



NEWSLETTER

GENERAL SECRETARY

It is notified with pleasure that all States have now agreed to the Notice of Motion for the appointment of a General Secretary. In addition, that Mr. Charles Carthew, the Secretary of the Victorian Association, was the only nomination for the position and was accordingly elected for the ensuing 12 months.

As advised in previous Newsletters, the appointment of a General Secretary is a completely new innovation for the Associations and will require certain changes to the Constitution. These changes have been discussed in detail by your State Committees and recommendations made. In order to facilitate their early introduction, Extraordinary General Meetings will be called to consider and approve or otherwise the proposed amendments to the Constitution. In most cases, the Extraordinary Meeting will immediately precede the forthcoming Annual Reunions and any over-long discussion on the proposals will only delay the actual reunion. Therefore, members are earnestly requested to fully consider the proposed amendments and if they have any doubts, queries, etc., that they contact their Secretary as soon as possible, so that the Committees may give further consideration and, if necessary, submit further recommendations to members at the commencement of the meeting. Dates for the Annual Reunions are notified elsewhere in this Newsletter.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The following recommendations are made by your Committees.

Eligibility

Present clause: "25 years in overseas telecommunications for males and 20 years for females. This condition to include all classifications of ex-members of Cable and Wireless Limited and Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, telecommunications services."

Proposed clause: "25 years in overseas telecommunications for males and 20 years for females. The State Committee shall determine eligibility for membership."

NOTE: It was felt that to cover all circumstances, a broad eligibility clause would be desirable and that Committees have a set of guidelines for determining membership. The proposed guidelines for Committees would read, "eligibility for membership is 25 years in overseas telecommunications for males and 20 years for females. This condition to include personnel directly engaged in overseas telecommunications who are members or were members of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia), Cable, Marine Wireless, Coastal Radio, Beam Wireless, pre-1947 Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, Satellite Communications and all kindred bodies both in Australia and overseas."

NOMINATIONS FOR GENERAL SECRETARY

Nominations are hereby called for the position of General Secretary of the Associations for 12 months commencing 1st July, 1974. Nominations including the willingness of the nominated member should be in the hands of the General Secretary, Mr. Charles Carthew, 7 Lantana Street, Clayton, Victoria, 3168, by Noon on 1st February, 1974.

N.S.W. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As was the case in Victoria, N.S.W. also had a record attendance, with 130 arriving for their Annual General Meeting. The meeting was held to coincide with a meeting in Sydney for O.T.C. Station Managers. The majority of the Managers are Veterans and it gave them the opportunity to once again see their old friends. It was also a surprise to find Tom Pattinson and Dudley Treliving in the assembly. They had come all the way from Adelaide by car for the function.

N.S.W. being the last of the Associations to hold their General Meeting finally gave the green light for the provision of a General Secretary and the subsequent election of Charles Carthew to this important post.

