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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Post Master General's Department has granted permission for our newsletter to be registered for transmission by post as a periodical. To comply with regulations, the format of the newsletter has been slightly changed. The price of 5 cents is included in membership fee. Newsletters may be posted only to financial members or to newsletter subscribers. The next issue will be in February, 1969, and no newsletter will be posted after that date to any member who has not paid annual subscription for 1968-9. (Due after 30/9/68.)

2. PLEASE NOTE:- THE NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 13th NOVEMBER, 1968, will be held in the METHODIST CHURCH EAST HALL, Corner GARDENIA STREET and THE AVENUE, BLACKBURN, at 8.00 P.M.

Members of the FOLK LORE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA will be present to entertain us with songs, slides and stories.

No meeting is held in December or January; the first one for 1969 will be on Wednesday, 12th February.

3. It is hoped to have a conducted tour of the Arts Centre in Melbourne next year. In order to plan further outings, the Committee would like the opinions of members. Would you please fill in and detach the questionnaire on page 4, and hand it to the Secretary at the next meeting, or post it to her at 183 Canterbury Road, Blackburn, 3130.

ABOUT MEMBERS: Mr. L. R. Gray was responsible for the design of the book published for the opening of the Arts Centre, 'Birth of a Gallery'.

Mrs. Nance Donkin is the newly-elected President of the Children's Book Council of Victoria.

The address delivered to our society by Mr. K. Penterson on 'Clement Hodgkinson' has been published in the R.H.S.V. Quarterly Journal.

Welcome to new members Mesdames Durant, Poussard, Mehmed, Richler, and Trask (re-Joined).

THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING of this society was held on 9th October. The Annual Report and the Financial Report were presented and received. Some members showed their treasures, then everyone inspected the society's maps and documents.

Office-bearers elected were:

President: Mr. K. Penterson.
 Vice-President: Mrs. J. Robinson.
 Hon. Secretary: Mrs. D. Hestingsley.
 Hon. Treasurer: Mr. I. Borker. Address for subs:
 14 Tortoise Avenue, Nunawading, 3131.
 (SUBS. 80 Adults, 50c Students.)
 Committee: Miss Ronaldson, Mesdames Leach, Field,
 Brown, Molesworth.

HISTORICAL AND MARINE EXHIBITION, from 9th to 17th November, 1968, in the MECHANICS INSTITUTE, ELETRA STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN. Open daily, including Sundays, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., also Wednesday and Friday evenings, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. PRINTS, PHOTOS, PAINTINGS OF WILLIAMSTOWN AND EARLY MELBOURNE. Catalogue 20 cents.

SWAN HILL CONVENTION. Four families from our society attend this, together with more than 200 other members, friends and supporters of historical societies. The following account is supplied by one of our members:

The H.S. Convention at Swan Hill was a most enjoyable occasion. Mr. Ross Holloway and Mr. Ross Mellor helped us to understand the history of the area. We visited the Folk Museum, with its reconstructed town and its land-locked paddle-steamer, the 'Gem', overlooking the river it served in the early days. The 'Tyntynder' homestead had the atmosphere only to be found in a home continually occupied. It made History real, and one could hardly pull oneself away from the axes, bells, baby bottles, aboriginal artifacts, etc. collected in the original dwelling.

The lecturers told us that the land away from the town was part of inland Australia stretching across to Western Australia. However, the environment of Swan Hill is considerably affected by the great Murray - Darling river system, which gives it a permanent water supply and links it with all the other settlements on the rivers, regardless of State boundaries. From South Queensland through to N.S.W., Victoria and the border country of South Australia, the land is a unique geographical area. It was so when the Narringere tribe lived by the river and traded for stone axes and ochre (for art and religion) from South Queensland through to Kilmore.

Sturt called the river the Great Highway to Adelaide, but the area now trades primarily with Melbourne. In 1836, the Surveyor-General, Major Thomas Mitchell, camped on a sandy ridge above the river and called the spot Swan Hill, because of the abundance of these water-birds. Eyre followed but lost his way, reaching the river near Mildura.

Rev. Andrew Baveridge and his brother squatted on 300 square miles at Swan Hill and built their homestead 'Tyntynder' twelve miles away. Swan Hill grew; gold-diggers travelled the river, and a good crossing encouraged South Australians on their way to the gold-fields to camp there. However, later on, the squatters found that not enough labor was available to herd the flocks; cattle and sheep went wild, dingoes attacked these, and foot-rot spread.

Later still, the settlers with their square mile blocks developed unique methods to cope with the thick mallee scrub. We saw at the Museum the Mallee Rollers - enormous red-gum trunks. Teams of horses pulled these in order to flatten the scrub, which was later burnt. The Stump-jump plough allowed crops to be grown amongst the mallee roots. Strippers and other machines speeded up the harvests.

