

THE MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Published every month except December.

The Society meets every 3rd Tuesday of the Month 7:30pm Collins St. State School Library

WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

This month's newsletter contains some interesting items from early editions of Morwell Advertiser. The clarity of these items is consistent with the age of the newspaper. Thanks go to Claire Wood and the Latrobe Valley Regional Library for these articles.

Members may be aware of a current series of letters to the L.V. Express regarding the possible change of name from "Churchill" to "Hazelwood." For the record, this newsletter contains some of these articles. Without becoming too political, does the society have a point of view to express?

The editor of the October newsletter apologises for an error in the "What's in a name?" (page 8) trivia test. The error occurs in line 4. The correct version re-appears in this newsletter with a reduced list of names from which to choose.

Thanks to Jess Cafiso for the article from the conversation with Mrs Olver. Jess is correct in making the point that reminiscences contribute to our social history and are therefore valuable for others to read. The newspaper article (L.V Express September 29, 1987) on Mrs Elsie Wilson shows just what can be written and recorded.

Morwell continues to alter as we head into 1988. The current development of land immediately east of the Mid-Valley Shopping Centre will soon erase part of Morwell. Also, the two houses on the east corner of McDonald Street - Princes Highway are for sale. Obviously this corner is destined for commercial development. One of these houses is a relatively fine example of early Morwell architecture. We do not have many examples in Morwell.

MR GREEN'S NEW ESTABLISHMENT.

Nearly thirty years ago, just after the Gippsland railway line was opened, there was just the usual pub, store, and blacksmith's shop in Morwell. Mr J. Green, who then had a drapery business in Rosedale, being a shrewd man, observed that "coming events were casting their shadows before." He recognised that Morwell was a "coming place," and resolved forthwith to open a branch business here. A block of land in Tarwin street was secured, opposite to where the Morwell State School (conducted by the late Mrs Rintoull, then Miss M'Crory) was situated, and directly opposite old post office site. Mr W. Allen, one of the first builders to enter Gippsland, and even then a resident of Rosedale for more than twenty years, was engaged to erect the premises. A galvanised iron building, afterwards known as the "Iron Store" was duly erected, and in those days was considered a first-class place, and much before most of the other buildings in the township. In due time all arrangements were complete for opening of branch, except one very important matter, that of securing a manager. Mr Green, however, had a trusted, and reliable assistant in his shop at Rosedale, namely Mr Andrew Gay, who accepted Mr Green's offer to manage the Morwell branch. In due time the "Iron Store" was opened, the manager sleeping on the premises. Business, however, speedily increased, and the manager's sleeping apartments were required for stock. Mr Allen's services were again brought into requisition, and he built rooms at the rear. Still the business, under Mr Gay's capable management, continued to increase. The additional rooms were required for more stock. Mr Green then erected a nice dwelling house close to the shop, for the manager and his family, and requirements were thus met for several years. Subsequently Mr Gay, who was very popular with all sections of the community passed away, death being due to cancer. His son, Mr A. Gay, who was also in Mr Green's employ succeeded his father in the management of the Morwell branch, which he conducted successfully. He, however, went to South Africa a few years ago, and the management of the business fell to Mr Green's eldest son, (Mr Arthur Green) who has been equally as successful in the management of the business as his predecessors. For a considerable time the old store and additions were found to be inadequate to meet the requirements of increasing business, and for the third time the services of Mr W. Allen, still of Rosedale, but now an old man, were sought. Mr Green had such confidence in Mr Allen that he simply explained to him that new premises were required, and gave him the dimensions of the buildings he wanted him to erect. Mr Allen did the rest. He was architect, builder, clerk of works, and everything else thrown in. The work

was so planned off that Mr Green was enabled to carry on business as usual during the progress of the work, without inconvenience to customers, and it might be here said that the whole work has been carried out to the entire satisfaction of Mr Green, senr., and that of the manager, (Mr A. Green). Although not generally known here Mr Allen is by no means a stranger to Morwell. In addition to the work carried out by him for Mr Green, he also erected Mr J. Rintoull's present blacksmith's shop. During the progress of that building Mr Rintoull's old shop was destroyed by fire, when Mr Allen and his men rendered valuable assistance in saving buggies and other stock. Then in 1887, on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee, when there were great celebrations, Mr Allen was specially engaged to roast a bullock in the show grounds. It rained in torrents all day, but Mr Allen succeeded in his difficult task, and there are still many in the district who remember eating a piece of that bullock, which was donated by the late Mr John Macmillan.

