

Contents:

1. Letter: Mrs G.M. Powell (nee McLean), Coongulla via Maffra, [Received Shire of Eltham and forwarded to Russell Yeoman, Secretary, Eltham Historical Society, 7 August 1984]. 2 pages.
2. Letter: Mrs Edith Jones, Heidelberg to Harry Gilham, EDHS, 5 Sep 1998 (4 pages)
3. Letter: Mrs Edith Jones, Heidelberg to Harry Gilham, EDHS, 20 Sep 1998 2 pages. Four photos also included filed separately
4. Reminiscences: Mrs Edith Jones, Heidelberg to Harry Gilham, EDHS, 20 Sep 1998 6 pages of life in Eltham and Warrandyte 1930-1934.
5. Letter: Mrs Edith Jones, Heidelberg to Harry Gilham, EDHS, 12 Dec 1998
6. Letter: Mrs Edith Jones, Heidelberg to Harry Gilham, EDHS, 6 Jan 1999

References to McLean family, Hector John McLean and Louisa Frances (nee Green) and six daughters who lived in Eltham during the period 1930 to 1934 inclusive. Lived in the former Evelyn Hotel at the time it was destroyed by fire and being part of the Centenary Parade in 1934 where the family won the Group Section for their entry "Pioneers of Eltham"

Reminiscences provided by Edith Jones include starting school at Eltham State School and Miss Finnin the Head Mistress. The family lived in the former Evelyn Hotel and the day the fire occurred that destroyed the hotel the school students were let out to watch the fire. There was no Eltham Fire Brigade and no water on tap. Describes the horror she and her sister felt when they walked up the street and discovered it was their home on fire. Their mother was outside, distressed. Louisa McLean believed she had been responsible when taking the ashes from the kitchen wood stove outside that some may have fallen down in cracks in the floor into the cellar. Recollections of some details of the Evelyn Hotel building, its interior, cellar, ballroom, sheds and coach houses. The family was provided shelter at St Margaret's Church and the kindness of Mrs Barrett. The girls snuck back the next day to recover their new shoes thinking they had survived. Two days after the fire Hector Mclean borrowed two tents and the family walked to Warrandyte where they camped beside the river and prospected for gold for several months. They bathed in the river and cooked in the open. Eventually managed to rent a house in Eltham again, Isherwood's house on Cemetery Road. The Fordhams were behind them and Mrs Bremner would sometimes call on the girls to run errands with homemade ice cream the reward. References to picnics and motor cycle races at Bremner's Flats (Wingrove Park) and a mention of an old cable tram lodged in the park. All six girls being christened at the same time at the Methodist Church by Rev. R.G. Arthur. The family moved again further around the corner to the shortcut road when the 1934 floods arrived and they witnessed the area all under floodwater. Fire, flood, hunger and the dole were the order of the years back then. References (and photos provided) of the six girls participating in the Centenary Parade celebrations in December 1934 when they won first prize for the group section dressed up as "Pioneers of Eltham." Describes how they all look tired in the photos as they had to walk all the way to the railway station then all the way back to the Eltham Park. Had been looking forward to Eltham Higher Elementary School but the family moved to Bittern when Hector was promised a painting job at Flinders Naval Depot.

KEYWORDS

1934 Flood, Ballroom, Baptism, Barber shop, Bittern, Boy Scouts, Bremner's Flat, Burgoyne's Shop, Cable Tram, Cemetery Road, Centenary Celebrations, Centenary Parade, Christening, Coach House, Collis Grocery, Dalton Street, depression, Dole, Dorothy Jean McLean, Edith Jones (nee McLean), eltham fire brigade, Eltham High School, Eltham Higher Elementary School, Eltham Lower Park, Eltham Railway Station, Eltham State School No. 209, Evelyn Hotel, Fire Damage - Buildings, Flinders Naval Depot, Fordham, Gladys Evelyn Mclean, Gold mining, Gwenneth Mae McLean, Gwladys Evelyn McLean, Headmistress, Hector John McLean, Isherwood House and shop, Louisa Frances McLean (nee Green), Metery Road, Methodist Church, Miss Finnin, Miss Grant cottage, Motor bike races, Mrs Barrett, Mrs Bremner, Mrs Hurley, Olive Isabel Mclean, Parade, Phoebe Lillian Mclean, Picnic, Pioneers of Eltham, Pitt Street, Research Fire Brigade, Rev. R.G. Arthur, shed, shops, St Margarets Church Hall, St Margaret's Church, Stables, State Savings Bank of Victoria, Susso Books, Todaro, Vinnie Willet, Warrandyte Bridge, Warrandyte, Wingrove park, Yarra River

RESEARCH NOTES:

- A check of available Electoral Roll Records (via Ancestry.com.au) shows Hector John McLean and Louisa Francis (sic) McLean living in Main Road, Eltham in the years 1931 through 1934. Hector's profession was painter, Louisa home duties. In 1936 the family had moved and was listed at Baker Street, North Richmond.
- Hector John McLean married Louisa Frances Green 1922 (Vic BDM)
- Hector John McLean was born 1883, Heidelberg and died Aug 1996 at Richmond, (Carpenter family tree, Ashleigh Carpenter via Ancestry)
- Louisa Frances Green born Sep 1901 Fitzroy North, died Mar 1983, Melbourne, daughter of John Green (1850-1926) and Mary Elizabeth George (1854-1923) (Carpenter family tree, Ashleigh Carpenter via Ancestry)
- John Green was the son of William Green (1822 England-1876 Fitzroy). (Carpenter family tree, Jade Carpenter)
- Gwenneth Mae McLean born Feb 1928 Melbourne, died Jul 2017, Heyfield (Carpenter family tree, Ashleigh Carpenter via Ancestry only has 5 of the 6 girls – Edith not listed, possibly still living at the time
 - o Dorothy **Jean** (1922-2012)
 - o **Edith** (20 Dec 1922 -)
 - o Olive **Isabel** (1926-2002)
 - o **Gwenneth** Mae (1928-2017)
 - o **Phoebe** Lillian (1929-1999)
 - o **Gwladys** Evelyn (1933-1986)
- Family mentioned "Outstanding in Eltham's History" (1934, December 21). *Advertiser (Hurstbridge, Vic. : 1922 - 1939)*, p. 1. Retrieved June 20, 2022, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56747552>

P. Pidgeon, 20 June 2022

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