

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 13th August, 1969. 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

As the speaker for this meeting is unable to attend owing to illness, another *WORK NIGHT* will be held, when members will continue the projects begun on the previous meeting of this kind. (Any card-tables available?)

THE JULY MEETING was a most successful one, when Dr Powell of Monash addressed the society on *'The State and the Pioneer Farmer in the Western District'*. Many Matriculation students from local High Schools attended. Our liason officer with the Council, Cr. Cox, thanked Dr Powell for his stimulating lecture.

Dr Powell, who has also studied the frontjer in Wales and U.S.A., explained how he is interested in man, and his environment and relationships in any period. The land settlement period in Victoria was a very confused one, and a difficulty in assessment today is that relevant records and statistics are not always reliable, because of evasions practised.

The period of the eighteen-sixties was a time of leading up to placing the 'small man' on the land in Victoria. Professor Wadham has stated that small-scale peasant farming in Australia would always be disastrous. Unfortunately, this type of settlement was an agrarian ideal and became an agrarian myth, as did 'homesteading' in the U.S.A.

The Acts of 1860-9 introduced safeguarded selection; they put the small man on the land, but not too easily. The Government selected the areas and announced certain conditions to be met; historians claim that it was the result of popular request and political compromise. The Acts were not based on any proven theory or other locations.

In 1858, Gavan Duffy commissioned Skene to survey land and report on this. The land was around Wannon, the Glenelg, Portland and up towards the north-east, but not including the gold-fields. The Nicholson and Duffy Acts were qualified failures; one point of the 'novel industries clause' was the idea of growing sugar-cane on the bleak Ballarat plateau.

In 1865, Grant took Section 42 in his own hands and put some small men on the land. This was really the end of the 'safeguarded' selection of the squatters. Small farmers managed to survive near Crown lands or squatters' runs, where they grazed some of the land.

The 1869 Act marked the beginning of free selection. There came the flight of hundreds to the Wimmera, and Mallee, some from the Western District and many from South Australia. Selection before survey was now allowed. These small farmers became the real pioneers in a sense that the landed squatters had never done. All were dependent on each other to survive and build up the local communities. Sometimes members of a family selected together and worked successfully. One Lutheran community developed differently because all members worked closely together.

It was soon found that both wheat and sheep were necessary to make a living on these farms. The situation was very different from that of the farmers of today, with Government concessions and easy transport. It was the survival of the fittest, and the many thriving centres of today owe their prosperity to the pioneering men and women of this era.

SCHOOL HISTORIES: So far, histories of fourteen local State Schools have been received.

Acknowledgments this month to:

Blackburn Technical School
Antonio Park S.S.
Nunawading South S.S.

Vermont S.S.
Springview S.S.
Burwood East S.S.

RHSV. Third Bi-ennial Conference will be held at Melbourne University from Friday 26th September to Sunday 28th September.

On the Conference theme of *GOLD*, speakers include Professors Russel Ward and Geoffrey Blainey and Dr A. G. Serle. Affiliated societies assisting include the Folk Lore Council of Victoria (at the dinner on Saturday) and eastern suburban Historical Societies (for the Sunday afternoon excursion to Warrandyte and other places east).

A conference of affiliated societies will be held on the Sunday morning.

LaTrobe Library display will be on the subject of John Pascoe Fawkner, and the Institute of Applied Science will also display models showing methods of mining and treatment of gold ore.

WIMMERA QUARTERLY A magazine of Wimmera ways, life and people. 60 cents per copy. \$2 a year. Editor: Alan Finch, 30 Alexander Avenue, Horsham 3400.

BOX HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY is publishing in a limited edition all papers delivered by speakers since 1964. Price \$3.

Orders to Mr O. S. Green, 31 Malcolm Street, Blackburn 3130.

LOCAL NEWS: Nunawading City Council has asked that our society meet with the Schwerkolt Cottage Committee of Management to discuss the possibility of the erection of a building adjacent to the Cottage in which to house items of historic interest. A Joint proposal concerning this is to be submitted to Council.

H.S. office-bearers and the Cottage Committee have met and agreed that this is a most desirable project. Plans are now in hand and these will be submitted to members for their approval. The proposal will then be forwarded to the Council for its consideration. This is a most exciting event for our society.

CASTLEMAINE: Antique and Historical Display in Castlemaine Market, August 29th - 31st. Proceeds to restoration of this notable market.

Extract from 'VICTORIA AND ITS RESOURCES' 1893

EXPORT OF FRUIT

The first organised attempt to bring Australian fruits under the notice of Europeans was a small parcel of apples, despatched to an exhibition at Vienna, in 1873, by Mr John Carson, President of the Royal Horticultural Society. Each fruit was named, wrapped in a piece of tissue paper, laid in small paper boxes, and the whole enclosed in a large case, which was placed in the cooling room of the P. and O'Co.'s steamer. When the case was opened, the fruit was, with only one or two exceptions, found to be in excellent condition. A similar consignment was sent to Florence the following

year. In 1878, several cases of apples and pears were despatched to the Paris Exhibition, where they arrived safely, and as in the former instances were awarded a diploma and bronze medal. In 1880-81, several cases of fruit were sent to Ceylon and India, which also proved a success. The next export of importance, besides single cases taken by passengers in their cabins, was to London in 1883, consigned to the celebrated pomologist, Dr Hogg, editor of the Journal of Horticulture, who stated that he was surprised by the beautiful appearance and admirable condition of the fruit. In the same year, another consignment was successfully transmitted to the Calcutta Exhibition; and another in 1886 to the Indo-Colonial Exhibition. By that time the growers themselves had begun the business of exporting, and it has been continued annually ever since, until it is now of considerable extent . . . It will, however, be imperative that markets should be found in other places besides London . . . India, Ceylon, America . . . and other parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

