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TESTIMONIAL DINNER GIVEN FOR LEGATEE FRANK DOOLAN

HELD AT LEGACY HOUSE, ON MONDAY, 27TH MAY, 1974.

LEGATEE PRESIDENT BILL BRAIDIE WILL PROPOSE THE TOAST TO OUR HONOURED GUEST TONIGHT AND OUR OWN MEMBER, LEGATEE FRANK DOOLAN.

Legatee W. A. Braidie (President)

Legatee Chairman, our two distinguished guests, Geoff. and Maurice Doolan and fellow Legatees. Thank you Bruce for the thought that you and your colleagues at Oakleigh/Waverley Branch have had in organising this occasion, when we can all meet together as Legatees, as friends and family of Frank Doolan, to pay him our respects and show him our affection, and thank you for the personal pleasure I have in proposing this toast and for the privilege you have given me - in giving me the opportunity of so doing.

Legatee Francis John Doolan (how about that Frank!), was proposed and seconded into Legacy by Legatees W. G. Laver and Charles Copp, in the latter part of 1924. That was about five years after Frank returned from War Service as a Field Engineer with the 1st Division, SIG. Company. I can't be more precise than the latter part of 1924 but, very clearly, those early Legatees were much better at getting things done than keeping records about it, and who amongst us would quibble with those priorities. So, some time this year and for our purposes, now is near enough, and for third time, Frank Doolan joins a select and distinguished company.

In 1917, he joined the 1st A.I.F., that select group of volunteers of whom Kipling, in his "Ode to the Shrine of Remembrance" in Melbourne said, and I quote - "Then they returned to their desired land, the kindly cities and plains where they were bred, having revealed their Nation in earth's sight". And that was the first select group and there are many of them here tonight.

That mention of the Shrine serves to remind us, of course, that Frank is one of the Commonwealth's most experienced surveyors and in that capacity had a very great deal to do with the planning and construction of the Shrine, in which he retains and has always had a close and deep interest, which is shared by Legacy.

The second distinguished group was, of course, when Frank joined Legacy in 1924, when his then colleauges bore names, such as - Savige, Cohen, Eller, Pittard, Laver, Copp, Kirk and others I will come to later, to whom Kipling's prelude to "Stalky & Co." might well have referred when it begins with the words - "Let us now praise famous men, men of little showing, for their work continueth and their work continueth, broad and deep continueth, greater than their knowing".

And now Frank joins a third group, those who have given, or this year will have given, 50 years of Legacy service, and there are the others to whom I referred a moment ago, those who are still serving. Let me name them, if I may, in alphabetical order, it's much easier than trying to sort them out by good looks -

Brian Armstrong, Bert Doery, Harold Driscoll, Rex Hall,
Donovan Joynt, Kem Kemsley, Frank Meldrum, Eric Serman,

and there are others, just around the corner.

And if I may, at the risk of over-working Mr. Kipling, let me quote two more extracts from "Stalky & Co." that might well seem appropriate to you in respect of these men:

> "There we met with famous men, set in office o'er us and they beat on us with rods, faithfully with many rods, daily beat on us with rods, for the love they bore us. They were verbal rods, but don't let's mistake it, we got beaten. And we all praise famous men, elders of the College, for they taught us common sense, tried to teach

And it seems to me that's appropriate to this group of men. This then is the third honoured and respected group which Frank now joins, but what about the man himself, the man who it is said gave Legacy its soul?

I think you all know Legatees, how Legacy took its rise in 1923 with its prime object then the rehabilitation of returned servicemen. Within 1925 and 1926, as Blatchford's History of Legacy puts it, and I would like to quote this -

> "The impulses from which the Club had sprung and mainly spent themselves and fresh inspiration was needed. Employment finding and business reciprocity were not quite the important issues they had been. Something further was needed and this was supplied when, at a Board meeting, Legatee Frank Doolan said quietly - "Have you fellows ever thought that the dying wish of any of our cobbers would be that we should look after his missus and kids?"

Legacy grew from there and Frank Doolan was part of the growing. May I read to you his record of Committee service? It's quite remarkable -

Children's Welfare Committee. This grew out of a 1925 Committee, styled the 'Enquiry Committee' and made up of Legatees Cohen, Browne, Savige and Doolan, and formed to develop ways and means of aiding the education, employment and welfare of children. This, perhaps, was the first Junior Legacy Committee and Frank served on it.

The Special Committee- Big Brothering; National War Memorial Committee; Warden - Intermediate Legacy Committee; Chairman - I.L.C. Liaison; Vice-President - Demonstration; Malvern Boys' Class; Extension of Legacy - Warragul (we call that now 'Club and Group Liaison'); Orderley Officer. As later appointees, other than Frank, were patently not so 'orderly', we call them 'Sergeant-at-Arms' now. Representative - R.S.L., ANZAC Observance Committee; Cultural and Library Committee, it goes on. Elected member to the Board 1962, 1967 and 1974. Liaison Officer - Geelong 1963 to 1974. Frank was present at Geelong's Inaugural Luncheon and I think it's a proper and appreciated compliment that Geelong is represented tonight.

