



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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AUGUST, 1970

Price 1c.

Jubilee Safari

The time has arrived to announce particulars of the Jubilee Safari which on this occasion will be held in Perth, W.A. The Safari takes its name from the fact that 1971 will be the Jubilee of the founding of our Association in 1946.

After the initial success of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games Re-Union and then the follow-up of the 1962 Commonwealth Games Re-Union in Perth and the outstanding success of the Great Safari to the Eastern States in 1968, the Safari now in the deep planning stages should be a great success.

It seems that this type of interstate Re-Union gathers momentum each time they are held and appear to be the sort of function most desired by our members as they provide the opportunity of rekindling friendships made so many years ago along with the chance for the whole family to have a holiday of a lifetime among friends.

With only just over a year before this great event takes place there still remains a great deal to do in all States. In W.A. a special sub-committee has been working for some time to plan the programme of events in that State and to book accommodation in advance. Fund raising is well under way and it is important that this side of activ-

ities be kept apace of all the planning. In N.S.W., Victoria, Qld., S.A. and Tasmania they are busy gathering together the necessary participants who will be making the trip West.

The appeal is to all members to co-operate to their greatest extent with their State Branches and the Safari organisers to try and get the whole thing onto oiled wheels. This applies especially to those persons in the Eastern States who intend to make the trip West. Bookings on trains are always dicey things and the earlier the Organiser knows of your intention the more adequately he can arrange bookings. It is also important from the view of the W.A. Branch that numbers participating are known as early as possible to finalise all forms of accommodation, booking or billeting. This is where members can assist to the greatest extent by making up their minds well in advance. With fund raising we also hope that you will slip into this as quickly as possible to make the Organiser's task a little less difficult.

With the co-operation of all members there is no reason why the Jubilee Safari to W.A. in September 1971 should not be an even greater success than that unforgettable Safari to the Eastern States in 1968.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

JULY MEETING:

A most pleasant mixed evening took place at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, July 7, when Jack Fowler with assistance from Helen Poynton showed films of the 1968 Safari and of the Timor Trip. The coverage by both movies and slides was excellent and brought back memories by those who participated in these trips and put all the others well in the picture. We are indebted to Jack and Helen for bringing along these films and allowing us to enjoy them so much. Thanks to the ladies we were also able to enjoy something nice to eat in the way of a light supper.

There is not the slightest doubt that these evenings in which our ladies take part are becoming increasingly popular and we hope to repeat many more in the near future.

AUGUST MEETING:

Thanks to Jerry Maley who was the organiser for the evening, we had a wonderful Carpet Bowls evening at the Anzac House Basement on Aug. 4.

Jerry organised a pairs tournament which went off tremendously. The eventual winners proved to be Ron Kirkwood and Percy Hancock who proved too good for Bill Epps and Harry Sproston. The winners were presented with small trophies to be a memento of their win.

Incidentally Ron Kirkwood assured me this was his first actual trophy in many years of various sporting activities. The trophy idea has a lot to commend it for future activities of this kind.

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

This will take the form of a Mini Cabaret similar to other small ladies' nights we have held and the venue will be the Basement at Anzac House.

The date: Tuesday, Sept. 1, 1970.

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

### ANNUAL RE-UNION

The Re-Union will take place this year on Saturday, Oct. 3. This coincides with the Football Grand Final. The venue is a change this year and you are requested to note this new place: POSTAL INSTITUTE, 1st Floor, ZIMPLES ARCADE (next to David Jones, Foys), St. George's Terrace, Perth. Parking is possible at the usual car park at Bazaar Tce., and you can approach the Institute through the lane next to W.A. Newspapers.

Other than the change of venue arrangements will remain the same as for previous years. A good night is guaranteed to all who care to come. Country folk especially welcome so be in it to win it this year at Zimples Arcade.

### MAMMOTH RAFFLE

By the time you receive this "Courier" you will have received the basic information regarding the Mammoth Raffle being conducted by the W.A. Branch. This, if successful, will be the complete solution to all our fund raising problems.

On the face of it, it appears to be an ambitious task for a small organisation such as ours but initial indications are that it will be a great success. The lure of a big prize and the good odds to winning it or getting your money back makes it attractive to anyone with even minor gambling instincts. The chance to pay off the ticket over 10 months is another factor in its favour. It has been calculated that if 200 sellers can get rid of 2½ applicants each then the 500 tickets are assured. This is quite a low quotient by any standards.

Please get those Application Forms back to the Organiser as soon as possible.

### SAM FULBROOK PRINTS:

Some of these are still available although initial sales in W.A. have proved to be good. Should you desire one of these at \$15 each please contact Alan Luby in N.S.W., Bert Tobin in Vic., or Len Bagley in W.A. Get in quick before they all are sold.

## Committee Comment

Since last we issued a "Courier" your Committee has met on two occasions. Much of the time at these meetings has been taken up with discussion on arrangements for the Jubilee Safari and other Association activities. The full programme of the Jubilee Safari is published elsewhere in this issue so there will be no reiteration here.

At long last the Association has purchased at a cost of \$130 a proper cold plate beer drawing outfit and this should ensure that the beer at all future functions should be served correctly. Unfortunately we have had some poor grog at some of our meetings especially in the summer.

The Treasurer's report indicated that the Association had sufficient funds in hand in the Working Account to carry on for some time. It was also reported that the appeal on behalf of Sousa Santos had met with an excellent response and we hoped to forward a draft for at least \$1,000 in the very near future.

Geo Fletcher reported that Kings Park area was in fair condition but that a working bee could be used to advantage in the near future. It was hoped that Kings Park area be gazetted a non-parking area.

Col Doig reported that he had managed to book the Postal Institute premises in Zimples Arcade for the Annual Dinner. This was through the good offices of Fred Gardiner.

