



NEWSLETTER NO. 13

REST IN PEACE

T.A. (Tom) Lang would be well known to older members as the first post-war Commissioner of the reconstituted Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. Tom died on Christmas Day 1993 in San Francisco aged 84. He had an illustrious engineering career beginning with the State Rivers in Victoria where he became Chief Design Engineer. In 1947 he was made IWS Commissioner at the age of 38. Tom was appointed Associate Commissioner of the Snowy Mountains Authority in 1949 and for the next decade played a key role in the civil engineering of the Snowy Scheme. He then joined eminent US consultants and lived in San Francisco until his death.

Tom is survived by his wife Amy and three daughters, all living in the US.

Joe Radkovic died on 3rd April in Brisbane. Joe worked in the surveying business for many years beginning as a chainman in the lower Burdekin area in the late '40s and subsequently ran his own survey party. He later worked for the Railway Department until his retirement at 65 earlier this year. Joe was born in Yugoslavia (or Czechoslovakia) and migrated here as a young man.

He will be remembered for his kindness and for his unflinching courtesy.

Les Rice passed away towards the end of April and was buried on the 28th. Les will be remembered as the Foreman of the motor vehicle workshop at Rocklea in the "old days". He was active in retirement with Meals On Wheels and was first President of the Carina branch. Les is survived by wife Annie and daughters Geraldine and Jennifer and son Geoffrey and their families.

Fred Schwenke died on 1st May. Fred began work with I&WSC in 1954 at Walkamin. He then worked as a timekeeper at Tinaroo and became Water Officer in charge of the Dam in 1959. He remained in charge until illness forced his retirement in 1983.

Fred was born in Kingaroy 71 years ago. At 2 pounds the hospital staff didn't give him much chance and put him in a warming oven while they concentrated on saving his mother. Fred survived, so too did the burn scars from the oven.

He was educated at local schools and Toowoomba Grammar before working on the family farm, in outback Queensland and in the Northern Territory. He was injured when Darwin was bombed. Returning to Queensland, Fred worked with Main Roads as a Cost Clerk and as an Ambulance Bearer in Tully before joining the Commission.

Fred is survived by wife Mary, daughters Anne, Jean and Beth and grandchildren. His son Billy was tragically killed at the age of 20 years. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

READING AND WRITING

It's probably too late for most of us but frequent use of some or all of these buzzwords will guarantee promotion, ensure publication of your letters to the Courier Mail or prompt your friends to genuflect in workshop of your eradication:

erudition

actualised, classifactory, combinational, correlation, criteria-cued, formulation, icon, maximising, paradigm, premised, psychodynamic, resourcing, scenario, sexualise, syndrome, and of course the phrases "this point in time", "at the end of the day" and "down the track".

RELAXATION

Slumber

Q: Why do we sleep lying down?

A: A recent study published by the Institute de Sommeil in Limoges showed that the prone position for sleep is by no means universal. The Waki Waki islanders in Melanesia sleep standing on their heads with no ill effects. - Baroness Blackstone, Birbeck College UK.

Norm and Lindsay White leave again for overseas in July in search of "frequent flyer points". Their itinerary includes the mandatory visit to "The Land of the Free" followed by a tour of the United Kingdom.

John and Jill Moreton have been visiting daughter Susan who is undertaking further medical studies in Texas. They then went on to UK for a few weeks. They did NOT stay at Lambeth Palace.

Maureen McMahon is visiting Italy with three of her sisters and then goes on to England and Ireland. Pat is revising his culinary skills.

Len and Cesalome Redmond have whirled their way through the Middle East, sampled the delights of Turkey, luxuriated in Luxor, Egypt and Jordan and avoided trampling by tourists in Israel. Time prevented visits to Bosnia, Cambodia and Northern Ireland.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Sir,

We read your Newsletter with interest. But why do you start with the Death Notices?

Yours etc.

P.E. Dantic,
Carseldine.

(Dear P.E.,

Our research shows that 84% of all newspaper readers aged 60 years and over peruse the Obituary Notices first and then decide whether or not to rise. We feel that we are helping our readers save time. Ed.)

Dear Sir,

Just a few lines to ask that you pass on my best wishes to all Oldies & Boldies. After you published a report of my recent illness I received many phone calls from well wishers throughout the State and they cheered me up immensely.

I am now playing golf again, 18 holes at least twice a week but the old swing is pretty rusty. Getting familiar with having a spastic leg and a permanently arthritic right arm is hard to get used to but I am not in pain so I am very fortunate.

