

WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

SPECIAL FOOTBRAWL EDITION

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REST IN PEACE

"Honk" Morrison died in Bundaberg on 17th January after a long battle with cancer. Roy Desmond Morrison was born in Mareeba on 19th May 1929, one of a family of seven. After the sale of their tobacco farm at Dimbulah the family moved to Cairns where Roy attended North Cairns State School and St Joseph's Convent.

With the threat of Japanese invasion the family were evacuated to Mount Garnet. Honk had very happy memories of times with a large extended family around Mount Garnet and Coolgarra.

Honk left school to work with "Tableland Tin Dredging" then at sixteen at the Mount Mulligan Coal Mine followed by employment with the Mareeba Meatworks and as a fireman with the Railways.

In 1952 he joined 2nd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment and served in Korea and Malaya. On leave from Overseas Roy met Daphne. They were married in Brisbane in 1955. Honk announced his intentions to his family in Mareeba:-

"Getting married this afternoon stop Love Roy stop"

While Daphne awaited the birth of their first child, Bill, Honk served in Malaya. Their second child Rhonda, was born in Malaya.

Upon his discharge, Honk joined the Commission at Walkamin. He remained with it for 32 years and worked on many projects including Tinaroo, Callide, Coolmunda, Beardmore, Maroon and Wivenhoe Dams and the Bundaberg, Burdekin and Mary Rivers Projects. He retired in 1989 and after a time at Maryborough he moved to Bundaberg. He is survived by his wife Daphne and son Bill, daughters Rhonda, Narelle and Louise and their families, brothers Doog, Rod, Keith and Alan and sister Noela.
We extend our sympathy to the family.

Stan Reid We were remiss in neglecting to mention the death of Stan (S.G.) Reid who died on 4th August 1994 aged 83 years. Stan was Accountant in the Irrigation & Water Supply Commission, the Lands Department and the Main Roads Commission before being appointed Government Printer. Mrs Reid died in March 1995. Quite a lot of our members received their clerical training under Stan.

Jack Haren died on 21st January 1996 aged 87 years. Jack served as District Engineer in Longreach in the post-war years before leaving the Commission to work elsewhere. He rejoined in the '70's in the old Project Planning branch and worked on the investigation of several major schemes. He is survived by his wife Vera and three daughters and their families.

Lawrie O'Sullivan passed away in October 1995 aged 71 years. Lawrie's service with the Commission included the operation of the concrete batching plant during the construction of Wuruma Dam. Lawrie was born at Selene in the Monto area where he was a noted athlete and sportsman. He was also an accomplished musician. Lawrie is survived by his wife Mavis and four children.

Neville Cassidy will be well known to members of the old Artesian and Stock Water Branch. When employed by the Primary Industries Department and after retirement, Neville spent much time poring over artesian water analyses as part of his research into irrigation in Western Queensland based on deep borewater. Neville died in January 1996 aged 90 years.

Joseph Pickett - In the last Newsletter we extended our sympathy to Mrs Carol Davison whose Mother had died. Sadly we now pass on our condolences on the death of her father. Mr Pickett took the ashes of his wife to England for interment and while there he too passed away. Carol and her family made a hurried visit to the U.K. for his funeral.

TURNERS' TRAVELS

Keith and Sheila Turner returned late last year from a visit to the U.K. and Ireland. A major reason for the visit was to attend the "Reunion of the Forgotten Fleet" in Portsmouth. Here are extracts from their letter written by Sheila:-

"We attended the British Fleet Reunion. It was an incredible affair planned for well over a year. originally it was to be in the Guildhall, but so many veterans registered, 6500 plus wives and family members from all over the world, that the venue was changed to two large marquees on Southsea Common, all furnished with chairs and tables, and even carpet. All sorts of information was provided at the registration desk. All the ships names and crests were arranged along a wall and underneath each were the names of those from that ship who had registered to attend. A tannoy system passed messages on to help locate old friends etc. It was all so emotional at times.

