

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 MAY NEWSLETTER

First some notes from the April Meeting.

1. Annual Report presented to Regional Meeting of Gippsland Historical Societies on May 2.

Copy enclosed

2. At annual meeting, all office bearers were returned unopposed. Office-bearers are as follows:-

PRESIDENT: Mr. L. Bond

VICE-PRES.: Mr. B. McMaster

SECRETARY : Mrs. E. McMaster

TREASURER: Mrs. D. Taylor

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Mrs. J. Cafiso

LIBRARIAN/ARCHIVIST: Mr. B. McMaster

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Mrs. J. Cafiso, Miss C. Wood, and
Mr. L. Billington

3. General

- a) Purchase of photographic copying equipment is under way as money from the Bicentennial grant is now available.

- b) Members are invited to attend a meeting of Boolarra & District Historical Society on Monday-May 11. At this meeting there will be a speaker on the history of the Morwell-Mirboo North railway line.

- c) It was resolved that, at the appropriate time, a plaque be affixed to the palm trees on the ridge to the west of McDonald's restaurant, to alert people to the historical significance of the trees.

- d) A request has been received from Miss C. Wood for information on the early days of Morwell Library. If you can help, please contact her on 341047, (Morwell Library) or 742534, (Traralgon Library).

...2... ALBERT DRAFTON.

the time the Doctor arrived by horse and buggy perhaps nearly five hours had passed. The Doctor did what he could when he arrived, but the patient had to be taken to hospital. No ambulance was available, so it was arranged that he would be carried by stretcher to Morwell.

Early next morning twenty friends and neighbours had gathered and they began the long seventeen mile walk, the four bearers changing as they tired. It was a great ordeal for Albert, and also for those who carried him. The nearest hospital was at Sale, and the train to that town left Morwell at 9 o'clock, so when Albert was placed in the guard's van he still had another two or three hours to endure before reaching a hospital bed. What a day to remember!

Albert spent some months in hospital before returning, the doctors doing what they could, but Albert had a very decided limp which did not alter as the years passed by.

He again worked on the farm, his handicap making each task harder, but he had the courage to carry on. He was a proficient member of the local Rifle Club, unfortunately the only sport he could take part in. rll local

Albert was married to a daughter of a neighbour, and managed the farm until retiring age when they left the hills, moving down to South Hazelwood where he ended his days.

* NEXT MEETING: MAY 19
7-30 p.m

next for reasons 14/10/75 eg Memory Lane. Page 4

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LATROBE VALLEY
EXPRESS
WEEKENDER

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goes . . .
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string

HOME SITES . . . BY THE HUNDRED



PRETTY Alison Lamont, with her pet rabbit Thumper (on his leash), has become part of the Walhalla scene and was waiting in front of Windsor House to greet our photographer when he called this week. More pictures, centre pages.

A **SIZEABLE** new suburb could be developed along the highway between Traralgon and Morwell.

And Morwell Council this week discussed the rezoning of a further 100 acres for residential and commercial development adjacent to the Maryvale railway.

The opening of the Daly subdivision east of the Bridle Estate, development of the Shire Council's industrial estate on Tramway Road and development of the old Lurgi plant all point to a large scale new residential, commercial and industrial centre.

Shire Engineer, Mr Ritchie, recommended the council rezone an area of land on the north-east corner of the Princes Highway and Alexander Road.

Mr Ritchie said the Morwell Parkland Estate (stage one) was now almost the only land available for residential expansion in Morwell.

"There are signs, such as increased demand for industrial lots on the council's industrial estate, that the economy in this area is beginning to pick up," he said.

After discussions in committee, the council decided not to proceed with the rezoning at present but wait until the town planning and finance committee investigates all possible areas for possible future residential development.

However, with the opening of the Daly estate, which has about 300 blocks, the area east of the Maryvale railway line seems the natural place for further development.

Shire Secretary, Mr Dunton, said today the Daly estate would provide land for about three years if present development trends continued.

"The council sees that the quantity of residential land in Morwell is fast running out, particularly with increased industrial developments in the

area" he said. "We must keep well ahead of supply and rezoning of land gives notice of where forward development is going."



