

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

MEMOS

As we decided to have a Meeting in December, members are receiving a January newsletter early. We shall not be having a Meeting in January, however, our first Meeting in 1986 will be on Tuesday, February 18th at 7.30 p.m. and the tentative date for our Annual Meeting is Tuesday March 18th. The venue for our Meetings will continue to be the Collins Street, P.S. Library.

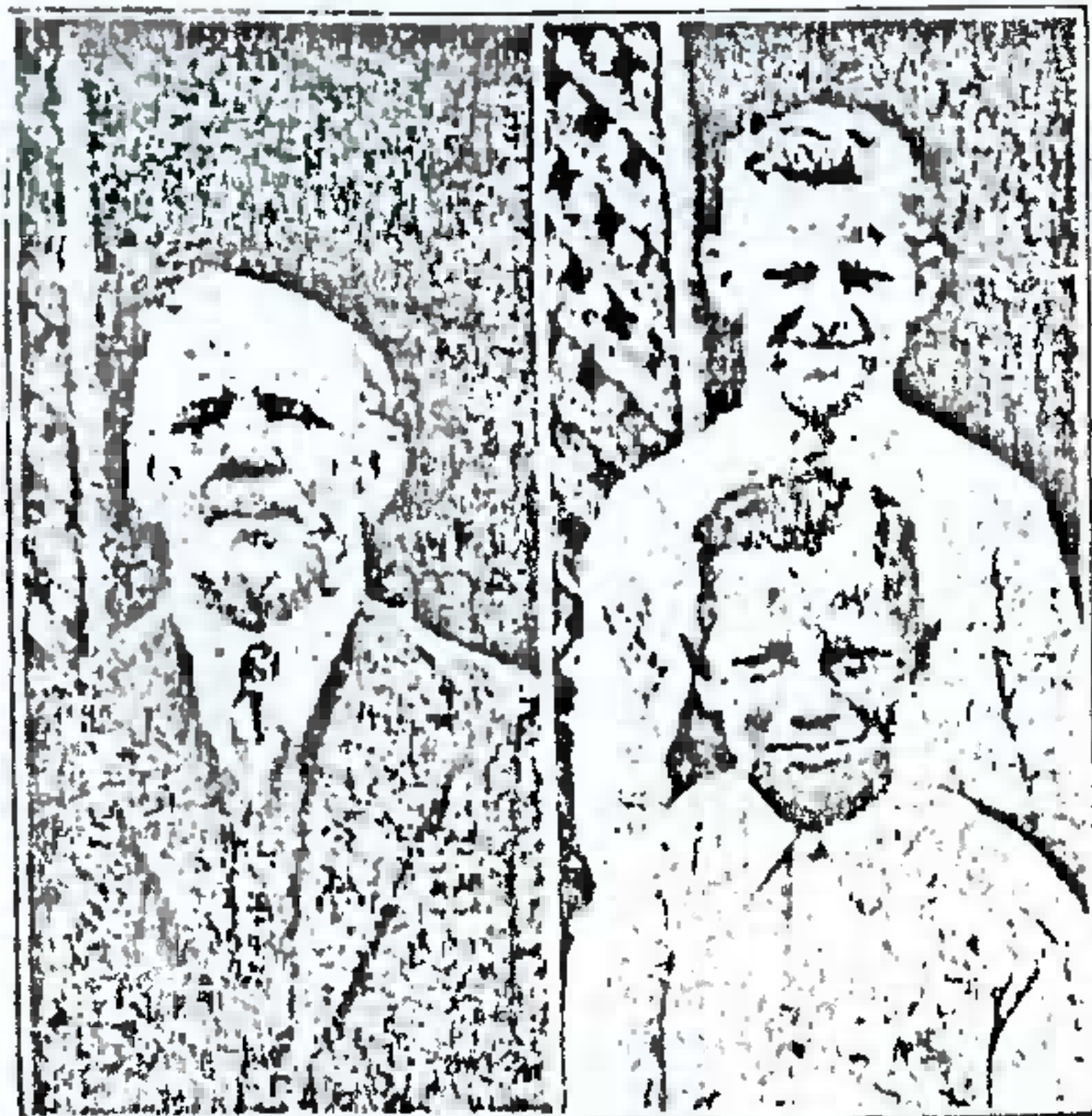
Meet at Hazelwood Nth. Hall
(opposite school) at 1.15 p.m.

We are planning an excursion to view two very interesting historical properties at Hazelwood North on Sunday afternoon 19 20th January 1986 (~~probable date~~). All interested people are cordially invited. All members will be notified regarding details of this excursion which also will be published in the Express.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Mr. E. H. HOWLETT, of Latrobe Jersey Stud, Latrobe River, Morwell, was born in Gippsland, and is a son of C. W. Howlett, who was one of the earlier residents of the district. Mr. Howlett has resided in Morwell for 25 years, and, after receiving his education there, he joined his father in the butchery business; he later had a business of his own.