Col Doig also presented to the meeting a draft of a letter and application form for a Mammoth Raffle and this was approved by the Committee. Views by several Committeemen indicated that sales of these tickets would be relatively simple.

Len Bagley was able to report reasonable sales of the Sam Fullbrook prints and hoped to eventually quit all of these to advantage.

The film night by Jack Fowler and Helen Poynton was most favourably commented on by all the Committee members and it was hoped that further evenings of this nature be arranged in the near future.

## Jubilee Safari

### PROJECTED PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Friday, 3/9/1971: It is expected that visitors will arrive and be met and settled in to their accommodation. In the evening there will be a get-together at Imperial Hotel where most of the visitors will be staying.

Saturday, 4/9/1971: Re-Union Dinner for men at Anzac House Basement. Women will have a theatre night at Town House.

Sunday, 5/9/1971: Commemoration Service, Kings Park, and then return to Imperial Hotel for celebration.

Monday, 6/9/1971: Tour of the Mundaring, Canning and Serpentine Dams with barbecue at Murray Arms Hotel.

Tuesday, 7/9/1971: Free day or River Trip on Swan River with a barbecue.

Wednesday, 8/9/1971: Morning tour of Wanneroo Nursery. Lunch at Yanchep Inn.

Thursday, 9/9/1971: Ladies Night at Fremantle Club.

Friday, 10/9/1971: Free day and night. This will enable members who wish to take special guests to various places.

Saturday, 11/9/1971: Garden Party. This will be held at a private home with venue to be arranged. This will be a marquee show.

Sunday, 12/9/1971: Free day or River Trip as for Monday, 6/9/1971

The above programme is of course, subject to alteration dependant on arrival and departure dates.

Accommodation has been tentatively booked at Imperial Hotel, central Wellington St., Perth (opposite Perth railway station) at a present price of \$7.80 per night per couple, bed and breakfast. The W.A. Branch hope to be able to subsidise accommodation to the greatest possible extent.

It is hoped to be able to publish in the next "Courier" a list of those persons who may be attending.

## MAMMOTH RAFFLE:

Please do your best with these Application Forms and return them to the Organiser as soon as possible



# New South Wales News

**RON TRENGROVE, of 46 Hillcrest Ave., Mona Vale, N.S.W., writes:**

Everything is going along quite well and thanks to you and the "Courier" people are answering my request and at the present moment approximately 57 adults and 10 children are starters. This, of course is likely to increase before the end of July and on the day of leaving be reduced. Time takes care of lots of things.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who takes the trouble to write to me and I trust that you will all bear with me if I don't appear to answer you individually as I am not the scribe I was but I like your letters and I think everyone in our Unit is also interested so I post them on to our Editor to help out in the "Courier" and also if you have a query there maybe someone else who has the information you require and would let you know more adequately than I can.

However Beaky Smith and any other T.P.I. who maybe going on the "Safari 71" you arrange with your local Station Master and get a form from him and send it to me when you receive it back and of course you would do this some months before the set departure date. This entitles you to a rebate on your total fare to and from the border of your State.

I have not found out as to boarding at certain stations yet but there is time enough for that.

Students 16 years and under, two-thirds of adult single fare.

Students 16 years and over single adult fare, but they have to have a form signed by teacher to this effect.

**Train Leaves Sydney Monday and Thursday at 3.15 p.m.**

**Arrives Perth 7 a.m. Thursday and Sunday.**

Our possible day of leaving could be the 26th August but maybe the Sunday 29th would allow people like Jack Peattie to get here after closing the school down and others who won't want to knock off from work until the last possible moment. This would probably help everyone to be organised by Sunday afternoon.

At our last meeting held at Arncliffe which I was able to attend, some bright suggestions were made at the present they are being kicked around before any action is made.

It was suggested that all intending Safari 71ers who could get to a gathering at some selected place for a general picnic and chit chat, do so. This of course, would include those who are not going and all 2/2nd people who would like a day or weekend in Sydney.

Another suggestion is that a small badge be made with a Double Diamond on the top with a name bar underneath with each Safari 71 member's name printed on it, the latter being done and handed to everyone on the day of leaving.

Seeing as how I started this letter two weeks ago and I have a few letters to enclose I guess this will do me.

In my next line to you I will enclose a full list of the entries for "Safari 71".

(The following are letters received by Ron Trengrove which he has passed on for printing.)

## NEW SOUTH WALES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARNCLIFFE R.S.L. CLUB  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 1970

Make A Real Effort and Attend This One



**C. E. MILLS, of 27 Anne Street, Southport, writes:—**

I hope this gets to you in time as the children seem to have misplaced the application form regarding the Safari. I would like to place myself as a definite starter, no matter what comes.

I am in the middle of the yearly horror doing my Income Tax.

Let me know regarding how you are collecting the fares, whether you wish the money sent down or do you collect it in Sydney, as I will be on my own.

**ANGUS MACLACHLAN, of Arrowsmith St., Camp Hill, writes:**

In reply to your Safari circular Thought I had better drop a line as I'm not too clear on line three. If I cross out "will" it makes one sound like a Southern European migrant. Anyway here goes. Lois and I will be in the swim—two bookings. We will be very happy to accept accommodation provided and we will be with the strength at Sydney when the train pulls out.

Today is a very sad day in the Mac household—at least for the head (?) of the house. Tomorrow, being Friday, is the day for me to start back at work. This comes hard after four weeks four days.

We had a most enjoyable, as ever, time in Sydney thanks to the hospitality of old comrades, wives and families. This includes yourself and Dorothy. Thank you very much.

Spent one night at Stanthorpe on the way home, to see Lois's parents. The temperature dropped to 23 deg God it was cold.

Had a quiet time at home, under orders. Painted the lounge, dining room, hall, painted and repapered main bedroom, shifted the hot water system, excavated a tunnel under the house, stripped and re-assembled the mower and fitted in two games of golf (when Lois was at work). Must be crazy to be sorry to go back to work.

