

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

published monthly, except December

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm
in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall

Vol. 8 No. 1

JANUARY 1992

Welcome to the January Newsletter.

As usual, there will be no meeting this month, but here is your newsletter to keep you in touch with the local history scene.

You may like to give some consideration to the possible involvement of our Society in the forthcoming Local Government Centenary celebrations (see letter p.2)because we will have to make plans for our activities very soon.

If you still have a little spare time before the pace of life speeds up again after the Christmas break, there are some suggestions for a little light reading and there is a request for information from Mal Grant of Gisborne Historical Society.

Our next meeting will be on TUESDAY, February 18th but there will be another newsletter before then to remind you.

City
of the
'90s

Address correspondence to:
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CITY OF MORWELL
P.O. BOX 708
MORWELL, VICTORIA 3840
Telephone: (051) 34 4744
Fax: (051) 34 3368
Ausdoc: No. DX 84011

4 December 1991

Your Ref:

In reply please
quote our Ref: 304-5
ARB:MN

Mrs. E. McMaster
Morwell Historical Society
2 Harold Street
MORWELL 3840

Dear Mrs. McMaster,

MORWELL CENTENARY 1992

The City of Morwell will celebrate the Centenary of the Municipality of Morwell in 1992.

The Council is currently organising a number of celebratory activities which will occur on dates to commemorate significant milestones in our history.

Many sporting, recreational and cultural groups have already indicated their interest in dedicating particular events to commemorate the City's Centenary. As one such organisation, I would invite you to consider staging an event or dedicating what is already a regular, or annual event in honour of the City's Centenary. The Council will be limiting its own activities to the following two dates:-

- . 24 May, Centenary of the formation of the Municipality
- . 14 September, Centenary of the first Council Meeting.

The first date, Sunday, 24 May 1992, will involve a Community Fair based in the Civic Centre gardens, at which the whole Community will be invited to participate through staging of events, exhibitions or displays.

Accordingly, an invitation is extended to your organisation to consider both of the following proposals:-

1. That your organisation consider dedicating an event during the year to the City Centenary.
2. That your organisation consider participating in the Community Fair on Sunday, 24 May 1992.

It is proposed to publish a Centenary Calendar which will highlight Community events during 1992.

2/....

YOU ARE INVITED

to the

1st "BACK-TO" HAUNTED HILLS HERNES OAK

It will be held at Hernes Oak Recreation Reserve, Old Princes Highway, on **SATURDAY MARCH 7 1992**, from 10 a.m. onwards.

The occasion is to commemorate the publishing of the history and story of our small settlement, which I have compiled.

The book, "**ACROSS THE OLD BUSH TRACK**", will be launched that day and will then be on sale for **\$27.50** per copy. Please make sure of your copy by attending, and to renew old friendships.

Help make this a day to remember, a warm welcome awaits you.

OR

B.Y.O. PICNIC - SOME LIGHT REFRESHMENTS will be on sale.

ALL ENQUIRES TO

DOROTHY TAYLOR (SQUIRES)

17 DENISE STREET,

MORWELL VICTORIA 3840.

PHONE (051) 337701

"Lions" will be catering.

You are also invited to meet again at Apex Park, Moe, the following day, Sunday, March 8 from 11 a.m. onwards, B.Y.O. everything.

Mugs embossed with "**GARDEN MOTORS**" will be on sale both days for \$4.

To avoid disappointment fill out form below and send with cheque to -

JIM MCALLISTER

6 WILLIAM STREET,

NEWBOROUGH VICTORIA 3825.

PHONE (051) 271418

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF MUGS _____

I enclose my cheque for \$ _____, payable to "back-to" Hernes Oak.

THE EAST GIPPSLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

has pleasure in announcing that

Ms. HELEN CLOTHIER

has received

THE AWARD OF MERIT

from

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

The presentation will be made by

R.H.S.V Councillor Mr. John Murphy

at the Museum Macarthur Street Bairnsdale

at 2.30 p.m.

on Saturday the 14th March 1992.

