

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 37 - JAN. 1997

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CHRISTMAS MEETING

All those present at our December meeting could not help but be caught up with the enthusiasm of Cath Longman, our guest speaker, as she took us on a 'guided' tour of Prague using a video to give extra emphasis to some of the wonderful buildings in that gracious city which fortunately escaped the fate of many European cities during WW11. We are indebted to Cath for her very well researched presentation. Supper time was enjoyed with a special parting gift of Christmas cake from our President - the gesture much appreciated.

ANNUAL DINNER

The first Friday in November is a well known date for members. The '96 annual dinner was well attended and our guest speaker, Professor Weston Bate, had an interesting story to tell of how he became interested in history - as he now heads the Royal Historical Society of Victoria as President one could say he had been most successful in his pursuits! President Val was able to show the Bates our Museum prior to their departure on the Sat. morning and Weston was most impressed with our photographic collection.

SPEAKERS

We have some interesting speakers in mind for 1997, the first being Brian Wardle - scheduled for February 1st at 8p.m. Brian is an author and has written several books with local history being the main theme.

Start the year in the right way - join us and enjoy the fellowship and you can be assured of learning something new!. DON'T FORGET - FEBRUARY 1st. We should have confirmation of other speakers at this meeting.

MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Gwenda Smith to our numbers - her parents Ralph and Joan supported the Society over a long period - we look forward to seeing you on February 1st Gwenda.

On the subject of membership we still have a number yet to pay the sub of \$7:50 - please check to see whether there is a red mark on your newsletter - if so, Loris Pavia our Treasurer would welcome your contribution. At the time of writing approx. 80% of our membership is financial.

ACQUISITIONS

We would like to acknowledge the following items

Petrol rationing vouchers from Joan Murch

Photos of earlier Australia Day celebrations at Aireys -the Bellaires

An unusual notebook of ivory-like material - Mavis O'Donnell

ACTIVITIES

Since the AGM Betty Lloyd has taken over the care of our library books and will be very happy to arrange borrowing etc. - the collection is an eclectic one and I'm sure there would be a book or two to interest any one - so please avail yourself of this facility.

Our garden excursion covering three gardens in the Otways/Winchelsea area was enjoyed by 20 members - Wannawong, Turkeith and Mooleric the properties in question - picnic lunch was taken at a wonderful vantage spot at Wannawong overlooking a magnificent valley and will anyone seeing those enormous foxgloves ever forget the sight! Afternoon tea at Turkeith followed a walk thru' the Mooleric garden, both the latter being Guilfoyle designed.

AIREYS LIGHTHOUSE OPENINGS

The Maritime Safety Authority who still has care of the Split Point Lighthouse opened this local landmark to the public over 2 days in January. 2000 took the opportunity to view the world from the top on the first day - the Society had an impromptu book stall and photographic display nearby - we didn't make a fortune but interest was keen and we considered the PR as very worthwhile. We'd like to thank Eleanor Williams for her very willing assistance in arranging to have a space marked out for the stall and overnight storage for our photo display board and boxes of goodies. Claire Roberts and the Lawless' also assisted with manning the stall - thankyou!

-- DUTY --

The Museum has been open each Sunday in January - thank you to those members who have helped on the roster - it would really be appreciated if more folk would offer to assist during 'open' sessions.

The information centre is no longer operating from the caravan having been re-located to a small shop in the 4 Kings complex . It is early days to make an assessment of the appropriateness of this move but the elements blasting thru' the doorway on the 'opening day' were not easy to cope with. Again we thank those members who have offered to take a turn on duty.

With Geelong often copping adverse publicity in the press one might ask "What's New?" after reading the following articles in the September issue of the INVESTIGATOR!

'DID YOU KNOW THAT on April on April 13th 1841 the Geelong Advertiser reported that the Government had stopped the mail between Melbourne and Geelong both by land and sea? WE CANNOT BELIEVE that such an atrocious attempt to strangle the youthful energies of Corio could have been intended by the Governor, base in the head and heart although we have reason to believe him to be. It is against his nature entirely to abandon such a source of revenue.

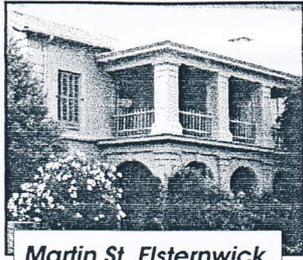
'DID YOU KNOW that on October 3rd 1842 the Geelong Advertiser reported that Mr. Stewart of Buninyong was offering to commence a post between Geelong and his house at Buninyong if he received the support of settlers in the area? James Harrison hoped that he would succeed and that others would follow his example. There was no knowing, he added, when the Government would commence a mail to Portland. However, the same issue carried an advertisement from Superintendent La Trobe calling for tenders for the delivery of mail between Melbourne and Adelaide, or any portion of the route, from Jan 1st 1843. The proposed mail would leave Melbourne every second Tuesday travelling via Geelong to the Grange(Hamilton); it would rendezvous with the Adelaide postman at the junction of the Wannon and Glenelg and there would be a branch to Portland. This advertisement did not produce results for tenders were called again in Sept., 1843 for the mail to Portland but via Mt. Emu not GEELONG! Harrison commented that this was typical of the Government's "wheelabout" movements - Geelong had had nothing but promises, witness the 15000 pounds promised for the customs house "coolly returned into the Treasury chest!" He concluded "It would almost appear as if a kind of conspiracy against Geelong were in existence".

EARLY A'SEA FAMILIES / THE MINIFIES

MINIFIE AVENUE ANGLESEA (at the side of 'Maid Marions') is named after a flour milling family who purchased land in the district for their holiday home in 1918. Their main dwelling in Melbourne was originally on a large block near the bay in Martin Street Elsterwick.