All the office bearers for the previous year were re-elected and the following were in attendance:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Keith Vincent | Eric Cockle | Tom Heatley |
| Roy Doohan | Bert Waugh | Dick Christoffersen |
| Charles Carthew | Keith Wilmot | Graham Gosewinckel |
| Rus Welbourn | George Brown | John Grosbard |
| Gordon Cupit | Tony Ebert | George Maltby |
| Claude Dalley | Jack Creswick | Alf Culloden |
| Eileen Haran | Eric Richardson | John Hodgson |
| Kath Morgan | Ron Smith | Alex Griffith |
| Lou Brown | Len Vella | Trevor Thatcher |
| Stan Gray | Ernie Anthoney | George Broadbent |
| Harry Cook | Bruce Collett | George Wheeler |
| Joe Collister | Les Reynolds (Melbourne) | Austin Houseman (Ceduna) |
| Ray Baty | Des Woods | Bill Hickling |
| Joe Patiniott | Len Rourke | Don Montgomery |
| Betty Leweniec | Derek Jolly | Maury Matthysz |
| Charles Raecke | Bill Brown | Mick Wood |
| Edgar Harcourt | Bill Luke | Des Kinnersley |
| Val Litchfield | Ced Dale | Hilton Robertson |
| Jock Cowie | Reg Towner | Ken Walker |
| Alec Batten | Jack Hansson | Ron Mackenzie |
| Don McIntosh | Dave Bourne | John Rowley |
| Keith Oxley | Bert Sharpe | Bernie White |
| Ray Moyes | Harry Stone (Madang) | Tom Pattinson (Adelaide) |
| Max Dwyer | Leo Mahony (Carnarvon) | Dud Treliving (Adelaide) |
| Bill Day | Norm Alderson | Arthur Purtill |
| Fred Doolette | Keith Parker (Cairns) | Phil Harris (Moree) |
| Tom Hughes | Fred Hinds | Harry Sutherland (Brisbane) |
| Roy Tully | Fred St. Julian | Max Lang (Adelaide) |
| Ron Godfrey | Tom Weaver | Lydia King |
| Jack Burgess | Charles Swinney | Bob Hooper (Lae) |
| Hedley Caswell | Jack Greer | Pat Gray (Darwin) |
| Frank White | Alan Ritchie | Bill Brown (Perth) |
| Shaddy Meynert | Arthur Oliver | Jim Robinson (Melbourne) |

Wilf O'Donnell	John Mulholland	Arch Barrie
Jim Shore	Orm Cooper	Phil Chapman
Horrie McInnes	Vin Sim	Ken Stone
Marie Casey	Ray Wood	Jack Simpson
Fred Reeve (Broome)	Jack Silcock (Geraldton)	George Rogers (Carnarvon)
Harold White	Tom Molloy	Jim Banks (Brisbane)
Barry Mottram (Hobart)	John Clendinning (Townsville)	Henry Cranfield (Guam)
John Brooksbank (Norfolk Island)	John Eales (Esperance)	Ken Erickson
Norm Harris	Jim Blemings	Nev Huntington
John Creswick	Stewie Taylor	

VICTORIAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting attracted a record attendance and the signatures of those who attended are in this Newsletter. By coincidence, the meeting of O.T.C. Commissioners was being held in Melbourne the following day and the Chairman, Commissioners, General Manager and Senior Officers of the Commission were able to attend the function following the annual meeting. It is this type of organising ability that makes Charles Carthew an outstanding choice for our General Secretary. Office bearers for 1973/74 are:

President	Jack Heathershaw
Treasurer	George McDonald
Secretary	Charles Carthew
Committee	Ernie Dennis Les Brown Alec Stuart Mark Wilton
Auditors	Jack Hunter Jack McGrory

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MEETING

The Adelaide Branch of the O.T.C. Veterans Association held their winter meeting on 17th May, 1973 at the Public Service Club, 73 Wakerfield Street. Ken Collett, who is a member, very kindly arranged this new venue for us and it was excellent, far better than the room we had at the G.P.O. last time and more satisfactory in every way than going to an hotel.

This time we had an attendance of only 14, mostly because of our sadly decreasing numbers, but partly, no doubt, because of the cold weather.

Those present were:	George Rowe	Leo Gleeson
	Ron Ward	Cecil Shortt
	Ken Springbett	Brax Horrocks
	Chas Smith	Bruce Sutherland
	Eric Story	Norman Giles
	Herbert Muhlhan	Graham Little
	& Ken Collett.	

We were particularly glad to see Muhlie again - he had not been to a meeting for some time because of poor health and the difficulty of coming to night meetings. He looks the same as of yore, in spite of his 89 summers.

It was good too to have veteran Bruce Sutherland with us - Bruce is having an Australian motoring holiday, he lives in Nelson, New Zealand. He says that he stayed with his brother Fabian in Southport recently and will be visiting veteran Roy Edwards on his station "Newcastle Waters", south of Darwin.

