

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 175, KEW 3101

President:

Mrs. Sue Leong

Hon. Secretary:

Miss Lex Allen

Newsletter No.36

May/June/July 1987

Dear Members,

The middle of the year is upon us already! It has been pleasing to see so many of you at our meetings for the first half of the year and I hope you will continue to come along for the second half.

We have been treated to excellent evenings with Prue Sanderson (regarding the Kew Heritage Survey), a Royal Guide Dogs Association spokesperson and endearing guide dog, and our own Councillor Phillip Barnes who showed us some of his valuable film collection (including the 1954 first Moomba Parade, and a 1950's working bee at Willsmere Hospital).

It was delightful to have Joy Stewart at our May meeting. Unfortunately, she did not bring Queensland weather with her and many members stayed at home on that cold, wet evening. Joy showed us her work on the sketches for the Kew Bicentennial tapestry. She announced that she would donate her tapestry key paintings to the Society. This is very generous of her and I thanked her on your behalf. I will be meeting Joy in Cairns early in July to collect the first paintings. We will then be able to begin the stitching part of this wonderful project.

The speaker at our July meeting will come from Genazzano Convent to tell us about the history of the school. In August, a representative from Kodak will speak about that Company's history in relation to Kew.

We have not been idle in other areas. Some of our members manned an information table at the highly successful Villa Alba Restoration Trade Fair. Alva Allen, in conjunction with the Kew Community House, took a group on an informative free tour of the Boroondara Cemetery. Recently, we enjoyed a fascinating tour of the M.C.G. led by Bill Reeve.

On Cup Day, this year, we will travel along the Peninsula to visit Macrae and Briar's Cottages, and enjoy a Cup Day lunch at Thea Sartori's Macrae beach house. We would like to confirm numbers at the July meeting in order to make the necessary transport and catering arrangements.

On 15th. June I represented the Society at the opening of the Hawthorn Historical Society's Queen Victoria Exhibition which was held at "The Terricks", Hawthorn. The Hawthorn Society had put on an excellent display of Victoriana memorabilia. The exhibition was opened most capably by Ian Woodroffe, O.B.E., Director of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Last of all, but by no means the least important, the Kew library move has meant that we will be able to permanently display our material in the library as from 22nd. June AND our archives will soon be moved to a comfortable home. This is a very exciting time. I hope you shall all give your support to Dorothy Benyei, our archivist, and her willing team of workers.

Regards,

Suzanne Leong
Sue Leong

HISTORICAL NOTES

I.and further more (the rest of the extract from "Memories of Kew" by Alva Allen)

(...on the Prime Ministers who lived in Kew)

Then we had the other one, Joe Lyons. He lived in Kew for quite a time, in Barkers Road. We used to play football on Sunday morning, as a rule, up behind the Catholic Church in Cotham Road. There was a big paddock at the back of the church lining Glenferrie Road. We had some great football games up there. Old Joe used to come along to church on Sunday mornings, and he generally stopped there for a quarter of an hour watching us all play, and off he went to mass, and that was it.

So you can see that Kew had a lot of influential members and politicians, and they were all Prime Ministers.

Then we had the other member of the Federal Parliament. He wasn't Prime Minister. He was the first Federal Treasurer of the Federal Parliament: William Guy Higgs. He lived in those days in Ridgeway Avenue, and he was a great friend of my father's, but he eventually finished up down at 98 Wellington Street.

Kew had quite a lot of influential people, judges. All those streets up round the Studley Park area - Stawell Street, a'Beckett Street - were named after judges, and they were all part of the system. There was also Sir Frank Madden, who was the Chief Justice.

2. You may find interesting this extract from the Kew Historical Society minutes of a general meeting on Thursday 4th. November 1965.

GUEST SPEAKER : The Guest Speaker for the evening was Miss Dumaresq, Vice-President of the Kew Historical Society. Miss Dumaresq who has a very wonderful memory gave us a most interesting talk telling us of her parents and grandparents and their families and their very interesting careers. Her Grandfather donated land for the building of St. Hilary's Church of England, Kew, but the Church Committee said they were not prepared to build a Church then and would rather have the money so he took back the land and gave them £500. However, instead of spending this on the Kew Church the money was given to Ballarat and Bendigo for their Churches. Then a number

HISTORICAL NOTES cont.

2. cont...

