

# 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

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## THE TWENTIES IN MORWELL

At the February meeting of the society, Mr Bill McRoberts gave an interesting talk on commercial life in Morwell. The McRoberts family moved to Morwell in 1924 after earlier purchasing a produce business which stood in Commercial Road. Mr McRoberts took us on a lively tour of the businesses operating in Morwell at the time.

Then, as now, Morwell was divided in two by the railway line. On one side, commercial development centered around station (now the Princes Highway), Collins, Church and Buckley Streets; on the other it was largely confined to Commercial and Hazelwood Roads, Tarwin and George Streets.

With a population of 1200 people, Morwell had a busy commercial area serving the demands of a growing Yallourn and surrounding farming communities. Shops stayed open until 10 pm on Saturday and closed at noon on Wednesday. Horses were still the main means of transport. Roads were dirt while gutters were made of red gum sleepers.

Social and community life revolved around the Mechanics Institute on the S.W. corner of George and Tarwin Streets (where Clark Maples is today). The Institute, which was later burnt down in 1935, was the venue for dances, lantern slide programs, court house petty house sessions, library, concerts and meetings.

## EARLY RECORDS IN L.V. LIBRARIES

People might be interested to know that the Latrobe Valley Regional Library has just published a list of its holdings of early local newspapers and directories. These include;

The Traralgon Record 1883-1900 (microfilm) Traralgon branch  
The Gippsland Times 1861-1883 (microfilm) Traralgon branch  
Port Phillip/Victoria Directories 1839-1867 (microfilm)  
Wise's Victoria Post Office Directory 1884/85 1888-1900  
(microfilm)

The List is available from Morwell Library.

## Morwell's History in Schools

Maryvale High School is to the forefront when it comes to promoting local history. Currently, in the Middle School program (Years 9 and 10) there are two classes undertaking studies in Local History.

One class is working through a general history of Morwell. Students are being encouraged to research into the origins of the early settlers, how Morwell came to be as a commercial centre and the consequent establishment of the town as we know it today.

The second Class, following a different course of history, are being made aware of just how "young" Morwell's history is by compiling family trees.

### FAMILY HISTORIES

by J. L. CAFISO

One of the aims of our Historical Society is to encourage and help people to research and record their family history. In a book entitled "Relatively Speaking; The family tree way to better health" by Ross Million and Chris Reading (1984), these words are written, "There's a real thrill in finding out more about your family history. Almost certainly you've got some fascinating characters back there hiding in the shadows of time, people whose genes are in your body now, who have helped to shape you physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. When you find out more about your back ground your identity grows. You see yourself as part of an historical process, get deeper insight into who you really are and see yourself as belonging to an identifiable group of people."

There may be people reading this who would like to trace their history but do not know how to begin. Space is too limited on this news-sheet to give many hints, but I have lent to the Morwell Library the December edition of "ANCESTOR" the quarterly journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, special Beginners Issue full of helpful advice and information.

I would just like to add a little to their advice. To research, compile and record your family history thoroughly can be very time consuming and costly. Some people however keen they may be, would not at present have the necessary time or money. I would suggest to them that they at least make sure that all the data they can find in their home is carefully preserved in a safe place. Also try to make time to contact relatives, especially elderly ones, and obtain and record any information they can give including anecdotes that may not seem very important but may give a researcher a valuable clue. In years to come you or some descendants may have the time and money for genealogical research and this data will be ready to use.

For the past three years I have been compiling a book about my father's family, which is now being printed. In 1937, ten years after my father's death, his elderly cousin visited Mother and told her much of the Niemann Family history. My Mother wrote this down. But for this my book would not have seen the light of day.

When the vote on Church Union took place, St. Andrew's Congregation voted over 98% to stay Presbyterian, this Union has now come into being, and we have the new Church, the Uniting Church. But the Presbyterian Church goes on, already there are signs of new growth in various areas of the State. We ourselves are being pressed for help from as far away as Bairnsdale, we are the strongest Presbyterian Church this side of Melbourne, as the Pioneers of our faith laboured in the past so we must now apply ourselves to the task of building up the Church. With the Grace of Almighty God, and in His Power it is to this task we go forward in 1977.