Branches Committee, Senior Widows' Committee - 1964 and 1971; Widows' Committee 1972 to 1974. Camps & Holidays Committee 1968 - 74.

Legatee Bill Russell, in his Biography, had this to say, and I would like to quote it Legatees, because, frankly, Bill's turn of words wouldn't, in my mind, be capable of being improved upon -

> "A mighty man this Doolan, lank and lean, with deep blue eyes set in a long serious face. Great, as only men of simplicity, sincerity and truth can be great. He was always in the background, but, and that's the important thing about it, always in the background whenever he was needed."

He hasn't changed in 50 years and that, Legatees, is the written history of Legatee Frank Doolan.

With your permission, Legatee Chairman, and for a short time, I would like to pass the toast to one of Frank's long and valued colleagues, Legatee Jim Gillespie, who, I think, will give us some of the unwritten history.

Legatee J. G. GILLESPIE

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman of Oakleigh Legacy Branch, Fellow Legatees and friends of Legatees, I have to thank Bruce Wilson, the Chairman of the Oakleigh Branch, for giving me the opportunity of seconding this toast and to thank Frank Doolan for proposing me to Legacy and for the widening out of my life through the contacts I have made in Legacy and

Frank Doolan was educated at the South Melbourne College and having a attained the necessary standard, was articled to one of the best known firms of surveyors in Melbourne at that time, J.M. & H.E. Cohen. Having studied there for some time, he obtained leave to enlist in 1917, as the President has said, and he served as a Signaller in the First World War, not, if I may say so, a most healthy occupation to undertake.

After the Armistice in 1918, he joined a Survey School in Southampton, organised by the Army Education Service, to employ the troops until their ships were arranged to take them back to Australia. Now, you can quite imagine that fellows like Frank Doolan, and others that I could mention, if they had been let loose in London, for 5 or 6 months, London would have never been the same again.

So, they kept them in Southampton. There were two schools there, one for young fellows who had, shall I say, broken their articles and enlisted, and those for who had served their articles, obtained their qualifications and come into the Army since.

At the end of their school, the two combined schools met together and discussed surveying in Australia, as it was at that time, and I may say that the profession was at its lowest ebb. Things were pretty bad, and they vowed that when they got back to Australia, they would do everything they possibly could to improve the profession and put it into the status that it should be.

The younger fellows sailed together and came back to Australia some time earlier than the older ones, who went on to the London University and places like that, and finally got back about October. They had been studying geodesy and topography, which was to come to light many years later when the mapping of Australia was completed about 5 years ago.

Just prior to the breaking-up of the school, a combined meeting decided that they would do everything they possibly could to improve the status of the profession and they finally came back and took up their various avocations in survey offices, Frank Doolan and Charlie Goodchild, who later became a Legatee, joined forces in the firm of Doolan and Goodchild and practised as Licensed Surveyors in Melbourne for some considerable time.

In 1924, he joined Legacy, and in 1925, as the President has said, he made his memorable remarks about the objects of Legacy and I'll have something more to say about that later on.

In the years of 1924 to 27, a lot of discussion was going on about the Shrine and as the President has said, it was finally decided that it should be built in the Domain, Hudson & Wardrop were the Architects who were commissioned to build it. They employed the firm of Doolan and Goodchild to do the survey work in regard to the Shrine, and that survey work included the calculations necessary to enable the architects and the builders to build the Shrine in such a way that the aperture which allows the sun to penetrate the Shrine only on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of each year is there where it should be in that particular pyramid, and between you and me and the gatepost, that is no mean feat, and I congratulate them very much on their achievement.

Frank Doolan and Charlie Goodchild attended a meeting in Melbourne in 1927, when the representatives of all the Institutes of Surveyors in Australia met together to discuss the formation of a Federal Institution and the advancement of a geodetical and topographical survey of Australia. Little had been done to do this nor had the Institutions ever come together until that time.

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Resolutions were passed, one of them being that we should get on with the job and the second one that we should publish a publication called "The Australian Surveyor". That publication was published as from that time, but the Depression hit things in such a way that it wasn't until 1952 that the Institution of Surveyors was formed and we got on with the work that we had tried to commence in 1927.