Mr Green's new establishment is 52 feet in length and 45 feet in width, with 14 feet ceilings. The structure, which is of brick (manufactured by Morwell Pottery Coy.) is divided into two compartments, one being 30ft in width and the other 15 feet. There are separate entrance doors to each compartment, whilst entrance is also gained to each place from the inside by a large archway in the centre of dividing wall. The ceilings, which are pine lined, are painted a light grey, with blue bordering; the flooring being of Jarrah timber from Western Australia. The windows extend right across the front of shop, in very large panes, 10 feet in height. The doors are also of glass to within eighteen inches of floor, and are fitted with Norton's patent attachments to prevent slamming. The brickwork in front of building has been cemented, and the footpath asphalted. The verandahs striking one with massive cast glass and fringe and panneling. Above the verandah the face of building is set off with Wunderlich steel lining, upon which name, etc. is painted in large letters.

Inside the establishment are 75 feet of fine counters, with panel fronts and New Zealand Kauri tops French polished, which are very striking. The interior of windows—for show purposes—is 12 feet by 6 feet, and 13 feet in height. They are fitted up with mirrors, gilded rods, and other up-to-date fittings, and enclosed with panel work and glass to ceiling. There is a cashier's desk, close to archway, which commands a view of both shops, and four large show tables in the centre of main shop, also nickel racks, mirrors, etc., etc., which add to the attractiveness of the interior. There are separate departments for various goods. On the right, in large shop, are haberdashery, fancy goods, gloves, laces, Manchester goods, etc., whilst on the left are mens' clothing and hats, dresses, underclothing, etc. and in the centre millinery. In the other compartment are boots and shoes and bull stock. Each department is replete in every way, and to say the least, it is a fine and well-stocked establishment.

MORWELL ADVERTISER
APRIL 12, 1907

litted bodily to a great height. At the same time another whirlwind came from the west end of Nicholson street, and the combined forces junctioned at the eastern end of Main street. A horseman approaching from the bridge turned back, and leaving the horse, jumped into the gardens for safety. A cyclist was blown over and his machine wrecked, but he escaped injury. Sheets of iron, brick and huge pieces of timber were whirled into the air like feathers. They did damage in their descent by striking the roofs and sides of buildings in their downward course. The whirlwind proceeded across the Mitchell River again within a mile from where it first struck it. Boating parties on the river had already scurried for the shore, and fortunately escaped. The storm seemed to spend itself in Jones's Bay, about a mile further on, clearing a track through a paddock of maize. Former residents of Western Australia describe the visitor as a "willy-wully." Norton's Club Hotel and stables were the most damaged buildings, but the two-story brick building occupied by Mr O. Marriott, machinist, and Mr G. Dean, cab proprietor, received a great strain, cracks showing through the brick walls. The entire brick front of Mr James Taylor's shop was blown out, a large wooden building close by, formerly occupied by Messrs Permewan, Wright and Co., was entirely blown down. Serious damage was done to Hayward's butcher shop, one corner of the brickwork being demolished. Norris's Club Hotel had a marvellous escape, only a portion of the rear being damaged. Mr Saiter's brick residence had a portion of the roof carried away, whilst at least a dozen other buildings were more or less damaged.

District News.

Boolarra

A plain and fancy dress ball, in aid of Red Cross Funds, will be held in Local Mechanics' Hall on Monday evening next, 11th inst. Prizes will be awarded for best fancy dress costume and best sustained character.

Private J. Pavish, who enlisted from Boolarra has been invalided home, having lost one leg while doing "his bit" on the continent. Pavish was employed by Mr J. Brasley a former resident here in pre-war days, and was one of Boolarra's star footballers before he joined the colors.

BUDGEREE.