The Committee and Members

invite representatives of your Society

to join them

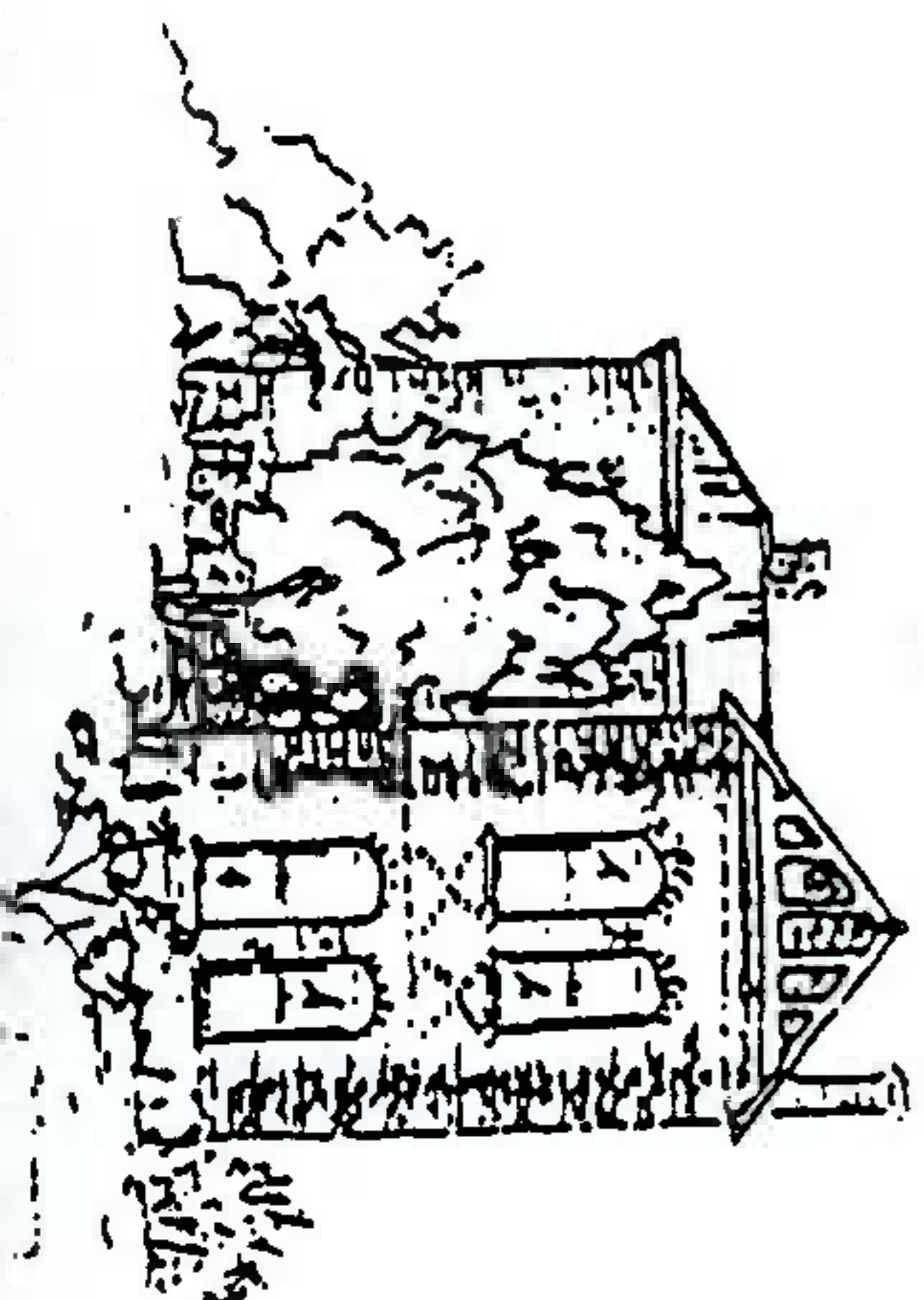
on this occasion.

Afternoon Tea

will be served after the presentation.

R.S.V.P. Sat. 29th February.
P.O. Box 8 Bairnsdale, 3875.

The Museum will be open from 10.30. a.m.



HOLIDAY READING

'OVER THE TOP WITH JIM' - Hugh Lunn - Q.U.P. Paperback.

For those who missed the serialisation of this highly entertaining book on 'Australia All Over' (A.B.C.Radio), here is a happy nostalgia trip back to the 1950s when Hugh Lunn, now a respected journalist, was growing up in Brisbane. As the 'blurb' on the cover indicates: "This wonderfully warm Cold War memoir is full of unforgettable characters and events. It follows the formative years of young Hugh Lunn from the home front to original sin and first love. It also charts his over-the-top adventures with the amazing and inventive Jim Eggeroff. In the background the 1940s and 50s crackle unmistakably to life, from the radio serials of the austere postwar years to the rock-and-rolling years."

'PORTRAITS' - Timothy Lee/Barrie Turpin - Hardback

A collection of 26 portraits (in black-and-white photography) accompanied by a pen-portrait of each person. The Introduction to the book states:

"The man who captured Hitler's deputy, Rudolph Hess, the last of the Gippsland aboriginal basket weavers, the man who saved the life of a future Australian Prime Minister and Australia's oldest working tax-payer.

These are some of the extraordinary people in 'Portraits'.

Barrie Turpin's stunning photography and Timothy Lee's evocative text, for the first time ever capture the unique character of South eastern Australia through the eyes of some of its most remarkable people: naturalists, artists, inventors, miners, bushmen and others.

Some have played a role in world events; others lead lives barely touched by the Twentieth Century.

Tales of the notorious Kelly gang, the Man from Snowy River, unsolved murders, hardships and triumphs... and lives and legends from a vanishing breed of people that have helped shape the face of Australia.

'WITH ITS HAT ABOUT ITS EARS' - Recollections of the Bush School - Hank Nelson-
A.B.C.Books - Paperback.