Note:- Individual growers exported fruit for many years before organised co-operatives were formed to handle this trade. The July 1968 Newsletter told briefly the story of the local Blue Moon Fruit Co-Operative Co. Ltd. Its original title was 'The Southern Victoria Pear Packing Co. Ltd.'

Traditional markets for this company's fruit exports have always been the United Kingdom, Scandinavia and the Continent. However, new markets are now opening up in the near East, and this year, a shipment of pears was dispatched to America.

The following extract is from 'The Ringwood Borough News'

FRUIT EXPORT 20/2/1931

An Interesting Experiment

The second shipping of fruit this season by the Southern Victoria Pear Packing Co. Ltd, which has its headquarters in Blackburn, was loaded on s.s. Limerick, which sailed on Wednesday last. The shipment totalled 5698 cases, comprising 724 cases of plums, 1024 cases W.B.C. pears, 3880 cases Howell, and 70 cases other varieties. Considerable interest centres around this shipment, particularly in relation to the plums. Trial shipments of this fruit, exported for the first time last season, opened up very well and showed good returns. The opening up of a new and profitable market for plums would be hailed with delight by growers, this fruit showing very poor returns in the local market.

The whole shipment was consigned to Mr Garford, who recently sailed for London to act as the Company's representative there. Mr Garford will arrange the distribution of the fruit in England. The results of the arrangement, which is an entirely new departure in the export of fruit, will be watched with interest.

TO YORKSHIRE AGAIN

August 25th will be the 201st anniversary of the departure from England of Captain James Cook on his voyage which resulted in his exploration of the hitherto unknown eastern shores of New Holland.

If Cook could re-visit his old haunt of Whitby and other nearby places today, he would find many changes, but also much that is unchanged. The population of Whitby is the same, just under 12,000; but in Cook's day, all its residents followed trades connected with the sea, and now it is a peaceful holiday resort. Some places would still be recognisable to him — his lodging-place in Grape Lane, partly built from the timbers of an old sailing-ship; and the same names are used for the lanes and narrow pedestrian 'paths' of cobble-stones. But where he would remember a crowded harbor, with tall-masted ships and tiny 'cobles' — the local fishing-

boats — today he would see holiday-makers wandering about with their cameras, gazing at the memorial tablets commemorating Cook and his voyages. On the cliffs, a bronze monument overlooks the town, but in his day, a dozen cannon were strategically placed there. Those 'frog-eating Frenchies' had to be welcomed in the right way if they ventured on English soil!

Whitby has a museum, with a large section devoted to Cook and his voyages, and at Ayton village school, where he went at the age of eight, is the Cook Museum.

At Staithes, about ten miles north-west of Whitby, Cook would remember how he earned his first regular money, as assistant to the general dealer and haberdasher, William Sanderson. This man introduced him to John Walker of Whitby, ship-owner and master mariner, to whom Cook was later apprenticed for three years, Whitby at this time was growing fast. Whaling was then approaching its heyday, and another well-remembered figure today is William Scoresby, the successful whaler, who introduced many up-to-date techniques for this important industry.

Robin Hood's Bay, a few miles away, is today another tourist resort, but Cook would remember it as a place honest men avoided, for it was one of the most notorious smuggling ports in the whole country. This was the time when tea was so heavily taxed that it cost from twelve to thirty shillings per pound, while it could be bought in Holland for sevenpence a pound. Brandy, silks, tobacco, lace and other luxuries were smuggled in for the same reason. Kipling's 'Smugglers' Song' recalls this era vividly.

Many local people in these seaside towns today travel daily to work in the nearby industrial centres, returning to their homes in pleasant surroundings each evening.

With the inevitable changes of two centuries, it is pleasing to know that something of Cook's era still lingers on in a few Yorkshire places.

More extracts from the 'Ringwood Borough News'

MORTON PARK 9/1/1931

Improvements Progressing

Steady progress is being made with the improvements to the Morton Park. The laying of the concrete footpath and curbing in front of the hall is now complete, and the work on the upper oval is well advanced, and it is expected that work will commence very shortly on the lower oval. On Tuesday evening, 13th inst. the Morton Park Committee will hold its usual monthly meeting, when schemes for further improvement will probably be discussed.

BAYSWATER 6/2/1931

Request to Railway Commissioners

Some time ago, the Progress Association requested the Railway Commissioners to stop a down and up train at Glenferrie for the convenience of children attending the technical school and colleges thereabouts. After due consideration, the Commissioners have acceded to the request, and are giving it a trial.

D. Mattingley
(Editor)

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