The original shire continually lost land to new shires from 1862 to 1897. In 1904, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission developed the four irrigation settlement towns, and the last land split from the shire was in 1937 when the City of Swan Hill was proclaimed.

Irrigation has led to the development of large areas for vineyards, citrus and soft fruit orchards, and vegetable growing.

H.S.

EBENEZER MISSION STATION. Mr. E.J. Blake, our speaker in September, was interested in the paragraph in our newsletter about Ebenezer, in N.E. Victoria, now held by the National Trust. Recently he addressed the Junior Branch of the N.T. on the subject. He has forwarded his chronology of this place for our files. Some extracts are:

1851. London Moravian Association sent two men to Victoria, and they established the Lake Pogo Mission. This failed in 1856, and the missionaries returned to London.

EBENEZER MISSION STATION. (cont.)

1858. Two missionaries arrived in Melbourne, where they were welcomed by Sir Henry Barkley and Bishop Perry.
 1859. A school for aborigines was opened at Antwerp (Horatio Cockburn Ellerman's run).
 1860. Ebenezer Chapel dedicated by Rev. Chase of Melbourne.
 1903. End of the Mission.
 1904. Crown Land grant revoked.

DID YOU SEE THE VICTORIAN RAILWAYS EXHIBITION recently?

There were five platforms at Spencer Street with rolling stock, steam and diesel engines, carriages of the Southern Aurora, the Overland, and some 1880 carriages pulled by an old steam locomotive - visitors could have short rides in these. There were many modern freight cars - refrigerated cars, cargo cars for motor-cars, for large machinery and other things. Track maintenance was being demonstrated, and on three floors of the building were models and displays by the various railway societies. Visitors could see original rail tickets, instruction books for workers, makers' plates and original employees' badges. A wonderful exhibition, mixed up with much fascinating history.

OTHER NEWS. The 92 year-old school at JUNG is being demolished, and the pupils moved on 12th September into a new school.

Jung is a little town on the Melbourne - Adelaide railway line, 192 miles from Melbourne. Originally, the township was two miles north-east of the present site of Jung and was called Jerro. With the railway reaching the Wimmers area in 1878, the old site was abandoned for the present one.

One of the signatories of the petition in March, 1881, requesting the removal of the school from the original settlement to the rail-head at Jung, was George J. Coles (wheat-buyer), who later started a store at Jung, and then, in 1887, moved on to Diapur and opened a store there. His son, another G.J. Coles, was born in Jung, 28th March, 1885, and many years later, originated the famous Coles' chain stores.

The Melbourne 'Herald' of 12/9/68 announced the opening of the 100th store, a super-market in Toorongs, in the G.J. Coles & Co. Ltd. Australia-wide chain.

COOK'S VOYAGE.

With the approach of the 200th Anniversary of Captain Cook's sighting the east coast of Australia, this event is much in the news. However, it is not widely known that a man called Dalrymple might have been one of the central characters in this story.

Alexander Dalrymple was a geographer and hydrographer, who in 1767 published an account of discoveries in the Pacific Ocean prior to 1764. The Royal Society petitioned the Administration for another ship to be sent to the Pacific. Its members expected that Dalrymple would be principal observer and in command of such an expedition, and many people thought likewise.

The Administration was willing to appoint Dalrymple as observer, but insisted on a naval officer being in command. As Dalrymple insisted that he would go only as commander, he subsequently did not take part in the expedition, and James Cook of the Navy was given the coveted post.

In a Melbourne antiquarian bookshop, there are two later volumes by Dalrymple, giving a further account of Pacific voyages, including Cook's. Here he stated his eligibility for this 1770 voyage, and mentioned the fact that a Navy man was preferred.

COCK'S NESTAGE. (cont.)

A hand written note inserted by Howe, Lord of the Admiralty, confirmed his statement; this note raised the value of these books by several thousand dollars.

BHSV NEWS: At the Annual Meeting, 24/9/68, the Society's highest honour of a Fellowship was bestowed on two members. These were Sir John Barry, and, the first lady to receive this distinction, Mrs. Marjorie Tipping. Mrs. Tipping will shortly join her husband, the 'Herald' correspondent in Washington.

Kerang H.S. now has the old Franklin home for its museum, in the Caravan Park.

Warracknabeal H.S. announces plans for a Vintage Farm Machinery and Vehicle Rally next Easter Monday; this will be partly a preview of items for the North-Western Agricultural Machinery Museum to be established there.

D. Mattingley,
EDITOR.