



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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EDITORIAL

EXTRA EFFORT

The Association Branch in W.A. has just had its Annual General Meeting which as usual provided a disappointing attendance. A new Executive was elected—or should I say the old Executive was re-elected with minor additions and deletions—and it is now their task to take on the big job of organising the Jubilee Safari to take place in September, 1971.

Now everyone in W.A. in particular and of course in the other States, are going to be asking to give us an extra effort to ensure that this jubilee Year is the greatest ever. W.A.'s reputation for hospitality and good fellowship is deeply at stake and it will take the redoubled efforts of everyone to ensure that this reputation remains un tarnished when our Eastern States visitors depart. We have something to live up to with the fabulous time given to visitors on the Great Safari in 1968.

It is realised that when members are asked for an effort they usually respond magnificently as has been evidenced by the Kings Park area, Timor Memorial Appeal, and Sousa Santos Appeal. However so many seem to work on the old army racket of never volunteer for anything. Well, this year there looks like

being a few "pressed men" among you as you become "volunteers" under the pressed system.

Your Executive in W.A., and especially President Len Bagley, have done a tremendous amount of work already towards arrangements for the Jubilee Safari and Ron Trenchgrove, Alan Luby and Co. in New South Wales, are working like beavers to ensure that there will be a well organised gang of participants on the trip. But these blokes can wear out easily if they become frustrated in their efforts. So this is your chance to hop in and help, especially if there is some special avenue where you have contacts or skills which you can make available to the organisers in all States.

Don't hesitate to contact anyone on your various Committees if you feel that there is some particular area of endeavour in which your services will be of particular assistance. But most of all if you take on some job do it promptly and see it through to the bitter end. We don't want any half finished business foisted back onto the Committee.

Make this Jubilee Year the year in which your efforts on behalf of the Association are the greatest ever and you will be assured of the everlasting thanks of your various Committees.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This all important meeting was held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, March 2. The attendance was terrible. Granted this meeting followed a public holiday, but this was a poor excuse for so few making that extra effort to attend.

For those who attended it proved to be a most constructive and instructive evening. Probably the best lot of reports ever presented to an A.G.M. were given by the various officers, especially the President's Report and Treasurer's Financial Statement. These were absolute gems of construction and are printed elsewhere in this journal.

President Len Bagley also tabled a most comprehensive report of the doings of the Jubilee Safari and a resume of the progress of the Mammoth Raffle. Your Editor managed to find a place also in the reports.

Vice President "Spriggy" McDonald, nominated on behalf of the Committee, the following three persons for Life Membership: Ray Aitken, Peter Barden and Clarrie Varian. Those nominated were seconded by Col Doig and carried unanimously.

Ray Aitken responded on behalf of those elected and thanked the Association for the honour bestowed.

The election of Officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—

President: Len Bagley (re-elected).

Vice President: Jack Fowler.

Secretary: Gerry Maley (re-elected).

Immediate Past President: Bill Epps.

Editor: Col Doig (re-elected).

Auditor: John Burridge.

Committee: Joe Poynton, Jack Carey, Col Hodson, Geo Fletcher, Harry Sproxton, Percy Hancock.

Country Vice Presidents were elected as follows:—

Northern: Peter Barden.

Midlands: Charlie Sadler.

Goldfields: Eric Thornander.

Great Southern: Alf Hillman.

South West: Tom Crouch.

South Coastal: Clarrie Turner.

Warden Kings Park: Geo. Fletcher (re-elected).

After the election of officers a full and free discussion took place on many aspects of Association affairs, but there was no special criticism or otherwise of the Committee's efforts for the year. No general business of any special nature was enacted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and proud duty to present this annual report.

During the past 12 months, 12 functions were held, and our ladies were present at six of these. Each function was of a different nature, but, I am sorry to say, the attendance was lacking. Your Committee goes to great lengths to keep us all together, but at times they are fighting a losing battle. If any member, or his wife, could help us with ideas to improve attendances we would like to hear from them.

This year will be a most memorable one for us all, as it is our Jubilee year, 25 years as an Association. Our Jubilee will be celebrated in Perth, next September, when many of our members and their families from all over Australia will gather together to remember this great occasion.

Annual General Meeting:

Held on March 3, and with a good attendance of members, the A.G.M. was a most successful one. Life membership was bestowed upon Jack Haddon for services rendered to the Association.

Talk by Ray Aitken:

At the April meeting Ray Aitken gave members and their wives a very interesting talk on Australian plants. A few days later we visited his wildflower nursery and were taken on a guided tour, which was very much enjoyed by all.

Anzac Day:

Myself and Gerry Maley laid a wreath at the State War Memorial on behalf of the Association, at its Dawn Service. The Unit flags were flown at our Honour Avenue in Kings Park. After the march we gathered at the W.A. Rowing Club where everything was in readiness

for us, thanks to Joe Poynton's organisation with refreshments, and a marvellous meal was had by all due to the efforts of Jack Carey.

We had a few visitors from other Units including two lads from the R.A.N.V.R. Band who really got us singing. All in all a very good day and part of the night.

Film Night:

Thanks to Helen Poynton and Jack Fowler a most successful mixed evening took place at the July meeting. They showed us movies and slides of the 1968 Safari and of the Timor trip. Together with refreshments and supper it rounded off a very pleasant evening.

Mammoth Raffle:

Last August the Mammoth Raffle was launched, the biggest raffle we have ever undertaken. A very popular one according to a number of ticket sellers, mainly because of the good odds that are offered. Ticket sales are going well, and next July the drawing will be conducted, so make sure you have your ticket before June 30, 1971.

