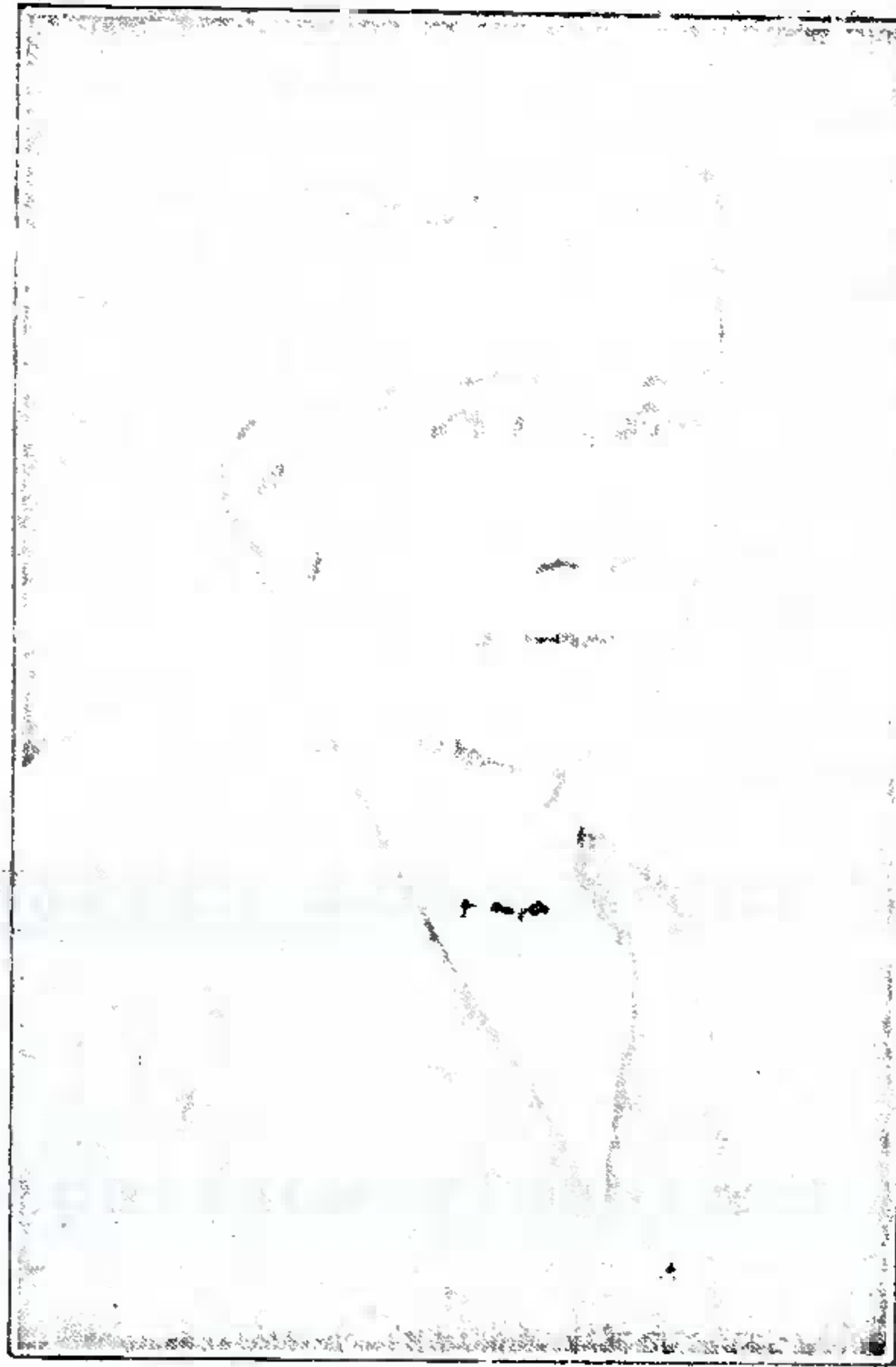


THE MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Published every month except December.

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

Mr. ARTHUR LESLIE HARE, of Morwell, was born in Geelong in 1884, and educated at the Macorna State School. His father settling on land in Narracan, Gippsland, he assisted on the farm until he was 17, when he obtained employment with Mr. George Billingsley, of Morwell, taking a leading part in the latter's road contract work, and staying there for twelve years. He eventually began a livery stable business of his own, which he built up into a very flourishing concern. He assisted in placing the first survey peg in connection with the now famous Yallourn scheme, and he helped to pull out the first truck of brown coal from the old mine. With the advent of the motor car he gradually



MR. A. L. HARE, MORWELL.

changed over to the garage business, selling his livery stable and contracting business and giving the whole of his time to establishing his garage, which is now one of the best of its type in Gippsland, turning over up to 6000 gallons of petrol per month.

