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JUNE, 1980.

NEWSLETTER No. 12.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Members,

For the benefit of those members who do not attend the monthly meetings regularly, I would like to draw their attention to the function arranged by the Society for Sunday, 27th July at 3.0 pm. when Lt. Colonel Lee-Archer, President of the Royal Historical Society, will unveil the plaque placed in the wall by the entrance gate to "Bodalla" in Walpole Street, marking the site of the old Congregational Church, now demolished.

Invitations are being sent to the Mayor of Kew, representatives of historical societies in the eastern region and St. Kilda and members.

We shall be entertained at afternoon tea by the Board of Management of "Bodalla" who are sharing in the cost of the plaque, and we are much indebted to the Board for their generous hospitality.

Those present may inspect some of the premises, including the Meeting Room, where the Rose window from the old church is incorporated.

It was a shock to members to learn of the sudden death of Geoffrey Clark on 1st June. He was a foundation member who, for twenty-one years, gave enthusiastic service, and he will be remembered and missed at our meetings.

I feel sure that you have noted the high standard of guest speakers we have had during the first half of the year.

We gratefully thank Lt. Colonel Lee-Archer for showing us his rare slides of early Melbourne, Geoffrey Flack of St. Kilda for transporting his collection of beautiful and valuable commemorative china and pottery to Kew, and John Waugh, the Council's Planning Officer, who gave us such up-to-date information regarding the preservation of fine buildings and significant areas.

Looking ahead I can tell you that at the July meeting our guest speaker will be Mrs. Lock, a resident of Kew and a world-famous photographer, who will be showing us a selection from her collection of slides.

With all good wishes,

WINIFRED HALL.

OFFICE BEARERS: PRESIDENT - Miss Winifred Hall
 HON. SECRETARY - Mrs. Joy Stewart
 HON. TREASURER - Mrs. Kathleen Murphy
 ARCHIVIST - Mrs. Mavis Rolley

NEW MEMBERS: Mr. Jonathan Benyei - Family membership
 Mrs. Estelle Emmett - -
 Mrs. Tauba Wilson - Mr Dennis Wilson

A TRIBUTE TO MR. GEOFFREY CLARK.

Geoffrey Clark was a foundation member of Kew Historical Society, Hon. Auditor from 1965-1970, then Hon. Treasurer until 1979 when, owing to ill-health, he did not seek re-nomination for the ensuing year. For his services to the Society, he was made an Honorary Life Member in November, 1976.

Although a lover of the City of Kew, Geoffrey Clark lived 70 of his 75 years in the City of Camberwell. He was a choir boy at St. John's Church of England and later a valued member of the congregation of St. Marks.

He went to Melbourne High School and spent his working life as an Insurance Inspector and Assessor.

Geoffrey never married, but his family of brothers and sisters were very dear to him, and he was greatly devoted to his neices and nephews. He was a gentleman of the order rarely met today, and would often surprise his friends and associates with some touching, unexpected kind and thoughtful act.

He was a great reader with a keen and enquiring mind and took an interest in events at all levels, national and local, and had been Hon. Secretary of the Deepdene Liberal Party.

Geoffrey also had a subtle sense of humour and a flair for telling a "good story." Members who regularly attend the Society's monthly meetings will miss the anecdotes he told of some happening he found worthy of note as he travelled round the Melbourne he loved. The following story is typical:

"I went for a run down the old Williamstown Road this afternoon in expectation of seeing the closing of the gap between the two sections of the West Gate Bridge.

When I arrived on the scene, there was no sign at all of any activity taking place on the bridge.

Alone, I stood, by the old road with a wide expanse of nothing in particular around me, and a silent bridge before me.

Then another citizen arrived on his bicycle to see what was to be seen and we had some conversation. He said that he thought work on the closing of the gap had been halted because of the breeze then blowing. This seemed likely, so we went our respective ways."

NOTE: "the breeze" mentioned caused the postponing of the closing of the gap until the following day.

To all the members of Geoffrey Clark's family, and in particular Mrs. Nola Westaway, we extend our most sincere and deepest sympathy.

STREET STALL.

The "Market Fair" street stall was a great success and made for the Society the sum of \$184.92. We would like to thank the conveners Jean Gray and Clarice Thompson for the effort put into the organising and all members who so generously contributed with their donations of produce. Thanks also to the Lions Club and Kew City Council for the use of the caravan.

REPORT ON REGIONAL CONFERENCE, 1980, by Eva Grant.

Nine societies were represented at the 14th Annual Conference of the Eastern Regional Historical Societies held at Lilydale on Saturday, 29th March. Kew was represented by six delegates.

As Lilydale has had such an interesting history arrangements were made by the local society for a coach tour of this historic town prior to the dinner and meeting. Delegates then met in the museum where they were able to spend some time perusing the historic items, including many which had belonged to Dame Nellie Melba, and which were kindly donated to Lilydale Historical Society by Pamela Armstrong, Dame Nellie's granddaughter, who now owns Coombe Cottage.

Delegates then met at the Baptist Sunday School, where a three course dinner was enjoyed. This was catered for by Alice House, who runs an Art Gallery and Restaurant at Croydon.

Lieut. Colonel Lee Archer, President of the Royal Historical Society, and Mrs. Archer were welcomed to the meeting by Miss Christine Gray, President of the Eastern Regional Historical Societies.