Bowls Night:

A pairs carpet bowls tournament was organised by the Secretary, Jerry Maley, for the August meeting, with trophies being presented to the winners, Ron Kirkwood and Percy Hancock.

Carpet bowls is a very popular sport with our members and so the attendance improves on these nights.

Another such night took place at the February meeting resulting in a win for Joe BurrIDGE and Jerry Maley who each received a handsome prize.

Mini Cabaret:

A small gathering of members and their wives were present at the September Cabaret. With music supplied by Syd Dixon, and an excellent supper, a most delightful evening was enjoyed.

Annual Dinner:

This was held in October, at the Postal Institute Hall in Zimples Arcade, an excellent setting for our dinner, combined with excellent catering and pleasant company the night was a most enjoyable one. Col Hodson is to be congratulated on his handling of the refreshments. Peter Hearle, from Brisbane, was present, and gave us news of our Queensland members.

Commemoration Service:

This service is also held in October, at our Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, on the day after our Annual Dinner. Quite a good crowd attended to pay homage to our fallen comrades.

Calcut Memorial Trophy:

June and November were the two months in which members competed for the Calcut Trophy. Competition was very keen, but not good enough to defeat Jack Carey, who now has three wins to his credit.

Christmas Party:

Held at the Highway Hotel in December, it only attracted 36, including wives, it is the third Christmas Party to be celebrated at this venue. Next December a different location and idea will be tried in order to gain a better representation.

Kings Park:

Our area in Lovekin Drive is always a pleasure to behold, thanks to the continuing efforts of George Fletcher who mows it regularly, also to Arthur Smith who is forever replacing broken sprinklers, and Jack Fowler who has devoted many hours to rejuvenating the piping. To Reg Harrington for donating fertilizer, also to the Kings Park Board for help and advice, and Dick Adams, a Park supervisor, who makes sure it is well watered.

Recently a sign board was stolen from the area, but George Fletcher has willingly offered to make two new ones.

Two well attended working bees, held on Sundays, Feb. 7 and 14, replaced all the 128 sprinkler heads with Mountain Mist heads. These give a good coverage to the area, and are set below ground level, which will minimise our maintenance worries.

"Courier":

Without this vital newspaper, our Association would have folded up years ago. Due to the continued efforts of Col Doig we are a closely knit organisation. With a combined effort from Jess and Bill Epps, who print, wrap and despatch the "Courier", members are kept fully informed of Association and members' activities throughout the world.

Eastern States' Visitors:

Members who visited Perth during the year were Cliff Paff, Bernie Callinan, Bert Bache, "Shorty" Ste-

vens, Maurie Smith and Peter Hearle. It is always a pleasure to welcome members from another State.

Sam Fullbrook Prints:

Sam has generously donated 50 prints, from his painting "Emu and Aeroplane", to the Association, which are to be sold and the money to go towards helping our finances. Many thanks Sam.

Bereavements:

It is with regret that during the year, throughout Australia, some of our members have passed away. Each one is sadly missed and the Association extends sympathy to the bereaved families.

Sousa Santos Appeal:

Response to this appeal was very gratifying and the proceeds were sent to him by cheque, which will go towards helping this Portuguese gentleman in his trouble.

Conclusion:

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all members, especially those on the Executive and Committee, who have advised and helped me during the past 12 months, to make my job that much easier.

The 12 Committee meetings held for the year were well attended and a great deal of business was transacted. It was a pleasure to work with such a fine committee.

With the approval of all members I offer myself for re-election to office.

Thank you gentlemen,

L. A. BAGLEY, President.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Mr. President,

Again it is my privilege to present the Editor's report with regard to the "2/2nd Commando Courier".

Naturally circulation has varied little from that of previous years, remaining steadily at around 450 per issue. At this figure we maintain contact with a very high percentage of our members in all States and also overseas. The "Courier" still remains our best medium of contact with our widespread membership of our old Unit and from comment received from many members is much appreciated.

Once again in this year we have had to meet a cost rise in circulating the paper as postage rates doubled with the last Budget.

This year has seen a welcome addition to those persons who handled Editorial context and this has relieved your Editor of what is probably the most onerous task. Thanks are due to "Twy" Smyth, Max Davies, Ron Dook and Jim Smailes for assistance in this matter.

Correspondence has been remarkably consistent this year and this is probably due to the fact that many people have written with regard to the Jubilee Safari and the Mammoth Raffle. There has not been much in the way of material for the feature "Historically Yours" but this will undoubtedly improve with the passing of the years.

Those solid correspondents Peter Barden, from Geraldton; Ron Tren Grove, Paddy Kenneally and Alan Luby, from N.S.W.; Harry Botterill and Bert Tobin, from Victoria; have continued their good work of bringing the news from their respective areas. This is most desirable and gives the journal its Interstate flavour. We sincerely hope they will continue with their good efforts.

Bill Epps has once again done a magnificent job of keeping the address list up to date and believe me this is some task the way members move around. Thought will have to be given shortly to the production of a further edition of the "Address Book" as the current issue is sadly out of date.

With monotonous regularity I have to praise the efforts of Bill and Jess Epps for their wonderful work in producing, wrapping and circulating the journal. There would be a terrific break down if we ever lost their services. Thanks from me, personally, Bill and Jess for all you have done over the years.

Once again my special thanks to our publishers, "The Swan Express" of Midland, who with courteous attention to our every desire have made the Editor's task so much simpler.

To conclude let me wish the "Courier" another successful year.

C. D. DOIG, Editor.

JUBILEE SAFARI REPORT

The object of this report, is to bring members up to date on all that has happened with regard to the Jubilee Safari.

