



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1976

Vacancy - General Secretary

As required by the Constitution the position of General Secretary of the Veterans' Associations is required to be declared vacant each year and nominations are therefore called for the vacancy for 1977/78. Nominations closing 1st February, 1977 should be addressed to Mr. Charles Carthew, 7 Lantana Street, Clayton, 3168.

The present General Secretary is Mr. Carthew who has indicated his willingness to continue in this office for a further twelve months.

Victorian Reunion

The Victorian Reunion will be held on Friday, 12th November, 1976 commencing at 5.30 p.m. With the kind permission of the management of O.T.C. the usual venue is OTC House, 382 Lonsdale Street.

The subscription to attend this reunion is \$3.00 and an early R.S.V.P. to Charles Carthew, 7 Lantana Street, Clayton, 3168 or telephone 544-2514, is essential to facilitate catering arrangements.

Western Australian - 1976 Gathering

The Western Australian Association will be holding their 1976 get together (which also includes their Annual General Meeting) on Thursday, 25th November, 1976 from 5.00 p.m. onwards. The venue is the Imperial Hotel, Wellington Street and notices will be sent to members during October.

Secretary/Treasurer, Brian Morrell, will be interested in taking subscriptions in advance or if not bring your money along on 25th November.

New South Wales Reunion

The N.S.W. Reunion will be held on Friday, 5th November, 1976 commencing at 6.00 p.m. The venue will most likely be the O.T.C. Staff Canteen (which was formerly known as the Grange Restaurant) and the doors will be opened from 5.00 p.m. for those wishing to arrive early. As agreed at the last Annual General Meeting veterans may bring their wives to this function provided they pay double the normal subscription. Full details will be circularized.

Queensland Reunion

The Queensland Association held their second Reunion on 12th August, 1976 in the Manager's office, O.T.C. Those in attendance were George Scott (President), Wilf Atkin, Jim Banks, Allen Cox, John Clendinning, Jock Kellie, Dean Laws, John Marshall, Denis Moorhouse,

Harry Sutherland, John Norris, Perc Sellar, John Stubbs, Fabian Sutherland and Bob Webster. Guests at the Reunion were O.T.C.'s General Manager, Harold White, who is a member of the N.S.W. Association; Percy Gribble, a former P.M.G. Superintendent, who is currently writing a history of telecommunications in Australia; and Alan Ford, another ex-P.M.G. veteran.

Formalities were kept to a minimum but Harold White gave a short address on the individuality of the early pioneering days compared with the present programmed services.

A similar format to the reunion was agreed upon for the second annual general meeting to be held in April, 1977. Many tales of mystery and imagination were forthcoming during the reminiscences which were carried on during refreshments which included a special "stroganoff" put on by Jim Banks.

South Australian Winter Meeting

The South Australian Association held their Annual Winter Meeting on May 27 at the Public Service Club, Adelaide under the sponsorship of Ken Collett. Those attending were Dick Evans, Cliff Birks, Herbert Muhlhan, Alf Kerr, Jerald Shaw, Ken Springbett, Keith Roberts, Bruce Sutherland, Charles Smith, Graham Little, Ken Collett, Bert Dudley and Brax Horrocks. Special guest was Bruce Sutherland who resides in Nelson, New Zealand and times his Australian tour to be in Adelaide for the meeting. Members were delighted to see Muhlhan at the meeting after a fairly long illness. He was remarkably fit and looking younger than ever. Apologies were received from Bill Lemon, Geoff Cox, Rocky Gordon, Cecil Shortt, George Rowe, Norm Giles, Ralph Matthews, Ron Ward, Harold Oates and Norm Mackay.

The tentative date for the Christmas meeting is Thursday, December 2nd.

Victorian Annual General Meeting

The Victorian Annual General Meeting was held at O.T.C. House on 28th May, 1976 with fifty-eight in attendance. A welcome was extended to new member Ben Halge, retired ex-C. & W. and Singapore Telecoms. Visitors and guests included Sir Albert Chadwick; O.T.C. Commissioner Jack Curtis, Les Owens (West Australia), Perc Sellar (Queensland), Tom Molloy (N.S.W.), Dave Gault, Norm Stubbs, Doug Richards and John Coote.

Elected office bearers were President, Alex Stewart; Secretary, Charles Carthew; Treasurer, Jack McGrory and Committeemen, Eddy Trezise, Bill Uwins and Bill Bentley; Auditors, Geoff Day and Bert Hartley. The signatures of those attending are shown on another page of this Newsletter

Sydney Annual General Meeting

The Sydney Annual General Meeting was another very successful get together with seventy-two in attendance. Those who came were:-

Albyn Gregory, Wilf Ellershaw, Eileen Haran, Jack Burgess, Bill Luke, Ron Smith, Joe Hawkins, Frank White, Gordon Cupit, Keith Wilmot, Bernie White, Des Woods, Randy Payne, Edgar Appleton, Keith Vincent, Tiny Greenlees, Joe Patiniott, Kath Morgan, Molly Condon, Trevor Thatcher, Keith Burbury, Joe Bonnici, Roy Doohan, Ken Walker, George Wheeler, Bill Brown, Shaddy Meynert, Len Rourke, Mr. M.P. Sinha (Visitor), Bruce Collett,

Reg Towner, Phillip Geeves, Matt Jobson, Murray Johnson, John Creswick, Jack Chant, Charlie Swinney, Ron Waugh, Alex Sandilands, John Mulholland, Lou Brown, John Toland, Edgar Harcourt, Lyle Gowanlock, Nell Donoghue, Marie Casey, Arthur Purtill, Bob Reeks, Tom Weaver, Ernie Anthony, Cyril Vahtrick, Graham Gosewinkel, Alf Culloden, Hedley Caswell, Audrey, Keenan, Bill Day, Ken Nutt, George McDonald, Harry de Dassel, Eric Cockle, Tom Molloy, Athol Brown, John Lee, Joe Collister, Charlie Raecke, Arch Barrie, Orm Cooper, Jack Hansson, Max Dwyer, Alan Ritchie, Eric Norris, Tom Heatley.

Notable among those attending were guest Mr. M.P. Sinha of the Indian P. & T. Department, George McDonald recently retired from the O.T.C. Melbourne Office and residing in Sydney, Wilf Ellershaw back on deck after a heart attack, Tiny Greenlees who was very well after his long serious illness, Murray Johnson down from Port Macquarie and new members Matt Jobson and Cyril Vahtrick.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of a card signed by all those present congratulating Charlie Raecke on the completion of sixty years of continuous service in overseas telecommunications. The most interesting item of business was the decision to invite spouses to the next Annual Reunion.

DEVELOPMENT

Looking back on the December, 1948 issue of Transit we came across the following interesting article headed "Predicted Cable Development will Help Radio". The article reads as follows:-

Sir Stanley Angwin, Chairman of Cable and Wireless Limited stirred the imagination of all people interested in communications by a recent statement referring to the major problem of overcrowding on radio waves. Sir Stanley is reported as follows.

The time is approaching when it may be necessary to exclude from the ether services capable of being conducted by other means.

A deep sea repeater, capable of withstanding the high pressures of great depths of water for long periods is being developed.

The long distance submarine cables now in use permit two or four channels of communication to be used simultaneously.

With submarine repeaters augmenting the most modern type of cable, we believe it may be possible to obtain upwards of 50 simultaneous channels of communication on one cable.

It will be possible also to use some of these channels for telephony and picture telegraphy, which today can be accomplished over long distances only by wireless.

VETERAN HONOURED

In the Queen's Birthday Honours' list one of our veterans, Harold White, General Manager of O.T.C., was awarded the C.B.E. for his services to the public. Members congratulate Harold on this well deserved honour. Harold White has spent a lifetime in communications with D.C.A. and O.T.C. and is not only the driving force behind O.T.C. but is well recognised as a world authority on communications and has taken a leading part in many involved and important international conferences.