The usual annual picnic took place on Wednesday, last week, and proved a most successful one both from a social and amusement standpoint. Everybody on the ground seemed to enjoy themselves, a fact which reflects great credit on those ladies and gentlemen who set themselves out to organise games and races. The two events that caused the most amusement were the Bun Race and Costume event. The Soft Drink and Lolly Stall run by Miss Polwarth and Miss Elliott did a roaring trade and showed a good profit, which will be devoted with other profits to the Patriotic Funds. Space forbids us mentioning all who helped in the picnic, but the promoters desire to thank all those who so materially helped to make the day so successful. State ment re picnic will be presented on Saturday, March 9th. All interested are asked to attend.

The talk of the district is the sports to be held on March 20th (see advt.). The officers and committee are working hard to make the day a success, and visitors are assured of an excellent day's sport, when they will at the same time be helping the deserving cause of patriotism.

The telephone meeting was held as arranged. The meeting was poorly attended although representative of all parts of the district interested. A good deal of discussion took place when it was eventually decided to canvas the district to ascertain the amount of support forthcoming, before deciding on further approaching the Postal Department through the member for the district. Messrs T. Deering, J. Palmer and H. Townsend were appointed canvassers and will present their report at a meeting to be held on March 9th, when it is hoped that a good muster will be present. The public are reminded that their attendance, whether in favor or not is cordially invited.

BROWN COAL MINE.

Things are running smoothly at the mine—both on the cut and in the camp. The number of men working has not yet reached the total employed before the strike. The rain compelled a stoppage of work on Tuesday last, but on the whole the weather has been good.

The State school held in the marquee appears to be progressing most satisfactorily under the able and congenial management of Miss Jones. There are at present over 20 children attending, and very shortly they are going to give a concert in aid of the Education De-

Apples.

EATING and COOKING of Finest Quality from Highfield's Orchard delivered at Morwell at 5s a case.
ERNEST WALDON.

Lost.

LOST near Thorburn's old mill site.—A Brown OVERCOAT. Finder rewarded.
JOSEPH COUPER, Boolarra.



"Fiat justitia ruat cælum."

THE

Morwell Advertiser

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

The Morwell and Yinnar Gazette

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1918.

Miscellaneous.

Shopkeepers are reminded that they must register their shops, as required by the Factories Act, on or before 14th inst. Persons neglecting to do so will be liable to a fine of £10.

The Trusters Executors and Agency Company Limited of 412 Collins Street, Melbourne, is applying for letters of administration of the Estate of Patrick Dwyer, late of Morwell, farmer, who died on the 1st February. His Estate, which is valued for probate at £1725, consists of realty £1296, and personality £429, and is divisible amongst certain relatives.

Mr W. Turner is the successful tenderer for the additions to Convent of St Joseph, Morwell. This building is intended to accommodate the children from the country districts giving them advantages which they otherwise would not enjoy. The tariff will be moderate, much less than in other schools and with the advantage that the children will be within easy reach of their parents.

Michael Walsh, of Yinnar, retired farmer, who died on December 8th, left by will dated December 13, personal estate valued at £6,362 to his children.

Constable Ripper, of Heyfield, has been informed that a favorable entry has been placed on his record sheet in connection with the prosecution and conviction of Rupert Taylor, for defacing property at Morwell. This is the third favorable entry credited to Constable Ripper for meritorious services during the past eight months.

The mysterious Blogget and company gave a very interesting performance in the local Mechanics' Hall, on Wednesday evening last. The illusions were mystifying, the shadow work puzzling, whilst the thought reading was, perhaps, the most baffling of the lot. The program was varied and thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and those who stayed away missed a real treat.

Horse owners are reminded that entries for Morwell St. Patrick's Day races close on Tuesday next, 11th inst.

At the Warragul Show on Wed.

THOSE POOR ANIMALS

For a considerable time past the stray cattle at the crossing places on the Mirboo railway line have been subjected to much inconvenience and annoyance by the passing trains. For instances, last Saturday evening some quiet cows were walking leisurely across the line when the train came rushing along, and they had great difficulty saving their precious lives. As the train passed they naturally turned and looked, but could not distinguish the name of the guard or driver.

A similiar occurrance took place about midday on Monday last. At that time a prepossessing milch cow was taking a nap between the rails at what is known as " the pits," or rather, safety gates, between Morwell and Yinnar. No sooner had the poor cow closed her eyes than the train came along at full speed. Seeing the poor thing lying asleep the engine driver kindly stopped the train. The noise of the whistle awoke the poor creature, and frightened, it bolted across the line, and thus, reached a place of safety.