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Who's Minister for Potholes..?

EVERY council has its "cupboard" (wet or dry), but Morwell Shire this week went one better. It now has its own cabinet.

Each of the 15 councillors has been allocated a "portfolio" along the lines of Federal and State parliaments.

Shire Secretary, Mr Dunton, suggested the new scheme and it was approved, although not overwhelmingly.

from the newly appointed "ministers" like "what about our ministerial allowance?" and "who gets Junie Morosi?" but most seemed to think the new scheme could help to improve council efficiency.

Mr Dunton explained the system works well at other councils where it had been set up.

He said matters would be referred to the appropriate "ministers" as soon as

they were received at the office so that he (or she) could investigate and have prepared a report in time for the council meeting.

"It means councillors will be specialising in some particular field and we will be able to look to him for guidance," he said.

"As it is at present, matters come up at a council meeting and we flounder around for

about 15 minutes. But if we at least have someone to lead the debate it could shorten meetings."

The councillors (ministers?) decided to give the new scheme a trial period for a couple of months.

The "cabinet" line-up is: Finance, Cr A. Hall; publicity and promotion, Cr J. Dyer; health, Cr M. Walker; tourism, Cr W. McRoberts; education,

Cr P. Hudson; sport and recreation, Cr J. Vinall; transport and communication, Cr L. Bond; social welfare, Cr J. Pettigrew; conservation, Cr K. Quigley; art and culture, Cr R. Dean; lands, Cr K. White; traffic and by-laws, Cr W. Howes; voluntary organisations, Cr E. Grinpuke; decentralisation and development, Cr W. Jones; planning, Cr F. Hall.

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THE world of 80 years ago was a very different one from that of today.

It was the horse age, with no cars or tractors to serve the travel and power needs of the farmer or ordinary citizen. When motors replace horses, the blacksmith's shop disappeared, as well as the saddler's, the chaff and grain merchants, and the livery stables, to make way for garages, petrol stations, motor cars and motor trucks.

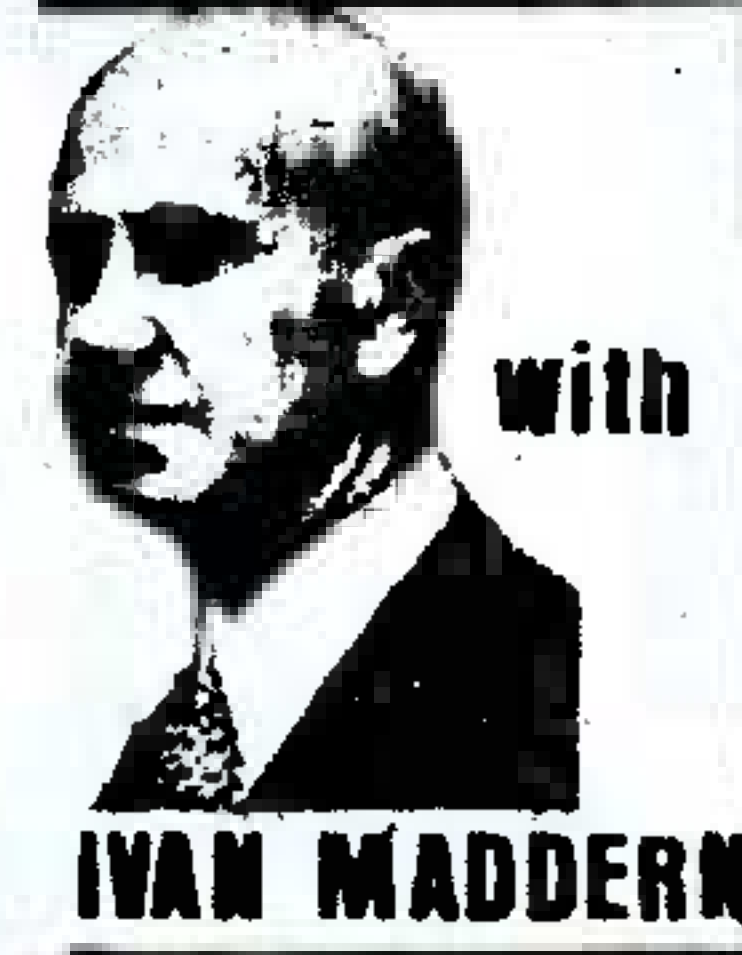
Children were invariably attracted to the door of the smithy to see the furnace fanned to white heat by the big bellows, to watch the shower of sparks struck from hot metal, to gaze with awe at the big smith and his men, protected by leather aprons, their faces blackened with the grime from their charcoal fires, or to hear the ring of hammer on anvil, and the hiss of steam as hot iron was plunged into butts of water for tempering.