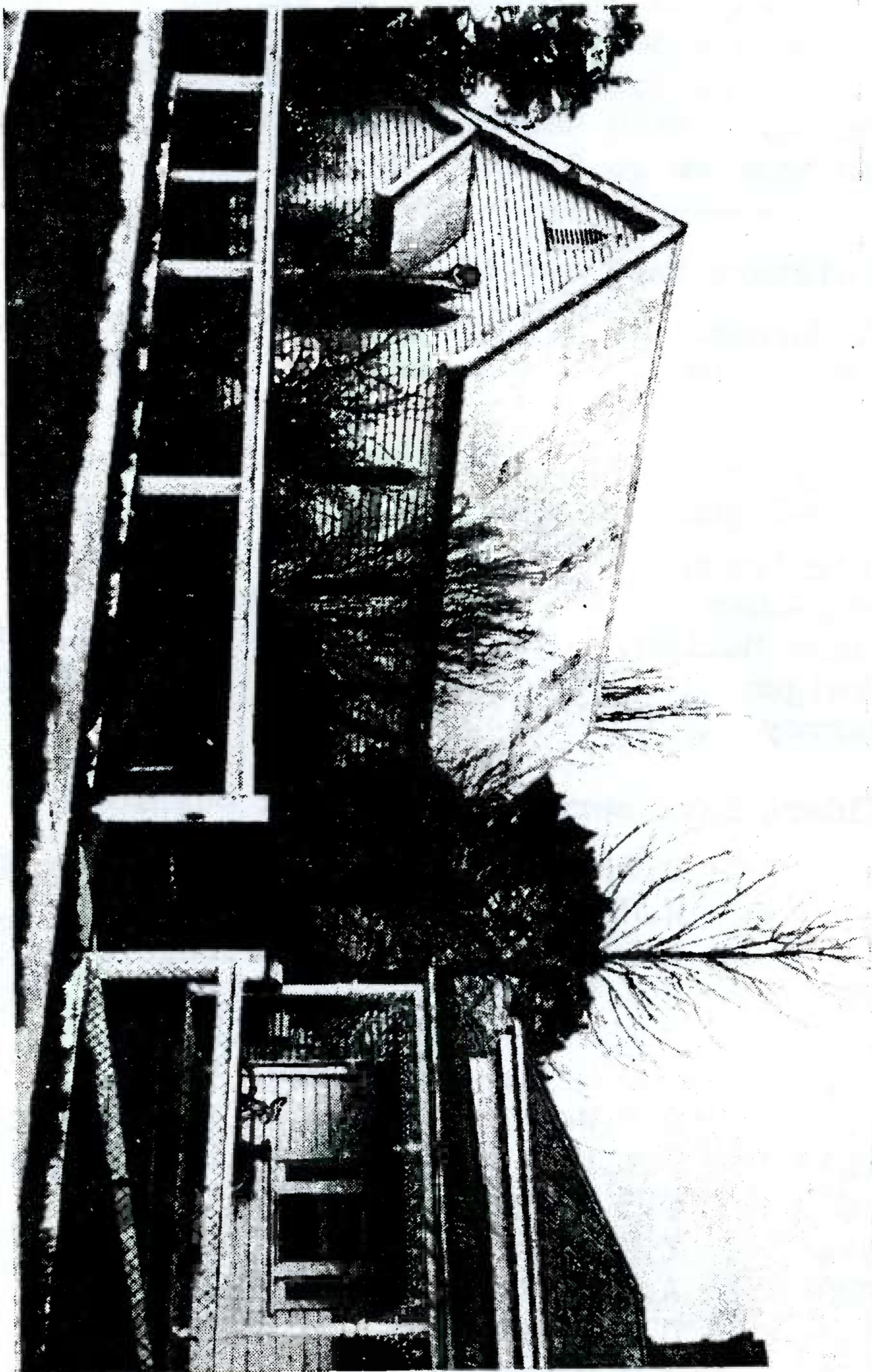
The following Ministers have served Morwell:

1889-91	Robert Murray.	1931-34	S.A. Vertigan
1892-99	Angus McDonald	1935-37	W.S. Laity
1900-02	Edgar Law	1939-41	Norman Faichney
1903-06	F. Barclay	1942-45	H.W. Hovenden
1907-12	J. Millar-Smith	1946-50	F.H. Camp
1912-16	H.A. Hutchinson	1950-56	A.H. Thomson
1917-22	J. Garnon-Owen	1957-61	L.G. Wood
1923-25	E.L. Slade Mallen	1963-68	P.W. Cillies
1925-28	J.A. Craigen	1968-	W.J. Bramley
1929-30	A.E. Harvey		

