

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. 6 No. 9

SEPTEMBER 1990

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

This month we bring you the first part of another family history, that of the Bond Family of Driffield. There are also details of some forthcoming excursions and notice of the annual Gippsland History Conference, to be held in October.

The first thousand copies of 'Glimpses of Our Past' have nearly all been sold and we have ordered a reprint of five hundred. These will be available in shops as well as from members, in time for Christmas.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th.

Guest speaker will be Mrs. Jean Huffer who will be speaking about her trip to Gallipoli in April this year for the 75th Anniversary of the Landing.

If there is a cross in this box , we don't have a record of payment of your 1900-91 subscription. Perhaps you have overlooked it?

\$7.00 Single membership

\$10.00 Couple or family

GIPPSLAND IN FOCUS

Annual History Conference

**Centre for Gippsland Studies
Monash University College Gippsland
Switchback Road, Churchill 3842
(051) 220 356**

**Saturday 20 October 1990
Room 2N209**

9.30 - 10.00	Registration
10.00 - 10.10	Welcome
10.10 - 11.00	Professor Weston Bate: Photographs as Primary Sources
11.00 - 11.30	Morning Tea and Viewing Displays
11.30 - 12.20	Anne and Don Pitkethly: Gippsland Photographs of Nicholas Caire
12.20 - 12.30	Launch of <u>Gippsland in Focus: a Directory of Gippsland Photographers</u>
12.30 - 1.30	Lunch BYO
1.30 - 2.00	Sally Robins: Care of Family Photographs
2.00 - 2.40	Meredith Fletcher: The Carlyon Collection: the 'Path of Time' Revisited
2.40 - 3.15	Steve Murphy: Movie Film of Gippsland
3.15 - 3.45	Afternoon Tea
3.45 - 5.00	Gippsland Overview: Contribution by Gippsland Historical Societies of their Photograph Collections

There will be displays on Mary Grant Bruce, Indexing Photographs, Storing Photographs.

Cost: \$10.00

Enquiries to: Centre for Gippsland Studies
Monash University College Gippsland
Churchill 3842
(051) 220 356

EXCURSIONS

Even if you are unable to attend meetings, perhaps you can join us on one of the following trips. They're ALWAYS enjoyable, sociable and good value!!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st. (Date subject to confirmation).

Rosedale Historical Society is planning a bus trip along the Old Port Road from Rosedale to Woodside, visiting Greenmount Cemetery and the Port Albert Museum. B.Y.O. lunch and afternoon tea. For more details, confirmation of the date, fare etc. Contact Elsie McMaster (051)341149.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

Traralgon Historical Society has organised a coach trip to Warburton for a day's pleasant entertainment in the form of community singing and an old time music hall programme presented by artists from Melbourne's Tivoli Theatre. Cost of \$22 includes bus fare, lunch and entertainment. The coach departs from Traralgon Post Office at 9 am and picks up along the way. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Valma Plant on (051)742096

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25th

Traralgon, Morwell, Boolarra and Moe Historical Societies will join together for a visit to the spot on Latrobe Rd. Morwell where, on a foggy night during World War 2, several aircraft, unable to return to their base at Bairnsdale for lack of fuel, were guided to a safe landing by Morwell residents who drove their cars to the scene and used their headlights to light up an emergency "landing strip" in a paddock.

We will then move on to Yallourn Heights to have a look at the large navigation aid recently uncovered by members of Moe Historical Society. (See our Newsletter April 1990).

This trip will be an opportunity for members of the various Gippsland Historical Societies to get together before Christmas. B.Y.O afternoon tea.

Cars will leave Traralgon Post Office at 1 pm and regroup at Beaurepaire Tyre Service (cnr. Latrobe Rd. and Princes Hwy, Morwell) at 1.15 pm.

ANNUAL OPEN DAY

The Australian Institute
of
Genealogical Studies

ARE YOU STUMPED ? - EXPERT ADVICE - COME TO THE OPEN DAY

- **Experts on a wide range of subjects available for individual consultation**
- **Beginners to advanced Research for**
 - **German**
 - **English**
 - **Cornish**
 - **Scottish**
 - **Welsh**
 - **Scandinavian**
 - **America**
 - **Irish**
- **Convicts**
- **Land Records**
- **Parish Registers**
- **International Genealogical Index**
- **Victorian Births Deaths and Marriages**
- **Family Reunions**
- **Old Photographs**
- **English Births Deaths and Marriage Index**
- **Genealogy in Computers**
- **How To Write Your Family History**

Saturday, 20th October 10 a.m-4.00 p.m. Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Eddy St and Halley Ave Hartwell
- Entry \$5.00 (Includes consultations) - Book Stall - Tea and Coffee available - Door Prize - Bumper Raffle -

THE BOND FAMILY OF DRIFFIELD

This account of the Bond Family was written by our President, Lou Bond, for his family and is reproduced here with his kind permission.

