

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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Editorial

AN APPRECIATION

As Editor of our little journal I have repeatedly bashed on about the lack of co-operation and mail from our members.

At this juncture I must say that we seem to have leaped this hurdle and the result is an abundance of mail.

Whilst a lot of the letters were inspired by the recently conducted sweep, there are still a considerable number which have been written purely from a news sense. This augurs well for the coming year and I couldn't let this issue pass without expressing my appreciation to those who have found time to write.

You will all appreciate the tit-bits of news from afar and can look forward to more coverage from this source in the future.

—WILF MARCH, Editor.

West Australian Whisperings

GERALDTON CONVENTION CANCELLED

Owing to unforeseen circumstances the Geraldton Convention, which was to have been held during the long Easter weekend, has been cancelled.

Committee Comment

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Monash Club on Jan. 21. Those present were Messrs. Green, McDonald, March, Napier, Smith, Doig, Geere, Kirkwood, Carey and Holly.

The president declared the meeting open and the secretary read the minutes of our November meeting as we had not had a Committee meeting in December.

Mr. Doig moved that the min-

utes as read be accepted, seconded by Mr. Kirkwood and carried.

Business Arising:

Perth Cup Sweep:

Mr. Doig then spoke on the sweep and presented an account of the result of the sweep and the amount of donations and subs received along with the returned butts. As a result our financial position has improved considerably.

Mr. Green then moved that a vote of thanks be recorded to Mr. Doig for the excellent and efficient manner in which he organised and ran our sweep. Seconded by Mr. March and carried.

A discussion followed on the best time to run a sweep. Kalgoorlie, Melbourne and Perth Cups all came up for consideration. Mr. Doig then moved that all accounts paid by the secretary, treasurer and

sweep organiser be notified and all outstanding accounts be passed for payment. Seconded by Mr. Kirkwood and carried.

Children's Xmas Party:

Discussion on this was deferred to February.

Bucks' Xmas Party:

This was voted an outstanding night. All the artists who attended were of a very high standard, the refreshments were good and everyone who attended enjoyed themselves immensely. Our thanks to the following artists: Mr. Frank Fenn, Mr. Hank Ellis, Mr. Ron Westall and Mr. K. Christenson.

Honour Roll:

It was moved by Mr. Doig, seconded by Mr. Carey, that this matter be deferred to our next committee meeting.

Honour Avenue:

Our Warden (Mr. Holly) reported that the grass was growing O.K. but a busy bee was needed to clean up the area and mow the grass. Water restrictions were hampering things quite a bit, but on the whole there was quite an improvement since the top dressing had been carried out.

It was decided to hold a busy bee at King's Park on Sunday, Feb. 2. As a mower with a roller was needed Mr. Carey and the secretary were commissioned to procure same. A circular to metropolitan members was also to be sent out. "**Courier**":

Discussion took place again on the lack of news particularly from our Victorian and N.S.W. branches. Our president was requested to write to Mr. Callanan re happenings in Victoria.

General Business:

Mr. Doig spoke re budgetting for our future, as we could not go on the way we were nor could we hope for such a revival of finance as we had just experienced. He suggested forming a small committee for the purpose of working out a budget for each show and reporting to the main committee.

A ready discussion took place on this subject. Finally a show of hands decided against forming this committee.

Amenities to Country and City Members:

Mr. Doig spoke at some length on this subject. He stated that best sellers could now be obtained

in the paper covered series. These books could be bought at wholesale rates, which could be passed on to our members, and so supply good reading at a very reasonable cost. He proposed circularising members explaining the scheme fully and finding out how many were interested.

Mr. March spoke supporting Mr. Doig's idea.

February Meeting:

It was decided to devote a portion of this meeting to country business as we expected to have some country members present.

Following this a rifle shoot to take place. Two five gallon kegs to be obtained.

The president closed the meeting at 11.30 p.m.

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Monash Club on Tuesday, Feb. 18. Those present were Messrs. Green, McDonald, March, Smith Doig, Carey, Geere, Kirkwood and Bowen.

The president opened the meeting at 8.15 p.m. and the secretary read the minutes of the previous Committee meeting.

Children's Xmas Party:

This was the first matter to be discussed. As a look around the shops disclosed that books were now being sold at about two-thirds the price pre Christmas, it was suggested that our purchasing be done now. Several firms appeared to have a good line of books on display which were not in evidence before Christmas. It was finally decided that Mr. Doig be asked to investigate this matter further.

Methods of raising money to assist defray expenses of our Children's party were further discussed, and the matter of obtaining our own Fairy Floss machine came under consideration. It was decided that Mr. Doig and Mr. Green would take this matter in hand.

Consideration was also given to a change of venue for this party, but after some discussion no change was made.

Honour Avenue and Honour Roll:

It was decided to write to the Public Service Branch of the R.S.L. re extra trees and plaques. Mr. Col Hodson to be contacted re getting further names added to our Honour Roll.

The painting of our existing plaques was discussed at length as

also was the mowing of the grass in Lovekin Drive.

The Secretary was then instructed to write to the Kings Park Board re mowing our area in Lovekin Drive, and to ascertain what charge they would make and to offer payment 12 months in advance if necessary.

Monthly Meetings:

It was decided to send circulars to metropolitan members before each monthly meeting and this to continue until our annual general meeting. It was decided to hold an indoor bowls tournament for our March meeting.

April Meeting:

The secretary was instructed to contact Mr. Eric Smythe, re the possibilities of holding a Country Convention at Geraldton over the Easter period.

A further discussion on our library scheme then ensued. Methods of distribution and running same were discussed and the basis of a plan was formed. A further discussion to take place at our next Committee meeting.

Mr. Doig then moved that the minutes as read and discussed be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Bowden and carried.

Finance:

As the treasurer was not present no financial report was forthcoming

General Business:

Mr. Bowden moved that if extra beer was obtained for our monthly meetings the cost be borne by those members present, who shall be informed of that cost before the beer was obtained. Seconded by Mr. March and carried.

