

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER.

FEBRUARY 1969

NO. 18.

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Have you paid your membership fee? If not, will you please do so at the next meeting, or to the Treasurer, Mr. I. Barker, 14 Tortice Avenue, Nunawading, 3131, by post. Unfinancial members will not receive a March Newsletter.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, 12th February, 1969, 8.00 p.m. sharp, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

As usual, our first speaker for the year will be His Worship the Mayor of Nunawading; Mr. K. E. Rooney will address the society on

'HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND THEIR VALUES'

This meeting will be rather a special one for members, as it is our first in the Civic Centre.

Enter by east parking area - Coffee Room is nearby at the rear, but the entrance faces west.

Are any members willing to take turns occasionally at studying the old files of the Box Hill 'Reporter'? Extra information about our locality is needed, and, if a roster of members can be compiled for this task, our society will greatly benefit. If so, contact President or Secretary.

SYLLABUS FOR 1969.

March: Two members: Mrs. Field: Sydney Road and Coaching Inns.
Mr. Farr: History of Flowers.
April: Not yet finalized.
May: Genealogical Society Speaker.
June: Members' Work Night
July: Mr. J. Powell: Victorian Land Settlement.
August: Mr. W. L. Radden: Early Warrandyte History.
September: Speaker from the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, with special reference to the local Institution in Blackburn.
October: Annual Meeting. Members asked to contribute short historical anecdotes.
November: Mr. G. L. Blackburn: Blackburn, Family and Suburb.

It is hoped to arrange an afternoon bus tour of some of Melbourne's historic places, probably in late April.

November, 1968, Meeting:

Four members of the Folk Lore Council of Australia entertained the gathering. In conjunction with interesting slides, one member would chat about these, then one or two people sang the appropriate songs.

The Folk Lore Council was formed in 1964, its aim being to collect, preserve and disseminate the folk lore and oral traditions of Australia and to study similar material from other countries. In staging regular collecting trips, public concerts, drama nights, radio broadcasts, discussion groups, lectures and musical evenings throughout numerous centres, the Council is helping to create a broader understanding of Australian folk-lore.

If you have an interest in Australian history, folk-lore or folk-music, new members are always welcome in this group. The Hon. Secretary's telephone number is 874-6749.

HISTORY AND MYSTERY:

Perhaps you have read 'A SILVER-PLATED SPOON', by John Duke, of Bedford. An extract from his account of the family portraits says: "... the man to whom we really owed our title . . . William, Lord Russell, 'The Martyr' who was executed for his participation in the Rye House plot in 1683 . . . and among the other portraits of his immediate family is one of his little sisters Anne, who died at the age of five. The interesting thing in this is that she is shown caressing an Australian cockatoo - a hundred and fifty years before it was discovered. It must have flown out to sea, landed on an East Indiaman and been brought back as a pet .."

The Latrobe Library comments that Australian cockatoos are found as far north as Malacca, on the west coast of Malaya. Also, there were Dutch landings on the west coast of Australis before 1630; in 1642, Tasman sailed along the west coast on his way to the discovery of Van Diemen's Land, and in 1688, William Dampier landed in the north-west part of the continent.

Another mystery we can never solve - what circumstances led to the presence of the cockatoo, whether alive or stuffed, in this portrait?

If you would like to see a photograph of this painting, you may do so at the next meeting. A member of Brighton H.S. has lent it.

The first recorded Australian bird to be taken overseas was a black swan from the western shores of New Holland. This was carried out by Vlamingh in 1697.

In 1770, Joseph Banks, in the 'Endeavour' with Cook, commented on the shyness of the birds along the east coast of New Holland. He noted that the Indians had a white cockatoo in their possession, 'which was the very bird we looked upon to be one of the wariest of them all'.

PAST AND PRESENT:

Extract from the Melbourne 'Age' (10/12/68).

'Steam cars could be the answer to the air pollution problems of the cities, the Senate select committee inquiring into air pollution was told yesterday.'

In 1877, David Shearer arrived in the town of Mannum S.A. and, with his brother John, commenced business to meet the requirements of the settlers in the mallee areas of the vicinity. The first implements were grubbing equipment, then ploughs. They were inventors of the one-piece wrought steel plough share; until then, farmers had the choice of two plough-shares - the cast iron share that broke easily or the forged share that was almost prohibitive in price.

In 1894, David Sheare designed and built a steam car capable of 15 m.p.h. with a drive differential which is considered to be the first of its kind in the world. The story goes that one day residents and horses in Mannum were startled by the appearance of a noisy horseless carriage proceeding at the pace of a gallon along the main street.