**BETTY CRAIG, of Box 234, P.O., Young, N.S.W., writes:—**

Thank you for your letter regarding the Safari and I am sorry I haven't had time to answer before this. First things first so I will tell you that Keith and I will definitely be on the Safari and we will come

to Sydney and leave from there. Phillip who will be 21½ then and Janette who will be 18½ then would also like to go if you are able to make bookings for them too. So it looks like the Craigs will be there in force.

I have had a letter half finished to Allan Luby for about three weeks and just cannot get around to finishing it off. By the time he does receive it, all will be old news. Never mind I might even make time immediately I finish off this one to you.

Keith and I went to Canberra for Anzac Day and Keith marched there. I walked up early to pick a good position on the ropes and I did get a lovely spot too. I was standing there for a while when a young lass came up and asked me if I was on my own and I thought I bet she wants my position to take pictures, which she did too, but she offered me a seat in the official enclosure if I would let her take over my position. Naturally I said yes, so I sat on a nice comfortable chair for the next two hours and she stood. I had a lovely position, being only about six or seven rows from the front, and I could see and hear every thing. I had not been to Canberra for an Anzac Service before and was very impressed, as it all looked so nice around the Memorial.

We had a wonderful three days there and we were deeply grateful to Jim and Joan Fenwick, who took us for a drive around on the Friday night and Jim took us to see a Communications Station. It was absolutely wonderful, when you could see someone press a button and talk to someone either in America, Spain, Britain or Honolulu and to see the computers send and receive messages in such a few seconds was amazing. You hear of all these things, but so very rarely have the opportunity of seeing them in action. Keith and I did appreciate being able to see them working and really enjoyed the evening there. It was lovely to go with Jim and Joan and meet their children. We had a very happy evening together. Keith and Jim spent most of Anzac Day together, and then we went again for a bar-b-que lunch on Sunday and then home to Young.

We arrived home to find that Keith's father had arrived for a holi-

day. He had arrived at 8 a.m. from Gilgandra and had spent the day with our two children. Keith had another week's holiday so he and Dad had plenty of time for chats. Dad was unlucky and became ill about a week after arriving (not from my cooking, either) and after numerous tests, X-rays, etc., was admitted to hospital at Young and then transferred to Cowra for an operation. All told he had four major ops, and is now well on the way to recovery. He has come through it all very well, but we have had a very busy time, rushing back and forth to Cowra which is only 45 miles, but by the time you arrive home from work and have a cuppa and drive there and then home you are really tired. Still it was worth every bit of it to see Dad so well again. He is now off to Sydney to spend a few days with his daughter and other son and will then come back to us for about three weeks before we take him back home to Gilgandra. By that time the worst of the winter will be past up north, and he should be well. It is amazing how quickly he has picked up as he is nearly 86 years of age. No doubt about it he has a strong constitution.

We had a lovely surprise too a couple of weeks ago when a car pulled up in front and it was Jim and Joan Fenwick and family. We were sorry it wasn't a very nice day, but they are coming again in the spring to see the town properly. They had discovered they had a Saturday free from all sports, etc., so decided to come for a drive and we had a wonderful few hours together. Peter, Anne, Brian and Ruth were with them and the children had a great day together.

Phillip has always wanted to join the army and applied in April for the Permanent Army, after he did not receive his call up. He has

passed the tests, etc., and they would accept him, but have advised him to finish his apprenticeship and then re-apply. This he has decided to do, and it could be another 18 months or so before he will re-apply. He has just become the owner of a small car and is very proud of it. It is a Prefect, but has a Holden motor in it. The head mechanic where he works had completely remade it and Phillip was very thrilled to be able to get it. It looks a bit old and battered but seems to go well. I guess it will keep him busy and poor, but he certainly gets a lot of enjoyment out of it.

Janette is at Technical College, and is doing a full Commercial Course. She is doing reasonably well, and I hope that she will be able to obtain a good job when the course is finished.

Now, Ron, I must away, I have typed this in work time, so I had better get on with the job. Do hope that this finds you and your family well. We are all very busy here at Young, although still busy trying to get the garden, etc., in order. It takes years I suppose to get settled in properly. Keith has been putting down cement paths and planting shrubs just lately. It is beginning to take shape, and we are very pleased with what we have achieved in the year we have been in our own home.

Bye for now and best wishes from us both.

**NANCY ROSE, of 82 Byron St., Hillston, writes:—**

Many thanks for your letter re that fabulous trip to the West during next year. Seeing that my dear hubby is such a shocking correspondent (and I'm not much better), thought I'd better drop a line and put you in the picture as far as our chance of taking this trip with you.

John and I would dearly love to

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go and at the moment the prospects look pretty remote, but we have decided to answer in the affirmative in the hope that we'll make it, providing we can cancel later on if we feel we have to. We are so darned tied up with the old business—didn't even get our hols. this year, as the 'flu epidemic has hit the little old town, and at one stage there were only John and his brother to carry on. At present we are keeping our fingers crossed as apart from colds in the head we've been pretty lucky. However, I would dearly love John to go even if I have to stay behind and hold the fort, but it seems he doesn't want to go without little old me (he must be getting old!!). I too feel that we'll never get a chance like it again and am beginning to feel we really deserve it, seeing we haven't had a holiday for ages.

Young John is still in Armidale teaching and loves it up there as he's doing his B.A. and having the Uni right on tap is terrific for him. Tony flew to Vietnam on the 15th April, and of course we just live for his letters—he should return about March, 1971, and I'm going to Sydney to meet him then even if the whole world falls in, and that goes for Dad too—shop or no shop!! Karen is in 5th Form now at Griffith High—she is such a comfort to us as she comes home most weekends, which makes up for the two boys being away.

