

The Henley and Grange

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This second year of my presidency has been an interesting and busy one and it has passed very quickly indeed. While our achievements and changes for the year may not seem as spectacular as those of last year, I am pleased to report that the work in our archival room has progressed well despite the lack of any expert help. Our oral history work has also continued throughout the year and I am sure that George Willoughby would only be too pleased to record personal recollections from anyone in our area. The oral history collection of this Society is quite extensive and I would like to thank George Willoughby for taking charge of this particular aspect of our Society.

Once again, it has been Noel Newcombe's tremendous public relations skills and his tenacity in pursuing projects dear to his heart on behalf of the Society which have been instrumental in gaining us a grant of \$2,000 from the City of Charles Sturt for the purpose of reprinting the Society's chronicle 'From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City'. This has been a wonderful boost not only to our Society's finances but also to its public exposure. We have many requests for old photographs and copies of the chronicle throughout the year and this year I have been able to assist a number of people in various research projects. It always gives me great pleasure to speak or meet with people who share our interest in local history and I have spent quite a lot of time in the archival room recently rummaging through files and photographs. As we draw closer to the year 2000 many of our local clubs are compiling histories and our archives are providing a valuable resource centre for local researchers.

Our social calendar during the past twelve months has been interesting and varied. The final meeting in November last year was held in the restored premises of the Grange Institute and with the help and generosity of its committee our members had a most enjoyable evening, highlights of which were the introduction and presentation of our 19th Journal by Mr. Ted Hasenohr, and the unexpected visit of Mrs. Iris McDonald – one of Henley's most celebrated citizens, which in turn engendered a flood of lively reminiscences. The ladies of our membership provided a delicious supper. All in all, the evening was a huge success. The first meeting for this year carried the spirit of sociability even further when Mr. Roger Andre offered us the hospitality of his home on the Esplanade at Grange for a sunset meeting. Mr. Andre's historic home provided a splendid venue and his wine cellar offered us delightful accompaniment to another delicious supper. The May meeting, on the other hand, returned to more mundane surroundings, however, our guest speaker – Max Gamlin – who regaled the assembly with the history and personal anecdotes of the West Beach Lifesaving Club, was a distinct favourite of all the members and the meeting was in danger of going on well into the night. A mild early spring evening made our August meeting a great success. Our guest speaker, Don Thorpe, entertained us with tales of Port Adelaide and his involvement in the creation of the now famous Maritime Museum. Mr. Thorpe is a wonderful and amusing speaker and his address was received with much applause and appreciation.

Many of our members attended two functions at Sturt Cottage this year. The first was one of the events of Summer Sundays Band Concerts at which we mounted a display of photographs and other historical material. The community interest in our Society was very encouraging and we attracted some new members. Charles Sturt's birthday party in April was once again well attended and a most pleasant occasion.

The end of this year will see the 20th publication of our Society's Journal and, sadly, the end of an era of collecting, researching, writing, editing and publishing for Mr. Ted Hasenohr and his invaluable assistants, his wife Nell and Mrs. Audrey Willoughby. At this stage we have not put our thoughts to a replacement for this publication, but no doubt, ideas, information and material will continue to reach the Society in the future.

My appreciation once again goes to Noel Newcombe, Secretary Martin Darsow and his industrious wife Hanni for the efficient handling of most of the paperwork, to Beverly Fielder, who manages our finances, to Mollie Sutherland, our venue organizer, and to my committee. Many thanks go to Jill Snook without whose cheerful assistance and company the work in the archival room would not be as much fun as it is.

I am confident that the year 2000 will see many changes. I hope that in the future Council may assist our work by appointing a historical officer. I also envisage a time when our historical database can be placed on a website for easier access by the public. In the meantime I look forward to the new year with hope and confidence of another successful year.

IRENE McDADE

COMMITTEE, 1999

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COVER PHOTO

*'The Marines', built 1882-3.
Photo taken 1885.*

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JAMES CYRIL STOBIE

Cyril Stobie resided for a number of years at Franklin Street, Henley Beach.

He was a good townsman. He was, for example, a Trustee of the Methodist Church, and a founding committee member (and honorary electrician!) of the former Henley Beach Golf Club.

But he was not always well, and had to spend long periods confined to his bed.

His name is, of course, known far and wide as that of the inventor of the Stobie pole.

The Adelect, the house magazine of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company (from 1946, the Electricity Trust of South Australia) published his obituary in the 1953 Christmas edition.

‘Cyril Stobie, M.E., A.S.A.S.M., A.M.I.E.E., A.M.I.E. (Aust.) 1895 - 1953

James Cyril Stobie, who died suddenly on 15th August, was one of the best known engineers in the Trust.

At the time of his death, he held the position of Assistant to the Manager, Engineering Research. His brilliant rise from the time he first joined the Adelaide Electric Supply Company in 1916, through a series of increasingly responsible positions to the high position he held with the Trust is well known to most readers of the Adelect. Not only within the Trust but in outside engineering organizations and in most Australian States he was widely recognized as an outstanding engineer. These facets of his character need no reiteration. His work as an engineer will be his monument, but his friends will remember him as a practising Christian, a man of humility, whose warm friendliness and deep concern for the welfare of his fellow man made it a privilege to know him.

Life, for him, had never been easy. The early death of his father left him, while still in his teens, with the responsibility of caring for his mother and sisters. During this time, while working for his living, he gained the Associate Diploma of the S.A. School of Mines in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

In 1916 he joined the staff of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co., and whilst with this company, continued his studies to complete the Bachelor of Engineering Degree in 1923 and in 1932 the degree of Master of Engineering.

At the same time he found opportunities for physical development and was a top ranking swimmer. In 1922 he was the winner, from 45 starters, of South Australia's longest swimming race from the Grange to Henley Beach, a distance of 1 ¼ miles.

Early in his married life he suffered a severe illness which completely confined him to his bed for three years. He made a magnificent recovery where most men could not have sustained the struggle and during the whole time his great faith and bright optimism never failed him. Recurring illnesses followed at intervals but they were all met with the same great spirit to such good effect that during the last few years his health had markedly improved.

The pole is versatile too. It comes in all sizes from 25 ft. for suburban power lines to 75 ft. giants, made at first for special purposes.

When the trust came to build its transmission lines from the Port Augusta power station, this giant stobie was the answer to cost problems. Lines carried on these poles were built cheaper than the lowest quotation for lines carried on traditional steel pylons. In addition, less maintenance, especially in painting, was needed.

The stobie has its own "prefabricated posthole", which sounds as if it is in the same class as striped paint, but is in fact a very practical gadget. It is a tapered socket of concrete, cast in sections for ease of transport, and set in the ground to take the tapered base of the pole.

Packed in with sand, the pole is set firmly, and if it has to be moved or replaced, it can be lifted out by crane, the sand washed out and another pole fitted.

Ease of manufacture is another big advantage. The steel sections are bent to shape, bored and bolted together, and the concrete is poured in, with the pole flat on a floor, almost with unskilled labor.'

The third extract is from a letter written to the Advertiser, in March 1989, by S. E. Huddleston, former general manager of E.T.S.A., 'as a contribution to the Stobie pole correspondence'. After commenting on alternatives, he concluded :

'I am grateful that Cyril Stobie opted to leave the State's sparse timber resources untouched and settled for his denigrated pole, especially as its life is at least twice that of timber. . . '



Cyril Stobie, from the obituary notice in The Adelect.

POLICING IN THE HENLEY AND GRANGE AREA

At the meeting held on August 7, 1998, Bob Potts gave a talk on the history of policing in the Henley and Grange area.

Bob Potts was born at Woodside, in 1936, and educated at Norwood High School. After leaving school, he worked for eight years in the wholesale potato business.

He joined the Police Force in 1962, and was promoted to Sergeant First Grade in 1973, and Chief Superintendent in 1989. When he retired in 1997, he was second in charge of the Northern Command of the State, which included the City of Adelaide, northern and north eastern suburbs, and the north and western districts of the state.

He was a founding member of the South Australian Police Historical Society in 1977, and has served variously as President, Treasurer and Secretary of the Society, which performs all the historical duties for the S.A. Police.

After extending greetings from the Police Historical Society, and from the Campbelltown Historical Society, of which his wife and he are members, Bob Potts told a story (from the days before he joined the Police Force) of a dramatic visit to Henley Beach. He was delivering potatoes to Newcombes' shop. . . .

'It was back in my potato days, when I used to sell and deliver potatoes.

One day I was down at Henley with a big truck, mostly made of metal - a bit of wood on the tray, but most of it was metal. It was one of these days when you could just about smell the thunder and lightning in the air.

All of a sudden, when I went to take a bag of potatoes off the truck, lightning hit the electricity pole no more than a hundred metres away. That sort of thing is not designed to make you feel good about anything. I wondered what in the world was going to happen next.

One of the things that did happen next was that I decided to leave the potato business and go to the Police Department. I'm not quite sure whether it was a sign or whatever it was - but I stayed in the Police Force for 35 years and retired, as you heard, at the start of last year.

Yes, Noel, I remember those days. . . .'

He then continued. . . . (the following is a summary of a most interestingly told history.)

The South Australian Police Force, as such, was formed in 1838, less than two years after the first colonists arrived. It was the first police force in Australia set up as a centrally controlled organisation, and followed the pattern set up by the Metropolitan Police Act of London (1829).

On 28/4/1838, ten Foot Constables and ten Mounted Constables were appointed, and a Police Inspector. The first police station was a wooden building, actually on the wide roadway of North Terrace.

The earliest police building still extant is the Mounted Police barracks - a splendid example of colonial architecture (1850s) behind the State Library and Museum.

In 1840, country stations came into being in a cordon around Adelaide - at Willunga, Encounter Bay, Moorundie (on the Murray), Gawler and Mount Barker.

Rural policing was performed by men on horseback. Right from Day One, horses were used in South Australia - only two at first, as the cost of horses in 1838 was enormous; then hundreds of horses for rural work (as this expanded), and for metropolitan work in some cases, including Henley and Grange, which were always served by Mounted Police in the early days (and up to 1912).

Up to that time, police activities in Henley and Grange were controlled by what was known as the Central Division, which was responsible for rural policing (Henley and Grange, Salisbury, and Morphett Vale, which are now firmly suburban, were all classified as rural.)

At first, policing in this district was done by response by Mounted Police from Adelaide or Port Adelaide.

In July 1882, Arthur Harvey wrote to the Commissioner of Police (William von Peterswald), pointing out that the railway to Grange would shortly be opened, and 'extensive building operations commenced'. He went on to request police protection for residents during the ensuing summer.

Mr. Peterswald gave instructions to the Inspector of Mounted Police in Adelaide that 'frequent patrols in the neighbourhood are to be mounted'.

During the 1880s there were several schemes for policing this region.

Daily patrols were set up. Mounted Policemen from Port Adelaide and Adelaide alternately were to make visits 'at irregular hours', while the Council (Woodville Council) was urged to appoint a Special Constable to police the Bathing Regulations (1884).

Problems remained. In February 1885, the Commissioner noted: 'I have been spoken to several times within the last few days respecting the disgraceful conduct of the larrikins at Henley Beach and Grange during the last hot weather. As long as this lasts you are requested to send down at dusk two patrols who must keep a sharp lookout at each place and whom I will hold responsible to check this practice.'

And it was also decided that a constable was to remain in the region from Saturday night to Monday morning, and that he would board at one of the hotels.

There is extant a docket from the Grange Hotel, with an account for the cost of accommodation for Mounted Constable Adam Wright from 29/12/1885 to 30/4/1886.

The Police Department, short of finances, had made an agreement whereby the Grange Railway and Development Company would support the constable's cost of accommodation, but the Company apparently failed to pay, and the Commissioner of Police removed Mounted Constable Adam Wright in May.

But within a few days John W. Excell of the Henley Hotel agreed to supply, free of cost to the South Australian Government, quarters for the Mounted Constable, including a stable for his horse, water, and a room for forage, and a private bedroom for the trooper. This arrangement, which stipulated that Grange was also to be policed, lasted from June 1886 to July 1890.

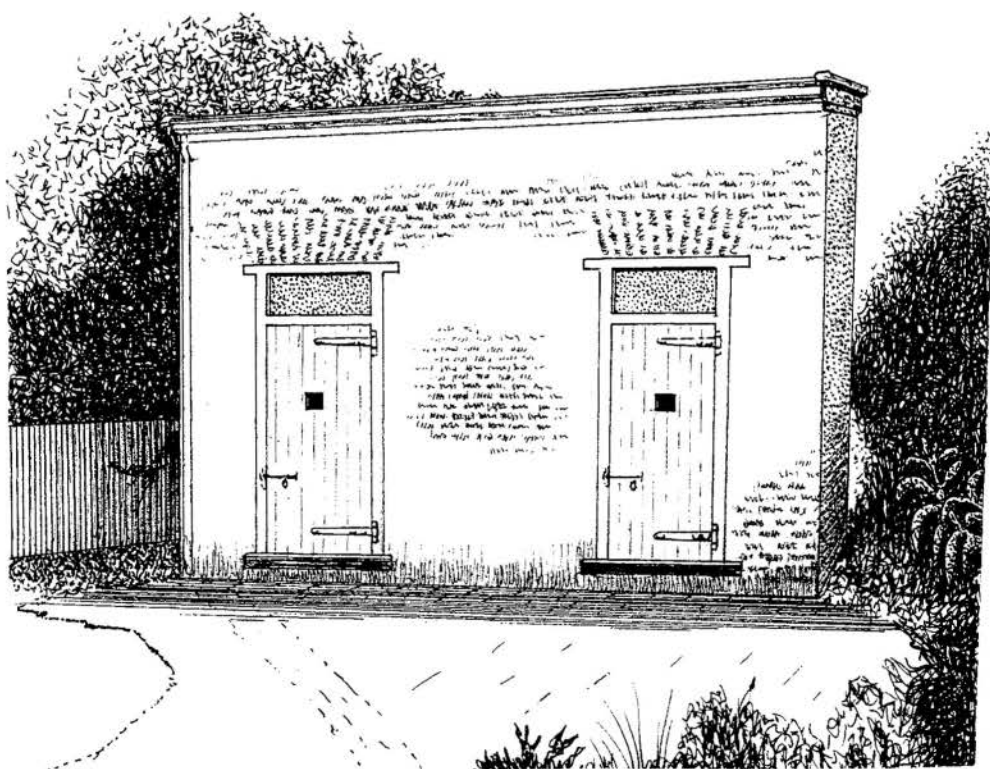
Adam Wright was succeeded, in June 1888, by Mounted Constable Charles Luck, for five months, and then came Mounted Constable Fred Wells, who was here for almost ten years.

No record has been found in official documents as to the date of building of the first Henley Beach police station. 1898 seems to be the most likely date.

(Mounted Constable Charles LeLievre, who was at Henley Beach from March 1898 to April 1904, wrote in his Reminiscences that when he came here he lived, with his wife and family, in a house rented by the Police Department, on the Esplanade, before moving into the new red brick police station as soon as it was completed. This probably happened soon after his arrival.)

In addition to the office and residence, there was a brick cell block, a stable (a lean-to construction, concrete floor, wood and galvanised iron) and a forage shed. Much later on, a motor cycle shed was built alongside the cell block.

(The old police station now houses a veterinary clinic. The cell block, fortunately, has been preserved as a historical building.)



(Sketch by Patrick Hedges)

Foot police came to Henley in 1912. In 1913, records show one Foot Constable, one Mounted Constable, one push bike and one horse.

In 1925, there were two Foot Constables, with two bicycles. Henley was now a Metropolitan Division station rather than a country station.

In the 1920s, motor bikes and sidecars (Harley Davidson) were introduced by the Police Department, and used initially for patrol work on the Anzac Highway and the Port Road for example.

By the 1940s, motor bikes were used for general metropolitan policing. One would have been here at Henley Beach, possibly a B.S.A. or a Triumph in the 1950s. In the 1960s, utilities were used.

But radio patrol cars were operating from Adelaide and coming into this district. Bob Potts patrolled the area in this way in the 1960s.