Mr. Doig then outlined a proposition submitted to him by Mr. Turton, this being that, at the correct time of the season a few of our city members go to Mr. Turton's farm for a weekend. While there, and under Mr. Turton's guidance, these members could sow 10 acres of oats, seed, super, and plant for doing this to be supplied by Mr. Turton. When this patch of crop was harvested and sold the proceeds to go to our Association funds. Quite a lot of discussion took place on this subject and Mr. Bowden then moved that Mr. Turton be thanked and his offer accepted, and that Country Vice Presidents be advised of this proposition and their good offices be used

to get any other farmer, who is prepared to assist the Association in this manner, in this or future years. Seconded by Mr. Doig and carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from Tex Richards, of Tasmania, which will be published in the "Courier".

The president reported having written to Mr. Callanan but as yet no reply had been received.

The meeting closed at 11.15 p.m.

Association Activities

FEBRUARY MEETING

We had a crackerjack night of it on Tuesday, Feb. 4. A good roll-up of members ensured a good evening—and they made the best of it.

An impromptu sports night was put on and the usual keenness was displayed throughout the games.

Rifle shooting at the miniature range proved very popular and some good cards were returned. The standard of shooting wasn't quite as good as last time—probably due to the absence of the wily Mick Calcutt who has the happy knack of seeing through the beery haze and hitting his target with good results.

It was a pleasant surprise to see country visitors in Stan Sadler, Fred Humphreys and "Huddy" enjoying themselves.

A drop of the doings, biscuits and cheese helped along a very pleasant "do". There should be more of them.

BUSY BEE

Held at King's Park on Sunday morning, Feb. 2.

As 18 members turned up a lot of very good work was done. This consisted mainly of raking and weed ing the whole of our area (which is quite considerable) and then top dressing that area with super donated by Reg Harrington.

Unfortunately the mower we had refused to mow. Being Sunday I think the motor wanted a spell. After much tinkering with its innards and a lot of good advice from the sidelines, the fault was finally located in the ignition system. As nobody seemed to have a spare handful of sparks the mower sat forlornly on the side of the road

until it was finally loaded aboard a utility and sent home.

It was really good to see some of the old gang whom we hadn't seen around for quite a while and when refreshments were opened quite a picnic atmosphere prevailed. A couple of the boys had bad luck—they had to go home early.

Those present were Messrs. Friend, Ryan, Doig, Dook, Smith, Green, Carey, Cantrill, Bowden, Holly (who brought along a friend whose name I can't remember), Haire, Kirkwood, Boyland, Sproxtion, Anderson, Napier, Geere and Epps.

Apologies were received from Wilf March, who unfortunately could not make it, Perc Hancock, whose wife was ill, and Perc McPhee, who only came out of hospital on Saturday, Feb. 1.

ANNUAL BOWLS NIGHT

Our March meeting took the form of what has now become our annual bowls night, and a very good night's fun was enjoyed by all who attended.

There was the usual amount of refreshments present, which of course was disposed of in our usual efficient manner.

While waiting for the boys to turn up most of us took advantage of the spare time to welcome Ray Aitken back to the fold.

Ray now has charge of a school in the metropolitan area and we are looking forward to seeing quite a lot of him in the future, not that there is not a lot of him now. As an advert for country life he is a beauty.

When finally the serious business of bowling was given priority Sprig McDonald produced a set of biased bowls and away things went with a swing. Many close finishes were in evidence and Fred Napier's method of measuring with his size X.O.S. boots came in for a certain amount of criticism.

The championship was played off between Col Doig and Ron Kirkwood. Ron ran out the winner and to him goes our heartiest congratulations.

Noticed doing some coaching on the side was Mick Calcutt. He looks well and is still the same Mick as we always knew. Good to see you there again Mick and we all hope to see you more often.

Alby Friend, Harry Sproxtion, Curly Bowden, Sprig McDonald, Dick Geere, Ron Kirkwood, Fred Napier, Col Doig, George Boyland, Slim Holly, Gerry Green, Jack Carey, Ray Aitken and yours truly, were also present. In all a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

FERTILISER FUND

Our Fertiliser Fund is in quite a healthy state thanks to you generous donors.

The latest to join the list is Gordon Holmes, of Cranbrook.

SWEEP

Once again the annual sweep conducted by your Association to rehabilitate the finances has been successfully concluded.

Thanks to all those sellers who co-operated so magnificently, a record financial result appears to be certain. A profit in excess of £270 on the sweep will put the Association's finances back on an even keel for the rest of this financial year.

Great thanks are due to all those members who also saw fit to make donations to assist the Association to meet pressing obligations towards the Children's Xmas Party and other functions.

It is becoming more apparent each year that a successful result from the sweep is essential if our organisation is to carry on with the programme that has become normal to each year's operations. As everyone should be aware, the money received from subscriptions is but a drop in the ocean against the expenditure for a year's functions.

As organiser of the sweep, I would like to thank everyone who helped in any shape or form to make this job a little easier. There are a few books still outstanding and those persons have been advised to return their books for audit purposes, but generally speaking the return of butts and money was most prompt. All sellers have been advised the result of the draw so that will not be repeated here. All I can hope is that the sweep organiser next year has the same healthy co-operation that was extended to me this year. Thanks to all once again.

—C. D. DOIG.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember that instructor at Canungra who shot through to follow us overseas to New Guinea and although posted A.W.L. was forgiven and stayed with us? He was a school teacher before joining up. I can't recall his name, but he was a Sgt.-Instructor at Canungra when our Unit was put through the jungle training course after Timor. For some time he had been brooding on the fact that he was instructing and teaching jungle fighting to mostly veteran troops, either from the M.E. or from the islands, and he, the instructor, hadn't been overseas (in spite of numerous applications to do so, the answer was always that he was indispensable). Although he appreciated the fact that he could and did impart a lot of excellent theoretical knowledge which was beneficial to even veterans, he still thought it wrong that he hadn't experienced actual active service. So, after we had passed through and left for N.G., he fronted his C.O., a Major, and informed him that, as his applications for transfer were a waste of time, he was shooting through to join our Unit. The Major had a high regard for him and must have been a decent understanding sort, as he wished him the best and said he would not report him missing until he had to.