The sub-committee comprising,

President Len Bagley, Vice President Bob McDonald, Joe Poynton, Jack Fowler and Col Doig, and latterly with the co-operation of Secretary Gerry Maley and Jack Carey, have dealt with all the matters arising with meticulous detail.

The whole matter of the Jubilee Safari has been handled under three main headings: (a) Entertainment, (b) Accommodation, (c) Finance.

After much very careful consideration, the following programme of entertainment has been arranged, having regard to the arrival of visitors from the Eastern States by train on Thursday, 2nd September, 1971, and their projected departure on Saturday, 11th September, 1971.

Thursday 2nd: Meet arrivals at 7 a.m. Get together at Hotel Imperial in evening.

Friday 3rd: 6 p.m. Annual Dinner at Postal Institute. Ladies to have dinner and theatre show at Town House Hotel.

Saturday 4th: Afternoon, races or football. Evening trots.

Sunday 5th: Afternoon Commemoration Service in Kings Park followed by savouries and refreshments at Hotel Imperial.

Monday 6th: Bus trip to dams and barbecue at Murray Arms Hotel, Jarrahdale.

Tuesday 7th: Ladies Night at the Fremantle Club.

Wednesday 8th: River Trip, barbecue lunch.

Thursday 9th: Morning trip to Wanneroo Wildflower Nursery, then on to Yanchep Inn for lunch and refreshments.

Friday 10th: Garden Party from 5 p.m. at Perry Lakes.

Saturday 10th: Visitors depart at 9.30 p.m.

You will agree that the programme of events is comprehensive, and entertaining, and will allow our visitors ample scope to see much of Perth and its environs, but also allow an equally ample period for their own private requirements.

Accommodation will largely be taken care of by the booking of the full capabilities of the Imperial Hotel, situated centrally in Wellington Street. Certain other bookings at other hotels have tentatively been made for any overflow that cannot be accommodated at the Imperial. Having regard to the accommoda-

tion at the Shandon in Adelaide and Forrest Lodge in Canberra, on the Great Safari in 1968, this centralisation of accommodation is the most desirable method of fraternisation.

This centralisation will also allow for easy pick up of our visitors, for transportation to all of the various functions, and also allow us to use the social facilities of the hotel for some of our gatherings. Those participating will find that being all together will make for wonderful comradeship.

While still on the subject of accommodation, certain of our members in W.A., may desire to billet certain of our visitors, and this will also be encouraged where it is most desirable.

The most pressing of our problems at the moment exercising the minds of your Committee, has been that of finance. After a great deal of study of all the possible means of fund raising, your sub-committee decided that the most practical method was a Mammoth Raffle, offering prize money of \$6,000, with 500 tickets at \$20 each. This provides for a surplus of \$4,000 with which to finance our various projects connected with the Safari. The above method was considered more desirable than a series of smaller raffles, over the same period, showing a much lesser amount of profit per raffle. Our object of \$4,000 should adequately cover our projected itinerary.

This Mammoth Raffle has now been in progress since August 1970, and we have at present approximately 400 applications for tickets. With an intense effort over the next four months, our target of 500 tickets, should be achieved and our financial worries at an end.

It is expected that a season ticket, of \$20, to cover all events will be available to W.A. members, and this is a very reasonable offer.

Advice already to hand from Queensland, N.S.W., indicates that 97 persons (this includes wives and children) will be making the trip. It is expected that a small contingent from Victoria and South Australia and of course Canberra and Tasmania, could swell numbers to a figure well in excess of the century. Add to this, an influx of our own country members, the Ju-

bilee Safari will undoubtedly be an event of great magnitude.

You will note from this fairly extensive report, that to date no stone has been left unturned, to ensure that the Jubilee Safari will be really something for all who care to partake. Your Committee will intensify its efforts over the next six months, and by September 1971, you can be assured that the details of such a big project will be well and truly executed.

MAMMOTH RAFFLE

When we started this raffle we stated that if 200 people could sell 2½ tickets each we were well in business.

The analysis of the raffle at the 420 mark reveals as under (no names, no pack drill):

4 sellers have sold 157.

10 sellers have sold 230.

13 sellers have sold 250.

(half way mark).

22 sellers have sold 300.

There have been 97 sellers (56 in W.A. and 41 in Eastern States).

This shows how correct Churchill was when he said in respect of the Battle for Britain, when he said: "Never in the history of man has so much been owed by so many to so few."

LIFE MEMBERS

RAY AITKEN: Ray has waited a long time for this honour to come his way. He was one of a very stalwart dozen who formed the initial Committee of the Association who worked so diligently under the late Jack Denman and John Burridge to put the Association on a firm footing from which it has expanded so terrifically. He was also most active in our early efforts to obtain subsistence for the Timor campaign which eventually put good money in our pockets. His really great effort lay in his assistance to the Association with the Timor

Memorial which he accepted as his baby. He went to Timor and sewed up the details to get it started and provided the Association with the necessary bridging finance to get the project under way and then was the great strength we required when we returned to the Opening of this magnificent memorial. He deserves a Life Membership if only for his cheery optimism in all things associated with our organisation.

PETER BARDEN: Readers of the "Courier" all over Australia need no special introduction to Peter. His notes from the northern area of W.A. have flowed freely for so many years. His organisation of the Conventions at Geraldton have also shown a masterly touch. He has been Country Vice President for the Northern area for so many years that this writer has forgotten how long. His work on all matters pertaining to Ex-Servicemen in his area are a legend. He, like Ray, is the possessor of a cheery disposition and takes all matters in his stride.