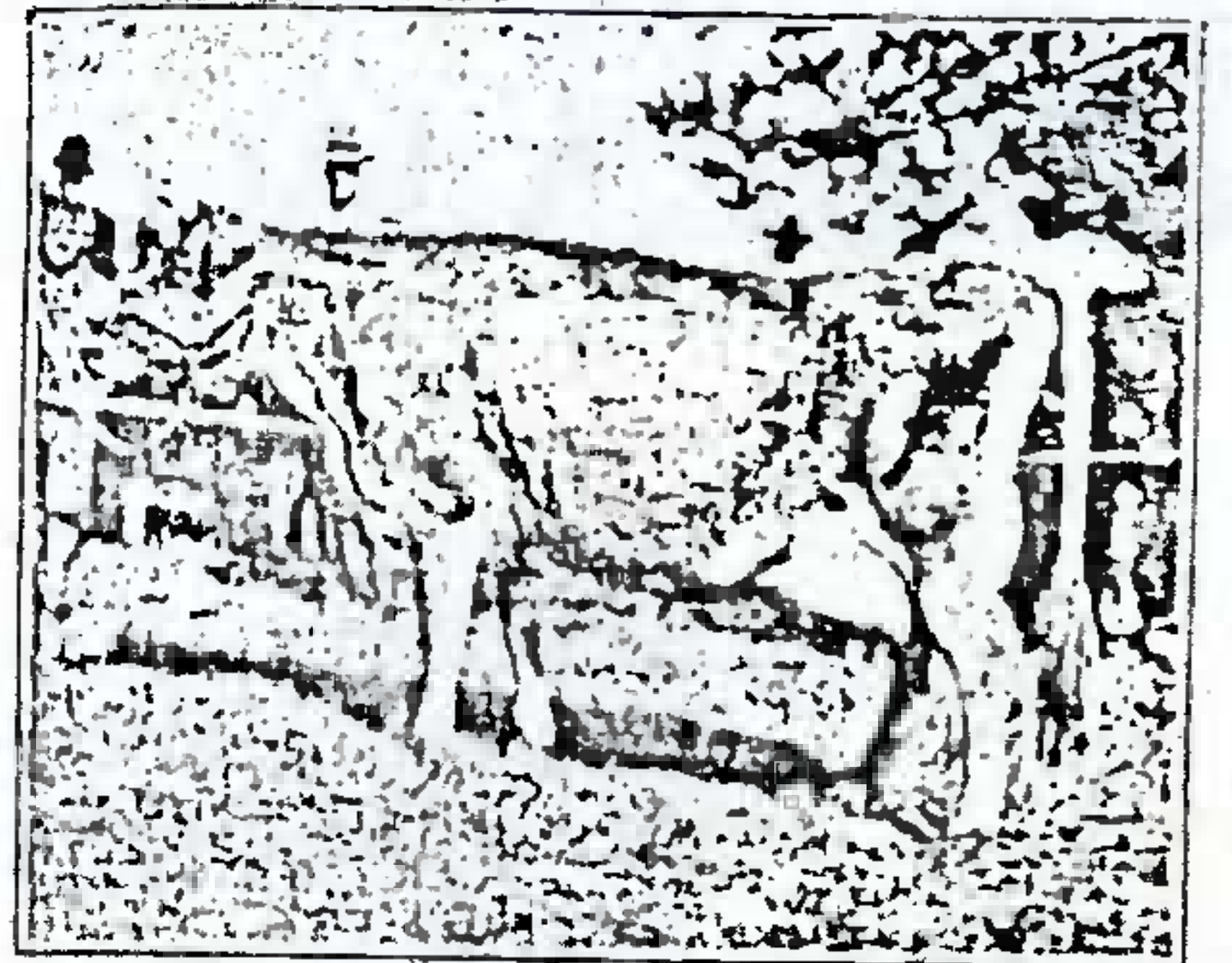
In 1905 he came to Blossom Flat, Latrobe, and along with his brother took up 140 acres with right of purchase. They bought 17 head of cattle, but owing to lack of feed, these had to be turned into the bush. It took them five years to clear the property, which they purchased after two years' rental basis. After being in partnership with his brother for 13 years the property was divided into two blocks of 60 and 80 acres respectively. Mr. Ernest Howlett took over the 80-acre block, and two years ago held a sale of registered cattle, £71 being offered. The property to-day carries 40 head of cattle and 55 sheep.



MR. E. H. HOWLETT, OF MORWELL, AND HIS SONS.

The Latrobe Jersey Stud was begun in 1922. The foundation stock came from Mr. Gordon Lyon's "Banyule" stud at Heidelberg. All the stock on the property have been bred from this strain on scientific lines, and the stud which has resulted has nothing to fear from com-

From
"Victoria and Riverina" (1933)



"LATROBE DOROTHY II," CHAMPION DAIRY COW, TRARALGON SHOW, 1930.