So the Sgt. set off to Eaglehawk aerodrome where he talked himself into a ride in a Mitchell Bomber escorting a flight of Thunderbolts to New Guinea. An hour or so after, one of the fighters, fooling around, sheered off the tail of the Mitchell and both crashed. Our bloke, with a lot of luck, suffered only a few bumps and scratches and on being taken to a Yank hospital was treated well, his secret kept and sneaked on board a Douglas for N.G. From Port Moresby he hitched a ride to Dumpu and tailed on the end of a ration party. He walked into our camp at Isareba and said to the Boss: "I'm Sgt. _____, sir. I'm A.W.L. from Canungra and want to join your Unit. Will you do what you can for me?" The Boss agreed and (to cut the story short) managed with the help no doubt, of the Sgt.'s former bosses, to squash all charges and take him on strength. He proved a worthy addition to our Unit and

went through the remainder of this campaign with us. When we were withdrawn, the M.O. vetted us all and weeded out some who were unfit for further active service for various reasons. Amongst these was _____ who was "too old" by our standards. So regretfully (on his and our side too) he took leave of us.

A year or so later we were in New Britain; one day a Lieutenant in the N.G.V.R. called to my tent looking for the M.O. and I recognised _____. His desire was to front the Doc and say "Not bad for an old bloke, eh?" at the same time flashing the M.M. he had on his shirt. Yes, on leaving us in N.G. that time, he transferred to the N.G.V.R., got his pips and won his decoration by raiding a Jap camp, personally clobbering a Jap and getting him back alive to base—you know how badly we wanted live Japs then.

Well, that's it, and I hope the details are mainly correct. I can't remember his name and haven't heard of him since. Have you?

Personalities

A little bird told me that Ray Aitken is at last coming back to the city. Ray has been teaching in the country for quite a while with the consequent loss of his presence at our meetings, etc. We can sure use a man of Ray's ready wits to brighten up the proceedings. Welcome home, Ray. We'll be seeing you.

Rolf "Baldy" Baldwin passed through Fremantle the other day and contacted the "Bull" and a couple of others and had a good chat over old times. I would have liked to have met him again after all these years but like so many others we couldn't make it. Welcome home to Aussie to you too, Rolf. We all hope that your trip abroad has greatly benefitted you.

Colin Doig is enjoying a well-earned respite and has gone on leave for three weeks. Look out chaps, the Doig could pop up anywhere now.

Geoff Laidlaw has recently been promoted to assistant manager for Ampol Petroleum Ltd., W.A. branch. He previously held the position of sales manager.

LEST WE FORGET

JANUARY

Cole, Tpr. A. J., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 7, 1944, age 33.
Hopper, Lt. P., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 27, 1944, age 28.
Ramshaw, Tpr. D., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 10, 1944, age 20.
Beardman, Tpr. R. L., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 10, 1944, age 22.

FEBRUARY

Airey, Pte. Donald H., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 21.
Alford, Pte. Frank J., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 21.
Gannon, Sig. B. I., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 29.
Lane, Pte. A. J., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 21.
Murray, Pte. R. H., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 23.
Pollard, Pte. J. A., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 22.
Simpson, Cpl. J. F., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 36.
Walker, S/Sgt. J. W., died as P.O.W., Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 23.
Chalmers, Pte. R., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 23.
Chiswell, Sgt. G. A., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 23.
Stanton, Pte. C. L., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 22.
Marriott, Pte. H. W., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 35.
Hogg, Pte. K. T., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 22.
Crowder, Pte. F. T., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 25.
Alexander, Pte. R. G., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 24.
Smith, Pte. Fred C., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942, age 20.

MARCH

Mitchell, Pte. E. H., killed in action, Timor, March 2, 1942, age 35.
Stewart, Cpl. Alex, killed in action, New Guinea, March 19, 1944, age 24.
Mulqueeny, Pte. G., killed on service, Queensland, March 22, 1943, age 37.
Knight, Pte. P., killed in action, Timor, March 2, 1942, age 31.

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"THE KNIGHT"

For the good of Cairns and the near hinterland the local constabulary decided that Big Paddy Knight's room was moved on to pastures dryer, turning up at Mt. Isa. The Isa always had a big "Murrum" game going at the local "Johnny Eight Legs" Saloon and numberless small card games in back rooms all over town. The "Murrum" game was distinctly for those in the "dough" as the normal "two hob" in which is usually considered to be a millionaires' game was reefered in by the boy in control of the leather bottle and was his charge for table, light, wear and tear on the baize and voice and to pay for protection. The players' side bet on their allies to the tune of hundreds. But as it was usually about the same 20 who played most of the time the money went round and round and the "marble monkey" kept the moss from growing on it.

Paddy, always the inveterate gambler, was not enough in the chips for the "murrum" so decided on one of the poker games to improve his finances. It did not take many hands for Paddy to decide that he was in distinctly bad company as most of the gentry by their furtive actions showed that they and "Mr. Hoyle" had parted company years ago. Waiting until he was reasonably sure of one of the boys palming a card he slammed out a ham like hand on the player's hand, jamming it on the table while he took a hook at his jaw with his other mitt remarking: "The trouble with you jokers is you don't seem to be a wake-up I'm cross-eyed, when you thought I was looking out the window I was looking right down your teeth."

Suddenly remembering forgotten appointments the game broke up with Paddy's finances very little improved. —"Seedy"

An Address You May Need:

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

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

Random Harvest

Ron Spriggs, of 60 Hill-st., Albany, writes:

Just a few lines in with sweep butts and cheque. Hope sweep is a great success. The little extra can bring my subs up and if any left can be put to whichever you think most needed. I have received my "Courier" and also circular from Bert Burges which I must answer tonight also. I am hoping to see some of the boys in Albany this holidays and would be only too pleased to have a little get together as Bert suggested if can be arranged. My house would always be available. I have been a very busy chap these last few weeks, have had to get the sewerage on so had to do quite a bit of alterations and additions, but my word it's worth it now that it's on although I still have a lot of finishing off to do. We also got a hot water system installed. Don't know how we did without it. We have also had our share of the flu. I had it twice, the last time both Win and I together. I lost a lot of weight but am starting to feel right on top again now. Would you please note that my house number is 60, you have been advised of this a couple of times but my mail is still being addressed to 42 Hill-st.

I went up to Wagin for the weekend last week. Had not seen Mum and Dad for some months. Mum is well but poor old Dad is getting very old and shaky now. Has just returned from doctor in Perth and he has parkinsons disease. Of course he has not been told. Nothing can be done only pills to relieve it. I am hoping to be off Christmas day and able to go up.