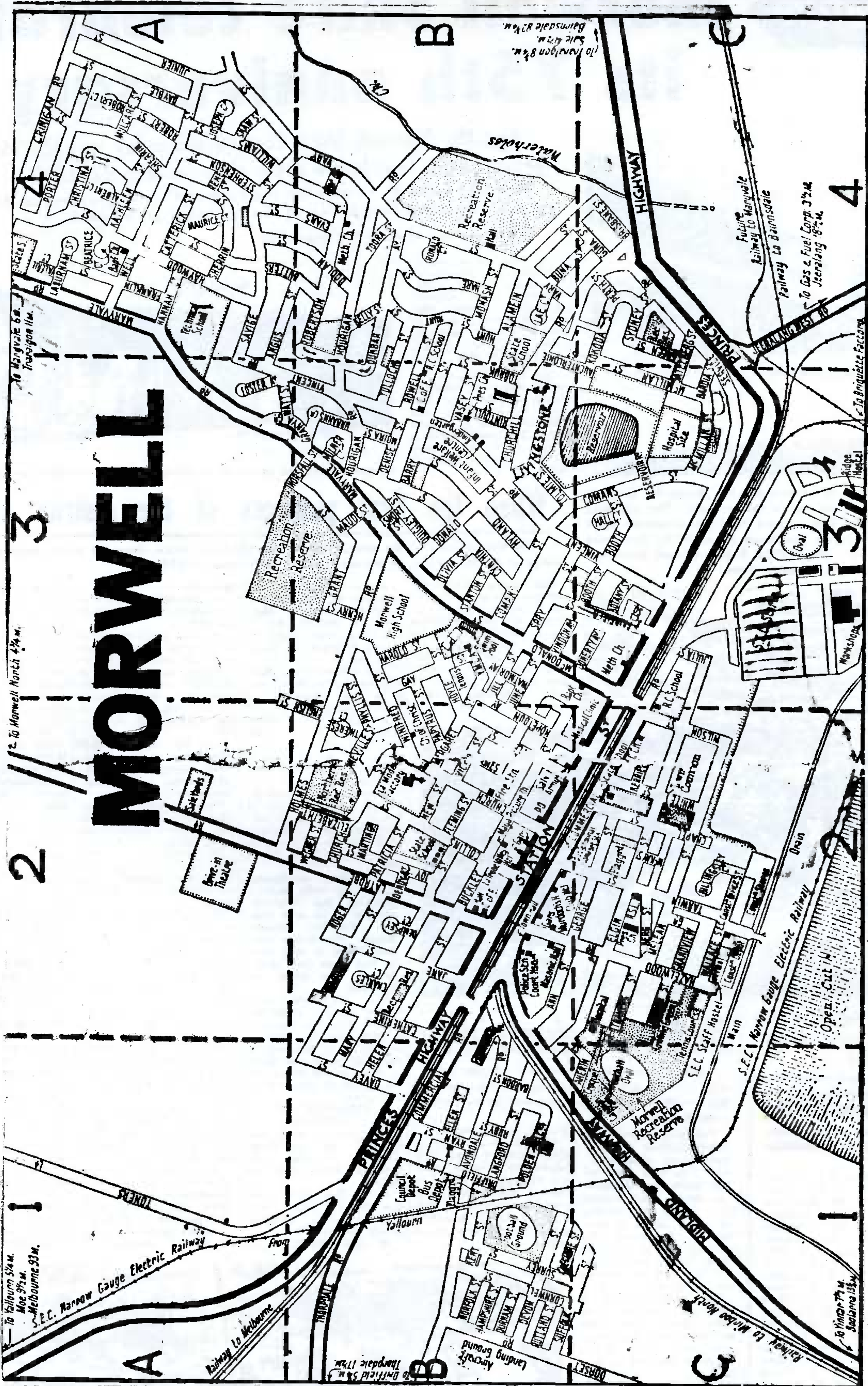
The following Elders have served on the Kirk Session:

W. Little	1889	D. Crook	1948	P. Bennett	1967
R. Porter	..	W. Morrison	1950	I. Jeffrey	..
J. Thompson	..	N.L. Lamour	..	J. Lagerway	..
J. Brewster	1899	T.K. Sides	..	K. Billingsley	1971
A. Gay	..	A.K. Ritchie	1952	J. Haldane	..
M.C.R. McDonald	..	J.C. Ellis	..	B. Hocking	..
S.J. Thompson	..	A.E. Wendle	..	H.L. Jephcott	..
J.D. Morris	1904	J.L. Palmer	..	M.C. Lawrence	..
A.W. Witt	1908	W.B. Macpherson	1954	A.D. Oxley	..
S.J. Thompson	1914	T. McI. Kerr	..	E.W. Porter	..
J. Alexander	1920	A.N. Cousland	1955	K.J. White	..
D. Dunbar	..	D. Lagerway	..	B. Brans	..
E.C. Henschel	1926	J.W.B. Herbert	1959	H.T. Christie	..
J.F. McRae	..	A.M. Caldwell	1960	A.A. Jephcott	1973
W.G. Fraser	..	F. Steeper	..	A. Draper	..
J.E. Lowe	1932	K.A. Taylor	..	H. Shillinglaw	..
T.W. Connor	1944	J.R. Bennett	..	K. Craze	..
A. Crilly	..	D. Riviere	1964		
W.N. Shaw	..	D. Abbey	..		
E.E. Tilson	1948	J. Martin	..		

*From the Present . . .*



PRESENT CHURCH (BUILT 1898) AND MANSE (BUILT 1913), ELGIN STREET.



This map of Morwell is taken from a 1961 Business Calendar. There are several points of interest. (a) At the Western end of town can be seen the streets of the WHITE CITY together with the Football Ground - the former Race Course. (The new highway traverses this area) (b) There is no Bridle Estate. (c) Note the route of the Princes Highway at the Western end of town.

# Morwell Shire celebrates its 75th anniversary

For the Morwell Shire Council yesterday was the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the shire on May 22, 1892.

That was some 45 years after the first settlers arrived in the district and 15 years after the foundation of the township of Morwell.

This article tells of these first beginnings.

In Australia, a young country, it frequently happened that the building of a railway brought about the establishment of a town. Both Morwell and Yinnar are examples of this.

The first village in this area was at Morwell Bridge where the Old Sale Road crossed the Morwell River. At Yinnar there was nothing but a school until the branch railway reached there in 1885.



Above shows the centre of Morwell in 1878 — Gilbert's combined store



Above is a stage in the history of Commercial-rd., Morwell. Looking east towards the Sacred Heart Church, on the horizon. The old type two-storey building was the Post Office where the Commonwealth Bank is today. The Universal Emporium has been replaced by Faulkners store but the hotel is still there. The tailor's, E. Rowell and Sons, has become part of Sharpe's store.

## When the first pioneers of the district arrived

The first settlers in the district arrived in 1844-45, more than 38 years before the beginnings of the townships of Morwell (1877) and Yinnar (1885).

The main Gippsland railway was built in five stages which were completed on the following dates: Sale-Morwell, June 1, 1877; Oakleigh-Bunyip, October 8, 1877; Morwell-Moe, December 1, 1877; Bunyip-Moe, March 1, 1878; Oakleigh - South Yarra, April 2, 1879.