TRIBUTE TO A GENTLEMAN OF THE OLD SCHOOL

(From Charles Carthew)

During the 1950's Phairs Hotel (since demolished) in Collins Street, Melbourne, was the accepted and popular meeting place of both active and retired C. & W. personnel.

The saloon bar was spacious and inviting with an atmosphere conducive to conversation and good fellowship.

Among those usually present on the 2nd and 4th Fridays - at noon precisely - was the late nonagenarian Eastern Extension pioneer veteran Walter McHugh who served 34 years in overseas telecommunications and travelled extensively during that period of time.

Walter always insisted on buying the opening round of drinks, plus a packet of cigarettes all round, and never forgetting the girls serving behind the bar ... he rarely indulged beyond the second whiskey.

As a mark of esteem and appreciation the chaps arranged a luncheon to honour the 85th birthday of their colleague Walter McHugh. Messages of congratulation were many including one from "the girls behind the bar!"

Walter regularly attended all O.T.V.A. (Victoria) functions until his sad passing on the 29th January, 1967.

For the record W.H. McHugh joined Eastern Extension Australasian & China Telegraph Co. 1894 ... served as Telegraphist at Georgetown two years ... La-Perouse 1898-1900 ... Sup'r Singapore 1901-3 ... Electrician Penang 1903-8 ... Sup't Batavia 1908-9 ... Cocos Island Electrician 1909-11... Perth 1911-18 ... Hong Kong 1918-20 ... Sup't Darwin 1921-22 ... Madras 1922-26 ... Shanghai 1926-28 then RETIRED.

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FROM NEAR AND FAR

Frank McCormack writing from the Victorian outback says his only companions these days are the kangaroos and the feathered variety of birds. However, he still likes to go to Melbourne for the weekends and barrack for the "Demons". He recently had his seventieth birthday which was attended by his seven children and twenty-two grandchildren.

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John Ash, Secretary of the Eastern Retired Officers' Society, is keen on meeting O.T.V.A. visitors to London. John's address is 58 St. Johns Road, Pettswood, Orpington, Kent.

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Trippers to the U.K. and the continent are Tom Smith and Jack White of M.O.R. and Joe Collister of Sydney.

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Geoff Cox recently visited Melbourne to see his very first grandchild - a girl. Congratulations Geoff.

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Information from Melbourne reveals that Mr. and Mrs. Bill Shea celebrate their golden wedding on 21st November, 1976 and Mr. and Mrs. Claude Waite celebrate theirs on 18th December, 1976.

We offer these couples our hearty congratulations and best wishes.

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Although Dave Fleming has had the misfortune to have cataract operations on his eyes which have not proved particularly successful, there is no keeping him down and he recently has undertaken a world trip. The editor received postcards from San Francisco, Boston and Edinburgh written in Dave's beautiful handwriting, and he recently arrived back in town fit and well with a slight improvement in eyesight. Dave is waiting for a change of 'specs' which it is hoped will give him better vision.

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Herbert Muhlhan who recently celebrated his ninety-second birthday sends fraternity greetings to all his old comrades. Muhlhan still has a very keen memory and he is remarkably fit. He was in the same class at the Flinders' Training College of the Eastern Extension with Harry Naylor in 1900.

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National Secretary, Charles Carthew, is delighted at the number of veterans who are calling in at his home for a chat. Some are bringing their wives which makes it all that more enjoyable. Charles has spent the last twenty years very actively engaged in veterans' affairs and welfare.

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Congratulations to Mrs. Jean Heathershaw who was recently honoured with a life governorship of Prince Henry Hospital, Melbourne for consistent service rendered over many years.

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From the U.K. we hear that C. & W. was recently investigated by the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries. This is part of a normal procedure and the report has still to be discussed in Parliament. Indications are that the company has come out rather well and they appear to be the only nationalised body to consistently make a profit.

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The annual EROS luncheon was held in London on 9th October. It was the 41st annual luncheon and approximately 160 were in attendance. With the passing of time EROS is gradually dropping in numbers and their membership is now down to 607. During the year they lost two of their oldest members, Jimmy Portlock at 97 and R. Murchland at 96.

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Congratulations to Victorian Veteran Bill Hosking on his activities with the Nunawading City Band. Bill, a well experienced and excellent blower, is a committeeman on the band which last year earned promotion to 'B' grade. On its first year in 'B' grade the band has won the State Championships.

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Our National Secretary is a magician in his own right and during the school holidays arrangements have been made for him to conduct magician shows at the Oakleigh and Clayton Municipal Libraries. He is billed as a Magician par Excellence and junior magicians are invited to perform also. No doubt a number of the younger ones have learnt the trade through Charles.

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News from the Gold Coast is that Don Soroghan's eyesight is not improving. Despite this he is his usual cheery self and gets endless pleasure from his 'ham' rig which he uses regularly to yarn with many of his old colleagues. He manages to make changes to his equipment with the aid of a magnifying glass. Any of Don's old friends who are touring the Gold Coast will find him at 67 Kingscliff Street, Kingscliff.

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Mrs. Scotty Hamilton is touring England and the continent and we wish her a happy trip.

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Congratulations to Les Owen (West Australia) on election as President of his local Lions District.

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The Reunion luncheon of the Marconi (Transoceanic) Guild was a great success with fifty-six in attendance. Membership of this organization is very selective in that members must have been employed in the Marconi Company prior to the merger of 1929. The Guild is distinctive from the Marconi Veterans' Association.

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Passing through Sydney on their way for a tour of South America was Dick (Long-un) Evans and his daughter. Long-un, who is well into his eighties, brought news - both good and bad - of the South Australian members. We wish them a very happy tour.

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Bert Edwards was unable to attend the reunion in Brisbane due to a broken rib. Trust it is now okay Bert and we won't ask who gave it to you.

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Vin Sim recently left on a safari to Darwin. No news yet of his return but Vin is an old compaigner and should not have any troubles.

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Brax Horrocks called in to Sydney for a rush visit after a very enjoyable holiday in Queensland and the Barrier Reef.

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SICKIES

The following have been sick, hospitalised and a number are still sick. Those still unwell we wish a speedy and complete recovery. We are not giving details of illnesses as some members do not wish this information publicized. However, if you could care to contact any of your old colleagues who have been ill I am sure your Secretary will give you their address. Some members who have been ill are only omitted from this list due to advice not being sent to the Secretary. The sick list has included Eric Symes, Harry Cook, Ray Carragher, Eric Norris, Jack Guthrie, Jack Swift, Sid Zuber, Don Soroghan, John Mulholland.

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TO PASTURE

The following have retired since our last Newsletter and to these gentlemen we wish a long, healthy and very happy retirement.

Charles Raecke

Charlie retired in June after a total of 60 years' service in overseas communications. He joined the P.C.B. in Melbourne in 1916 and served also in Sydney, Suva and Fanning Island. During these years he went through three take-overs by Eastern Extension, Cable and Wireless and O.T.C. For the last twelve years before retirement Charlie was the Travel Officer for O.T.C. and was not only well known by the senior officers travelling to conferences but to all station staff. Charlie always endeavoured to make their transfer as enjoyable as possible. At his farewell function Charlie was presented with the coveted gold watch by the management of O.T.C.

Frank White

Frank also retired in June after forty-nine years in the service. He joined the Beam as a young lad in 1927 and progressed through the various positions in the S.O.R. to the position of Shift Controller. Shift Controller was previously known as Supervisor. Just prior to retirement Frank purchased a small farm in Glenorie where he is growing a few vegetables and running a cow and poultry.