The firm of Doolan and Goodchild, in common with very many other Surveyors, was very badly hit indeed by the Depression. Surveyors are peculiar people and, if I may say so, they are the first to be hit in the land business, because you have got to have a survey before people like Bill Scott can make the fortune that he has made out of it. Doolan and Goodchild disolved partnership and Charlie Goodchild, whom some of you will remember here tonight, went to Malaya and remained there and has died there. DISSOLVED

Frank Doolan had a pretty difficult time and it's very much to my, shall I say, delight that we were able to help him by taking him into our firm for a while until we could find a job for him. And it's typical of Frank that when he left our firm, he left also with us the whole of his office records that had been done since the time he started in practice and those records are embodied in our firm up to this present day and are used when necessary.

He then obtained a position with the Melbourne Institute of Technology as the Lecturer in Surveying and I offended him very much indeed, at that particular time, when he told me he had got this, by telling him that I had no doubt that he would be pushing the barrow of ignorance in front of him for the first 12 months of his job, and frankly, he was very annoyed, because he thought he knew the job.

Twelve months after that, he said to me, "you never said anything more true". He said "these young devils up there, they were always one jump ahead of me and all the time I had to be saying - right, I will tell you what the answer to that is tomorrow. I don't know today." He remained there until he obtained the position in the Commonwealth Department of Interior Lands & Survey, and it was in this position that he finally found the niche which I am sure he was destined to be in. He really found the position where he could do a job and do it well and rose to be Chief Property Officer.

As you know, publicity has never been Frank's, shall I say 'habit'. In fact, he has avoided it all his life. But in one particular instance, during this period, he had to do something which he had never thought would happen. There was a certain lady called Mary Murphy and she owned a little cottage up in Essendon, right in the middle of an area which was being acquired by the Commonwealth Department for a certain development at the Aerodrome. I don't know whether she was the original "diehard", but anyhow, she stuck to her guns and she refused, and state that she would not move under any consideration at all and there it remained. STATED The newspapers had accounts from time to time about Mary Murphy, still being at her place, with pictures of her with everything pulled down around her and everything else like that, until Frank's boss said, "Look, as a last resort, Frank will you go out and see if you can shift Mrs. Murphy from her house?" So, Frank went to the door knocked at the door, the door was opened by a very irate looking woman and she said "What do you want?" And Frank, in his very quiet sort of voice said - "My name is Frank Doolan and I've come along to discuss the acquisition of your house." And she said, "Did you say your name was Doolan?" She said - "If I had known that Mr. Doolan wanted the house, I would never have been in a position like this. Of course, I will give it to you, you arrange it as quickly as you can." And Frank Doolan achieved what all the officialdom and writs and everything else couldn't achieve, just because his name was Doolan.

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When he retired from the Department of the Interior at the effluxion of his time, he started to be a Consultant in farm development and utilisation, and such was his success in this particular field, that later, when one of his satisfied clients had died, he left a legacy to Frank, in the shape of a well bred mare, named "Tam Will". You might be interested to know that "Tam Will" has done the job properly and she has a foal. Well, it's obvious to me that before very long, we can see Frank Doolan, in grey topper and grey trousers, leading another winner up into the Judge's Box at the race-course - it's only a matter of time.

You know, he would look very well in a grey topper, I reckon.

During these later years, he constituted himself an unofficial ambassador to Legacy Clubs in Australia, and he's known and admired all over Australia for the work that he has done in Legacy so unobtrusively.

But, to go back to the beginnings of Legacy, and if I repeat what the President said you won't mind me - the Club was formed in 1923, the main idea of the members, at that particular time, and you can remember that there were about 200,000 troops coming back to be re-habilitated, was that they would arrange amongst themselves for business reciprocity and for preference to returned soldiers, that being a very big item in the public news, and so it remained for two years, until some of the Legatees began to realise, they having been rehabilitated, that there was more that had to be done or Legacy would rather die away, and it was then that Frank came to light with this, shall I say, inspiration, that Legacy had something more to give.

Frank Selleck, of course, had named Legacy at that time, some time before that, but Frank had 'missed the bus', if I can put it that way. He had not been able to really realise what the Legacy meant, and it was not until Frank Doolan spelt out the real meaning of the Legacy to the survivors that those who had died had left a debt, one that could never be discharged, to care for the widows and children, The Legacy Club, as it was then known, at that particular time, found itself. Those men, around the table that night, in 1925, had been tried and tested, they knew what comradeship really meant to them, they were patriots in the real sense of the word and they were filled with an urge to express their pent up feelings in other ways than in business reciprocity and preference to returned soldiers. It needed only the spark of inspiration struck by Frank Doolan to make them realise that what had been re-ignited in their breasts was the undying flame of service and self-sacrifice,handed to them by their comrades in war who had passed on.

From then on, the flame burned brighter and brighter and with the encouragement of Stan Savige and the men he encounter around him, the real task, destined to play such a vital part in the lives of all within the orbit of Legacy, really commenced.

The original flame was lighted in Melbourne and the symbolism of the torch came when the spirit was carried to other Clubs throughout Australia, Geelong, as you heard tonight, being the first. But the original flame still burns brightly in Melbourne and Melbourne, as you know, is known as the 'Mother Club'.

