

shire of eltham historical society

p.o. box 137, eltham, victoria, 3095.

newsletter no.14 september 1980

GOLD FEVER



AT THE NEXT SOCIETY MEETING MR. NICHOLAS PELLING WILL DISCUSS THE CURRENT UPSURGE OF INTEREST IN GOLD AND ITS DISCOVERY AND COMPARE THIS PHENOMENON WITH EARLIER GOLD ERAS.
8 P.M. WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 1980.
WAR MEMORIAL HALL, 905 MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM.

Electronic metal detectors have revolutionized gold prospecting and together with the current price of gold have resulted in widespread participation in a modern day gold rush. Recent finds of large nuggets have received wide publicity. As proprietor of the "Research Gold Mine" Nicholas Pelling is heavily involved in this gold boom.



The discussion will range widely over the subject and include :-

A comparison of past and present methods of gold prospecting and extraction.

The history of the gold industry with particular reference to the local area.

Comment on the current boom.

Demonstrations of old and new equipment.

This meeting will cover an interesting and unusual aspect of our history and is recommended to members. Visitors and new members are welcome.

ELTHAM COMMUNITY FESTIVAL.

This year's festival will be held from the 24th to 26th October and although the society's participation is not yet finalized it is intended that it be in two ways.

1. Historical exhibition over the 3 days.
2. Entry in the festival parade on 25th.

Tentative arrangements made so far include :-

1. Historical display to be on the theme of land development in Eltham.
2. Procession entry to include a truck carrying members of the Victorian Folk Music Club.
3. Entry to include horse riders and if possible horse drawn vehicles.
4. Procession theme to be as for last year - "Pioneers of Eltham".

The Committee will be meeting several times prior to the festival to complete arrangements. It is hoped that final arrangements can be made at the scheduled Committee Meeting on 8th October. No further Newsletter will be printed prior to the festival and members are therefore requested to now commence making any necessary arrangements. In particular information is required on availability of horses capable of pulling vehicles. Please complete the accompanying form and return it preferably at the September meeting, alternatively by post as soon as possible and no later than 8th October.

Last year the society won a prize for its procession entry despite some last minute organization and the bulk of the work being carried out by one member. Let us make this year even more successful by early planning and spreading the work load.

"LANDSCAPE"

An important local house was sold at auction on Saturday 30th August. It was "Landscape" in Lavender Park Road, built about 56 years ago, by Percy Leason, the noted artist, cartoonist and historian. Over the past 30 odd years it has been the home of the late Mr. D. C. Barrington and Mrs. Barrington. The main house is an attractive two storied building set in an extensive garden typical of the period in which it was built. At the rear of the house is the impressive studio built by Leason in 1934.

Recommended reading for those wishing to know more about Leason, is a paper by L. J. Blake in the Victorian Historical Magazine Vol. 39 No. 4. (Nov. 1968).

DONATION TO THE SOCIETY

The society is grateful to Mrs. Barrington for the donation of an old chaff cutter from "Landscape". A collection of articles of historic interest is gradually being built up by the society in the hope that at some future date we will be in a position to open our own local history museum. Any member who knows of articles which may be available for donation to the society, even if not immediately, should contact the secretary.

THE DIAMOND VALLEY STORY

(by Dianne H. Edwards, published by the Shire of Diamond Valley)

This book has been purchased for our society records. It not only covers the history of an adjoining municipality but includes previously unpublished information on the Shire of Eltham. The brief review below has been prepared by Peter Bassett-Smith, who is perhaps our society's most avid book collector and reader.

This is a well prepared and well illustrated book that will be a treasured possession of the lover of local history. Great credit must go to the author and to the councillors, editorial committee including members of Nillumbik Historical Society, and contributors responsible for its production.

However, it is more than just a chronicle of facts. The book covers a wide range of human interest from the beginnings of settlement to the present day, about people who made a living for themselves in a harsh environment. It tells of grazing and gardens of gold and agriculture of good times and bad and the relentless progress from bullock wagons to horse drawn transport, the first trains and motor cars, education and local government, in fact practically every facet of life in the area.

The Diamond Valley Story most ably written and researched, published and printed in Australia, is a book which will not only give the reader much pleasure but become a valuable collector's item.

OLD COTTAGE, ELY STREET, ELTHAM

Advice has been received from the Historic Buildings Preservation Council that the former Falkiner cottage in Ely Street, is not to be added to the Register of Historic Buildings. The Council's classifications sub-committee considers that on a state wide basis there are better examples of vernacular buildings and further that there is insufficient historical data to establish that the building is of importance, even to the district. Copies of research material on the cottage have been forwarded for the society's records.

The decision does not mean that the building is not worthy of preservation. It does mean that it will not have any legislative protection. The cottage and a small area of surrounding land is being transferred to the Shire of Eltham with the intention of preserving the building.

KINGLAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL NO 2188, 1879-1979 A CENTENARY HISTORY

This small book has been recently brought to our attention and is available at the Eltham Library or presumably can be purchased from the school. It contains no acknowledgement of authorship but is understood to be largely the work of Deidre Hawkins of Kinglake.

Kinglake Primary School was once in the Shire of Eltham but since 1972 has been situated in the Shire of Yea. However it draws its pupils from both shires which now cover the Kinglake area. As well as the usual school history including lists of pupils and teachers, the book deals briefly with the history of the Kinglake area. An interesting section on the naming of Kinglake does not resolve the uncertainty of the origins of the name.

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