

## MISS EILEEN EMPSON.

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No reference to the early development of the work in the interest of the Deaf and Dumb of Victoria could be made without thinking of Mrs. Hannah Martin and her son, Mr. H. Sumner Martin, for so many years Hon. Secretary of the Society. There was also a daughter in the family who became Mrs. White, and she in turn had a daughter—Elsie White—who, when the work of the Society increased, took up the position of office secretary.

Before this, however, even from childhood Elsie had a chum. Their school life was together. What was more natural that when Elsie went into the office of the Deaf and Dumb, Eileen should continue the friendship and run in and out whenever she had a chance. Elsie became Mrs. Prior and removed to Sydney. Eileen took Elsie's place in the office. That was twenty-three years ago.

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Not only has she got the love and confidence of the Deaf of both sexes, but also of the Board of Management. She is regarded as invaluable. Her knowledge of the Deaf, of each peculiarity, and characteristic, her strength of character to direct and control, her executive ability, and withal tact, courage, and reliability, led the Board of Management in 1928 to create the position of Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, with special duties in connection with the Farm and Home, and made her an Executive Officer of the Society, directly responsible to the Hon. Treasurer.

In 1929, to mark her twenty-one years' service with the Society, and in appreciation of her value, the Board of Management presented

her with a cheque, while the Deaf gave her a beautiful writing desk.

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The President (Mr. E. R. Peacock) was in the chair, and extended a hearty welcome to all. The General Board being the hosts for the Xmas Rally, the chairman (Mr. N. Armstrong), Hon. Treasurer (Mr. L. A. Cleveland), Messrs. F. W. Spry, M. J. Hoath and E. H. Peacock (members of the Board of Management) made jolly speeches appropriate to the Christmas season and which caused much laughter and merriment. We were pleased to see Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Spry present, this being their first visit to the Centre.

Mr. Porter, of Kodak Ltd., gave a fine cinema entertainment, which all enjoyed.

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(From "The Sun" of January 5 last.)

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# THE VICTORIAN DEAF

A bi-monthly magazine published by the Deaf Committee of  
the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria.

*The Organ of the Deaf of the State.*

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Messrs. O. Quinton and W. Bladier spent a day and a half cycling and hiking over the ranges between Warburton and Healesville, touching Donna Buang and Ben Cairn en route. Whilst on one of their hikes, they were hailed by a roadside picnicker, who turned out to be Mrs. Piper of Geelong. She was spending her Xmas holidays at Warburton.

Mr. F. E. Frewin joined a hearing party at Xmas and went motoring round Mornington Peninsula.

Miss Stella Garry, of Albury, went to Ballarat soon after the termination of the Interstate Festivities, and has returned to Melbourne.

Mr. Colin Johns, since returning home, wrote saying how pleased he was to be with his Melbourne friends during the interstate visit, which he greatly enjoyed. He is busy finishing off harvesting work. Mr. Willie Hatley is with him there. Colin said whilst returning home from Melbourne he had a nasty fall off his motor-cycle through running into a dog, but, fortunately, was not injured in any way.

Mrs. J. M. Johnston, her two children, and Miss R. Dow, spent a happy fortnight at Warburton after the festivities. On one occasion Mrs. Gus Damman took the party over the Baw Baw to Warragul and back in her car.

Mr. W. Wood spent Xmas with his family at their week-end home at Cockatoo.

Mr. W. Limbrick, of Hobart, and his wife, came over to Melbourne for their honeymoon on 11th December. Needless to say we did not see much of them until a day or two before the commencement of the festivities.

Mr. H. Puddy had a nasty spill off his motor-cycle on the morning of the arrival of the Tasmanian team, which resulted in severe bruises down his side. He was sore for most of the week and it affected his play in the Tennis Tournament.

Mr. W. Kent lost his mother, whom he has lived with for many years, on 9th December, at the age of seventy-six years. He has now gone to live with his married sister at Boronia.