Many factors led to the demise of the small station concept and the erection of larger police stations. The first two erected were at Darlington - and at Henley Beach.

Henley Beach became the main station for most of the western suburbs of Adelaide, with a lot of police services centralised here, e.g. Women Police, C.I.B., Forensic Science.

Amid all the changes, the fundamentals of policing have remained the same since they were outlined in England in the early 1800s :

- A civil organisation rather than a military one to enforce law and order.
- Keeping the 'Queen's peace'.
- Prevention and detection of crime.

But there have been important additions, for example :

- Enforcement of traffic law and maintenance of safe roads.
- Service to persons at times of personal emergency.

50 YEARS AGO (1)

A new road link

Because of the plans for the West Beach aerodrome (opened in the mid 1950s) and the consequent closing of Rosetta Road, which had connected West Beach Road with Richmond Road, 'the Highways and Local Government Department has investigated the matter of an additional main road to link this Municipality with the City, and has decided that this shall be located as a continuation of Burbridge Road along the northern boundary of the new aerodrome and lead into the northern end of West Beach.'

(Council Minutes, 2/3/1949)

Town Hall Films

Correspondence was received from Ozone Theatres (Australia), advising 'that as from 10/3/49 their policy will be to show pictures on Friday, Saturday (matinee and night), Tuesday, Wednesday, and on public holidays (matinee and night).'

(Council Minutes, 30/3/1949)

FROM THE HISTORY OF THE NEWCOMBE FAMILY

~

(The passages quoted in the following account are taken from an excellent family history - 'The life story of our Mother and Father', by Yvonne Penno, nee Newcombe.)

Mabel Henderson was born in 1893, in the historic town of York, in the Avon Valley, Western Australia. Her father was a brickmaker. Among buildings made from Henderson's bricks are the heritage listed York Town Hall and the Castle Hotel.

When Albert Newcombe, who was born in 1885, at Semaphore, was in his early twenties, he was invited by his brother to join him in Kalgoorlie. There he found work in a dairy before becoming a fettler with the railways.

Albert and Mabel were married in Perth, in 1913. Their first child, Auriel, was born in November 1914, and Ethel in 1916.

'When Ethel was six months old, Mum and Dad decided to move to South Australia, presumably seeking better employment. They sailed on the Katoomba with their two daughters and Alex..' (As Mabel's mother lay dying, she had asked Mabel to take care of her young brother Alex, who was then only six years old.)

They rented a business in Port Pirie, opposite the Pirie Railway Station, nostalgically calling it the 'Swan Fruit and Veg Shop'.

'Part of the business included supplying the boats with fresh fruit and vegetables'; and Mabel ran 'a small boarding house in Florence Street, accommodating mainly shift workers from the Smelting Works'.

Albert Junior (Jim) was born in 1920, and Lorna in 1922.

'Unfortunately Lorna's health was affected by fumes from the smelting works, and the doctor advised Mum and Dad to leave Port Pirie and go south, preferably to a beach resort.'

They moved to Hazel Terrace, Henley Beach, and rented a nearby shop on Henley Beach Road 'at the bottom of the hill next to Butcher Fry's'.

A horse and cart was used in the business. The inscription on the side of the cart read, in expertly painted capitals :



Joyce was born in 1920, and Noel in 1926.

'Auriel was now twelve years old and Ethel 10, and being the eldest of the family they were capable of helping in both home and shop duties. They both only attended school until Grade 7, which was common in those days.'

The adjacent shop was also rented, to accommodate the growing mixed business.

The tramline ran close behind the shop, and trams travelled quite slowly over this section of track. More than once Joyce, sitting on the tramline, had to be alerted by the tram driver's signal. The conductor would sometimes carry her into the shop, or Arthur Fry would coax her off the line with a piece of fritz.

Gloria was born in 1928, and Yvonne in 1930.

It was now the Depression years. With mass unemployment and meagre Government help, 'people would come into the shop asking for money or food'.

Life, in any case, was very different from today. Yvonne describes standard household arrangements for those times.

'There were no fridges, electric stoves, hot water systems or washing machines. A big copper of water was heated up with wood and paper in which to boil the clothes, and we had a large double cement wash trough and a hand wringer in the laundry.

Before a chip heater was purchased, water was heated in the copper for baths. There was no heating at 'Newcs' and, as Dad would say, 'If you are cold, then go to bed'.

We did not have a kitchen sink but used a big aluminium wash up dish and tray which was emptied into an outside sink.

A wireless was a luxury which we did not have, and Ethel can remember the 'good times' when Butcher Fry asked them in to listen to the cricket.'

The Newcombes rented a kiosk on the beach at Henley South. 'Dad managed the kiosk, opening on school holidays and weekends through the summer months.'

Two wheelbarrows were made for Jim and Noel (Jim's being larger). 'In the mornings they would load these up with stock from the shop, pulling them over the sandhills to the Kiosk.'

'Dad would boil a copper in the Kiosk and sold trays of tea. Drinks, lollies, ice creams etc. were also sold and stored in a huge ice chest. Jim also sold lollies from a lolly tray. Woodrooffe's drinks were delivered by horse and cart and had to be carried over the sandhills. Also ice was delivered, and saltpetre for the ice cream cabinet.'

'In 1931 came the 'big shift' for the family, to 320 Seaview Road, Henley Beach South. A large shop was rented, with house attached, for approximately two pounds per week, and this proved to be the family home until Mum and Dad died.

This shop had a large cellar, where perishables were stored, particularly before the days of refrigeration. Also we had a large back yard where the horse and cart were kept. The 'bottom of the hill' shop and the beach kiosk were then sold.'

Then 'Mum and Dad rented another shop opposite the Grange Railway Station. Mum would catch the train at the Henley Station, which was in Military Road behind the Square, taking with her the younger children and sometimes Auriel, returning by train when the shop closed.'

Albert Newcombe's sister Mabel and her husband rented tearooms in Henley Square. 'After a few years they transferred the lease to Mum and Dad who then vacated the Grange shop. Mum and Dad managed this business and Ethel and Auriel the shop at South Henley.'

A ninth child, June, was born in 1936, 'a centenary baby'. 'By now there were plenty of nursemaids. A close relationship formed between Ethel and Auriel and June, because much of her upbringing was left to them.'

'Dad disciplined the children and one word from him was enough. No-one dared step out of line. . . . We had it instilled in our minds that Newcombes had a good name, and we were to keep it that way.'

'Our family was really blessed with our two eldest sisters Ethel and Auriel, who were 'second Mums' to us all. They were uncomplaining and hardworking with their day usually starting about 6 a.m. and finishing at 9 p.m. when the shop closed.

Ethel was an outstanding sports girl and for four consecutive years represented the state in Basketball (now known as Netball), then for three years was in the state Badminton team. She had several trips interstate with the team.

Auriel's spare time was taken up with practising the piano in preparation for Sunday organ playing at the church.

All the family were involved in helping in the two shops. . . . Dad delivered many of the orders with a large cane basket which he rested on the handlebars of his bike, and quite often one of the younger children also sitting on the bar of the bike.

It was a privileged experience if Dad allowed us to go to the wholesale fruit and veg market in East Terrace, Adelaide. It would be in the early hours of the morning and the youngest would have a bed made up in the front of the cart.

Dad would harness the horse aided by the light of a lantern, then off we would go. The sound of the horse's hooves on the road in the still dark of the night, with Dad sitting in the front seat, reins in hand, leaves very fond memories.

On arriving at the market we would follow Dad around while he selected his fruit and veg, which could not be picked up until the siren went. This allowed us to have tea and toast in a nearby restaurant (the best toast imaginable). The siren would sound and the greengrocers would rush up a ramp to pick up their barrows, coming down another ramp. Dad would put the children on the barrow - he was proud to show off his family. . . .'

On 'Henley's Day', 'a procession was held into which Newcombe's shop usually entered a float decorated by Jim. I can still see Dad standing at the front of the shop with his familiar white apron on, excited as he watched the crowded trams coming down with people to join in the festivities.'

(Jim Newcombe, who decorated the floats, worked for W.D. and H.O. Wills as a window dresser and merchandiser.)

'Eventually our shop in the Henley Square had to be closed as the lease had expired. Uncle Fred had built a roomy sleepout at the back, which was dismantled and rebuilt behind our Seaview Road shop.'

'We all went to Sunday School on Sunday afternoons. In the early years it was to the Methodist Church then later to the Church of Christ. We girls always had our hair curled with long strips of rag. Sunday School picnics were fun. . . .'

'We enjoyed going by cart to the nearby paddocks to collect wood for our stove. Dad would buy a tree which would be sawn up with a cross-cut saw about 6 feet long.'

'The band concerts in the Henley Square. . . . We had a vantage point as our Henley shop had a flat tarred roof, where we sat on mattresses and often fell asleep before the fun ended.'

'During the war, Dad worked as a 'special warden' and was on duty on rostered nights, working in pairs. Two duties we remember were : checking no lights were shining from homes (most homes had black-out curtains), and escorting girls home from the trains after they had worked on shifts at the munitions factories.'

Ethel worked voluntarily at the 'Cheer-Up Hut'. Jim joined the army, Joyce and Lorna enlisted in the WAAF being stationed in Victoria, and Noel joined the RAAF.

'In 1945 the 'Bells of Victory' rang and the war was over. Fortunately, unlike many Australians, no tragedy had come to our lives.'

'Now because of full employment, business flourished, and our family compared to the early years was now quite affluent.'

'After the war years, Noel came home to work in the family business, and from then on Ethel, Auriel and Noel managed the shop, with Mum and Dad doing only small chores. Of course, the horse and cart was a thing of the past, and a small utility was purchased for use in the business.'

Ethel and Auriel never married. All the other five girls married, and the two sons, and there are many grandchildren.

The founders of the family, Albert and Mabel Newcombe, died in 1966 and 1978 respectively.

On his 18th birthday, Noel had joined the RAAF, training in the electrical engineering section. The war finished a month or so before he was to be posted to New Guinea, and for the next twelve months he worked as a clerk, helping in the discharge of thousands of returned servicemen before he himself was discharged.

'Noel married Edna Wheaton in the Edwardstown Methodist Church in 1952, Edna being a very active church member. They had a home built in Military Road, Henley Beach, directly behind the shop.'

They had two children, Graeme and Heather. Graeme is a specialist anaesthetist. Heather, with a certificate in Horticulture, worked as head gardener in a large garden at Stirling, before leaving to begin teacher training. And there are now five grandchildren. As Noel says: 'We had a wonderful time as parents, but an even better time now, with five grandchildren, spending a day each week with each family, baby sitting – our choice.'

As parents, Noel and Edna became very involved in the community - schools, church, scouts, guides, swimming.

Noel was Master of the local Freemasons Lodge in 1964 (the lodge's 50th anniversary year), and was President of the Henley Beach Rotary Club in 1981 – 82. (On the lighter side of Rotary activities, he is proud of a certificate which records his membership of the Henley Rotary team in the Alice Springs Henley-on-Todd in 1980).

After delivering for Meals on Wheels for some years, he is now enjoying being one of the cooks.

In 1989 he was chosen Citizen of the Year of the City of Henley and Grange.

Noel has been a Justice of the Peace for 32 years, since 1967.

'Eventually the shop at 320 Seaview Road was sold, Auriel and Ethel returning to their Brooklyn Park home. When they sold this home, they moved to Carisfield Retirement Village.' Auriel died in 1993.

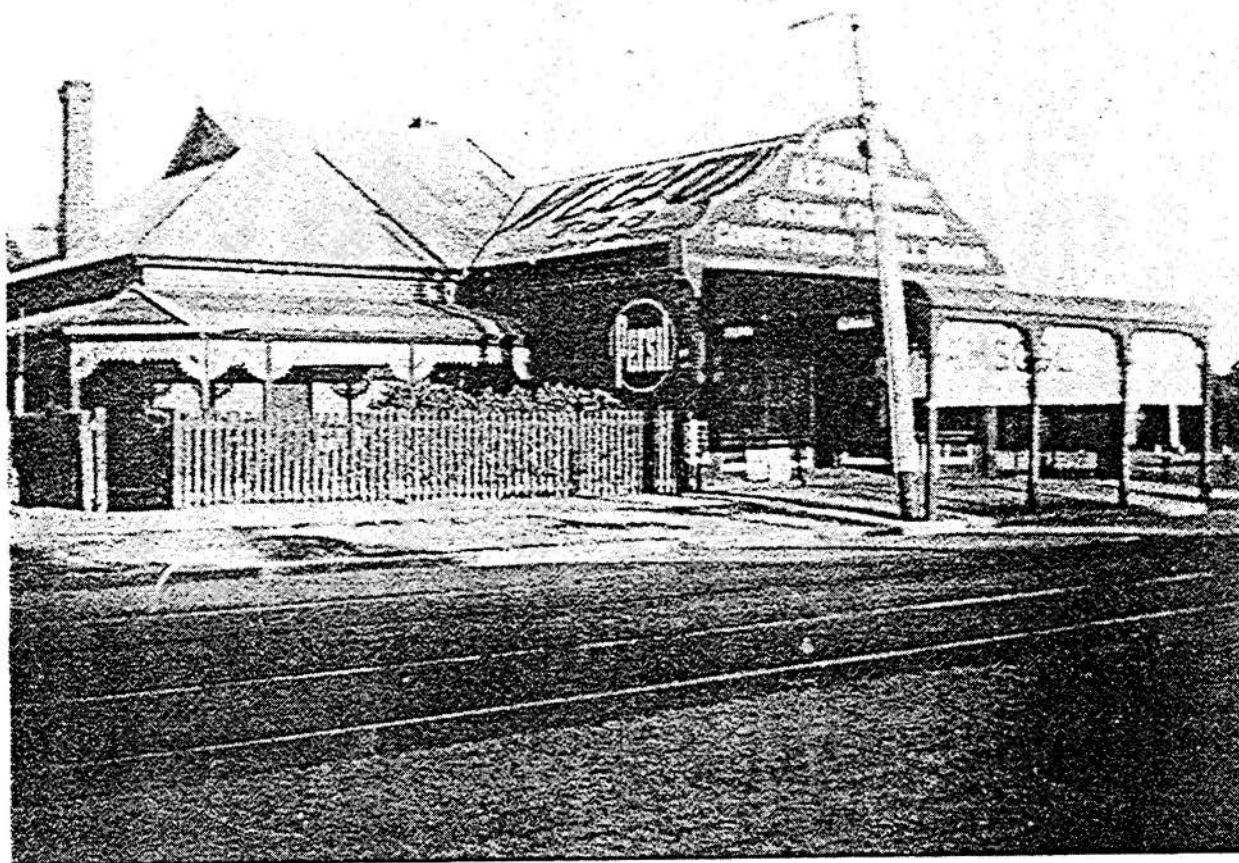
The Seaview Road shop was demolished in 1994, and three town houses were built in its place.

Noel knew the East End market well, as he had continued with the very early morning journey to buy fruit and vegetables for the shop.

He now found employment at the Market, and became Market Operations Manager.

After 45 years in their Military Road home, Noel and Edna now live in a courtyard house at West Lakes.

Noel, Edna, Auriel and Ethel were Foundation Members of the Henley and Grange Historical Society. Edna was Secretary from 1985 to 1988 and from 1990 to 1992. Noel was Vice President from 1983 to 1989 and President from 1990 to 1997.



Newcombes' shop, with residence attached, on Seaview Road.

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE EARLY YEARS

OF THE GRANGE HALL

Friday, 16 December 1999, marked the centenary of the official opening of the Grange Hall, also known locally as the Grange Institute. A function was held on this day to celebrate the occasion. The Governor, Sir Eric Neal, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the centenary.

The hall is currently owned by the Grange Institute Incorporated. This was once an affiliate of the South Australian Institutes Association - a body formed to promote libraries in suburbs and towns throughout the state. The move to community run or local government organised free libraries has seen the demise of the central parent organisation. Across the state, institute libraries have been converted or disbanded.

A group of Grange residents decided to keep their library open, with their main income coming from subscriptions and donations. The Grange Institute is now an incorporated body in its own right, and continues to own the hall and land.