We had a concert on the common, a reception in the marquees and then on Sunday morning a march past of all veterans. The Duke of Edinburgh took the salute and after the Church Service, he wandered along the ranks. He spotted Keith's Aussie hat and stopped to talk to him. We met up with 8 of Keith's old mates including one who had been Bestman at our wedding and whom Keith hadn't seen since they parted company in Colombo after the War.

We managed to catch up with friends and relations, who are pretty wide-spread. We did most of our travelling by train, coach or Tube. We even managed a trip up to Scotland - Inverness, Kyle of Lochalsh, and over to the Isle of Skye. A wonderful and very beautiful trip. We managed a trip to Ireland which was lovely. Our coach host gave us a history lesson as we went around and Oliver Cromwell featured strongly. I think he must have been the most hated man everywhere in the British Isles. They even dug up his body....and cut off his head!"

We were surprised that Ireland is now a mecca for European back packers as it is involved with the Common Market, and is receiving assistance to build a ring-road around Dublin. This will be great as it will get through traffic out of the city. At the moment it is chaos."

Thanks Sheila

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON LARGE DAMS

Malcolm Pegg attended the July 1995 ICOLD Executive Meeting in The Hague and undertook two study tours, one in the Netherlands and the other in northern Norway. He gave us the following:

"The tour in Netherland was based on a 3 nights stay in each of two hotels - the Kurhaus on the beachfront at Scheveningen, a suburb of Hague and at the Krasnapolski in Amsterdam. Both of these are heritage buildings from last century, maintained in excellent state of repair and are of a first class standard. The technical side of the tour concentrated on the storm surge barriers constructed or being constructed as part of the country's coastal dyke system. As well as these several internal dykes were

visited and an insight given into the development, drainage and agricultural system of Holland's Polder system.

We were also given the opportunity to hear one of their specialists describe the movement in the past 50 years to use polder development to treat the highly contaminated water of the Rhine and other rivers entering the Netherlands. As part of this we travelled over the Zuider Zee to see polders used to contain highly contamination waters which then overflowed into polders of lesser and lesser contamination until the main area was relatively pure.

Extensive use is made of these polders in the Zuider Zee and the mouths of the Rhine and Scheldt for the development of fresh and seawater marine life. It is estimated that the amount of protein harvested from these areas now exceeds that of an equivalent area of normal agricultural cropping.

Tours to see these features also exposed us to the beauty of Holland's flat landscape, with its multitude of flowers, greenhouses, windmills, canals and old buildings. Visits were also made to the porcelain works and the hydraulics laboratories in Delft.

By contrast our tour in Norway was among rugged mountain ranges with rock walled fjords, reindeer farming and minimal agriculture. Being well north of the Arctic Circle, the sun shone all day except when obscured by low cloud and fog.

Our visit to North Cape was affected by a low moist cold fog with visibility often below 2 metres. An early feature of the tour was a visit to world renowned Maelstrom. This was interesting but the cutting arctic winds rendered the outdoors unpleasant. By contrast the visits to the underground power stations which were at a uniform temperature in the low 20's, were very pleasant. because of the constant year round temperatures and artificial lighting the main halls feature plants such as ivy in contrast to the rough walls. Another interesting feature was an introduction to Sami (Laplander) culture, including a freezing ride in an open boat and lectures and discussions with the Sami guides.

Once again food was an important part of both Tours. Unfortunately both countries depend heavily on seafoods, in particular cod, so that otherwise excellent cooking tended to become monotonous, although broken by the occasional special meals of reindeer, stroganoff, or roast lamb. As we sipped our aquavit prior to the final dinner after visiting the Cape, I was informed that the wine that night would be Australian. He named it, but it was one I've never heard of before (or since). nevertheless I assured him it would be an excellent choice, which it proved to be. In all, both tours were highly enjoyable.

Thank you Malcolm

PRYOR'S PRIX

An Associate leaked the news to a recent WRROAI function that I was at the Adelaide Grand Prix. let no-one ask "How could he find Adelaide when he couldn't get to the Maritime Museum Wharf on time?"

