamefully write a few lines annually with the sweep butts. I have just finished reading the November "Courier". There is no doubt it is a credit to you and each one received makes one feel more ashamed that I do not contribute more to it. Am afraid I have not sold many of the tickets but will do as usual, take them myself and enclose cheque with a little extra to put towards which ever you think most needed, and I wish you every success with the sweep. I notice the address you had on the "Courier" is still 42 Hill-st. It should be 60. I made the alteration myself in Arthur Smith's address book when at the August meeting but evidently you have another one.

I am still on leave. Have just a little more than a fortnight to go. I am afraid I did not get back to Perth again as expected and I don't look like making it at all now. Just when I looked like being able to get away a friend of mine from Mt. Barker got his arm caught in a hay baler. They rushed him off to Perth but unfortunately he lost his right arm above the elbow, so I had a couple of busy weeks on the farm and most people know just how busy November can be on a farm. However he has a wonderful

lot of neighbours and they were a great help. At the moment I am flat out painting a house that I promised to do while on leave. The weather is so damned changeable that I can't even get a good go at that, one day stinking hot, next trying to rain (but doesn't).

Am afraid have not seen any of the boys in this area but with the holiday season coming maybe will see some visitors. Am hoping so. The railway station will always find out where I am and what I am doing for anyone who cares to inquire. A message of interest to Gerry Haire. I went to the High School sports and saw your high jump record of 5ft. 6½ins., 1926, broken by a quarter of an inch. Am sure there is no other record been held for so long at the school. Believe me Jerry I was urging him to knock it down too.

Well, I must away and get a bit more of my Christmas mail under way. Must think of the poor old postie a bit. Wishing all the boys all the best for Christmas.

Heard This?

"I see you aren't a gentleman," hissed the woman on the corner, as the wind swept her skirts over her head.

"No," replied the male, "and I can see you aren't either."

* * *

Two labor leaders in a hotel lobby following a conference watched as two pretty young girls met and kissed each other affectionately.

"There's another of those things that are so unfair," remarked one morosely.

"What do you mean?" asked his companion.

"Women doing men's work," was the answer.

* * *

Mother Snail was taking Baby Snail for a walk. They met Mother Slug who was taking Baby Slug for a walk.

Mother Snail said to Baby Snail: "Turn your head away, darling—nudists!"

SOMETHING ABOUT THE OTHER FELLOW'S JOB

ANTIMONY — ITS PRODUCTION AND USES

The metal antimony has been known and worked for many centuries, being used by the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. Its comparatively easy extraction from its ore and low melting point made it available in those more primitive times.

Antimony occurs in the ore Stibnite, Sb₂S₃ and is usually in vein formation of magmatic origin in either sedimentary or igneous rocks. Very few deposits are of economic value, and many occurrences in association with other ores such as gold, silver and lead, may be described as nuisance value only.

World production today is approximately 30,000 tons per year, the chief producers being China, Mexico, Bolivia, France and Japan. Very little is produced in the U.S.A., and production in the British Empire is limited to a small mine in northern New South Wales. This mine produces about 1,000 tons per year and supplies the

whole of the local industrial demand. A small surplus is exported to India and U.S.A.

Being Australian owned and operated, this mine in N.S.W. is of national importance. It has been worked on and off for over 50 years, but is scarcely known outside the district and mining circles. At the present time 30 men are employed and over 100 tons of concentrates are produced each month. The mine is situated in the New England district of N.S.W., 45 miles east of Armidale. It is located in a very isolated area in a deep gorge some 1,000 feet below the surrounding plateau. The country is very steep, heavily timbered and extremely hard to enter even on foot. Transport of stores in, and concentrates out, are a major cost item. Men are housed and fed at the mine, returning home only at weekends. Staff men live at the mine permanently.

The mine is a series of four adits driven into the hillside off the main

valley. These are serviced by an inclined haulage way some 1,200 ft. long built on the hillside at an angle of 45 deg., and operated by a double drum electric winder at the hill top. All power for mining, haulage and milling is generated at the mine by diesel engines.

The ore vein is from 6 inches to 6 ft. wide and the crude ore averages about 16 to 20 per cent antimony. Mining is carried out by the cut and fill method of stoping. The rock is moderately hard and all drilling is done by pneumatic tools. All labour is on the contract system, and earnings average double the award rates of pay. Timber is available within sight of the mine, and fresh water is pumped from the creek to mill and houses.

When the ore is hauled to the hill top the skips are tipped automatically into a crude ore bin. From here it gravitates through a primary jaw cracker, secondary gyrex crusher, and rolls, until it is reduced to about half inch size. This fine ore is then fed into a Ruwolt Ball Mill with water and ground to a fine pulp. From here on it is pumped hydraulically through the flotation cells. It is in here that the chemical separation of the stibnite and rock takes place. The ore being sulphide, is unwettable in water but it floated off by chemical reagents and indused air. The product from the cells is usually 65 per cent antimony. The waste sand and water are then discarded. The concentrates are then dried by vacuum filter and wood burning oven down to a moisture content of 3-4 per cent. The dry, black, powdered concentrate is then bagged in sugar bags of 150 lbs. each and consigned in 15 ton parcels to the smelter in Sydney. Here it is heated and the sulphur driven off as fumes. The resultant metal is tin-white, soft and heavy.

At this stage it is known as "Star Antimony" because of a fern like crystal marking on the surface. It is now sold to industry. It is alloyed with lead in many industrial uses and processes, chief of which is type-metal in the printing industry, giving a sharp fine type as compared with pure lead. Heavy industrial bearings (white metal) create a large demand for antimony. The motor trade is also

a large user in lead alloy in batteries and terminals. It is used in pewter making, medicine and cosmetics, with an increasing demand in the manufacture of opaque enamel ware, glass, and pottery. Even the humble safety match box has antimony as a striker on the outside.

Antimony is not always used alone, but rather as an alloy with other metals, mostly lead. It seems ironical that although small traces of lead are associated with antimony in nature, this must be separated before the full price can be obtained. This calls for skill and knowledge in metallurgy in order to obtain the highest available price. Like most base metals today, antimony is overproduced and the world price is depressed. It is only by efficient mining methods that this industry in Australia can compete with the large overseas producers with their cheap coolie labour and large natural deposits.

Heard This?

An English lady, self-appointed supervisor of village morals, accused a workman of having reverted to drink because "with her own eyes" she had seen his wheelbarrow standing outside a public house. The accused man made no verbal defence, but the same evening he placed his wheelbarrow outside her door and left it there all night.

* * *

A man with a large family was asked how come he had so many children. "My wife is deaf," was the reply.

"Your wife deaf? What's that got to do with it?" his friend said.

"At night I usually say to her, well dear, do you want to go to sleep or what? She says, What?"

* * *

New prospect: "So your name is Darlene Ingersoll. Are you by any chance related to the famous Ingersoll who makes the dollar watch?"

Darlene: "Well honey, not exactly. You see, the name is the same, and the price is the same . . . but the movement is different."