In his address Lieut. Colonel Lee Archer spoke about the problems that confront historical societies, and said that these problems should be thrashed out, but the time and place were also problematical. In answer to a question Lieut. Colonel Lee Archer said there were ninety societies affiliated with the Royal Historical Society, but some local societies such as Mildura were not affiliated. This could be because of distance. He suggested that local societies should try to involve young people in becoming interested in local history.

The President of each Society then outlined one particular aspect of their circulated report. Finance stood out as an ever present problem, and it was of interest to note that Kew was one of the Societies which had no permanent repository for its collection of valuable historic data.

The President of Doncaster, Mr. Irvine Green, said that they had young people, some younger than twenty involved in their Society. It would appear they needed the security of working with older people and it was important that they be given a job to do which made them feel worthwhile.

Supper supplied by the Host Society made an enjoyable end to the meeting.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT by Mavis Rolley.

The following persons seeking information have been assisted:

- Miss Alison George, student - Topic "Early Recreation on the Yarra."
- Miss M. Thomas - History of Holy Trinity, Kew.
- Mrs. Willis - Family tree and location of "Poplar Farm" - connected with David McLeish.
- Mr. Wentworth Stanley of England - Family tree - Captain Anderson and Miller family of Findon Estate, Kew.
- Dr. Love - About the late Dr. A. Bowen who lived at "Cradley" in Studley Park Road.
- Mr. Nixon of Kew Bowling Club - relating to foundation members of Kew Recreation Association and Bowling Club.

Further information is needed regarding some of the above enquiries, and if you can help, please give Mavis a ring.

ANTIQUe CRICKET BALL UNCOVERED. By June Henty

An antique cricket ball which belonged to the Henty family was sold at a Melbourne auction earlier this year to Mr. Bruce Thompson, Managing Director of A. Thompson Pty. Ltd., makers of the world-famous Kookaburra cricket ball.

The ball, a hand-made four-stitcher, coloured beige, belonged to Edward Henty.

Mr. Thompson said this ball was the oldest in any collection in Australia, and he is currently setting up a museum of historic equipment and this original Henty ball will be a major showpiece.

He described it - "The ball is a little unusual because of its beige, leathery appearance as most cricket balls - even in those days - were red or crimson. It has the inscription 'EH 1834' on it."

This is the synopsis of an article in an issue of the Cricketer magazine (Australian edition) this year.

I saw and handled this ball prior to the auction. It seemed to be somewhat softer than the present ones, and did not appear to be completely round, probably due to the use it had had on unmade cricket pitches.

MEETING WITH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Miss Winifred Hall, Mrs. Joy Stewart and Mrs. Stuart Warmington met with Cr. N. Whiting, Cr. W. Haldun and Cr. J. McCue of the Council's Historic Buildings Sub-Committee and City Manager, Mr. L. Fell, for discussions on ways and means of establishing a firm base for future relationship between the Society and Council regarding matters of historic value in Kew.

As a result of this meeting and from the report of the Historic Buildings Sub-Committee, Council at its meeting on 10th June adopted the following recommendations:

1. That Council approve the following procedure in its dealings with historic properties in the City and seek the concurrence of Kew Historical Society in their application:
 - (a) That in any application or dealing with a property which is classified or which, in the Council's view, has historic value, the opinion of the Kew Historical Society will be sought prior to any decision being taken.
 - (b) That in any dealings or consideration of properties in the City of Kew, the Historical Society shall first consult with the Council prior to making an approach or application to any other body or government department.
2. That notes be forwarded to the Historical Society on the powers of the Council in respect of the preservation of historic buildings and areas and its obligations under State law in respect to registered property.

THE COPY SHOP.

For a trial period The Copy Shop hours will now be every Friday from 10.30 am to 2 pm. Mrs. Grace McDermott has kindly offered to organise the roster to keep this valuable community service going. Volunteers are urgently required, so if you can help please ring Grace on 861-6927

PROGRAMME.

- July 9th Wednesday 7.45 pm. General Meeting. Mrs. Grace Lock, world renowned photographer and member of the Leica Society. "Showing of Special Selection of Slides."
- 27th Sunday 3 pm. Unveiling of Plaque commemorating the First Places of Christian Worship in Kew.
- Aug. 9th Saturday)- Committee of Eastern Historical Societies week-end
 10th Sunday) trip to Geelong - Bellarine Peninsula area.
- 13th Wednesday 7.45 pm. General Meeting. "Members Contributions."
- Sept. 10th Wednesday 7.45 pm. General Meeting. Guest speakers from the Genealogical Society of Victoria.

All General Meetings will be held in the Auxiliary Room, Kew Civic Centre, Charles Street, on the second Wednesday of each month February to November inclusive.

UNVEILING OF PLAQUE.

To help with the catering, will members who want to attend the unveiling of the Commemorative Plaque at Bodalla Hospital please fill in the following form and send to the Secretary by July 20th -

Hon. Secretary,
Kew Historical Society,
P.O. Box 175,
KEW. VIC. 3101

I/we
will be attending the unveiling of the Commemorative Plaque at Bodalla Hospital, 32 Walpole Street, Kew, on Sunday, July 27th, at 3 pm.