Of course, the growth of Legacy, at first, was slow, but once started there was no stopping it, and the inspiration put forward by this retiring man has now reached dimensions undreamed of in 1925.

On the occasion of the Jubilee of Legacy last year, figures were published, showing that between the years 1961 and 73, 6,481 Legatees cared for 83,936 Widows and 30,542 Children, spread throughout Australia. A truly staggering number of widows and children, but more staggering when you remember the number of Legatees who have died and the number of children that have passed through Legacy's

And yet, through these 50 years, Frank Doolan has never aspired to any of the senior positions in the movement. He has been approached many times to accept the nomination for the office of President, and as the President has said and detailed to you, he has served on very many committees, always as a member and it has come as a great surprise that he accepted the nomination of the Oakleigh Branch to be its Chairman - they achieved what many other committees have failed to do. And so gentlemen, I will close, and you will remember this, if you went to school in the last 50 years -

"Lives of great men all remind us we must make our lives sublime
and departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time."

Mr. President, I hand back to you the toast to this great man.

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Legatee W. A. Braidie,

Thank you Jim for your magnificent support.

Now Legatees - are your glasses charged?

Gentlemen, before I bring you the toast, I would like to couple, if I may, with Jim's very pertinent verse, another one, which it seems to me is perfectly appropriate to this man we honour tonight, and again, I am working him to death, but it's a little bit of Kipling -

"This we learned from famous men, knowing not its uses,
when they showed in daily work man must finish off his work,
right or wrong his daily work and without excuses."

That, to me, is Frank Doolan.

Legatees, if you'll be upstanding. Mr. Choirmaster ... "Jolly Good Fellow"
"Three Cheers".

Legatees - Legatee Frank Doolan.

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Legatee B. R. Wilson

Thank you Legatees - thank you Bill, thank you Jim.

Legatees, we have had a lovely night and I am very thankful to Bill and to Jim for the wonderful words they have spoken. I think the highlight of our evening is the response from our own - that's Oakleigh/Waverley I am talking about, and perhaps I should say Melbourne Legacy - our own Frank Doolan.

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Legatee Frank Doolan

Mr. Chairman, Oakleigh/Waverley and I know President Bill will forgive me for this, Legatee President and fellow Legatees, I would be less than human if I were not affected very emotionally by your presence in such numbers tonight and by what has been said by Bruce Wilson, our Branch Chairman, by Bill Braidie, our President, and by Jim Gillespie, my almost life-long Surveyor Cobber, and by the enthusiastic manner which you accepted and honoured the toast to me and I intend to thank you one an all right now in case I perchange forget later, because I have got a lot to say.

This function started off in a very simple and innocent way, you know. Bruce said to me one night, - "Have a look at your diary. Have you got anything on for the 27th May?" And I said - "Hell, that's a long while ahead, I wouldn't have anything on at that time." He said - "Stick it down, I've got something in mind". The next I heard of it was at a Branch meeting and he asked the blokes to have their names in by a certain date or they wouldn't be in it and I said - "In what?" But when I saw the extent of the gathering here tonight, I was flabbergasted. No, I am not joking, I am not piling on the icing.

It looked like a meeting of creditors.

Bruce warned me that I would be expected to say a few words here and there and I thought I might delve into memories of the past and pick out a few highlights from my past Legacy experience and perchance promise to stop as soon as you start to nod or yawn. And this is quite alright, but Ivan Layton, who is a dear friend of mine and our Executive Officer, - he said to me -"Don't go more than a quarter of an hour, the tape won't last any longer than that".

You have already heard, I was elected in 1924, the year in which I married, amazingly.

Bill Laver had the adjoining office to me, he was an estate agent, he had the adjoining office to me in the Perpetual Trustee Building, where I was practising as a Surveyor, as Jim Gillespie told you, and I was seconded by Chas. Copp. Now Chas. Copp was a remarkable bloke because he was an optician, he was attached to Myer's, he wasn't working for Myer's, but he was attached to them, and this young son of mine, who had to depart early because Ron. Foskett has commandeered the building that he practises in and he has got to move into Collins Street, which costs a lot more, and he's not a bit pleased about it. But he had to duck off quickly, but he would have loved to have heard this because he is also an optometrist.

But Charles Copp saw the light and he joined the Bush Brotherhood of Monks, which is an Anglican Order, - a very exclusive Order - and to become a member of this, you had to do two years missionary work in the slums of London.

Charlie Copp was a tremendous bloke. I don't know whether there is anybody here who remembers Charlie Copp, but he was one of the great men that I have met in my life and he really had everything. And this might interest you, he and I were responsible for nominating the numbers on the badges that you all wear, or some of you wear - the ones that don't forget to wear, you know. I gave No. 1 to Tom White, who was President of the day, and Kemsley got 52 and I got 53, we are about the same age, and this is true.