Well, I must away have had some very hot weather for this time of the year here and like everywhere else is terribly dry. water restrictions, etc., no shortage of water, just unable to keep up the supply.

(Received cheque O.K. and will make the alteration to your address. —Editor.)

John and Jean Fowler, of Box 73, Wongan Hills, writes:

The summer time isn't so good for us. The days are too long and the nights far too short. Otherwise everything is going along nicely.

We are hoping to finish our harvest by Christmas, so long as the weather is not too hot, as there is a ban put on us, "no harvesting" while the temperature soars, and believe me the last few days made me feel I was back in New Guinea.

I enjoyed a couple of beers while it was hot.

Christmas parties are on now. We had one R.S.L. party at Bindi Bindi, managed 25 gallons. We have our own R.S.L. Christmas party in Wongan next Thursday night.

Sorry we didn't make the Kiddies' Christmas Tree as we had intended to, but unfortunately for us, we had visitors on the Saturday night and Sunday. We could not say go home, anyway may make it next year.

We are having a lucky harvest this year, only a very wet June, but it carried our heavy country through and we will finish up with over a six bag average.

(Well John and Jean, you seem to have had quite a good Christmas —nothing like it, is there? Six bag crop seems to be very satisfactory so you will be able to eat for a while yet. Bad luck missing the Christmas tree but it's just one of those things that couldn't be helped.—Editor.)

In a letter to Colin Doig, Don Hudson, of No. 7 Line Party, P.M.G., writes:

Howdy cock old chap, and how are tricks? O.K.? I hope so at any rate.

Glad I received the tickets on time, but I move around quite a bit so was lucky indeed to get them.

I received them two days ago, so half to myself and the rest I shall sell this morning.

Have not seen any of the boys around for some time, but will be down sometime early February.

I missed seeing Freddie Griffiths when I was in Onslow by only a few hours. I would have liked to have knocked over a few snorts with the boy.

Oh yes, it might interest some to know that I met and imbibed in a few schooners with the one and only Buck Peters in Wittenoom a

few months ago. He had just started machine mining there.

Well, Colin, hoping this scribble can be read and understood. Will sign off wishing you and all the boys a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

(Don't forget to look us up in February Don. Glad you was able to see Buck Peters and knock a couple over but you certainly were unlucky to miss Fred Griffiths. Haven't seen Fred for some time now. He was expected in Perth around Christmas but couldn't say if he made it.—Editor.)

Charlie Sadler, of Box 24 Wongan Hills, writes:

I am sorry that I have not returned my sweep butts before this. However better late than never. The money that is over can go to the Children's Christmas Party. We have completed our harvest and considering the season are quite satisfied. It has been very hot up here over the last few days and we are anxiously awaiting a cool change.

We will be down at Rockingham about Jan. 8 for three weeks so may see some of the boys then.

I was over at Bolgart about a month ago playing tennis. Had hoped to see Reg Harrington, but evidently Reg must have retired from the tennis game.

Well this will have to do for this time. Cheerio.

(Sweep butts received along with donation to the Christmas Tree. Thanks Charlie, I am sure we all appreciate these donations a great deal.—Editor.)

Ted Monk, of Tatham, writes:

Please find enclosed sweep butts and cheque for £3 being £1 for sweep tickets, £1 for subs. and the remaining £1 for Association funds.

Have just completed harvest, the results are very poor and disappointing this season owing to the lack of finishing rains. The only thing flourishing up this part of the world is the vermin. "The galahs gather the grain, the emus eat the wheat, while the roos do the rumba in the rye." Maybe by next season they will be doing the rock 'n roll.

Very pleased to note the "Courier" is to remain a monthly paper as it keeps us in close contact with

members and all Association activities, but as for finding news to contribute towards the "Courier" I find it hard, guess I have plenty of mates there!

Regarding the annual Re-union held in August, regret I was unable to attend owing to shearing. I find it hard to get away at that time of the year. As far as I am concerned February is the most suitable time for me. The work is finished, the weather is hot and the thirst is greater.

In signing off I would like to wish all members the very best for the festive season and a happy and prosperous New Year.

(Well Ted, you certainly seem to have an axe to grind regarding the vermin angle. We will have to have a working bee up your way and put in a few days' shooting. As for the "Courier" being published monthly, you can rest assured that as long as I have a say in it I will always plug along those lines.—Editor.)

Letter to Arthur Smith from Lionel Woodhead, secretary Cav. Commando Association, 59 Park Tce., Hillside, S.A.:

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still in the pink and after quite a few frogs have decided that there is a Murray River after all.

Since our arrival back from the Olympic Games I'm afraid I have not seen Karl Marks but have seen Bob Williamson a couple of times.

Thanks for sending me the "Courier" as I am most interested and I will take my copy and pass it on to Tom Foster in case he has not received his copy as he changes his address quite frequently and is hard to catch up with.

However he is on a property down the Coorong South East and I am going down to look him up this weekend. I can assure you boys that all is well with Tom and family.

I am sending this note with Pop Gelkin whom you met at the Flinders Park R.S.L. and am sure you will give him a welcome.

Remember our sojourn at Kev Curran's pub? Have you ever forgotten the welcome we received? A typical Independent Coy. spirit.

There is one little item of interest to you fellows over there and that is that Allan Hollow is the fa-

ther of another son and incidentally that is the fifth son so he is doing another good job for Australia. Father, mother and sons all doing well.

You know, Arthur, that an invitation is always open to any of your members who happen to be over here at any time especially at Anzac time when we have a good re-union and friends are easy to find.

Once again thanking you and your committee for the "Courier" and sending the regards of our Commando Association to you all.

Gordon Holmes, of Cranbrook, writes:

I am enclosing the sweep butts and cheque. Please put the extra to my overdue subs, also a telegram and what is over to the fertiliser fund. I am sorry I can't make the cheque larger but with trying to make a farm and keep an old bomb running it strains my finances a bit though it should not be so bad next year as I have managed to stock my block now so it is beginning to be a farm.

(Your cheque to hand Gordon, and thanks ever so much for your generosity in making a donation to the Fertiliser Fund. It is all the more generous when you are yourself having a bit of a financial battle. I sincerely hope that your prediction of a better year to follow will be borne out.—Editor.)