CLARRIE VARIAN: Clarrie has been a tower of strength to the Association over a great number of years and he is so retiring in his manner of performing his good works that his efforts are likely to be overlooked. Our early Christmas Parties for the kiddies were Clarie's special interest and he worked hard and vigorously to make certain they succeeded. His work when we held outings for Legacy and Sister Kate's Children, were outstanding. He took it upon himself to arrange for and drive the buses we used. This was no mean task with so many children on such a long day. When we had little problems of a mechanical or technical nature it was "Let Clarrie do it." Unfortunately Clarrie has not had good health of late and we are proud to honour him with Life Membership.

APRIL MEETING:
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT
TUESDAY, APRIL 6

RETIRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BOB "Spriggy" McDONALD retires this year after a year in the Vice President position. Once again there is not much I can add to what has been said of your great efforts for the Association and we know you will continue to show deep interest in our affairs. You are not the type to drop out when out of office as has been proved in the past. Bob and his good wife, Bet, go on a cruise trip later in the year and I know they will have a wonderful time.

CLARRIE VARIAN retires this year after many, many years of hard work for the Association which we deeply appreciate. Due to ill health Clarrie finds it difficult to keep up with the hurly burly of Association affairs and especially Committee work. We hope your health improves quickly in the coming months, Clarrie, and we see you fit and well again.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice President **JACK FOWLER**: After much effort on our behalf while he was domiciled at Wongan Hills Jack moved onto our Committee last year and did a really good job with the time available to him between trips to the farm. He was prevailed upon to accept office as Vice President and said he would once again do his best in the time available to him. Jack will undoubtedly prove to be a most able Vice to your President Len Bagley.

HARRY SPROXTON: After a brief respite of one year Harry returns to the fold. There is nothing I can add to previous remarks on this most valuable Association member. We welcome you back, Harry, with open arms.

PERCY HANCOCK: After quite an absence Percy returns to the Committee and we realise that his high work potential will be most valuable. Percy was Vice President at one stage and did a great job. He did everything anyone could do to get a Branch going at Kalgoorlie in the early years of the Association. Be prepared for a hard year's work, Percy, and we know you will accept the challenge.

JUBILEE SAFARI

It is not my intention to write at length on the jubilee Safari in this issue as a most comprehensive report is published elsewhere in this issue. Also Ron Trengrove has written regarding this in this issue.

Sufficient to say at this juncture that would you all keep in mind that this important function takes place in early September, 1971, and will afford a wonderful meeting point for Association members.

Now the biggest thing of all—the Mammoth Raffle. If you have not already paid for your ticket would you ensure that your cash is remitted to Col Doig, Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth, 6001, as soon as possible to enable him to do the minimum of follow up to get the cash into the bank. Follow up action is a long and tiresome process and the less the Organiser has to do the better frame of mind he will be in to deal nicely with you.

WORKING BEES KINGS PARK

Two working bees were conducted in Kings Park since we last went to print. They were highly successful and well attended. We mustered 16 at the first and 14 at the second.

All sprinkler heads were renewed with Mountain Mist type sprinklers and when the job was completed all heads were at ground level and working like a charm. It was a delight to see the area so well serviced.

Special mention must be made of quite a few persons here, with No. 1 mention to Geo Fletcher who provided so much in the way of tools, etc., and a hell of a lot of the work. Rod Dhu is another who gave us much in the way of work and experience in pipe fitting. This applies to Joe Poynton and Gerry Green also. Len Bagley was the "driving force" behind it all, and of course the inimitable Arthur Smith plugged on regardless fixing up taps and sprinklers. Without Bill Epps to provide the liquid refreshments and work like a galley slave I don't know what we would do. "Sprocky", Merv Ryan, Dick Darrington, Ron Kirkwood, Gerry Haire, Percy Hancock, and Jack Hasson were others there working with a will. Your Editor also put in an appearance, but old age and physical unfitness nullified most of his feeble efforts.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES FOR YEAR TO 31/1/71

RECEIPTS:	\$
Funds at 7/2/70:	
Ordinary Account S.3080	438.06
Reserve Account S.3422	544.50
Timor Memorial Fund S.5165	1420.10
Account 3225 Town & Country Building Society	600.00
	<u>3002.66</u>
Bank and Building Society Interest	107.04
Donations	163.10
Sale of Lapel Badges and Tie Clips	86.80
Sale of Sam Fullbrook Prints	105.00
Less Cost of Frames	10.50
	<u>94.50</u>
Sousa Santos Appeal	1216.50
Remitted to Sousa Santos	1216.50
	<u>—</u>
Backwards Raffle	379.82
Less Prizes	86.29
	<u>293.53</u>
Anzac Day	190.00
Less Expenses	156.95
	<u>33.05</u>
Balance of 1968 Safari acc. transferred from C.S.B. Brentwood to Working Acc.	338.47
Package Deal 1971 Safari Paid in Advance	20.00
	<u>\$4,139.15</u>