It is true that I was at the Grand Prix, but it is not true that I was asked to drive in Damon Hill's place. This was just as well because the proceedings looked foolhardy, not to mention potentially lethal. Hotted up HQ Holden sedans circa 1976 skidding all over the place, F18D fighters from the US navy beating up Adelaide at 150 metres and 800 km/h, thunderous backfiring of F1 racing cars braking at Stag Corner followed by earshattering chainsaw screeches as they accelerated up Brabham straight. The seriously rich racing their quarter million dollar Porsche street cars, RAAF Roulettes flying too close to each other. Parachutes appearing through cloud at 200 metres trailing smoke and giant flags,

and on the final day, over two hundred thousand sausage eating, beer drinking South Australians all muttering darkly that Jeff Kennett will stuff it in '96.

That was not all. I had a room at the Royal Adelaide Hospital residential wing, in fact in the Sisters' wing. Because they have male nurses these days, the toilet and shower rooms were unisex, a concept utterly beyond my experience, given the wartime years where male and female members of the forces generally were separated by several miles not to mention the odd ocean.

Do not use Queensland bar idiom in Adelaide. After a warm morning at the track, I sauntered into a likely looking pub which had cold bottled ales on display and asked the young female in charge for a XXXX.

"What is that?"

"It's a Queensland beer."

"Haven't got any of that"

"I'll have a Eumundi then."

"YOU WANT MY MONEY?"

I got out before the cops arrived, and settled for a quick Coopers at a distant bar.....

..... Believe me!

Thanks Ian Ripley

SURVEY SHOWS SWING TO THE GOVERNMENT
(From our very own "Peter Charleton")

Members and friends who were lucky enough to attend the Brisbane Xmas luncheon at COTAH, were forced (yes) to complete a survey form to while away the time. After lunch speakers were inclined to do that anyway.

The Executive didn't really expect much from the survey; it was too hard. People were enjoying themselves too much, some were less capable than before they started lunch, etc. However, a clear picture did emerge, with little evidence of double or blurred vision.

Those present might have been a slightly biased (spelt with a "B") sample, but casual inspection showed they were mostly the same people who were at the other activities.

Some of the results are:

- Everyone was enjoying the lunch, especially the reminiscences with friends, at an excellent venue.
- There were many suggestions for new activities, and repeats of previous ones. Boat trips (with a bar of course), bus trips (but not to Toowoomba), a trip down memory lane with visits to WRC works in South East Queensland, were popular suggestions.
- By far the most popular of the present activities was the "Lunchtime Smoko". This activity scored more than twice any other, regardless of the scoring system adopted.
- Other popular ones were: The Evening Dinner - The Trip on the Forceful - The Bowls Social Day - The Golf Day

It seems clear that the real desires of the membership as represented at the lunch, are to get together in peaceful, not too adventurous, surroundings and to TALK.

The Executive is grateful to all those who put in the effort to give us the information.

Thanks David

REGIONAL NEWS

MAREEBA

The Christmas luncheon was held at the Mareeba R.S.L on 1st December. The attendance was 28 and all seemed to enjoy themselves. The gathering welcomed Maryke Truss, formerly Maryke Tow, who has now become a member. The function was organised by the Turners and the Fossets to whom thanks are due.

Keith and Sheila have returned from their visit to Britain and Ireland and have contributed an article to this edition.

BUNDABERG

Roy Maxted sent his usual newsy notes. Sadly much of these are now in the REST IN PEACE paragraphs.

Roy did enclose a newspaper cutting telling of Roy and Iris' investment in a \$60 000 taxi to cater for wheelchair bound customers. The taxi is equipped with an electronically operated hydraulic lift. I am sure all members wish the Maxteds every success in this venture.

