

N<sup>o</sup> 17 happened 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. '49

# RUNAWAY TRAM'S CAREER ENDS IN WINDOW

New T

A tram-car momentarily left unattended by its crew at the Lydiard and Sturt street stop early on Saturday morning careered down the steep incline to Grenville street and came to a stop on the footpath outside the grocery store of S. E. Dickens Pty. Ltd.

- In its run the tram:—
- Narrowly missed several motor cars travelling in the opposite direction.
  - Jumped the points at the waiting shed opposite "The Courier" Office, and shot diagonally across the roadway.
  - Crashed into the rear of a mobile "doughnut kitchen."
  - Uprooted a heavy iron post supporting the verandah of the grocery store, mounted the footpath, and flung the post through a plate-glass window.

The tram came to rest a few feet from the shattered window. A woman passenger who clung to her seat during the wild ride, got out of the tram unhurt, and walked away. Eye-witnesses said the woman had a narrow escape from serious injury.

The crash of glass brought hundreds of people to the scene, and police were called to direct traffic. Norman Todd, taxi-cab driver, said he was driving his cab across the Lydiard street intersection, when he saw the tram beginning to roll back slowly down the hill. He said he saw four small boys peering out of the tram, and he shouted to them to jump. They jumped before the tram gained much momentum, but the woman passenger was trapped inside the tram.

Mr Todd said he was hailed by a tramway inspector, and he, with the inspector as passenger, chased the tram on the "incorrect" side of Sturt street, but it was travelling too fast for either he or the inspector to stop it. After the tram jumped the rails, it struck the rear of Mr Harry

Bridges' "doughnut kitchen," which had just parked outside Dickens store in preparation for the customary Saturday morning business.

Mr Bridges said that he was preparing the doughnut mixture in the kitchen of his large truck, and Mrs Bridges was feeding her three months old baby in the driver's seat at the front of the vehicle.

He heard Mrs Bridges call out, "Look out, Harry!"

Mr Bridges said he thought that a fire had occurred in the "kitchen," and he ran to the front of the vehicle to get a fire extinguisher. Then he saw the tram a few feet from the truck, and he was flung off his feet by the impact as the tram stove in part of the top body work, smashed several windows of the "kitchen," and buckled a rear mud-guard of the truck.

The doughnut baking preparation was showered all over the interior of the "kitchen," but none of the occupants was hurt.

Mr Bridges, finding his stock of baking mixture ruined, and uncertain of the damage to steam pipes in his "kitchen," drove it away.



The resounding crash of a collision and breaking glass quickly brought hundreds of people to the Grenville, Bridge and Sturt street intersection on Saturday morning to inspect the damage done by the runaway tram.

## Skilful Recovery By S.E.C. Staff

Dickens store, long manager of just been opened when the accident happened, and there were few people

He said that one of the shop's cashiers, Miss Betty Ainley, had a narrow escape when the iron post came hurtling into the shop. She had just walked past the cash desk in the centre of the store when the post fell across it, smashing the counter.

Altogether three plate-glass windows at the store were smashed, and when the impact occurred, tins of jam and other stock were thrown from the shelves.

While police and SEC officials controlled the disrupted traffic and kept the big crowd away from the scene of the crash, SEC technicians were quickly at work.

They skilfully arranged an overhead wire from the main lines to the stricken tram, which, under its own power, was driven across the roadway and back to the rails.

The tram had the driver's cabin stove in and several smashed front windows.

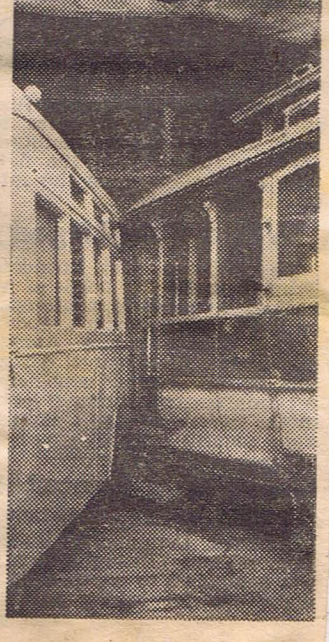
The resounding crash of the tram striking the "doughnut kitchen" and the store windows brought Messrs George and V. White from their shop on the corner of Grenville street.