This is too bad, and The Department, we certainly think, should devise some means, whereby cows, pigs, and other animals should not be put to so much inconvenience.

FROM THE MORWELL ADVOCATE SATURDAY DECEMBER 18, 1886 pg 2.

REMINISCENCES OF FORMER CITIZENSMRS GLADYS OLVER - NOW LIVING AT MORNINGTON

There are few people here who didn't know Mrs Olver who worked in the Morwell newsagency for approximately 50 years. We had hoped to record some of her reminiscences before she left the district but work pressures and procrastination prevented this. I wrote to her a few weeks ago asking if she could pass some of her experiences on to us in some way to be recorded in our newsletters. In reply she rang me to say she doubted if she had the ability to write anything interesting enough to be used. She seemed to think her life was too ordinary and that her family were not pioneers here because they only came to Morwell from Alberton in 1917. However, considering the changes made in this district in those years, I tend to disagree with this.

The telephone line was not good the night she rang and after a while we were cut off altogether. But I'll record here a few facts she told me. Mrs Olver's maiden name was Pryke. There were six children in their family. They were Ivy (Mrs Fox), Violet (Mrs Peacock), Annie - (Mrs Laurie), Gladys (Mrs Olver), Hilda (Mrs Furlong) and their only brother, Royden Race Pryke, who died on October 10th this year at Moe. Roy was only a baby when their mother died and he was the only one in the family who did not marry. He was in World War 1 and his name is inscribed on the Morwell War Memorial. Gladys (Mrs Olver) and Hilda (Mrs Furlong) are the only ones of the six left now. Mrs Furlong lives at Yarram. As Hilda Pryke she is listed as one of the proud recipients of the Merit Certificate in 1921, the year the new brick school room was opened at Commercial Rd. S.S.

Before the telephone line went dead, Mrs Olver had started to tell me about the Bridle family who came from Koroit to Morwell by Bullock Wagon. So there is another story in the making.

Although so modest about her own talents, Mrs Olver is very willing to support our Society in any way. She would very much like to re-visit Morwell but understandably

REMINISCENCES OF FORMER CITIZENS.....cont

could not now undertake the journey from Mornington to Morwell by public transport. If any of our members happen to be near Mornington at some time, she would love to see them. We certainly hope to keep in contact with this very popular and respected lady.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN = ANSWERS

1. The Cinematographe. p.50
2. Money. It was Sampsons Rapid Railway Cash Carry System. p.70
3. Commercial Rd. School. The description was given by teacher John Irving. P.32
4. deLaval's Cream separator. P.40 (John Rintoull did in fact patent a butter churn which was widely used in Gippsland).
5. Toogood. P.25
6. 1898 fires. P.74
7. Kingsford Smith visited Morwell in the "Southern Cross" in 1932. P.74

* Page references are to "Steamhorse to Power" in case you wish to read further.

SOME AMAZING BOOKS.....

I have recently had several queries concerning the mail order offer of "surname" books. I have not seen one of these publications, having declined to pay \$35 for "The Amazing Book of the McMasters in Australia". However, well-known genealogist Nick Vine Hall reviewed one and the substance of the following comments is taken from an article of his printed in "Descent" Vol 17 No.2 and in "Ancestor" Vol 18 No.3.

If yours is one of some 30,000 basic British surnames there is a good chance that you will receive a letter inviting you to purchase one of these "Amazing..." books. According to Nick Vine Hall, the most amazing thing about them is that, although they purport to be family history books, they do not include any indication of the genealogical relationship of any one person to any other person of the same surname. Nor do they contain one scrap of new information - it has all been published before and is freely available in libraries, and from electoral rolls all over Australia.

The book reviewed - "The Amazing Book of the Davidsons in Australia" has a limp brown cover and consists of photo-copied A4 sheets printed on one side only, thus giving the impression that it contains twice as much information as in fact it does. The first page contains some lines from "Advance Australia Fair". This is followed by 4.5 pages of Australian history, a 2-page bibliography listing material available on Australian history and immigration, 15 pages of Australian population statistics, flags and coats-of-arms, 3.5 pages about surnames in general (including one 25-word sentence on the surname Davidson), 7 pages on heraldry, 24 pages of basic genealogical research advice, 16 pages of definitions of genealogical terms and 50 pages listing about 3,500 Davidson households in Australia in post code order, giving surnames, initials, addresses and sex.