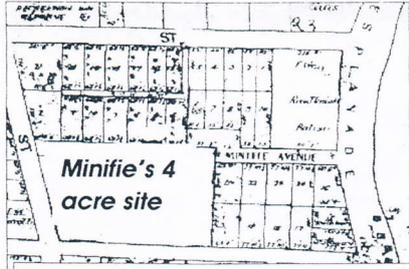
James and Kate Minifie



Martin St. Elsterwick.

The road named after them in Anglesea has been shut off to through traffic more than once. It initially started from the River Esplanade, and was blocked at the half way point - as it is today. Not by white posts, but merely because it dead ended at the rear of Minifies lot 31. (see map below)

In 1920 James and Kate Minifie allowed the Avenue to continue through their property to Murray Street. Adjacent owner Geo. Noble then gained another 7

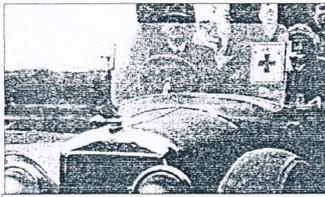


Minifie Ave. originally stopped at the N.E. corner of their site

sites when he re-subdivided the back half of his unsold one acre McMillan Street blocks to front this new carriageway. The Minifies acquired some of these to

replace the area they lost to the roadway.

There was once a dam just before the Avenue stopped at the border of their 4 acre block - it was mainly used as a watering hole for horses. When Bill McRorie subdivided his broad acres on the north side of the track his planner found that an extra site could be gained if the dead end road was diverted around this water hole and along Minifies border (see map). Because of this, some adjoining home sites on the northern side of the Avenue were stepped back 50 ft.



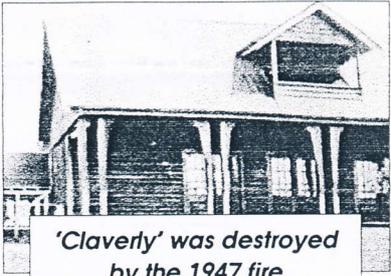
James Minifie in his Austin

Minifie memoirs mention that township facilities consisted of just a Hotel and store when they first came to Anglesea. To keep food fresh in the summer months a cool storage was built into one of their 4000 gallon tanks. Bread (packed in flour sacks) came from Geelong, and by the time it reached here it was a case of 'first in best served,' as many of the loaves arrived in a squashed condition.

Their home 'Claverly' built of Jarrah wood was completed in 1918. This attic-style house had

very wide verandahs, and several people have mentioned to me about the happy nights of country dancing and singing there, with Mrs. Kate Minifie playing the piano.

Daughter Marjorie attended 'The Hermitage' at Geelong. Her parents would motor down from Melbourne, meet her



'Claverly' was destroyed by the 1947 fire

there, and proceed to Anglesea for the week-end or holidays. They stayed at the Hotel, until their house was built.

Their river boathouse was in the Parker Street group. This was later moved back to their block and used as a cabin for overflow guests. They also had one of the first tennis courts in the district.

'Claverly' was destroyed by the 1947 bushfire. It reached the grass around the property, and was extinguished by men with knapsack pumps and beaters. Later just as everyone was relaxing from the ordeal, flames were seen coming from the high attic roof, where combustion had evidently been started by flying embers.

Unfortunately the fighters had departed to another outbreak, and by the time they returned the blaze was uncontrollable.

Fine new dwellings now occupy part of the original land once bought by James and Kate Minifie for their holiday house ■

-Lindsay Braden.

~Trivia~

1. Where was Mrs. Murray's Post Office?
2. What was the name of the original property that occupied today's BMX complex?
3. Where was 'The Bridge Cafe' and who was the original proprietor?
4. What was the name of the original owners of 'Debonair'?
5. Who ran the 'Angahook' Cafe and how did you gain entry?

Answers at bottom of this page ↓

Remembering

Wartime crash

After spending some hours at the Anglesea lookout, war-time scribe Pat Jarrett wrote

that Joyce Graham was a 'woman watcher at a Victorian VAOC Post.' I hope what he meant to convey was that she was an observer at the Loveridge lookout with the Volunteer Air Observer Corps - or was there a hint of innuendo there?

In 1940 Joyce moved from Kooyong Road Toorak, to her new home in Sunnymead Road (Harvey Street) Anglesea. She then joined the WAAF and became a motor transport driver, only to be discharged because of a back injury. Records show that she was appointed Chief Observer of the Anglesea Post on 15/6/1942. After enduring two

years at the bleakest spot in Anglesea, (weatherwise), it seemed to Joyce that December 11th 1944 was

going to be yet another monotonous day.

Log book entries show that at 11.03 am. she observed a Mitchell circling 4 miles east of the post. This aircraft happened to be a RAAF Mitchell B25D/J bomber (A47-24) practicing on the Torquay firing range.

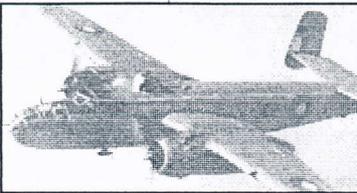
Two minutes later it crashed into the ocean. Geelong

Control was notified from where search operations were directed. Rescue boats found two crew members, three did not survive. The Aircraft was not recovered.

Joyce Graham had an unexpectedly busy day! □ Lindsay Braden



Joyce Graham scans the sky



B25D/J Mitchell bomber

Trivia answers - 1. Camp Road - at kink in road opposite School. 2. 'Norsewood' 3. Western side of Bridge. Hedley. 4. Tonge 5. Marion Francis - entry from side door in Minifie Avenue.