We had a letter from Rocky Gordon, saying that he was unable to come to the meeting because he is quite unable to travel from Mannum because of poor health.

Mrs. Syme: wrote to say that Eric is still in hospital - has been there for a long time now and has just had an operation for the removal of his prostate gland.

- Apologies were received from: Longun Evans - overseas
- Harry Chinner - unwell
- Cliff Birks - unwell
- Ralph Matthews - holidays
- Bert Dudley - interstate.

Bruce Sutherland said that he had seen Harry Naylor the previous day - Harry is at Aldersgate and is blind, but dearly loves to have a yarn when any of us call. Other than his sad disability, he keeps remarkably well. Bruce also called on Harry Colliver, but was unable to persuade him to come to our meeting.

We hear occasionally from Pat Sykes of Dalkeith, W.A. He is well and sends greetings through this column to Veterans who remember him.

ADDRESSES PLEASE

The following Veterans appear to have moved and we have lost trace of them. Anyone knowing their present addresses, please advise your Secretary.

- T.J. Blackley (John)
- G. Berry (Gordon)
- A.E. Fox
- A.J. Money
- G.M. Riley (Pat)
- W.B. Lemon (Bill)

REUNIONS

Melbourne: The Victorian Association will be holding their reunion in O.T.C. House on 9th November, 1973 (Cup Week).

Sydney: The N.S.W. Reunion will be held on 23rd November, 1973, the venue being the Dining Room of the G.P.O., 9th Floor, Pitt Street entrance.

Perth: To be held in December, but unfortunately, no information yet on date.

Auckland: To be held on 7th December, 1973.

Any interested Veterans are cordially invited to the meetings.

SUGGESTIONS

From time to time, Secretaries receive recommendations on matters to bring up at an Annual General Meeting. It is suggested that these should be forwarded well in advance of an Annual General Meeting so that they can be considered by all the Committees of the various Associations and a recommendation placed in the Newsletter.

Members could then give the matter serious thought rather than have it presented cold at the meeting. Ideas, changes, etc., are very welcome and could only be in the interests of all members, therefore please put on your thinking caps and come up with ideas.

VICTORIAN NEWS

Veteran and Mrs. Vernan Fernando have followed up their retirement by a flying visit to Canada.

An excerpt from the Australian Retired Persons Journal is interesting. "For a home to be exempt from probate duty up to a maximum of \$20,000 it is to be owned in joint tenancy. Therefore, a home owned solely by a wife or owned solely by a husband, or a home owned by a widow or a widower, would not be termed a matrimonial home and would attract probate duty at the full rates applicable."

Reports have been received of Veterans missing out on "Transit". If this omission continues, please advise your State Secretary so that a check can be made of the mailing list.

Veteran and Mrs. Gordon Campbell recently returned from a holiday in England.

Frank Turville is still farming on his small apricot orchard in Tasmania. As a sideline, he is doing a bit of bird breeding. Being an active character, like most old communicators, he is also the vice-president of his local R.S.L. sub-branch and a church warden. Monetary return for his labours is not much, but he gains a lot from the interests and it keeps him mentally active. Keep up the good work, Frank!

A golf day will be held at "Olinda" on Sunday, 18th November, 1973 commencing at 10 a.m. Those attending will be playing for the Roy Mancer Memorial Cup and intending players should contact Charles Carthew, 544.2514 for further details, etc. It will be a barbeque lunch. Veterans roll up and show the young ones how to do it!

PERTH NEWS

Les Owen (A.W.A.) has been in contact and we have learnt that his home is quite near the old site of the Applecross Station. The Station had an area of 99 acres overlooking the Swan River. It is now under the control of a local council who are turning it into a natural park. Several of the original buildings, plus the tower guy holding blocks, still remain. It is understood that they intend to turn one of the old buildings into a telecommunications museum.

N.S.W. NEWS

Dave Fleming and Eric Burbury are on overseas trips and from the volumes of correspondence received from Dave Fleming, he is having a right royal time. Dave is such a seasoned traveller, anyone going overseas should contact him and I am sure they will obtain some good hints.