PERHAPS a horse had been brought in to be shod, and the smith would hold the great, bent leg of the horse between his knees, as he hammered the iron shoe on to the upturned hoof.

Perhaps an iron tyre was being fitted to a buggy wheel. The ring of gleaming, hot iron would be dropped over the wooden wheel, and the immediate flame as glowing iron touched wooden wheel, would be

The lost charm of the old village smith

MEMORY LANE



with IVAN MADDERN

provided Gippsland with blacksmiths for three generations, and probably their home town, Yetholm in Roxburgh, Scotland, just over the border from England, for many generations before that. George Rintoull, 1815-1896 emigrated to Victoria in 1855, and set up the first blacksmith's shop west of Sale, at Rosedale. His son John Rintoull, 1851-1936, as a young man, travelled the Old Coach Road between Rosedale and Brandy Creek, shoeing horses for Cobb and Co.

doused as both were plunged into a well of water. The contracting tyre hugged the wooden circle in an immovable grip.

The smithy was the workshop of the district. Horses were shod, harrows and ploughs were made or repaired. Special paling splitters made by Rintoull and Son cost 25 shillings each, and were well worth the money. The patent butter-churn made by Rintoull's was so sound in design, that the same principle was adopted, on a larger scale, for the Yarragon

He established his smithy at Morwell in 1877, in the first year that township's existence. In 1874, he had won the world horse-shoe making record, turning out 36½ horse-shoes in an hour.

This Morwell business was then carried on (and closed) by Mr Jack Rintoull, 1893-1966. The place where Rintoull's blacksmith shop stood, in Morwell, was towards the western end of the Commercial Rd shopping centre, somewhere in the vicinity of the present State Savings Bank.

The Rintoull family

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DEP \$798

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STOCK CLEARANCE PRICE

\$1549

\$383

Yallourn and we would all enjoy a swim and tea by the river side and then walk home through the bush, with the moon shining through the tree tops and making lovely patterns on the path ahead. I can always remember trying to squeeze in between mother and father, as I was sure there was something waiting to jump out of the bushes at me.

Then there were the times when we would all pile into the car and go down to "Blossom Flats" for a swim and to pick blackberries for a blackberry tart or jam or jelly. The holidays that we had by the seaside whenever we had a car or being taken on a train to go down to Melbourne to spend Christmas with our dear Gran. It seemed to take all day in those days and Mother would run out of things to keep us amused. The wonderful welcome we received from our Gran, as she was lucky to see us once a year. Gran was a little plump lady who had one leg shorter than the other, due to an accident when she was a child. We used to run her errands for her and we were always rewarded with a penny or halfpenny, so we would go around to Mr Blair and spend it. If he didn't have what we wanted, we would go to the corner store, there would be so many goodies, we wouldn't know what to ask for, but you would always get things that were 8 a panny, that way we got the best value for our penny. Gran also had a bottomless jar of butterscotch toffee, or so we thought. Rather than miss out on a lolly at bedtime, we would accept a piece of this toffee, even though I didn't like it. I think I used to give my share to one of the other children. It was a treat to be taken to the Botanical Gardens or to ride in a tram, hopping on and off, feeling all grown up. These then are just a few of the happy childhood memories I have of the 40's era.