Tom Crouch, of "Burnside," Donnelly Mail, Mangimup, writes:

Enclosed is a few bob to cover tickets and a little to put into general funds. I'm not worried about catching the draw but thought the Lotteries Commission may want an account of tickets sold and otherwise. Am as busy as blazes, should be a law against. Will write in more detail later.

Best wishes for Christmas and a New Year to you and all the rest of the Executive Committee.

(Thanks for ticket butts and donation Tom. Cash will be put to good account. Awaiting your next letter when spare time will not be at such a premium.—Editor.)

Eric Thornander, of 8 Venn Street, Collie, writes:

Find enclosed sweep butts and £2.

I will be leaving Collie for Kalgoorlie, via Merredin, on Monday, but will return via Perth. Possibly I may run into some of you city blokes. Although I drink very little these days I guess it would be a case of let the old hair down.

My regards and seasonal greetings to all the lads.

(I didn't see you when you hit the big smoke but hope that you were able to strike a couple of the boys and have a noggin or two. How's life treating you these days, Eric? Seems ages since I saw you. Will have to do something about that won't we?—Editor.)

Stan Sadler, of Wongan Hills, writes:

Please find enclosed butts, also cheque to cover same. Balance to go towards the expense of the Christmas party.

Sorry to be so late with the sweep butts. I put them in a drawer and promptly forgot about them.

We've finished harvesting and are happy with the results. By no means a bumper crop, but after seven inches of rain last June and practically none in Sept. or Oct. to finish the crop the 143 bushels per acre (wheat) was above expectations.

The 2/2nd is well represented on this place. Woc Crossing is with us. He is learning the ropes of this farming game, or what we can teach him at any rate.

It's been as hot as hades the last few days and today has topped it off. Hot northerly wind blowing. I am pleased to see that quite a lot of road boards banned harvesting and the use of tractors and trucks in the paddocks today. Evidently the Wongan Board thought it was safe, for they didn't take part in the ban. It was on such a day as today that we were burnt out in 1947. A spark from a tractor five miles north of us and in about half an hour the fire was right through our place and went on another 10 miles before being stopped. That's why I'm so decidedly in favour of the ban on dangerous days.

Will be down near Perth for holidays from the middle of January for three weeks, so hope to see some of you city blokes then.

(Will look out for Blanche and you in the city area Stan and hope that your well-earned rest will be

enjoyed by all. Harvest conditions being what they are this year your 14½ bushels wasn't so bad after all was it? Regards to Woc Crossing and all in your area.—Editor.)

Norma and Dick Crossing, of Box 76, Goomalling, write:

Thank you very much for the lovely books you sent for Christmas. The children were very thrilled with them. It amazes me how you always manage to pick out such suitable books for their ages.

We have finished harvesting now, but the yield wasn't up to expectations, but it seems to be the same throughout the district despite reports on the news to the contrary.

We look forward very much to receiving the "Courier" every month and hope it will go on.

Wishing you all a very prosperous New Year.

(We are happy to know that the kiddies' Christmas parcel arrived O.K. and that they proved satisfactory. Bad luck about the crops but that is only one of the trials and tribulations you poor cockies have to put up with. As far as the "Courier" is concerned we are only too happy to continue with it and appreciate the few lines you country folk write from time to time.—Editor.)

Bill Drage, of Box 117 Northampton, writes:

I am a little late returning these sweep butts. They say better late than never. I hope the sweep is a great success.

Things are pretty good up here in this neck of the woods, the ale very nice and cold. The harvesting is finished, counted and spent.

Haven't seen any of the boys for some time. I was in Perth about a month ago, only for two days. The only one of the lads I saw was Joe Poynton. Never had an ale with him as he was on his way to Bunbury on a weekend with his rugby team.

Well can't think of any more at the moment so will wish you all the best.

(Received butts O.K. Bill and pleased to report that sweep was successful. Reported elsewhere in "Courier". Sorry we didn't see anything of you when in Perth but have one of those cool Northampton ales for me when in town.—Editor.)

Shirley Alexander, of 48 York St., Boulder, writes:

As usual Peter has left everything until the last minute and even though it's washing day and an estimated temperature of 109 deg. poor old mum has to drop everything and race off to the post office to send his sweep butts which have been lying for a week waiting on him to get rid of them. I am also enclosing £1 for subs. He probably owes more as I can't remember him sending any for ages. Anyway you can let us know.

We will be spending our holidays down your way next month so he will probably look you up.

Must close now wishing you the compliments of the season also that the sweep is a big success.

(During the war a common saying was, "Thank God we've got a navy". I am sure that Peter has coined his own phrase to, "Thank God I've got a wife!" You will have to stir him up and make him do his own correspondence. Anyway, thanks Shirley, and hope to see you both in Perth.—Editor.)

Bernard ("Peter") Barden, of 6GN, Geraldton, P.O. Box 310, writes:

Please find attached butts of my sweep book, together with a £1 note representing the 20 tickets sold.

First of all I would like to ask you to see that my "Courier" is sent to me at my correct address, because it's still being sent to me c/- "The Greenough Sun" at Mull-ewa. There has also been a mix up with my initials, so here's the correct address: B. J. Barden, 6GN, Box 310, Geraldton.

I would point out that some 14 months ago I gave up my job as editor-manager of two weekly country newspapers, the "Greenough Sun" and the "Geraldton Sun" in favour of my present position of Regional Journalist for the Australian Broadcasting Commission with my office in Geraldton. If any of the boys are in Geraldton, don't hesitate to pop in; our office is situated on a spot which is easy to remember—it's right opposite the Murchison Inn in Eleanor-st. I am a committee member of the Geraldton R.S.L., of which Jack Denman is also an active member. Jack is the Immediate Past President and is on a sub-committee which is

working to get a C.M.F. unit re-established here (they closed down the 10th Light Horse Squadron because of the high cost of running armoured vehicles, etc.). The actual type of unit has not been decided but don't be surprised if it includes some of the features associated with the good old double-ered diamond Unit.

Just one more mention about "Yours Truly" before getting onto something of more interest. In a four candidate contest I was recently successful in an election to represent the West Ward on the Geraldton Municipal Council.

Now onto some news about other members in the Geraldton area.