Mr. J. Elwin is another of our members who was operated on for appendicitis during the earlier part of December.

Herb Wilson and E. Roxburgh took the road along the Prince's Highway to Sale, Gippsland, and back on their push-bikes, during the holidays and had a good time.

Mr. A. Taylor and Mrs. Nicholson, both Melbourne girls, but now living in Sydney, arrived in Melbourne on 14th December, and are making an extended stay with their relatives. It is probable they will return home after the Easter holidays.

An engagement has been announced between Mr. Harry Puddy of Melbourne, and Miss Jessie Best of Tasmania. Miss Best also made a lengthy stay in Melbourne.

Mr. J. Hunt is at present working round the Mildura district on a chaff-cutting contract, and he has Willie O'Bryan helping him. It

is Willie's first visit to Mildura, and he stated in his letters that he likes Mildura very much.

Mr. J. Retallick was operated on for appendicitis a week before the opening of the Xmas Festivities. It was fortunate that he was fit to be out of hospital and join in some of the fun.

Charlie Buck is always on the move, and is more energetic than many of his fellow-mates, for he has again secured work. A letter from him was received just before the holidays, informing us that he is at Mt. George, up on the north coast line of New South Wales, doing dairy farm work.

Our thanks to Mr. R. Cohen and Miss E. Schwell for subscriptions to "The Victorian Deaf" Fund.

Mr. J. E. Kenworthy, we are sorry to say, was prevented through illness from playing in the Victorian cricket team when the "Ernest J. D. Abraham" Shield was being competed for.

Mr. Jack McLaurin was also very unfortunate recently. Whilst trying to release a horse the animal hit out and broke Jack's arm. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to the above-named country friends.

Miss Alice Smith, one of our most popular members, was an inmate of the Infectious Hospital for some weeks. She was a member of the Interstate Carnival Committee, and had been working hard to make the social side a success. It was, therefore, a great disappointment not only to Alice, but to all her friends at the Centre, that she was unable to take part in the festivities. About twenty of her friends mailed her Xmas greetings on the same day. We are pleased to say she is back among us again and steadily regaining her usual health.

Mrs. J. E. Muir, of Warburton, was in Melbourne for the Christmas season. It was good to see her with us at some of the indoor functions and day trips.

Miss Emily Rose, a daughter of the late Mr. F. J. Rose, founder of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, St. Kilda Road, paid a visit to the Centre recently. She was very pleased to meet and hear of some of her deaf friends, and wished to be remembered to all.

Mrs. Jas. Pierce recently underwent an operation at the Women's Hospital. We are glad to report she is home again. We all hope this will be the turning point and that Mrs. Pierce will enjoy much better health than recently.

#### Christmas Day.

The preliminary meeting of the Adult Deaf Cricket Association was held at 4.30 p.m. on Christmas Day, when the fixtures, programme and ground, submitted by Victoria, were approved and the draw for matches and umpires made.

After a short service held in the church, a Welcome Social, under the auspices of the Deaf Committee, was given to the visitors in the



Adult Deaf Club House, and there was a crowded attendance of Melbourne Deaf to receive the visitors. The hall was gaily decorated with colored streamers, balloons, etc., making the scene quite a gay one. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham presided and extended to the visitors our warm welcome, promising them, in the name of the Deaf, a very happy time. Mr. Ed. Johnson, the Hon. Secretary to the Deaf Committee, also spoke, asking for unity and goodwill. Managers or delegates of each State responded. Messrs. Lonsdale (N.S.W.), Parkinson (Tas.), and W. Abbot (S.A.). Games and conversation followed, and all too soon supper came and the first day of days came to a close.

There was another crowded assembly at our Centre on the following night, 26th December, when a Competitive Games Social was held, and much enthusiasm was shown and keen competition for the prizes offered.

