

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER.

PRICE - 5c.

MARCH - APRIL, 1980.

Registered at the G.P.O. for Transmission by post as a periodical. Category "B".

PRESIDENT & EDITOR.

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VERMONT.
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TREASURER.

Mrs. S. Barker,
14 Tortice Street,
NUNAWADING.

The first meeting of the Society for 1980 took the form of a picnic tea in the grounds of Schwerkolt Cottage-Museum complex in Deep Creek Road on 13th February. Members had the opportunity of viewing the Museum and sharing their ideas with other members. The need for a Secretary was again discussed at the short business meeting but the position was not filled.

Members are reminded that all meetings for 1980 will be held in the Willis Room and not the Coffee Shop. Next meeting: 12th March.

Mrs. Teddy Poole has kindly offered to act as Secretary for the next three (3) months. She will act as our contact with the public and other societies and will attend to the correspondence. Teddy has already contributed a great deal of time and effort to the Society and I am personally very grateful to her for her offer of assistance and on behalf of the Society would also like to say thank you.

Her address: MRS. E. POOLE, FOREST HILL. 878-2880.

MARCH 21st to 28th. HERITAGE WEEK., designed to promote greater awareness of Victoria's history. Special displays and openings of National Trust properties, not normally available for public inspection will be held during this week.

Properties to be opened will include Illawarra at Toorak; Blairgowrie House at Blairgowrie, Gulf Station at Yarra Glen, Tasma Terrace, East Melbourne and The Briars at Balcombe, the Mornington Peninsula. These and others, will be in addition to normal National Trust properties throughout the State which are open for inspection on a daily basis.

Exhibitions to be staged will include a costume display, a cast iron exhibition, a doll exhibition. Walking tours of historic areas are being arranged and there will be lectures and films on preservation work.

FROM 'ROYAL AUTO MAGAZINE.'

BOOK FOUND AT NUNAWADING LIBRARY.

"BREAD AND ROSES" (Paperback) "The Struggle of American Labour, 1865-1915, by Milton Meltzer. (Illustrated with contemporary prints and photographs.

Lawrence, the place, where strikers carried signs demanding "Bread and Roses" and police clubbed down women and children. Ludlow, where the militia massacred a tent city of miners and their families while John D. Rockefeller washed his hands of the affair in Washington.

New York Times writes - "Compelling - gives understanding of labour's undiminished belief that its unity is its only dependable source of strength."

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

In 1882 there were 15 factories in Melbourne which each employed over 200 people. Two were clothing factories, a foundry and Swallow & Ariell's biscuit factory. By 1888 many new factories were established, breweries, boat builders, shoe makers, tailors and clothing manufacturers. Macpherson Robertson began making sweets in 1880; he was employing 30 men by 1887 and laid the foundation for MacRobertson's confectionary industry. Metal and machinery industry expanded from the local manufacture of agricultural machinery and replacement of imports to larger enterprises like Danks Foundry, which monopolized watertaps and plumbing supplies in Melbourne. Locomotives for the railways were being built at Ballarat; carriages and trucks at Bendigo, while local coach builders catered for areas not serviced by railways.

Lead and silver were discovered at Broken Hill in 1881. The silver chloride

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Lead and silver were discovered at Broken Hill in 1881. The silver chloride was easily mined and smelted and adjacent mines shared the boom. The share market responded and silver mining was stimulated all over Australia. By 1891 Broken Hill was the third largest city in N.S.W. and its impact was felt in three states. Melbourne directed the company; N.S.W. handled the \$3.6 million silver lead export; Adelaide supplied food and stores. South Australian wharves, railways, farms and factories, warehouses and silver smelters all benefitted and its previously depressed economy

revived. Lead prices started to fall in 1886 and so had the price of silver since the field was discovered. International monetary policies had reduced the value of a One thousand pounds bar of silver of 1884 to only five hundred and seventy two pounds in 1894.

