

There was naturally a good deal of excitement among the inmates of the Coffee Palace, but it is pleasing to be able to state that no accidents happened to any of them.

On Wednesday a large staff of men were busily engaged in replacing the roof and making other repairs rendered necessary by the unwelcome visitation."

(I believe it lifted up and over the buildings in Foster Street and landed approximately 50 yards away, opposite Abbots, about where the Masonic Hall stands today.)
[Maybe the wind was a Southerly, for the roof to have been displaced to the north.]

If that disastrous occurrence didn't destroy Fenton's enthusiasm it must have devastated him when the nearby Methodist Church successfully lodged a petition to counter his application for a liquor licence, something that would have been vital to the success of the classy accommodation house he envisaged. A strong and devout Methodist himself, Fenton demonstrated his outrage by choosing to abandon Methodism and celebrate his eldest daughter's wedding in the Dandenong Presbyterian Church on the 6th September 1911. My mother remembered there was quite a to-do about it all.

Another event that would have had a profound effect on the success or otherwise of *Dandenong House* occurred when the councillors of the day, under immense pressure from local business men, voted against moving the market to nearby Cheltenham road. A referendum was held on 24th April 1912 to decide the fate of the Market site once and for all. It was reported on May 9th 1912, that the South Riding voted for the issue, but the Centre Riding overwhelmingly voted for no change, so that was that. The market remained in the increasingly cramped area bordered by McCrae and Lonsdale Streets until 1926 when the first sales began at the new site across the road in Clow Street. The first cattle sales at the sixty-five acre site in Cheltenham Road would not eventuate until 1958.

The third event that would have profoundly affected Fenton was the discovery of coal in Wonthaggi in 1910. It was not long before a rail line was constructed linking Wonthaggi via Dandenong to Melbourne and taking with it much of Fenton's passing trade.

In the meantime the advertisements for Dandenong House had continued in both papers, front page, centre column but these stopped on May 2nd 1912, I believe because of bitter disappointment.

It appears that Grandfather Andrews and his family went back to the farm in Chapel Road, Keysborough, because we found a report of the Keysborough School picnic, held on Empire Day in 1912. This function was held in McMillan's paddock opposite the State School in Chapel Road. On this sports day, we found that the Andrews boys excelled themselves by winning most of the games such as pole vaulting and running. Even the boys who had left school took part in the Tug of War.

The next article we found in *The Advertiser* was a send-off to a Mr and Mrs McInnes who had leased *Dandenong House* for about twelve months and left on 17th April 1913. *Dandenong House* was leased out to quite a few different people. A Miss Mathews ran it for a long time. Mr Charlie Jones, brother of Albert Jones the photographer was another. Max Oldmeadow, a regular train traveller, confirms that the McAlpines ran the coffee shop during the 50's-60's. Judd and Innes owned it in the latter part and then a property developer bought it, a Mr Jerry Pilarinos, from Malvern. The building had been condemned on 30th December 1977 and he was going to demolish it but it burnt down instead. He replaced it with some rather ordinary looking shops. One family I know personally, Betty Williams and her parents from Sarona Street, boarded there briefly until they could establish themselves in Dandenong. Many people became long time boarders.

James Fenton Andrews with his wife and son Alan went to live at Frankston in 1916, leaving the farm in the capable hands of Arthur his second son. He later took up residence in Swan Hill for a few years. Then he bought a tremendous home named *Summerlands* at Alexandra. This home had a roomy pantry as well as a large cellar beneath. At that time the house was surrounded by wild bush land and Fenton often fished the nearby Goulburn River. He moved again, this time to Cobram where he ran a Citrus Orchard along the Murray River where he died on 28th January 1933 at 71 years. His body was brought back to *Myrtle Villa* in Keysborough where family still lived and the following day he was buried in the Methodist section of the Dandenong Cemetery. The plot was purchased by Fenton himself a few years earlier. Marie his wife lived on till 1943.

Although the Andrews stay at *Dandenong House* was relatively short, no more than two years, I guess these stories stood out clearly in my mother's mind because of their dramatic quality coupled with the intensity of her father's dream.