In the early years of this century, when our parents were farming in north-eastern Victoria, our father, W.H.Bond, often supplemented the family budget by fencing, timber working and rabbit trapping. When the 1914-15 drought drove many farmers from the land, our father decided to seek greener pastures in Gippsland. In company with another trapper, he travelled by horse and cart with the equipment necessary for outdoor camping and the trapping of rabbits. Along with their two trap dogs, they travelled in easy stages, trapping and selling rabbits for survival. In the meantime, they were on the lookout for suitable land to purchase for the family farm.

After travelling through the South Gippsland area to Leongatha, to Mirboo North, then Yinnar, they decided to stay some time in the Driffield - Morwell district. When the rabbit numbers in this area became depleted, they travelled further east to Rosedale, Toongabbie and Glengarry. Our father decided to return to Driffield where he proceeded to purchase an undeveloped farm (Sect.14 of A - 15 from M.J.Hopkins) which is still in the possession of members of the Bond family today (1985).

My first recollection of coming to Gippsland in 1916 was being driven from the train by which the family had travelled from Melbourne. Dad had met us, driving "Darkie" in the spring cart and the rest of the family and personal luggage were driven in a wagonette, drawn by two horses from the local stables, for the five-mile journey to the farm, arriving in the early afternoon.

The house appeared to be neglected as the farm had not been worked for a number of years. The house buildings consisted of two original rooms and a newer building. The original rooms were 16ft. by 16ft. each, with an 8ft. verandah on the east side, the west side being exposed to the elements. A large brick open fireplace was built on the south end of one of the rooms and this room was the original living room/kitchen, with the other room a bedroom. Shortly after we arrived, a stove was placed on one side of the large fireplace for cooking purposes. The south end of the verandah was built in and became the laundry with a copper outside for boiling the washing.

Building material for this part of the house was sawn hardwood weatherboard with a corrugated iron roof and a sawn hardwood floor with no tongue or groove. Later on a heavy malthoid floor covering was laid over the cracks in the floor boards to prevent the cold draughts entering the room. Both these original rooms were lined with split paling backing then covered with a hessian - wallpaper covering on both walls and ceiling.

The newer building, erected about the turn of the century, was a better type of construction, being of pine weatherboard, corrugated iron roof and a pinewood floor. The lining was a 4ft. pineboard dado, the other part hessian and wallpaper, with a pine lining for a ceiling. This building was of four rooms, a front verandah with a sleepout one end and a back verandah which was joined to the original two rooms. A bathroom was also part of the back verandah and access to the older rooms was by the verandah attached to those rooms.

Water was provided by roof rainwater to a 1000 gallon tank but other storages were provided later on. There was no reticulated water supply to any one point and all water needed for household chores was carried in utensils by hand. Water for bathing, washing or cooking was either heated by outside copper or on the open fire. The newer building had a brick chimney which served two rooms, a living/dining room and a lounge/bedroom.

As we were a family of two parents and nine children, the provision of sleeping space was a constant problem, especially when we had visitors. The six boys slept in two double beds in the old building, the girls in one room in the newer part and our parents in the master bedroom. When needed, "bunks" would be provided and placed in the lounge, sleepout or bathroom.

Wood was the fuel used for both open fires and the stove as electricity was not connected to Driffield until the mid 1930s. This was the challenge that had to be met, mostly by mother and the older girls, to make this building habitable and in the meantime to clothe, feed and do the usual chores of rearing nine children while cooking in rather primitive conditions as we would know them today.

The farm sheds, which were evidently the original buildings, had been built entirely of bush timber with palings for walls, wooden shingles for roof cover and wood slabs for a floor. A separator room with a rough concrete floor was nearby, a lean-to on one end of this building served as a fowl house and crude pig sties, of bush timber with bark roofs, were in disrepair. Most of the farm yards had been constructed of bush poles and these were starting to rot and needed replacing. Fences on the farm lands to restrain animals were almost non-existent or in disrepair but sheepyards constructed of wooden pickets and wire with solid wooden gates, and including a sheep dip, were in existence on the edge of the cleared land about a quarter of a mile from the farm buildings.