EXPENSES:	\$
Monthly Meetings	222.87
Less Receipts	92.20
	<u>130.67</u>
"Courier"	232.80
Less Receipts N.S.W. and Vic. Ass.	115.00
	<u>117.80</u>
Annual Dinner	239.74
Less Receipts	136.00
	<u>103.74</u>
Honour Avenue Kings Park	40.28
Administration (includes donation by Association to Sousa Santos Appeal—\$100)	193.60
Christmas Toys	35.55
Christmas Party Highway Hotel	265.37
Less Receipts	147.50
	<u>117.87</u>
Circulars, Tickets, Postage, Mammoth Raffle	51.05
Miracle Cold Dispenser	140.00
Extractor for Dispenser	12.00
Balance — Cost of Lapel Badges and Tie Clips	47.93
Advance Hire Hall Perry Lakes 1971 Safari	50.00
Funds at 31/1/71:	
Account S.3080	439.53
*Account 3225 Building Society	2659.13
	<u>3098.66</u>
	<u>\$4,139.15</u>
*Account 3225 Town & Country Building Society made up as follows:—	
Redemption of Bonds	600.00
Balance Reserve Acc. S.3422	559.36
Balance Timor Memorial Acc. S.5165	1461.92
Interest to 30/4/70	37.85
	<u>2659.13</u>

TIMOR MEMORIAL FUND FOR YEAR ENDING 31/1/71

RECEIPTS:	\$
Balance Forward 31/1/70	1420.10
Bank Interest on Account S.5165	41.82
	<u>\$1,461.92</u>

PAYMENTS:	\$
Transferred to Account 3225 Town & Country Building Society	1461.92
	<u>\$1,461.92</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT ON STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDING 31/1/71

On comparing this year's statement with that of the previous year, it will be noticed that the balance of the Timor Memorial Fund has been included in the funds brought forward as at 7/2/70 as this Fund was transferred, during the year, to our account No. 3225 with the Town and Country Building Society for purpose of gaining a higher rate of interest.

Although there is an actual increase of \$96 in the combined funds, after allowing for \$338 transferred from 1968 Safari Account at C.S.B. Brentwood, funds are down \$242. This is mainly due to increased expenses of Monthly Meetings \$99, Administration \$107 (includes Sousa Santos Donation of \$100), Christmas Party \$118, Purchase of Miracle Cold Dispenser \$140, Less Donations of \$58, totalling \$522, offset by \$274 made up of more bank interest \$92, Sales of Lapel Badges and Tie Clips \$87, and Sam Fullbrook Prints \$95.

33 Lapel Badges and 22 Tie Clips were on hand at 31/1/71.
—R. GEERE, Hon. Treasurer.

Committee Comment

The final meeting of the retiring Committee took place at Anzac House on Tuesday, Feb. 16. This was in the nature of a wind-up meeting with a special review of arrangements for the Jubilee Safari and of course our financial position. The Committee made its nominations for Life Membership which have been shown elsewhere.

Col Doig reported that the Mammoth Raffle was proceeding satisfactorily but called for a special effort over the next couple of months to ensure that all tickets were sold.

Len Bagley brought up the matter of the night to draw this raffle and all the intricate things required to make this night tick.

STOP PRESS:

MONTHLY MEETINGS

As the Committee has so much work and worry on its plate arranging for the Jubilee Safari it was decided at the March Committee Meeting that instead of trying to arrange something different for each Monthly Meeting that they will for the remainder of this year (with the exception of June and November which are the Calcutt Memorial Trophy nights) be mixed nights and entertainment will be spontaneous with either bowls, darts, games, guest speakers or what ever can be arranged easily. Ladies are requested to bring a small plate (nothing fancy) for supper.

Personalities

In Perth for a conference of B.P. (Aust.) Ltd., was Bernie Callinan. It was nice to have a natter and a few beers and talk over current topics. Incidentally Bernie was a recipient of an honour from the Queen in the New Year's Honours List receiving an O.B.E. for his services to Engineering. Our most sincere congratulations on this well deserved honour, Bernie.

Also in W.A. for his holidays was Ron Dook and wife Nan. Most of his holidays was spent at Mandurah and therefore he did not have time to look up many of the gang. However I did manage to get in a couple of sessions with Ron and we did a great deal of nattering on old times. Ron will not be able to make it for the Jubilee Safari worse luck.

Vince and Pam Swann were also in town from Esperance briefly and we were able to enjoy their company for dinner one night. Vince was not complaining too bitterly about things, had a good harvest, has a good quota, beef was all right, but sheep and wool on the tough side.

"Ping" Anderson has had a stretch in Hollywood for the removal of his tormenting stomach ulcers. The operation was a complete success and he is now out of hospital and doing all the things he could not do previously especially in the eating business.

Jim Smaitles is back in Hollywood and will require further surgery on his back. Jim would appreciate any visitors who may care to go and see him. We wish you a speedy recovery, Jim.

Saw Don Turton briefly the other day. Says nowadays he is more often on the road than off it. Has

APRIL MEETING: ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT

ANZAC DAY: SUNDAY, APRIL 25

This is a Sunday but arrangements will be as for any other year. Our big show is at the W.A. ROWING CLUB as always.

purchased a big Dodge truck and doing most of his own carting with livestock and grain and back loading super, etc. Hard way to earn a living I would say, Don.

Nice to have a talk with Keith Hayes and Peter Alexander at a Timor P.O.W. show at Merv Ryan's place, to which I was most kindly invited. This was a wonderful night and shows what a small crowd can do by sticking together. Keith is now Branch Manager in W.A. for Gestetener who provide all sorts of machines for duplicating and are probably the Rolls Royce of this field. Peter Alexander and wife are avid trot fans and make this their one night out per week.

Pleased to see Geo Boyland out

and about again although still using crutches. Geo called in to see me the other day and said he had done a tour down south and spent a most enjoyable hour or so with Grace and Clarrie Turner at Capel.

Our good friend of the 2/5th, "Tiger" Jim Lyons, has been very crook with the gout. Joe Poynton has been acting as the Good Samaritan helping Jim out with a building contract at Mandurah. Good work Joe, and get well quickly Jim.