Mr V. White was just in time to chase a horse, attached to a cart loaded with empty milk bottles, which had been startled by the noise, and pull it up before it bolted.

Mr G. White, expecting that people might have been seriously injured in the smash, ran to his telephone and warned the Base Hospital that it might expect some casualties. When he discovered nobody was hurt, Mr White called the hospital and said its services would not be required.

It is believed that the driver of the runaway tram has been temporarily suspended, as is the usual procedure in such cases, pending a departmental inquiry into the incident.

ON a street when a runaway tram crashed into a mobile doughnut kitchen in Sturt-st., Ballarat. The kitchen was hurled through the window of a shop. No one was hurt. Above: The tram off its track after the accident and (right) the mobile kitchen in the wrecked front of the shop.



## ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF VIC BALLARAT TRAMWAYS OPERATION TO STOPPING PLACES.

Passengers are advised that the following alterations have been made:—

**STREET ROUTE:**  
Green Chamberlain and Queen Streets, eliminated.  
Green Railway Bridge and terminus, eliminated.

**TRUNK ROUTE:**  
Green Crescent—Stop transferred to Steinfield Street, Wood Street, eliminated.  
Green Bradshaw and Gladstone Streets, eliminated.

**TRUNK:**  
Green Bridge Street, moved one pole east.  
Green Street, eliminated.

**TRUNK:**  
Green Strong Street for outward trams, eliminated.  
Green Strong Street for inward trams, eliminated.  
Green Street for inward trams, eliminated.

**TRUNK WEST ROUTE:**  
Green Street, eliminated.  
Green Street, eliminated.  
Green Street, moved two poles east.  
Green Street, west of Alfred Street, eliminated.  
Green Street, west of Alfred Street, moved two poles east.

**TRUNK NORTH ROUTE:**  
Green Street, moved one pole south.  
Green Street, eliminated.  
Green Street, eliminated.  
Green Martin Avenue and Haddon Street, eliminated.  
Green Street, west of Dowling Street, eliminated.  
Green Street, west of Dowling Street, eliminated.  
Green Street, west of Dowling Street, eliminated.  
Green Street, west of Dowling Street, eliminated.

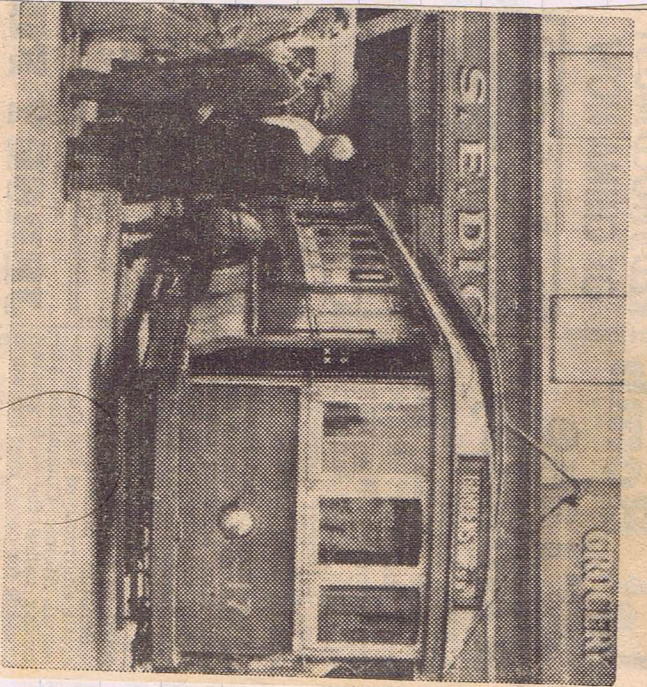
**TRUNK NORTH:**  
Green Landsborough Street and terminus, eliminated.  
Green Landsborough Street and terminus, eliminated.  
Green Landsborough Street and terminus, eliminated.

THOMAS A. FARR, Manager.

July 10<sup>th</sup> 1942.



# illed In Runaway Tram In Crash



**A THREE-MONTHS-OLD** baby was catapulted from a bassinot when a runaway tram crashed into a mobile doughnut kitchen in Sturt-st., Ballarat. The kitchen was hurled through the window of a shop. No one was hurt. Above: The tram off its track after the accident and (right) the mobile kitchen in the wrecked front of the shop.