As a result of the building of the railway, with a station at Morwell, a survey for a township was made by James Robinson in January 1878.

The railway from Morwell to Mirboo North was built in 1885-1886 in three sections.

A survey for a township at Yinnar was made by Robinson in May 1885, and an auction of 100 allotments was held in July that year.

Early in Victorian history there was a Roads and Bridges Department with functions very similar to those of the Country Roads Board today.

The first municipal governing body incorporating the Morwell district in its area was the Rosedale Roads Board. The Board was established in 1869 and in less than two years became the Shire of Rosedale.

The big area controlled by the shire extended from the Borough of Sale in the east to the Shire of Berwick in the west, with the Shire of Avon to the north and the Shire of Alberton to the south.

### CHANGES IN CONTROL

In summary form, the changes in municipal control affecting the Morwell area were as follows:

- Pre-May, 1869 Roads and Bridges Department
- 1869-1871 Rosedale Roads Board.
- 1871-1880 Shire of

Rosedale.

● 1880-1892 — Shire of Traralgon (severed from Rosedale).

● 1892 onwards Shire of Morwell (severed from Rosedale and Narracan).

During the 75 years of Morwell Shire history there have been changes in its area, ridings and the number of councillors.

On May 31, 1912, the shire was divided into four ridings: Morwell, Hazelwood, Yinnar, Boolarra.

The number of councillors was increased from six to 12 — three from each riding.

On December 11, 1915, parts of the Yinnar and Boolarra ridings were transferred to Mirboo Shire.

This reduced the area of Morwell Shire by 10 1/2 square miles.

On October 1, 1947, 8 1/2 square miles of the shire were absorbed into the SEC's Yallourn Works Area.

The shire originally comprised 265 square miles but a later survey yielded 277 square miles. The territory transfers to Mirboo shire and the SEC reduced this to 258 square miles.

On April 26, 1949, the four old ridings were re-subdivided into four new ridings: Central, East, West, South.

In 1966 the ridings were again re-subdivided to include a fifth, the North, and the number of councillors was increased from 12 to 15, effective as

from August.

Morwell shire includes the following districts and townships: Boolarra, Boolarra South, Bugeegee, Darlimulla, Driffield, Gunyah, Hernes Oak, Churchill, Hazelwood, Estate, Hoods, Jeeralang, Livingstone, Morwell, Wonyip, Yinnar, Yinnar South.

### OFFICERS IN 1892

The following were the Morwell Shire Council's first paid officers in 1892.

Secretary and rate collector, John McCoull, salary £125; engineer and valuer, Arthur C. Arney, £150; health officer, Dr William Moir, £10; inspector of nuisances, Const. Johnson, £10; dog inspector and collector of dog licences, Const. Johnson, to retain half of the licence money collected; treasurer, Henry McIntosh; pound keeper, Thomas Keogh.

### FIRST COUNCIL

The first meeting of the first Morwell Shire Council of six councillors was held in the Morwell Mechanics Institute on Wednesday, September 14, 1892. The council elected as its first president Donald Shaw.

His father, Archibald Shaw, had come to Australia from the Island of Mull, Scotland, where Donald was born and had settled at Hazelwood on a property which he named Otterburn.

The Shaw family was related to the famous Governor Lachlan Macquarie who also came from Mull.



An air view of the centre of Morwell in 1936 is shown above. Plenty of space — no need for parking meters.

## Before electricity

Before the general advent of electric lighting, and for a surprisingly long time after it, the streets of old Morwell were lit by kerosene lamps.

The first reference to street lighting in Morwell occurs when Morwell was still part of the Shire of Traralgon. In March, 1886, tenders were called for tending the street lamps in Morwell for 12 months. The contract was let to Mr E. Gadd for £35 per annum, and he had to provide the kerosene.

The sum involved is held to indicate that there would have been no more than five kerosene street lights in the whole of Morwell at that time.

In 1887 five more lamps were erected. In July of that year Mr P. Anderson followed Mr Gadd as the street lamp contractor. He was paid £6/17/6 per lamp per annum.

In 1897 the lamplighter was Mc W. Noy and he, for some unrecorded reason, was paid only 2/4 per lamp per month.

Later a Mr Caddy was street lamp contractor for many years.

In 1910 there was an agitation for better street lighting and the Council resolved that the Best lights be procured for the townships of Morwell,

Yinnar and Boolarra." As late as the end of 1915 Morwell was still apparently without electric lighting, for Mr G. F. Nalder interviewed the Council regarding a proposal to install acetylene street lighting at a cost of £400.



Above is a recent air view of Morwell showing the closely built-up central part of the town.

## THE SHIRE PRESIDENTS

Here is the complete roll of the Presidents of Morwell Shire since its foundation in 1892.