He was elected a councillor of the Shire of Morwell in 1930, and is a P.M. of the Morwell Masonic Lodge, president of the local Bowling Club, and ex-president of the local branch of the A.N.A. He is also president of Morwell Traders' Association, and has been president of Morwell Swimming Baths Committee for two years.

His wife was a Miss Nelly Butters, daughter of H. A. Butters, of Morwell, and there is a family of two daughters.

FROM THE APRIL MEETING

Each meeting seems to produce ideas that may be pursued by members keen to preserve local history. The President, Mr. Lou Bond, has approached several old identities to have information collected about their families.

It has also been suggested that the Society compile short histories of local areas, such as Churchill, for use by school children - similar to those produced by Traralgon and District Historical Society some years ago.

The April meeting also decided upon the wording for the plaque to be affixed to the Ivan Maddern memorial seat.

The meeting concluded with President Lou Bond giving a vivid description of the 1936 photo, of Morwell township, which was reproduced in the April Newsletter.

Morwell's origin in Devon

SIR — Your issue of March 3 contains a "Gippsland History" article which suggests C. J. Tyers, government surveyor, who in 1842 or 1844 became the first Land Commissioner for the newly-created District of Gippsland, may have been the person to first name Morwell as distinct from Maryvale and that "he came from a place near Morwell Rocks in Devon".

I would be interested to learn the source of this information as his biography, contained in Vol 2 of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, apparently written by a relative, has it that he was born in London. Could it have been that he was London-born but brought up in Devonshire?

Morwell Rocks is in the vicinity of Morwellham on the

River Tamar, four miles from the one-time market town of Tavistock, and between 1845 and 1865 the Devon Great Consols Mine near Morwellham was Europe's chief source of copper. The long-derelict workings, buildings, tramways and quays have now been attractively restored as a tourist venue and I happen to have been in correspondence with the founder of the Morwellham Centre over matters of family history relating to the period 1836-66 when my grandfather was land agent and steward for the Duke of Bedford's estates along the Tamar Valley.

I was born at Liskeara on the Cornish side of the border and as a boy used to know the Tavistock area fairly well.

A. F. Benson, Canberra.

THE EXPRESS

APRIL 11, 1985

A HISTORY OF THE MORWELL CITIZENS' BAND

Mr. Alf Warren is currently working on a history of the Morwell Citizens' Band.

A long time resident of Hazelwood North, Alf has enjoyed an equally long association with the band. However, his work so far has not all been smooth sailing.

Alf has found there to be a paucity of recorded information. He has an interesting collection of photographs, pictorially recording personalities at various gatherings. But written information is scarce.

Alf is aiming to rectify this problem and would be grateful for any assistance that may be forthcoming. Alf's home phone number is 66 1475.

INTRIGUING

Next time you drive along Elgin Street, between White and Wilson Streets, have a close look at number 79.

Located on this residential block are two houses. Behind the front house is a much older dwelling that looks to be still in reasonable condition. Perhaps this is a bit of Morwell history that members might like to enlarge upon in later newsletters.

A PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON...HISTORICALLY SPEAKING THAT IS

Many members will know of the Cranwell family, long term residents of Hazelwood North. Max Cranwell, today runs the family dairy farm which is bordered by Church Road and the main Traralgon - Churchill Road.

Max's father, Mr. Doug Cranwell, passed away in November last year. Like his father, Max maintains a deep affection for the family property. Centrally located in the Hazelwood North area, the farm is one of the few remaining family properties that has not succumbed to the interests of land development.

Atop the highest point of the farm are the remains of the original home which, together with the outbuildings, was destroyed in the 1944 fires. The concrete front door step, bricks from the chimney, fruit trees, twisted remains of agricultural machinery and the original pig sheds are all that's left as testimony to former grace.

Max is keen to explain the family history which he traces back to modest beginnings in Braybrook. Perhaps the Society might consider a visit to the house site on a suitable Spring Sunday. The view of the property from this vantage point on a fine day is worthwhile in itself.