In Victoria the greater population pressure reduced squatters domination. In the well-watered western district, pastoralists consolidated their lands. A number of runs were halved, squatters were forced to seek land in the Riverina district of N.S.W. or in Queensland. Wheat growers moved inland in the 1870's, population greatly increased in the area, and new towns of Horsham and Shepparton developed rapidly. By 1877 Victoria was not only self-sufficient in wheat but also exported. A boom to Great Britain as she suffered bad harvests between 1875-1890 due to excessive drought or excessive rainfall. By 1880's many farmers had moved into the Mallee from South Australia successfully growing wheat in southern Mallee.

Dairy farming was well established in the Gippsland area of Victoria by 1880's. Victoria had 50% more dairy cattle than N. S. W. Gross domestic product remained constant and production satisfied rural needs. Fast growing towns needed cheese and butter. The export of beef also began in the 1880's when frozen meat was successfully shipped to England. Cattlemen penetrated further into Queensland and spilled over into the Northern Territory in their need for land. Added stimulus came too from the expansion of Queensland mining and the arrival of all those hungry miners, at almost the same time.

From the mid-seventies onwards the growth of Australia became increasingly dependent on imports financed by overseas loans. At the same time our foreign exchange depended mainly on one or two commodities, wool and gold. To expand, we needed finance. Capital expenditure today is derived largely from revenue, such as taxation, direct or indirect, but in those years Government raised its finance from overseas loans. Even when interest rates were declining funds continued to flow in at a high level. Victoria and N. S. W. dominated the borrowing but by the 1880's Queensland and South Australia were borrowing large amounts too. An unstable trend emerged during 1870's - 1880's as investment was increasingly influenced by political consideration. Much of the investment was a reflection of parochial jealousies rather than economic needs.

Until 1880's mining costs in Australia were usually met by Australian investors and mine companies, but now overseas capital was being tapped. The arrival of telegraph in 1872, following so soon after the Broken Hill silver finds, and cheaper rates in 1880's meant that Australian mining trends could be telegraphed to European investors. Many English investors purchased mining shares after seeing the Queensland Government's exhibition of stone crushing at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London.

Inflow of capital from overseas was channelled through the cities, leading to the growth of financial institutions and further centralization. In turn a demand was stimulated for enlarged public utilities and services, and a further inflow of overseas investment. The cost of building a city the size of Melbourne so quickly was enormous and much capital came from unwise borrowing. Melbourne became the favoured field for British investors. More was borrowed here than all the rest of Australia in the 1880's, by the Victorian Government, municipalities, banks, pastoral and mining companies, building societies and land finance companies; all at unusually high interest rates. Most went into rebuilding the city and extending its suburbs, into land speculation, railways, water supplies, local government and public works. All of which required considerable unskilled labour and relatively small costs in material. Capital was thus being used to feed the armies of workers rather than into the import of expensive materials. Local savings were channelled into land purchases as suburban land values rose 5 - 10, even 20 times in 5 years. City property rose 300%, partly in response to the introduction of Otis Hydraulic lifts, which in turn meant the building of six, nine, even 12 storey high buildings.

The 1880's saw a substantial increase in suburban railway and tramway lines, which proceeded in advance of settlement and occasioned enormous land speculation in the 1880's. Water and gas services were greatly expanded and considerable improvements (expensive ones) were made in street kerbing, guttering, metalling and eventually in the 1890's the beginning of an underground sewerage system.

BOOKS USED IN RESEARCH: "Crowley's, A New History of Australia.
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P R O G R A M M E

1 9 8 0.