George Beran has written to tell us that he has completed the examinations for the office of Justice of the Peace and is now a Justice of the Peace (Qualified). Congratulations George. Also received from George were photographs of groups at the Christmas luncheon and a copy of a speech George intended to give at a farewell to Mick Williams. The photos may be seen at the Annual General meeting and copies purchased. The speech won't be available, nor can it be printed here as it may compound the problems your Editor has.

As noted above Mick Williams has left the Department to join Environment and Heritage. Good luck Mick and Pam and congratulations on avoiding George's bucket.

ROCKHAMPTON

John Moreton has changed employers and is now handling garbage. Don't rush out to leave a cold bottle with your wheelie bin, John doesn't collect rubbish, he is planning where to put it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It has been a harrowing time for your Editor. Firstly Stan James disputed the wording in his advertisement in that the words "pre-loved" were omitted and refused to pay the bill.

Then Jim Ole took umbrage at the publicity given to his 60th birthday. I have been deeply lacerated by passages from "Gentleman" Jim's letter. Try these:- "Your so called newspaper is a source of embarrassment to me and has brought on repetitive stress headaches and migraine attacks.little regard for my dignity.unseemly prods that birthday presents were expected.....unbecoming editorial liberty brings shame on me.....editorial claptrap...and finally.....clean up this insulting rag or risk certain black listing." (The really offensive passages have been omitted. Ed.)

REMEMBER? Karol Netzel retired from the old Commission in February 1978 at the age of 65 after 23 years of hydrographic work. His life story, like that of so many others of our colleagues deserves to be told. Karol was born in 1913 in Poland when it was part of the Russian Empire. His father owned a substantial estate of which Karol took over the management after gaining a Diploma in Agriculture. The farms prospered until World War II began and they then suffered great damage. During the German occupation the farm was squeezed to provide more and more food for the occupiers. As the Soviet Army drove the Germans out, the owners of estates were being imprisoned, shot or sent to labour camps. In January 1945, with the Russian Army only 25 kms away, Karol, by then married to Halina and with a 15 months old son, left their estate with two employees, four horses and two carts, headed for the American Zone in Upper Bavaria where they arrived six months later.

They barely survived the next four years in Germany and in 1949 they sailed from Naples for Australia in the "Fairsea" and arrived in Newcastle on 19th August.

Karol's first job was in Army stores in Brisbane followed by work as a Field Assistant with the Department of Agriculture and Stock on the Tobacco Experimental Station at Mareeba. the 1953 recession brought this to an end and the family moved back to Brisbane where they bought a house at Corinda. Jobs at Tangalooma, cutting up whales (70-80 hours per week, 28 successive days or nights) and in a plywood factory followed a lengthy period of unemployment. On 7th February 1955 Karol started work as a Survey Labourer in the Surface Water branch of the old Commission.

Highlights of his service include measuring the Burdekin at Sellheim from 50 to 690 000 cusecs with the late John McKinley and securing full rating curves for the Burnett at Ceratodus and Eidsvold, Barambah Creek at Stonelands and Ban Ban and the Stuart at Proston. All of these played a role in the design and construction of major dams. Towards the end of his service he worked with the late Keith Smythe for six years changing manual records to computer data and concerting imperial measurements to metric.

On the personal side, Karol is proud of the University Education they gave to son Richard before free Universities or Austudy and of wife Halina and her award of the order of Australia,

The Netzels have travelled extensively, much of it since retirement and have visited Poland which after 34 years proved to be a painful emotional experience for Karol.

Karol describes himself as "fully integrated in Australian society with a bit of sentimental feeling for the country of his birth still left. His loyalty to Australia is deep and lasting after this sunny land has given him a "fair go" and the opportunity to have a decent life, well into old age."

The Netzels are moving into a retirement home and we wish them well there.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

HOW TO TRY KEROSENE -Before purchasing, have a small quantity poured into a glass or cup. let the storekeeper apply a lighted match; if pure, the oil will burn lazily and with a smoky flame; if impure, the purchaser will suddenly see a bright flame, and hear a loud report, followed by the demolition of the premises and instantaneous disappearance of the shopman, who will thus pay the forfeit of his adulteration - Bendigo Independent, 7th July 1862.