It appears that the American publishers, Halberts, sold their Australian rights after some problems with the Department of Consumer Affairs! The books are now being offered to prospective customers by a Ruth Truscott, 23-27 Marquet St. Rhodes, N.S.W.

In the past year the Society of Australian Genealogists has received literally hundreds of letters and phone calls about these books, many from dissatisfied buyers. It would seem that those who are interested in family history could put their \$35 to much better use by purchasing one or more of the excellent genealogical manuals available.

But, as Nick Vine Hall says: "If you send off your money, you deserve what you get!"

Elsie McMaster

TRIVIA

The trivia "What's in a name?" in last month's issue contained an error or two which rendered that section some-what meaningless. Therefore we have reprinted it. Also this time we have listed only the names used to fill the gaps to make it easier. One name is used twice.

His name was _____ but they called him Jim. He rode through the street past the Town _____ until he came to the _____. There was a _____ between him and his horse so that no touch on the _____ was needed to guide them through the _____. A _____ scuttled through the _____ grass from its burrow beneath a _____. He could see a _____ tending his sheep. He wished he too could be a _____ instead of a _____ in the Open cut. The desire to have _____ job used to _____ him but he remembered the voice of _____. "_____ your anger," was what Mac used to say. So after that, Jim's ability not to be _____ stronger. Now it was dark and by the light of the _____ rode back home. He changed into his _____ made clothes and went to meet his lady love and to _____ in the moonlight.

Wood, Taylor, Green, Bush, Coleman, Williams, Bond, McMaster, Townsend, Hall, Hare, Pettigrew, Maddern, Mooney, Shepherd, Bridle, Walker, James.

OCTOBER 20, 1987

Change Churchill's name

SIR — Mr A. Long's letter in the Express of October 13 is a good idea. Churchill should re-claim its rightful name of Hazelwood and what could be a more fitting time than the Bicentenary to do it.

It may be remembered that Cape Canaveral in Florida was renamed Cape Kennedy as a mark of respect to J.F. Kennedy after his death. Yet after a suitable time it was changed back to its original name as is befitting.

It may also be remembered that JFK was an American and the cape that was named after him was also in America. After W.S. Churchill's death no town in Britain took his name and I sometimes wonder why Hazelwood did, but enough respect or homage is paid and our pioneers should be allowed their original town's name.

From what I remember of history, W.S. Churchill behaved somewhat badly towards Australia at various times in his life and is hardly deserving of a town's name.

A.W. Larkin, Churchill.

History of Hazelwood

SIR — Since my letter regarding the name change from Churchill to Hazelwood was printed, I have received a very large and favorable response; so this week I offer a brief history of the Hazelwood area to those supporters.

The area known as Hazelwood Station was settled in 1844 by William and Lavinia Hazel Bennett in partnership with Albert Brodribb who was Mrs Bennett's brother. The property was named after Mrs Bennett-Hazelwood.

The station was approximately 25 square miles in area and was bounded by the Morwell River in the west, Hobson's Traralgon Station in the east, Middle Creek to the south and to the north by Maryvale Station.

In 1860 John McMillan bought Hazelwood Station and the 1870's the selectors moved in and the property was divided up.

The McMillans retained a large holding approximately 3500 acres part being McMillan's Flats which was divided into Soldier Settlements in 1922 and called Hazelwood Estate; because the land was acquired from McMillan's Estates.

The area that most of Churchill now occupies was selected by John Silcock, John McIntyre and Patrick Whelan in the 1870's so the town is still on part of the original Hazelwood Station. The Glendonald area was selected by Donald McDonald around the same time.

Churchill has at present about 6000 people and a relatively short history (from 1965) and no heritage. It is very important that history is preserved for future generations so by calling Churchill Hazelwood again we will retain that heritage and really have something to celebrate in 1988.

Perhaps the cigar could be ceremoniously dropped like the old Briquette Factory chimney was and rid the town of the most expensive bird's nest ever built.

Alan Long, Churchill.

OCTOBER 22, 1987

No Churchills in UK

SIR — Having recently retired to Gippsland, I am naturally interested in the history of its pioneers and towns.