On the following day, Sunday, 27th December, at 3 p.m., the Shrine of Remembrance was visited. The party was taken over the buildings by the guide, who explained every point of interest.

At 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Divine Worship was held in the Church for the Deaf, Jolimont, Mr. E. J. D. Abraham officiating.

On Monday, 28th December, about sixty Deaf were the guests of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board, and toured the suburbs of Melbourne in their tourist tramcar. The conductor pointed out the various places of interest.

On the evening of the same day hosts and guests visited St. Kilda Beach and entered with great zest into the various fun.

This "Show," on the 29th, was given before a very good attendance. The programme included a recitation, "The Boot Boy," by Mr. H. Puddy, "Magical Wonders" by Mr. N. Webb, assisted by Mr. C. Graham, the screening of "Our Deaf and Dumb Citizen" films, Laying of Foundation Stone of our Church, Prayer and Hymns in gesture, Opening of additions to the Blackburn Home for the Deaf, Humorous Sketch by Miss M. Dow & Co., a burlesque, "The Surgical Parlor," by H. Puddy & Co., and concluding with God Save the King by Miss Emily Stephens.

Wednesday, 30th December, was an outstanding day, because it was in itself a full one—a trip down the Bay, per P.S. "Weeroona." After dinner, which was partaken of on board, the party disembarked at Queenscliff and divided into groups, some spending their time in the water, others went round the forts and lighthouse, and a few went to Point Lonsdale. At 4.30 p.m. we re-embarked for home, and before long the dining room was again invaded for tea.

On the 31st December, a plain and fancy dress ball was held, to wind up the old and welcome in the new year, at the Assembly Hall, where old-time and modern dances were enjoyed under the direction of Bert Walter's orchestra. In between dances, ice cream, soft drinks and supper were served.

To wind up the week's programme a sumptuous banquet was held in the banquet hall of "The Victoria," Little Collins Street, where speeches were delivered and toasts drunk. The following were the toasts:—"The King," Mr. E. R. Peacock, J.P., President of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society; "Our Visitors," Mr. Norman Armstrong, J.P., chairman of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society. Responses:—Mr. A. L. Lonsdale, Deputy-Chairman, New South Wales Adult Deaf and Dumb Society; Mr. T. Parkinson of Tasmania, and Mr. W. Abbott of South Australia. "Our Societies and Clubs," by Mr. J. M. Johnston. "The Winning Team," by Messrs. W. Ashby (Vic.) and C. Webb (Tas.). Response by Mr. S. Phillips (N.S.W.). Presentation of shield by Mr. E. J. D. Abraham. "Recipient," Mr. H. Emerson (N.S.W.). Presentation of tennis trophies by Mr. F. Rees. "To our next happy meeting," Mr. E. R. Peacock. A surprise ceremony was performed during the banquet. Mr. E. R. Peacock, on behalf of the Australian Deaf Cricket Association, presented Mr. J. M. Johnston, the General Hon. Secretary, with an electro-plated inkstand, fountain pen and Eversharp pencil for services rendered as Honorary Secretary, 1917-1932. Mr. Johnston feelingly thanked the Association and said his motto is always "Service for the Deaf."

On Saturday, 2nd January, there was a delightful conclusion to the week's programme, a char-a-banc tour to Belgrave, with a hike to Sherbrooke Falls, and finally a tour over Mt. Dandenong, via Sassafra, Olinda, Kilsyth, Montrose and Croydon. Luncheon and tea were partaken of at the "Red Mill."

The Committee, to whom the success and smooth running of the Festival was due:—Messrs. W. Ashby, H. Puddy, E. R. Noble, J. Phillips, Misses Mab Dow, Elsie Stephens, Alice Smith. Messrs. Jack McLean, Hon. Treasurer; J. M. Johnston, Hon. Secretary, and E. J. D. Abraham, Chairman.

