

Finding personal links to our collection (Reference Reg items 3400 and 3806)

The Museum received during May an email from a web site visitor with a photograph seeking information on an SEC employees pass, that was attached to a short imperial scale metal ruler by a piece of wire. In the email was some information about the person who it belonged to and what he undertook for the Ballarat Tramways in the 1920's through to the 1930's and beyond.



"I am the WA granddaughter of Vincent Michael Dalton, an ex-coal miner from Eganstown who served in WW1. My mother, his youngest daughter recalled that he began as a tram driver until his hearing loss became worse. (A consequence of war service in Gallipoli and on the Western Front). He then worked as a Fitter and Turner including work on tram wheels. The depot was over the road on Wendouree Parade and he walked there every day from home in 1342 Gregory Street. I am caring for his identity disk 136, which is lettered State Electricity Commission of Victoria, Electricity Supply Department - Provincial Tramways. It has a metal rule of 4" copper wired to it's top loop. I wonder if anybody can tell me what he would have done with this object and more about his employ in 1920s - 1930s which I believe may have extended 50 years."

We advised that it was an employee's pass for travelling on the trams. When Warren picked up on the note that he was involved in working on the tram wheels, he sent the family a SEC photo of a fitter working on the wheel grinder, soon after it was installed in the mid 1930's at the SEC depot. Yes it was Vin!



Vin joined the AIF in the early days of the First World War and served both in Gallipoli and then in the Western Front with the 8th Battalion. Amazingly he survived all these deadly campaigns. Alan Bradley is currently preparing an article for a future issue of *Fares Please!* on the Ballarat Tramways and its involvement in the First World War and those trammies who served. It will include a note on Vin and many other Ballarat trammies.

While chatting with the family, we found another link with the family and our collection. Vin's son Norm joined the SEC in 1940 as an apprentice at the Ballarat Power Station. Norm Dalton worked for the SEC for the next 42 years, retiring as Chief Engineer Power. During the demolition of the Wendouree Parade power station buildings, Norm was given an ESCo "Tramways Traffic Wages Book" which listed the wages paid to the trammies for August 1919 to December 1924. Norm subsequently donated the book to the Museum and it now forms a valued part of our collection.

Although we had recorded the donor of the book, we did not know much of his working life and his family links to the Ballarat Tramways. This information will be recorded in our collection files as it enhances the historical significance of both of these items.

We thank the family for the information that has been provided.