JOE BRAND: Is President of Northampton R.S.L., which recently built a memorial hall in the town. Sad to say that Joe's wife has been ill, but pleasing to relate that she's now convalescing. Joe put her on the "Manunda" the other day for a trip to Queensland, and when he returned to Geraldton he was met at the airport by JACK DENMAN. Joe says the crops are fair out Ogilvie way, where he's farming.

BILL DRAGE: Of "White Water" farm, Northampton, is one of the lucky ones. With his wife he's on a vacation at Horrock's Beach, where like many of the Northampton farmers he has his own beach cottage.

"BRUSH" FAGG was noticed enjoying himself at an R.S.L. Auxiliary Christmas function in Northampton the other night. He's the immediate past secretary of the R.S.L. in Northampton.

Now back to JACK DENMAN: He is President of the Torchbearers for Legacy in Geraldton. Has not been enjoying the best of health and has been told to quieten down and take it easy. Has now been appointed Assistant Manager Northern District for Vacuum Oil Coy., and is stationed at the district office in Geraldton, so hearty congrats. Jack on your appointment.

ERIC SMYTH: Has got back into his old love of yachting after being an active member of the Surf Club last year. He's in the crew of a Flying Dutchman yacht, and I believe it was a bit hard on the hands after the life he's been leading.

"NIP" CUNNINGHAM: Somewhat of a "dark horse". Even his brother Bill (who is the R.S.L. Presi-

dent) doesn't know much about him. However, Bill says "Nip" was on the square for a couple of months after having a bad bout of arthritis, but says the hot weather eventually got the best of him.

"IRISH" HOPKINS: Has been barman at the Club Hotel, Mullewa, for a long time now (he had previously been at Shephard's Hotel in Geraldton) and they tell me he's a very popular barman.

BERNIE GILES: Is doing a mighty job as foreman of the Geraldton Building Co., which is the biggest building company outside Perth and employs well over 100 men. They recently erected a new building for the National Bank, which is a real credit to the workmen, and Bernie is at present supervising—and of course doing his share of the hard work, too—the erection of a home which will cost about £9,000 (no half measures in Geraldton, you know).

I will conclude with a little friendly hint to those trying to grow grass in Honour Avenue. The summer is the best growing time, but it needs plenty of water during that time. In Geraldton we have established beautiful lawns with couch on sandy land, and the essential requirement is lots of water in the summer. Could it be we are better gardeners in Geraldton?

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and tons of dough in the New Year.

(Have made a note of your new address and hope that your "Courier" reaches you a lot sooner. A very newsy letter and greatly appreciated by all. We will be very happy to hear from you when you can manage the time.—Editor.)

Eddie Rowe, of Pine Creek, Canungra, Queensland, writes to Jerry Green:

No doubt you will get a surprise hearing from me. Quite a few years have gone by but I still think you would remember me.

To start with I am farming. I have my own dairy farm, seven mile from Canungra. You may remember I was married while camped at Strathpine. We have three children, all going to school, two boys and a girl the eldest being 12 years.

When discharged from the army I took on share farming, saved a bit of money and purchased my own

farm two years ago. Quite a good place, 330 acres, good scrub land.

I've been receiving the "Courier" and enjoy reading it very much and no doubt it keeps good memories of the boys, it makes one wish we could make one big re-union and meet all the boys once again.

It is a big camp at Canungra now their last camp before going to Malaya. I had a night out at the canteen with Charlie Anderson, before he went away, bad luck for Charlie as he was such a good digger. Also had a night out with Jack Stafford. He was also doing the course. He was a W.O., that was before he left to go to Sydney. He looked well.

Two years ago I turned my car over down near the army camp, results, a broken neck, in plaster for a few months, but no after effects. Extra well again. Ian McPhee was one of the doctors who attended me one of the main doctors on the Terrace in Brisbane now. We had quite a good yarn, said I was very lucky. Russ Symons was living in Canungra then. Had a taxi run. One couldn't expect more from a brother than what Russ did for me. How are Col Doig, Alec Thompson, Ted Loud, Dud Tapper, also the rest of the boys? Please give them all my regards.

Well Gerry, I'll close now wishing you and all the gang a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

(Eddie, Gerry has passed this letter on for publication in the "Courier". Good to hear that one of the boys in doing well and I will welcome a letter from you again in the near future.—Editor.)

Margaret and Eric Weller, of Kondinin, write:

As per usual it is handed to me to use the pen as nothing I know of will convince my husband this is his duty.

Firstly I would like to apologise about the tickets. I lost the book but I am enclosing a cheque to cover the amount. I have not yet stopped shaking in my shoes from the things that man of mine said about women especially ones like me. To make it worse I had forgotten to order another cheque book and that left me with no means of sending it on to you as we have shifted down to Kondinin it takes a mighty long time to get mail to and from Northam. The

word cheque is taboo in this family at the moment.

Thank you very much for the books for the children. They arrived here on Christmas eve and Tony sleeps with his. He has a lot of trouble with his small sister who swipes anything he leaves in sight. We had Christmas in Kondinin. It was quite a nice day. We intended to come down for the Christmas Party but as a load of timber arrived at Kondinin that day we had to come over here and unload it instead.

Tony fell off the truck and had to have three stitches in his head. Fortunately the truck wasn't going but it still gave us a nasty shock, but it hasn't taught him any sense as he has climbed and fallen twice since then without apparent harm.

The heat over here is really trying. We went swimming over at Gorge Rock which is about half way between here and Corrigin. It was lovely and we intend to go again on Sunday.

Patrica the oldest of our three, has learned to swim and now we are trying to get Tony going but he resembles a stove and goes to the bottom. Ann won't even go out further than her ankles.

We will be going to Pingelly from here. I threatened dire harm to Eric if he doesn't contract for jobs in cooler places but he says that we haven't been there before and we'd better have a look at the place. It's a place I'd rather not look at too long.

Eric is keeping in much better health than he has for many years and I am keeping my fingers crossed that he stays that way.

We would like to express our appreciation of the "Courier" and how much we look forward to its arrival.

I received a letter from Mac McQueen's wife and I thought you may be interested to hear she has now remarried and is Mrs. Fred Cox. Her little boy is doing well at school.