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1892/93 — D. Shaw,      | 1929/30 M. F. Walker,    |
| 1893/94 — D. Mac-       | 1930/31 J. M. Bolger,    |
| Millan, 1893/94 — E.    | 1931/32 W. Townsend,     |
| Kelleher, 1894/95 — E.  | 1932/33 J. McInnes,      |
| Mulcaire, 1895/96 — M.  | 1933/34 M. F. Walker,    |
| Kelleher, 1896/97 — D.  | 1934/35 G. Auchter-      |
| MacMillan, 1897/98 S.   | lone, 1935/36 A. Hall,   |
| Vaty, 1898/99 G. Fir-   | 1936/37 D. J. White,     |
| min, 1899/00 J. Hall,   | 1937/38 T. Quigley,      |
| 1900/01 — D. Mac-       | 1938/39 A. L. Hare,      |
| Millan, 1901/02 — S.    | 1939/40 A. L. Hare,      |
| Vaty, 1902/03 — S.      | 1940/41 D. G. Williams,  |
| Vaty, 1903/04 — W.      | 1941/42 A. Coleman,      |
| O'Grady, 1904/05 — T.   | 1942/43 G. Auchter-      |
| Watson, 1905/06 — J.    | lone, 1943/44 A. Hall,   |
| Hall, 1906/07 — J.      | 1944/45 D. J. White,     |
| Manang, 1907/08 G.      | 1945/46 D. J. White,     |
| Roy, 1908/09 J. Hall,   | 1946/47 M. F. Walker,    |
| 1909/10 J. Hall,        | 1947/48 J. Catterick,    |
| 1910/11 J. S. McLean,   | 1947/48 A. L. Hare,      |
| 1911/12 J. S. McLean,   | 1948/49 A. Hall,         |
| 1912/13 A. F. McDon-    | 1949/50 A. W. Ronald,    |
| ald, 1913/14 J. Edney,  | 1950/51 A. L. Hare,      |
| 1914/15 D. T. Laffer,   | 1951/52 D. J. White,     |
| 1915/16 J. English,     | 1952/53 A. Hall, 1953/54 |
| 1916/17 D. Dunbar,      | A. Hall, 1954/55 V.      |
| 1917/18 W. Ruchie,      | Hourigan, 1955/56 A.     |
| 1918/19 D. Dunbar,      | Hall, 1956/57 W. J.      |
| 1919/20 W. H. Pen-      | Pettigrew, 1957/58 A.    |
| lun, 1920/21 J. F.      | L. Hare, 1958/59 A. L.   |
| Daly, 1921/22 J. Hall,  | Hare, O.B.E., 1959/60    |
| 1922/23 D. McKay,       | M. F. Walker, 1960/61    |
| 1923/24 T. White,       | L. W. Bond, 1961/62 A.   |
| 1924/25 D. J. White,    | L. Hare, O.B.E., 1962/   |
| 1925/26 T. Quigley,     | 63 A. Hall, 1963/64 W.   |
| 1926/27 G. A. Rae,      | J. Pettigrew, 1964/65    |
| 1927/28 E. Walkley,     | A. L. Hare, O.B.E.,      |
| 1928/29 D. G. Williams, | 1965/66 K. White,        |
| 1929/30 E. Heson,       | 1966/67 A. Hall,         |

# HOW MORWELL HAS GROWN SINCE THOSE EARLY DAYS

Special feature

When a deputation from Morwell in February, 1891, waited on the Minister of Public Works to urge the creation of Morwell shire by separation from Traralgon shire, Mr W. Murdoch estimated that the new shire would have an annual revenue of £800-£1000. In fact the first year's revenue was £2000.

The table below illustrates the growth of the shire and the town of Morwell at five-yearly intervals from the foundation of the shire.

Most striking is the accelerated growth, measured by population, since 1950.

The continuous de-

preciation in the value of money during and since World War II, and resulting land revaluations, have had much to do with the soaring increases in valuation and revenue since 1950, but generally the growth of the shire and the town of Morwell have been mainly due to the enormous de-

velopment of electric power generation and brickette making by the SEC, of gas production by the Gas and Fuel Corporation, and of paper making by the APM.

The first Morwell shire offices at the turn of last century are shown at top right. Built on the municipal site in Hazelwood