The Governor, in his speech, focused on the early people in Grange. He noted the social role and educational needs that the hall provided in its local setting.

The Institute president, Michael Wilson, gave an outline of the hall's history and uses.

(Many organisations have used the hall at some time or other – in some instances until they had their own buildings.)

The list includes :

- The Choral Society
- Evening Recreation Society
- Rechabite Lodge
- Druids Lodge
- Red Cross and Comforts Fund during both wars
- Scouts
- Grange Bowling Club
- Seaside Tennis Club
- Elections (Polling Booth)
- Anglican Church functions (St. Agnes Church Hall was built in 1924)
- Methodist Church services (The Grange Methodist Church was opened in 1912)
- Baptist Church functions
- Private schools including Miss C. Beck's school, and Seaview Girls School. (This school also enrolled junior boys. John Harvey attended in 1929)
- Grange School (annual concerts; and an 'overflow class' in 1949)

The erection of the hall as a privately owned building was only given a brief mention by the president. No reason for the erection, by the local storekeeper, C.E. Marrett, of the neat stone building, with its elegant Baltic pine ceiling and its sprung floor for dancing, is given in either of the newspaper accounts

which are reproduced with this article. The hall remained in private ownership for over three and a half years.

The Grange subdivision was a privately owned suburb, started in 1877 – 8. The promoters set out to provide facilities to help subsequent land sales. They built a jetty, a bridge over the Port River at Beach Street, made roads and paid for the construction and running costs of a light railway to connect with the government line at Woodville.

Some twenty years later, the hall was built and furnished by Mr. C. E. Marrett at his own expense – the question is why?

Three reasons are possible :

- A commercial proposition.
- Altruistic reasons or a philanthropic gift to the community.
- Built for later purchase by a local organisation.

First : Built as a commercial proposition.

There have been some privately owned halls in metropolitan Adelaide – especially as dance halls. To make these pay needs promotion. We need some evidence of advertisements, handbills or a scale of hire charges. None of these have been found.

Second : Altruistic reasons or a philanthropic gift to the community.

This at first seems possible, but if it was the case you would expect to find a local management committee taking over the running of the hall. There is no evidence of this. The hall itself has no foundation stone or dedication plaque.

Third : Built privately on the understanding that a local organisation would later purchase it.

This seems unlikely. It was three years before the Grange Evening Recreation Society was formed and began regular use of the hall in January 1901. In March they became the Grange Institute. A year later, in January 1902, the Institute committee interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Marrett about purchasing the hall. In March 1902, they received an offer (in Mrs. Marrett's name) to sell the hall. The purchase was completed in July 1902, when Mrs. Marrett accepted a deposit of £50, with the balance of £300 payable over 10 years.

(Incidentally, judging by Directory entries, the Marretts seem to have given up the store by this time. In 1901, R. D. Johnston is listed as the storekeeper-postmaster, and from 1903, when Directories began to use streets, his store is listed by the Institute.

There is no Directory entry for the Marretts in 1901 and 1902. Entries from 1903 to 1907 list, as living off Military Road – Estcourt House end – C. E. Marrett first of all, then, in 1906 and 1907, Mrs. C. E. Marrett.

Mrs. Marrett had negotiated the hall sale in 1902, just as she had arranged for the lease of grazing land, in 1889, in what is now the West Lakes area – see Journal 1997, p43.

It is possible that Mr. Marrett was ill in 1902, when the hall was sold and the store had been given up. He died, on January 22, 1905, aged 62 years, and his Death Certificate suggests an illness of some duration.

A further puzzle is provided by this certificate. The profession of Charles Edward Marett *, of Grange, is given as 'Master Mariner'. A man of the sea before becoming storekeeper/postmaster?)

The real reason for building the hall could be a combination of the three possibilities mentioned earlier in the article. The Marretts may have built the hall to suit local needs with some chance of it paying some of its way. Three years later a local organisation existed which could take over the hall.

* Marrett was sometimes spelt with a single r.

The Marretts certainly gave good terms of sale. Monetary gain did not seem to make the sale necessary for the Marrett family finances.

In constant use now for a hundred years, the hall, newly painted by volunteers, was in splendid condition for the centenary occasion.

The committee now hopes to shrink the library space and increase the meeting area size.

PETER WYLD

OPENING OF GRANGE HALL.

On Friday evening, December 16, a large number of ladies and gentlemen attended by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. C. Marrett, of the Grange, to celebrate the opening of a new hall at this popular and rising watering-place. The hall provides seating accommodation for some 300 people, and the pleasant task of declaring it open devolved upon Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P., the senior member for West Torrens. Mr. Brooker congratulated the residents on having such a capacious and suitable assembly-room, and complimented the proprietors on their spirited enterprise in erecting the hall and on their many efforts to popularise the Grange. A vote of thanks to Mr. Brooker was proposed by the Rev. Father Enright in a humorous speech. Councillor Wilde seconded, and the motion was carried with acclamation. A concert programme was then presented. Miss Jolly scored a distinct success with "The carnival," and had to pay the penalty of an encore. Songs were also rendered by Messrs. V. Bruer and W. Gower. Mrs. Martin and Mr. Farrow delighted the audience with a duet for piano and violin. Miss Mabel Cox was successful with a recitation, "How Jane Conquest rang the bell," and Mr. Goldsmith recited with good effect "One niche the highest." The humorous element was represented by Mr. C. C. Tucker, who scored a success with his song, "Couldn't stop to say good-bye," the inevitable encore resulting. Refreshments were provided prior to turning the hall into a ballroom, when a good programme of dances was gone through.

GRANGE HALL.

The opening of the Grange Hall on Friday, December 16, was a red-letter day for that seaside resort. The hall has been built by Mr. C. Marrett, an old and respected business inhabitant, Mr. W. F. Deslandes presided. Mr. Brooker, M.P., in declaring the hall opened, in felicitous terms congratulated the inhabitants in having such a neighbour as Mr. Marrett, who at his own expense had built the hall to meet the requirements of the place. About 300 inhabitants and friends were present at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Marrett. A programme was carried out. Mr. Farrow and Mrs. Martin were the accompanists, and played the overture. Recitations were given by Miss Mabel Cox and Mrs. Goldsmith, songs by Miss Jolly and Messrs. Tucker, Gower, and Bruce, and were well received. At the conclusion of the concert programme light refreshments were served around, after which dancing was indulged in until 1.30.

Register

19 December 1898. P. 66

Advertiser

19 December 1898. P. 3h

HENLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL REMINISCENCES 1931 - 36

AND OTHER THOUGHTS FROM NEARLY SEVENTY YEARS ON

(by Gordon Johns)

1999 is the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Henley Beach Primary in 1924. 1924 was the year I was born – at home, in Henley, on 22nd August. In October, my cousin Graham Johns and classmate Colin Stagg were born, within three days of each other. It is believed that Graham's proud father, Percy Johns senior, the local butcher, showed him off in the front bar of the Ramsgate, when he was but one day old. It is further believed that Aunt Rose was not pleased by this.

The local residents had waited patiently and then impatiently for a school to be built. In the early twenties much development was occurring in Henley and the population family-wise was increasing. Grange School was two miles from Henley Square, and Lockleys three, and overcrowded.

Tenders were called in February 1923, and the need for a local school was amply illustrated when 237 pupils enrolled at the start of first term 1924. Mr. Ray Edwards was the first Head Teacher and Miss Myra Taylor was also there at the inception, and for many years after I left in 1936.

Other teachers during the 31 – 36 period were Harry Calaby, Colin Moss and Esther Brooks. Mr. Edwards departed at the end of '33. Decimus Smith became Head, until May 1936, when his place was taken by H. L. Haines, who was in charge until 1941. Infant teachers were Mrs. Starrs, Gloria Rofe and Miss Kuss. After Mrs. Starrs retired, and the Depression really hit in late '32, we had six teachers only for seven classes, a situation which remained until after I left.

My cousins Chip and Bill Cluse and Harold Johns all came from Grange to be foundation scholars in 1924, and also Lindsay Warner. Later in the twenties came Arthur, Ern and Evie Cluse, Max Gamlin, Lawrie Stafford and Jack Gaetjens. Other families of this era were the Roberts family (3 girls) of York Street, the Spears of Hazel Terrace, the Newcombes, the Tanners, the Wrights and the Millers.

Cousin Graham and I had attended the Congregational Kindergarten on Military Road from about July 1929. A memory of this early period is of a bespectacled Bob Badenoch in a group outside, playing Kiss in the Ring.

In 1930, we did Grade 1 work, which included the First Primer and tables. Our tables were so well drummed into us, that later it came as a surprise to find that there were numbers above 144. And we learned about Hiawatha, Nokomis and Minnehaha, Laughing Water, from Longfellow's poem.

Come 1931, and we were ready to go to the big school. On January 26, I had my name entered in copperplate style in the Enrolment Book, by Mr. Edwards.

The new pupils were lined up for assessment. Graham's mother, who was in charge of the enrolment of both of us, said: 'Graham's work is well ahead of Gordon's'. He was placed in Grade 2, and I spent my first day in Grade 1. By lunchtime I had read through the First Primer, and was asked by the

teacher to read the last page to her out loud. Next day I had a quick promotion to Grade 2, and Graham and I competed with each other right through the primary years in the same class, and in three years of secondary school.

I can't remember much about our Grade 2 year. Kindly Mrs. Starrs was our class teacher until she retired late in the year. My spelling improved as I got sick of writing errors five times, and we learned early, by explanation, that it was a chimney, not a chimley. A class photo taken in February 1931 shows that there were 17 girls and 15 boys in our original group.

There was an earthquake in New Zealand early in that year. Where was New Zealand? What was an earthquake? We kids all imagined it was some huge burrowing animal in the ground, and one time I thought I felt it under my feet as I sat at my desk.

And I don't remember a lot about our Grade 3 year. From now on we sat in fixed desks, two to a desk with inkwells, pens and nibs, and space for books underneath.

I remember the dramatic opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge on a Saturday morning in March; and the death of Phar Lap in America, in April, affected even us seven-year-old kids.

In winter all throughout my time at Henley, the low-lying area east of the school would flood extensively. On one occasion the floodwaters came into the south eastern corner of the schoolyard.

The 1932 class photo taken in early March shows 61 students. I think there must have been some holiday people overstaying, as there are many I can't identify.

When we returned for first term 1933, we found we had a new class teacher, Colin Leslie Moss, and he brought definite changes into our lives.

Under Mr. Moss we started to learn more about South Australian Geography and English Grammar – nouns and verbs etc. Early in the year I made some mistakes in Arithmetic, not my best subject, and got two handers from 'Moses'. I was just 8 ½ years old, and small for my age. I wanted to break down and howl, as it did hurt, but was determined not to give him the satisfaction. I didn't cop any more from him, but plenty of the other lads, and even one of the girls, did.

He was not popular, and those who had suffered at his hands were not unduly saddened when they learned that, in the garden area, he had trodden on an upturned rake and been hit in the face therewith.

One day I cribbed in a test on Sir Walter Raleigh. I was sent to the Head Teacher, but Mr. Edwards merely said: 'Tell the class about Raleigh, son, they might learn something'. And 9 year old me had to lecture the Grade 7 class on Sir Walter – quite traumatic! Later, I gained a high credit in History in the 1940 Leaving exam.

Later in the year the Welfare Committee had authorised the purchase of a radio for school use. At Melbourne Cup time, Mr. Edwards put the wireless on the seat outside the Grade 7 room, and turned up the volume. We in the Grade 4 room clearly heard Hallmark win the 1933 Cup. I think the Head got into a bit of hot water over it, but certainly not from delighted school kids who went home and could tell their parents what had won the Cup.

Mr. Edwards retired at the end of 1933, after 10 years as the highly respected first Head of Henley Primary.

When we returned to school we found Mr. Decimus Smith as the new Head Teacher. He didn't take long to establish his authority, and was a stickler for good order and firm discipline. He instilled the fear of God into most of the boys from Grade 4 to Grade 7, and liked wielding the cane, although he also used a razor strop. At outside assembly he would, from the verandah, pinpoint an offender and roar.

The half a dozen Henley lads, of whom I was one, who were in the choir of St. Michael's, South Street, were unfortunate, as he was also a member of the church choir.

I fell foul of him on two occasions. The late Bill Searcy and I sat together. When Mr. Calaby was tired of our continuous mucking around, we were sent to the Head. We put our toes against the cement of the verandah outside the office and waited through recess, receiving verbal encouragement from all and sundry. The punishment we got is blotted out of my memory – probably a couple of handers and a lecture about good behaviour in class. Later, in Grade 6, I was found by the Head mucking around again in the classroom at afternoon recess time, and had to toe the cement once more. I copped one hander with the cane, then a couple with the razor strop. When asked if that hurt, I said, 'Yes, Sir'. It hadn't all that much but I was wise enough not to say so.

Decimus Smith and Colin Moss between them ran a very tight ship.

In late April, 1934, a large group of Henley students went across to the Port Road, Woodville, to wave farewell to the retiring Governor, Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C., and Lady Hore-Ruthven, who were returning to England by ship from Port Adelaide. He had been a very popular Governor, and he later returned, to Canberra, as Governor General, in 1936.

All through our school years, we had morning and afternoon assemblies, unless it was raining. We saluted the flag each morning, saying : 'I love my country, the British Empire. I salute her flag, the Union Jack. I honour her King, King George V.'

Many of the lads in Grade 5 acquired fifes. We learned many of the tunes from the School Fife Tutor, and played as the rest of the assembly marched into their classrooms. On special days we had a uniform hat with a brown and gold rosette, and white shirt. Some of the tunes we played were : The Minstrel Boy, Men of Harlech, Rule Britannia and God Save the King. We had a base drum, and a kettle drum as accompaniment. The lads enjoyed taking part in band activities. Penny concerts to finish the week's work were popular as fund raisers.

We performed a bracket of tunes at the 1935 concert at the Henley Town Hall. The concert, organised mainly by Mr. Smith, gave us an opportunity to tread the boards. The Grade 5 class presented an item, dressed as Dutch people, singing 'Little Mr. Baggy Britches, I love you', and 'Lena's been patching her Jacob, till he's got no britches at all.' Ron McCallum had the patchiest pants.

Three boys were dressed as street urchins – ragged clothes, no shoes, and dirty faces – selling newspapers. As the son of the paperman, I got a part. They said it was in my blood. Graham, and Bob Salmon were the other urchins, and we sang :

Urchins we, gay and free,
Literature is our profession.
Lots of news, full reviews,
You will find in our possession.

My father 'Waxy' supplied leather money bags, and plenty of rolled papers, which we threw into the audience in true S. G. Johns style. Some of the Grade 7 girls did a mistress and servant routine. The concert was a great success.

Mid 1934 saw the older lads and girls preparing to take part in a presentation on the Adelaide Oval, in honour of the Duke of Gloucester, who was going to Victoria, for their Centenary celebrations. We became Khaki Boys, dressed in a tunic, breeches and puttees, similar to the World War I uniform, with a digger hat of khaki cloth. We all reported to the top floor of Gellert's Kiosk for measuring and fitting by Welfare Club mothers, and we were issued with wooden rifles, made at one of the Technical Schools.

The great day arrived, and there were hundreds of boys, marching and sloping and presenting arms for the Duke, in a map of Australia.

Then, in honour of our own Centennial, in 1936, we were dressed as sailor boys. We learned to do the Sailor's Hornpipe and other dances, and sang sea shanties like 'What shall we do with a drunken sailor?' and 'Billy Boy', in another fun performance at the Oval.

'Coming events cast their shadows before.' Within half a decade, many of the participants, and other school contemporaries, each having been 'a child of the Depression', were now wearing the uniform of their country, and personally coping with a war, the second within a generation.

Six of our fellow students were killed or died during World War II. They were Kevin Odlum in the Middle East – he'd been a naval reservist pre-war, and had transferred to the army; Frank Bowering, recently married, who was killed in a plane crash in England, early 1944; Johnny Nielsen, who also lived in Main Street, and was an only child, and who died of illness in the Territory; Peter Guster, RAAF, who went missing in the Pacific; and our classmate, Bob Foreman, who was killed in action in New Guinea; also David Underwood of the '35 Q.C. class and his older brother, not a Henley student. LEST WE FORGET.