Re suggestions for functions. I don't know about everybody but as most of the Unit are married men with family obligations and most men will decide against spending money when it is for their amusement, will more readily attend a function which they can take their families to, they don't feel they

have to save the consciences and mum never minds if the burglars break in so long as she doesn't have to greet him on arrival. Then there are always the children and the eternal question of who will mind the children. For some we realise there's grandma but for many there is no grandma, so pop stays home and greets the burglar and keeps off mum's fears and the poor old Unit doesn't get good attendances whereas a picnic on a Sunday to some easily accessible place where the fares aren't exorbitant for those who must rely on public transport would provide the men a get together, mum a change and an outing for the children who expect to be taken somewhere on Sunday anyway. Most families take picnic lunches some place and it costs them fares so they would not be particularly out of pocket and then an awful lot have vehicles and would be able to give lifts home to those who hadn't even if it meant going out of their way a little because after all they're old mates. Enough said.

I am enclosing cheque, wishing all the best. The rest for fees and what have you.

(Well that certainly was a long letter. We can do with plenty of these as news is always acceptable. Received cheque with thanks and hope that your tripping around the country side eventually finds you in some place where it is cooler.—Editor.)

Steve Rogers, of Bakery, Burracopin, writes:

Have just received the latest issue of the "Courier" and a guilty conscience working overtime has caused the writing of this epistle.

Firstly enclosed please find a cheque for £5 and two books of sweep butts. Please put the odd £3 into what ever section of Association funds that suits best. Have to report seeing Don Murray a few days back. We went straight down to the local tea-house, started at Foster and worked our way right through, aided by copious draughts of cold tea it didn't take too long (just the bare three hours—and was I very crook next morning!).

Don tells me that Arch Campbell has joined Ampol. After listening to the tasty line that Arch used to dish up on the wireless on Satur-

days I'm sure he will do extra well with Ampol. The tragic tone in his voice the day East Perth lost the premiership was worthy of Laurence Olivier, anyway if Arch ever comes up our way I'll be looking forward to seeing him and having a beer or two. Talking of beer, if you ever run into that well known business tycoon "Batting Joe Burrige" you might remind him that I have not forgotten that he owes me a dozen bottles of beer—due to rather a rash wager made one morning on the Dilli aerodrome—and that although I am a long way from Perth and have been unable to collect, like McArthur, "I will return!"

The only other Association member I see much of is Mal Nichols. Mal was the local storekeeper here but has sold out and now farms a place about eight miles out of town. He is in the pink. We often have a few beers together.

Gordon Rowley's letter interested me, old "Tuan Crow" must weigh about 16 stone now. He says he is getting three good meals a day, and if I remember correctly his idea of a good meal was enough to feed about three men. Anyway I'm glad to know he's doing so well.

As from the new year my address will be Bakery, Southern Cross. I have bought the baker out up there and am closing this place and merging both businesses and running it all from "The Cross". So I will have enough work and worry to keep me out of mischief for the next few years. If any of the boys are ever passing through Southern Cross I'll be pleased to see them. Always a feed and a bunk available.

Re publishing the "Courier". I am one of those country members who really appreciate the "Courier", and will do my best to become a regular correspondent from now on. I don't know what I'll ever find to write about, but I'll try.

Saw Fred Humphries some months ago, his address is now Bakery, Norseman.

Well this is all for now. Regards to all the boys.

(Have noted those new addresses in your letter and thanks for cheque. Things seem to be going pretty well in the baking business so that's O.K.—Editor.)

Reg. Harrington, Wyening, writes: Just a very hurried note to enclose the sweep butts. I only received your request for an earlier delivery of butts yesterday so have had no chance to return them sooner. The earliest possible time is to send them with our builders who are going to Perth tomorrow. I'm sorry but it was quite unavoidable.

The last tile is to be laid on our new home today so that is one mile stone and is considered the half-way mark so we are celebrating with a couple of fives and a few in to have a drink on the spot. A rough time will have been had by any who try walking through the house unless they are capable of walking on floor joists. Just a quick description of the dwelling. It is of Clackline brick, built on the 4 more or less with blue and black tiles and counting all in, that is wash house, bath, office, pantry, there are 11 rooms. As a matter of fact just now is the first time I have really reckoned up exactly how many. We may not be broke when it is finished but frightfully bent, but we are no strangers to that feeling and one will be able to

worry about it in more comfort than usual.

Pardon me if I seem to dwell rather long on this house project, but believe me one hasn't much time to raise his mind above much else.

Nevertheless life must still go on. We had just got nicely started with the harvest when my man got apendicitis. I have lost three cows and five calves at various stages, all due to calving difficulties and at this moment I am hurrying through this to go and deliver the second half of a set of twins. The mother is only a youngster herself and she got rid of one and on the way with the other and we've already got one pet one so it is imperative to save the cow.

Well enough of this rambling. Wish all the boys all the very best for Christmas on our behalf. It is Dot's one big regret that we couldn't get to the Ladies' Night as she considers it her most enjoyable engagement of the year.

(Hope that house is finished by now Reg. Have to have another couple of fives to really wet its head.—Editor.)

Victorian Vocal Venturings

After quite a drought of news I am endeavouring to make amends and catch up on affairs.

Firstly our last Melbourne Cup sweep which was drawn on the Thursday before the Cup at our usual venue—the George-st. Drill Hall—was its usual great success both financially and socially and we had a good mustering of members. The draw went very smoothly with our usual teamwork and good organisation. N.S.W. we are very pleased to say, had a much better result with the selling of tickets and they also got their fair share of horses. Refreshments were served during operations and the night was a very good one.

We held a Committee meeting during November when we finalised arrangements for the Christmas treat at the Bonbeach Lifesaving Club for the first Saturday in December.