President, Jack Guthrie, had a windfall in winning the 2UW tickets for Sunday night at the Opera House. His name was drawn from hundreds of thousands of applicants and on the grand night a chauffeur-driven L.T.D. Ford picked him up, drove him to the Opera House, where he was wined on champagne. The seats allotted to Mrs. G. and himself were 15 buck jobs near the front row. After the show, back home in the L.T.D. Jack thoroughly recommends it to anybody else. The only problem is getting your name drawn out of the barrel.

Any Veteran attending the Bong Bong races on 20th October should look for Veteran Eileen Haran. Charlie Raecke always feeds her good oil, so just watch her when she is laying her bets.

VALE

It is with deep regret that we have to advise the passing of the following members.

Harry Chown (N.S.W.) spent the majority of his working life with A.W.A. and on retirement was their Sales Manager. Unfortunately, Harry had failing eyesight in the latter years of his retirement and was unable to attend our meetings.

Vernon Gibson - an operator at the old Cottesloe Cable Station and well-known to many of our members who passed through that office.

From Auckland we have the news that S.W. Meeks (P.C.B.), W.E. Coates (Eastern) and J. Nicholson (ex-Iris) have passed on.

TO PASTURE

Les Young, Technical Officer, O.T.C. Paddington, turned it in a couple of years early and intends to pursue his hobbies of orchid breeding and fishing. Les has had a very colourful career and first took an interest in radio when he joined the ranks of the "hams" in 1932. He later obtained his ticket and in 1936 became a professional. He has served in the Marine Service, Coastal Radio Service, the Beam Room and in various areas as a Technician and Technical Officer. He had a very colourful career during the war in New Guinea with Allied Intelligence. Being a quiet and retiring sort of character, we can never get much information on this period of his life. One of these days we are hoping to get a story for the Newsletter. We wish you well for a long, healthy and happy retirement, Les.

Jim Donnelly; commenced his career as a telegraphist in the Post Office in the old morse days. From there he graduated to clerical ranks and became an expert in personnel work. When O.T.C. was formed, Jim joined as Senior Staff Clerk and, in such a role, helped many of our members with their problems and in getting around the rules and regulations. Jim's interests are gardening and bowls and being a healthy, active character, we will certainly have the pleasure of seeing him at our functions for many years to come.

ZODIAC

Cable and Wireless magazine, "Zodiac", is colourful and technically instructive. Veterans wishing to renew subscriptions, please contact "Zodiac" Publishing Co., Ltd., Mercury House, Theobolds Road, London, WC1X8RX.

AMATEUR RADIO "HAM" HOOKUP

The amateurs are running regular hookups now. One being the Wednesday night schedule 1030 GMT on 14130 including 80 metres.

The other is Monday 0900 Australian Eastern Standard Time (2300 GMT) on the same frequencies. Regular communicators are Norm Odgers VK6NF, Bill Luke VK2AWU, Bill Brown VK210, Bill Jenvey VK2Z0, Jack Burgess VK2VX and Bill Ringrose VK23SR.

The group invite other Veterans to join in on the hookup and have particularly mentioned Harry Stone at Madang and Keith Parker at Cairns.



SICKIES

We seem to always have a certain number of Veterans on the sick list and these we all wish a quick and complete recovery. Our best wishes go to the following:

Harry Hicks, now residing in North Queensland, has had ticker trouble.

Ernie Coldwell, at Large Bay, South Australia, with eye trouble and in hospital.

Charlie Featherstone has had throat trouble and is not at all well.

Mea Lahui in Port Moresby District Hospital with some unknown complaint at this stage.

Eric Syme, who was South Australia's Secretary for many years, is far from well, having suffered a stroke.

Anyone wishing their addresses to visit can obtain same from your Secretary.