The day at last arrived when Mr Godfrey came into the room to tell us that the war was over. Unless one actually experienced it they wouldn't know the wonderful feeling of relief, we all ran around yelling and hugging each other. The car horns were hooting in the Highway and the air-raid sirens sounded out the good news. It was truly a wonderful day, we were given the rest of the day off and we all piled into cars and on the back of a truck and were transported into Yallourn to celebrate. The Yallourn Brass Band was playing and we all marched to the football oval, waving flags and banners and generally having a good time.

In 1946 we transferred to the nice new school, the best of its kind ever to be built, up to this date. It was a really modern brick building and Mr Godfrey decided to move in against the wishes of the Education Department, as he was fed up with working under the difficulties of the past 18 months, besides which we children were sick of trying to keep our books clean and tidy, what with the sparrows that were forever nesting on the rafters and the rain drops that dripped through the holes in the roof and the condensation after a frosty morning. What wonderful teachers we must have had, as their patience must have worn thin at times. I think that all teachers of that era deserved medals for their patience.

We were given the task of planting trees and also a pine plantation, these trees were still growing as late as this year (1986). The pine plantation was to be used by the Australian Paper Manufacturers to produce paper. Still, life was fairly rosey for us, but all good things must come to an end and I will never forget the day that Mr Godfrey told us he was retiring, to take up a position with the Forestry Commission. School was never the same, for me, no-one would ever take his place. I managed to stay at school until I was 14 years and 7 months. By this time I was sure that it was time to go out into the big wide world of the work force, trying my hand at many an occupation. One of my fondest memories I have is of the first boyfriend I was allowed to bring home. He was a member of the Traralgon Brass Band and I met first in the old town hall in Morwell. He used to ride his bike all the way from Traralgon to Morwell West just to see me and I was allowed to walk down Toner's Lane to wave him good-bye, I can remember the little peck on the cheek he received as a reward. About this time the song, 'Cruising Down The River' became popular and I was sure this was composed just for Murray and me. The next boyfriend was a few years older and had a motor bike and I was only allowed to go out with him if he took the back roads. Father didn't like these new fangled contraptions and was sure we would all come to grief on them, little did he know then, that his own 2 sons were to become fanatics as well. We discovered a lot of Gippsland on these so called contraptions and many a Saturday and Sunday were spent touring around to places like Tarra Valley and Bulga Park in the Strzelecki Ranges to the south of Morwell or over to the beach at Inverloch. Sometimes we would go to the east of Moe, out to Neerim South to friends of the boyfriends people. Then Mr Right came along and he too had a motor bike and rather let mother and father know, we hid the motor bike in the bushes at the sand-pits and walked the distance to our house for him to meet Mother and Father and to ask, "if he could take me out to the pictures" (any friend who wanted to take me out, had to ask permission first). When consent had been given and Mother invited him to have tea with us, he then went back to Morwell to get cleaned up to take me to the pictures. Mother asked, "How is he going to take you out?" I then replied, "By motor bike"!!!. Mother didn't take too kindly to this idea, but she soon accepted the fact that all was well.

This was a lovely time to be growing up and we were some of the lucky few who were loved and our friends were always welcome in our home and likewise, we were welcome in theirs. How well I remember asking Father's permission to get engaged and the awful anticipation waiting for his decision. When we were told "Y E S", but we would have to wait at least 2 years to be married. This seemed a small penalty to pay as we were young. The buying of that lovely diamond ring, how the diamond sparkled along with my eyes.

Soon after becoming engaged, I started work at the old Yallourn Hospital (Where I was born 18 years prior) and here I was to meet my very dearest friend, Shirley Paulet, to this day we are still very good friends and will remain so until we die.

There are many things that I could relate, like when water was scarce and we were going to a dance in Yallourn, we would gather at a friend's place in Yallourn and have a bath or shower, before going to the dance. The dance was held either at St Johns church hall or at the R.S.L. hall, these were really good dances and we wouldn't miss St John's dance for anything.