The Grade 6 class photo was taken on 11/4/1935. 21 boys and 22 girls in the photo gave a 100% attendance on that day, as my rather tattered Report states that there were 43 in the class at the end of first term.

From June to August in 1934, many of us boys were taken up with the Test cricket in England, and those few of us who had a wireless at home could stay up listening till quite late, and were tired at school next day. Bradman and Ponsford made plenty of runs, with record partnerships in successive Tests, and Australia's captain Bill Woodfull won the Ashes back on his 37th birthday and my tenth.

Blue spellers helped us tackle the problems of English spelling, and there were copybooks with their walking sticks and hooks and copperplate writing. The Children's Hour contained poetry and other articles suitable for our ages. Full marks at the weekly test gained one an honour badge, to wear until the next test. I got precious few. There were 'long tots' in the Grade 6 arithmetic book, with no calculators to help, except the one between your ears.

Mrs. Manser ran the school shop, from the house just outside the western gate. School pies and pasties were twopence, Badenoch's delicious cream buns, rock buns and chester squares were good value for a penny. Ice blocks and the penny ice cream were favoured, in the summer, if you had a spare penny.

The years we spent at Henley Primary School were the worst years of the Depression. I remember that some kids came to school without shoes, even in the colder months, because they didn't have any.

Library facilities were practically non-existent. In the Grade 7 cupboard, there was a battered set of Arthur Mee's Children's Encyclopaedias.

Early in my Grade 6 year, I was appointed as official scorer to the cricket team, and for 2 shillings bought a score book, which I still have. We played against Lockleys, Thebarton, Underdale, Richmond and Cowandilla, over two Friday afternoons, mainly in the West Parklands, 3.30 to 5 p.m., close to Bakewell Bridge.

Eric Lacy, Bill Badenoch and Chook Fielder scored well with the bat. Bob Peterson, Alan Roberts and Murray Olson all bowled well. Against Thebarton, Murray bowled Bruce Dooland (later State and Test cricketer) for a duck. Against Lockleys, we came up against the Hank brothers, Bob (later dual Magarey Medallist) and Bill. Bill Searcy was captain in 1936.

In Grade 6, Esther Brooks (old to us, probably in her thirties) wasn't able to wield the cane very effectively. She caned me twice; but was also very kind to me, making allowance for my deficient eyesight.

She drove a funny old car to school, from where she lived at Grange, in an era when women drivers were looked on askance by chauvinistic males.

In the first term holiday, 1936, a large contingent of students from Adelaide schools went to Phillip Island for a week – 8 from our school, including 5 from our class. I was allowed to go, as I'd earned the money selling papers. It seems inconceivable now that the fare, accommodation and meals cost 2 pounds 17 shillings! Decimus Smith chaperoned us, and we found he was human after all. He looked after us lads in a friendly and fatherly manner.

In 1936, we studied from a completely new History textbook, and also World Geography. While studying Asia, we learned about an obscure country called Korea, which produced soya beans and its capital was Seoul. I never did think that I would be on service in that war-ravaged city in 1953.

Then there was the time when Bob Badenoch and Tom Barnes had the great cow-pat fight. Lawrie's cows still grazed just outside the bottom fence, near where we practised cricket on the new 12-yard cement pitch.

Charles Yeomans was the Town Clerk of Henley and Grange when our school was founded, and was a great benefactor to the school. He was retired by the time we knew him in the thirties. He was very good to us all, and would often shout a whole class into the Saturday afternoon matinee at the Town Hall.

He paid numerous informal visits to the school and on more than one occasion interrupted our Friday afternoon lessons to tell us interesting tales about his trips to various parts of the world. I was especially intrigued with his story about a train trip he'd made years before, high in the Andes mountains in Peru, when the train was held up by bandits.

The C. M. Yeomans Gates at the school are named in his honour : well deserved.

We'd all studied hard for the Qualifying Certificate, and we had great respect for Harry Calaby, who had guided our uncertain footsteps in our senior year, and had taught most of us in Grade 5 too. We owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Our class made their way to Grange School on Friday, 6th November, for a full day's tests – examinations in Dictation and Spelling, Mathematics, Composition, English, History and Geography. During the History exam, two men, probably teachers, were talking in the corridor outside our room. It was disturbing to the concentration of many in the room, including me. It cost me marks in my best subject.

When I got home to Dad's shop in the Square, I listened to young Lindsay Hassett, making runs for Victoria.

Thursday, 17th December, our last day at Henley Primary, finally came. The rest of the school broke up at lunchtime, but our Q.C. results had still not arrived. Bob Badenoch was dispatched into town, to collect them from the Education Department.

Mr. Calaby waited with us. Finally, after 4 p.m., Bob came off the tram, and we all sat in our seats for the last time and received our results. One person failed, and the rest of us felt very disappointed for him/her.

I have enjoyed a lifetime of friendship with Bob Badenoch, the late Malcolm and Mavis and their families. My association with them, and their parents, Bill and Betsy, has enriched my existence.

The butcher's son Graham, the baker's son Bob, and the paperman's son, me, found ourselves together again, in the Leaving Commercial class at Prince Alfred College in 1939. One wonders who received the culture shock – we three or P.A.C.

As part of the 75th Anniversary celebrations, a big reunion is planned at the school on Sunday 7th November. The leader of the organising committee is Judith Baty (nee Jacka).

I have had great pleasure from writing about my primary school days, commemorating our 75th year, with its nostalgic memories, some painful, but mostly pleasant.

When I talked to the Society in 1983 about my recollections of Henley and Grange in the thirties and forties, I concluded saying : 'Our town has that magic something; it gets a hold on you; so many of us have stayed close by.'

And those on service, far away, in two world wars and beyond have cherished a great affection for their hometown of Henley and Grange.

A JUDICIOUS MAYORAL DECISION

As was mentioned in 'From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City', motorists listening to band recitals at Henley Beach were in the habit of tooting horns in appreciation of items. But in the summer of 1958 (concerts at that time were being given by the Henley and Grange Band), police asked the band's compere to 'inform the public that it was an offence to blow car horns other than to give warning'.

Not everyone was impressed, and the Advertiser published an Oliphant cartoon on the matter (see 'From Sand and Swamp . . . ', page 54).

The regulation was not enforced. Actually, it turns out that it was abandoned by the narrowest of margins.

A motion was brought forward in Council which, if agreed to, would, by inference, have given approval to the police veto.

When councillors had reached a deadlock, Mayor Newlands refused to give a casting vote, and the motion lapsed.

His remarks, as reported in a paper of the time (the 'Henley and Grange Local', 24/3/1958) were a model of brevity and judiciousness :

'I sympathise with police in the execution of their duties, but this action has gone too far.

I think police have been forced to take this action following unjust accusations by members of Council that the officers had failed to enforce certain by-laws.

As far as I am concerned this town gets its share of regulations.'

HAIGH MANSIONS - 323 ESPLANADE, HENLEY BEACH

In 1883, Charles Wright Lester and Mary Stephens decided to buy a seafront block at Henley Beach. In September 1882 Frearson's Monthly Illustrated Adelaide News had published an artist's impression of 'the future Ramsgate of South Australia', a birdseye view showing a Henley Beach crowded with villas, the sea busy with craft. For Lester, sole owner of his block from 1896, it proved a sound, if long term, investment.

By 1920, few vacant blocks remained on the Esplanade and Lester's site drew the eye of confectioner Alfred Ernest Haigh. Mr. Haigh was a man of substance. In 1915, he had purchased Carl Stratmann's chocolate business in Adelaide's landmark Beehive Building and in 1919 had built a factory at Parkside. He would soon erect a six-storey building, Haigh's Building, in Rundle Street.

According to family tradition, Haigh's Henley Beach venture was decided on the toss of a coin, the options being Somerton or Henley Beach. Proximity to the railway terminus was an advantage at Henley.

A.E. Haigh sealed his purchase of part allotment 94 from Lester for £1300 in October 1920, and immediately set about building Haigh Mansions, comprising eight flats, four upstairs, four down.

A ledger kept by the Haigh family records that J. Hallett & Son supplied the bricks, G. J. Ackland the stone, A. Townsend the timber, G.H. Soar the joinery and E. Eglington the plumbing. Gambling and O.E. Bruce handled cartage. There is mention of other local tradesmen, but the architect is elusive.

August 1921 saw completion of the work at a cost of nearly £4000.

A.E. Haigh also owned an adjoining house, since demolished.

Amongst the earliest tenants of Haigh Mansions were Owen Worthley, a salesman lured from Poole Mansions by the new development, Mrs. Knabe and Miss Knabe, A.V. Richardson and Mrs. Rainsford.

Going by Sands and MacDougall's directories, the early 1920s also saw the flats occupied by a commercial traveller, indent agent, licensed victualler, chief barman, dentist and warehouseman.

Haigh Mansions was aptly named, frequented by the Haigh family, friends and associates, particularly in the 1930s. Amongst these residents were, in the final years, Alfred Ernest Haigh himself, his wife Ann Eliza, joined later by her friend Hilda Mackman, daughter Alvina Lilian Gregory and her husband Frank, and Haigh's company secretary Major Walter George ('Wally') Hall.

A.E. Haigh died in 1933, leaving the Mansions to Ann Eliza. In 1950, Haigh Mansions was acquired from the Haigh estate by Arthur Gerald and Florence Jane Taylor, then passing to other members of the Taylor family. John and Marion Amelia Snell became the owners in 1968, Arminga Geological Research and Exploration Limited in 1979, and William Peter and Martha Gronthos in 1991.

Although it never produced a high return for A.E. Haigh, Haigh Mansions reflects a type of speculative building which occurred in the prosperous '20s, offering independent living as an alternative to the boarding houses and private hotels previously catering for the market. The '20s also saw intensification of the beach cult, and with its marble front steps and twin flights to the upper storey, Haigh Mansions promised easy beach access.

Given its connection to South Australia's famous confectioners, its place in social history and distinctive façade, it is regrettable that Haigh Mansions has not found a place on the sparse heritage list for Henley and Grange.

ROGER ANDRE

(Help from State Records, particularly archivists Dr. Judy Jeffery and Ms. Catherine Gargett, and from Mr. John Haigh and Mrs. Patricia Sumerling, is gratefully acknowledged.)



A 'DO YOU REMEMBER?' LETTER

In response to a picture, published by the Advertiser on 27/1/99 as part of its 'Do you remember?' features, Tom Jennings wrote out some of his memories of Henley Beach. The following is the text, kindly supplied by him, of his letter to the Advertiser. (The letter as published on 17/2/99 had omitted some of the original paragraphs.)

'Your picture of Henley Beach prior to easily obtained private transport and television brings back vivid memories of how active and energetic the average family were, with mum up early packing the picnic lunch in preparation for their "day at the beach".

A typical Sunday or in particular a Public Holiday would see trams loaded with beach-going passengers from as far east as Norwood, and trains from Adelaide to Henley stopping at all stations picking up those families prepared for a day of bathing and frolicking in the shallows with the kids, and lunches generously mixed with sand. All arriving early to get a good position near the jetty or under the sideshow pavilion to the north.

On the way to the beach many would call on Les GRIGGS and hire a deck chair, a conical shaped beach tent, or a shade. Some would even hire one of the twenty or so alcoves, one of which Les always kept aside for the use of the Henley Women's Life Saving Club.

The next task was to find enough space on the beach upon which to spread the rug. Such was the attraction of this safe swimming beach, with its pure white sands and crystal clear waters, that its popularity never waned.

Public holidays would see the side-shows opening early with the merry-go-round grinding out the usual polkas and old Tom CASSIDY calling on the "boys" to have a "go" and try to "knock 'em down" at the Touch'em stall.

Frank CLODE'S milk bar in the side-show pavilion, Vic BERGAMIN'S shops on either side of the Jetty, and LAURIE'S milk bar opposite the St. Johns room were all in preparation for a busy day, with the Amscol twin choc the flavour of the day.

All types of beach games were played on the hard sand as the tide ebbed. Some Sunday mornings would see a team of gymnasts from Fox's Gym, of Croydon, giving an excellent display of tumbling and pyramids.

A notable feature was the ever-presence of the lifesavers on voluntary duty up on the "bridge", midway along the jetty, keeping a watchful eye for bathers in difficulty and ever-ready to sound the siren and raise the red flag upon the sighting of a shark, or in pairs patrolling on either side of the jetty.

The weekly "swim round" the jetty by members of the lifesaving club drew such attention that shoulder space at the jetty rail was rare. The junior members would start their swim at 4 p.m. and swim along the northern side to the old "Pav" before cutting through the jetty and swimming back to the beach on the southern side. The senior's swim, at 4.30 p.m., went around the entire jetty. It being a handicap event there was keen competition concluding with a great round of applause for the swimmers.

The 75th anniversary of voluntary service by the Henley SLSC will commence with 12 months of activities starting with a reunion of old members in October 1999, and the presentation of a book of the history of the Club at the 75th Anniversary Dinner, 1st October 2000. Any memorabilia for inclusion in the book would be appreciated by this writer.

Sunday afternoons saw another form of entertainment supplied by the Tramways Band and on occasions by the Hindmarsh Municipal Band. Sunday evenings would see deck chairs laid out in well regulated lines on the northern side of the rotunda, with a projector displaying the words onto a screen of white canvas for all to join in community singing. What about the News Year's Eve concerts? Do you remember the live entertainment by the Band accompanying those in good voice with items greeted with rounds of applause, and the local lads for the lighter side of the entertainment with their string of ditties? Those were the days when fun was fun. Rarely was it necessary for the local Sergeant such as Bob PARSONS to speak twice. Those were the days when respect was the common denominator.

Do You Remember?

Tom JENNINGS, 39 Halsey Road, Fulham. 5024'

(An account by Tom Jennings of some aspects of the history of the Henley Surf Life Saving Club was published in the 1988 Journal, pages 30 – 34.)

50 YEARS AGO (2)

The Henley Community Kindergarten

On 19/4/1949, the Henley Community Kindergarten opened in the Henley Beach Methodist Church Hall, Seaview Road.

(The kindergarten moved into new premises in White Street on 11/4/1953.)

(Notes from 'From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City')

Additional tram services

'From M.T.T., intimating that arrangements have been made for the service to Marlborough Street to be increased by extending the running of 18 additional trips daily, Monday to Friday inclusive, from Main Street to Marlborough Street.'

The Council expressed appreciation.

(Council Minutes, 4/7/49)

FORTUNE-TELLING AT HENLEY BEACH

Women police were responsible for checking on the activities of fortune-tellers.

There was an anomaly to be faced. 'Fortune-tellers were able to advertise their 'subtle craft' in the newspapers even though the practice was an offence under the Police Offences Act.'

Women police officers remembered that, during the First World War, people seeking a fortune-telling interview because of anxiety about loved ones serving overseas had often been given tragically false 'information'.

An episode involving fortune-telling, unusual in several ways, occurred at Henley Beach towards the end of the year 1920.

To quote, with grateful acknowledgement, from 'To walk a fair beat, a history of the South Australian Women Police 1918 – 1987', by Patricia Higgs and Christine Bettess :

'Never was one more blatant in advertising her craft than Madam Zambra who, on December 29, in the full swing of the holiday season, parked her bright red van on the esplanade at the approach to the Henley Beach jetty. Attached to the side of the van was a poster which read, "Madam Zambra, Clairvoyant, Phrenologist, Character Reader". Mary Wilcher and Lillian Northbridge both sought readings.'

(As was usual in those days, the two policewomen would have been in ordinary street dress, not in uniform.)

'Mrs. Wilcher entered the van which had been set up as a lounge room. Madam took a chart, looked at Mary's face, marked the chart with a pencil then handed it to the policewoman. A fee of two shillings and six pence was then charged, one shilling and six pence for the reading, one shilling amusement tax. The information given to Mary was unnervingly true.'

Madam Zambra's comments and forecasts were indeed incredibly accurate.