The present sire is "Joy Stick of Banyule," which was exhibited on the "Better Farming Train" on two occasions, and is recognised as one of "Wotton Airman's" best sons. The dam of "Joy Stick of Banyule" is "Tiddlewinks of Banyule," a Royal Show winner with a record of 578 lbs. of butter fat under Government test.

High prices have been realised for Latrobe stock, up to 75 guineas being obtained for mature cows, and an average of 40 guineas. One bull bred on the property fetched £110. The greater part of 80 acres of the stud is mowed for meadow hay and made into silage.



MORWELL MUSICAL SOCIETY

1905

Note: Ivan Maddern included this photograph in his Souvenir History of Morwell. Because there is some discrepancy between the captions in the Souvenir History and on the original photograph (held by the library), both are printed below.

Souvenir History: Back Row: Eddie Hentschel; Jack Collins; Jack Cave; Fred Goldsworthy; Bert Ferber; Arthur Pritchard; Harry Jones; Ralph Sandegren; Robert Tulloch. Middle Row: Miss Gates; Ida Hentschel; Mr. Sandegren (Conductor); Mrs. Sandegren; Olga Cooper; Theo Hentschel. Front Row: Dot Savage; Lil Williams; Maggie Hentschel (piano).

Original Photograph: Back Row: Eddie Hentschell; - Collins; Jack Cave; Fred Goldsworthy; Bert Firber; Arthur Pritchard; Harry Jones; Raleigh Sandegren; Bob Tulloch. Middle Row: Miss Gates; Ida Henschell; At back: Harry Bridle; Mr. Sandegren; Mrs. Sandegren; At Back: Bob Hentschell; Olga Cooper; Theo Hentschell; Front Row: Dot Savige; Miss Gates; Margaret Hentschell; May Hentschell.

THE MORWELL PLAYERS' DRAMA GROUP

The person or persons who we're told, once dubbed Latrobe Valley a cultural wilderness should have been at our November Meeting. Our speaker for that night was Mr. Perc Mooney who gave us a resumé of the history of the Morwell Players' Drama Group. The word 'cultural' is applied to artistic or social pursuits or events considered to be valuable or enlightened. So after hearing of the achievements of the above group in the 39 years of its existence, we felt our area should have been described as a cultural wonderland instead of wilderness.

Mr. Mooney named four people as being the main instigators of the Morwell Players' Drama Group in 1946. They were 1. Gordon Byron Moore; 2. Ruth Wetherall; 3. Muriel Bath (Mrs. Bickerton) and 4. Reg Baker. At that time the main entertainments in Morwell were dances and pictures. The first play that the Club put on was "Till Further Orders" - played to a very small audience in Morwell. In Traralgon some of the Players rounded up some rather bewildered Boy Scouts on a night march to swell the audience.

In the early stages of the Players' career they produced mainly kitchen operas and very light comedies. These were staged in local town halls, mainly in drapes not always appropriate but all they could afford. New members were recruited in rather unorthodox ways sometimes. At first they were given very little publicity. However, one newspaper run by Jack Lawless was very helpful giving them good write ups etc.

During the early fifties the Group went into a variety of productions including a very successful Puppet Show. the Club really came into its own, however, with the influx of migrants to the Valley. The drama and sophisticated comedies they produced were of a very high standard indeed and the appreciative reaction from the audiences sometimes amazed the actors and actresses themselves. The production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" was a case in point. Loud emotional cries of condemnation of the sadists portrayed in this play, rose from those in the audience who had experienced such horrors of war and the cast was given a standing ovation at the play's conclusion.

From this period onward the Group started to win at festivals. This was only accomplished by tremendous dedication and the overcoming of many difficulties financial and otherwise. Membership continued to grow and so did their successes and fame. The extent of their successes can be gauged to a degree by the number of trophies etc. Perce displayed. We noted particularly the beautiful trophies won at Moomba, B.H.P., Regional and N.D.L. Winners. Apart from these, individual members won personal awards. The standard of these productions was professional and indeed some of their members have become noted professionals and others could have been if they had chosen to follow such a career.

Three known professionals are Kaye Kellow, Frank Raggatt and Jim White. One who would have undoubtedly become a top professional if she had pursued that career is, of course Val Wilson. But what a great loss to our local community that would have been.

Perc also drew our attention to another exceptionally talented person to whom the company owed so much. This was Mrs. Doll Rust. The success of any production depends largely on the producer and in Mrs. Rust the Players had one of the best, equal to (and sometimes better than), top professional producers.

After Perce's talk we were able to browse through a "scrap book" of photographs, newspaper cuttings, programs etc. compiled by Perce's wife, Jean. It was suggested that a display of such mementos and trophies in the Morwell Library would be greatly appreciated by the interested public. Our Society hopes to make definite arrangements about this early in 1986.

Our president, Mr. Lou Bond, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Mooney for giving us such an enjoyable evening. We all felt that memoirs of the achievements of the Morwell Players should be preserved and if added to our historical records would greatly enhance them.



Moomba Festival Trophy
"The Proposal", 1968.