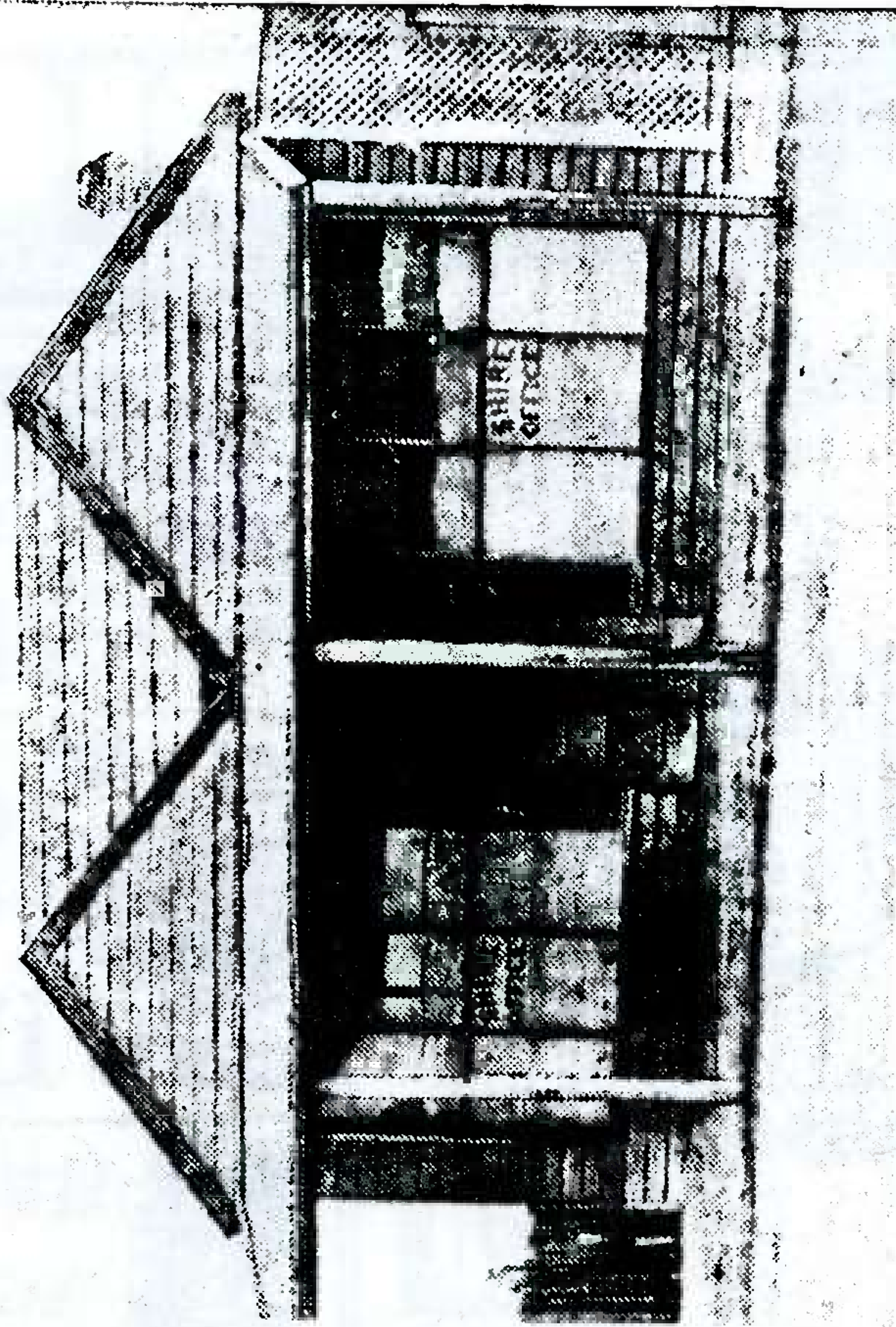
rd., they carried the sign "West End" on the roof because that was the name given to the western outskirts of the village.

Bottom photograph shows the present (third) Morwell Shire offices, with council chamber and reception suite on the upper floor. Ektensier, were completed early this year after the Morwell Public Library had been moved into its new building.

The second shire offices were situated on the site of the present Waterworks Trust.

Year	Shire Population	No. of Houses	Valuation	Rate	Revenue	Population of Morwell
1892	2,300	500	£21,673	1/-	£2,000	800
1895	2,000	500	£23,384	1/-	£2,191	800
1900	2,447	530	£22,477	1/-	£2,234	1,000
1905	2,700	570	£26,600	1/3	£2,672	1,200
1910	3,135	590	£31,600	1/3	£4,310	1,365
1915	3,465	700	£46,008	1/3	£5,306	1,365
1920	3,500	690	£44,669	1/6	£5,024	1,365
1925	4,000	1,100	£64,973	2/9	£9,663	1,365
1930	7,000	1,500	£65,800	2/9	£11,855	1,600
1935	7,425	2,038	£65,478	2/7	£16,928	1,846
1940	8,350	2,400	£68,788	2/3	£13,229	2,000
1945	9,270	2,550	£98,515	2/-	£14,728	2,500
1950	9,000	2,200	£163,579	2/6	£33,311	5,200
1955	13,000	3,256	£406,844	4/-	£120,044	9,250
1960	17,000	4,150	£657,844	3/10	£196,292	12,000
1966	20,773	5,375	\$2,461,041	15c in \$	\$608,750	16,578

eq. 3/- in £



THE ADVERTISER

MAY 23, 1967

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**SPECIAL!**



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## College bars Tech. pupils

### ... BUT THEY'LL GET IN AFTER ALL

Twenty-one students were refused admittance to Yallourn Technical College on Wednesday.

It's been a long day especially when you've never been to school before. It seems the hands on the clock won't ever get around to 'let out time.' And the expressions on the faces of the new pupils range all the way from doubtful interest to sheer boredom. But school can be fun, too, especially when you learn to read and to make words on paper, and do lots of things you've never done before. This picture, taken at Sacred Heart School shows, left to right: Helen Semalero, Nadia Negro, Frank Marino, Brendan Aire (at rear) and Lucia Di Dio.

## The 'newies' settle in

The population of all Morwell's primary schools increased when schools re-opened on Tuesday, but with the exception of Tobruk-st., there have been no accommodation problems.