Jack Swift

Jack has been retired recently through invalidity due to diabetes which he has suffered for some considerable time. We trust in retirement that his condition will improve and that he has many happy years with his family. Jack joined O.T.C. in 1946 after serving the whole of the war years in the R.N. on carriers. He first went into the Marconi School where he was trained as Beam operator. After many years in the Beam room Jack was promoted to Welfare Officer of O.T.C. and in the last few years has been O.T.C.'s Employment Officer.

Ray Stewart

Ray commenced with A.W.A. in 1936. For the ten years prior to the takeover by O.T.C. he was Storeman-in-Charge of the C.R.S., Beam and Engineering Stores. After the takeover he was in charge of the O.T.C. Stores at Glebe which was subsequently moved to Marrickville. His specialised stores knowledge was too valuable for him to remain at the Store and in 1959 he was transferred to the Head Office Supply Section in higher clerical and purchasing positions. Ray was used for all the really tough tasks and was responsible for the smooth supply of equipment, pieces, etc. in most of the major installation jobs. His ability to get things done, knowledge of supply sources and relationship with suppliers resulted in the early despatch of a plane load of urgent materials on Christmas Day and Boxing Day following the Darwin cyclone.

Harold Burdett

Harold retired in August after 51½ years of service. He joined the Eastern Extension Company in Adelaide at the ripe old age of 13½ years as a Messenger and provided his own bike at a salary of 21 shillings

per week. He spent the major portion of his working life in Adelaide and was transferred to Perth in 1949. On the closing of Cottesloe he was transferred to the wireless station at Gnangara on clerical duties. For his long service he was presented with the O.T.C. gold watch together with a farewell gift from his workmates and colleagues.

Frank Stanton

Although not long enough in communications to become a veteran members wish Frank Stanton, Assistant General Manager (Operations) O.T.C. a happy and healthy retirement. It is not retirement as such, as Frank is going into business with his son. Due to his responsibility as head of O.T.C. Operations Division he is well known to many of our members.

Cyril Martin

Cyril Martin, who recently retired from M.O.R. will find his time practically fully occupied in his Naturopathic work and is conducting the Naturopathic Centre of St. Kilda in Elwood. He is also hoping to find time to visit his kin-folk in England. He says there is much evidence to support the view that the most successful retirements are those that are planned in advance. There are six basic requirements to which our attention should be directed, these are:-

- Good physical and mental health
- An adequate income
- Suitable accommodation
- Congenial associates and neighbours
- One or more absorbing interests
- An adequate personal philosophy of life.

Editor's Note:

Cyril certainly has the right idea and there is quite a move in industry at the moment for the preparation of staff for retirement. A number of books have been written on this subject and seminar type courses are being undertaken. The N.S.W. State Government publishes regular brochures on activities in retirement and there is an association in Victoria which caters for retired people and membership is worthwhile. Victorian veterans interested should contact Charles Carthew for full particulars.

W.Y. Lawry

Bill Lawry, Technical Officer, Doonside retired in June after forty-seven years in communications. He started as a Beam Wireless Messenger in Melbourne in 1929 and progressed through the minor positions in M.O.R. to a Telegraphist. After nine years he transferred to the technical side and was posted initially to Rockbank and then to Fiskville. During the war A.W.A. decided they needed him on Coastal Radio duties and transferred him to Flinders Island. At the conclusion of his term at Flinders Island he returned to Fiskville where he remained until that station was closed down in 1969. He then took up duty at Doonside where he remained for the rest of his career.

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EXPEDITION

Cliff Cutler's family have given the Veterans' Association a number of documents and photographs which Cliff had in his possession. One of these is his log of the expedition to build a station at Willis Island in 1921 and it is thought that this would be of interest to our members. It is repeated in its entirety except for the deletion of a couple of small derogatory remarks.

October 5 - Wednesday

Left Melbourne 5.00 p.m.

October 6 - Thursday

Arrived Sydney 10.45 a.m. Saw Toomb and Crawford. Called at Grahams and had a spot. Left Sydney 3.30 p.m.

October 7 - Friday

Arrived Brisbane 6.40 p.m. Met Chilton and Bond. Left Brisbane 8.30 p.m. for Gladstone, travelled with Sam Foll.

October 8 - Saturday

Arrived Gladstone 10.30 a.m. Bingira arrived 1.00 p.m. left 3.00 p.m. Lovely weather. Leverett and Dunne aboard. Had good start.

October 9 - Sunday

On boat good trip.

October 10 - Monday

Arrived Townsville 5.00 a.m. raining heavily. Had breakfast and went ashore. Weather cleared and day very steamy. Saw VIT staff and arranged aerial on Innisfail. Got much assistance from Atkins.

October 11 - Tuesday

Fitted aerial to ship. Spent evening with Lamb.

October 12 - Wednesday

Busy day loading ship. Cooma arrived early morning. Arranged for VIT to charge emergency battery one cell of which found to be leaking. Jessop mended and gave seven hours. Charged cells delivered to wharf 10.45 p.m.

October 13 - Thursday

Left 3.00 a.m. for Willis. All aboard. Weather hot. Sea calm.

October 14 - Friday

Arrived off Willis 6.30 p.m. Anchored for night. Sea calm. Weather hot.

October 15 - Saturday

9.00 a.m. went ashore to look around with first party. Laid out position of masts with Davis and Priddle then assisted bringing gear ashore until 9.30 p.m. Weather fine and hot. Sea dead calm. Island covered with heavy grass and plants, one similar to N.Z. Spinnach.

October 16 - Sunday

Sea dead calm. Up at 6.30 a.m. Had to wait second relay for breakfast so missed first boat. Went ashore with second boat and assisted unloading until lunch time. Went aboard 12.30 p.m. for lunch and after same ran circuit to charge battery from ships mains. Gave VIT and CQ a shout - no response. VIT.C.G.J. came in well all afternoon but no good at night owing to xes. All hands came on board 5.30 p.m.

October 17 - Monday

Up at 6.30 a.m. Went ashore 7.20 a.m. with first boat. Helped land cement and general gear. Sea dead calm. Got back to boat to get engine on boat for shore. D and I got left on ship. Case got dropped into water and engine covered with sand, etc. Went ashore and cleaned her up. Finished 5.30 p.m. Dunne picked up Caulfield Cup results from Pt. Moresby. Great trouble with eye, much pain through glare.

October 18 - Tuesday

Went ashore first boat and helped land cement and gear. Came aboard for lunch and not feeling too well. Had a spell in afternoon. Worried. Sunburn troubling everybody. Took photo of island. Sea dead calm.

October 19 - Wednesday

Went ashore 5.00 a.m. Laid out western mast base and anchorages with Priddle. Came aboard for breakfast 8.30 a.m. then helped to get the big case (panel set) ashore. Had to rig sheer legs and lay case on side. Dynamo and Dynometer also taken ashore. Dynamo dropped in water off truck but did not get much damage. All cases taken up hill on trolley. Came aboard for lunch and went ashore and assisted Priddle to fix pump for water supply. Weather changed afternoon to rain and S.E. wind.

October 20 - Thursday

Went ashore 5.00 a.m. Fixed mooring for boat with D. Sorted out mast parts and came aboard for breakfast. Went ashore and worked about till lunch. Weather taken turn, sea rough. Innisfail shifted out to deep water making it hard to land gear. Opportunity to land balance of gear has been lost and it is now difficult to row to ship. Things progressing well on shore. After lunch I fixed tank and water supply for concrete. Coming ashore 5.00 p.m.

October 21 - Friday

Weather blowing from S.E. and rough. Could not go off early as previously owing to sea. Going ashore with lunch and having a full day ashore. Rafters put on first boat today. Fixed pump and mixed concrete. Put in good day's work. Weather now cool and good S.E. wind blowing. Ship anchored well out and opportunity to get balance of cargo ashore missed.