A row of pine trees about 15 ft. tall were on the west side of the drive and hawthorne hedges were along the road frontage from the Wilderness Creek to the old church, then along the east side of that boundary. A hawthorne hedge also surrounded an orchard of about five acres which contained many varieties of fruit trees, and the family toilet was concealed in this hedge about a chain from the back door. Wattle trees grew in one corner of the orchard and willow trees were in evidence along the creek banks, but were almost covered by blackberries which were a harbour for rabbits.

The two farm sections were of approximately 320 acres, including river and creek frontage, with a road reserve. About sixty acres had been cleared and had regenerated with mostly native grasses. The other areas of the selections were mostly second growth eucalypts with some clumps of virgin timber. Some dense clumps of ti-tree and native scrub existed on some portions of the farm along with some very large trees scattered over the whole selection. There was a very heavily timbered five or six acre section of river frontage covered with native scrub and blackberries that was gradually brought into production over several years.

I will now go back to the first few years and try to describe the life of the family such as education, domestic chores that were carried out, and the general support of the family for the development of the farm.

The initial education of the family had started at Longwood Stat School in north-eastern Victoria, where five of the older children had attended school. Our nearest school from Driffield was the Commercial Rd. Stat School in Morwell which was five miles distant. To travel to this school, our means of transport was a jinker, drawn by an old grey horse of doubtful years, but a very quiet and reliable type of horse.

After our daily allotted jobs were finished, we would leave home about 8.00 am and arrive in Morwell about an hour later, where we would stable our horse at a public stable, feed him, and arrive at school sometimes late for our daily learning. Food for old "tom" was often a sheaf of home-grown hay which was used as a foot warmer on cold frosty mornings, or from a bag of farm-produced chaff stored in the feed room of the stables. Tom, as a rule, could not be hurried by any means, but, if we were running late for school for some reason, we would pass the Melbourne bound morning passenger train. Sometimes old Tom would become excited when this occurred and would try to bolt. One morning Florence was driving when Tom took the bit between his teeth, bolted along Commercial Rd., turned down Hazelwood Rd., past the stables and headed for Yinnar. Fortunately a man on horseback noticed our dilemma, galloped after us, grasped the reins and brought us to a halt a few miles along the road. In the winter months, to keep our knees warm, we used a furskin rug and we were supposed to lock this in the feed shed. Once it was stolen but it was soon recovered by the local police from a man who was trying to sell it in the local hotel so as to purchase more beer.

Our midday meal while at school was a large meat pie or bun purchased at the local baker's for the sum of 4d (3c) which was paid for by the government for travel allowance because we lived over five miles from the school. If a drink was needed it was obtained from the school rainwater tank.

In the winter months or in wet weather, we wrapped a fur rug around our bare legs and covered our heads with a canvas rug or our coats. The eldest of the family was the person in charge and usually drove the horse and was generally responsible for the welfare of the younger children.

After school we would arrive home about 4.30 to 5.00 pm and we all had our chores to do before the evening meal. The girls would help their mother with the domestic work, the older boys would help out at the milk shed and it was my task to gather kindling which consisted of paper bark and twigs from gum trees close to home, split kindling wood and cut a wood supply for the next day's cooking.

In the longer summer days, if there was time, my favourite pastime was fishing in the Wilderness Creek nearby and often the family table was supplemented by fish caught by us in these waters.

In 1922 the Driffield school was reopened in the old wooden church a few chains from our house and I and the younger children attended this school, the older children having reached leaving age (14 years) or obtained their Merit Certificate. There being no secondary schools in the area, schooling ceased at 14 years of age. Young people leaving school either worked the family farm or found work with neighbours or in nearby towns.

The opening of the nearby school was a great event in the district, eliminating long travel and discomfort in wet weather, and allowing more time for home chores and leisure.

If there was any leisure time on weekends, holidays or summer evenings the boys could fish, hunt rabbits with the farm dogs, set rabbit traps and go bird nesting in the Spring season. The girls learned to sew, knit, cook and needlework from their mother and helped in domestic duties, for the menfolk still had to be fed, whether there were holidays or not.