But any rate, when I joined Legacy, there were probably a few less in Melbourne Legacy than there are now in the Oakleigh/Waverley Branch and this is true.

In 1925, when Tom White was elected President, I was pitch-forked into the workforce in an emergency. The late Arnold Wootten was sick and he had to go into hospital with a war injury, and I was "conned" into acting as Hon. Secretary in his temporary absence. I must tell you a story about this later.

Tom White was 37 at this time, he was dynamic, plenty of 'get up and go'. In the original Australian Flying Corps he was shot down in a flimsy kite made of timber and string and a few strips of material. No cockpit or anything like that. He was shot down and taken prisoner by the Turks. He escaped and he left Turkish territory on his own flat feet. He wrote a book called "Guests of the Unspeakable", which you all should get and read - it's a beauty. While he was prisoner of war, he studied "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire". When he came back, he married one of the daughters of Alfred Deakin and he was headed for politics. He had a few goes at Maribyrnong, down where Mick Nolan lives and he couldn't do any good there, so then he tried Balaclava dnd he got in Balaclava and he became Member for Balaclava and later Minister for Customs and then High Commissioner for Australia in London.

When he came back as High Commissioner from London, I mustn't forget this, he was given a reception at the Town Hall by Frank Selleck, who, at that time wasn't knighted, but Frank gave me an invitation. I was quite surprised at this, but I got an invitation. I went along to the Town Hall and Tom White, in responding to his welcome, said - "Well, I never thought I would live to be welcomed back into the City of Melbourne by the 'Kid Adjutant'. This is true, and Selleck was the 'Kid Adjutant"

who succeeded Savige, when Savige was selected from the 24th Battalion of which he was Adjutant, having grown to it from the ranks, and was picked and chosen to go to the Dunsterforce in Armenia and Persia, and if any of you blokes have never read "Stalky's Forlorn Hope" - you should try and do so.

But, anyway, the funniest night. I took a young Legatee along with me, and I introduced him to Tom White and I said - "I used to be Secretary to this bloke". And White said to me - "Were you Frank?" And I said - "Too right I was". And he said - "You couldn't have been much of a Secretary, I don't even remember you". So that cut me back to size. But you will be amazed to hear that Mick Nolan had a go at him a couple of time in Balaclava. He did too. (In 1934 Mick? - "Yes").

It was in his year of office that we started the Deceased Soldiers' Children's Welfare Committee and I'm going to delve very quickly into a few of the highlights of my experience in 50 years of Legacy and you have all said that I have been here 50 years and so I suppose I must have been. There have been a lot of untruths said too. But any rate - one of the great memories of my life was the meeting in Professor Browne's Study, and this was before Junior Legacy had started, as we know it now, and the people there were Mr. Tait, who was the Director of Education of the day, Stan Savige, George Browne and myself. It happened in George Browne's Study, which a few of you older blokes might have seen on T.V., when they started T.V. It was a tremendous memory for me. It's funny how you remember these things, you know.

This night, Savige had just published a book "Stalky's Forlorn Hope" and George said to Stan - "I read your book the other day Stan". Stan said - "Did you like it?" George said - "Oh yes, it's full of real meat". "Yes, I enjoyed it". He said "But, it's not all that well written, you know". Stan said, "Oh, I know that". "Nowhere near as well written as Jimmy Downing's, 'To the Last Ridge'". And Jimmy Downing's 'Last Ridge' won the Dublin University Prize for the best prose written on the First War in, I forget how many years, succeeding the cessation of hostilities of the First War. It's a magnificent little book, if you can ever get hold of it.

Funny thing, I clicked with Stan Savige. I just don't know why. I can never understand why. Stan Savige, at that time, was a Captain, he did have a D.S.O., M.C., and he probably had as great a record of service, in active service, as any man in any army in the First War. He started as a private on Gallipoli, he was commissioned on Gallipoli, finished up, as I told you, Adjutant of the 24th Battalion. He went on and became chosen by 'Stalky' who was Lord Dunsterville. He was chosen as one of those to go to this tremendous campaign in Armenia and Persia and only a very few percent of them came out alive.

And what was I, I had nothing. Really, dinkum, I had nothing. I went away late, as Jim Gillespie has told you. I did achieve the rank of Sapper. I tell you what, I had a bit of trouble maintaining it sometimes. But fortune smiled on me and I finished my service and I was never in 'clink' and I was never in a sick parade - now that's more important.