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October 22 - Saturday

Too rough to go over at 5.00 a.m. so had breakfast and went ashore with lunch packed. Got all W/T gear assembled ready for use as required. Found voltmeter of main power board broken both pivots. Got engine bed in position and concreted, mixed concrete, mended pump. Came aboard 5.30 p.m. Weather delightful. S.E. Trades blowing.

October 23 - Sunday

Went ashore at 8.00 a.m. with lunch and did the plumbing of building. Glorious day and put in good day's work. Came aboard at 5.30 p.m. Cannot locate engine oil, apparently not sent. Quite a lot of cement and stores to be landed yet and the leader is gambling with the weather in not getting it ashore whilst weather is good. Unpacked units for switchboard and found both pivots of voltmeter broken off.

October 24 - Monday

Weather freshened and blowing too hard for 5.00 a.m. trip ashore. Got ashore at 8.00 a.m. and finished plumbing, got engine on bed, generator mounted and switchboard wired up. Came aboard 5.00 p.m. W.D. party shifted quarters ashore. Gale sprang up during night and brought light rain. Blow is very severe and will prevent getting anything ashore including food for party.

October 25 - Tuesday

Blowing gale too rough to get ashore early. Propose trying midday. Too rough at 1.00 p.m. Got ashore after exciting trip at 4.00 p.m. Made comfortable for night and got engine ready for a run. Blow very hard. One of labourers proved good cook so things look all right for meals.

October 26 - Wednesday

Up 5.00 a.m. morning coffee and to work. Got kick out of engine. Running okay. Assisted in plumbing and made start at repairing voltmeter. Worked to 8.00 p.m. Blow still on and no-one ashore from ship. Cement concrete in for one mast. Set anchorages with P. Finished water connections for engine.

October 27 - Thursday

Up 5.00 a.m. morning coffee. Completed voltmeter. Made two pivots of needles tested. Test okay. Unpacked rest of W/T gear. All in good order. Pumped water for engine. Cooling finished 6.00 p.m. Blow still going strong, boat brought food off ship, had a busy time landing stores.

October 28 - Friday

Up 5.00 a.m. Unpacked mainpanel and found okay. Put into position and got wiring nearly completed. Worked until 6.00 p.m. Blow still on. Ship's party came ashore again. D' visited us and went aboard again.

October 29 - Saturday

Up 5.00 a.m. Chaps got two turtles about 5 cwt. each. 6.00 a.m. started on panel. Completed panel and tested out, all W/T apparatus now fixed. Too rough for boat to come off. Tucker rough, water stored in whisky barrels, not too good. Neither one thing or other. Worked right up till dark to finish.

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October 30 - Sunday

Started 8.00 a.m. and assembled mast and jury ready for lifting. Got mast all assembled and guys laid out. Tackles rigged after much talky talky by everyone. Finished 5.30 p.m.

October 31 - Monday

Started 6.00 a.m. Checked off guys finished and shackled up. Started hoist mast. Soon had her vertical in two minutes. Spent the rest of day finishing off guys. Owing to importance of P. & D. sub mast up without dressing guys. Finished 6.00 p.m. No phones ashore to try out set. Battery in bad state, apparently reversed charged on board.

- NOVEMBER -

November 1 - Tuesday

Cup Day. 6.00 a.m. Hope to get through today on earth system and aerial. Hoisted aerial at noon and tuned set 12.30. VIT and VIJ answered and several messages sent and received. Water from ship now being brought ashore making things more comfortable. Cup winner came through just before 5.00 p.m. VIC then spoke and exchanged sigs. Generator reversed, polarity battery reversed. Charged for couple of hours.

November 2 - Wednesday

Start 6.00 a.m. on battery and No. 2 mast. Got charging resistance going to charge A batteries. Had great trouble with sam reversed generator several times owing to fluctuations of resistance. Finally burnt out bracket holding electrodes. Soldered cross wires on earth and prepared for No. 2 mast. Water gave out and had to drink barrel stuff. Also food short.

November 3 - Thursday

6.00 a.m. Crook water for morning coffee and no eats. No butter, jam or anything. Got No. 2 mast ready as far as possible owing to concrete track being in way. Finished charging of batteries after much trouble. Went fishing from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. Nothing doing.

November 4 - Friday

At pump 6.00 a.m. Overhauled and fixed up. Finished wiring and installation of A battery and emergency. Shifted gear for No. 2 mast. Got ready for hoisting jury. Food came ashore no jam. Went fishing, caught 10 lb. coral bream and two pounder, also turtle. Tied him up all night. Went bed 11.30 p.m.

November 5 - Saturday

6.00 a.m. started on raising jury. Raised before breakfast. Ready for ships party. Raised mast 2.00 p.m. and hoisted aerial. Worked till 6.30 p.m. Gave VIT shout. Fishing 12.00 a.m. and one big bream, one turtle.

November 6 - Sunday

At it at 8.00 a.m. Ran earth system ready for test out tomorrow. Going aboard for night. Had shower bath, best thing of trip. Slept fairly well.

November 7 - Monday

Up early, and went ashore to finish up. Overhauled engine and carburettor fixed wind apparatus with Chief Engineer. Got masts painted and plumbed. Tested out with VIC and VIT with masts earthed lost two points

in sigs. D' ran up flag and shouted grog all round. Said goodbye and came aboard 5.50. Steam up. Set off for Cairns passage, 6.00 p.m. ship time.

November 8 - Tuesday

En route for Cairns passage. Great fun. Boats crew want time wasted, captain in hurry. Expect to get in late Thursday.

November 9 - Wednesday

Sorted out gear in hold. Passed through Flying Passage and now inside barrier.

November 10 - Thursday

Due in about noon.

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VALE

It is regretted to report the death of the following veterans since the publication of our last Newsletter. Our sympathy goes to their families.

U.L. Daly

Ulick passed away in Victoria on 9th August at the age of 86 after 42 years in retirement. He joined the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company at Sydney in 1907 and from that time to his retirement under the D/N scheme in 1934 he served at La Perouse, Nelson New Zealand, Melbourne, Darwin, Perth, Cottesloe, Adelaide and Sydney.

Our colleague was very active in retirement and served for just on 40 years as a member of the Gisborne Shire Council and was elected Shire President on 3 occasions during this period. In addition, he served for 25 years as Secretary of the Gisborne Rural Fire Brigade and in 1974 he was awarded the Queen's Fire Brigade Long Service and good conduct medal. Still having spare time he became interested in a local hospital and became the Foundation President of the Gisborne Nursing Hospital, a position he held for seventeen years. All the above appointments he held practically to the time of passing. In 1964 Ulick was awarded the M.B.E. by the Queen for his services to the community.

Ulick's activities are not only a credit but an example to other veterans who are not getting fulfilment in their retiring years.

Recently a new wing was added to the Gisborne Nursing Hospital and this wing has been named in honour of Ulick.

Leo Gleeson

Leo passed away in Adelaide but unfortunately we do not have a very good record of his service with the Eastern Extension Cable Company. A number of our South Australian Colleagues worked with him in Adelaide where he was very popular with the staff, was always pleasant and most helpful to the younger people coming on. He was an outstanding sportsman and excelled in everything he took on. He played Australian Rules for Norwood and was a wonderful all round cricketer. Leo played a good game of tennis and also won the Adelaide Athletic Championships on more than one occasion. His workmates found that he was a good sport in the true sense of the word as he could lose as happily and as graciously as he could win.

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Fred Davis

Fred passed away in June at the age of 84 after a relatively long period of bad health. He joined the P.M.G.'s Department in 1904 and transferred to the Coastal Radio Service in 1914. A short time later he enlisted in the A.I.F. and by the end of the conflict had risen to the rank of Lieutenant. On returning to Australia he went back into the C.R.S. where he remained until 1925. A.W.A. selected Fred from a number of the pioneers to establish the Beam Wireless Service where he remained until his retirement in 1957. Twenty-five years' of his Beam service was spent in Melbourne and for the last 7 years he was Superintendent of the Sydney Operating Room.