John Snr. is still the old golf fanatic and most weekends sees him out ploughing up the golf course—still it's his only relaxation (well, just about!!) and who cares if the weeds are a foot high and the lawns not mowed? We celebrated his 50th birthday last week (he never thought he'd make it), so I told him to "go for the century" now! He's never been the same since his "op", and naturally has his "off" days, but never gives in—anyway, you probably know him better than I do!

Do hope you have all managed to escape the current 'flu, and that your good wife is 100 per cent. Guess the boys have grown up by now—the years just fly don't they, and it's not long before they are out in this hectic world fending for themselves.

Please excuse this rushed effort

and errors, etc., but have to keep popping up to borrowers coming in (very inconsiderate of them, isn't it?). After Tony went I was lost, so took a job as Library Assistant here and I really love the work. Keeps the old mind occupied ALL the time, and of course the money helps towards keeping Kas away at school.

Kindest regards to your "better-half" (isn't it ridiculous her name just escapes me for the moment), to the boys and yourself from us all here in the "bush", and regards to all the other boys down there. We'll never forget your great hospitality to us when we were down there—we lived on the memories of that week for months.

Cheers for now and God Bless:

P.S.: Just remembered, it's Dorothy. All the best dear, and do forgive me—must be old age creeping on.

**TED CHOLERTON, of "Bookra", Carcoar, N.S.W., writes:—**

Enclosed please find completed form on Safari.

Final decision on this trip for us depends on actions of characters such as wool buyers and bank managers in 12 months time, but we will be making every effort to make the trip.

Re accommodation—have no idea what the Sandgroppers have in mind, but we would prefer motel or such-like rather than inflicting private homes with our offsprings.

Regards and all the best.

**BOB SMITH, of 3 Maitland St., Norah Head, N.S.W., writes:—**

Only just a brief note to keep the Safari form company. I have already completed and returned the previous form you sent, some time back. However, I have completed this latest one.

Only my wife, Joyce, and I will be going on the Safari—the kids having grown up somewhat and able to look after themselves and have their own interests.

Do hope you have a good response to the Safari roll-up. If all go who first nominated last year then there will be a good representation. Possibly there will be others who haven't nominated as yet who will find that when the time arrives they will be able to make it.



Quite cool up here these last few days and nights, but as we have had some very warm days up till a few days ago, we really can't growl.

Only Unit member I have seen lately is Tom Fields. He came out one day and gave me the low down on the doings on Anzac Day. It appears the day was an enjoyable one for all participants. I had to suffice with watching the march on T.V. as I had been laid low with bronchitis for a while. Tom by the way is coming along fine subsequent to his accident. He didn't require his crutches last time I saw him.

Well, Ron old fellow, will bring this ramble to a halt. Hope it finds you and yours in fine health.

**ANGUS MACLACHLAN, of 37 Arrowsmith St., Camp Hill, writes:—**

Don't know if this is repeating myself. You said fill it in—so fill it in I will. Hope you get plenty of replies.

Passed through your fair city a couple of weeks ago. It was daytime so couldn't contact you at home in the few short minutes we were on the tarmac. Once more, I had a look at your house as we flew up the coast.

Regards to yourself and Dorothy from Lois and myself.

**ALF HODGE, of Farm 1325, Whitton, N.S.W., writes:—**

I received your screed about a month ago, and must apologise for the delay. To read and think about the Safari just fills me with envy, but I'm sorry to say I am unable to participate.

It is getting around preparation time for our rice crop at that time, and as I am on the farm on my own, it is hard to get away. My lad was with me for 12 months or so after he left school. Things are getting rather bad at the farm at present, the overhead expenses are greater than the income, so the lad got a job as a spare parts salesman with "Auswilds" Holden Dealers in Griffiths. My daughter is a school teacher at Banellan. So that leaves the wife and I at home.

I may be in Sydney towards the end of the month, a flying visit only. My son has to see a specialist. That then will be my first trip to Sydney

for about 14 years, so I guess I won't know the place.

Well, Ron, I wish you all the success for the Safari. Good luck to you and your family and all the boys you contact.

I often see Roy Martin in Griffith.

**JACK PEATTIE, of 11 Denne St., West Tamworth, writes:—**

Just a note to let you know that Marj and I will be starters for the Safari.

Re accommodation in the West, I'm not worried about staying with one of the boys just to save myself a dollar or two, but neither do I want to go off to a pub and turn down the hospitality of someone who genuinely wants a billet. I'll be happy either way—if there's a big crowd and billets are hard to come by, hotel or motel will suit me.

The school holidays for 1971 are: From Friday, Aug. 27 to Monday Sept. 13 (both dates inclusive). This is official from the "Education Gazette". Private schools usually have this time and sometimes another week.

I don't know whether you called in here during our last September holidays. I remember telling you that I'd be home but at the last minute the chap who was taking our weekender could not go and we ducked down ourselves for a few days to fix up a couple of things in Newcastle. Sorry if we missed you. We intend to be here this coming September if you are going on holidays again at this time and are passing this way. You'll be more than welcome if you drop in.

One other thing Ron. I have a friend who is writing a book on the achievements of the Australian aborigines and Thursday Islanders. Do you know of what extraction Charlie Anderson was? I have an idea that he told me in Foster when we were training that his people came from northern Queensland. If you don't know, do you know of any of the boys who would know?

My friend has spent a number of years on research on his topic and hopes to have his book published this year. If you find that Charlie's people did come from one of these groups, would you let me know, please, as I feel that he was one whose deeds should be known to more than our small group.

**BOB SMITH, of 3 Maitland St., Norah Head, N.S.W., writes:—**

Would you please let me know if the price of fare of \$125 is one quoted for group travel—that is, a reduced fare for travel as a group, or is that the basic fare?

Why I want to know—if it is a basic fare I will try and get a reduction as I am a T.P.I.—but if it is a reduced fare for group travel I will let it go.