WATER STORAGE'S

Most of the irrigation storage's in Queensland were seriously depleted during the recent severe and lengthy drought, arguably the worst in white settlement. Southern Queensland dams were particularly affected. The minimum stored volumes for a few of these are shown below as percentages of useable capacity together with the recent readings:

DAM	MINIMUM	WHEN	PRESENT - %
Beardmore	0	Jan 95	100
Bjelke-Petersen	3	Jan 95	100
Boondooma	4	Oct 95	100
Coolmunda	3	Feb 95	100
Fred Haigh	10	Dec 95	31
Glenlyon	2	Jan 95	79
Leslie	3	Feb 95	50
Maroon	9	Nov 95	28
Moogerah	0	Nov 95	27
Wuruma	0	Nov 95	26

With the "Wet" rapidly disappearing the prospects are not good for some of these storage's.

WATER RESOURCES-WHERE HAVE THEY ALL GONE??

We had hoped to bring your part 11 of this thrilling saga but alas it was not finished in time. Will the Water Resources Commission rise from the dead? Watch this space.

SMOKO

The February smoko held at the Public Service Club, attracted 27 members many of whom commented favourably on the venue, the service and the food. the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held at the same location at 11am on Wednesday 10th April and will be followed by a light lunch and drinks. We hope for a good attendance.

GEMS? FROM KEMSLEY (Courier Mail)

Comedy is a funny way of being serious
 Give me patience quickly
 I'll procrastinate later
 Bacteria: the back door to a Cafeteria
 The absent are always wrong
 I'd give my right ear to paint like Van Gogh
 Tolkien is hobbit forming and
 Alas poor Kciroy - I knew him backwards

WHEN BALLY HAD A HAIR-CUT

The following lines were penned in 1962 by Olly Jarrett, a driller in the old Water Resources Branch about his superior, Tommy Lord, whose hair had deserted him:

*Once Bally was proud of the hair on his head,
 It charmed the tarts in the days that are dead,
 Rich auburn curls hung over his brow,
 You wouldn't believe it to look at him now.*

But whether it was due to a frost or a drought,
Or tropic conditions he couldn't make out,
But ringlets and curls began to decay,
Like leaves in the Autumn they faded away.

That seedlings might flourish he cherished a hope,
And treated them daily with water and soap.
He tried hair restorer, bought bottles galore,
And each of them left him worse off than before.

So he kept on his hat and tried to behave,
As if nothing was wrong with his permanent wave,
Still strange 'tis to say that the hair on his chest,
Grew thick as the grass after rain in the West.

In silent procession the years came and went,
Growing older and wiser he ceased to lament,
Said he, "Hair and brains - a man can't have both,
(Has anyone seen a bald-headed goat).
The jibbers and jokers can all go to pot,
Let them, if they like, call me Bally or not."

One day in town, to be proper and prim,
He sought out a Barber and asked for a trim,
The scissors man, smiling, said "Sir, take a seat."
Then wrapped him around like a ghost in a sheet,
He eyed the bald cranium and thought, "What a wreck"
Then snipped a few hairs from the back of his neck.

With a swish of his towel he finished the job,
Then stuck out his hand and said "Seven bob"
Old Bally, astounded, arose and said, "What!,
I've sheared three merinos for a quarter of that.

"Bill Sykes isn't dead, bushrangers not in it,
The work you have done hasn't taken a minute".
"Now hold your horses" the barber replied,
"In talking so silly you sure have a hide."

The law of the canelands applies to this shop,
The greater the price, the poorer the crop"
"When you get the gang, and they'll be in soon,
You'll pay a lot more when they cut the ratoon."

"As I don't want a row, or to paint the place red,
Get out, or you'll go on the top of your head."
Old Bally retreated, he didn't want strife,
Got a carton of beer, and went home to his wife.

Cheers

Bernie Credlin
EDITOR