Fred was President of the O.T.V.A. (Victoria) 1968-1969.

C.E. Elms

Charles Elms joined the cable service in London in 1909 and attended the Training Schools at Moorsbate and Lands End-Cornwall. He graduated as an Operator in 1911 and between then and 1915 was posted to G.T. and A.X. In August, 1915 Charles joined the British Army and served in France in 1916 to 1919 and in India from 1919 to 1921. He then rejoined the Eastern Telegraph Company and served for two years at Fayal Azors and until his retirement under the D/N Scheme in 1934 served at London and Branch Offices. Charles was recalled to army service in 1941 and remained as a Captain in the British Regular Army until 1951 when he again retired.

C.W. Donne

Charles Donne joined the R.A.N. Radio Service in 1916 and served with that arm of the service for 5 years. In 1921 he transferred to the A.W.A. Marine and served on ships as a Radio Officer for the next 6 years. From 1927 until his retirement in 1961 Charles was employed in the Engineering and Sales Departments of A.W.A. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1970.

Harry Naylor

South Australian member Harry Naylor passed on 31st July at the age of 90. Unfortunately Harry has been blind for the last 5 years but with the aid of a devoted wife was able to live in a flat and had only taken up residence in a nursing home in the last few months. Harry joined the Eastern Extension Training College at Flinders in 1900 and on retirement in 1931 under the D/N Scheme he was Supervisor at Adelaide.

Harry was always a very good sportsman and captained the football and tennis teams of the Flinders Training College. 5 years later he was selected in the Senior Essendon football team where he played in positions of rover and wing. In 1908 we saw him representing Sydney in the Rugby Union team playing the visiting New Zealand all blacks. Location appeared to dominate Harry's sporting activities and in 1910 whilst stationed at Singapore he played for Singapore in a cricket "11" against a visiting team captained by Warwick Armstrong. In 1914 Harry endeavoured to enlist in the A.I.F. but was refused because of his employment in the Cable Service. He submitted a formal appeal against this decision but this was refused. Getting on in years he gave away his harder sports and in 1925 was selected as a member of the Western Australian Tennis Team Squad followed by a win in 1928 of the Northern Territory Tennis Championships. On retirement in 1931

Harry took up sheep farming which was his occupation for the next 30 years, the last 10 of which he was in partnership with his son which allowed him to undertake a great deal of overseas travel.

H. Freeman

Hec died in April on the Gold Coast where he has resided since his retirement in 1962. For the last 10 years of his working life he was Manager of Southport which was the station he first joined in 1917 where he was trained at the P.C.B. School on that station. During his career he also served at Suva, Fanning Island, Bamfield, Halifax, Sydney, Cottesloe, Adelaide and Norfolk Island. He enjoyed life on the stations and was renowned as a good surf swimmer. Ever thoughtful of others Hec donated his body to the University.

L. Camilleri

Louis joined O.T.C. in 1955 after migrating from Malta where he served for a number of years with Cable and Wireless. He retired from the Sydney Operating Room in 1963.

W.H. Kilby

Wally Kilby as he was affectionately known, died in July. He commenced his career with the Eastern Extension Company in 1916 and passed through mergers with C. & W. and O.T.C. until his subsequent retirement in 1959. Wally was one of those born Telegraphists and his name usually comes up in discussions on the merits of different operators. At the time of retirement he was a traffic officer in M.O.R. In retirement he resided at Sorrento and later moved to Blairgowrie.

Frank Forrest

Frank, who joined A.W.A. in 1920, passed away in April. He was initially with the Engineering Department until 1928 when he transferred to the Coastal Radio Service. Later we saw him transferred to technical duties where he worked with 3LO at Braybrook. On the takeover by O.T.C. and the closing of Braybrook, Frank was transferred to Perth and became the Commission's technical supervisor in that area and travelled as far afield as Darwin. He initially retired in Perth but later moved to Adelaide.

J.E. Reynolds

James Reynolds passed away on 29th May, 1976. He commenced his communications career in 1925 when he joined the A.W.A. Marine Service. In 1927 he applied for entry into the R.A.A.F. and served with the Overseas Communications Section of that service until his retirement in 1955 with a rank of Wing Commander. Feeling too young to give away work he then took a position as an Instructor with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology where he taught W/T classes. He decided to retire for the second time in 1963.

H.J. Kyle

Bert commenced his communications career with the Queensland Railways in 1912. He served with that organization until 1927 when he joined the Coastal Radio Service. He remained with the C.R.S. until his retirement in 1963 and served in the Island Room and La Perouse. Bert was very active with the O.T.C. Cricket Club and was elected President on a number of occasions.

C.W. Carroll

Charlie Carroll was one of the three Carrolls and many members will remember him as Sydney Charlie and as the Radio Inspector who conducted their examination for the First Class Ticket. Charles was attached to the P.M.G.'s Radio Branch in Sydney, and some years ago suffered a very serious lung disease. He was only given a matter of weeks by doctors and was retired from the P.M.G.'s Department. Charlie was never one to give up and improved in health to such an extent that he was able to take a job on an oil rig out from Darwin. This being quite a feat for a man with one lung, and this diseased, but it was typical of Charlie.

N.H. Foxcroft

Well known A.W.A. identity, Norm Foxcroft died in July just one month short of his 80th birthday. He was born in Northcote, Victoria in 1896 and commenced his communications career in the island radio service which at that time was operated by the Navy. As many of our members will recall arrangements were made for A.W.A. to take over this service from the Navy in 1921 to take effect from 1st July, 1922. Norm was in the group taken over and at that time was a Warrant Telegraphist/Chief Clerk at Bitapaka Rabaul. When A.W.A. took him over he was paid the princely sum of £319/7/6 per annum.

Norm who was considered as one of the top flight operators in his day remained in the island service until 1936 when he was transferred to Head Office, Sydney and given a position in the Special Products Division. He remained with Special Products for the rest of his career and because of his outstanding personality was well known through the whole of Head Office. He was mainly connected with public address and retired in March, 1962. He recommenced with A.W.A. in August, 1963 and served another four years finally retiring on 29th December, 1967. Norm in retirement moved to Melbourne but unfortunately in the last couple of years has been in ill health and returned to Sydney to live with a sister about 12 months ago.

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SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to Harry Tuson, Keith Greenhill and Ted Bishton on the loss of their life partners.

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ANTARCTIC RESEARCH STATION

The following article appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on 12th July, 1932:-

World's Atmospheric "Ceiling"

Headed by Dr. Edward B. Appleton (Professor of Physics at the University of London) a party of British Wireless experts has sailed for the north polar regions to spend a year in maintaining the first Arctic Radio Experimental Station.

The party includes a young Australian, Mr. G. Builder, who only 3 years ago was a student at Perth University and who for the greater part of the year will have sole charge of the key receiving station at Tromso (Norway).

"The Daily Herald" describes Mr. Builder as a wireless genius, and explains that he first attracted attention by his daily reports to Washington when he was attached to the Carnegie Institute's Terrestrial Magnetic Observatory at Watheroo, 130 miles north of Perth. He then went to London and studied under Dr. Appleton at Kings College.

The object of the party, other members of which are Messrs. R. Naismaith and W.D. Brown from the Datchet Research Station (Bucks, England), is to study the world's atmospheric "ceiling" and also to inquire into the difficulties connected with transmitting messages from the polar regions. The data collected may be the means of circling the earth with signals, resulting in perfect radio reception. The party is taking ten tons of instruments.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to veteran George Maltby on his recent promotion to Assistant General Manager (Operations) of O.T.C.