It won't be long now before Bill and Jess Epps and Arthur and Beryl Smith head off for a trip to Timor to take in a few of the spots they missed last time. We wish you a good trip people and hope for a write-up about it all on return.

MAMMOTH RAFFLE:

Warrants Your Immediate Attention

There are still a few tickets available and of course your dough right now would be appreciated

RANDOM HARVEST

R. C. TRENGROVE, of 46 Hillcrest Ave., Mona Vale, N.S.W., writes:—

One year older and deeper in debt or should I say doubt?

We had a very nice Christmas party at the Darges and with the arrival of the Press gang in the afternoon it was as good as the previous gathering at the same address.

The Kenneallys were absent I am sorry to say as Paddy's mother had passed away a day or so before and we all feel for those close to her as even though we all know it is inevitable it is still a loss one finds hard to take.

Joe Tell made a very convincing Father Christmas. I for one don't believe in the old codger any more (not Joe, Kiss Me Arse, I mean). He gave that much money away, yours and mine, I think he thought it was Posiedon Day.

The Thin Man was there spruiking away when I got there about 11 o'clock and was still going when they dragged him away about 4.30 p.m. Poor Pat, and he reckons the

machinery at work has made him hard of hearing.

Frank Press has suggested that we have a mini safari to "Bobanaro", Carcoar. This I think, could be a good idea to be kicked around at our next meeting and as it is not really far from Sydney and some of the country boys could link up and have a long weekend at the above address without much expense and travel. How about dat?

Re the Safari—as cancellations have already been made if there is anyone who would be able to go and would know for sure please let me know by May 9 (Mother's Day). Earlier if possible, but that is the last day, and I mean the last.

Here's hoping I make it, you make it, and those of us who don't well I know every 2/2nder will be with us in thought.

A Further Letter from Ron says:—

Well things are going smoothly here and by the end of this month I will have for you the exact number who will blast off with us on the I.P.

I am going to ask through the "Courier" for all those who are not going with the Safari 71 train from Sydney and who are finding their own way over to let you know as at the moment I have my hands full with the bookings.

The number at the moment is 60 bods who have sent in deposits or have let me know and confirmed their intentions of going.

Have had some enquiries about your big raffle. Tom Snowdon or one, Alan Luby for another, and someone else from North N.S.W. or Queensland, I think. So if you get a chance would you give them some more guff through your most convenient method.

Now all you Safari-ites who have been holding your breath since I told you I was saving for to make the trip you can let your breath out. Baring a broken fetlock and having to be shot I'll be on the train with you so there is no need to cancel your arrangements—as if you would ha. This week of the Safari Year 71 I passed the target of \$108, etc., fares, by 10c or so. Now I have to save for incidentals. However if anyone knows of a 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. job in Perth for ten days between the 2nd and 11th Sept., 71, let me know and reserve it for me and then I'll live in a manner you would like me to get accustomed to.

Rang the Coker estaminet on Friday but Coral said the bloke was down at Cottage Point. Well, I don't know what you think but my guess is there is no such thing as being that much love between a log with a motor in it and a man. Come on Bill, who is the good sort. (Cor at your age.) Think of the wife, the kids, the dog. Don't give em all up for any fancy bit after all a bird in the hand (watch your hands son) is worth more than all that hard work on a fickle bit of material at the Point. (I said fickle, not tickle.)

Anyway I found out what I rang up for. Nice to know your good wife and son are taking you to the West with them.

By the way, Col, Paddy Kenneally has said once again that a house or flat would be more appropriate for his needs in Perth so if you don't know already could you keep this in mind when the time comes

or when I send you our final list. Also could we have some idea of whether we will be contributing to accommodation as I have had a few requests re information on this and it would help one and all so we can make allowances for this.

I would like to thank all Safaries for their co-operation with me about their requests for different arrangements and in most cases with their prompt confirmation or cancellations. While I am pleased beyond belief at the number who are going I am sorry and disappointed at those who had to cancel, especially Ted Chollerton who is possibly still going but will make his own way. I trust we will see you in Perth, Ted, with your family.

Jim English has said he will also make his way by car. This we are not happy about but who can tell some of these stubborn fellers?

I remember I was stubborn (if that's a good name for it) once myself. I guess there is good reasons from Jimmy's point of view and is appreciated by most of us so good luck Jimmy and take it easy.

Alfredo Dos Santos is in Concord at this moment and so is Jimmy English. I have been to see both of them and know that all of you wish them well and by the time you read this I trust you will have heard they are out and well again.

Gordon Stanley unfortunately has had to cancel and I am sorry to say is unlikely to be with us in Perth.

So also has Allan Addison who was one of the first to nominate. Sorry Allan, whatever it was that has caused you to cancel out.

If anyone who would like to have gone but did not nominate please if now you can see your way clear be in on your own or with family, don't delay, write today to me. I will have these cancellations until the end of April and who knows things may turn up and unfortunately delay or stop others from going. I hope not, but in this life of unexpectedness — well.

There is a rumour going around that economy class is cramped, crowded, etc. Well, I really can't say but as far as I am concerned to get to Perth I am prepared to put up with a lot more than that as long as I have sufficient elbow room

I guess I will make it comfortably, and I guess it's up to the individual

Was going to have a lot more to say but as I want to get this over and maybe make the March "Courier" I will close.

John Rose goes into Concord A.-G.H. on Tuesday, March 16. Apparently the Repat. after all this time are going to recognise the fact that he has a war caused disability or two. They sure take some bloody time to convince.

That will make three I will have to visit when I go to see my mother who is also in there.