At Tobruk-st., where enrolments have risen by 25 to 785, a classroom had been taken away. The headmaster, Mr Alec Ruxton, said that this would mean that additional pupils would be placed in other rooms, causing some crowding instances. There were 126 first-year scholars enrolled, and the school gained an additional 20 children by transfers — 26 in and six out. Mr Ruxton said that for the most part, the new pupils had settled in fairly well, with only an occasional crying session. At Crinigan - rd., which gained about 120 pupils — 101 first year children — there were no accommodation problems. "We had a very good opening day, with very little bother or settling-in problems," said the headmaster, Mr C. T. McCullough. At Commercial - rd., where the headmaster, Mr A. L. Brennan, reported reasonable accommodation, there were 46 first year pupils enrolled. The school lost 30 pupils on transfer, but gained 20. Here also, there have been few settling-in problems. Collins - st. headmaster, Mr Waterson, reported an intake of 46 first year scholars but was unable to give details of transfers. Accommodation is no problem at Collins-st. The two Catholic schools have gained a total of 160 new pupils — 80 at Sacred Heart and 80 at St. Vincent's, bring that population to about 550.

## DINNERS THERE BUT NO DINERS

Morwell's Meals-on-wheels service came into operation on Tuesday... but while there were plenty of meals, no one came forward to claim them.

The scheme was organized by Morwell Shire Council in conjunction with Trafalgon Hospital, which prepared the meals. The opening date had been well publicised and it was expected that many of the elderly and invalid people of the town would take advantage of it. The Shire authorities were unable to explain the lack of patronage but predicted that, as the result of further publicity, a reasonable amount of diners would be forthcoming. A member of the Red Cross Company, Mrs L. Mason-Woods, said that the company had undertaken to distribute the meals in the town. The Company had been very surprised by the lack of patronage. Morwell Shire Council Health Inspector, Mr Bruce McMaster, who controls Council's part of the scheme, said today it is here to stay. "It is a service which must be maintained, because there is a definite need for it. The Home Help Sister, local doctors and nurses will notify us of any suitable cases and we will take it from there," Mr McMaster said.

## HARDLY A RIPPLE IN TEN O'CLOCK DRINKS

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The long awaited introduction of 10 o'clock closing caused hardly a ripple in Morwell's way of life when it became operative on Tuesday.

Morwell police are very happy with the general standard of behavior of drinkers on the first night of 10 o'clock closing.

Only one arrest was made — that of a 19-year-old youth on a charge of having used indecent language in Gude's Arcade.

A police spokesman said that uniformed police had patrolled both hotels at regular intervals during the 6 to 10 p.m. session. From opening time — 10 a.m. — until about 5 p.m. on Tuesday, and particularly during the mid-day counter lunch period, trading followed the usual pattern of early part of the week drinking.

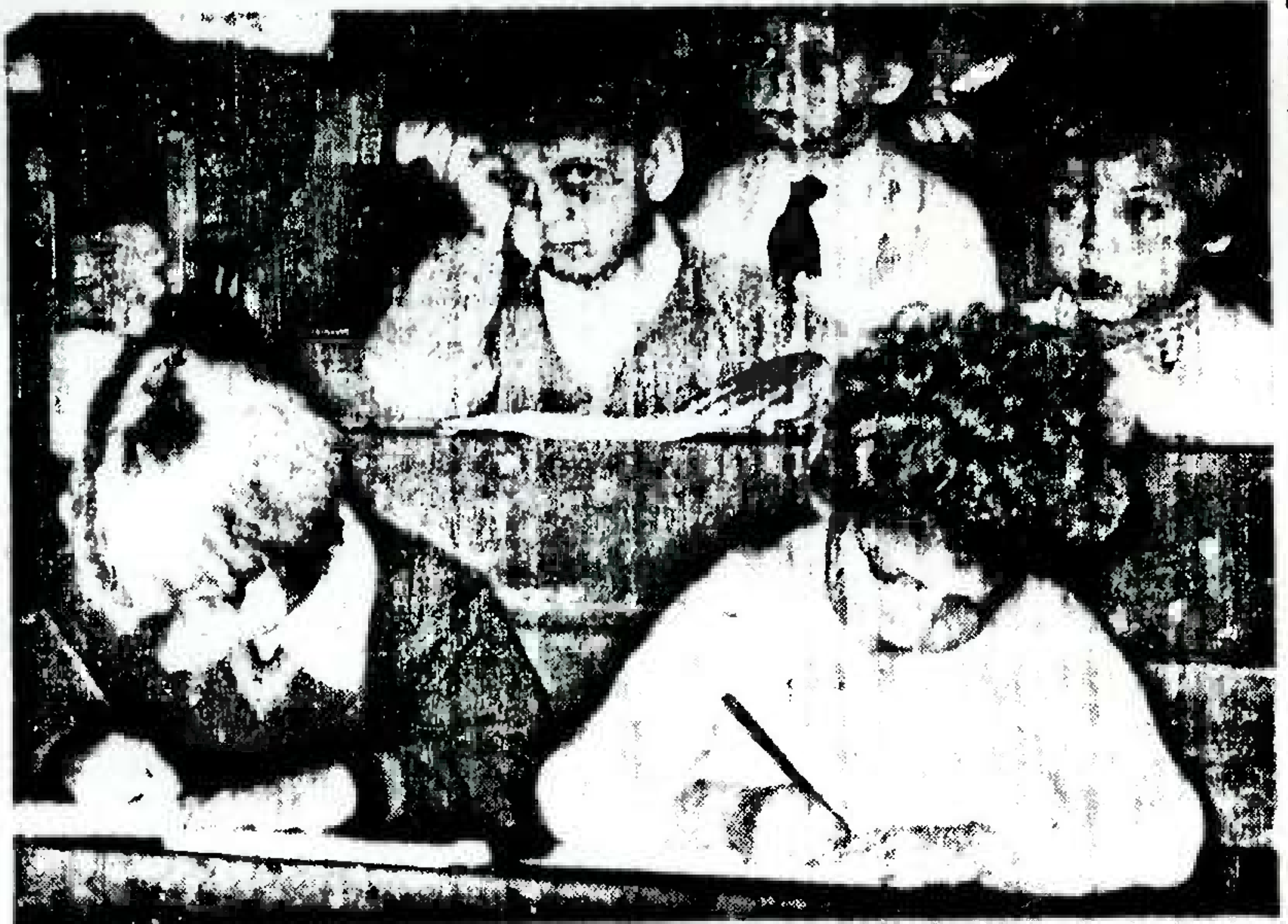
At 6.15 — the old "Tune, gentlemen, please" hour — there were only half the usual number of customers in the bars.