Mary was a widow, with a young son. Madam Zambra said she could 'see' Mary's dead husband standing behind her, and spoke of her son as 'wonderfully smart and quick, but not very strong', and also of a well-to-do man who was interested in Mary's welfare. Lewis Wilcher was South Australia's Rhodes Scholar in 1929 though he had missed a year's schooling through ill health! And an Adelaide business man 'encouraged and assisted him in continuing his studies'.

'Madam Zambra was arrested and later pleaded not guilty. She admitted to having given the reading but claimed she was not trying to deceive but only to entertain with the gift she had been granted at birth. When cross-examining Mary, the defendant's astute solicitor was able to point out the similarities between Mary's life and that of the actual reading, and that of the eighty occupations listed on the chart the seer had marked 'nurse', the occupation that Mary had followed before joining the force. The Special Magistrate at first adjourned the hearing, believing that 'the whole case covered very debatable ground'. Eventually he found Madam Zambra guilty and fined her eight pounds plus costs.'

We are left to wonder how Madam Zambra managed to get so near the truth. She assuredly did not suffer the embarrassment of another 'clairvoyant', 'Mrs. Loftus' who, approached by the famous Kate Cocks, 'first policewoman of the British Empire', had made every possible error in details and predictions.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE WEST BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Max Gamlin was the guest speaker at the Society's meeting on 28/5/99. He outlined the early development of the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club, and then spoke about the Surf Life Saving movement in general

The family came out from England when Max was a child. His father built a number of homes in Henley Beach, with Max's elder brother Jack working as a carpenter.

Max met his wife Philippa, a nurse, in New Guinea during wartime. Philippa later became the first female Councillor in Henley and Grange.

(The account that follows of the early history of the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club is mainly based on Max's talk to the Society, with additional material kindly supplied by him, including the Club's first Annual Report. The opening of the new clubrooms is noted in 'From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City', p 56.)

Prior to World War II, lifesavers were trained in Royal Lifesaving procedures, but a need to cope with surf conditions had become evident.

(The change from 'Royal Life Saving' to 'Surf Life Saving' was described by Tom Jennings in the 1988 Journal, pp 30 – 32. Henley and Glenelg were early local Surf Life Saving Clubs.)

Gaps in beach protection were becoming very evident, especially with new housing developments taking place in beachside and nearby locations.

Don Newlands, who was Mayor of Henley and Grange from 1952 to 1962, and was President of the Surf Life Saving Association in South Australia, was keenly interested in new Surf Life Saving clubs being formed at Grange and West Beach. From the mid-1950s on, he saw this happen, with the formation and rapid development of both clubs.

The Mayor called a meeting at the Henley club. C. V. (Jim) Fischer and Max Gamlin agreed to transfer to help inaugurate a West Beach club, as first President and Chief Instructor/Captain respectively.

During the first (1956 – 57) season of the new club, 11 members gained Bronze Medallions. Other members soon joined them, and from this group came further instructors, trained during the winter season.

Much help came from Glenelg and Henley Beach. At first, these clubs provided (on alternate weekends) members for beach patrols. And they donated essential gear, including a battered but serviceable surfboat from Glenelg!

The Henley 14 ft. Sailing Club stored the life saving gear until Pat O'Grady donated materials for a tin shed which, erected by volunteers, served as the first headquarters. Early members were proud to call themselves 'tin-shedders'.

Mel Cameron, the very popular announcer from Radio 5DN, broadcast encouragements to recruitment. One day, 104 young people turned up at West Beach, giving ample scope for selection!

With a great many new members, complementary activities were set up. Philippa Gamlin, who has a degree in Sports Administration, began, as a world first, beach volley ball. Water polo matches were organised, in the Henley Pool, between teams from West Beach, Henley and Glenelg. These were excellent training for stamina in the water. Gordon Romain, a physical culture instructor, set up a gymnasium in his own home, at his own expense, and gymnastics became very popular. First Aid courses were compulsory. There were courses in leadership, public relations and administration.

Fund raising was important. In the first year of the Club, help came from the News, the Mail, the popular drive-in theatres (Blue Line and Shandon), and Bill Maloney of the West Beach Caravan Park (Christmas picture evenings and barbecues).

The RSPCA donated the 'old horse shelter' at West Beach, which was later sold, and the proceeds put towards the new clubshed.

The Womens Committee (Auxiliary) became more and more important. The first year's activities were extended when Shirley Weinert came forward with an original idea - to hand £5 to each member, to begin an individual fund raising scheme. £2000 was raised in this way.

Soon the club was able to enter a team in the State Championships. West Beach was 3rd in 1960 - 61, and won the competition in the following year!

The wide spread devoted service to Surf Life Saving and the community resulted in four people connected with the club being honoured with the Order of Australia Medal - Nancy Fischer, Max Gamlin, and two members of the first Bronze Squad - Barry Presgrave and Dennis Conlin.

There were, of course, a great number of other helpers. Among those not already mentioned were Jack Weinert, David Presgrave, Harry Hammer, Jack Gamlin, John Hill, Harry Garth and Graham Footner.

With enthusiastic fund raising, a start could be made on building permanent headquarters. The Mayor opened the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club's new clubrooms on December 15, 1963.

The new rooms were in stark contrast to the old tin shed (referred to during the ceremony as 'the rusty tin garage') which the club had used for the past seven years.

Progress had been rapid!

LOCAL HISTORY FROM ARCHIVAL ITEMS

In earlier times, privately owned circulating libraries, as well as Institute libraries, were set up in many places. In the 1920s, Henley and Grange residents had a choice between the Grange Institute library, and a circulating library provided by L. Bowes, bookseller and stationer, who purchased the Seaview Road shop in 1921, and remained as owner for ten years.

Among archival items made available to the Society by 91-year-old Mrs. Saunders (nee Lenore Bowes) is an advertisement concerning her father's business.

Other items from Mrs. Saunders show advertisements for concerts by the scholars of the Henley Private School, in 1924 and 1925 (years which coincided with the first two years of the Henley Beach Public School.)

L. BOWES

Bookseller and Stationer
112 Seaview Road, Henley Beach
PHONE L 8732

To the Residents of Henley and Grange

We take this opportunity of reminding you that our well established Circulating Library will give the best service and maintain its premier position.

Rates are Cheap and Books are well Selected

Please Make Enquiries

— ALSO —

Stationery, Fancy Goods, Magazines,
(Harrington's Developing Service)
Music, Gramo. Records,
(Advertiser Small Ads.) Etc.

REMEMBER !

BOWES FOR BEST BOOKS

Henley Private School.
Principal—Mrs. J. J. DURDIN, B.A.

GRAND CONCERT

To be held in the
Henley and Grange Town Hall

— ON —

Thursday, November 20th, 1924

At 7.45 p.m.

The Rev. W. Hawke will preside.

Admission: Adults 1/9 and 1/2
(including Taxes)

Children Half-price.

1/9 Seats may be reserved at Mr. L. Bowes, Bookseller, Sea View Road, on payment of 3d. extra.

Webb & Son, Printers, Gawler Place (South), Adelaide.

Copies (much reduced) of handbill advertisements for the shop and circulating library, and the 1924 concert.

The Henley Private School, held at the Congregational Church, had an enrolment at that time (as shown in a school photograph) of 33 girls and 14 boys, with two teachers.

Seats for the comprehensive concerts, in which the students fully participated, and at which Rev. W. Hawke presided, could be reserved at Bowes' shop.

Two more glimpses into our history!

A WELL FURNISHED FARMHOUSE

A very early home in the area that is now called West Beach (but was then called Fulham or Reedbeds) was the thatch-roofed farmhouse belonging to Joseph Johnson. It was located just north-west of the present Tapleys Hill Road – West Beach Road T-junction. (See Journal 1989, p.34)



*Johnson's (later, Gray's) Frogmore cottage
(Sketch by Julie Pritchard. Reprinted from 1989 Journal, p.34.)*

Johnson's property, Frogmore, had been, from 1840 on, developed into a flourishing farm of 500 acres. It was a mixed farm, with wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, vegetables, sheep, cattle, horses, pigs and poultry.

At the 1844 Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibition (the forerunner of the Royal Show), Johnson was a cattle judge, exhibited wheat, and won prizes for cheese and a basket of five turkeys. (Register, 17/2/1844.) He also owned Saint James Farm, in present day Lockleys.

Towards the end of the 1850s Johnson, who had done well in South Australia, decided to retire to England. He sold his Frogmore farm to William Henry Gray, and advertised auction sales for January 27, 1859 (mainly household furniture from Frogmore) and January 28 (livestock, vehicles and farm implements).

His roomy farm cottage was elegantly furnished, if we judge from items listed for the first auction. Items included 'rosewood couches (green damask); rosewood easy chair; rosewood chair to match; occasional chairs; ottoman; telescope tables; chiffonier with bookcase; fire-screens, card tables; excellent square piano (6 ½ octaves, by Schroeder, most beautiful tone to sing to); bouquet of wax flowers; horsehair squab; silver plate and plated ware; glass and china; framed engravings; Brussels carpets and rugs; beds and bedding. . . .'

A SECOND FROGMORE HOUSE

Gray added Frogmore Farm to the estate he was developing, between Henley Beach and Glenelg, on both sides of Tapleys Hill Road.

In his will, he divided the land among his five sons. The eldest sons, Franklin and Percy, farmed the area west of Tapleys Hill Road - Franklin, on Frogmore Farm, to the north, and Percy, on Teatree Farm, to the south.

The cottage was replaced, in 1890, by a large house, big enough to contain a ballroom. Franklin Gray and his family lived for many years in the 11-room house but, in 1916, Gray leased his farm to Alfred Press, who used it for dairying.

Floods through the years, increasing in frequency and intensity, made farming and transport difficult, and even when the Outlet was made in 1937, much of the low-lying land remained swampy.

In 1960, when it was decided to demolish the house, it had been uninhabited for some years.

The Mail, on 17/9/1960, reported on the demolition. After mentioning the former extent of Gray's land in the western region, and its gradual sale and re-development through the years, the article continued :

'The last portion of the estate, 13 ½ acres, on which the homestead is built, was sold two years ago. It will be subdivided into 53 blocks and sold next March.

The solid red brick and stone homestead was built in 1890 by the founder of the family in South Australia, Mr. William Henry Gray, who came to South Australia in 1837.

The house faces on to Tapleys Hill Road and is on a small hill surrounded by swamp.

Since the land was sold, more than 50,000 tons of sand have been dumped into the swamp, and the land now lies level with the road.

But for years, the members of the family used a boat during the winter months to get to the home from the road.

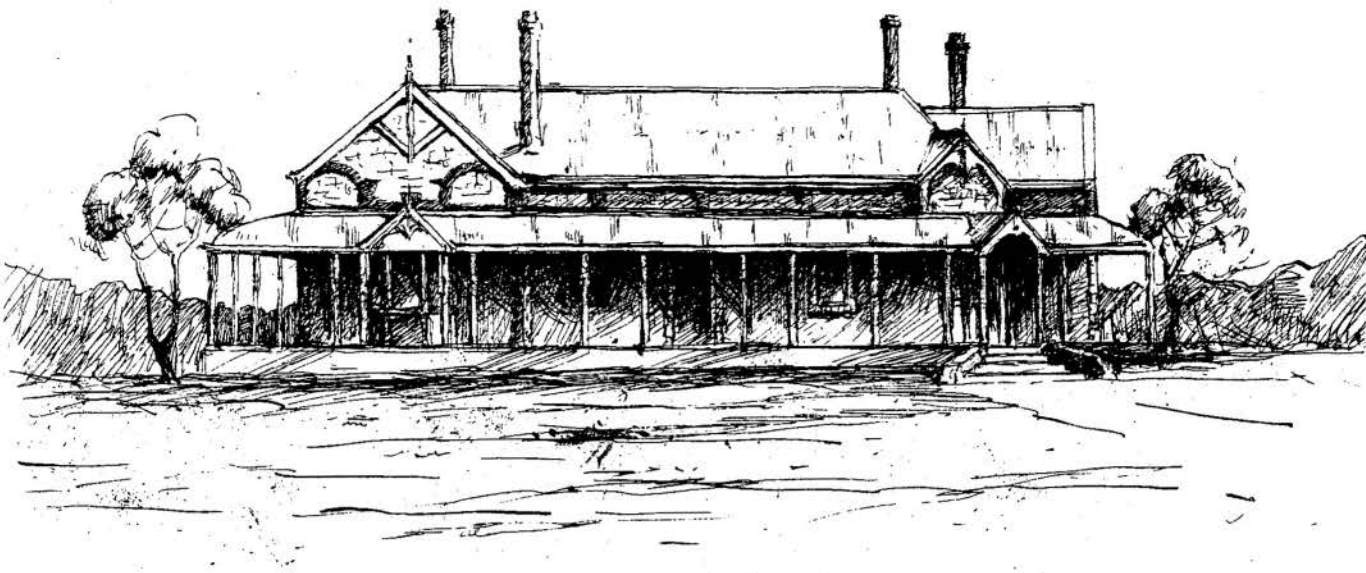
This week workmen removed floor and window fittings from the old house.

The inside of the once richly furnished house was found 'gutted' on a visit this week.

Director of the company which now owns the land, Mr. M. C. Robertson, said: 'It is a shame such a lovely old house must vanish, but the cost of repairs would be too great.'

He pointed to the cedar bay window that had been ripped from the wall. 'That window was brought from England.'

... The walls are thick and workmen are having trouble removing them.'



The second Frogmore house

(Outline sketch by Malcolm Gray)

There is a tradition in the Gray family that a kind of punt, in addition to the boat mentioned above, was also available.

Jane Cooper, grand-daughter of William Henry and Rosetta Gray, writes (in the 1970s): 'I can remember Nanna telling me, when I was a very small girl, how frightened she used to be when they were marooned at Frogmore and she had to get into the trap to go out. The trap and horses used to be put onto a punt, and punted across the surrounding floodwaters to the road. My mother told me the same story. Very different to the area today.'

Very different, indeed!

(In earlier days, there was always water elsewhere, too, on Frogmore. The Patawalonga extended through the property to north of the line of the present West Beach Road, and increasing floodwaters left behind extensive wetlands/lagoons. When floodwaters subsided in the Henley Beach area, Chook Fielder's father, Doug, would, with his horse and plumber's trolley, transport his canoe - made in an afternoon, using galvanised iron : see 1989 Journal, page 20 - to Frogmore, and find plenty of navigable water for boating and duck shooting.)

ARTHUR HARVEY -

LAND AND MINING AGENT, DEVELOPER AND TOWN-PLANNER

Arthur Harvey, who was associated with suburban and infrastructure development in Adelaide and with mining in various parts of South Australia for over 30 years in the last century, was born in London in July 1827 to John and Louisa Harvey, being their fourth child and second son. He worked in his family's long-established silk mercers and men's clothing business for several years and later he became a partner in another firm Homan, Harvey & Co. in London, wholesale outfitting manufacturers. On leaving the family business in the early 1850s he was given an advance of £2,500 and it can be assumed that this money funded his move to Australia.

It is not known why he chose to come to Australia and, in particular, to what was then the Moreton Bay District of the Colony of NSW. Arthur arrived in Brisbane in late 1855 and was followed some months later by his wife Emma who travelled with their first child John, born in London in June 1855. He purchased land in North Brisbane (near the site of the present Roma Street railway complex) and in early 1857 was in partnership with J.C. Heussler in a business known as Heussler, Harvey & Co. The partners dealt in saddlery and men's apparel but were also immigration agents. Arthur and Emma's second child (Louisa) was born in Brisbane in 1857.

However, by 1858 Arthur and his family had moved to Sydney, another child Herbert, being born there early that year and dying in infancy; little else is recorded of their stay in NSW but by 1864 they were back in England and another son, Arthur Vernon, was born that year. Arthur's father died in 1867 and under the terms of the will, Arthur was bequeathed £2,000 but was required to repay to the estate, before division, the £2,500 which had been advanced previously. In addition, a codicil to the will, dated 1860, revoked Arthur's share of the residue of his father's considerable estate. He thus had cause to be concerned about the situation; it is not recorded if he challenged the will or was able through other means to obtain some satisfaction but it is thought to be unlikely.