The history of Hazelwood by Alan Tong (Express 22/9/87) accentuated the injustice of naming the town Churchill.

Winston Churchill was the instigator of the Gallipoli debacle which cost Australia so dearly and the plot to bring the USA into World War One by having the ship Lusitania loaded with women and children plus munitions into a V-boat area which ensured great loss of civilian life.

Many more shady exploits as illustrated by the British historian David Irving in his book 'Churchill' confirm the unsuitability of having Hazelwood's reputation so sullied.

Not even the British people, who removed Churchill's Government from office as soon as the war ended, have named a town after him.

I, too, add my voice to the restoration of the Gippsland town's name to Hazelwood.

Harry Sobott, Willow Grove.

OCTOBER 29, 1987

Celebrate Hazelwood in 1988

SIR — The discussion on changing Churchill back to Hazelwood is going well so here are some facts to strengthen the case for the proposed name-change.

• Hazelwood was named after Mrs Lavinia Hazel Bennett.

• Maryvale was named after 10 year-old Mary Bennett.

• The Parish of Hazelwood is the same area known as Hazelwood Station.

• Yinnar (Aboriginal for woman) was named after Mrs Bennett because she was the first white woman in the area.

• Bennetts Creek was named after the Bennett family now known as Hazelwood North.

• Hazelwood Power Station is the SEC's contribution. By way of a protest against the name of Churchill they built the huge Hazelwood sign that lights up at night and is situated on the south-west end of the power station.

• The first church service ever held in the district was conducted at the Hazelwood home-stead in 1845.

There is a booklet produced by the centenary committee which encourages people to remember their heritage in 1988. So let's celebrate Hazelwood in '88.

Alan Long, Churchill.

NOVEMBER 5, 1987

M'well Council now in the 'great town name change game'...

'CHURCHILL' or 'Hazelwood'?... The great name change debate emerged at Morwell Shire Council's meeting this week after supposedly being laid to rest 20 years ago.

Morwell Shire President, Gloria Auchterlonie, said that in view of letters from Morwell Shire residents published in the Express, council should give consideration to having the township name of 'Churchill' changed to 'Hazelwood' and public comment should be sought. She said the issue should be "aired because of the bicentenary and public meetings should be held to hear the views of shire residents."

However, Cr Keith Hamilton, who lives in Churchill and represents the town on council, rejected the idea of public meetings and said "if a name change was going to be looked into, then it should be done properly."

"I think a consultant would be more qualified to conduct a survey once people have been given enough information on the change," he said. Cr Hamilton said the consultancy should go through three stages; education of the community, the question at

hand, and arguments for or against.

"How much is council prepared to pay for the name change - you won't do it for \$5," he said. "Name changing is important and to do it properly you would need at least \$10,000. I would hope that the community meant a lot more than just a name."

Cr Jack Vinall was concerned that the name changing debate would get in the way of more important council issues.

The township of Churchill was originally known as Hazelwood but changed the name in 1965 as a tribute to British war leader, Winston Churchill. The Hazelwood community was then not given the chance to air an opinion on proposals for a name change although a group of Hazelwood residents, including present Morwell Councillor Tom Lawless, were instrumental in debates against the change.

Morwell Shire Council decided this week to instruct its management team to investigate the cost of changing from Churchill to Hazelwood and will also seek public opinion on the issue.

NOVEMBER 5, 1987



SIGN OF THE TIMES?...

A SIGN of the times or a look at events to come?

An obvious supporter of the Churchill name change made his (or her) view very public on what the town's name should be.

In the early, rather damp hours of Monday morning, someone had removed the 'Churchill' sign from the town's Midland Highway signpost at the Morwell entrance end and replaced it

with a very conspicuous 'Hazelwood' sign, pictured left.

And from the the look of the nicely painted sign, the anonymous artist certainly means business.

NOVEMBER 10, 1987

MRS ELISIE WILSON

the last 100 years

THIS story on Elsie Wilson, who celebrated her 100th birthday at the weekend, was written by her great granddaughter, Jodie Bond, 17.