The number of drinkers varied little in the next hour and a half, but just before 8 o'clock there was a sudden influx of younger people, followed a little later by the older brigade.

In the Club Hotel lounge, where there was a pianist in attendance, a few of the crowd danced on a section of the floor set apart. But for the most part the crowd concentrated on leisurely drinking.

But last night there was a different scene —

CONTINUED PAGE 19.



## Whip the vandals: Mayor

Vandals have defaced books in Moe's Municipal Library and Mayor, Cr E. Scott, bluntly states that, if found, they should be whipped. Reporting to Tuesday night's City Council meeting, Town Clerk, Mr F. E. Bartlett, described sentences that had been written into the books as "shocking, and disgraceful".

An obviously disgusted Cr Scott told councillors that the phrases were "filthy".

Mr Bartlett said that police and council would take strong action against the culprits if they were discovered.

He also reported that "filthy" writing had been scratched deeply into a rear door of the library and books had been taken into the toilet, photographs torn out, and flushed down the cistern.

## SUPERVISION FOR CROSSING

The pedestrian crossing on Princes Highway, near McDonald-st. bridge, will be manned daily by police during going-to and leaving school hours.

A police spokesman said today that the move had been prompted by the large number of Convent and State School children who used the crossing.

The students, expecting to enrol in the secondary section (in Form I), were turned away by the college principal, Mr E. L. Scott, when they arrived at the college.

However, the students will be glad to hear that they are to be admitted immediately — even though they may be housed in temporary accommodation.

The Advertiser, concerned at the barring of the students, telephoned the Member for Morwell, and Lands Minister, Mr J. C. M. Balfour, who gave an assurance that the students would be accommodated.

Mr Balfour said that the accommodation and teaching shortage had been made known late last year and steps had been taken to meet the situation.

"But there has been a delay somewhere along the line," he said.

Mr Balfour said he had been in touch with the Chief Inspector of Technical Schools, Mr Kepert, who this morning had given an undertaking that the students would be taken in to the College.

Mr Kepert said that the students might have to be housed temporarily in the Yallourn High School until Bristol classrooms were moved from Yallourn to Newborough.

## MORE STAFF

Arrangements were being made for additional staff to be made available.

Mr Scott said the pupils were turned away because of the lack of accommodation and teaching staff at the college.

He said that applications by the students to enrol at the college had been deferred last November.

Last November Local MLA and Minister for Lands, Mr J. C. M. Balfour, stated that it was anticipated that the students would be admitted following an investigation by himself.

Yesterday Mr Scott said the position of deferments, as notified last November, had not changed.

"I wrote to the parents of the students saying that their applications had been deferred, and unless further notice was given them, the position would be that they would not be able to enter the college this year. The parents have received no further notice," Mr Scott said.

"I believe steps have been taken to get more space and teachers, but so far these have not been successful."

## ALVA WANTS CITY PRICES IN COUNTRY

Country areas should not have to pay more for foodstuffs and other staple commodities, president of the Advance Latrobe Valley Association, Mr A. G. Holden, suggested in Melbourne on Tuesday.

Following discussion at ALVA's meeting last week at Sale, Mr Holden "sounded out" the Victorian League for Balanced Development on price standardisation throughout the State. The league referred the proposal to an interstate conference on decentral-

sation to be held at Loxton, (SA), in May.

At ALVA's meeting, Mayor of Moe, Cr Scott, sounded a note of caution. He declared: "We must be wary. If we want equalisation, we must be prepared to accept it all the way."

at the February ALVA meeting. Mr T. H. Furlonger said that the peculiar set-up in Australia gave a wide variation in the price of many staple commodities, while other items had a uniform price throughout.

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## Moe court to hear the first .05 case

Victoria's first case under the new .05 law was due to be heard in Moe Court early this afternoon.

(The law limits the alcohol content of the blood of a person driving a motor vehicle whilst under the influence to .05 per cent.)

A 27-years-old Yarragon man was charged under the new law on the first day the law came in force last Tuesday.

The man, Robert Rankin, driver, single, was charged by Inspector Arthur John Slater, of Warragul, shortly after 10 p.m.

The charge formally reads:

"Did drive a motor car on a highway — Campbell-st., Yarragon — while the per cent of alcohol in his blood expressed in grams per 100 mills of blood was more than .05 per centum."

He was also charged with driving whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor, and

## Fine weather

Morwell can expect good weather for the International Picnic at the Recreation Reserve on Sunday. The forecast issued this morning predicts mild to warm weather tomorrow.