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BASS STRAIT CABLES

Mr. A. Tulip, Historian of Telecom Australia, whose address is 47 Liverpool Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000 is seeking information relating to the laying of telegraph and telephone cables across Bass Strait. He advised that communication links were forged between Victoria and Tasmania in 1859, 1869, 1885, 1898, 1909 and 1936 but because of many unfortunate breaks in the telecommunications sequence of old cable information he feels that there is still much more to be learnt. Mr. Tulip says they were quite unaware of the existence of the 1898 cable until a recent query prompted an examination of newspapers for that year. He goes on to say that he would welcome the opportunity to correspond with members who may be able to assist in the compilation of a comprehensive survey of cable laying activities in the Strait and we may be assured that any documents or photographs which might be made available for copying would be handled with great care and returned.

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Our late esteemed friend and colleague, Eustace Huxtable, was young and keen in 1910. When attached to the La Perouse cable station he was told to nip in by tram to Randwick with a sum of money collected by the staff to be placed on a 16 to 1 "dead cert" - the horse won. Eustace considered this betting caper was well worthwhile and indulged from then on and won consistently. Reticent by nature Eustace always kept the secret of selection to himself.

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Cable managers in days gone by complied with the then traditional dress of morning suit and top hat. It is recalled that one of the higher echelon stayed at a guest house and before leaving for the cable station responded to a call of nature. Incidentally the toilet door opened outward. By a singular incidence the lady who ran the guest house suffered an identical impulse at precisely the same time. On opening the toilet door her surprise and embarrassment was added to on seeing a portly gentleman comfortably ensconced on the toilet seat who lifted his hat and bowing politely said good morning.

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FANNING ISLAND - SEARCH FOR HISTORY

The following letter appeared in a recent edition of the "Pacific Islands Monthly". There is no doubt a number of our members can help Mr. Pompey in his quest and members could contact him direct or pass any information to him through our National Secretary, Charles Carthew.

"I am an American research historian doing a history book and a philatelic research paper on Fanning Island in the Line Islands of the Gilbert Islands Colony. I need the help of your readers to fill in historical gaps in the research, biographical sketches and pictures.

One picture that I am especially interested in is that of David Cuthbert, the first radio station manager and postmaster of Fanning Island. I also have philatelic covers addressed to T.W. Hill, medical officer there in 1949, and H. Clark, who was there in 1946, and would appreciate biographical data.

I need to contact old cable station employees for contemporary stories about the station, and need any information on old postmasters and cable station managers, and the names and approximate dates of the management of the various plantation managers. Would like to contact Walter Gors if he is still alive and F.P.D. "Phil" Palmer.

Any assistance you can give on this project would be greatly appreciated. Mail replies to Sherman Lee Pompey, Research Historian, Box 145, Springfield, Oregon 97477."

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TYPHOON "PAMELA"

7.5.76

At the time that the N.S.W. Association's Annual General Meeting was in progress our colleagues at the Guam coaxial cable station were being buffeted by typhoon "Pamela". Although there was no serious damage to the station and the staff cottages (special concrete construction against cyclones) the staff did suffer a great deal of inconvenience and from observation of damage around the island now have a great deal of respect for typhoons.

One wall in a cottage was blown down and veteran Charlie Hale received facial injuries when it collapsed. Charles with others was trying to hold the wall against the wind at the time. Lighting, cooking facilities and water were non-existent after the blow and the staff had to catch rain water for drinking purposes.

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Q.R.M. (BY PONTO)

The bugbear of a Coastal Operator's existence was the continuous battle trying to receive messages from ships through "Atmospherics", especially from ships like the old Mataram, Macdhui and others of that ilk. We often used to say that anyone who could come up with something that would eliminate atmospherics would reap millions for the idea. Well I believe the late Hec Moore when OIC of Townsville Radio, later Coastal Supt.

had a scheme that could have done just that. I said to Hec. I think the idea is so good I'll go you wax in the patent fees if you will halve the millions you will reap from it !! Roughly speaking this was Hec's idea. His receiver was to have two R/F stages one tuned to the wanted frequency and the other tuned to a few cycles off the wanted freq. These in turn were fed to a common detector circ. The first thru a "leaky grid" which would decrease the plate current and the second thru "Anode bend" which would increase the plate current. As "atmospherics" responded similarly over a wide range of frequencies the idea was that the atmospherics and unwanted noises picked up on the out of tune circuit would cancel out the atmospherics and unwanted noises of the tuned circuit leaving only the wanted signal to be amplified from the detector circuit to the audio amplifiers. Having got my first class operators certificate for making smoke signals from Ayres Rock to the Mulligatorny tribe on the banks of the Todd river I don't know if atmospherics play any part in modern techniques - if they do I pass on the idea to anyone who wants to make a million or two - I know good old Hec won't mind as the only thing he tunes nowadays is his harp!

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EARLY BROADCASTING

The autobiography on Eric Burbury brought back those old days to Harry Tuson who tells that he worked with Eric in 2FC, Market Street which was then His Majesty's Theatre. There were two studios at that time and they closed down at 11.00 p.m. with 10.00 O'Clock closing on Sundays. When the theatre was being demolished prior to Woolworths being built on the site they had a hell of a time listening to the transmission because every time the crane came over they lost their signal. Harry was only temporarily appointed to 2FC but actually lasted for about ten years until the P.M.G. took over. Harry said in those days they would often lose a transmission during a programme when someone knocked over the microphone or tripped over the cord. During a studio broadcast when a soprano would hit a top note he would endeavour to wave her back from the microphone but eventually was compelled to follow Burb's example and take it calmly despite complaints from Pennant Hills. He remembers that when the station was first taken over by J.C. Williamsons they appointed a few unemployed actors as announcers, some of whom had as much knowledge of music as 'mickey mouse'. They often had great trouble pronouncing the titles of the classics and composers' name.

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA CABLE

A 480 two-way telephone cable was recently opened between Port Moresby and Cairns at a cost of \$7.5 m. It was a joint project between O.T.C. and the Government of Papua New Guinea. The cable is approximately 900 kilometres in length with 65 repeaters and the prime contractors were S.T.C. (U.K.).

The main lay was undertaken in five days by the S.T.C. Cable Ship "John W. Mackay" and is roughly in a straight line except for one 70 kilometre diversion through the Great Barrier Reef. The maximum depth of the lay was 3,200 metres.

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GUESSING COMPETITION - N.S.W. BOWLS

The guessing competition conducted by the N.S.W. Bowlers, tickets for which were sold at the Sydney Annual General Meeting was won by Jim Nagy, S.O.R. and second prize went to veteran, Tom Weaver.

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A HEALTH TO BOWLS

The following verse is submitted by George Rowe who recommends that all veterans and their spouses should take up bowls as an interest and pastime in retirement.

You may prate about cricket with its wonderful wicket,
or football with marvellous goals,
But what in the world of sport can compare,
with the magnetic pastime of bowls!

From the days of Armada, when good old Drake played,
with his captains on famed Plymouth hoe;
Right down through the ages, on history's pages
our game shines with Luminous glow.

We meet on the green, puff sweet nicotine,
roll "Wobblers", "Touchers" and "Pitchers",
while some do most lovingly cuddle the Jack,
and some bowl magnificent "Ditchers".

But whatever our skill, our motto is still,
health, pleasure, and friendship, not fame;
our hearts will be lighter, and life all the brighter
for playing the old British game.

So bowlers "be up", and drink from the cup,
success to the game that we play;
for friendship it mellows, makes the best of goodfellows,
and drives care and troubles away.

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VETERANS TO LONDON

Very good reports are still being received from members visiting London who are staying at the Exiles Club. We also receive a number of enquiries of how to make bookings, etc. Those wishing to stay at the Club should write to the Secretary, Exiles Club, 'Meadowbank', 27 Cambridge Park, Twickenham, Middlesex. A booking prior to leaving Australia would be desirable but should you wish to contact them whilst over there the telephone number is 892-4602.