Some of the work we did before or after school consisted of light work such as minding the dairy herd while strip grazing oat crops, millet crops or new pasture. The method was rather a simple one. Two or three children would be posted a few chains apart and, with the aid of cattle dogs, would control the cattle in the required area of crop. Other work consisted of cutting blackberries or grubbing tussocks on developed pastures and this allowed the more adult members to do the heavier types of work.

When clearing bushland for new cultivation the larger trees were grubbed by hand, cut into lengths and heaped. The scrub would be slashed at ground level and in the late summer this debris would be burnt. After the firing, any limbs, roots or rubbish that remained unburnt would be picked up by the younger teenagers and stacked against stumps to be burnt and then the land would be ready for the plough.

As we grew into our twenties, we learnt by experience and we improvised with the grubbing of the larger trees. The conventional method of clearing large trees was digging the earth from the base of the tree with a shovel and mattock to expose the root system of the tree. All roots that could be found were cut by axe, then a "trewalla" jack would be placed under one of the cut roots and the tree would, hopefully, be pushed over. Some species of eucalypt had a thick tap root that was directly underneath the trunk and, if it was a large tree, this root was almost impossible to reach with an axe. In our wisdom, we decided to proceed as above and, if the tap root was not accessible, we would leave the tree standing with all surface roots cut and exposed. The winter rains would fill the trench around the base of the tree with water which soaked the subsoil and when the strong equinoxial winds blew in September, the majority of the trees would be blown over. They would then be handled in the usual manner by being split for fencing material, fire wood or heaped to be burnt as debris.

When the Crown river reserve on the Morwell River was being cleared, the large trees were cleared by this method, the native scrub was slashed, the twelve-foot high clumps of blackberries were cut by the older boys working their way underneath and cutting the stalks with slashers, leaving the clumps to die still in a standing position. All this three or four feet of debris was lit on a very hot February afternoon and the fire was so fierce that only a bed of ashes remained.

The farm was developed by clearing fifteen to twenty acres a year and the carrying capacity was soon doubled. To plough the land, when we first arrived, a mould board plough was used, but owing to the many stumps and roots left in the ground when clearing the heavy timber, this type of plough was unsuitable because of lost time and snapped plough shares. With the coming of the stump-jump disc plough, this problem was solved and much more land could be ploughed at a better controlled depth. Some of the early landowners from England and Ireland who were used to the deep peat soils of those countries, often ploughed our shallow soils far too deep, thereby turning our clays and subsoil to the surface, to the detriment of crops that were sown later on.

When we first came to Driffield, the only horses owned by father were Darkie and old Tom, the school horse. In the 1920s, three draught horses were purchased to pull the machinery for the ploughing and cultivation of the virgin soil, and these horses, Flower, Kate and Captain, were still working when the tractor took over in the late 1930s. Another draught horse by the name of Bess was purchased a few years later to support these horses but she turned out to be a rank "jib" and was soon disposed of. By this time, old Tom had died and a bay mare by the name of Friday was purchased for

a riding horse and this animal gradually took over from the ageing Darkie. Later on I will tell of some amusing stories regarding Bess and the methods used to prevent her from "jibbing".

Although father was never a vigorous worker, he was a good provider and would organise us boys to make sure we had very little leisure time. When we first arrived here, farm revenue was non-existent. He trapped rabbits, fenced, ringbarked and poisoned large areas of growing trees on neighbouring farms and would do general work to provide for the family.

Always a progressive farmer, he was one of the first farmers to use artificial fertilizer for the pasture and was also one of the first to introduce subterranean clover to the district - this was to revitalize the dairying industry. The first couple of years of farming was the grazing of sheep for fattening and wool as the sheds were not in good enough repair for dairying, but in a couple of years a new milk shed was built, of eight bails each side, a feed trough was provided for bail feeding and it had a concrete floor with good drainage. A feed loft was built on top of the bails for food storage and a lean-to erected on each side for farm machinery and horse carriages. A separator room was also built and this was looked upon as a very modern building. The ayrshire breed of cattle was purchased from a neighbour, Mr. Frank Amiet, who had a pure-bred herd and this was a successful purchase as these cattle provided a basis for a high production herd that existed for many years.

