

8-9-50

## Tramways Officer Farewelled

More than 200 members of the Ballarat SEC and Tramways staffs attended a farewell function to a former traffic officer, Mr A. V. Mawby in the Electra Hall last night.

Mr Mawby has been appointed Departmental Tramway Superintendent and will live in Melbourne.

Describing Mr Mawby's promotion since to coming to Ballarat 29 years ago as an "outstanding achievement," the Ballarat SEC branch manager, Mr T. A. Farr, said that the guest should be proud not only of rising to a key position from the bottom of the ladder, but of maintaining the esteem and friendship of his colleagues.

Others to speak of Mr Mawby's qualities were: The president of the Tramway's Union, Mr J. Smerdon; oldest traffic employee present, Mr N. McWilliam; Mr W. S. Lyons, who represented the Tramway depot personnel; past president of the SEC Officers' Association, Mr R. S. Downey; power station superintendent, Mr F. K. Mounter; president of the SEC social club, Mr J. Megee and Mr G. M. Davidson, president of the SEC Tennis Club.

"Success is very largely reflected glory only possible through the help of a good team," said Mr Mawby, when paying a tribute to the Ballarat staff.

He added: "Throughout my career I have had extremely good luck in the matter of vacancies, on which promotion largely depends."

Mr Mawby said that he came to Ballarat as a "Pommy" of 23, and in 29 years developed a connection with the city which was difficult to sever.

Earlier Mrs Mawby was presented with a spray by the president of the Ladies' Tramways Social Committee, Mrs Hall.

Mr and Mrs Mawby were presented with a coffee stand, set and percolator on behalf of those present.

## Recalls Steam Trams

After 41 years' association with Ballarat's electric supply and tramway services, Mr. W. J. K. Dunstan is to retire on Monday from his position as local branch office manager for the State Electricity Commission. Mr Dunstan has actually been interested in tramways since 1897, when he was first employed by the company which ran steam trams in Bendigo. In 1899 the Electric Supply Company of Victoria took over the tramways and electricity services in Bendigo, and shortly after acquired corresponding enterprises in Ballarat. Bendigo got its electric trams in 1903, and Ballarat first replaced horse trams with electric trams in 1905, a few months after Mr. Dunstan's arrival in this city. He rose to be chief accountant

Mr L. J. Denmead, newly appointed S.E.C. branch superintendent of the Ballarat tramways, has arrived here. Mr Denmead, who was formerly of the Tramways Board, Melbourne, replaces Mr A. V. Mawby, who was recently appointed general superintendent of the S.E.C.'s provincial tramways in Melbourne.

3-2-51

## Popular Tramway Inspector Dead

One of Ballarat's most widely known men, Mr Harold Phillip ("Freddie") James, died yesterday. He gave 41 years of his life to the tramways in this city.

Mr James was seen almost every day at the corner of Lydiard and Sturt streets directing traffic, helping people on to trams, or lifting on their luggage. Mr James never considered himself elderly when there was a service to be rendered.

He was a man who took everyone's troubles as his own and was described by his associates as "wrapped up in his work." Mr James, who died after a brief illness, was 61.

Typical of his thought for other people was the fact that one night he saw two young girls who had just missed the last tram to Sebastopol. He was so concerned that he called a taxi and paid the girls' fare.

Mr James joined the Electric Supply Company in 1905, as a car cleaner, became a conductor on the horse trams in 1906, and in the following year, when the trams were electrified, became a ticket inspector. In 1911 he was promoted traffic inspector. He became a Senior traffic inspector in 1922, and three years later traffic superintendent. He resigned from the company in 1925 and went into business, but returned to the company as a meter reader in 1928. Later he was transferred back to the position of traffic inspector, which he held at his death.

Mr James was a noted comedian and the day before he took ill entertained for an appeal for the Mary-Helen Hospital Auxiliary.

Mr James was known in cricket circles as "Baker" James and was prominent as a googly bowler in Ballarat in his younger days.

At his death, he was senior vice-president of the Historical Society and was a popular lecturer there. He prepared and read several papers on the history of tramways during his 12 years' association with the Society.

Mr James leaves a wife and three married children. He was born in Ballarat. One of his daughters is living in the United States.

The funeral will leave Wesley Church, Lydiard street south, for the New Cemetery following a service at 3.30 to-day.

Drove First Electric Tram

10-6-49

former traffic officer, Mr A. V. Mawby in the Electra Hall last night.

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15-3-46.

## Drove First Electric Tram

How many people could name the driver of the first electric tram in Ballarat? This distinction is claimed by Mr G. A. Laurens, who retired from the employment of the State Electricity Commission in August last, after 41 years' service. But Mr Laurens' claim does not end there, for he also drove the first tram in Bendigo, back in 1903, two years before electric trams came to Ballarat. These facts are given in a warm tribute to Mr Laurens' work in the service and in sporting, patriotic and charitable circles, in the "S.E.C. Magazine, the journal of the State Electricity Commission.

10-6-49

PH-2001