Savige was a marvellous man and he affected my life tremendously. Now why a man of this performance and ability would click with me, I wouldn't know. But, he carted me around like a young brother almost. He did this too, you know. He was all man, and if anything big was going on, he would say - "Well trot along home Frank - I'm in the mood", or something like this, but he taught me so much and he meant so much to my life. He really did. He had an in-built intuition, which is hard to explain, but he could forsee trouble and he could foresee it soon enough to plan to circumvent it, and he did this on many occasions in the early planning of Legacy. And the thing that still amazes me, 50 years later, is that he made a close confidant of me and I was nothing. He took me to the Naval & Military Club, that dear old Sid. Birrell used to call the "Nasal & Millinery" Club, and there - no I'm not joking - there I met all the big men of the First War. The patrons of Legacy, I met everyone of them personally.

If you were with Savige, you were with him.

If we met Blamey, or if we met Talbot-Hobbs, or if we met Brudenell White, you were still with him, and you had to be with him, whether you liked it or not.

No, this is true, I hope Donovan can hear me, because he knows it's true.

What effect he had on my life, I find it hard to explain.

At one time, they used to reckon, you know, that I was a hero-worshipper. I probably was too, but I tell you what, I had a decent sort of hero to worship.

But, people used to say to me - "Look, you give more time to Legacy than you give to your own family." Well, I'm glad I had a couple of my neglected kids here tonight. And thanks to Bruce for inviting them.

At any rate, we are going on a bit and we must go faster, because I have got a lot to tell you.

I attended three private dinners. I am ineligible to be a member of the Naval & Military Club and I attended three private dinners in that select sanctorum in the private room in the old Alfred Place premises, where there was only room for about 14 or 15, and I was an invited guest to three private dinners. And I don't think any ineligible members ever had that privilege, and I have said this before, and I mean it.

Savige taught me many things, especially to appreciate a position by putting yourself in the other fellow's shoes and having a look at the game from the other side of the fence. And he taught me this when I was quite young and he wasn't much older, just five or six years. In the late twenties, "Kem" put me in his select Committee to reinstate the Shrine as the National War Memorial, and later to help raise funds for the cost of its erection.

They were stirring times, really stirring times. I hope Donovan Joynt can hear me tonight, because Donovan Joynt joined in an event or episode in this fight, when Donovan Joynt and I were in town one night and having a few drinks, and we bumped into one of the reporters of the 'Herald', who said - "Look, forget it, you Legacy blokes are riding the wrong tram, you are flogging a "dead Horse", Get off the beam, you will never revive the Shrine". This, of course, got Dono's hackles up, which you can easily do, and we had a couple more beers, because in those days, you could drink beer in the hotels until about 11 p.m., and it was only 3d. or 4d. a pint. But, any rate, Dono said, "We are going to do something - let's go to the "Argus" Office, let's go and tell them about it." I said - "Oh fair go, break it down, will you?"

But anyway, we finished up in the Argus Office and he presented his card and the Editor-in-Chief, at the time, was that dear old man, well he wasn't old in those days, but unfortunately, he has passed on. But, Allan Spowers, what a man! He was a soldier and a gentleman and he was a friend of Donovan's and Donovan's card got him immediate entry, and Donovan delivered what I considered was the most magnificent oration (I don't know whether that's the right word), to put the Shrine back and his theme was - Let's put right before might now. Let's put right before might.

Well, I don't know what time we left, but it would be after midnight and he didn't give any indication of what his feelings were. But a few days later, to our great amazement and delight, the front page of the "Argus" came out with a full page picture of the "Shrine of Remembrance" and the Argus went for it, and the Age followed, and this was a break-through of a fight by a few blokes, who were unknown, against the Press, the Government, the Public and the R.S.L. in those days. Now, that was a tremendous thing.

The next thing that comes into my memory, is a dinner to farewell Stan Savige on his service as Brigadier when he led the 17th Brigade to war, in the 2nd War. A trememdous occasion this. I forget where it was, I think it was in the old Ambassador's Cafe, in the presence of Sir John Gellibrand, who was his mentor and his close friend. I think Sir John Gellibrand, I say this now, was probably largely responsible for the success of Savige, because Savige really was a self-educated man. And on this night - of all the speeches, the two tremendous speeches, one by Gellibrand and one by Savige, pretty fully reported in Bill Russell's book "There Goes a Man". And that night, Guy Moore sang a song, he has a beautiful tenor voice. He's still alive, Guy Moore. He was a member of Legacy in those days and Mick Nolan went away to the 2nd War with him. Mick Nolan was in his Pay Corps Unit when he went away to the 2nd War. He was a terrific bloke Guy Moore.

And then I remember also the infamous welcome home dinner, at 9 Darling Street, when Herb. Greenway, one of our dear Legatees, decided that the occasion demanded that he should make a Toby Mug in favour of his dear old friend, Stan Savige, who had come back from the Wars. And this Toby Mug is still about. Some of you have still got one. I've got one. The only thing wrong with it was that it held a full bottle of beer. And the only container on the tables of those who were drinking beer, who were very much in the majority in those days, were these Toby Mugs. There were no glasses, if you drank whisky, you got one of those tiny little samples, but if you drank beer, you got a Toby Mug. And the waiters came round and filled the top all the time and you had no idea. how much you drank, or how much you were drinking and you didn't care less, anyhow, and about 75% of those there finished up "very well" thank you - very nicely.