I trust this note finds you all well and winter is treating you kindly.

I have just had a week in Brisbane and to tell the truth I didn't like coming back home as the weather was beaut.

**M. & T. FIELD, of 18 Margaret St. Wyong, N.S.W., writes:—**

Tom has asked me to put in a short note to say we shall be looking forward to joining the W.A. Safari in August, 1971, if nothing happens to prevent it.

I'm glad to say he's still slowly improving, but still having physiotherapy and medical advice.

He has to go to Sydney on June 12, Friday week, to go before the Tribunal and hopes this may be of some help.

Do hope you get a good muster for the trip. We saw Bob "Beaky" Smith and his wife at Norahville recently, and Tom told them how he enjoyed Anzac Day and they hope to be with us next year.

Wishing you all the best.

**PADDY KENNEALLY, of 28 Williams St., Yagoona, N.S.W., writes**

I am enclosing the Safari memorandum. The whole family will be going. I wish to point out that the two older ones, Helen will be 18, and Michael 16 at time of going, could still be students depending on examination results at this year's end. Would they be entitled to the lower fare. As the whole family are on the way I think it would be better if we could rent a flat or house whilst we were there. It's too many to billet out, and any way I would prefer it for us to be all together. Anyway its not likely any accommodation will be booked before sometime next year and by then I will know exactly the position of Helen and Michael.

We had a quorum for the meeting—Alan, Jack Darge, Alan Addison,

Don Murray, Bill Bennett and myself. We are not knocking off this winter, one night a month won't kill us.

**FRANK SHARP, of 22 Quinn St., Dubbo, writes:—**

Many thanks for your circular regarding the Safari to the West in 1971.

My wife and I will be making the trip and my cousin an ex-R.A.A.F. member and his wife would also like to make the trip and has asked me if it would be possible for you to make a booking at the time of our trip for him also.

He is good company, likes a bit of fun and would like to make the trip with us if possible.

We would all be joining you at Sydney and will make the trip of going over and back with the boys of the Unit, and will come back with the mob when they are ready to leave.

Please make a booking for four first class berths and would be grateful if you could arrange accommodation for the four of us when we reach Perth.

Thanks again for the news and am looking forward to the trip and seeing you all again next year.

Kindest regards to all the boys.

\* \* \*

### Heard This?

A father of a new-born infant and his best friend staged a celebration that covered at least twelve hotels. Finally they staggered up to the hospital to inspect the new arrival.

"Sh'all righ'," his friend assured him. "I only weighed three pounds myself when I was born"

"Thash terrible," said the father. "Did you live?"

"I certainly did," said the friend. "You oughta shее me now."

\* \* \*

One of the doctors at a London medical college was appointed honorary physician to the Queen, and proudly wrote a notice on his classroom blackboard, informing his students of this great event in his life.

When he returned to his classroom that afternoon the students jumped to their feet and solemnly sang: "God Save The Queen".

# RANDOM HARVEST

**PETER BARDEN, of 6GN Radia Station and ABGW Channel 6 Television Station, Geraldton, W.A., Writes:—**

Well, we are all busy preparing for the Sunshine Festival which will be held from Aug. 29 to Sept. 6, during which it will be the pleasure of Yours Truly and his wife to again adjudicate in the street parade of floats on the opening day. If any "Double Red Diamond" types are able to make the Festival, don't hesitate to look me up, as there are many attractions around the area that it would be my pleasure to show you.

Eric Smythe has been in the news again. He and several other members of the Geraldton Skin Diving Club visited the Abrolhos Islands and did some diving on the wreck of the Dutch vessel "Zeewyck", which went to her doom in 1727. Eric and his mates examined relics of the wreck, including an old iron canon and two kegs of nails. An exceptionally low tide bared these to view, and films were taken of the reef-bound relics.

In addition to good catches of fish, they returned with a case of tomatoes picked on Middle Island, in Southern Group—an island that it not inhabited by fishermen. These tomato plants are apparently descended from those originally cultivated by the guano diggers during the days that this artificial manure provided by birds was exported for agricultural purposes. Eric and his mates described the tomatoes as small, sweet and firm, very plentiful and an amazing sight when first seen on the island.

Nip Cunningham is pedalling as well as ever (and I'm walking as well as ever)—nothing like a bit of exercise, you know. Nip's youngest daughter, Fran, is in a Melbourne hospital, doing a midwifery course, after having graduated as a Nursing Sister at Royal Perth Hospital, so some of the Eastern Staters might happen to run into her.

Yours Truly is kept pretty busy these days, trying to sign up promising footballers, in my capacity

as Accredited Representative for West Perth, so watch out for the Cardies next year. By the way, if any of you live in the West Perth area, I suggest you drop in and see either the Secretary, Kevin Bradley, or the President, Len Roper, with a view to taking advantage of the excellent facilities at the new club rooms. If it's good enough for the Governor to be a member, it's only fitting that "Double Red Diamond" types should also be members. Don't hesitate to mention my name.

Well, the Geraldton R.S.L. Sub-Branch and its Women's Auxiliary have just recorded another "double" by winning the Collett Cup for the outstanding country Sub-Branch and the Country Cup for the outstanding country Auxiliary of the year. It was my pleasure to once again compile the Sub-Branch submission for this competition, which is based on not only general R.S.L. activities but also on service to the community generally. We have now won the Collett Cup nine times in 13 years, and the Auxiliary has won the Country Cup eight times, including the last five in a row. We are planning to fill the cups with champagne, or something similar, at our next meeting.

By gee, time is marching on. We have just celebrated the 21st birthday of our youngest son Rex, at a party at the Swiss Inn. Our other son, Ross, who is in charge of the plumbing section of a big building contract that the Geraldton Building Company is working on at Learmonth, came down with his wife and youngster, for the occasion. If any of you are up that way don't hesitate to drop in on Ross.