All good things didn't always happen, there were bad things and sad things, along with the good, like the time Mr Greenwood was knocked off his bike as he crossed the old wooden bridge on his way home from work and was robbed of his fortnight's pay, the time when Mother took us shopping in Morwell and lost her purse with Father's fortnight's pay in it. I never once heard my father mention this in front of us children. On asking Mother years later what father had said, her reply was "We can't cry over spilt milk". This then is the man I called Dad. Mother and Father were both very understanding and never ever argued or fought in front of us children. There must surely have been times when they didn't see eye to eye with one another, but if this was so, we certainly didn't know about it. Maybe we thought some of their decisions weren't always right, but after rearing three children of my own, I know what a difficult task it is and I'm sure they did their best and we are better people for it.

.....

Many thanks to Leah Doherty who typed this piece. Leah is a Year 12 student at the Maryvale Campus of Kurnai College.

**MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT 1987
TO ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING 2-5-87**

Morwell Historical Society has a membership of 37, including four libraries, with approximately 20 active members.

The Society's newsletter is published monthly by a committee and is distributed a few days before the monthly meeting to serve as a reminder to members. Meetings are also advertised by way of the "Newslines" column in the Latrobe Valley Express.

Three very successful and enjoyable excursions have been held so far this year and number of guest speakers have added interest to the regular meetings. A highlight of the program was a combined meeting and following excursion in company with members of Boolarra and District Society. These two events were a great success and it is hoped that our two Societies can combine again in the future.

The Society's submission for funds from Morwell Bicentennial Committee was successful and \$7,000 has been made available for the purchase of photographic copying equipment and film and for the production of a book of historical photographs of Morwell Shire.

An attempt to interest school students in local history through a competition was unsuccessful. Obviously a different approach and more groundwork is needed but another competition may be offered this year.

Plans for the coming year centre mainly on the Society's photographic project and on celebrations and displays connected with the Bicentennial year.

Elsie McMaster,
Secretary.

STREET NAMES OF MORWELL
(unscramble the street names)

1. REOGEG _____
2. ECLIROMACM _____
3. LEOZAWODH _____
4. EHRA _____
5. NALECM _____
6. OTBOH _____
7. ILTRULNO _____
8. LAVARMEY _____
9. OLNODA _____
10. RACTIKECT _____
11. EJNA _____
12. DANLOR _____
13. GINSLELIBY _____
14. NELIG _____
15. LUYGIQE _____
16. KROBTU _____
17. TALOEHUNICER _____
18. H^LYPSIL _____
19. RUCHHC _____
20. UNRAHOGI _____
21. CALMNODD _____

A LATROBE VALLEY TRIVIA TEST.

1. The Commercial Road School opened on
 - a) Thursday 3rd April 1879
 - b) Friday 4th April 1879
 - c) Monday 7th April 1879
2. The first Commissioner for Lands in Gippsland was
 - a) W.G.H. Payne
 - b) E.H. Penaluna
 - c) C.J. Tyers
3. The first church built in Morwell was
 - a) C. of E.
 - b) Methodist
 - c) Catholic
4. Maryvale Run was named after
 - a) Mary Bennett
 - b) Mary Brodribb
 - c) Mary Brown
5. The man responsible for naming Gippsland was
 - a) McMillan
 - b) Strzelecki
 - c) C.J. Tyers
6. The "Annual Morwell Horse Parade" was organised and conducted by
 - a) Edward Kelleher - publican
 - b) Charles Pitt Nind - journalist
 - c) John Rintoull - blacksmith
7. John Rintoull held a horse-shoe making record; in 1874 he made, in one hour
 - a) 28 shoes
 - b) 32 shoes
 - c) 36½ shoes
8. Traralgon was first known as
 - a) Hobsons park
 - b) Hobsons Bridge
 - c) Hobsons Choice
9. Was the following report written by
 - a) a minister of religion
 - b) a government official
 - c) a school inspector

"On account of illness I was unable to attend to the matter while I was in the neighbourhood. When I was at Brandy Creek on the Monday of the preceding week, I was thoroughly drenched with rain. I got dry (at Drouin) and was wet through again before reaching Dawes' Hotel. The same thing happened on the Tuesday and on Wednesday the rain fell in torrents again. I reached Drouin East, miserably wet and cold, dried myself at the fire and was again drenched through twice with the rain on that day. The consequence of this was that by the end of the week I was so ill and weak from severe cold and exposure that I was unable to sit in the saddle or walk."