The horseless car was then regarded as little more than a novelty by many people; among the foresighted ones who visualised a revolution in future transport was Henry Ford, but this Mannum vehicle pre-dated his efforts by ten years. It was drawn by an engine weighing 2 cwts. and developed 20 h.p. It is reported to have comfortably negotiated Mt. Lofty at 12 m.p.h. and 15 m.p.h. was no effort over flat country. This was rather a remarkable feat because at that time England's car made its first appearance and could achieve a speed on only 12 m.p.h. on level country and 3-4m.p.h. up hill.

The Shearer car was limited only by its ability to hand together

The company made its first harvesting machine - a stripper- 80 years ago. Early in the century, a stripper-harvester was developed, and in 1920, its first header-harvester was built.

In 1968, David Shearer Ltd. of Mannum won the Prince Philip award for Australian design with their self-propelled header. This will harvest wheat, barley, oats, safflower, sorgum, peas, lucerne, linseed, millet and other like crops. The other 86 entries ranged from a transistor to a pre-fabricated schoolroom.

From the Adelaide 'Chronicle.'

The CHARLES TROEDEL COLLECTION, on view last November-December at the LaTrobe Library, provided a fascinating record of the past. The material ranged from posters showing theatrical productions, stage personalities, breweries, factories and land sales, to showcards, letterheads, share certificates and utilitarian labels for long-forgotten products.

Arriving in Melbourne in 1860, Troedel in 1863 set up his own business at 73 Collins Street East, in a small shop on the site of the present town hall. With the expansion of business, several moves were made to larger premises.

In his introduction to the 1961 edition of Troedel's 'Melbourne Album', Clive Turnbull wrote of him: "There were lithographers before Troedel but he has been claimed with justice, as the 'father' of the craft in Australia. His skills raised it to a peak of achievement not until then known, nor since excelled."

RHSV NEWS.

Mornington H.S. now has its local history and folk museum in the old post-office building open for visitors from 2-4p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays until Easter.

Knox H.S. plans an agricultural museum on a 70 acre park on Fern-tree Gully Road near Scoresby Road.

LaTrobe Library has these facsimiles for sale.

Batman Deeds - Melbourne 25c (postage 5c)

Geelong 25c (postage 5c)

Melbourne Advertiser No.1. - Melbourne's first newspaper 25c (postage 5c)

Send cheque, PO or MO, not stamps.

'DISCOVERY WEEK-END' at Phillip Island, March 8-10, arranged by the South-Eastern Historical Association. For enrolment forms see secretary.

THE GOLDFIELDS' HISTORICAL AND ARTS SOCIETY (Dunolly). A re-enactment of the discovery of the 'Welcome Stranger' nugget will take place at Moliagul on Saturday, Feb. 8th at 3p.m.

BALLAM PARK, FRANKSTON. - Classified as 'c' by the National Trust - notable and worthy of preservation

The Frankston City Council has purchased this property and the local Historical Society has worked on its restoration and upkeep.

In 1854, Frederick Liardet purchased 360 acres of land which he named Ballam Park, and on which he built the present house. The Liardets were descended from John Evelyn, Diarist.

In 1907, Mr. Justice Higgins of the High Court of Australia, whilst a guest at Ballam Park, drafted part of the first conciliation and arbitration judgement. Noteworthy features are the staircase, imported from France, the large underground water-tank, and the great oak tree, more than a hundred years old.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

BENDIGO 7TH DECEMBER, 1968.

The conference was attended by about 100 delegates and observers. Societies represented included Mildura, Swan Hill, Kaniva, Lorne, Geelong, Mornington, Wangaratta and Beechworth.

There was some early sparring because Swan Hill had been empowered by a resolution at the September conference to convene the conference, but had delegated it to the Royal. The only effect was that a motion to allow observers to vote was defeated, and proceedings followed the constitution of the Royal.

It was agreed by a large majority that the conference favoured the formation of regional associations, and invited delegates to offer the services of their societies to convene such associations. Several societies at the meeting made this offer. It appears to be a matter of mutual arrangement which association societies join.

A second resolution dealt with Societies and Associations being properly constituted bodies. One thing which emerged of interest to us is to constitutional provision for safe-keeping of documentary material in the event of a Society going out of existence.

Eight delegates were elected to meet the Affiliated Societies sub-committee of the R.H.S.V. to discuss carrying out the decisions of the conferences. Delegates elected were:- Angus (North-Eastern), Brown (Geelong), Creelman (Bacchus Marsh), Menadue (Bacchus Marsh), Pullin (Ringwood), Sheehy (South-Eastern), Symons (Echuca) and Williams (Camberwell).

Resolutions of lesser importance dealt with relations with local government bodies; Regional museums, local museums; Support by the State Government; Repositories for historical documentary material and discussions with the Ministry of Tourism.

The only resolution from the floor was moved by Mr. Alderson, seconded by T. Sheehy, that a trust fund be set up, initially by government grant or private gift, to publish historical works, using profits, where made, to finance less successful important works.

K. PATTERSON.

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