

# THE WALLACES LEAVE MARYSVILLE

Talking with Jim and Marj Wallace in their Marysville home a few days before they departed for the new life in Ringwood, was like moving through nearly 60 years of this town's history.

As we rummaged through a box of old snapshots, glimpses of the glorious old days of Marysville emerged; pictures of sleek tour cars carrying elegant visitors to the beauty spots, the local tennis club group on the immaculately kept public courts, Jim and Marj hamming it up in fancy dress, the building of the cinema when the "Talkies" came...memories came flooding back and it was clear that the Wallace's have been deeply involved in the life of Marysville since Jim's arrival in 1922.

Born in Dumfries, Scotland, Jim Wallace came to Australia with his family at the age of 6.

Following a camping holiday in the Marysville area in his young manhood, he left a city job in 1922 for 'bush-whacking' at Taggerty with his mate, the late Archie Palamountain.

His talent for hard work and his attractive personality soon caught the eye of the Barton Brothers who among their many business interests ran a fleet of touring cars - very dashing looking Studebakers. Jim worked for them, in charge of the service cars and garage, for 14 years.

In 1928 Marj came to Marysville on a holiday, met the eligible young bachelor and they married in 1930. Marriage and a family, two daughters Jill and Marie, probably spurred Jim on to private enterprise.

He and Clarrie Smith, still well remembered, began showing the 'talkies' in the hall and in 1932, built the Marysville Theatre - now remodelled as the Pumpnickel Restaurant. It was some theatre! Comfortable and well heated, it showed excellent films and was well conducted. Any larrikin who made loud kissing noises in a romantic scene or misbehaved in any way, was soon shown the door!

It was so well patronised that it warranted the showing of films every night during the holiday seasons with two changes of program during the week – each program consisting of two full length films. All through the year the cinema was open at least two night during the week. It was necessary to book for most nights for the back stalls. The local 'elite' of the day had permanent bookings in the three back rows to the left of the entrance. If you could book a seat there, you were made, socially!

Jim Wallace showed his talkies for 43 years. They were always pre-suburban, and frequently, pre-city showings.

The Wallace's have been prominent in almost all of the town's organisations... church, sporting activities, and social clubs. Jim was a keen musician. He played saxophone and banjo (not simultaneously). He was a member of a much sought after orchestra consisting of himself, Mrs Vera Barton, Ernie Waite, George Coe and Gordon Fry.

Jim and Marj have held office in tennis, golf and bowling clubs and he is a Life Member of the Golf Club and of the Marysville Tourist and Progress Association.

Having become great grand-parents about a year ago, they think it's time to move a little closer to family and 'civilisation'. Jim said "it's not far to Ringwood". "I don't feel I'm going away, and from Marj, "were going to Ringwood, but we're not leaving Marysville".

Their friends saw them off at a dinner dance at Marysville Hotel-Motel on Friday night. They take with them our thanks for all they have done for our town, our best wishes for the future and our hope that they will make frequent visits "home".

Thanks Nell Henderson for doing my job and good luck to the Wallace's.

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