Arrival in South Australia

Arthur returned to Australia in 1869, coming to Adelaide as the representative for a group of English capitalists who were interested in financing a transcontinental railway from Adelaide to the Northern Territory of S.A., employing a land grant system and also in examining and promoting other schemes.

Apparently Frederick Estcourt Bucknall, of whom more later, came to the colony in 1860 to enquire into a similar railway scheme and lived at Port Adelaide. He established the Australian Club House Hotel (known locally as the 'Kerosene Tin') near the Jervois Bridge in 1869, was instrumental in establishing the Port Adelaide Sailing Club and was later Commodore of the Royal S.A. Yacht Club, Mayor of Hindmarsh and Member for West Torrens in the House of Assembly 1881 – 1887.

The first Bill connected with the long-standing railway project did not go before the colonial Parliament until August 1873 (when it was defeated) and Arthur occupied himself with land speculation and general real estate pursuits in the interim and also pursued an interest in mining. He is listed in Sands & McDougall's Adelaide Directory for 1869 as a land-broker and agent with an office

in Gilbert Place, Adelaide; in 1872 he was living in Brougham Place, North Adelaide. Undoubtedly, through previous commercial experience, he had a knowledge of accounting and general business practice and at some stage had acquired at least an elementary knowledge of surveying, and land broking procedures. Again, it seems that he travelled to Australia alone; Emma and the three children followed later – certainly by 1872.

The discovery of gold in S.A.'s Northern Territory in 1871 increased interest in a north-south railway and in 1872 a survey of the northern section – Darwin to Pine Creek – of the proposed line was authorised by the Government and the Port Augusta and Port Darwin Railway Company was formed in Adelaide. Further impetus for the 'Great Northern Railway' project was given by the need to provide better transport for the many copper mines then operating in the northern Flinders Ranges. In 1874–75 Arthur held a mineral right to search at the old Nuccaleena mine but did not purchase the improvements as he considered them to be too highly valued. Contemporary reports of 1875 suggest that he had been prospecting in the northern Flinders for several years and in May that year he applied for over a hundred sections in the area. Also in 1875, with Ebenezer Cooke and V. Lawrance, he took up the abandoned Mt. Rose mine but little work was undertaken during their ownership.

He was also interested in copper mining in the Wallaroo and Moonta area and unsuccessfully contested the seat of Wallaroo in the House of Assembly in 1875 in an attempt to promote action on the Railway Bills. In 1882 he contested a seat – again unsuccessfully – in the Legislative Council but was elected to the House of Assembly in April 1884 as the member for West Torrens at the same time as his colleague F.E. Bucknall. Arthur lost his seat at the next election in March 1887.

Association with Henley and Grange

Although Arthur continued to be interested in mining, in late 1876 he turned his attention to developments in the suburbs of Adelaide, particularly at East Adelaide (St. Peters) and later at Henley Beach and Grange. He was involved with John Brodie Spence and David Murray in the East Adelaide development and with these two partners plus F. E. Bucknall and others in the subdivision projects at Henley Beach and Grange. For this work and general development at Grange reimbursement from the S.A. Government at a significant level was expected, but eventually the companies involved received only a small part of what they requested, in spite of long negotiations with the Government; the lack of reimbursement of a reasonable part of the £80,000 outlaid by these companies was a factor in their demise in 1885 – 87.

Bucknall, who built Estcourt House as part of the grand scheme to develop Port Adelaide South with wharves and a canal through the sand hills to the sea, helped to finance the schemes but his name does not appear in lists of shareholders or directors.

By October 1877 it was reported that almost all of the allotments originally surveyed at Henley had been sold and that an extension of the Township was being surveyed. At Grange, only about ten allotments had been sold by December but in the following March Arthur reported that nearly 80 sales had been for a total of £16,663. Days in his office must have been well filled as the projects developing townships at Henley and Grange, subdividing 334 acres at East Adelaide and developing Port Adelaide South were simultaneous operations.

In late 1878, Arthur, again in partnership with Spence and Murray, bought 'The Grange' (Captain Sturt's old home) and probably lived in the home for a few months. Lady Sturt, widow of Captain Sturt, had sold the property in November 1877 to H. C. Swann of Semaphore who resold a year later for the same amount of £4,000; Swann, at one time, owned much of the coastal land between Semaphore and Henley Beach. However, by September 1881 the house plus six acres of land was on offer for £1,700.

One of the first major projects initiated by the Grange Proprietors (the legal entity of the forerunner of the Grange Land & Investment Co.), was the construction of the Grange jetty which was completed in late 1879 under the auspices of the District Council of Woodville; Henry Bellingham was the

successful tenderer in January 1878 for a price of £3,400. Road building was another activity of high priority for the Proprietors; in this context in December 1877 Bellingham made 44 chains and 20 feet of road in Beach Road, Grange Township, between Port Creek and Military Road and then on an incline to the sea, according to the plan and specification deposited with the District Council of Woodville for the tendered amount of £449.0.0. In April 1878 Bellingham undertook the improvement of 50 chains of Leason's (Kirkcaldy) Road, east of Fulham (now Tapleys Hill ?) Road, for £8.8.0 per chain and in June he tendered for five other road contracts in Grange Township itself for a total of almost £2,200.

With the provision of transport to the new township in mind, Arthur wrote to Charles Coates, Secretary of the Adelaide & Hindmarsh Tramway Co., in January 1878, outlining the improvements to roads and bridges either underway or planned in the Grange Township and advising that the Grange Proprietors were interested in taking shares in the Tramway Co. A grant of one acre of freehold land (at the corner of Beach and Sturt Streets) was available to the Tramway Co. if it would extend the service from Hindmarsh to Grange. This extension did not eventuate when horse tram services commenced to Hindmarsh in October 1880 and Arthur reminded the Tramway Co. of the offer of land and told them that if they did not take up the offer the land would be sold – its value was about £500.

Investigations into providing a railway service to Grange from Woodville started in late 1880 and correspondence in September 1881 indicates that construction of the line was imminent. The principal shareholders of the Grange Railway and Investment Co. Ltd. – J. B. Spence, David Murray and Arthur – each had about 5,500 shares; other shareholders (with 600 each) included notable South Australians such as Charles Cameron Kingston, Walter Reynell, Peter Waite, F. Bucknall and R. Chaffey Baker; a total of 24,000 shares was issued. The railway was opened in September 1882 and a horse tram service, operated by the Adelaide and Hindmarsh Tramway Co., commenced to Henley Beach in February 1883, extending to Grange in May that year. Thus, two modes of transport, albeit giving somewhat erratic service, were available to residents of the new township. The sale of allotments and building thereon at Grange was slow in the first few years but picked up in the early 1880s. Coinciding with the opening of the railway, 200 blocks offered at auction were all sold, one lot bringing £8.15.0 per foot and it was reported that 16 blocks purchased on Saturday, September 30 were resold on the following Monday for a profit of £1,442. Sales slowed down again in the general depression and collapse of the land boom in the colony in the mid 1880s.

Arthur's influence at Grange was also evident in the construction of the 'Marines' – a group of eight three-storey terrace houses built in collaboration with Bucknall on the Esplanade at Grange, and the establishment of St. Agnes Church on land donated by the Grange Railway & Investment Co. to the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide. The church was dedicated in November 1885 and on August 18, 1886 he and his daughter-in-law Isabella (Bella) were listed as two of the ten founders of the church. Prior to the erection of St. Agnes services were held in Arthur's residence at 'The Marines' (Arthur was the first purchaser when the 'Marines' came on the market in December 1883; he lived there for four years before moving to East Adelaide in 1887 where his wife Emma died in 1888). He was active in the establishment of the Grange Cricket Club, being instrumental in securing land for use by the club on its formation in 1885 and becoming first president. His son Arthur junior played for the club in its inaugural season and his grandson Vernon later had a long association with the Club as player, committeeman, auditor and president.

Arthur was secretary of the Grange Land & Investment Co. Ltd. when it was floated in 1879 and also of the Grange Railway & Investment Co. which followed it and was later managing director of that company. He was also inaugural secretary of the Wharf & Land Company of Port Adelaide South which had been floated earlier – probably in 1878; his partner and elder son John later became secretary of the latter company. Arthur junior also worked for a time with his father and brother.

With the collapse of the Grange Railway & Investment Co. and the East Adelaide Investment Co. in the financial depression of 1885 – 87, Arthur lost the whole of his investment in South Australia and seemingly never managed to recover financially. It is not known if he had money in the Commercial Bank of South Australia which collapsed in January 1886 but his partner Bucknall and many other

prominent citizens certainly did. For the next ten years or so he operated as a mining, land and general agent in Adelaide and for a time was secretary of the Mid-Moonta Co.; he also tried to arouse interest in working other neglected mines in the Wallaroo/Moonta region. These endeavours were not assisted by a partial collapse of the world copper market and consequent low prices for the metal. Family oral history suggests that, with sons John and Arthur, he went to the Kalgoorlie gold fields to try his luck in the mid-1890s; if this is correct, Arthur senior and John certainly returned fairly soon to Adelaide, but Arthur junior remained in Kalgoorlie where his daughter was born in 1897. Arthur senior died at Wellington, New Zealand in January 1902 whilst visiting his daughter; family records show that he had gone to New Zealand only two weeks before to look at mining ventures in the South Island of that country.

In common with many Adelaide investors and speculators, the other principals in the East Adelaide, Grange and Port Adelaide South developments also suffered financial reverses in the depression. The assignation of J. B. Spence's estate in 1887 ended the latter's parliamentary career, but not his commercial aspirations as he became Chairman of the State Bank and a member of other boards and trusts. F. E. Bucknall, in England at the time of the collapse, returned quickly to Adelaide to face financial hardship, the loss of his parliamentary seat and eventually his home, Estcourt House. The Harvey family's association with the district has continued, mainly through alternate generations. Arthur's grandson Vernon – a resident of Grange for nearly 60 years – was secretary of the Grange Institute and the Grange Progress Association before World War I and later was a member of the Henley & Grange Council for 17 years, being mayor from 1937 – 1945. He was also active in several sporting clubs and in many community movements.

Vernon's granddaughter Alison is art director of the Henley & Grange Art Society, and committee member (formerly vice-president) of the Henley & Grange Residents Association, and is active in other community affairs. His grandson Paul was Vice Commodore of the Henley Sailing Club.

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JOHN HARVEY

THE HENLEY TENNIS CLUB 1923 – 1964,

AND THE HENLEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION

(by Ron Cassidy)

(Ron was a playing member of the club from 1937 to 1956, Captain 1947/48 and 1948/49, and President for several years commencing 1950. He was Honorary Secretary of the Henley Recreation Association for some years preceding 1954.)

Tennis was popular at Henley and Grange in the thirties. Local clubs, both church and public, gave opportunities to play the game without going far from home.

Clubs with more than one court were :

- Grange Lawn, High Street, Grange - 3 grass courts
- Seaside, Sturt Street, Grange - 3 hard courts
- Henley, East Terrace/Clarence Street - 1 grass and 2 hard courts
- St Michael's, East Terrace/South Street - 3 hard courts
- Catholic Church, Seaview Road/Marlborough Street - 2 hard courts
- Church of Christ, Seaview Road - 2 hard courts.

(St Michael's eventually found it difficult to cope with running costs, and the land was sold in 1938.)

At a meeting held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, 15/3/1922, it was decided that 'there should be established the Henley Recreation Association with the objective of providing for the playing of bowls, tennis and croquet'.

Land for the Association's grounds was acquired at the corner of Clarence Street and East Terrace.

Progress was rapid. Fencing and preliminary groundworks were done by mid 1922, and playing areas - tennis courts, croquet lawn and bowling green - were ready by March 1923. A clubroom was completed by the end of that year.

The Henley Tennis Club had been formed at a General Meeting in the Town Hall in July 1922. Two further meetings in January and March 1923 were held in the Council Chambers, to deal with constitution, membership and subscriptions. Membership of the Club was to be limited to 25 gentlemen and 15 ladies. Subscriptions were : Gentlemen £2/12/6, ladies £1/12/6, the amounts to include membership of the Recreation Association.

(The Association was generally involved with the maintenance of property and costs of a capital nature. Its income mostly came from the capitation fees paid by each of the three clubs.)

The Association's grounds were officially opened on Saturday, 10th November, 1923. The President of the Association declared the clubhouse and grounds open, after which the Mayor unfurled the Association's flag. Following these proceedings, the President of each of the three clubs opened their respective areas.

Sunday play was a contentious matter at the time the club was formed. The Tennis Club members voted 15 – 10 in favour of Sunday play, and a letter went to the Recreation Association for approval to play. But Sunday tennis only came about in the middle thirties, and then only in the afternoons.

In 1928, the Tennis Club put a proposal to the Association for electric lights over the two asphalt courts. Nothing came of it. Perhaps the beginning of the Depression had something to do with that.

During the twenties and thirties, friendly matches were played against other clubs, including the Seaside, Prospect Gardens, Marion and Port Noarlunga clubs.

A large majority of players wanted to play in the Port Adelaide and Districts Lawn Tennis Association competitions at the beginning of 1934 – 35, but this participation lasted only two years. Although teams did not reach the finals, younger players improved considerably.

At the 1940 A.G.M., Mrs. Hilda Gluyas became the Club's first lady secretary. Hilda, who won the Club's women's singles on a number of occasions, was a tireless worker in both administrative and social activities.

Enlistments in the armed services depleted male membership as war years passed. This was something remaining members thought of when the Bowling Club proposed to take over the whole of the property vested in the Henley Recreation Association. 'This should not happen while our boys are away' was a driving force for the Tennis Club to oppose the plan.

A General Meeting of the Association was held at the Henley Town Hall on 8/3/1943, to debate the proposal. It was well attended and often heated. Among those who vigorously opposed the proposal were John Blake, and Cliff Gluyas, who was a bowler when the meeting was held, but had been President of the Tennis Club in 1928 – 29.

The proposal was not successful, but only after being further debated at the Annual General Meeting in October 1943.

Tennis balls became hard to get as the war went on, and were used with strict economy. The local Red Cross wrote to thank the Club for financial assistance to the Prisoner of War funds. Capitation fees were making things difficult by absorbing more than half of players' subscriptions because of the flat rate charged for ladies and men.

Things went well for the Club during the postwar decade. The 1945 – 46 season produced an improvement in finances, although expenses were still high - the main items being capitation fees and a proportion of the cost of a bore. Subscription fees were still not very different from those in 1923, when the Club was formed.

Members who had been away in the armed services were demobilised early in 1946 and came back to tennis. There was an influx of good players, men and women, juniors and

experienced. These, together with older members who had stayed with the Club during the war, enabled it to field strong teams in arranged matches. Games were played against Seaside, Largs, Hermitage, Tea Tree Gully and Combined Hills clubs.

A spirit of competition was introduced to Henley tennis, when the Mayor, A. E. Northey, in opening the Henley courts at the beginning of the 1947 – 48 season, offered to donate a shield for competition between the Henley, Seaside and Grange Lawn tennis clubs because of the friendly rivalry between them. Named the A. E. Northey Shield, it was competed for by home and away matches. Henley won it for the first two seasons and no doubt had further success, but records with later results are not to be found.

As, after the war years, things gradually got back to normal in the late 1940s, Club members were involved in many ways off the court. Social activities, fund raising, picnics and involvement with community affairs got good support. During the tennis season, there were Friday night get-togethers at what had largely become the Bowling Clubrooms. Table tennis, darts, quoits and dancing were part of the scene. On one occasion, early in the evening, an upright piano was carried quickly from 12 Chester Street to the clubrooms at Clarence Street by some pretty strong young men. It returned home safely the same way later that night.

Social/fund raising nights at Sven Kallin's home on Seaview Road, South Henley, were always a great success. Sven, a successful businessman, liked to entertain. On one occasion, an England Test team shared the tennis night.