#### INTERSTATE VISIT OF DEAF CRICKET AND TENNIS TEAMS.

From Christmas Day to the 2nd January, the representative cricket and tennis teams, and friends from New South Wales, Tasmania, and the country towns of Victoria, with their hosts, the Melbourne deaf, spent a most glorious festive time together. It was in every way a young folks' affair. To those of us who had never before attended an interstate gathering of the deaf, it was a ruby red time, and we enjoyed every minute of it.

The weather was splendid, so indeed, was everything—the Welcome Social, the Matches, the Luncheons, the Competitive Games, the Matches, the Luncheons, the Competitive Games, the Fun Night at St. Kilda, the Theatrical Evening, the trip down the Bay, the Ball, the Banquet, the motor trip through the Dandenong Ranges, the tour of Melbourne suburbs, visit to the Shrine of Remembrance, and the Services in the beautiful Church for the Deaf. Every detail of the

lengthy and entertaining programme had been thoughtfully arranged and was carried through without a single hitch.

These words appeared on the Notice Board of the Adult Deaf Club House throughout the Carnival time, and they express the exact conditions that existed all the time:

"The more we are together, together, together, the more we are together, the happier we will be. For my friends are your friends, and your friends are my friends, the more we are together the happier we will be." We were happy, and we were friends, all of us.

#### FIRST INTERSTATE TENNIS TOURNAMENT, XMAS. 1931.

Results of Interstate Tennis Tournament, held at Wesley College Court by kind permission from the Principal of the College. In each tourney there were three heats.

Men's Singles.—Final heat: J. Dickinson, 6-3; H. Puddy, 6-2.

Ladies' Singles.—Final heat: B. Higgle-J. Campion, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Men's Doubles.—Final heat: J. Dickinson, H. Puddy-C. Richards, A. Wilbow, 6-1, 6-0.

Ladies' Doubles.—Final heat: B. Higgle, E. Stephens-E. Johnston O. Minton, 8-6, 86.

Mixed Doubles.—Final heat: Mr. G. Henry, Mrs. J. Johnston-Mr. J. Dickinson, Miss E. Stephens, 0-6, 6-4, 6-3.

The winners and prizes:—

Men's Singles.—J. Dickinson, silver fruit dish.

Ladies' Singles.—B. Higgle, silver fruit dish.

Men's Doubles.—J. Dickinson and H. Puddy, silver vegetable dish each.

Ladies' Doubles.—B. Higgle and E. Stephens, silver rose bowl each.

Mixed Doubles.—Mrs. J. Johnston and Mr. G. Henry, silver hot water jug each.

#### THE N.S.W. "SILENT MESSENGER" AND THE INTERSTATE VISIT.

Our space is so very limited and the report of the interstate visit in the January N.S.W. "Silent Messenger" so acceptable to our vanity, that we have "scrapped" much of our own account of the festivities, etc., to give extracts therefrom, and who will not be pleased to learn that the efforts of the Victorian deaf to please our visitors were so much appreciated.

"On our arrival a great welcome was given us. . . . Rochester House was the place of our abode, and we were made very comfortable. . . . This report of the Carnival would not be complete without obeying the command of the deaf and the hearing visitors that we should express their grateful thanks . . . for their thoughtfulness to all during the visit."

"The Carnival just closed was one of, if not the most successful, since the inauguration years ago. The 1931 fixture, which lasted ten days, was one of great joy and education to the deaf. . . . The Reception Committee, with such a full programme, was set a big task, and they acquitted themselves in no unmistakable manner. . . . Every detail was carried out punctually and well, and never was there any delay in keeping to the time-table as laid down."

"The last and the most spectacular evening event . . . the Banquet. This was the most brilliant gathering ever held in connection with the interstate carnivals. The company was excellent, the speeches were not too long, every one of which was enthusiastically encored, the toasts were honored in the true spirit of comradeship and without any intoxicating liquor, and the finishing scenes were remarkable for the manifestations of joy and happiness which prevailed throughout the Carnival."

