

# The trams that gave a better service

Trams are more than a means of travel to Mr Alf Twentyman of Bastings St, Northcote.

His love of the old bell dangers has made him a leading world wide expert on one of the more obscure forms of transport...the cable tram.

When the trams were scrapped from the city streets in 1940 to make way for the new electric models, Mr Twentyman bought two cars for 20 pounds each.

He also bought one of the dummies, which pulled the cars, for 30 shillings.

In those days the Tramways Board was keen to get rid of the useless frames.

Now Mr Twentyman's vehicles, stored and lovingly renovated in his backyard, are now attracting tram enthusiasts from as far away as Britain and Europe.

Even some German magazines have become interested in his unique collection.

Mr Twentyman is hard put to explain his love for the old cable trams.

He spends hours each day restoring the trams to their 1890 condition...he helps the Tramways Board preserve their historic vehicles...and he is a life member of the Tramway Museum Society.

But, he can't really find a sound reason for his dedication.

"I guess trams have always been a part of my life," he said.

"When I was young I used to go to school on them, then later I would catch a tram to work each morning.

"Nobody seemed to bother about the cable trams, but they were mechanical masterpieces.

"They became an important part of Melbourne life...they gave the city dignity.

"Now I want to preserve this memory of our city's pride for future generations."

The end of the cable tram era began in 1925, when the State Government ordered a start on converting to electric trams.

The conversion took 15 years.

"The government claimed cable trams were old and slow," he said.

"But, when electricity came in we lost the frequency of our service.

"In the old days a tram would come every two minutes.

"And it still takes 36 minutes to travel from Spencer St to Dundas St."



## Accountancy as a discipline

The speaker at last week's meeting of the Northcote Rotary Club was club member, Mr N. Eaton, who gave a "job talk."

He told of his work on the financial side of the Uniting Church, being deputy treasurer for Victoria.

Mr. Eaton said he had studied accountancy by correspondence and

the purchase and sale of property.

He was thanked by the president, Mr A. Lawson. Mr L. C. Naismith was chairman.

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About 20 Rotarians accompanied by their wives and families

to the recent Conference hosted by the club at Albury, show that 1184 attended. This is a record for the district.

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The club will supply and install an air conditioner at the