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ANOTHER PAGE FROM THE DIARY OF A WIRELESS OPERATOR

When transferred from the C.R.S. to the Beam wireless in 1930 the world outside was in the throes of an economic depression. It was certainly no mean task learning new skills but the kind and helpful co-operation of the operating room staff made all the difference.

All the chaps were round the same age ... married and buying their own homes. The children grew up together. A contribution of ninepence per week from wireless house personnel went toward putting on an Xmas treat for the youngsters ... always a popular event.

Golf was well to the fore and competitive play attracted many starters ... family picnics on each golf course visited made the game even more acceptable.

Football and cricket enthusiasts met teams from business houses ... dances were held on the fourth floor and the annual ball at the Melbourne Town Hall was the social event of the year.

Smoke nights and concerts were held at regular intervals usually at the old St. Patrick's Hall in Bourke Street - long since demolished. The "Aktug" orchestra provided musical entertainment and local talent was ever ready to perform despite the dreaded "Raspberry" if below standard!

There were many personalities at Wireless House, Melbourne, in the "old days". One character upstairs claimed to having swum the Bosphorous Strait both ways ... taken all ten wickets in a district cricket match together with many other feats never recorded in the book of records! Imagination plus or, one suspected, a compulsive "leg puller"! There was the inevitable "SP" Bookie; the breeder of prize Alsatian dogs; the practical joker; the arftul "work" dodger and other "hard cases".

Picnics and bar-b-ques at Rockbank and Fiskville were held from time to time and all these happenings in a collective sense most certainly contributed to that spirit of "family" extant right to this very day under O.T.V.A. auspices.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE - SUVA

(By Recorder)

In Suva in the early days, the right thing to do when one first arrived in the Colony was to call on Government House. This, of course, was the best way of paying one's respects to the Governor and also it ensured an invitation to at least one of the functions held at Government House with its spacious lawns and gardens.

During the time I lived in the staff bachelor quarters, we made a point of taking all new members of the staff up to Govt. House to sign the visitors' book. This could be done without sighting His Excellency himself, although we frequently got a cheerful wave through the window from his Private Secretary. Anyway it meant that the new lads, dressed in their cleanest white suits, behaved with utmost decorum for the period that we were within the precincts of that imposing seat of government. However, the main idea was to show them that it really meant something to be loyal British subjects and to acquaint them with the dignity and formality of the King's representative.

Now, each year the Governor held a levee and in due course, three invitations arrived at the staff quarters - for two Australian lads and myself. So we decided to attend and on the appointed day we set forth, with both the boys smartly dressed in their best suits. As the staff quarters were only two hundred yards from G.H., we saved the expense of a taxi or landau and walked over through the back entrance.

Hundreds of guests were milling around the lawns and gardens and the Fijian Native band was playing selections - a scene of comfort and splendour with a large Union Jack flying freely from the flag-pole. Along the spacious verandahs there were a series of long tables, laden with plates of good things, cups and saucers for afternoon tea, boxes of cigars and sealed tins (50's) of cigarettes.

After introducing the lads to the Private Secretary, I left them to their own resources and moved over to the tennis courts to watch Charles Halsted from our own office, in an exciting game with Fiji's top tennis players.

Having thoroughly enjoyed a delightful afternoon in perfect weather, it became apparent that most of the guests had departed, so I strolled back to the quarters. Later on, when the two Australian boys were in the library, I asked them how they enjoyed the party.

"Okay", said one lad, "I got twelve cigars and two tins of fags". The other lad chipped in with, "I got six cigars and three tins."

When the next levee was held, I went by myself.

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TRUE STORIES?

Once when I was on counter duty a man came in and handed in a telegram to Dr. "Blank" Wife at death's door come and push her through.

Another man whose wife had been ill sent her to the islands for a month's holiday. At the end of the month she wired him "Feeling a new woman can I stay another month". He replied "So am I, stay another two months".

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BACK TO DARWIN WEEK

Mrs. E.W. Fitzpatrick, whose address is 28 Croydon Avenue, Croydon, N.S.W., 2132 is organizing a "Back to Darwin Week" in June, 1977. To Darwinites Mrs. Fitzpatrick is better known as Ina Dalton. She is particularly interested in any of our members who were in Darwin at the time of the Japanese air raids but this does not exclude others who have lived in Darwin and would like to revisit that area. Special arrangements have been made with T.A.A. who are arranging a package deal at rock bottom prices. The present rate (which will be subject to any air rises between now and June, 1977) is \$409 return from Melbourne and Sydney, which includes seven days' accommodation and trips around Darwin. The accommodation does not include meals. Those from other capital cities can get an estimate of the costs by writing to Mrs. Fitzpatrick who will also supply full details of this special event.

Persons from Perth will travel via Adelaide and the journey can be broken in that city. On the way back it will also be possible to break the journey at Alice but this could cost approximately \$250 more. When contacting Mrs. Fitzpatrick for details it is suggested that you quote whether there will be one or two in your party or whether you wish single, double or shared accommodation.

Even if you do not wish to undertake the trip Mrs. Fitzpatrick would be pleased to hear from any veteran who has served in Darwin. Just in a casual talk with her, names like Phil Chapman, Roley Lane, Bill Hosking, Nick Macrides and Alf Kerr came up.

The initial impact of the back to Darwin week is very favourable in Darwin and the local people are planning to put on special functions and events during the period. It is intended that a dinner will be held in the Don Hotel, previously known to many Darwinites as the "Blood House". It has now been refurbished and is a very nice hotel.

It is interesting to note that in Channel 10's new programme "Australia at War" there is a segment on Darwin which is to be shown next year.

It was also ascertained that wreath laying ceremonies are held in some capital cities to honour those who lost their lives and served in Darwin during the war and a wreath laying ceremony will be held at the Sydney Cenotaph on Saturday, 19th February, 1977.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick is also interested in any photos of Darwin taken during or just after the air raid.

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I FORGOT TO SAY

(From Tomi Condon)

Fanning had a very cardinal virtue in that you had to be doing something all the time to keep firstly fit, and then to keep yourself occupied and thus form an aura of contentment. I can well remember messing with one Stuart McDonald of Adelaide and we decided to live as cheaply as possible for one month. As would be expected we lived mostly on fish and rice and put all the goodies in the form of peach melba, etc. behind us. The consequent outcome of this was a mess bill of \$5.00 for the month. Quite an achievement but one which also kept our mind on something.

Manager Dennis was a good old stick and had some very notable characteristics which endeared him to all. At one time on Fanning I was his clerk doing the odd watch as well and one April Fool's morning Denno came out smoking his inevitable pipe to the Sg rack and after perusing what was for him became startled as I told him that a native had caught a 70 pound mulateer, a fish of rare delicacy. Asking where it was Denno was directed to the railway line which ran just beside the office by the side verandah. Upon viewing the scene of no fish he asked me where it was and I said, Mr. Dennis it is April Fool's Day to which he replied, 'I would never have looked at it anyway' and departed with a smile on his face.

Denno was all enthusiastic when we were told we had a Lewis Gun to play with to defend the Island prior to the outcome of war and upon him

being installed as Captain ordered a Sam Brown outfit. Resplendant in all his glory Denno made much of his outfit and wore it on all practices and matters pertaining to the schooling of Dad's Army. We were having an inspection of our rifles one day on a cloth which covered the billiard table and Viv Molineux who was next to me enticed me to put a piece of paper in the rifle end. Denno comes along and sighting the rifle skywards said 'Oh Condon, there's a wasp's nest in this, rectify it please and report to me'. He immediately went on to Moly's rifle. Meantime I removed the offending paper and told Denno it was ok all the time to which he said, 'Oh I must have been blind or perhaps a blind spot'.

