

**Notes on item 7169 following its appearance on Facebook □ 15/12/2023**

- Peter Bruce

A bit of history. The old blokes told me that when Hanna Street as it was then, later South Melbourne Depot, was an all night depot the serious card players might be there all night and they were really gambling, poker I think, not playing for pennies, the way they put it was blokes were losing their pay and wives were turning up on pay day, every Thursday, to make sure they got what they needed so the M&MB administration cracked down on card playing in the messrooms. What then happened was that the committed gamblers moved up into the running shed and were playing in stabled trams overnight. When they got ejected from the shed some of them took seat cushions from big cars, W5 and on, and moved up to the waiting shed on St Kilda Road at Dorcas Street. At this point the Tramways Board must have really cracked down and by the time I joined the job in late 1966 the card players were playing Red Aces for coins. There were never any shortages of card players though and as long as it stayed that way it was tolerated and Gambling on the Boards Premises was definitely Prohibited. The call of "deal me in" was heard as long as the mess was open. P.S. I'd be pretty certain that back in those days there would have been plenty of late run outs and pick ups from people playing just one more hand.

- Ross McGregor

We had one at Essendon depot - drivers would sit underneath it and gamble their pay packets...