I will never forget it, I sat at a table with dear old Lou Cockram, who was a tee-totaller and I think Carl Carleton was a tee-totaller too, and a couple of other tee-totallers. But we had a couple of good drinkers there, one was Ted Kennedy, back from the Wars and Ted and I sat next to each other and I'm afraid we didn't distinguish ourselves very much. When we left the Dinner, I was asked to go in a car with some blokes and I wasn't game to go. I walked down to South Yarra Station, caught a train down to Caulfield and walked home and I wasn't very well greeted when I arrived home.

Well, the years speed by and so must I, and the dedication of the forecourt to the Shrine and the lighting of the Eternal Flame, by the Queen, was a major highlight in my memory. I had very good seats close up to the Queen, with my dear wife, and we weren't far behind Stan Savige, who was sitting in front with all his war paint, and three rows of ribbons across his breast, and I will never forget the calm and deliberate composure of this dear Queen in the speech before this huge gathering, when she pressed the button and lit the Eternal Flame. I'll tell you what, it thrilled me to the backbone and I think most people that were there. Later on, we had the great pleasure of talking to Stan and as I have told you, he and I clicked.

And then we come to sadder times, Stan's funeral. It fell to my lot to be privileged to take Dudley Tregent that great Legatee, to Stan's funeral and we turned up at the Cathedral and were met and conducted to reserved seats, right up in the front of this packed Cathedral at this funeral service. After, to come out and go down the steps and stand while the coffin was borne down and one of the 24th Battalion blokes was heard to remark - "There goes a man if ever there was one". And that was the title to Bill Russell's biography of that great Australian, Stanley Savige.

I travelled to "Boroondara" with Donovan Joynt and we were terribly lucky to get there on time. In fact we were lucky to get there at all because anyone on the road, when Donovan's driving, does the wrong thing.

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They get in his road and he takes time dodging them and all this sort of thing. At any rate, we did get there, we were a bit on edge, but we were there on time, and this, coming back to a serious note, is one of the most amazing memories in my life. Because, when the guns of the artillery boomed in the park alongside Boroondara Cemetery, to give the salute which is due to a General, I was standing with Donovan Joynt and Jimmy McGregor, who was a first-night Junior Legatee and the first contact of Stan Savige, and when we looked up, - there was a perfect rainbow in the sky and it stretched from horizon to horizon in all the colours of the spectrum and I thought to myself - what a frame for a marvellous Australian.

Then we go on, very quickly, to the Legacy Lone Pine Project, which Tom Griffiths foisted on us. Tom Griffiths, of course, was (Greg. Gillespie won't mind this) at this time President of Warrnambool Legacy, and he hit on the idea of celebrating the Jubilee of Gallipoli by planting a lot of pine trees all around Australia, and he was going to get the seeds to do this, etc. etc. Well, this was taken to the Perth Conference in 1965 and they approved of it, and Melbourne Legacy, in their weakness, said well, we will look after it, we will propagate the seeds and we will distribute them and so it goes on. And we did, the Anzac Observance Committee, of which I am a member and a very proud member, I'm very fond of the Anzac Observance Committee. We distributed a couple of hundred seedlings around Australia and about 120 or 130 bronze plaques, which cost them all $10 or $12 a piece - it didn't cost Melbourne Legacy anything. I was tremendously thrilled, of course, when they asked me to plant the pine at the 1969 Wollongong Conference at Mount Keira, on that marvellous Mount Keira. And those that are here tonight that were there will agree with me that this was one of the most magnificent things that ever happened in Legacy, when those Legatees broke out of the rain forest and formed a perfect hollow square, without any rehearsal whatsoever, it was breath-taking, and the bugles, which were unseen in the rain forests, they were really something that you could never forget, however you tried and nobody ever tries to forget these things.

And then we came to the Golden Jubilee of Legacy, which was founded in Melbourne and I was more than, or a bit over-awed probably, but at any rate, I was so pleased to be asked to sit at the head table with Mrs. Revell, who is a great friend of mine and my wife's best friend, and Mary Gillespie always calls her "Frank Doolan's bridesmaid" - which she was.

And then, I was asked to plant the Olive Tree of Peace at the Shrine of Remembrance, and that's a highlight to me and always will be, of course.