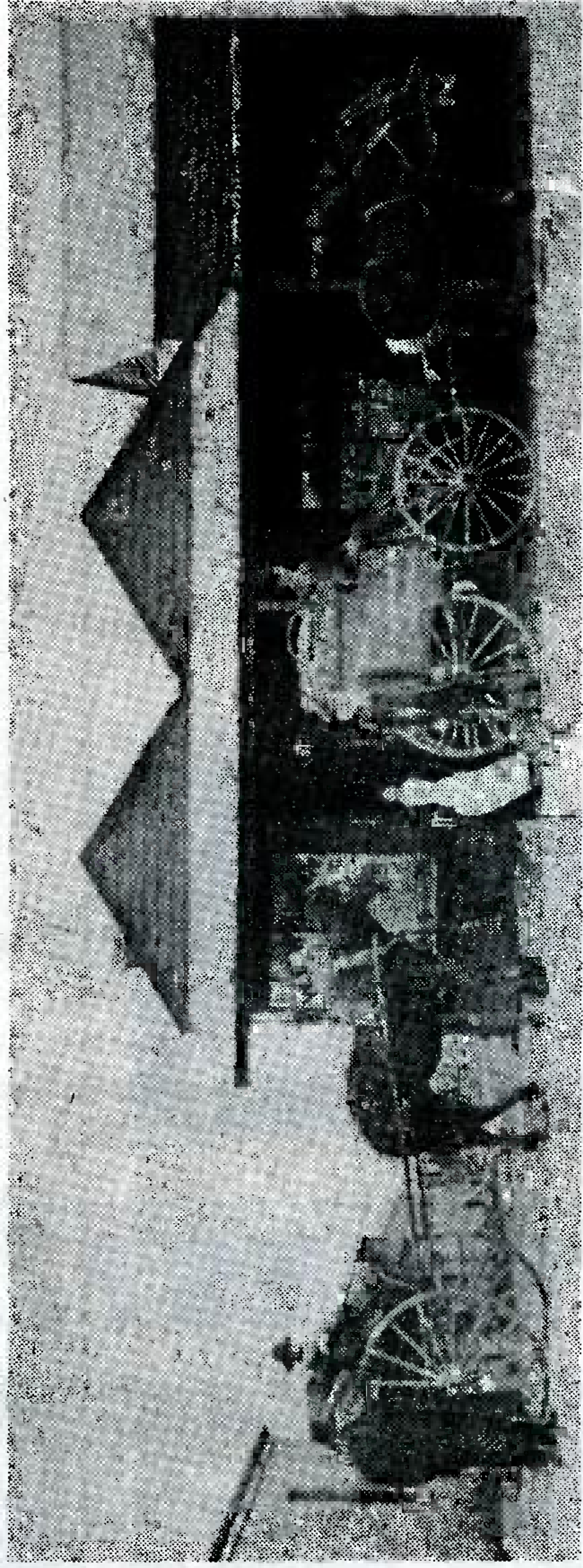
WHEN she was younger, Mrs Elsie Wilson was an active citizen of the Morwell community and as deeply involved with the Morwell Football Club.

Last Sunday, September 27, she celebrated her 100th birthday with her family and friends. It is not many who gain the opportunity to receive a letter from the Queen, nor is it every day someone turns 100, so it was a very special celebration for a very special lady.

It was in Warracknabeal, a town west of Bendigo situated in the enthralling Wimmera, where Elsie Dora Hunt was born on September 27, 1887. It was also in Warracknabeal where Elsie met her future husband, William Ernest Wilson.

William had come to Warracknabeal as a pastry cook. Elsie and her beloved William were matrimonially united on June 23, 1911.

In 1912, the couple's first and only son, Gordon, was born. The young family moved to Melbourne where



THIS photo, taken in 1915, shows Elsie Wilson (centre) standing in front of her and husband William's bakery shop in Morwell.

William's parents were residing.

Times were hard during that era before the First World War, and William looked everywhere for work, walking every day from Windsor to the city. Finally, he got a job as a pastry cook in Daylesford. The rarity of a good job prompted his decision of acceptance.

The day before the big move, William made a final walk into the city to gather details of his new job, only to discover that his prospective Daylesford employer was not to be. He was no longer required in Daylesford.

However, he was informed about a job vacancy for a pastry cook in Morwell. Without knowing where Morwell was, William accepted and

Elsie Wilson remembers when the SEC "hit" Morwell. She and William sold bread to the workers from a wagon, but took great care as loaves were stolen if not watched.