Our Xmas treat this year was our best ever the weather treating us

a little better and we managed to spend a bit more time out on the beach and had a treasure hunt and races for the kiddies and the usual presents distributed throughout the afternoon dispersed with soft drinks ice creams and lollies and the mothers had their afternoon tea and a box of chocolates. We had a much bigger attendance this time, and it was good to see the new faces. Then Monk and family made the trip from Koowong. They never miss this Christmas treat which I think speaks well for the work that is put into it and make it well worth while. George Veitch and family are another who travel a distance and never miss out. Was nice to see Gery McKenzie' wife along. Was looking very well too. Max Davies and helpers did a good job on the drinks and afternoon teas, and Des Williams was doing his usual power of work amongst the kids. Joan Stanley (Gordon's wife) made her

final appearance for some time with the kiddies. Gordon has taken a job in Tasmania with the Hydro Electric Commission (he is O.C. communications for the North of Tassie) and knowing Gordon he will make a success of it. Joan and family went over to join Gordon just after Christmas, and as I was in Tassie about three weeks ago I dropped in to see them and they are all very happily settled in a house provided by the Commission with a very nice view of the Tasman River from the kitchen window, and the bush is only a little way from the front of the house. Gordon asked me to let the boys know where he is and if anybody is ever over his way they are very welcome. His address is 34 Gray-st., Marawaylee, Launceston, Tasmania. Also saw Vic Pacey in Hobart. He is also with the Hydro Commission so our boys have got the apple isle sown up. Vic is looking his usual hearty self still gets that twinkle in the eye over a glass of ale. Sends his regards to all the boys.

Self and family spent a very enjoyable few days after Christmas with Ken and Margaret Monk on their farm at Poowong East. Learnt first hand just how hard these cow cockies really work—but I reneged on the early rising to milk cows. Makes the day too long getting up at some ridiculously early hour. Ken has a very nice place and it is a credit to him and reflects the hard work he has put into it to build it up from scratch. Ken saw Bernie Langridge at the Melbourne Show and said that he just looks the same as when he last saw him at the end of the war.

Whilst on holidays with Bert we bumped into Ray Splatt in Geelong. He is looking particularly well and is looking forward to a holiday in Fiji and islands around. He says he will probably be going back to New Guinea later on still looking for oil for his firm.

Bert thought he saw Baldy driving through Ocean Grove one day. If you see this Baldy and do not deny it we will know it was you. Would be nice to hear from you and all about your trip to England. What about it?

Letter from Sailor Ward giving

some news. A change of address firstly, J. Ward, 17 Albion Street, West Brunswick. Sailor had just returned from a trip up to Brisbane. Went up to look over the ground up there as the doctor has ordered a drier climate for the child ren. He bumped into Harry Handecott and Ron Archer who helped him a lot and will also help him when he goes up there later. All the best Sailor and I hope things break your way. While Sailor was changing planes at Sydney he bumped into Neil Bray armed with T.V. cameras and gear and told him things were just starting to break his way now. Sailor will notify his Brisbane address after he settles in.

Bob Snowden writes that he is up to his ears in work on the farm, sowing summer fodder crops, with harvest coming up in another week or so. Had been very dry up his way but got a nice 130 points of rain to help out.

We have received some letters from N.S.W. chaps with Cup sweep butts. Ichy Isles drops a note from Gympie but no news with it, also Mick Devlin, Col Knight, Andy Beveridge, Merv Jones, Elsie Newton writing on behalf of her "boss" Lionel from Broken Hill. Joe Garland from Garoka Vale, Aberdeen, N.S.W., tells about the big dry up his way and it doesn't look like breaking either. Sends his regards to the old boys. Tom O'Brien from Cabramatta. Jack Reattie from West Tamworth. Ross Smith writes from Windale that he is in the pink but going a bit grey on top. His three boys are starting to grow up now and will soon be as big as their father. Says his old football club won the premiership for the second year in succession and will receive also £250 per player. Not bad for a country town.

Change of address from Jim Fenwick, 12 Killerton Crescent, West Heidelberg, Victoria. Bluey Bone from Carlisle River, writes that their is no news from his area as he never sees any of the boys around there.

Arch Clarry from Carboon, via Milawa, writes that he is having a very busy time on the farm milk-

ing 45 cows and shearing in between, not to mention feeding calves and pigs, etc. He says the country up his way looks very well at the moment and some more rain in a fortnight would give them a reasonable ending to a very poor start of a year.

Baldy's wife, Vi, writes to say that at time of writing (Oct. 18) Baldy had finished his job of teaching at the school (in England) in August and was having premature long service leave. Sailing for home (hooray!) on Dec. 18. He has had about six weeks on the Continent and when writing was off to Ireland.

Bill Peterson from Poverty Ridge writes that he is still battling on his selection, straining to get in front, milking 16 cows now. Hope to make it 25 next year, pocket per mitting. Keep at it Bill and all the best.

Major Love sends his usual letter with money, etc. He never fails to drop a line.

Ted Mulcahy writes from Traralgon, that he is (at time of writing, Oct. 19) in hospital with unknown complaint. They are doing some

investigating to see if it is the kidneys and the specialist said that probably at a later date they will have to study the "internal plumbing". Sorry to hear about it Ted, and hope you get well very soon.

Tex Richards, from Latrobe, Tassie, drops a short note with promise to write a letter later. See that you do, Tex.

Vic Pacy dropped a short note, but since I have seen Vic.

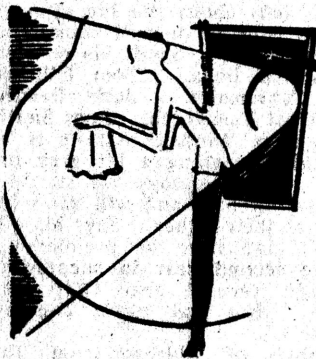
Bluey Sargent, from Heyfield, writes that he is very busy at Glenmaggie Weir where he is assistant wiew keeper.

Just a short note from Smash Hodgson but typically Smasho. "Herewith a victim or two. No great inroads upon anyone this year. The way of the ticket seller is hard!" And hopes to write more fully later.

Johnny Roberts is the proud father of twins (making four), and was Johnny proud or stunned? I don't know which but everybody is well and the best of luck and sleep Johnny.

From your Victorian scribe,
HARRY BOTTERILL.

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



Headlights

The house detective expected to find some of the hotel's towels in the travelling salesman's suitcase—but instead he found one of the chambermaids in his grip.

* * *

Proud Parent (meeting kindergarten teacher): "I'm very happy to know you—I am the father of the twins you are going to have in September."

* * *

"Now, gentlemen," said the Sales Manager of the company which manufactured baby bottles, "we have 50,000 of these feeding bottles in stock and the company expects you salesmen to go out and create the demand."

Fran: Is your baby like his father?

Anne: I hope not. My husband would be furious.

* * *

"They must have a basketball team in the harem."

"What makes you think so?"

"I just heard one of the girls ask the Sultan if she was in tomorrow's line up."