#### Extracts from the Speeches at the Banquet.

Mr. E. R. Peacock, J.P., President, Victorian Adult Deaf and Dumb Society (chairman), after the toast of the King, said he was wonderfully impressed by the brilliant scene and being in the presence of so many deaf friends from Victoria and other States.' He had travelled the world several times, attending many banquets, but such a sight had never met his gaze before. The chairman bid everyone welcome and commended such gatherings, toward which his Board was sympathetic and would help in every possible way.

Mr. Norman Armstrong, J.P., chairman, Victorian Adult Deaf and Dumb Society: In seeing this gathering of the deaf, and realising their needs, it will be an incentive to the Board to do more, and spur them to greater efforts on behalf of the Deaf. He paid a tribute to voluntary work of Mr. Lonsdale in Sydney, and that he was sure he had the full confidence of the deaf. It was in the interests of every deaf person to be loyal to their boards, and such gatherings as this brought them together, and much good would result.

Mr. A. L. Lonsdale (N.S.W.) thanked the gathering for their hearty reception of the toast (The Visitors). The N.S.W. visitors appreciated the wonderful reception Victoria had given them on arrival. Half of his team were young men here for the first time, and it was an education to them, but the great value of these carnivals was the interchange of thought and the making and cementing of friendships which will never be broken and which consolidate the societies into one great body of deaf mutes.

Mr. Parkinson (Tasmania) said Tasmania at present had no welfare worker for the deaf, but the people were caring for them and they were contented.

Mr. E. J. D. Abraham: In presenting the shield to Mr. H. L. Emerson (N.S.W.), said: It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Abraham Cricket Shield. Your team won it well. You put:



up good games and you certainly represent the best club. The shield has more meaning than a cricket trophy. It has succeeded in doing what many conferences have failed to do. It has been a missionary, it has united the deaf, and I hope it will be the means of making the unity stronger.

#### "KING OF SPORTS" COMPETITION.

At the opening of the cricket season our Cricket Club was burdened with an adverse balance, mainly due to the fact that most of the players had been unemployed for a long time and, therefore, unable to keep up their subscriptions. About £15 was needed for new equipment, also other expenses in connection with the forthcoming interstate cricket tournament had to be met.

With the idea of augmenting the funds, the Vice-President (Mr. W. H. Crush) volunteered to organise a King of Sports penny competition, and five kings were chosen—D. Johnston for Lacrosse, H. Puddy for Tennis, R. Storey for Cricket, M. G. B. Mortimer for Indoor Games, J. O'Gorman for Hockey.

Through the sustained effort of the King of Hockey, J. O'Gorman, Hockey, easily won. Lacrosse came second, Cricket third, Indoor Games fourth, Tennis fifth.

Over 7,000 tickets were sold, and when all is received from country sellers, a sum of over £30 will be realised, which is really a wonderful result in these days of unemployment and hard times. The Hon. Organiser, Mr. W. H. Crush, the five Kings, and their helpers, are heartily congratulated upon the result of their efforts.

A Wind-up Social was held in our Assembly Hall on the evening of December 22. A very happy time was spent and the crowning of the King of Hockey (J. O'Gorman) took place before supper was dispensed.

#### THE E. J. D. ABRAHAM CRICKET SHIELD.

Results of Deaf Interstate Cricket Tests on the Albert Cricket Ground, Melbourne, during 1931 Christmas week:—

First Match.—Victoria, first innings, 252 runs; Tasmania, first innings, 60 runs; Tasmania, second innings, 140 runs. Victoria won by an innings and 52 runs.

Second Match.—New South Wales, first innings, 138 runs; Victoria, first innings, 74 runs; New South Wales, second innings, 174 runs; Victoria, second innings, 45 runs. New South Wales won second match.

Third Match.—Tasmania, first innings, 75 runs; New South Wales, first innings, 239 runs (declared); Tasmania, second innings, 55 runs.