Well for the time being see you on Safari.

PETER BARDEN, of 6GN Radio Station and ABGW Channel 6 Television Station, Geraldton, W.A., writes:—

It will be a big day at Geraldton on Feb. 20, as the Town Council will be celebrating its centenary, which coincides with the centenary of Local Government in Western Australia. The day will begin with a street procession of Council vehicles and equipment, in the morning, followed by the burying of a Time Capsule outside the Civic Centre at 6.30 p.m., and then a Centenary Dinner for former and present members of the Town Council. Yours Truly and his wife Joan, will be among the guests—because I served on the Town Council in 1957-58, until being forced by an A.B.C. regulation to resign. However, my wife and I continue to have a very close association with the Town Council and attend all the Civic receptions.

Members of the Smythe family are in the news again—and no doubt some of you will have caught up with Eric during his visit to Perth for the W.A. Moth Association regatta. This yachting enthusiast and his daughter Erica (also a prominent member of the Geraldton Yacht Club) were featured in the news as a result of their selection for this big regatta. Erica is following in the footsteps of her father and has recorded a number of wins with her Moth, "White Wings". She is doing Geology at the University.

Eric's other daughter, Jan, is undergoing a Midwifery course at the Crown Street Women's Hospital

in Sydney, and she recently called on Ron and Dorothy Trengrove, whom her parents visited during the 1968 Safari. Apparently Ron will be taking part in the 1971 Safari to Western Australia—an event which a lot of Eastern Staters are looking forward to with keen interest.

It was my pleasure recently to publicise the 10-day escorted tours to Portuguese Timor, arranged by M.M.A. and which will leave Perth or Port Hedland, departing May 17, June 21, July 19 and August 30, with accommodation for about 15 people on each tour. It was also my delight to quote the Immediate Past Mayor of Geraldton, Mr. Charles Eadon-Clarke, who recently visited Portuguese Timor to lay the ground work for the new tours, and who described the land as "an ideal picturesque holiday environment", and who also stated that the people of Timor had a high regard for the Australians because of "the bravery and perseverance of the Australian No. 2 Independent Company during World War II".

Mr. Eadon-Clarke said that to call the country "beautiful" was an inadequate description. He said Portuguese Timor, with mountainous country, swift flowing streams, lush tropical vegetation and colourful flowers and butterflies, could be described as a tropical paradise. He said that as yet untouched by an influx of tourists and by inflation, this country offered inexpensive accommodation and delightful handicrafts.

Reverting to Double-Red-Diamond types in the Geraldton area, Bruss Fagg was elected Senior Vice President at the recent annual general meeting of the Northampton R.S.L. As reported previously, this R.S.L. stalwart was presented with a Certificate of Service from the State Executive, in appreciation of his outstanding service as Secretary, President, Treasurer and Hall Committee member.

I often see Nip Cunningham, who continues to be one of the most hard working members of the staff at the Mercantile Club at Geraldton. He continues to be "fighting fit"—and Nip, like myself, would like to see any of the boys who might be visiting Geraldton. My "working den" is easy to find—it's in Eleanor

Street, almost opposite the Town Hall, and directly opposite the Murchison Inn Hotel (a very conveniently situated place, I'm sure you'll agree).

I just phoned Bill Drage at his palatial residence in Boronia Avenue, Geraldton, and he said that he and his family are all well. As a matter of fact, he was getting some sinkers ready for a big fishing trip to "Carrarang" Station, near the Useless Loop salt works, at Easter. You can bet your life that Drage will again be one of the most enthusiastic barrackers during the fast approaching footie season. However, I feel that he must have some trouble with regard to his loyalties when Northampton play Geraldton Rovers—he played for Northampton before the war and has since been one of its keenest supporters, but his son-in-law, Garry Rock, plays for Rovers.

Well, I must off for now, as duty calls. Kind regards to all the boys, from all of us in the Geraldton region.

ALAN STEWART, of 39 Longstaff St., Lyneham, A.C.T., writes:—

By some mischance I have mislaid my application form for the Mammoth Raffle and would be grateful if you would send me two forms if they are available as I wish to be in this quite splendid idea. I am of course, very hopeful of making the trip west, providing that inflation doesn't push us all out of the running.

I am still with the Treasury and look like staying there. Having settled in Canberra with the family also happy with the place, it becomes more difficult to think of leaving. The place is bounding ahead, much too fast for my liking. With a population rushing toward 150,000, and a target of 200,000 coming up by 1980, we are now beset with all the traffic snarls, prangs and congestion that go with it. Luckily there is not much smog-giness, and once outside the city, it is easy to slip into the bushland or down the coast.

The rains have certainly come back with a vengeance. This year some local areas have already had 25 inches, a year's supply in one month. It is still raining heavily

almost every day. The rivers are muddy and swollen, so we haven't been able to do much fishing. The flooding along the N.S.W. south coast and in Gippsland over the border, has been the worst in anyone's memory. One of my daughters is stranded down the coast with the roads all cut. Luckily we can still get a phone call to say she's above water level.

I haven't seen much of our local contingent of late, although I have spoken to Ron Dook on the phone on odd occasions.

I am hoping to get down to Sydney on Anzac Day this year, which falls within the weekend luckily—gives one the chance to revive before returning to work.

It should certainly be exciting to meet some of the old Unit that we haven't seen since the war days, as indeed it was when the Westerners came East.

I will have to settle down to a quiet year, what with one daughter at Teachers' College, one starting at the National University next month and four more at college.