Jean (now Mrs Harker) was born in 1915, their first of two daughters. Meanwhile, William had been saving his earnings, and eventually bought the bakery in which he worked.

It was William who became one of the founding members of the Morwell Fire Brigade. Prior to his involvement in the community, a fire brigade had not existed.

These were happy times for the Wilson family. Elsie can recall the time when she loved a dinner set so much that she went against her husband's beliefs to acquire it, by buying it on time payments. William, however, soon found out. Because of his opposition to time payments, he

paid it all off at once, an act which Elsie would always remember.

"We only ever used it when we wanted to show off," stated Elsie Wilson proudly.

When Joyce (Mrs Bond) was born in 1919, Elsie contracted rheumatic fever and was told by doctors that she wouldn't walk again. For the sake of his wife's health, William sold the business and bought a farm in the hills of Trafalgar.

Still the young woman fought on, and defeated her crippling disease. After living on the farm for four years, they discovered that the bakery they used to own was once again for sale. Buying it, they returned to Morwell.

It was then that they became deeply involved with the Morwell Football Club. Elsie Wilson won

(A)

Queen of Football in 1929. The money raised was put towards building the original changerooms - a tin shed. However, it was not until several years later, when daughter, Jean, won Queen of Football, that a hot water service and showers were installed.

In 1932, William was involved in joining the Morwell Football Club into the Central Gippsland League.

The Wilson's bakery became the unofficial social rooms. Footballers often congregated in the large kitchen on Friday nights when the shop was open late.

In the meantime, after residing in 13 houses in Morwell, they finally stopped in number 9, Wilson Street. William had houses built on the excess land especially for footballers... thus, the name Wilson Street.

On Saturday nights Elsie would feed the footballers and give them a bed. On Sunday mornings, one never knew how many footballers would emerge from number 9 sleepout. Elsie used to wash the footballer's jumpers and socks too. She was like a second 'mum' to them all.

As of September 27 this year, Elsie Wilson will not only be 100, but also a resident of Morwell for 75 years. Now she is living in Dalkeith Memorial Home in Traralgon. She is very proud of being the oldest one there.

Some of her many descendants still reside in the Morwell-Traralgon area, her grandsons have been involved in the Morwell Football Club. Now, 100 after her own birth, she has three children, seven grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

L.V EXPRESS

SEPTEMBER 29, 1987

(A)

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OBITUARY.

DEATH OF MR. R. BRIDLE.

It is with feelings of very deep regret that we have to chronicle the death of another very old colonist and a resident of the district for many years, in the person of Mr Robert Bridle, who passed away at his late residence on Tuesday morning last.

Deceased, who was 72 years of age, was born in England, and when quite a lad he joined the navy. He was among the few remaining old veterans who saw active service right through the Crimean War, and among his most highly prized relics is a medal he received at the close of the war.

He retired from the navy in order to come out to Australia, to which people were at the time flocking in hundreds. He was present at several of the important "gold rushes," and shared the usual ups and downs experienced by the pioneers of the early days. Eventually he settled down near Warrnambool, and followed farming pursuits most successfully. From Warrnambool he went to Colac, where he remained till about twelve years ago, when he purchased Mr David Ogilvy's nice property near Morwell, where he remained till the time of his death.

He was a most successful farmer, which was probably due to the systematic manner in which he always went to work. He was the first to introduce onion growing to this district, and very kindly assisted several local farmers, who were inexperienced in onion growing, in preparing the land, sowing the seed, etc. He was a quiet, unassuming gentleman, who was most highly esteemed and respected by all with whom he came in contact, and much sympathy is expressed for the bereaved widow and members of the family, of whom there are four sons and four daughters.

Deceased enjoyed good health until about six months ago, when he suffered from an internal complaint. He, however, would not consent to remain in bed until about a week before his death. Dr. McLean held out little hope of his recovery, and his demise was not unexpected. Members of the family remained by his bedside night and day, and although deceased had suffered considerable pain, his end was most peaceful.

His remains were removed to Koroit and interred in the cemetery there beside the remains of two of his sons.

An "In Memoriam" service will be held in St. Mary's Church, Morwell (of which deceased was a member) on Sunday evening next, and will be conducted by the Rev. U. L. Crossley.

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