- MARCH 12th: Miss Gregory to speak on "Early days to the present day at Forest Hill Residential Kindergarten for Emergency Care".
- APRIL 9th : Mr. O. S. Green will speak on "Rural School Teaching experiences of fifty years ago."
In addition to many other historical articles, Mr. Green has recently published a history of SALE, a history of the Gippsland Lakes, and collaborated in the Rigby History of Box Hill.
- MAY 14th: Mr. Ken Ince a foundation Vice-President of this Society will be our guest speaker, his subject: "The History of Military Medals".
- JUNE 11th: Mr. Keith Patterson will tell us of his research into the "Land Boom".
- JULY 9th: Members Night.
- AUGUST 13th: Mr. Norman Carter of Box Hill Historical Society. His subject is: "Behind the Facade of the \$10 Note". (with the story of Francis Greenway).
- SEPTEMBER 10th: Mr. Griffin Bartlett: "Leafing Down the Ages"
42,000 years of Flour-Milling up to today's loaf of bread.
- OCTOBER, 8th: A N N U A L M E E T I N G.
- NOVEMBER, 12th: Mr. Tonkin: "Paddle Wheels still turning".
(Those who enjoyed Mr. Tonkin's stories and wealth of information about the era of the Paddle Steamers will be delighted to take up the story, and those who missed this meeting in 1979 will be pleased to hear that Mr. Tonkin is to be with us again.
- DECEMBER, 10th: Mr. Max Grant, foundation member of the Mitcham Repertory Group will speak on the History of this organization.

ALL MEETINGS FOR 1980 WILL BE HELD IN THE

W I L L I S R O O M

CIVIC CENTRE, NUNAWADING.

at 8.00 p.m.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

NEW MEMBERS WOULD ALSO BE ASSURED OF A WARM WELCOME.

Contact: Jean Webster,
874-4210

THE 'MATILDA WALTZERS' UNION.

In 1877 the "professional" swagmen - those who were swagmen by choice - formed their own "union". The inaugural meeting was held on the Lachlan River near Forbes in N.S.W. and a collection of "frowsy deadbeats, loony hatters, and aggressive cadgers" got together to vote for office bearers and draw up regulations:

1. No member to be over a 100 years old.
2. Each member to pay one pannikin of flour entrance fee. Members who don't care about paying will be admitted free.
3. No member to carry swags weighing over 10 pounds.
4. Each member to possess three complete sets of tuckerbags, each set to consist of nine bags.
5. No member to pass any station, farm, boundary rider's hut, camp or private house without "tapping" and obtaining rations and handouts.
6. No member to allow himself to be bitten by a sheep. If a sheep bites a member he must immediately turn it into mutton.
7. Members who defame a "good" cook or pay a fine when run in shall be expelled from the Union.
8. No member is allowed to bum baking powder, tea, flour, sugar or tobacco from a fellow-unionist.
9. Non-smoking members must "whisper" for tobacco on every possible occasion, the same as other smokers.
10. At general or branch meetings non-smokers must ante up their whispered tobacco nuggets to be distributed amongst the officers of the Union.
11. Any member found without having at least two sets of bags filled with tucker will be find.
12. No member to look for or accept work of any description. Members found working will be at once expelled.
13. No member to own more than one creek, river or billabong bend. To sell bends for old boots or "sinkers" is prohibited.
14. No member to walk more than five miles per day if rations can be bummed.
15. No members to tramp on Sundays at any price.

A further effort to give swagmen some kind of official status was a strange publication that appeared in 1900 entitled "The Swag". The Unofficial Flute of the Sundowners and Other Colonial Vagrants: with which is enfurcated the Bush Marconi and the Whaler's Telegraph".

The publication was aimed at the Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, in the hope that he would obtain a better deal for the wanderers of the bush. Amongst other things, the author reckoned that swaggies and their ilk, being true blue Aussies should be represented at the functions celebrating the inauguration of the Commonwealth.

From The Sunday Press. July 22, 1979.

RAILWAY CROSSINGS.

From Box Hill Reporter. 10th January, 1919.

"In a communication to the Nunawading Council at its meeting on Tuesday night, 7th January, the Railways Department, adverting to a request that electric bells be installed at Springvale and Mitcham Road crossings, intimated that experience had proved that the provision of such devices are a source of danger to the public rather than a safety, as the apparatus is apt to get out of order at any time and the bells fail to ring, and in the circumstances the commissioners regretted that they could not see their way to accede to the request".

It was late last year that Boom gates were added to the flashing lights at Mitcham Railway Crossing.