Crops of oats, rape, turnips and millet were sown on newly cleared land for the dairy herd and then it would be sown down to permanent pasture of rye, white clover and sub clover. When the river and creek flats were cleared, these provided ideal areas for growing maize in the late summer months as a supplementary food for the dairy herd. When growing maize on the flood plains of the creek or river in the dry summer months, often the smaller streams would be dammed to irrigate the crop. Usually when maize was planted, a few rows of potatoes would also be planted for family use. Pumpkins were also grown for home use and, if plentiful, could be sold to neighbours or the town greengrocer. Beans and peas were often grown along with root crops such as carrots, turnips etc. For some years father grew large areas of tomatoes on the flats fo the Wilderness Creek, which he regularly irrigated, and the surplus crop was sold to greengrocers and to people over large areas of the Shire. These tomatoes were sold for 1 a case and I used to deliver them in our T-model ute to the people who had ordered them. Father, who never learned to drive a car, would accompany me to collect his money as he said if they were not paid for before they were eaten, you had very little hope of being paid at all.

when the boys reached the late teens and the farm was more or less developed, they found outside work such as fencing, splitting posts, trapping rabbits shearing sheep, stripping wattle bark, hay carting, stack building, slashing scrub, working in sand pits and road construction.

Of the three girls, Florrie worked at home with mother into her late teens then went to Melbourne and Sydney to work as a maid in private homes. Lucy left home in her late teens and Hazel worked at home and served as a domestic in several local homes until she married. When in his early twenties, Harry left home to lease a farm on the Hazelwood Flats. Vic was much sought after as an excellent jack of all trades by land owners and by 1932 Louis had purchased a general carrying business in Morwell. Vic eventually purchased land at Rosedale where he still resides today. Tom came to drive for me when a second truck was purchased and ted did likewise when a third truck was added in 1937. As all the boys reached their later teens they all played football for Yinnar until the early 1930s then went on to play in major Gippsland football leagues. Lou played cricket for Morwell and most of the boys played cricket for Driffield in a local Sunday competition.

Every Sunday of the period 1918 - 1930s, hunting of wild game was a pastime looked forward to, shooting wallaby and foxes over many square miles of bush and river swamp lands of the Morwell shire. Not only was this a profitable pastime, it also served as a means to rid ourselves of the aches and pains received by playing football the previous day. The shooting parties often consisted of German engineers and specialist workmen installing briquette-making plant and electrical generating machinery at Yallourn. Professional men such as bank managers and doctors often made up these shooting groups and we boys would do most of the beating to drive the game for these men. the farm and sporting dogs were also an important part of the bush beaters with

their keen sense of smell, and the baying of these dogs also helped to panic most bush animals in the right direction.

In the 1930s when Tom and Ted first drove trucks for me they slept in a workman's hut in the backyard of our house in Morwell and had their meals in the house with us for five days of the week. On Saturdays they played football or cricket and attended the Saturday dance at the Morwell Fire station or went to the pictures. They then went back to the farm for the rest of the weekend, sometimes with three or four of their friends so as to get an early start for hunting or to play in a local cricket competition. They would sleep in two double beds, three to each and, if numbers made it necessary, would "head and tail" it to make room for more. Mother would never know how many "guests" she could expect on a Sunday morning but she always seemed to be able to feed them breakfast, find them a midday meal and cook an extra batch of scones for afternoon tea.

For ten or fifteen years after settling at Driffield (1915 - 1930) we would have numerous visits from relatives seeking work in the depression years, or for holidays. I can recall when a family of four or six children would arrive with their parents and they would remain for some weeks while the menfolk tried to find work. Relatives would often visit for a "country" holiday but seldom were we invited to their homes for a return visit, it being taken for granted that country people were more prosperous. Looking back to those times, I often wonder how those people were found sleeping quarters, fed three meals a day and generally accepted by mother and father when they had nine children of their own to cater for.

When the Driffield school was opened in 1922, mother often "boarded" the female teacher, who always had a bedroom to herself and mother would have to provide a better standard of meal for the teacher.

Entertainment in the 1920s, before the advent of motor transport, was usually reached by horse drawn vehicle or on horse back. Florrie often tells the story of getting dressed for dances, rolling her skirt to her waist then pulling on a riding skirt or men's pants and setting off with a group to attend dances at nearby towns. When they arrived at the dance hall, they would shed the covering apparel in the ladies' room, touch up their make-up and be ready to enjoy themselves.

Brother Harry usually rode his horse to local dances and I can remember riding to a dance with him on our mare, Friday, and, on the way home about 2.00 am, half asleep with hands in the pockets for warmth, riding under a tree and being swept backwards over the horse's rump and landing on the road. no injury occurred but the dignity was rather upset when I had to wait for Harry to catch and return the horse. Shortly after that episode, father purchased a T-model Ford utility truck as a farm transport and this made attending the dances much more comfortable. Vic later bought an Oakland car and this was our regular transport for many years.

