

HAUNT OF GORDON'S

Cottage a Treasured Reminder

A RELIC OF THE SIXTIES

BALLARAT Wednesday. — For a few years subsequent to his ceasing to be a South Australian Parliamentarian, and following his famous leap at the Blue Lake, Mount Gambler, Adam Lindsay Gordon, the Australian poet, was claimed as a citizen of Ballarat. He entered that city at a time when steeplechasing and hunting seemed to be the dual antidote to too much chasing after gold. That was in the early sixties.

Gordon carried on the business of a livery stable-keeper for a time while in Ballarat, or rather the business seemed to carry on itself — in a feeble sort of way — for Gordon was at that time a most wayward and fickle soul. He was often as not

careering over the fences and sticks; indeed, taking everything in his stride over a stretch of country extending from Ballarat to the western racing centres of Casterton and Coleraine.

It also fell to the lot of Gordon to act as stud groom for Walter Craig, whose name is perpetuated by the notable hotel, which graces Ballarat in Lydiard street, and by, among others, the famous dream horse, Nimbalefoot, winner of the Melbourne Cup of 1870.

Treasured reminders of Gordon, which the present licensee, Tom McManamy, is ever ready to show callers, are the cottage in which Gordon lived, the well, 60ft. deep, right in front of the cottage, from which the hunters and chasers were watered, and the dents on the corner-piece of the wall, caused by the

high-wheeled carriages of the aristocracy being driven rather recklessly after the fashion of Gordon's day.

All three "exhibits" are within sight of each other, in what may well be described as "Gordon's Corner."

WELL A MINE SHAFT

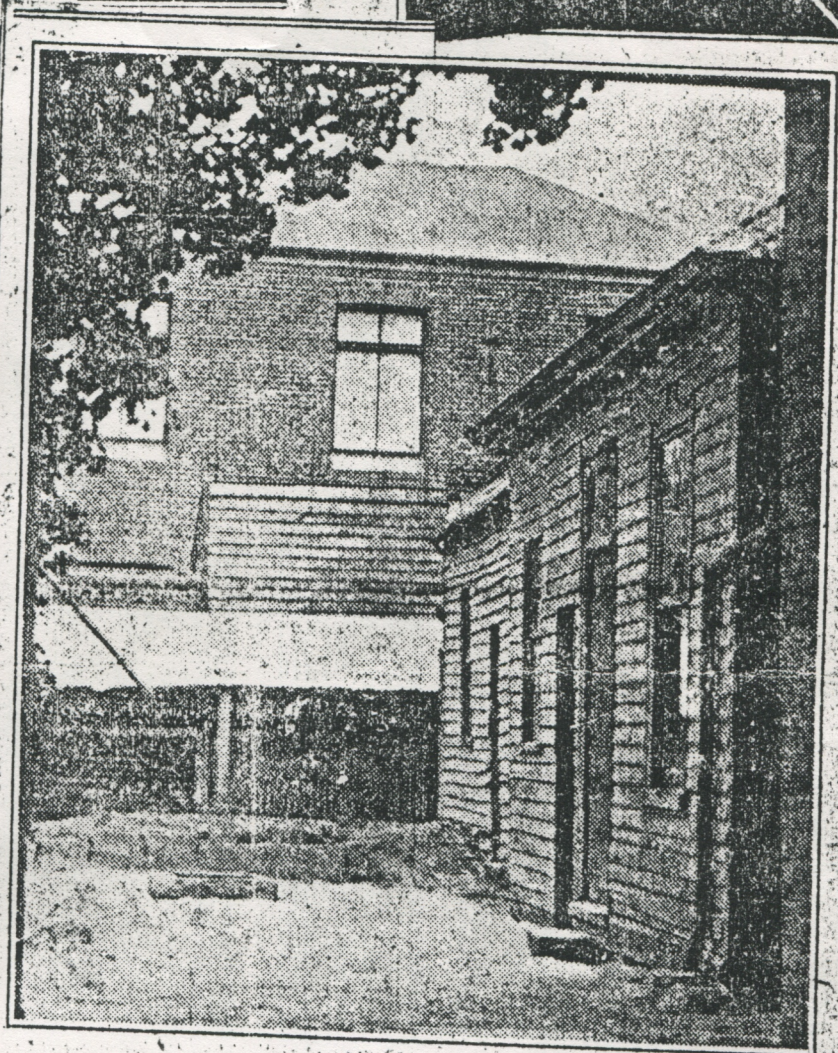
The Craig's Hotel of today has outgrown the Craigs of Gordon's day, the premises taking in the cottages, which were adjuncts to the old-time Craig's stables, and these are now well preserved relics, forming one side of the quadrangle of the hotel yard. The well is stated to at one time have been a mine shaft, as gold-mining was carried on on the site of the hotel, before Thomas Bath erected what was the first licensed house built between Buninyong and Lexton, a distance of about 40 miles, and was certainly the first in the immediate Ballarat district. Therefore, the hotel is historical in more ways than one.

It is also interesting to note that the old-time O'Farrell's Horse Bazaar, within a stone's throw of Craig's, but across the way in Armstrong street, which was regularly haunted by Gordon and his fellow-racers, has lately been abandon-

ed for the purpose of horse sales, and in its place is to be erected the new Ballarat home of the Henry Ford car — modernity again displacing an historical old site.

Gordon was a moody fellow, and when "down to it," often derived quite a tonic to his jaded spirit by joining the throng at the horse sales, which in those days were mostly of blood stock, and where many kindred spirits were wont to congregate, among them the Powers brothers, John McPhail, Ben Hepburn, Bob Orr, the Pearson brothers, Bob Learmonth, De Lancy Forth, Henry Mount, and William Leonard (the last survivor of the school).

*Shopping with
Black and
white*



The cottage so long occupied by Australia's horseman-poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon, is still to be seen on the property of Craig's Hotel, at Ballarat. With many of his friends Gordon spent some of the happiest days of his life on this spot and at the livery stables some little distance away.