Went up the Cape to Lakefield National Park fishing. With the number of trips I've had I reckon the first "barra" I caught had cost \$5,000 but since I caught TWO they've only cost \$2500 each. I haven't given any away.

Best wishes to all,

Ron Afflick

REGIONAL NEWS

Mareeba

The return of Len and Kay Ritchings provided a good opportunity for a get together of Oldies in Kelly's Bar at the Mareeba Ant-Hill Hotel, formerly the Masterson. The attendance of 16 was good considering the number of members away from Mareeba at the time. A good time was had by all, the venue was terrific, the food good and the "ants" were no trouble! Len and Kay were back to help await the birth of a grandchild. The dangers of TV watching were illustrated by Ted Norbury who had a heart attack while doing so. Ted is now progressing well and has our best wishes.

Incidentally the last edition of The Blue pages neglected to include Kay's name and the Ritchings' phone number 071 282924.

(Thanks Keith Turner for the notes and thanks Pat Fossett for arranging the get-together.)

Bundaberg

Our regular correspondent Roy Maxted is on leave. However "Scoop" Toone and "Private Eye" Riley leapt into the breach and filed this report from the Western Suburbs League Club. The Kingstons have moved up-market to Bargara and "Honk" Morrison is now out of hospital after surgery to a leg.

(Thanks George and Max).

REMINISCENCES

Maria Smith has made the Queensland Netball squad yet again. Maria first made the State side as a 19 year old in 1980 and has played in 17 State titles. She also spent some time in the Australian squad. Maria is now a Personnel Officer with DPI and will be remembered by many members as a most pleasant and efficient typist in the old Commission.

Leon Henry was made a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. The award was made for his services to engineering, particularly through the management of water resources. Leon worked for the Commission in the earlier days and again when the water and sewerage sections of the Department of Local Government were transferred to WRC in the 1980's. Congratulations Leon.

Harold Buckle is in a Buderim nursing home. Staff from the home suggest that he be taken off the distribution list for notices etc as he is unable to respond to them.

Jim Ole is keeping well and is still at Buckingham Gardens Retirement Home. He looks forward to visits from friends.

DROUGHTS...ARE THEY GETTING WORSE? (by David Wilmott)

As one who grew up on the land, and experienced a number of really crippling droughts over the years, it has been interesting to listen to the 'gloom and doom' merchants pronouncing the recent - and in some places, still continuing - drought as being the worst in living memory. Blame for this worsening has been many faceted, but has generally been laid to the door of man's failure to control the out-pourings of modern day air pollutants.

So, it was interesting to look back on past droughts and read the comments.

1850...A severe drought ravaged New South Wales. Landholders in the Bogan, Castlereagh, Lachlan, and Macquarie Rivers areas experiencing heavy stock losses. It was a wet year on the coast.

1858...A very severe drought in the central-west and north-west of New South Wales. Broken in October, but not before heavy loss of stock in these areas.

1865...Queensland has experienced one of its most severe droughts.

1877...By August the entire colony was in the grip of severe drought conditions. Some areas gained relief in November but, overall, there have been disastrous stock losses.

1888...This has been a severe drought year for Queensland, rainfall being way below normal. What rainfall was to be had, fell in February. In the Maranoa native scrub died and great numbers of native animals perished.

1902...This has been the climax of eight poor years, with less than ten inches of rain over the greater part of the south-west of the State.

1915...One of Queensland's worst droughts.

1919...Sees the continuation of the 1918 drought; wet season and winter rains failed in the south. Spring rains well below normal. Disastrous for primary industries.

1926-27; 1940; 1944; 1951-52 were all severe drought years, with 1944 being the third successive year of drought.

In 1877, when the entire colony suffered terrible drought conditions, with 'disastrous' stock losses, there would have been little in the way of harmful emissions affecting the 'ozone layer', so, are things now so very different?

Interesting question, isn't it?

(Thanks, David)

RAG WRITERS

The former Criminal Justice Commissioner described a daily newspaper as a "deplorable rag". He is not alone in that opinion of the "fourth estate" as the following quotations reveal:-

"There is but one way for a newspaperman to look at a politician, and that is down." Frank H Simonds.

"Doctors bury their mistakes. Lawyers hang them. But journalists put theirs on the front page." Anon.

"You cannot hope to bribe or twist
(Thank God) the British journalist.
But seeing what man will do
Unbribed, there's no occasion to." Humbert Wolfe.

"Nobuddy kin talk as interestin' as th' feller that's not hampered by facts or information." Kin Hubbard.

Cheers

Bernie Credlin
EDITOR