OLD RELICS

There has been a proposal that an archives and/or museum be formed in O.T.C. or in the Veterans' organisation. The Sydney Association Treasurer Keith Vincent has volunteered to undertake the task of looking after the relics, provided we are able to obtain suitable space. In quoting relics he does not mean your spouse.

The Commission has in its possession some historic telegraph equipment which is to be restored to some semblance of its former functional capability through the good efforts of its technical staff. There are also some photographs taken at the turn of the century at some of the Cable Stations including Fanning Island. It is possible that some of our Veterans may have some historical equipment such as hand punchers and wireless equipment, etc. and/or magazines, books, documents in their possession. It is our intention to ensure that these valuable articles not be destroyed, but forwarded to us so that they may be placed in a safe place and preserved for posterity.

In making this suggestion it is not the intention that you send relics which are valuable to you and which you would wish to keep yourself. However, we would like some provision made so that the archives can obtain them, when they are no longer of use to you or your family.

Any member prepared to give any such articles should contact Gordon Cupit, New South Wales Secretary.

SERVICE HISTORY

In our Associations we have a number of members with a particularly distinguished communications history, and who are of a retiring nature and do not boast or discuss their exploits. It is our intention not only to have a museum of equipment, documents, etc., but to also have a dossier of each member's service life so that we will have a ready reference when we require some information on a historical event. From the information we should be able to gain from persons on the spot at the time, we are hopeful of publishing some very interesting historical events and facts. We trust that all members will co-operate in this project by completing the form attached to this Newsletter and returning it to Gordon Cupit, O.T.C.(A), Box 7000, G.P.O., Sydney.

JUBILEE OF BROADCASTING

1973 is the 50th anniversary of broadcasting and Ted O'Donnell gives us a flashback on the introduction of the Wireless Police Patrol, under Detective Sergeant Dowling, which operated from the old Domain Station. This patrol commenced during May of 1923.

"The operation was very raw in the initial stage. VIM (Melbournradio) would bellow out on 500 Kcs or 600M, as it was then termed, MOM at about 5 w.p.m. The car team would then race to the nearest phone booth and ring VIM. Russell Street would have previously given us the "drum" that a man was breaking into a house at South Yarra - often it was the occupier having lost his key. Meanwhile, another call to Elsternwick and away the old Hotchkiss would do its 70 m.p.h. thereto.

Around 4 a.m. it would be revealed that a warehouse in Flinders Lane had been broken into. "Squizzy" Taylor was in full force at the time.

VIM then got a transmitter from Sydney operating on about 800Kcs and we operators joined the police car each evening. VIM would give us a quick "MOM" up and we would go over and write down the "dope" and pass to the Sergeant and away we go. Oh yes, we had our scares. I know the dog used to eye us in the backseat.

I said to our O.I.C., Bill Holloway, that we should have a strong light outside our door and "blackout" our own room when the door was knocked on. Saying, "Squizzy" knows all about cutting aerials but plenty about cutting throats! "Oh yes, sport" replied Bill, "I expect to walk in one morning and see you "stiff" on the floor." No, we didn't get a light - it would cost a few bob and petty cash would not permit it.

June and July, 1973 would really be the anniversary of initial broadcasts in Melbourne. For instance, the Ideal Homes Exhibition at Wirrhis Park just over Princess Bridge. Aub Hosking reading the bedtime story from a book we bought from Coles, "nothing over two shillings".

C.R.S. had a FIRST in July, 1923 when we copied the Dempsey-Firpo fight. Aub handed over the phones to me at the 3rd round, the signal being at about 2+. We were three rounds behind the actual fight. At the 7th round, the operator broke and said "Dempsey knocked Firpo through the ropes in the 12th round". We keyed to Queen Street, who passed it to the "Sun" and the paper was on the streets at 2 p.m. The "Sun" received the cable at 7 p.m. Dempsey, etc., about 4 lines.