New South Wales won all tests and retains the E. J. D. Abraham Cricket Shield.



Winners of E. J. D. Abraham Shield: New South Wales Deaf Cricket Team.  
—Photo by W. H. Crush.

#### BAGATELLE COMPETITIONS.

Miss Annie Holcroft was fortunate in winning the "Aird" trophy in the Bagatelle Competition held amongst the Deaf ladies. Miss G. Salmon was the runner-up, and she will receive the Deaf Committee's trophy.

#### BILLIARD TOURNAMENT.

The Billiard Tournament of 1931 came to an end a week or two before the Xmas holidays. After playing off in two or three semi-finals, W. McMillen came out winner, defeating G. Henry, who just scraped in for second place from Ossie Quinton who, however, had the consolation of annexing the prize for record break.

#### GREETINGS.

Xmas greetings were received from the N.S.W. Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, Mrs. Winn of Sydney, Queensland Association of Deaf and Dumb Citizens, South Australian Deaf and Dumb Mission, Tasmanian Deaf and Dumb Institution, the President (Mr. E. R. Peacock), and others.

#### MESSAGE FROM QUEENSLAND.

The opportunity to send a message to the Deaf of Victoria is a gladsome thing. One of our objects is to "advance friendships and good feeling amongst all Deaf and Dumb." The interests of the Deaf are one, and we who are sacrificing greatly to stand for a higher conception of our true well send to you all the wish that 1932 may

be a year of worthy peace and progress toward our highest ideals. May mutual trust and friendship enrich your lives and service yield its golden harvest.

It can be no intrusion for me to add a personal greeting to the folk whose great kindness and trust made my years among them a memory that still comforts and is held dear. I do sincerely wish you all that is good. "M. O." is with us, very happy, proud of her deaf and dumb, and, being unable to allow me any independent action, joins in affectionate and hearty greeting, hoping 1932 will be as kindly to you as our feelings are.

Yours sincerely,

M. OVEREND WILSON.

JOHN M. PAUL.

"My mother and I very much appreciate your kindly action in forwarding "The Victorian Deaf" from time to time, which is read by us with great interest.—C. E. Showell."

#### MOTHER INJURED, BUT SAVES CHILD.

##### Falls from Embankment into Creek.

In Orbost Hospital is a brave young mother, Mrs. T. Flukes, of Nowa Nowa, who fell twenty feet into a creek and was seriously injured, but who succeeded in protecting her five-year-old child, whom she was carrying.

Mrs. Flukes, the wife of a sleeper-cutter, was walking along the Prince's Highway about 10.30 p.m., carrying her daughter, when she fell over the jagged embankment which forms the approach to the bridge over Boggy Creek.

Dazed and bleeding, she crawled out and, with her little girl walking by her side, succeeded in reaching the hotel, about 200 yards away.

It is thought that Mrs. Flukes's spine is injured, but at present she cannot be moved for an X-ray examination. Her condition yesterday was improved, but she was still in danger.

[Mrs. T. Flukes is a deaf member of our Society. We wish her a speedy recovery from her injury.]

#### REGULAR MEETINGS.

Church for the Deaf, Jolimont Square—Sundays, 7 p.m., Divine Worship. Thursdays, 8 p.m., Prayer and Lesson.

The Home, Blackburn—Sunday, 3 p.m., Service.

Geelong—First Tuesday, 7.45 p.m., Service and Social.

The Deaf Club House, Jolimont—Open daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Guild Meetings, etc. Thursdays, 8.15 p.m., Principal's Night. Saturdays, Socials, Library, Billiards.

For Tennis, Cricket, Lacrosse and Hockey Club announcements, see notice board. Office, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for assistance and advice. Sickness and emergency ring W5440 after 5 p.m.

E. JOHNSON, Editor.

H. PUDDY, Hon. Treasurer.