Well, I must be away now, as I have only a few minutes up my sleeve to get to a cocktail party being held to mark the opening of a regional office of "Home Building Society", at which function I am looking forward to having a good yarn with that grand old gentleman—the Mayor of Fremantle, Sir Frederick Samson, who is Chairman of Directors of "H.B.S."

Kind regards to all.



**JIM SMAILES, of 114 Brookton Rd., Roleystone, W.A., writes:—**

The fact that I have recently obtained great relief from a back complaint, prompts me to write a few lines for the "Courier" in the hope that others who suffer that way may take heart and may be eventually have peace again.

My trouble goes back to war service in Timor in 1942 and on discharge in 1944 was rated at 10 per cent disability with polyarthritis and malaria. As was usual, I was only too pleased to get out and back to farming, and \$2 per week pension for nothing was good money then, but by 1947 I was in great difficulties with my health. I had almost no control of my hands, great pain in all joints, and numbness in my legs especially the left. After some months in Hollywood Repatriation Hospital, I had to give up my mixed farm and was convinced that I had to take on some other form of employment. Some relief was obtained in the hospital treatment, and I was discharged at 25 per cent disability.

By 1948 I was selected to do a Rehab course at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines and after five years there graduated with a Diploma in Mining Engineering, Mine Managers Certificate and Surveyors Certificate. My health improved in Kalgoorlie to a certain extent, and with these qualifications I was able to move about all over Australia in real top jobs of excellent salary.

For eight years the complaint marked time, but in 1962 I was in real trouble and spent several sessions in Concord Repat. Hospital. I had traction by the month, plaster casts, heat, and physio therapy but of little avail. With the age creeping up a bit at 46 I was told that there was nothing to be done except give up active work and big job responsibility. I was rated at 60 per cent disabled, and told to grin and bare it. One specialist did suggest an operation on my spine with 12 months in bed and a 50/50 chance of ever walking again. I considered the odds too short at 46 years old.

Doing little or no work did help a little, but was annoying and frustrating in many ways particularly financially. Life became almost unbearable with pain and loss of normal recreation and activities. Loss

of confidence was an annoying feature, and I very nearly gave up driving because every few miles I would have to stop and walk about to get the use of hands and legs again.

Suitable employment was hard to obtain and it became increasingly difficult to deal with people because of constant nagging pain and numbness. Even to hold knife and fork, or a cup of tea became most difficult and embarrassing. At times I could not bear music or conversation, and would go for nights without proper sleep other than on a hard floor.

Between 1962 and 1969 I had four more bouts in Hollywood with the usual treatments, advice, drugs, experiments and disappointments. Disability was rated 100 per cent and I was advised to go T.P.I.

However after an emergency visit to Hollywood on 10th September, 1969, a new man came upon the scene, a Mr. Cromack, who had never seen me before. He tried traction for a week to ease the terrible pain, but quickly saw that it was useless as a cure. He put it to me about a spinal operation to remove the pressure on a nerve that was being squeezed between two distorted vertebrae. The X-rays made it all look so simple, and he gave me a 99 per cent chance of success.

After all these years of suffering I needed no persuasion, and on October 1 went onto the chopping block as they say. I may add that during all these years I had had all teeth extracted, tonsils and appendix out, and all nails removed in an endeavour to find what was described as a point of infection, but never had anybody taken a serious look at an injury to the spine years ago. The nerves radiating from the spine pass between vertebrae at various places and control limbs, etc. In my case an injury had caused pressure in several places and with age and natural deterioration was gradually getting worse.

Fours hours on the table, three weeks in hospital, and then four months off work were sufficient to show that there was an improvement. Muscle soreness and some numbness persisted for three months but by six months was over I felt like a new man. I can sleep in any position on any sort of bed and wake up really refreshed. Patience

and toleranc have returned, and life is again a pleasure. I would not have believed how far a man can slip, and how much one can miss out on through pain and suffering. Being a war caused injury, all this surgery and hospitalisation cost me nothing. In fact I was paid T.P.I. throughout the whole exercise. I can drive now with all the confidence in the world, and do 200 and 300 miles without a spell. I have been able to return to active outdoor work again, and have even been to Malaya on a mining and geological venture which included much mountain climbing and jungle walking. Being able to do again what one likes and loves doing is the greatest reward, and to be free from pain is like being born again. I take no tablets whatsoever now after literally taking tons of them, and find that my mind is clear and brain active after so much drug taking. I can at least be civil to people and get co-operation at all levels again.

I submit this for copy because I feel there must be many of our number who are similarly placed with advancing years and generally feeling the effects of our hard living during the war years. I am now 54 and do not consider it too old to obtain relief if it is to be had.

I do place full credit on Mr. Cromack, because others had access to the records and X-rays for years past. He always seemed so certain and definite about what was the trouble and never doubted success. All he asked was co-operation, and after what I had been through, I was willing to co-operate with the devil himself.

I am so glad and pleased to have relief that I can only pass this on for what it is worth to others. My only regret is that it was not done 10 or 20 years ago, but then as has been said so often "We could not put a man on the moon 10 years ago". That I think is the secret. What was impossible a few years ago is now common place, and especially in surgery.

I would gladly pass on any other information to anybody who may be suffering like I did and is a little septical about spinal surgery.

Life is sweet brother, and it may be later than you think.

**O. K. DIGNUM, of 24 Selkirk Ave., Seaton, S.A., writes:—**

Received your application forms for the Mammoth Raffle and would appreciate it if you could send a couple more over. Am enclosing the two that were sent. I am a bit uncertain about this money. What am I supposed to do with it? Send it to you monthly or to hold it until I have the \$20 for each application?

This idea of the raffle is a good one, and I think it is a winner. A full vote of confidence to the persons who conceived the idea.

