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SYDNEY.

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TELEPHONE: B 06, EXT. 2333.

MH:AF



THE MITCHELL LIBRARY.
SYDNEY

20th December, 1957

A. Llewellyn, Esq.,
102 Victoria St.
EAGLE HAWK. VICTORIA.

Dear Sir,

Replying to your recent enquiry about the identity of Bob Brothers, a character in Henry Lawson's *Send around the Hat*, the Mitchell Library has a holograph letter from Henry Lawson at Wellington, New Zealand, written to his aunt at Sydney, dated 6th November 1893, in which he writes "Bob Brothers got back to Sydney about the time I left. Got a letter to say that his baby and wife were ill. Baby dead and buried when he got back. He's coming over again in a week or two. Try to see him. Furniture shop top of William Street."

We also hold a typescript copy of an item by Mr. T.D. Mutch who knew Henry Lawson well; Mr. Mutch states in this that "Practically everything Lawson wrote was taken from life". *Sands' Sydney & Suburban Directory for 1894* (entries for which were received up till the first week in October 1893) gives a Robert Brothers at 32 Denham Street, Sydney. This is roughly in the vicinity of William Street. We have found no proof that Bob Brothers had all or any of the characteristics of the person in *Send round the Hat*.

Yours faithfully,

Jean F. Arnot

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ACTING MITCHELL LIBRARIAN

BOB BROTHERS MEMORIAL. BENDIGO.

It was early in 1958, where at a meeting, resentment was expressed about the hideous childrens comics from America flooding the market, that I suggested we should, as Australians, be using the finest characters in Australian literature as a basis for developing our own Australian folk lore, and said "There was no finer character than Bob Brothers, the central character in Henry Lawsons "Send round the hat" who was a native of Bendigo.

After the meeting, the Bendigo Advertiser reporter came to me and said "Llew! I have just read Henry Lawsons story, Send round the hat, and when I read it I cried. If you will agree to start a movement to have a Bob Brothers memorial established in Bendigo, I will run off 50 copies of the story for publicity.

At a meeting called by the Mayor of Bendigo, Councillor Alex Craig, Mr Jack Murley said "Tonights meeting would be one of the most important meetings called by the Mayor". The Mayor said in reply, "This meeting may develop one of the most important ideas put forward during my term of Office. The meeting was Chaired by Mr Bob Harrowfield, Headmaster of the Golden Square High School.

Larry Noye, the reporter wrote the story up for The Age, Sydney Daily Telegraph, Adelaide Advertiser, The Buletin, Walkabout and the Bread and Cheese club. Bill Wannan gave us a full page coverage in the "Come in spinner" section of Australian Post, and the Bendigo Advertiser

gave generous coverage to the idea, including a Leading Article.

Alan Marshall and Judah Waten came to Bendigo, and gave two evenings of Australian stories to an interested audience. They pledged their full support of their writers group to see it through to a success-

said ← full conclusion. Mr Harrowfield "the memorial should be positioned near the Sound Shell, and each Australia Day, a pilgrimage to the site should be arranged, and Australian Plays or Programme could be a feature of the day.

I went to Sydney, and Angus and Robertsons who held the copyright to the story gave us permission to have the story printed as a souvinir booklet to augment our funds.

I rang Mrs Jago at 49 Baroonah Doad North Bridge, Sydney, and told her of our ideas, for which she expressed a keen delight. Mrs Jago was Henry Lawsons daughter, Bertha.

BERTHA.

Wide, solemn eyes that question me,
Wee hand that pats my head,
Where only two have stroked before,
And both of them are dead.

"Ah, poo-ah Daddy mine" she says

With wonderous sympathy,
Oh, baby girl, you don't know how

You brake the heart in me.

When I was good, I dreamed that when

The snow showed in my hair,

A household angel in her teens

Would flit about my chair,

To comfort me as I grew old,

But that shall never be-

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In Sydney I called at the Mitchell Library and asked if they could research on the existance of Bob Brothers. I received a copy of a holograph letter from Henry Lawson, written from Wellington, New Zealand dated 6th November 1893, in which he writes "Bob Brothers got back to Sydney about the time I left. Got a letter to say that his baby and wife were ill. Baby dead and buried when he got back. He's coming over in a week or two. Try to see him, furniture shop top of William St. Sands, Sydney & Suburban Directory for 1894 (Entries for which were received up till first week in October 1893) gives a Robert Brothers at 32 Denham St Sydney. This is roughly the vacinity of William Street.

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Received a letter dated June 20th 1977 from Herb Kear of 10 Kepp
Concord. He and I had a common interest as dahlia growers.
that he was a native of Mudgee New South Wales, and it
that Henry's mother and father were married in the Methodist
in which my late parents were parishioners. Not long after
marriage, Henry's parents left Mudgee for Grenfell in search
Gold, and there Henry was born. Gold was scarce and his parents
returned to the old shack at Eurunderee, and it was there that Henry
a few years of his boyhood, including plenty of missed days
school. Eurunderee is about 4 to 5 miles from Mudgee. Henry was
friendly with my late father, who conducted a Bi-weekly Newspaper,
the Western Post, and it was there whilst I was working as a youth
that I first met Henry. He used to pay a courtesy call, sit down
in the office and write a poem for publication in the paper. Herb
was 81 in 1977. obtained

Mr Ellis Sherwood on behalf of the Committee, quotes from firms and
after quotes accepted, Mr Sherwood arranged with City Engineer for
the Memorial to be positioned in Rosalind Park. This was late 1960.

A.W. Llewellyn,
102 Victoria Street,
Eaglehawk 3556.