Other occasions included the annual picnic, generally at National Park, Belair; barbecues in the sandhills just off the beach at West Beach and Grange; and decorating and manning floats for the Grange to Henley procession. The Club ran a Coca-Cola stall in the Henley Square over a very hot January long weekend. The complete initial stock of 7,000 bottles, stockpiled in the lane between the Kiosk and shops fronting Seaview Road, were sold in a couple of hours the first night - hot bottles after a while, almost all to thirsty people pouring off trams.

Interest in tennis started to decline in the late fifties and membership dropped. It became difficult to meet running costs and maintain the lawn court. Towards the end of the fifties the Tennis Club considered the possibility of moving to hard courts established at the south-eastern corner of the Henley and Grange Memorial Oval. The courts had frontage to Atkin Street.

Negotiations with the Bowling Club in connection with the proposal commenced in September 1959. The Croquet Club also became involved as its cooperation was necessary for any transfer of property and re-allocation of playing area. Many conferences and meetings took place over the following 18 months. Then a meeting of the Bowling Club on 20/3/1960 resolved that the committee be empowered to assist the Tennis Club with an amount up to £1000 to establish courts on another site.

(The demise of the Croquet Club came soon after the Tennis Club's move. The former croquet lawn and tennis court areas are now occupied by a further extension of the clubhouse, a bitumen car park, a garage and a second bowling green.)

Before the move, Tennis Club secretary, Ced Johns, suggested a £10 loan from members to erect lights for night tennis at the new courts - the loan to be refunded by means now forgotten. Sufficient money was raised and the project went ahead. Eight lights were mounted about 25 feet above ground level on the steel poles installed around the courts to

hold the cyclone wire back and side stops. The £10 contributors to the scheme did not get their money back but, no doubt, those remembering are well satisfied - the lights still allow young tennis players to hit the ball at night.

The move to Atkin Street changed the nature of the Club in two important ways. The intention that it should continue as before the move is perhaps illustrated by the lighting of the courts for night play; but the social centre, with the lack of other facilities, was doomed. While with the Henley Recreation Association the Club, after making arrangements with the Bowling Club, had the use of first rate social facilities. A large well-lighted clubroom with a bar and toilets and a long enclosed verandah with windows overlooking the bowling green had been ideal for a variety of social activities.

Players of those Bowling Club days retired or left the Tennis Club and its administration was left largely in the hands of inexperienced members in their early 20s or younger.

Emphasis changed from social to competitive tennis. Teams were entered first in the Woodville District Tennis Association and later on in the S.A. Hard Court Tennis Association's winter pennant competition. The playing standard was quite high and the Club had considerable success, winning premierships in both competitions.

The Seaside Tennis Club's move to Cudmore Terrace and the establishment of the Henley South Club should have foreshadowed the dangers ahead. But competitive success gave the Club confidence to build two additional courts on the western side of the clubhouse.

The Northey Shield competition seems to have lapsed by then, possibly because the clubs who had competed for the shield, with the exception of Grange Lawn, were playing regular competitive tennis. For a year it was replaced by the Mayor's Trophy for both singles and doubles. Each club was invited to enter two players. Unfortunately the Mayor forgot to donate the trophies and the winners got only the honour or glory.

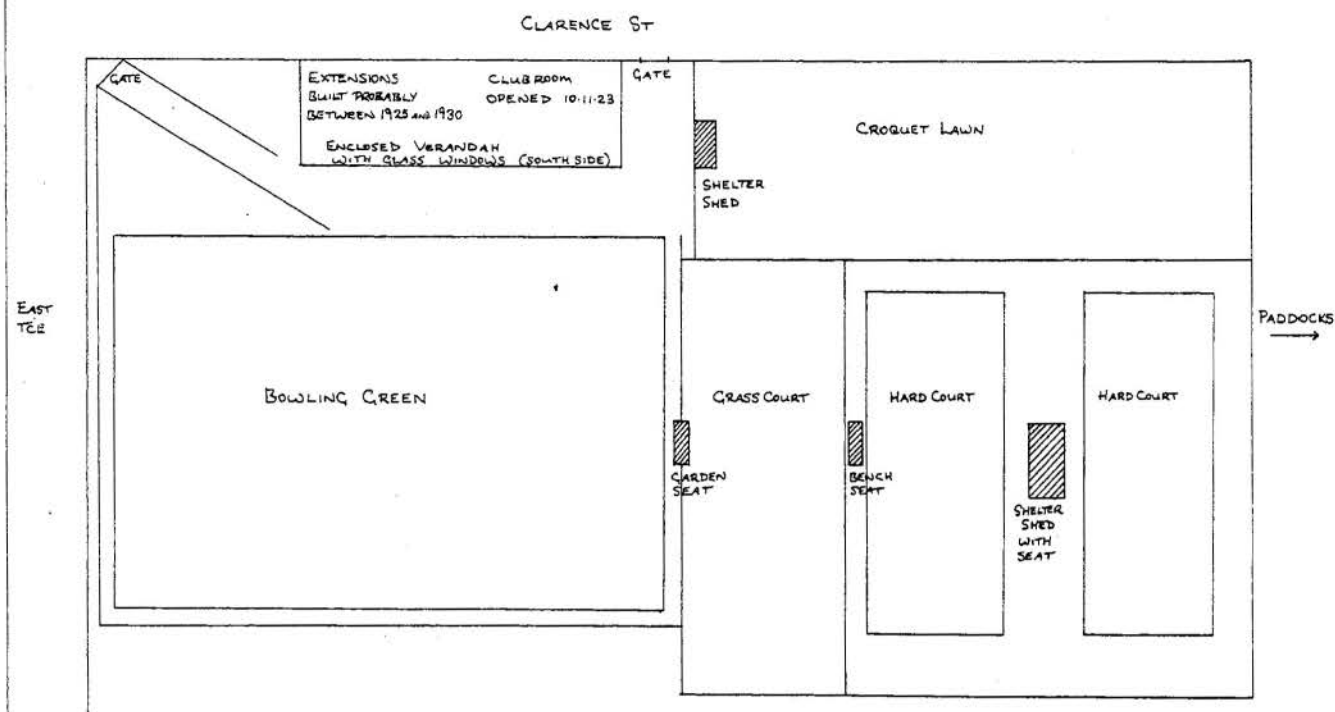
The end of the Henley Tennis Club is remembered as coming quite suddenly. The loss of but a few members meant teams could not be fielded because of a lack of players. This had a snowball effect of players, unable to get match play for Henley, going to other clubs for competitive tennis.

The Club folded in about 1964.

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HENLEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION GROUNDS AS THEY WERE FROM 1923 TO 1960



NOT TO SCALE

50 YEARS AGO (3)

Grange Red Cross

Grange Red Cross commenced. Early meetings were held at the homes of Mrs. Harvey and other members. Officers elected were Mrs. B. Harvey (President), Mrs. Kelly (Secretary) and Mrs. W. Smith (Treasurer). (5/7/49)

(Note from 'From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City')

Increased charges at the Grange Pound

A letter was received from R. F. Hollard, 'advising that it is impossible to adequately feed stock impounded at Grange Pound for 1/3 per day, and asking for authority to charge 3/- per day'.

It was recommended that (subject to the consent of the Minister) the very comprehensive regulation should read : 'The charge for sustenance for every entire horse, mare, gelding, filly, ass, mule, bull, ox, steer, heifer, cow, calf, colt, foal, camel and deer shall be 3/- per day or part of a day'

(Council Minutes, 25/7/1949)

CORROBOREES ON THE BEACH

In 1905 and again in 1907, aborigines performed corroboree-dances on the local beach.

The reports from the Register are re-printed as they first appeared. They reflect, in part, the attitudes and style of writing of ninety or more years ago.

'Corroboree at Henley Beach (Register, Tuesday, 18/4/1905, 4g)

The announcement that about a dozen aborigines who are enjoying their 'autumn vacation' at Glenelg would give a performance at Henley Beach on Saturday evening attracted about 400 spectators. The local town hall ¹ not being available for the occasion, a large circle on the beach was roped off, and this was illuminated with Chinese lanterns.

For over an hour the dusky warriors highly amused the onlookers with their many forms of dances. The 'orchestra' was supplied by the three female members of the company, and though lacking in harmony, the male members found the timing good.

The few present who had previously witnessed a corroboree considered the whole performance an exceptionally good one. The aborigines were so pleased with their reception that they have decided to give a corroboree in European style. ²

'Native corroborees (Register, Saturday, 18/5/1907, 8h)

For some time aborigines have been arriving at Henley Beach from different directions, until quite a number have taken up their quarters in the sand dunes near the sea-shore. There, amid the native shrubs and bushes, they try, as well as circumstances will permit, to recall bygone days by building wurlies and having camp meetings.

This week several corroborees were introduced into the programme, and they proved both interesting and remunerative ³.

Henley Beach was selected as the venue for the first entertainment, and residents were treated to a novel display on the sands.

The 'leading woman' caused much merriment by her endeavours to induce the public to contribute to the funds of the company. A rug was opened in their midst, and by dint of feminine persuasion 4/5 was collected. The audience were promptly informed that 'it only wanted annudder sevenpence to make five bob', and the good-natured crowd complied with the dusky charmer's entreaties.

The Grange also received a visit.'

Three notes (numbers in text)

1. 'The local town hall' is mentioned in the first account. It is not clear what building is meant.
2. It is difficult to realise what a 'corroboree in European style' would be.
3. 'Remunerative' hardly seems the word if the collection from a longish programme produced a mere five shillings.

HENRY (HARRY) ALLEN 1904 - 1996

Harry Allen's paternal grandfather came from Cornwall to South Australia in 1865, and worked at the Moonta mines.

Harry's father was for a time Town Clerk at Snowtown, before he became a newspaper reporter in Adelaide, living at Torrensville.

After Woodville High School and (for the Leaving Honours year) Adelaide High School, Harry attended Teachers College and University where he gained an M.A. degree.

He was a very skilful sportsman. In cricket, he was particularly successful with the bat.

In 1932, he married Estelle Morris who, like him, attended Torrensville Methodist Church. At Torrensville, and later at Henley, Harry became involved in local preaching.

His first teaching appointment was to Thebarton Technical School, where he remained for 25 years, becoming Senior Master (in English) and Sportsmaster.

In 1936 and 1937, a Carnegie Fellowship allowed him to study in England, and to travel widely. His first son, Philip, was born in England.

He saw the coronation of King George the Sixth.

Back in South Australia, 'he was attracted to Henley Beach and in 1941 bought the house at 131 The Esplanade, which was his only home for the next 55 years'.

The Allens and their family (Phillip, Merv, Doug and June) attended the Henley Beach Methodist Church. Harry continued as a local preacher till the age of 70, and 'was at times a trustee, circuit steward and Sunday School Superintendent', as well as writing a series of articles on the early days of the Henley church (See 1981 Journal, pp 13 - 16).

'At home, he shared in the upbringing of his young family. He taught the boys cricket and football and when he arrived home from school could usually be induced to bowl a few overs and give advice about getting to the pitch of the ball and playing down the line.'

'He saw most of Bradman's innings at the oval, and took the boys to see the master play. . . .'

'He was active in the Committee which was formed to save and restore Sturt's House at the Grange, and at one time built a six inch reflecting telescope to further his interest in astronomy.'

Harry was a great reader of philosophy and history and of books on religion and economics. Philosophy was a favourite subject of reading and research, and he wrote a book-length study on the work of Professor Sir William Mitchell of Adelaide University.

'He followed throughout his life a strong Christian ethic, but saw himself as a seeker of truth rather than one who has found it.'

Returning to his University studies at the age of 70, he was awarded a second M.A. degree at the age of 78.

He lived past his ninetieth year, and 'accepted the loss of sight and increased hearing impairment with great equanimity'. Family and friends gave him support in a great many ways.

'When he could no longer hear well enough to benefit from attending church services', the services were taped for him to listen to at home.

He enjoyed to the full the years at the seaside. As long as he was able, 'he followed the winds and the tides, he studied the flight of the seagulls, the drift of the sand, the formation of ripple marks on the beach, the comings and goings of crabs and fishes, sharks and porpoises and passes these loves on to his children.

In his long life at the beach he saw the passing of the gulf ketches, the end of the coastal steamers, the Karatta, the Moonta and Morialta etc., and he saw the last of the P & O liners on their way to Outer Harbor. He watched the 14-footers, the sharpies and in later years the darting windsurfers and he raised his blinds as the afternoon sea breeze swept in from the south-west each day'

(This outline is based on the eulogy spoken at Harry Allen's funeral, and the numerous quotations are taken from that eulogy.)

50 YEARS AGO (4)

The new surf boat

A letter was received from the Henley Beach Lifesaving Club, 'thanking Council for the work done in extending the Junior Club shed to be used to house the new surf boat, which has been delivered', (and asking for the promised £50 grant).

(Council Minutes 26/9/1949)

(This project was mentioned in last year's Journal, p.14.)

A further change of ownership for Brig House (originally the Fisher residence)

The Lady Norrie Junior Red Cross Home at Grange was closed. Matron O'Donnell, the boys, and some of the staff were transferred to the Lady Hore-Ruthven Home at Henley Beach South.

The property was purchased by the Church of England for £18,000, to become St. Laurence's Home for the Aged. (October, 1949).

(Note from 'From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City')

AIRPORT NOSTALGIA

Each morning, in the early days of the Adelaide (West Beach) Airport, Edna Dunning rode her bike along Burbridge Road (still not much more than a rough track) to begin work, in charge of the newspaper and service counter.

One day, a large toy bear was left for sale, and the representative who left it did not report back in any way.

So, 'the bear used to sit on a chair at the end of our counter, when the terminal was first opened. He was very popular with the staff and the travelling public, especially when we had a voice box attached and could talk into it.

In the quiet times in between planes, we used to talk through the bear - particularly to staff on TAA or Ansett counters - having a dig at them etc. We used to talk to the passengers - the ones we got to know. If anyone got confused, we would have to say it was the bear talking.

They were free and easy days, but as the airport grew, so did the responsibilities.'

In September 1997, Edna heard, on Simon Royal's show, the story of 'Buck the Bear' at the modern airport - and sat down to write a letter to the airport manager, giving the above quoted details.

She was not sure, she wrote, if Buck the Bear was the same as the bear she knew - 'the one we had a great time with, but he was still on his chair when I moved further afield.'

Edna also enquired about 'a big old grey 'Wolfhound' on the airport grounds, that used to follow the DCA crews around on their various jobs. He died and I believe was laid to rest on Airport grounds, but I don't know where. I would love to know - dear old Bill.' Edna signed her letter as an 'Old Airport Staffer'.

The Airport's Operations Manager replied promptly and in delightful manner :

'Dear Edna,

'Buck' the bear has requested that as his paws find it difficult to manage these modern keyboards I respond to your kind letter and comment on the warm memories your reminiscences brought to him.

Buck tells me he has been given a new lease of life after having started out as a favourite toy of one of the airport security officers. He now provides interest and comment to the travelling public and has also been the subject of much discussion amongst international flight crews.

He remembers the bear on the service counter that you referred to, and alleges the bear was a distant relative of his, who used to regale him with many stories of the fun times when the airport was young.

'Old Bill' the wolf hound, who was always on the lookout for a quick snack from any of the airport staff who had too much lunch, is now resting under the big gum tree behind the FAC's workshop compound, not far from the airport club.

Edna, Buck would be grateful if you could pass on his best wishes to any of the other 'Old Airport Staffers' that you might see and also wishes you every good health and thanks you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

John McArdle,
Manager Airport Operations,
Adelaide Airport.'

THE HENLEY BEACH RAILWAY STATION

IN THE 1920s AND 30s

Trains left for Adelaide from the Henley Beach Railway Station, where the Police Station now stands.

The station was well appointed for passengers and trains. There was a ticket office, freight area with heavy duty weighing scales, passengers' shelter, toilets and a white painted picket fence on the Military Road side of the platform. The station was an attractive picture for railway buffs. A loop line and turntable were there to manoeuvre engines and rolling stock. A locked set of throw points for the loop line was situated almost directly opposite the front gate of the northernmost of a pair of maisonettes (still standing) which were separated by a lane from the then Police Station (now a veterinary clinic). And near the turntable *, which was to the south of the station platform, was an overhead tank.