Our Anzac Re-union which was held as usual in the Gleh Eagles Sports Oval Clubrooms, organised by the Commando Association was a noisy success, but enjoyed by all.

The 2/2nd was represented by Allan and Hazel Hollow, myself and Betty. Flying solo were Lofty Timke, Dud Tapper and Jack Watkins. On the march next day were Allen Hollow, Lofty Timke, Lionel Newton, Bob Williamson and myself.

I rang Allan Hollow tonight. I told him I was writing to you tonight and he wants to be remembered to all the chaps there and is a starter for the Safari, but wants to know the date as his application for his holidays will hinge on this.

Last May during the school holidays we took the opportunity to go bush for 10 days. I am very keen on the camera and find plenty of scope for it in the bush.

Two years ago we went by car to Eyres Rock via Oodnadatta. Travelled over 3,000 miles and have over 200 colour slides of our trip, which allows us to relive the holiday again.

Our May trip was not so extensive as the previous one but just as enjoyable.

We headed north to an old abandoned gold town of Warkaringa, which had its hayday in the late 80s and struggled on until about 1940. Kept alive mainly by the farming interest in the surrounding country, but like so many other small communities that nestles around a hotel, post office and general store, was killed by the motor car which cut the distances down, allowing the farmers to cart and shop greater distances. Now the cities are only hours away.

We camped at Wankaringa and the next day met by accident "on our part", an old local who lived at Yunto, 20 odd miles away and was the caretaker of the gold mine "Alma Victoria" which supported Waukaringa in the early days. Like I said meeting on our part was accidental but the old bloke loved a yarn, so our meeting on his part was no accident. He took us over the workings, down the mine and gave us the history of it. He was the most talkative, likeable old chap in his 80s. We listened to him for hours and was not bored for a minute. We were sorry to part.

Called in on Lionel Newton in Broken Hill but missed him. He was at work. That was a bit of bad luck. Looked in at the caravan park at the mass of humanity and headed for the scrub and camped 10 miles out of the hell at a place called Stevens Creek.

There were two other cars with us and a camp fire was the order of the day at all camp sites. We would go well in a caravan park burning great logs.

Our next camp area was Mootwinger. We stayed there four days, a beautiful spot and plenty of action for colour photography. On these trips we always sleep on the ground. That's not bad but those cold showers at Mootwinger took some taking. Brought back memories of the showers at Kalinga on our way south from New Guinea, a long time ago.

Mootwinger is rich in native fauna and flora and native artifacts being an area frequented by the natives for 1000s of years. Ernest Gilles passed through the area in 1861. Cobb & Co. also had a relay station there. We found a musket ball there. I had a guage and it measured  $1/16$  under  $1/4$  of an inch. That's a fair piece of lead to be slung at you.

We took the back road to White Cliffs to try our hand at opal mining, no luck. One of our party fell down a disused shaft of which there are hundreds and she was very lucky we missed her and found the shaft she slipped down. No broken bones, plenty of bruises and cuts.

Next we camped on the Darling among the big gums, fairly cold, mist on the river early in the morning, and roaring camp fires at night.

Our last day out put us in the Wentworth area in the corner where the three States meet and the children were thrilled to travel through three States in a matter of a couple of hours.

We have quite a lot of fine slides of our trip. Looking at them again makes the old feet itch.

I seem to have surpassed myself this time all I meant to do was to ask you for a couple more application forms for the raffle and look what happens.

Well will end this rambling. Remember me to all the boys, hoping to hear from you soon.

**KEN MONK, of Poowong East, writes:—**

Just a line to keep this cheque company in the envelope. The cheque is in aid of the Antonio Sousa Santos Appeal. It is not as large as I would like to be sending.

We owe much to this chap and it makes one wonder how many of us would be here today if he had not been the man he was.

We are going along very steadily here, plenty of work, plenty of damned mud and water. A few weeks ago we had five inches of rain one day and had three feet of water over our bridge. Lost half of the filling and could not get off the place.

Well, as I said, this is just a line. Sorry I am so long winded sending it.

**REG HARRINGTON, of "Ainaro" Wyening, W.A., writes:—**

I will endeavour to compete with Rowan and Martin and write a letter. Enclosed find a small cheque to help out in the fund for Santos. I hope it is not too late. I must have missed the last "Courier", or it came while I was away at Bakers.

It was a bit of a disappointment today. We had the idea of blow-

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ing down for the meeting and films, but we are still trying to squeeze the water out of patches of ground, replacing it with seed. The whole process is then followed by an army of web-worm that mounts an attack immediately anything green shows.

The long and short of the whole thing is that we have been attacking with D.D.T. It will be a hell of a long time before I'll complain about excess rain.

The season has all the earmarks of being a beauty. The feed seems to be trying to make amends for its lack of growth last year. We can only hope that someone decides to give a bit of competition to someone else and force wool prices up a little.

These late seasons play havoc with my golf. I can't play on Sunday because of football and am too busy on Saturdays so the handicap is getting longer all the time. The biggest problem is the ability gets longer than the handicap.

I would like to thank the Association for the honour of being elected a Country Vice President. I only wish I could earn the honour by being able to help out a lot more than I am able at present. The time is approaching when we will reach the point where we will only be a nuisance around here and will have to bail out and then will have the time to indulge in a few diversions. Cheerio for now.

**A. MacLACHLAN, 37 Arrowsmith St., Camp Hill, Q., writes:—**

Forwarding back two application forms and money for the Mammoth Raffle. Will try to con someone in for the third.

I wish you all the best with this project, certainly you deserve success.

**R. SPRIGG, of 60 Hill St., Albany, W.A., writes:—**

Just a few lines in with a small donation towards the Sousa Santos Appeal. Sorry for the delay but the "Courier" came during my absence on holidays and was put aside and only just discovered, so I hope arrives before the appeal closes. I remember him well. Had more than one good meal with them and specially remember his fine Timor ponies.