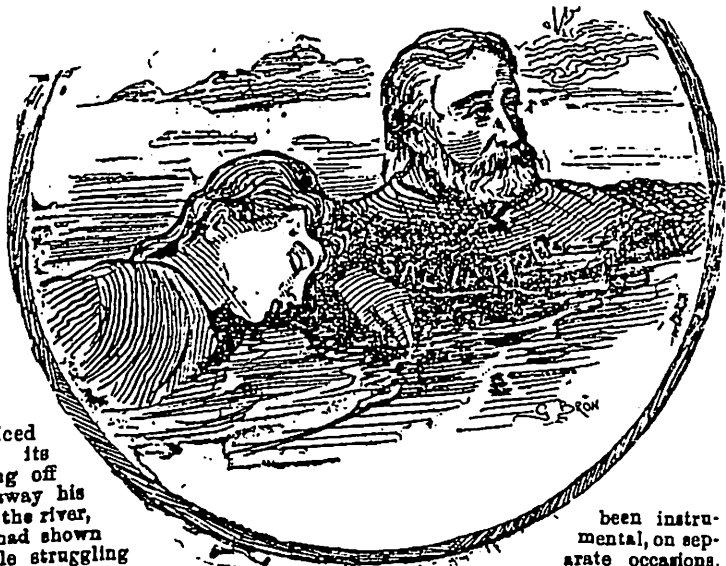
of Parishioners, led by Captain Dumaresq raised sufficient money and ten acres of land was purchased and the Church finally built at a cost of £760. The building was opened on 1st January 1889 by Bishop Goe, the first Minister being the Rev. W. Stanley Mercer, U.A. After two years the Rev. Mercer applied for leave to go to England and later advised he would not be returning. The Rev. Collier was appointed and remained for 20 years. Miss Dumaresq told us of her Grandfather's purchase of 110 acres of land at £3/5/- per acre, bounded by Cotham and Burke Roads and the streets John, Alfred, Edward, Rowland and Thomas were all named after members of his family. 8 acres of land in Thomas street were Chinese Gardens. Her Grandfather who went to India and studied Hindustani was granted furlough on account of ill health. He was given 3 years leave which he spent in Tasmania and when the family came to Sydney he joined them. He then returned to India and was given 12 months to live. He came to Australia and lived to 104 years.

Cr. Reed thanked Miss Dumaresq for her very interesting talk which was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all the Members present. Miss Dumaresq then presented a book to the retiring Secretary, Miss Eva Grant, on behalf of the Society, as a token of esteem and grateful thanks for all she had done during her term of Office. The President supported Miss Dumaresq and complimented Miss Grant on the fine record of service and her comprehensive minutes which made an excellent record of the Society's activities.

3. This article comes from a copy of the Salvation Army's "War Cry" donated by Mr. Ellis of Kew. It is dated the 2nd. May 1891.

A PARAGRAPH in the *Kew Mercury* says:—
"On Saturday morning last, as Mr. James Bowers, of Kew, was fishing in the Yarra, off Holmes Paddock, a party in a boat passed him. There were two young men and two young women in the boat. One of the young fellows sang out to Bowers, 'Save me, save me!' derisively. Scarcely had they gone ten yards when Bowers noticed the boat capsized with all its occupants. Hastily kicking off his boots, and throwing away his coat, Bowers plunged into the river, for a momentary glimpse had shown that not one of the people struggling in the water could swim. The women, he knew, would float until their skirts became saturated, and consequently he swam directly to the men, and succeeded in bringing them both to shore. He returned and got one of the young women out, but, as he reached the shore, he was horrified to see the remaining girl disappear. He returned, and, as she came up for the second time, grasped her by the hair, and brought her to shore. He then made another trip for the boat, which was in midstream, and secured it. After remaining a few minutes on shore, the party thanked Bowers heartily, and went their way. They declined to give their names, but told him they would reward him. This is the third occasion upon which Bowers has saved life in the Yarra, and it is time that his services should be recognised by the Humane Society of Victoria."

We have seen Mr. Bowers, and find that he is a bandsman of the Hawthorn corps. Previous to the rescue above mentioned, he has



been instrumental, on separate occasions, in saving three

lives from drowning in the Yarra.

He says that it was one of the girls who, seeing his uniform, laughingly cried out, "Mister, can you save me?" "No," he replied, "but God Almighty can." They passed on. In a few moments he heard a scream, and in less time than it takes to tell had saved the two men and one of the girls. The other was more difficult. Brother Bowers was exhausted, and she tried to grab him, but at length he caught her by the hair and started for shore. On the way he broke a blood vessel, and with extreme difficulty brought her to land. They refused to give their names because the girls had both told lies to their parents in reference to the affair. Bowers preached them a sermon on the portion of liars, and warned them of what would have been their end if he had not rescued them. They professed the utmost gratitude. God give them sense to be grateful to Him, and may they, having been saved from a watery grave, hasten to be saved from a burning hell.

Diary Dates

(Note : All general meetings are held in the Kew Hall no.3 and commence at 8.00p.m.)

- July 8th. Speaker from Genazzano Convent.The school's history in Kew.
Aug. 12th. Speaker from Kodak.History of that company in relation to Kew.
Sept. 9th. Rev. St John,history of Holy Trinity Church,Kew.
Oct. 14th. A.G.M. Guest speaker - the Mayor of Kew.
Tues. Nov. 3rd. Melbourne Cup Day tour to Macrae and Briar's cottages.
Nov. 11th. Remembrance Day- Close for 1987.
-

Donations

1. A number of display figures have been kindly donated to the Society by the following people :- Miss M.Blatchley,Mrs. T. Sartori,and the Myer Display Department.
 2. Mrs. Campbell kindly organised the donation of a gentleman's World War II memorabilia.
 3. Mr. Ellis of the Salvation Army kindly donated copies of early "War Cry" newspapers.
 4. Mrs. G. Steele kindly donated an embroidered table cloth and tea cosy.
 5. Miss Woollard kindly donated early 20th. baby clothes and a lady's skirt and top,as well as a wax-faced doll.
-

Notable Notes

- + We are still needing volunteers to sit at the library on the Society's behalf on a Monday afternoon. Please contact Dorothy Benyei on 861 8758
 - + If you have a yellow sticker at the end of your newsletter,it indicates that we do not have a record of your 1986/87 membership fee.Please clarify the situation with our Treasurer,Dr. Benyei,as soon as possible on
-