DARWIN CABLE STATION

An interesting article from a very old newspaper under the title "Northern Territory Cable Guard" reads as follows:

"The Cable Guard is composed mostly of the 'young bloods ' of the offices, stores and trades of Darwin. It does duty in all military affairs, and is known as the Cable Guard on account of the chief item of its work, being the guarding of the Cable Station. Regular drills are maintained, and it is evident that the greatest interest is taken in them by the regular attendances. The officer in command, Lieutenant E. Barker, speaks with much pride and satisfaction of the men under him. Recently this guard was increased by a 'tropical force', something on the lines of the force now in German New Guinea. One of the tasks of the guard was the convoying of a mail bag through Darwin during a strike at that port. On that occasion the steamer 'Houtman' could not be unloaded and she put out to sea again with all her cargo. But she didn't go without the mail. Members of the Cable Guard were called out to see to the mail's safe deflivery on board; this precaution being necessary because of previous trouble when strikers took possession of the mail."

OVERSEAS NEWS

Bob Scott writes from Canada:- On a recent visit to Bermuda he called at the C. & W. office to have a look around. Coming to the telex switchboard, the Supervisor asked if he knew anyone in the Montreal O.T. Corporation office. He said he did. The Supervisor then told Montreal that Bob Scott, ex Bamfield Cable Station, was in the office. Montreal replied, "You're kidding!" Bob then took over the keyboard. It transpired that Harold Fitch, whom Bob had not seen for well over 30 years, was at the other end. Quite a small world!

THE FIRST RADIOTELEPHONE TO OPERATE AT BITA PAKA - 20.12.1930

(Story by Bert Sharpe)

On arrival early at Rabaul on B.P. s "Marsina" I was rudely awakened by Mr. Jimmy Twycross, who was at that time the Chief Inspector for the Territory, with a request to hand over their Radiotelephone. As B.P. were disinclined to permit operators to carry cargo in the W.T. Office, I informed him that the gear, if aboard, would be safely stowed in one of the holds and suggested he contact the Purser.

About 10 a.m. after a great deal of work, the set was found and duly deposited on the wharf. The Company had chartered a large lorry from the Roberts Garage and the transmitter and other equipment were loaded aboard.

As I had a free day I decided to go along with them to the Station, as I had not had an opportunity of seeing the old German rig on my previous visits to Rabaul.

The distance via Kekopo was about 40 miles over a somewhat primitive and very winding road with numerous hairpin bends, and as the native staff at Roberts Garage had replaced the truck's front assembly in an incorrect manner, at every sharp bend in the road, the driver was forced to reverse in order to get enough lock to get the vehicle around. Thus the trip took quite a time to complete, much to the annoyance of Jimmy, who nearly wore his finger nails to the quick, an old habit of his when things did not go as required! Finally, we bumped to a halt at the Station and the equipment, having been unloaded, was put up on the floor of the main building.

The Staff rallied round and ably assisted by Engineer Dacca Goode, who, incidentally, during World War II suffered at the hands of the Japanese whilst acting as a Coast Watcher behind the lines on Buka Island.

About 2.30 the gear showed some sign of life and it was arranged that the Outstation would listen-in and duly report on signal strength, etc. Jimmy had prepared a lengthy speech inaugurating the new service and giving pre-Christmas greetings to the staff. This speech took about half an hour to read and finally the gear was switched off and we awaited the morse signals to tell us the good news. Having allowed plenty of time for replies and not receiving a single answer, they called the Outstations through their radio link for their comments. The replies were very discouraging, as they all reported that they had been unable to pick up even a carrier.

By this time, the staff were really frustrated and, as a last resort, decided to phone up the Rabaul Office and instructed Mr. Coleman to go aboard the "Marsina" and endeavour to see whether he could get a signal from that source. Alas, my 3 coil detector and one stage receiver failed to bring in the evasive signal!

Jimmy decided finally to call it a day and returned home in disgust, whilst I spent a very enjoyable night at the bungalow of Mr. and Mrs. Goode.

This was the last I heard of the Radiotelephone, but I heard later on that after a great deal of checking, the gear operated successfully and yet another link was forged in Island Telecommunication.