This book came into being in company with a radio series produced by the A.B.C. in 1989. The 'blurb' on the cover runs thus:

"I'm the new teacher. I've been sent from Perth"

"Hang on till I tie the dogs up".

In that dialogue there is the apprehension of thousands of first meetings between teachers and communities.

The weatherboard galvanised iron or stone one-teacher schools began their rapid spread across rural Australia with the selectors and compulsory education acts of

' WITH ITS HAT ABOUT ITS EARS' (cont).

the 1870s. They were the schools of the blockies and the cockies, the dairy farmers, potato growers, wheat, wool and fat lamb farmers, cane growers, orchardists, railway and road workers, storekeepers, timber workers, publicans and policemen, shearers and fencers, and all the others that made up rural communities.

Since 1930 over 6000 one-teacher schools have closed. With their passing the map of rural Australia has been thinned. Hank Nelson examines what was taught and what is now remembered.

The teachers who went into the communities to eat rhubarb and rabbit, dance to the accordion on the polished school floor, take a turn in the family bath on Friday, and play tennis on dirt courts were critical observers of behaviour across Australia.

'With its Hat about its ears' is rich with the nostalgia of sack race and barn' dance. Hank Nelson has linked the reminiscences of teachers and pupils with detailed archival research. The result is engaging anecdote and significant social history".

Note: The title comes from the poem "The Old Bush School" by John O'Brien, which

begins: 'Tis a queer, old battered landmark that belongs to other years;

With the dog-leg fence around it, and its hat about its ears,

And the cow-bell in the gum-tree, and the bucket on the stool,

There's a motley host of memories round that old bush school - "

' SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE ' - Alan M. Nixon - Five Mile Press - Hardback.

This book presents the war years of 1914-1918 through the letters to his family of Sgt. Roy Whitelaw, 1st A.I.F. His story is typical of that of thousands of Australians who served in Egypt and France during the 1st World War and his letters were his lifeline to a better, more secure world to which he would one day return. Added to the letters are a number of personal photographs which Roy Whitelaw took with his forbidden camera, hid from authorities and censors and sent to his family. Author Allan Nixon has also included in the book a great deal of supplementary material which will prove fascinating to anyone interested in the period of World War 1.

The book is attractively presented, profusely illustrated and is available at the almost unbelievable price of \$4.99 from Book City, Traralgon Centre Plaza.

HELP WANTED

Readers may remember a request from Mal Grant of Gisborne Historical Society for any information, photographs etc. concerning cars and their owners prior to World War 1.

We were able to sent him some information for which he was very grateful and he is asking for some further assistance.,here is an extract from his letter:

" Who built motor cycle(s) in Morwell around 1910/11? Was there a local pushbike builder who had a sideline in fitting motors? I say this as, having researched thousands of items, somewhere I came across the following:-

A 'Morwell - Precision' motor cycle. The Precision part was actually the imported engine - many local manufacturers used Precision engines but being Morwell-Precision of course makes me wonder who/why the Morwell prefix? Thus I began my search and found that the original, or at least first known owner of either the first or only 'Morwell - Precision' was Alfred Leslie DOWNEY of Longwarry South. He registered his motorcycle in 1910 - then the bike was sold to A.BOOOTH of Bunyip around February 1911 - then the last I can find of it was when P.C.PRIESTLEY of 29 Victoria Parade Albert Park became owner in July 1913. So that is just another of my mysteries - who built the 'Morwell - Precision' ?"

Mal also mentions his interest in the reference on p. 56 'Steamhorse to Power' to Dr.Horne of Traralgon, who was fatally injured when his car hit a bridge on the way to Rosedale in 1908.

Mal says: "... for about two years I have been trying to locate inquest records of his accident as I believe him to have been Victoria's first motor car accident fatality - there were earlier records of motor cycle accidents . Dr. Horne,I believe,owned a Singer motor car of which somewhere I think I have a photograph."

Anyone with any information for Mal can contact Secretary Elsie McMaster (phone (051)341149) who will pass it on.



● The pressure is on . . . fireman Richard Bearman at yesterday's ceremony. Picture: NORM OORLOFF

Fired engine keeps on pumping

IT may be an oldie, but this 1945 Dodge fire engine can still pack a pump.

It's been 46 years since the Yallourn Fire Brigade truck KO'd its first blaze and yesterday it officially retired to the Melbourne Fire Museum. Imported from the US,

By **BRAD NEWSOME**

the veteran truck was bought by the SEC to service Yallourn town, mine and power plant.

Back then it was a state-of-the-art appliance — one of the first to be fitted with a hose

reel. It remained in service until the early 1980s.

The Melbourne Fire Museum's Transport Officer, Mr Bill Severn, said yesterday he was thrilled with his latest acquisition.

"We're always pleased to receive any old ve-

hicles, but this is the only one of its kind I've ever seen," he said.

Mr Severn said although the truck's cab and chassis were imported, the fire equipment was installed by a South Melbourne company, L.F. & A. Mitchell Pty Ltd.