MORE HISTORICAL TRIVIA

1. Circle the correct answer:
 - a) Victoria's first court case under the .05 blood-alcohol law was heard in MOE, MORWELL, TRARALGON COURT ON Thursday February 3, 1964.
 - b) Churchill's first shops were opened in NOVEMBER 1966, JUNE 1967, DECEMBER 1967.

2. From the Victorian School Readers:
 - a) "Through the grey gum trees came the.....
Run run running, skip skip skipping on the ends of their toes came the.....
Who were they?
 - b) "The.....a mighty man is he with large and sinewy hands, And the muscles of his brawny arms are strong as iron bands."
Who is he?.....
 - c) "He swings his axe in the golden morn; the blade bites clean and free; The trees must fall ere the land be ploughed and an axeman strong is he."
Who is he?.....
 - d) A riddle - from Second Book!!!
In marble halls as white as milk, lined with skin as soft as silk, Within a fountain crystal clear a golden apple doth appear. No doors are there to this stronghold yet thieves break in and steal the gold."
What is it?.....

3. From Mrs. Lance Rawson's Australian Cook and Laundry Book 1897.
"Shred the soap into the boiler and let it come to the boil, then stir in two tablespoonsful of....., then put in your clothes. If the oil is put in before the water boils it never mixes properly, makes the soap curdle and the smell cannot be rinsed out but if used correctly...it acts like magic on the most greasy and dirty (articles)!
What is this marvellous oil?.....

4. What was in the little pills given weekly to Latrobe Valley school children in the 1960s?.....

5. Remember these?

"Mine tinkit they fit.".....Shirts
 "20 miles to.....teas."
 "Best by test for the chest.".....Bronchitis Cure.
 "Hasn't scratched yet.".....cleanser.
 "They're well worn but they've worn well".....
 boot polish.
 "Go well, go....." (petrol).

Albert Drayton was an uncle of Mr. Eric Lubcke, who has kindly allowed us to print this story. The account was written by the late Mr. Murray Thompson, a friend of the family. It is undated, but the events are thought to have taken place about 1910 or earlier.

Albert Drayton.

The Drayton family was one of the first to select land in the hills at Jumbuk. It was hard work clearing the land because of the dense scrub and giant trees, both mountain ash (locally known as black butt) and blue gum growing there; but with the humus of centuries, the ash of the fires left after burning, and the heavy rainfall, the soil was deep and rich and very productive for quite a number of years.

The deterioration of the hill country began with the advent of the rabbit plague and the tenacious growth of the bracken fern, and finally the depression of the late 1920's. As some one remarked, the better roads that had been made were used by the farmers only to leave their land!

Of course I started off to write of the Drayton family, and after seventy years its hard to remember the number of names of the family. One daughter, Maud, was married to Peter Jarvie and lived on a farm in Jeeralang. Albert was a young man working on his father's land. There was still some of the farm to be cleared and Albert became an expert axeman.

Many of the trees were enormous, with gnarled and ridged butts a few feet from the ground, but up fifteen to twenty feet the trunk was smooth with perhaps just half the girth of that at around ground level. To enable the axeman to reach the desired height on the tree spring boards are used. These are lengths of wood five feet long, about seven inches wide and one to two inches thick, fitted into niches cut in the trunk of the tree. They must be carefully and firmly fixed so that they will stay in position. The first board is inserted at about three feet from the ground, and this one is stood upon to put the next plank in place, and so on until the desired height is reached. The last board placed so that an axeman can stand on it and use an axe or ornascut saw.

Before falling a tree a study is made to ascertain which way the tree will fall. You look to see if there is a slant in the trunk itself, or if there are more limbs on one side than the other. Both of these factors, as well as the prevailing wind, has an effect on where the tree will fall.

All this I have written is a lead up to the story of Albert Drayton's accident. He was falling a tree from a high spring board when he overbalanced and fell to the ground, resulting in a broken pelvic bone. His mate could see he was badly hurt, and as there were no telephones in those times, a horseman set off to Morwell for a Doctor. It was about a seventeen mile ride, and by

...2

set