A COMMUNITY SERVICE

THE TOC H EMERGENCY RED FLASHING LIGHT

There are people living alone in every community who are elderly, infirm or in ill-health and who need a simple means of summoning a neighbour's help in an emergency requiring the attention of a friend or perhaps a doctor. In all States of Australia, Toc H has been installing Red Flashing Lights to deal with these emergencies. The lights are quite small and unobtrusive when not in action and they are usually fitted on the inside of a front window to provide maximum visibility when operated.

In Victoria there is a great number already in use and there have been several instances in which people have experienced a sick turn or a fall, and through the flashing of the installed light a neighbour has come to their aid and they have been rushed off to hospital for treatment.

These battery-operated lights are controlled by one or more switches placed at required locations, perhaps at the bed or in the bathroom and by the simple pressing of a switch the light will start to flash. It will continue to do so for up to twenty hours. There are some cases where a light cannot be seen by an opposite neighbour and consideration is then given to the fitting of an audible signal from a buzzer or bell alarm to a sympathetic neighbour next door.

Assembly of the light equipment is executed at the Mitcham Toc H workshop, where members and interested friends spend a valuable two or three hours each week in work and fellowship. Installations are carried out by voluntary helpers from various churches and service organisations, as well as by Toc H members.

The project is endorsed by the Police Department and by several Municipal Councils in Victoria. A record of the recipient's name, the doctor and next-of-kin is kept for reference in case of an emergency call.

Toc H Victoria will install and maintain these lights free of charge, and would appreciate the assistance of any member of the public who sees one of these lights flashing from the window of a home. Police District Headquarters should be notified of the address so that appropriate Police Department action can be taken without delay.

If you need a Toc H Red Flashing Light, or further information on the subject, you are invited to telephone or write to the Secretary, Toc H Victoria, 527 Collins Street, Melbourne (phone 62-6251).

Interstate veterans please contact O.T.V.A. (Australia), General Secretary C.W. Carthew, 7 Lantana Street, Clayton, Vic. 3168.

ROUND THE WORLD TELEGRAM

Per courtesy of Arthur Black over in the West, we have reproduced some correspondence and tapes of the first world circling telegraph message in 1902. Old cable operators should get a kick out of reading the old cable code. Those who are not familiar with the code will see the letters under the characters. The way it is read is that dots are on the top and dashes on the bottom. The length of the signal determining the number of dots and dashes. The Editor has never worked out how they get word spacing, but it appears to be a line a bit bigger at approximately the centre.

VIM - OLD STYLE

Charlie Green brings back memories of VIM in his account of his two years' service in 1923/24. When he first arrived, the Officer-in-Charge was Bill Holloway and the operators were Fred Davis, Roy Simon, Aub Hosking and, of course, himself. During his term there, there were a few strays who drifted in and out, including F.H. Stevens from Samarai, Len Mowlen, Dave Buchan and Curly Williams.

Len Luscombe was at King Island (VZE) and Mulligan at Flinders Island (VIL).

VIM was a technical monstrosity in those days with a note like a rock crusher. It was raw 50 metres A/C, with an asynchronous rotary gap. The morse key had contacts about the size of a 5c piece and broke the primary circuit of 240 volts at approximately 30 amps. Sometimes, after a lengthy transmission, the contacts would weld up, owing to the arcing, and had to be separated by brute force. At one period, they had the use of a motor generator, a relic of Balsillie equipment. To start it up they used an ancient immersion type of starter, which had to be lowered gently into a fluid causing much bubbling and frequently a banging as the overload relay would flop out. However, they overcame that trouble by a contortionist act of holding in the relay with a long screwdriver while lowering the blades of the starter at the same time. During Charles' term there, the police had a receiver-equipped car. The receiver had about 7 V24 valves which drew 7 amp filament current. The cops often came around in the middle of the night complaining that they could not hear us and usually it was a flat battery. They had a reputed 500 watt De Forest phone transmitter to pass on messages to the police, but of course, they could not reply, but usually acknowledged the calls by public phone, when possible.