In the late 1920s, most of our entertainment was at Yinnar - the regular Saturday night dances after Football, Blind concerts and movies. The movies of that era were in black and white with no sound track and to provide an atmosphere, a pianist would play music to suit the tempo of the picture - if there was plenty of action, loud rousing music, for love scenes, romantic tunes and for sad parts, the sentimental music of the day. Then the wonder of talking pictures arrived and this made movies very popular. There was a weekly showing at the Yinnar Mechanics Hall.

The local drama group would put on a twice-yearly performance - these were generally hilarious events and readily accepted by the public.

There was a deep depression in the road where the Driffield Road met the (then) Yinnar - Morwell main road and when the creeks were in flood, this dip in the road would be covered by three feet of water. Not to be deterred, we would strip to the waist, switch off the car engine and push the car through the water till we reached dry land, dry ourselves off with towels carried for the occasion, restart the car and proceed to the place of entertainment.

As we grew older and entered our early twenties, we would attend Grand Balls as they were then known, notably the Bachelors' or Spinster's or Matrons' Balls. Invitations to these Balls were much sought after and dress was usually very formal with black tie and tails for men and the ladies trying to out-do any competition from other females. Then there were the balls to celebrate annual holidays or events and all these were held in Morwell Mechanics Hall, a large wooden building with library and court rooms attached, which was situated on the south-west corner of the junction of Tarwin and George Streets. This building was destroyed by fire in the mid 1930s and a lot of

history, such as honour rolls for the Boer War and First World War, and many public records from the library, was lost to posterity.

When the new milk shed was built on our farm, a loft was provided for the storage of oaten hay and chaff. In the early summer months when this barn would be empty, dances were held for charity and it was our task to clean the inside of the barn of chaff and dust, decorate it with tree fern fronds and gum branches and generally clean up the outside and surrounds. Music was provided by a dance band from Yallourn and these dances were very popular and were patronised by large numbers of people who seemed to appreciate the unique surrounds. Coffee for the suppers was farm milk heated in kerosene tins over open fires with coffee grounds enclosed in an oatmeal bag. Supper was provided by the local ladies and the sponge cakes available were appreciated by all.

Horse racing was another form of entertainment in the 1918-20 period and up to the second World War. Races were held at Morwell Racecourse which was situated on Driffield Road, where White City was built in the 1950s. The main racing event of the year was the St. Patrick's Day meeting which attracted horses from Melbourne and local stables. Pony meetings were also held with entries from Melbourne and also from local owners notably Christie Walsh and the Jensen family who owned some fine ponies. Bookmakers attended from Melbourne and many Gippsland men were also present. Races for local hacks were always on the programme and keen rivalry existed between local owners. This event always created great interest to prove who had the best horse.

Our father's services as Clerk of Course were in demand at these meetings. He used to look rather imposing, riding his bay mare, Friday, and dressed in his white riding pants, red coat with its brass buttons, black leggings and boots with a black hat to match, and stockwhip over his shoulder. His job was to conduct the horses and jockeys from the mounting yard and see they were in proper line for the starter. He often told the amusing tale of one day overhearing the jockeys, on their way to the starting post discussing which horse would be allowed to win - it was not to be the favourite. When the horses were in line and the starter was about to drop the flag for the start, father flicked the favourite on the rump with his stockwhip, the horse promptly bolted and eventually won by the length of the straight!

Race meetings were also held on the old Yinnar Race Course which was on Whitelaws Track - Boolarra Rd area - now part of Colemans' property. The main meeting was the New Years Day meeting and this attracted horses and bookmakers from the areas previously mentioned in connection with the St. Patrick's Day races in Morwell. Races for local horses were also a feature of this meeting and horses were entered by Jensens, Mathews, Dalys and other local families. Our Darkie won some of these races. Picnic meetings were also held at this venue with wood chops, foot running, high jumps children's races and races for local horses and ponies as the main attractions. Sideshows for children and boxing tents and other attractions were provided and these meetings were looked forward to by the local people. The New Years Day meeting would attract crowds numbering thousands of people and I can still recall the infamous Squizzy Taylor and his retinue of women and hangers - on attending one of these meetings.