But I've got one thing and I want to crave your approval to let me go back now to the 1965 Conference in Perth. Now, the previous year the Conference was at Armadale in N.S.W. and Wal Escott and I, being fancy-free, you know, on one to stand up to afterwards and say "What did you do and why did you do it?" - we got "very nicely" thank you. We were backed up in the corner after the dinner by two characters from Perth, most of you will know both of them probably, in the person of Bob Wallace and Geoff. Hynam. Bob Wallace is now a Judge, if you please. Hynam is a stock-broker. But, any rate, in my very mellow condition, they kidded me to agree to propose the toast of Legacy at the Perth Conference in the following year. Rob. Allison and a few of them will remember this. We went over on the 'Orsova', about 100 of us. Some of them had wives and appendages and others were fancy-free, but when we got to Perth, Bob Wallace came up to me and he said - "You know you have got to do this toast to Legacy, Frank". And I said "Oh, break it down a bit. We have just had a good trip over here on the 'Orsova'". He said "Well, you are on the programme and you can't get out of it". I said - "Oh well, I suppose I will have to go on with it." I said - "I've prepared something and I've had a bit of help, but I'm not all that keen on it, you know."

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I said - "I'm not that sort of bloke, it's not my cup of tea." I said - "Where is it going to happen?" He said - "It's alright, we are just going to have it in Government House, ih the new Ballroom." I said - "What!" He said - "Well, it's true and you can't get out of it.", and it was. And there are some here probably tonight who were there and it was magnificent. It was a new ballroom, built in Government House, and here's 'Yours truly', sitting alongside the Governor and no chance of getting out of proposing the toast to Legacy. I'll tell you what, my knees shook and my everything shook.

And I want to crave your attention and let me read to you an excerpt from the "Toast of Legacy" and I want to read it because I couldn't remember it and I think it's important and I want you to listen to it. It won't take more than a minute or two and if the tape is finished, I couldn't care less.

This is an excerpt from the "Toast to Legacy", which I delivered in Perth, in Government House, sitting alongside the Governor of Western Australia, Sir Douglas Kendrew, who has never since failed to send me a card every Christmas and has invited me to stay with him whenever I go to England.

And this is what I said, in inverted commas -

> "It pleases me to liken the cause of Legacy to a rich and valuable cloak which shelters those we are privileged to serve, one and all. The foundation, woven into this cloak, did not just happen, but was carefully designed by men of high calibre who made their mark in the respective spheres in which they worked. On this foundation, further threads have been woven into the garment by men from all walks of life and from all States of the Commonwealth through the years of Legacy history. These additional threads have strengthened and enriched the cloak which we now display to the public gaze as the image of Legacy.
>
> But the pure silver threads which represent the great comradeship which we enjoy and the golden threads of service before self were basic in the foundation handed down to us by the founders of Legacy. Let us never forget that this unique organisation has grown from strength to strength each year on these indestructible elements.
>
> No Legatee worthy of himself would deny that in that rare comradeship which he has enjoyed and that service which he has been privileged to give, he has received more than he has ever put into the cause, which brings me to describe the golden threads of service before self, and finding my own words completely inadequate, I turn to the eternal message, left by the founder of Legacy, the late Stanley George Savige, at a dinner tendered to him on the eve of his departure to lead the 17th Brigade in action - in the presence of his close friend and mentor, Sir John Gellibrand, he said that he veritably believed that the work of Legacy in regard to values was rather more of a spiritual than a material nature. He affirmed that this sentiment had never failed the organisation in the past, he knew that it would never fail us in the future and he exhorted us to get on with the job, regardless of the materialists and the economists.
>
> That spiritual background was the secret of the success of Legacy as he saw it and at that vital moment in his military career, he pronounced that he had no doubts that if that spirit was departed from, then, on that day, would be seen the decline of Legacy in Australia."
>
> With thankful hearts, let us resolve to keep fair the name of Legacy and thank you all for making this a memorable night for me."

Legatee B. R. Wilson

On Saturday, it's Frank's 78th birthday. Comradeship will publish this in the Bulletin. Frank - all the best.

I would like to express thanks tonight. First to Oakleigh/Waverley Branch who made this night possible. We are not going to kid ourselves fellows, but I think this is a very telling night in Legacy and I am very proud of the Branch which, this year, by fluke or accident, I have been chosen to lead.

I would like to thank Ted Nelson for your contribution Ted, it was very nice indeed.

I would like to thank our Legatee President, Bill Braidie for your words Bill.

And I would like to thank Jim Gillespie.

I think we younger fellows of Legacy, when you hear people like Jim and Frank, it makes us very humble. What they have done over the years, when we have been skirting around these things and trying our best, perhaps we do try and I do think we do, but it's wonderful to hear Jim and Frank and have, what somebody up here described tonight as the 'Octogenarians'. Well, they are wonderful Legatees and I think we should applaud them.

I want to thank Adrian Beattie for arranging his table here tonight, because that's a very historic table.

And Gentlemen, you always finish when you are on top and I want to finish tonight, at this very moment, with "Auld Lang Syne".
We will ask our Choirmaster to take charge.

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