

VALE

LEGATEE WILLIAM VINCENT SCOTT

BRIGHTON/MOORABBIN BRANCH

Died 1.6.1986

The passing of Legatee "Bill" Scott on 1st June 1986 at Brighton is recorded with deep regret not only by Legacy but by a very wide circle of friends, because of the variety of his interests and activities over a long life.

William Vincent Scott was born at Kew on 8th September, 1896 into a family of six brothers, and two sisters, three of these brothers saw active service.

He matriculated at Melbourne High School and his first employment was with E.S. & A. Bank from 1911 till he joined the A.I.F. in March 1912, becoming a reinforcement to the 4th Light Horse Regiment on Gallipoli, and in France and Belgium. He was wounded four times, and finished with the rank of Sergeant.

The associations established in wartime were to continue for the rest of his life - members of this Regiment are still dining together each month. All of us know of Bill's dedication to the Light Horse, and his proud involvement in forming a leading group of mounted light horsemen at ANZAC Day marches.

On return home in 1919 he rejoined the bank in Bay Street, Brighton, but in 1921 joined the real estate and auctioneers business of S.P. Simmonds. In 1927 Bill acquired the business but retained its famous name and premises. Bill's extensive knowledge of Brighton and its development and his own reputation for integrity ensured the prosperity of the business. He was a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Valuers. He didn't retire from full-time work until the 1970's, but his daughter carried on the business.

During the Second World War Bill was identified as the Directorate of Hirings at Army Headquarters and he toured country areas as a speaker advocating support for the War loans.

As an enthusiastic member of Brighton Historical Society he gave many lectures about early Brighton and its personalities. He was for many years Returning Officer for the electorate having succeeded Mr. Simmonds in that appointment. For many years too he was Secretary of Brighton Masonic Hall Ltd.

On the Nomination of the late Legatee Syd Birrell and seconded by Legatee Harold Driscoll, Bill Scott was admitted to Legacy on 29th November 1938. From the beginning he was involved with Boys P.T. Classes and especially at the North Melbourne Class, at the same time he served on Employment Committee.

When Legacy had Annual Balls for members during the early years of the Second World War, Bill was Secretary of the Ball Committee whilst maintaining his North Melbourne Boys' Class activities.

When the annual Children's demonstration at Melbourne Town Hall began, he identified with it for 21 years and was the compere and producer, as well as being constantly linked with the Girls' Classes. He compered the School Children's Services at the Shrine of Remembrance at ANZAC time.

In 1945 he served on the Board of Management. In 1947 when the first Blamey House at Beaumaris was acquired his professional services were utilised and when it was later sold to Beaumaris R.S.L. he negotiated the transaction.

From 1948 until his death he was a member of Housing & Accommodation Committee and was Chairman in 1954.

Thus it is clear that Bill Scott's contribution as a Legatee has been of the very highest order and an inspiration to all with whom he served because of his knowledge and comradely enthusiasm.

His office has been freely available every year for Brighton Branch for the local operation of Badge Day and his influence in securing contributions has been most freely available.

For all of this record, Legacy is deeply indebted for the years of association with a man of such high standards of personal and community service. In this respect he has been blessed with a wife who has so completely absorbed herself in all Bill's interests. We honour Dawn and convey gratitude to her for many thoughtful Legacy acts.

Perhaps away from Legacy and his business, golf was the recreation Bill most enjoyed and his membership of Kingston Heath, of which he became a life member in 1985, was his joy, as was his job of organising Ex-services Days at the club. He became Master of his Lodge, Lowery No. 37 in 1936/7, and later attained Grand Lodge rank.

Bill was married twice. His first wife Lillian died in 1951, leaving a daughter June (Mrs. Carr), and a son Bill. He married Dawn Johnson on 3rd August 1960 and she has supported him wonderfully in all his Legacy activities.

Legatees last witnessed Bill's commitment at the recent Cocktail Party at Legacy House in honour of the 90-year olds. He got out of bed to attend.

A.N.K.

LEST WE FORGET