TO BE CONTINUED

MORE ON RECYCLING

Prue McGoldrick writes:

"I expect you have been inundated with memories of recycling." (Unfortunately, No, Prue! Ed.) Prue continues: "As you say it is not a new concept. I have a few to add to the list:

Folded wheat bags made sturdy back door mats.

Sugar bags were used for hooked rugs. I still use one made by my grandmother about 60 years ago. Rags for these rugs were strips of heavy clothing material.

Pieces of used suits and overcoats were cut into squares and oblongs and stitched onto an old sheet or cotton blanket to make a patchwork bed cover backed with cretonne.

To lengthen the life of a shirt, the collar was turned when it became worn and shirt tails were used to patch the shirt if necessary. Finally the shirt made hankies.

Pillow cases also ended as hankies or bandages.

Buttons made of mother-of-pearl shell, metal, leather, wood and plastic were saved for future use.

During World War 2, tracing linen used in drawing offices was washed in hot water and the resulting fine soft linen made into baby clothes.

Woollen socks and jumper sleeves were darned as were cotton and lisle stockings.

For mending special garments, 'invisible mending' was available in the city.

Large biscuit tins from the grocer were used in the home to store bread and also numerous items in the tool shed.

Hayband, rope and twine were always recycled.

Paper bags were used for lunches and many other purposes.

Brown paper wrapping paper, sticks, flour and water paste, string and a rag tail made kites that flew.

Jam tins and string made stilts.

knuckle bones were saved for a game of the same name.

Cherry stones were essential for the game of cherry bobs.

Fat from roasts was saved and eventually made into soap.

I could go on !!! "

Bruce McMaster's mother, May, recalls her family using bags, treacle billies, kerosene cases and tea tins for various purposes other than their original ones.

RECYCLING (cont.)

Treacle and golden syrup came in 5lb. or 10 lb. tins with a handle and tight-fitting lid. These were used for sending drinks down the paddock to the men and for carrying milk and water.

Many farmers bought their tea in 5lb. or 10lb. tins and these made good lunch boxes for picnics and for storing food at home.

The kerosene tins mentioned last month came packed in fours in strong wooden cases and these were used to make all sorts of furniture for the home e.g. one, with a piece of bright cretonne gathered around it served as a dressing table while others were used as chairs and tables or pulled apart and the timber used for shelves, cupboards etc.

Wheat bags were sewn together with a bag needle and string to make rugs for horses.

A sugar bag formed a pad on which rabbit trappers carried their traps, slung over one shoulder, traps to the back, pins and chains to the front.

In town, the "night man" also had a bag tied over one shoulder on which to rest the pans as he collected or delivered them.

During World War, 2 men's double-breasted woollen pinstriped suits were often made into women's 'costumes' - the coat altered to fit and a straight skirt cut from the wide-legged trousers. (The rightful owners of the suits were usually in khaki at that time.)

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A CAUTIONARY TALE

Readers of *History News* should be aware that there appears to be a fresh crop of books purporting to be respectable genealogical studies which turn out to be just lists of names. Suitable care should be taken to ensure the bona fides of those seeking to satisfy the heritage and family history market. If there is a doubt reference should be made to this Society or to the appropriate genealogical society.

From R.H.S.V. History News

August 1990

G.S.V. on Convict Ancestors

On Sunday 18 November, Keith Holden, a Fellow of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, will be discussing 'Convict Ancestors — How To Find Them'. The discussion will take place in the G.S.V. Library at 2.30 p.m. Admission is free and coffee and tea will be provided.

Australian Garden History Society Conference

The annual conference of the Australian Garden History Society will be held at Albury from 12 to 14 October 1990. The middle days of the conference will be devoted to garden visits and Beechworth, Yackandandah and Wangaratta districts. The registration fee is \$190. Application forms are available from AGHS 1990 Conference, GPO Box 1630, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601.

That Happy Garden State, History Institute Conference, Sunday 30 September 1990

The History Institute will be running a conference on the garden history of Victoria on Sunday 30 September in the 4th Floor Common Room, John Medley Building, Melbourne University. Registration is at 9.45 a.m. and lectures include: The Politics of 19th Century Horticulture; Education and Gardening in State Schools; Forests as Gardens; Gardening for Animals; Discussion on the Royal Botanic Gardens. Fees are \$20. including lunch and morning and afternoon tea and \$10 excluding lunch. Firm booking for lunch is advisable through the History Institute, 258 Faraday Street, Carlton 3053. Phone 344 6209.