Hughie Greig that legendary figure of Fanning. How much we owe this man, this stalwart and master of all manly. When Hughie was on the staff at Fanning he lived at English Harbour and day or night sailed the canoe from English Harbour to the cable station picking up the channels and avoiding the coral mushrooms just like second nature. On canoe race day he would man a canoe all on his own and with sail rope between big toe, steer oar under arm, and smoking a big fat cigar and often as not winning. His diving for the cable after the Nurnberg visit and the fastening it to an improvised platform and the piece of copper wire connected to the two ends whereby communications with Suva was achieved will forever be in the memories of old cable men. His remuneration for such a feat, £20 from H.O. Amazing.

Chandler (Chan), a Cockney with all the ready wit of that race of people was an institution on Fanning and contributed large slices of humour very much needed in that environment. We did appreciate him. His description of Hyde Park 'Full of Hashes and Helms'. His launching of his own built canoe and as it slid into the water remarking, 'There she is and she won't leak an Hecup full'. His description of an air leak in the sewerage system. 'Its the hair I tell yer not the 'air on your 'ead but the Hatmosphere'. Or that he was before he came to Fanning a 'Hegler, a man who 'awks Heggs'. What a far cry from cosmopolitan London to remote and distant Fanning. We can do with many more as Chan.

It was the custom at Fanning for one of the staff to be relieved to call the oncoming staff and I can well remember the reaction of Nick Duggan when awakened from a deep slumber. 'Ok Tomi, she's right, and at the same time reaching for his tin of Three Castles cigarettes. Or when calling Paul Brady and Mrs. Brady answering 'Paul sweet, its time for duty'.

Jumbo Lorking what a character this robust and bright personality was. He was rightly called Mr. Fisherman for he was always on the briny somewhere and his room stank to high heaven of old bait with the ever noisy cussy crabs in a kerosene tin making one hell of a clatter to climb up the sides and out to freedom. He was an institution and a great Aussie.

Tom Bailey another who contributed largely to the buoyant life on Fanning. A very athletic type and a lovely tennis player, violin, singer and general all rounder but what a virtue he was in that his humour was buoyant and at all times full of wit. I could not believe it when I was informed of his untimely passing. He and Brud Christian were two lovely Norfolk Islanders. Natural cricketers one, Tom, attacking and Brud, as too in their tennis, safe and dour.

Remember too when one evening going off the evening shift with Syd Morris picking up, for a lurk, one case of whisky and the subsequent anxiety of one Hairy Hinton looking everywhere for it. Syd was always up to some gag and was a master bull artist eclipsed only perhaps by Moginie the Swiss count. Said that he came from a distinguished line of Swiss

aristocrats. Remember too the tennis final between Tom Bailey and Brud Christian with all the antics of rubbing down etc. and Syd Morris acting joyfully as 'second'. The scene was reminiscent of today's venue as White City, Sydney, or Kooyong, Melbourne.

Then too who will ever forget the Bluenose from Nova Scotia, one McCullough of Doris Crane fame. What a figure. Sailed the Crane beautifully without any sign of alcohol but when on shore a veritable soak. Said that he had one daughter in Frisco and that it cost him 100 bucks a week to keep the God damn kid naked. The Crane invariably berthed at English Harbour and goods were conveyed by lighter from there to the landing at the cable end of the lagoon then by trucks on rails to the store, freezer, office, etc. A lovely vessel was the Crane and she brought much in the way of goodies from Frisco and the Shelves of Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward returning with copra.

Dr. O'Keefe, now your talking. What a man, what a Doctor who was respected by all. Of a serious nature but nevertheless a dry sense of humour. Can very well remember him watching the New Year's Day sports where we gave the kids lollies, ice cream and many goodies dear to the young palate and the old Doc and wife sitting in the shade of the verandah. Doc viewed it all for a time then said of the children 'Oh yes castor oil tomorrow'. Had his daily walk and or tennis game, never missed, then worked out chess moves in between times and a lesson to all for his staunch application to life. Never missed the news which we posted on the notice board for him and he showed remarkable knowledge of the then Hitler putsch. He lived indeed a very full life and we all missed him when he left. His successor was old and dodderly and wishing to help him along just after his arrival placed some lovely Rai on his verandah and as he viewed them with suspicion he said 'Are these the bony buggars that I've heard of'. Gratitude. Doc O'Keefe had his morning surgery hours and I can well remember Jan Waldron and my daughter Nancy rushing to the clinic for some 'niggers blood' to be put on an imaginary sore. This of course was Meurochrome. Loved by all was the Doc. A very strong character.

During the war the Niagara called to pick up one of the army personnel who ran into trouble and I took advantage of this to send my wife and two children away too. This boarding of the ship proved most hazardous as she was steaming slowly up and down during the whole operation and Captain Todd was very concerned. We were in a lighter swishing up and down acute as a graph of an office wall and the passengers had to be tied in onto a long board and then hauled aboard. It was nearing dark too and the many passengers on board took the advantage of photographing this unusual scene and flashlights were spitting out into the night as many machine guns. However, Denno and the Commissioner also went aboard by gangway and after we had waited some time for them to return they eventually appeared with all sorts of goodies as lamb, cakes, fresh eggs and as we wended our way to the shore through the turbulent surf these two seated ahead of me in the boat were dividing the spoils saying you have this and I that, etc. When it was all sorted out and in the darkness I put my hand under the seat and took out a leg of lamb and other goodies and when we rang into the sandy shore grabbed them and made off homeward and to Harry Colliver who took care of them for later distribution to the Mess etc. Next day however, Denno asked me if I had seen any of the missing items and I said quite confidently, 'No Sir'. Not much. The greedy blighters.

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S T O P P R E S S

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

It has just been announced that O.T.C. will contribute towards the cost of building and launching a new generation of communications satellites. The arrangements for the satellites, to be known as the Intelsat V, were finalised recently in Washington. Contracts to the value of \$500 million will be shared between ninety-five members of Intelsat.

The new satellites have been designed to cope with demand well into the 1980's and the first should be launched in 1979. It is expected to go into orbit over the Atlantic Ocean and has a capacity of 12,000 simultaneous two-way voice circuits with two international T.V. channels. This is double the capacity of our present best, the Intelsat IVA satellites. The new series will incorporate a number of technical innovations.

- Unlike earlier Intelsat satellites the V series will not be spin stabilised.
- It's three-axes body-stabilisation system will enable it to have wing-like solar power panels measuring 16 metres across.
- The satellite will be square instead of the previously cylindrical shape. It will be 6.5 metres high and weighs approximately 1860 kilograms.
- Current planning is for it to be launched in reusable Shuttle vehicles.

The major contract has gone to the U.S. Aeroneutronic Ford Company with sub-contracts going to companies in the U.K., Germany, Japan, Italy and France.

Another development was the agreement on a structure of an International Maritime Satellite Organisation composed similarly to Intelsat but with a sole purpose of providing a satellite system for ship/shore communications. The International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT) system will be capable of carrying all types of commercial communications between ship/shore based stations including telephone, telex and data, as well as, distress, search and rescue communications. A facility to enable ships to determine their position through this satellite is also under consideration.

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Hugh Taylor, a South Australian member, recently in Sydney looking up old C.R.S. friends.

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From Canada comes the sad news of the passing of C.H. Forder, A.L. Leslie and S.L. (Les) Hughes.

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(VICTORIA)

20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held O.T.C House,
382 Lonsdale Street,
Melbourne.

Friday 28-5-1976.

Commencing 5.30pm.

Secretary.
Charles Carthew,
7 Lantana Street,
CLAYTON. 3168

Telephone: 544 - 2514

By courtesy of Management.

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