The engine puffed slowly across the points, came to a noisy halt, stood with hissing steam as the fireman threw the points, then puffed back to hook on to a line of about six carriages standing at the platform.

As the train ran along the Military Road line, people were warned of its approach by the fireman ringing a large hand bell as he leant out of the engine's cabin.

RON CASSIDY

* The manually operated turntable, not greatly used, was later removed.

MERV RANKIN : FURTHER REMINISCENCES

In Journal 1991 (pp 21-22), there was an account of the remarkable sporting achievements of the Rankin sisters Gwen, Dulce and Margaret, all of whom represented Australia in basketball. Equally remarkable were the achievements of their brother Merv, who was a member of the State hockey team, and played hockey for Grange for fifty consecutive years! Their parents, too, were very much involved in helping in sporting activities.

These details were taken from George Willoughby's interview with Merv Rankin (re sisters and basketball), and from George's history of the Grange Hockey Club.

Merv Rankin had also given other details – about his early days in Grange, and about fishing.

The Rankin family moved from St. Peters to Grange, when Merv was five years old. At first they lived 'right opposite the Grange station, in an old place there'.

But dad bought a block of land on the sea front, used a wheelbarrow to level a 25 foot high sandhill on the double block, and built the family a new home. 'Sand bricks' were made every night after the day's work, working on till 11 p.m. The family moved in, in 1921.

('Sand bricks' were made from lime, sand and mortar, and were 18 inches long, 10 inches wide, and 10 inches high.)

Seaview Road was only a macadam road, not very wide, with no footpaths.

The way to school was straight across the paddocks, with no intervening houses. When floods came (and, after they had left it, the floods on one occasion went through the windows of the first house they had lived in), Jetty Street could always be used to get to school. Jetty Street was never flooded.

In flood time, the railway line would be blocked with sandbags near Fisher's old home, north of the Grange School. When the trains came, men would 'whip the sandbags away', and replace them as soon as the train had passed.

Among trees beyond the Grange Oval, the boys, like their contemporaries in Main Street, Henley (1998 Journal, p.33), would build huts, which they called forts. In these huts they stored pots and pans, and cooked there of a weekend.

In those days, bird-nesting was indulged in, and there was, of course, mushrooming. Mushrooms were plentiful 'where the hockey grounds are now, one of the best mushroom patches out' - and 'right down to where Football Park is now, and all through the Grange golf links'.

Merv would search the beach in summertime. 'When it was blowing hard, the wind used to blow the dry sand away, and leave the money on top.' A walk from Grange past Henley and back could net 'about ten bob' (ten shillings in old currency - a lot of money in those days). More coins could be found around jetty piles.

The beach would also be explored after wild storms, when a surprising amount of firewood was obtained. As well as driftwood, there was 'seaweed four or five feet high right along the beach!

Crabs could be obtained in many places. A main area was in the river near Estcourt House. 'When the tide went out - there were mangroves each side of the river in those days - it left pools about 18 inches deep and 12 feet across in the bottom of the river, and you'd only have to get in the middle of that and dig with a stick, and all the blueys would come up.'

Lots of blue crabs could be caught from the jetty, too. A good day could yield 'four dozen big blueys'.

With his sisters, Merv would go out to the blue line and, rowing along, again net large numbers of crabs.

Still another crabbing area (this one known to few besides the Rankins) was a big depression in the sea bottom opposite Estcourt House. Merv and his father would take hand lines and crab nets, and get large numbers of fish and crabs there.

He didn't fish in the river - though 'when they had that fire in the Sugar Works at the Port, all the fish came right up the river, to Fisher's Bridge, and everyone was down there all day long, catching the fish, which had all come up the river'.

Fish were netted in the sea in front of the house; and Merv Rankin remembered when 'Bill Flint from town brought a net out from England 300 yards long, and used a rowing boat about 16 feet long. Every Saturday night a gang of them would go out. There were that many fish at times, they just had to give them away. One night, when a school of salmon appeared, everyone in the Grange had fish.'

Merv purchased a catamaran from Hartleigh Kelly, for £5. 'It was the first catamaran ever made in Australia. It was made from an American 40-foot design, which Hartleigh cut down to about 12 feet long.'

With this craft, Merv could go up to eight miles out to sea, on his own at times. Among other fish, snook could always be caught.

COWS ON THE GRANGE RAILWAY LINE, 1884

**Two extracts from the Harveys' letter book 1877 - 1887.
(from John Harvey)**

April 24, 1884. Arthur Harvey to the Chairman, District Council of Woodville, advising that the presence of cows on the Grange railway line was of increasing concern.

'On Friday morning last, several cows were on the line near the Fulham Road (Tapleys Hill Road ?) crossing and one was hit by the train and killed. The cow, I believe, belonged to Mr. Foote of Fulham. Will you please instruct the District Ranger to look into the matter?'
(later correspondence discusses who would pay the £8 compensation.)

September 7, 1884. Arthur Harvey to the Chairman, District Council of Woodville.

'Since the appointment of Mr. Newland as Ranger, cows on the Grange Railway are more numerous than ever. It is a perfect farce giving him the position as I am told that he is currently at Wark's station near Truro where he has a position. . . . ' (!)

KIND THOUGHTS FROM THE REEDBEDS, 1842

Abraham Hopkins Davis was among the earliest settlers in our region, and rapidly developed a flourishing property on both sides of Henley Beach Road, just east of Tapleys Hill Road.

He was the first chairman of the West Torrens District Council. Davis Bridge over the Torrens Outlet, on Tapleys Hill Road, is named after him.

He wrote verse. Lines of his about the first three Governors were quoted in the 1987 Journal, pp 29-30.

As well as developing farm, orchard and vineyard he, helped by his wife, made a splendid flower garden. Part of this garden, as described by their daughter, was of original design. At Nankarie, there was 'a large mound of earth with a deep ditch around it. This ditch used to be filled with water and the mound would be a mass of flowers.' (1982 Journal, p 30)

The Giles family arrived in Kangaroo Island in October 1837. William Giles became the second manager (after David McLaren) of the South Australian Company.

When his eighteen year old daughter, Jane Isabella, married Alfred Watts in May 1842, the new Marriage Act had now been passed, and it was legal for a Nonconformist Minister (in this case, the pioneer Congregational minister Thomas Quinton Stow) to perform the ceremony.

The marriage was celebrated in the Giles' home. 'In 1842 flowers, except wild ones, were rarely to be seen and were proportionately prized. Their particular friends, the A.H.D's, were, however, determined that there should be no scarcity on this happy occasion, and they brought from their newly made garden at the Reedbeds an abundant supply, cutting every blossom they could find to decorate the room and the breakfast table.'

The young bride was delighted and was very deeply moved when, at the wedding breakfast, A.H. Davis, with his sister and daughters, sang a bridal song to words he himself had composed. They 'sang without accompaniment in low sweet voices to the plaintive air of 'Robin Adair'.'

The first verse was as follows (throughout her splendid account of 'Family Life in South Australia ... from October 1837', Jane Isabella refers to herself as 'Minnie') :

'Dear one! for thee our fond wishes combine;
Minnie! may happy days ever be thine;
Calm as the sleeping seas,
Soft as the summer's breeze,
Whisp'ring through flowers and trees,
So may'st thou live.'

A charming episode from over 150 years ago!

NORTHCOTE AND NORTHCOTE HOME

The northern part of modern Tennyson was once called Northcote. The name appears on the map at the end of the article on the Henley Beach Golf Club (Map, 1996 Journal, p20); and another example of its use occurred in the 1995 Journal, p47, in a quoted Advertiser comment on a winter storm of 26/6/1945 : 'Military Road, Northcote, was under water, and was closed to traffic for some time. It was described as the highest tide in that area for some time'.

Lord Northcote was Governor General of Australia in the early days of Federation. The first Governor General, Lord Hopetoun, resigned in 1902, and our South Australian Governor, Lord Tennyson, acted as Governor General from July 1902 until Lord Northcote arrived in December 1903.

(There have always been interstate rivalries. Lady Tennyson, in a letter to her mother, wrote : '... at Melbourne and Sydney they are very jealous of South Australia's Governor being G.G. (for they have great contempt for Adelaide ('Little Adelaide' they call it, and look upon it like a village. ...'))

In 1921, Sir Josiah Symon wanted to set up a subdivision just north of Tennyson, on land he had purchased many years before - and to call it Northcote.

There was logic in the name. Northcote had followed Tennyson as Governor General; Northcote as a beach suburb could follow Tennyson in development.

(Sir Josiah Symon (1846 - 1934) had become a Queens Counsel in 1881, and in the same year was elected to the South Australian House of Assembly, where he remained as a member till 1887 (Attorney General 1881).

He took a leading part in the negotiations and referenda which led to the formation of the Commonwealth, and was a member of the Senate from 1901 to 1913. (Attorney General 1904 - 1905)

After retiring from Parliament, he took up again a 'very successful law practice'.

A man of many parts, he was a noted Shakespeare scholar. He had a library of 10,000 books, bequeathing the law books to the University, and the remainder to the State Library.

A very wealthy man, he was a benefactor of the University, Minda Home, Inland Mission (hospital at Innaminka) - and Northcote Rest Home).

While he was having the land levelled for building purposes in his new suburb of Northcote, the provision (or not) of an esplanade presented problems, as it had done in Tennyson. What Sir Josiah called 'a fanciful project for an esplanade all the way from Marino to the Outer Harbor' had not yet been abandoned.

A complex newspaper correspondence between the Woodville Council and Sir Josiah followed. In the end, an esplanade was not constructed, though it had been mentioned in the real estate advertisement (4/3/1922).

The advertisement was for

‘Northcote by the sea

Adjoining Tennyson and Grange

An entirely new and very charming marine residential suburb . . .

39 of the choicest sea-coast sites, half of which face the Esplanade, running back to Seaview Road (which is now being formed and metalled by the Woodville Council at the expense of the vendor), and the remainder facing Seaview Road, running back to the Military Road and commanding a wonderfully fine and absolutely uninterrupted panorama of the Hills and intervening landscape.’

It was mentioned that several allotments were being reserved for the use of the Symon family.

On two of these adjacent allotments, between Seaview Road and the Gulf, Sir Josiah had built, in 1927-1928, at his own expense, a home for mothers and babies, so that mothers could ‘rest and recuperate for a few weeks before returning to their home duties’.

The Home, whose grounds faced the sea, contained a bed-sitting room for the matron, another bedroom for an assistant nurse and, for mothers and babies, three bedrooms. These latter rooms were named Mary (after the then Queen, wife of George V), Alice Margaret (after the Home’s patrons, Lady Northcote and Miss Murray) and Elizabeth (after the Duchess of York, who had visited Australia with her husband, in May 1927, for the official opening of the first Parliament House in Canberra, and is now the 99-year-old Queen Mother).

Lady Hore-Ruthven performed the opening ceremony, and praised the work of Miss Eleanor Symon and her committee in the planning and setting up of the Home.

The Home provided valuable care and accommodation for many years, first fulfilling its original purpose, but then, as Mabel Hardy says in her ‘History of Woodville, 1875 -1960’ : ‘with the extension of the work of the Mothers and Babies Health Association to cover some of the activities of the Northcote Home, it was felt that the community would be better served by adapting the Home for use as a Tuberculosis Preventorium. . . . The results since 1941 fully justified the establishment of the Preventorium, for there is no record that any child in the Home later on contracted tuberculosis, although all had formerly been in contact with sufferers from that disease’.

Then, in 1974, it was ‘renovated for use as a seaside home for mentally retarded children from the Strathmont Centre’. (A History of Woodville, by Susan Marsden).

The Home was demolished in 1992, and the double block lay unused and empty for several years. Now three large, ultra-modern homes have been built on the site. *

The laneway to the north leads down, not to an esplanade, but to a strip of low sand dunes. Notices were erected requesting that visitors keep to the designated paths, to protect the coastal vegetation, and as a safeguard against the possibility of meeting snakes!

* Nos. 113, 115, 115A, Seaview Road

FROM THE EDITOR

Our first Journal appeared in 1980, soon after the Historical Society was formed. Assisted by my wife Nell, I have enjoyed the challenge of maintaining a worthwhile Journal each year for these past two decades - a task only made possible, of course, with the help of a large number of people. 'From the editor' or 'Acknowledgements' has always contained a long and gratefully compiled list of names. In retrospect we thank, once more, all who have contributed through the years.

This year's list is no exception - Advertiser Newspapers, Mortlock Library, Irene McDade, John Harvey, Peter Wyld, Gordon Johns, Roger Andre, Noel and Edna Newcombe and Yvonne Penno nee Newcombe, Ron Cassidy, Bob Potts, Max Gamlin, Tom Jennings, Merv Rankin, John McArdle, Lenore Saunders, Patricia Higgs, Christine Bettess, Patrick Hedges, Julie Pritchard and Malcolm Gray; and Edna Dunning, who has regularly produced interesting material from her rich store of reminiscences; Geoff Manning who, though not a member of the Society, has pointed the way to many articles, with his generously shared, comprehensive list of references from old newspapers; George Willoughby, who has helped greatly with articles, interviews, photographs and his extensive local knowledge; and Audrey Willoughby, who has, from Journal 1 to Journal 20, ensured that a heap of manuscripts and illustrations has developed into an elegantly printed publication.

This is the last Journal I will be editing. It has been a privilege, through the years, to assist in the continuing sorting out of our eventful local history. Thank you to all, and best wishes to the Historical Society of Henley and Grange.

TED HASENOHR

IN APPRECIATION

At a meeting at the Town Hall, on 18th September, 1979, our Society was formed and officers elected. Ted Hasenohr, then Headmaster of Henley High School, attended the meeting and agreed to become the Society's first President. He also agreed to be editor of a proposed society publication. In April 1980, Ted produced a 16 page, first journal of the society. It set a style and standard which has been maintained for successive issues, no mean feat in these days of rapid change. The first journal has been reproduced as a facsimile which proves the demand and usefulness of the series. Ted's role as editor concludes with this 20th issue.

Ted is a published historian in his own right. His 'W.H. Gray A Pioneer Colonist of South Australia', published in 1977 is 304 pages of careful scholarship. Gray was his great grandfather and had extensive land holdings in suburbs of Glenelg North, West Beach, Cheltenham, West Croydon and the Adelaide Airport.

The book involved a great deal of research in the State Library, Archives, Newspaper Reading Room and the Lands Department. He and wife Nell travelled through Australia and overseas, tracing the outreach of 'Gray's Estate'. All this helped develop a long held interest in historical research.

At the time our Society came into being, Ted had just published a 92 page book 'Sturt Primary School 1878 – 1978 Centenary History'. He was asked to be the author at short notice and only given a few months to complete the task even though school histories often take 1 – 2 years as a team task. His father was an old scholar and Ted had attended from 1925 – 1931. His three sisters and three brothers were also students there.

Our Society has been fortunate to have as its journal editor a person with Ted's credentials. An historical journal editor must give careful attention to historical correctness. Editing of personal memoirs involves correcting bias and removing unintentional libels. The printed journal will last for years. We are now using South Australian records - some over 160 years old and must trust they are correct. An editor wants to leave a printed record that future scholars can trust as being accurate and reliable. Ted has succeeded in these tasks.

Ted is one of the co-authors of the society's chronicle of 1986 'From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City'. He came into the project at a late stage due to being overseas. He worked on a major rewrite to develop an even style of entries. Again, he was involved in verifying the accuracy of the information.

Ted and Nell have always worked as a team on the production of the various publications appearing under Ted's name. For this reason, it is difficult to separate or quantify Nell's contribution. The society is grateful for her contribution over so many years.

Audrey Willoughby, also a foundation member of the society, previously involved in the preparation work for the W.H. Gray biography, also typed the Sturt Primary School manuscript. This author/typist partnership has continued through the 20 issues of our journal. She has also been responsible for the printing, binding and distribution of the journals. Several of the earlier issues, she collated and bound herself.

In 1992, the award of our first Life Membership was conferred upon Ted by an appreciative Society. Future generations will also appreciate his work.

Thank you, Ted.

PETER WYLD

GEORGE WILLOUGHBY