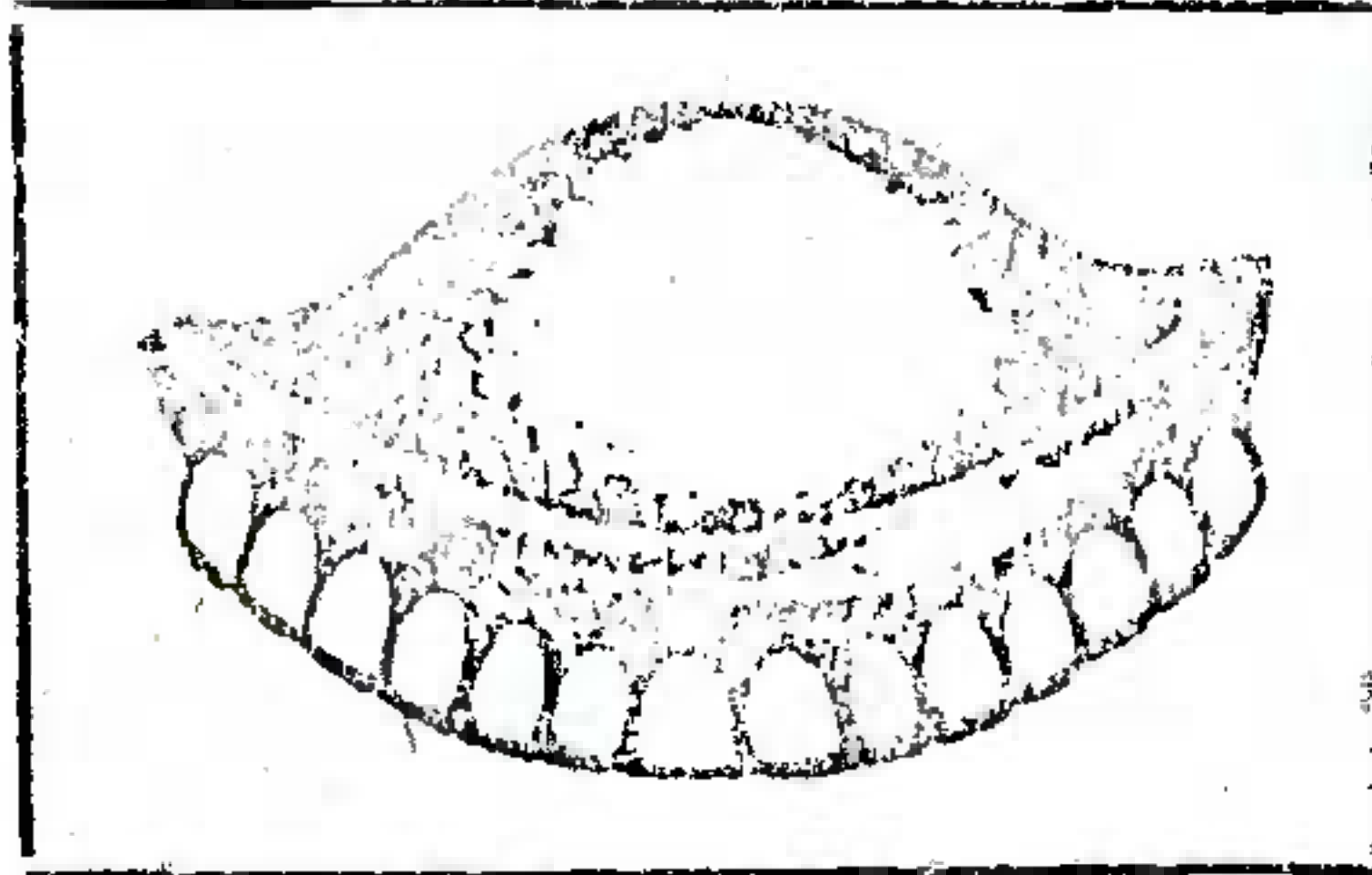
CHANGES ARE BEGINNING - GET THE CAMERA....

At our February meeting Mr. Bill McRoberts, in reminiscing about Morwell in the 1930's, referred to Elgin Street. This area is about to undergo massive change with the rerouteing of the Princes Highway to the South of Morwell.

Earthmoving contractors are currently altering the former waste ground adjacent to the S.E.C. works area at the end of Elgin Street.

A few photographs taken in 1985 might be interesting to look back upon in the year 2000.

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BOOLARRA : Aug. 19.

SIGHT TESTING SPECIALIST

J. L. KOMESAROFF

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