**M. R. CURRAN, of Bendigo, Vic., writes:—**

I am enclosing cheque for the appeal for Sousa Santos. He was a good bloke and gave us a lot of assistance. Also enclosed \$5 from Jack Wright, of 62 Andrew Ave., Tarragindi, Brisbane, who was with us in Timor and would like to receive the "Courier".

Things are O.K. with us but this winter is very severe. We were the meat in the sandwich in the election as the State Aid issue blew up at Bendigo and became very dicky.

Had a good win on a horse at the Valley last Wednesday. Led all in 1 mile and started 16-1 which was a welcome change of luck.

Saw Hawthorn beat Collingwood a couple of weeks ago. They are a good side and if they scrape in there is not much doubt they will win it. Hudson is a freak and we hope to see him get his 100 next Saturday.

**JERRY AND NORINE HAIRE, of 59 Monk St., South Perth, W.A., writes:—**

Herewith a cheque to help along the Sousa Santos Appeal.

Best wishes for its success from us both.

**PHIL AND TED LOUD, of Forests Dept., Pemberton, writes:—**

Just a short note with cheque for your appeal. I hope you do well for this very deserving case. He seems to be in real trouble what with those so called "Aussies" letting him down, and then his poor wife getting so sick. It makes one wonder why good blokes like him get all the set backs. Well I hope that this few dollars will help him.

Might be in Perth in the near future so will look you up.

I had better close. All the best to everyone, also to Antonio Sousa Santos and his wife who I hope will be better in a short while.

**GEORGE GREENHALGH, of Maclean, N.S.W., writes:—**

I am enclosing a money order which is made out to you. The amount is for the appeal for Sousa Santos.

I had intended coming to the West this year but weighed it up against coming in the Safari next year and settled for next year. It

was just as well as during my holidays my wife's sister in Sydney became gravely ill and she was called down there. She copped bronchitis while there and after I got her home had her in bed for about a week.

We are having one of our coldest spells over here on record as no doubt you will have read. Even here on the coast we have had some terrific frosts. I think one of the causes is the lack of rain. We haven't had any rain to speak of in three months, 67 points I think to be exact. Our yearly average is about 46 inches.

All the best and regards to the boys.

**BOB SMYTH, of 34 King St., Perth writes:—**

Immediately prior to my recent absence from the office I received the June "Courier" which gave the results of the Arab Raffle. I was naturally delighted to note that one of the butts for which I was responsible had won a prize and it gave greater satisfaction to note that it was not for a box full of labels.

However, you cannot fool the man who drags the numbers from the barrel and so our Russell Huntington in Darwin flung his bonnet into the nearest mangrove and cavorted madly like Paddy Kenneally celebrating the Battle of the Boyne.

Russell Huntington's principal vocation is to assist in the wholesale distribution of Yalumba Wines and at any one time he could lean back on a stock of four or five thousand dozen of the stuff.

He drew a bottle of Port and sometimes on a still night if you turn your ear towards Darwin you may just hear a faint echo of laughter or it could be uncontrollable sobbing. My only regret is that I was not in time to have his bottle of Port directed here and I could have sent him a dozen Emu Export Labels.

Kind regards.

**ERIC HOFFMAN, of Porphyng, via Kalgoorlie, writes:—**

Please find butts for the sweep also cheque.

I'll leave it to you to use the surplus where you like.

Whilst in hospital who should walk in with a T.V. set but Eric Thorn-

ander. He is looking really 100 per cent fit and he'll need to be fit in a couple of years time with those charming daughters just to keep the wolves away.

Thanks once again for everything and all is well with you. Best wishes to all the gang. I should see you soon.

### PAT McCABE PASSES ON

(An extract from Queensland Country Life Newspaper, 30/4/1970)

Padriac Pearce (Pat) McCabe, Queensland Country Life's advertising manager since 1957, died in Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital on Wednesday, aged 52.

A genial and capable advertising executive and distinguished soldier, Mr. McCabe joined Queensland Country Life in 1955 and was appointed advertising manager in 1957.

A member of a Dalby land family, Mr. McCabe was educated at Dalby and Brisbane, and, after leaving school, served as a jackaroo on several western grazing properties.

At the outbreak of World War 2 he joined the Second Independent Commando Unit and was stranded behind enemy lines in Timor for 10 months.

From this position he established radio contact with Australia to get the Unit out, a feat which earned him a commission in the field.

Displaying a special gift for languages, he was appointed to Intelligence duties with the Far Eastern Liaison Office to prepare leaflet material for several countries.

He continued to serve with Army Intelligence until the end of the war and was discharged with the rank of Captain.

Mr. McCabe was an active public man and a keen golfer before illness, an aftermath of his war service, took its toll. He held membership in several clubs and was past president of the Peninsula and Sandgate Golf Clubs and a past president of the Sandgate Lions Club.

Mr. McCabe leaves a brother, Mr. B. J. McCabe, of Brisbane; and four sisters, Mrs. P. H. Curran, of Maree Downs, Blackall; Mrs. Rosaleen Goopy, Brighton; Mrs. W. R. Munro, Oak Park, Charleville; and Mrs. Eileen Henderson, Elizabeth, S.A.



**SEPTEMBER MEETING:**  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st  
MINI-CABARET — ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT  
Ladies Asked to Bring a Light Plate

**ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER:**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd  
POSTAL INSTITUTE, ZIMPLES ARCADE  
St. George's Terrace Entrance

**COMMEMORATION SERVICE:**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th  
HONOUR AVENUE, KINGS PARK

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:**  
HIGHWAY HOTEL, CLAREMONT  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th  
Book Up the Long-Haired Mate  
COST — \$10 PER COUPLE

**MAMMOTH RAFFLE:**  
Please do your best with these Application Forms  
and return them to the Organiser as soon as possible