I will be retiring from the C.M.F. this year, just 31 years since I first sported khaki. I have wondered whether Barry Lawrence stayed on. I saw him some years ago in Melbourne when he was over east doing a camp.

Please give my regards to all the boys over there and all the best with the raffle.

A Later Letter From Allan Reads:

Herewith one ticket for Mammoth Raffle. Hope to get the other to you soon. Thanks for the promptness. Wouldn't mind winning it though a consolation prize might do. Here's hoping.

The rain still pelts down. We have had over a year's supply already. Provided it continues through next month a good winter is assured.

Joe Lonergan might be remembered by the boys who were at Foster about '42 as instructor and later with 2/6th. He has just retired from the Treasury.

In Sydney recently I met Vic Arneil who will be well remembered by the boys who were in the transfer from Foster to Cunungra back in '42 as a W.O. instructor. He made fame by pulling "Bandy" McDonald

out of bed and giving hell raising lectures to new recruits. Rus Symonds, Eddie Rowe, Ross Smith and myself were in his squad at Canungra early on. He has a good stable of young swimmers, including Michael Wenden.

The Combined Commando Association had a dinner here some weeks ago, but we missed out. I have sent a note to the organiser giving him the names of the 2/2nd I know about here.

Ross Smith might like to know an old mate Coreoran was asking after him at Queanbeyan R.S.L. not so long ago.

Best regards for now.

TOM FIELD, of 18 Margaret St., Wyong, 2259, writes to Ron Tren-grove:—

As we have already reached the beginning of February we felt we had better send you the deposit for our trip West, so enclosed find a cheque for \$50.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the warm welcome we received 24 hours early for our first 2/2nd barbecue. (We'll never live it down.) John and Joan Darge were so off the mark in saying we had to stay and John gave up his afternoon to take us to the St. George Leagues Club (well worth a visit) and Jim and Jean English made us no less welcome when they insisted we stay over night with them, and we enjoyed meeting Pauline, their daughter. Everyone at the barbecue made us so welcome and when another one was arranged for December we decided to be on time. We had a great time and our friend an R.S.L. Auxiliary member, said how great it was to meet you folk.

If this is a sample of our Safari we are all in for a wonderful time and hope all goes well for all.

Glad to say I feel much better since my last trip to hospital for chest surgery in November, and am hoping to be able to obtain a little light work to help with expenses for our trip.

If I don't see you before, see you on Anzac Day.

Called out to see Beaky Smith—no one home, and think they may have returned to their own home in Shortland, Newcastle.

FRANK PRESS of 'Bobanaro' Carcoar, N.S.W., writes:—

Enclosed herewith \$20 for my ticket in the Safari Raffle. I don't know if I can con another sale, but if so will forward it later.

How are things with you all over in the West? We have had a very good season just here, but floods have caused quite a havoc in other parts of the State. At present it is impossible to assess just the amount but it will run into many millions. Some Soldier Settlers in the North and North-West have copped it pretty badly.

Was fortunate enough to be in Sydney in December and was able to attend a barbecue that the boys held at the home of John and Joan Darge. It was great to see them all again. Some I had not seen since Timor. Allan Addison for one. He hasn't changed so very much either. We had a great day and of course there was a lot of talk about the Safari. At this juncture it looks as if there will be a reasonable representation. I know that I am looking forward to the trip with enthusiasm. I was also able to call, with Alan Luby, on Paddy Kenneally, who unfortunately had just lost his mother. He, himself, was in the pink, and we enjoyed his liquid hospitality immensely.

Harry Holder was over here for National R.S.L. Congress and I saw quite a bit of him, a bit too much in fact. There should be some law against blokes like him. I doubt whether I have completely recovered yet.

Kindest regards to all. Looking forward to being with you later this year.

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

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W. A. DRAGE, of 20 Boronia Ave., Geraldton, W.A., writes:—

Sorry about being so late replying to enclosed application form. Also find enclosed \$20 for same.

I haven't seen any of the old gang for some time as you probably know I have not had the best of health over the last few months, but things are on the improve for now.

Will say cheerio. All the best.

ALF HILLMAN, of Katanning, W.A. writes:—

Times being a bit grim I have not been able to find anyone else willing to leave his farm though I have told them they are only losing money by staying. However being now semi retired I am willing to have a go myself so herewith application form for a ticket and cheque for same.

Can't complain too much about anything except the income at the moment. Everything else is growing pretty well to balance that fall. Crops and wool clip about the best ever and costs growing like hell.

Cheerio for now.

Heard This?

I am happy to report that even under the strain with dealing with today's complex humans, medical men haven't lost their sense of humour. I was told about a sweet young employee in our building who recently underwent an appendectomy. Her greatest concern was not its threat to her health, only to its effect on her appearance. The first question she asked the doctor after she came out of the anaesthetic was: "Will the scar show?"

He had the perfect answer. In his gravest and most professional voice he replied: "That, my dear, is completely up to you!"

* * *

The couple had just been rescued from a tiny island after three days and nights. The girl extended her hand to the man and said: "Charlie, you're a dear, and thanks for being such a gentleman. Too bad you didn't know this gun was empty, isn't it?"

* * *

A young lady asked Victor Vesta when a pullet becomes a hen.

"Well," chuckled Vic, "when she loses her first foot race."

**APRIL MEETING:
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT
TUESDAY, APRIL 6**

**ANZAC DAY:
SUNDAY, APRIL 25**

This is a Sunday but arrangements will be as for any other year. Our big show is at the W.A. ROWING CLUB as always.

MAMMOTH RAFFLE:

Warrants Your Immediate Attention

There are still a few tickets available and of course your dough right now would be appreciated