3AR commenced operation about that time and was audible on 600 metres because of the large aerial system at VIM and the lack of a sharp-tuned receiver. However, they managed to cope with QRM in the form of Alexander's Rag Time Band, etc.

Charles sent a TELMO to King Island one day and sent "£500" but Len Luscombe came back and said "confirm £500 - nobody on this Island has that much money", and of course he was right. It was only £50. Charles felt ever grateful to Len for saving his bacon on that occasion.

Charles ended his time with the C.R.S. when it was proposed to transfer him to Darwin; he felt that the call to the sea was by far the better choice. He later spent a couple of months at King Island.

16th Annual General Meeting
21 - 5 - 1978

OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA)

C. W. Carthen
 P. R. Leach
 Basson
 Les Brown
 G. E. McDonald
 John Hunter
 O. White
 Joan Miller
 Mary Blain
 Stan Lane
 B. Bennett
 W. Munn
 F. B. Dunstall
 G. Campbell
 H. Beattier
 Sep Harvey
 Mark O'Neil
 Eric Reynolds
 D. D. Mollis
 M. Cox
 A. Stewart
 Robinson
 F. H. Ash
 A. R. Eustace
 Max Fernando

Tom Connolly
 Ted Turner
 Bill Buckland
 G. M. G. G. G.
 Ed Green
 M. Maden
 Col. Benson
 G. H. Bright
 Leo. Maguire
 Lt. Tappin
 E. J. Strickland
 Keith Perry
 Mr. C. M. M. M.
 W. J. M. M. M.
 Mervyn Fernando
 R. H. Neal
 J. W. Taylor
 G. J. Day
 W. Bentley
 M. M. M.
 Hank
 R. Lane
 A. M. M.
 Peter Harrop
 John R. Jordan
 W. Humphreys
 Bert Lake
 A. W. Stewart
 G. Verise

William G. Denny
 Jack Hanson
 Prof. M. G.
 E. H. M. M.
 Alice Short
 H. M. M.
 Arthur P. P.
 G. Esomney
 G. B. Kater
 C. T. M. M.
 L. G. M. M.
 M. M. M.
 J. M. M.
 P. Foley
 M. M. M.
 Doug. C. M. M.
 M. M. M.
 M. M. M.
 M. M. M.



The Pacific Cable Board.

Bamfield B.C. Station.

Nov 18th 1902.

Dear Sir,

I enclose slip of your "Round the world cable", as we do not require its return. I shall be pleased if you will retain it as a memento. I have marked it in plain characters so that you will be able to follow it. The characters in brackets (S) and (finish) represent the division between address & text, text and signature and completion of cable respectively.

I am
yours faithfully
Sir Sanford Fleming K.C.M.G. By me Jackson
Ottawa.

FIRST WORLD-CIRCLING TELEGRAPH MESSAGE

The message delivered to His Excellency Lord Minto at Government House, Ottawa, Nov. 1st, 1902, after circling the globe.

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph

All messages taken by this Company are subject to the conditions printed on our Form 2.

10. RA. MD. RO. (39 Words) 8.35 A.M.

(via Commercial Eastern Australia Pacific)

To Governor General,
Ottawa.

Receive globe encircling message via England, South Africa, Australia and Pacific Cable congratulating Canada and the Empire on completion of the first segment state controlled electric girdle the harbinger of incalculable advantages, national and general.

From Ottawa, Oct. 31st, 1902

Sandford Fleming.;

Page 1.

From Ottawa Ontario Governor

General Ottawa (J) Receiver of

encircling message via England

South Africa Australia and

Page 2.

Pacific Cable congratulat

ing Canada and the Empire on

completion of first segment

state controlled electric

Page 3.

girdle the harbinger of

incalculable advantages

national and general (J)

Sandford Fleming (Finist)