

CONTACT



THE STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION LATROBE VALLEY REGION MAGAZINE – FEBRUARY 1969.

SAFETY: No 1 AIM IN LV FOR '69

Manager's message

For some three to four years considerable improvement was achieved in the Region's safety record, but during the past 12 months the safety record of almost every division in the Region has deteriorated considerably.

Currently we have one of the worst safety records of all departments in the Commission.

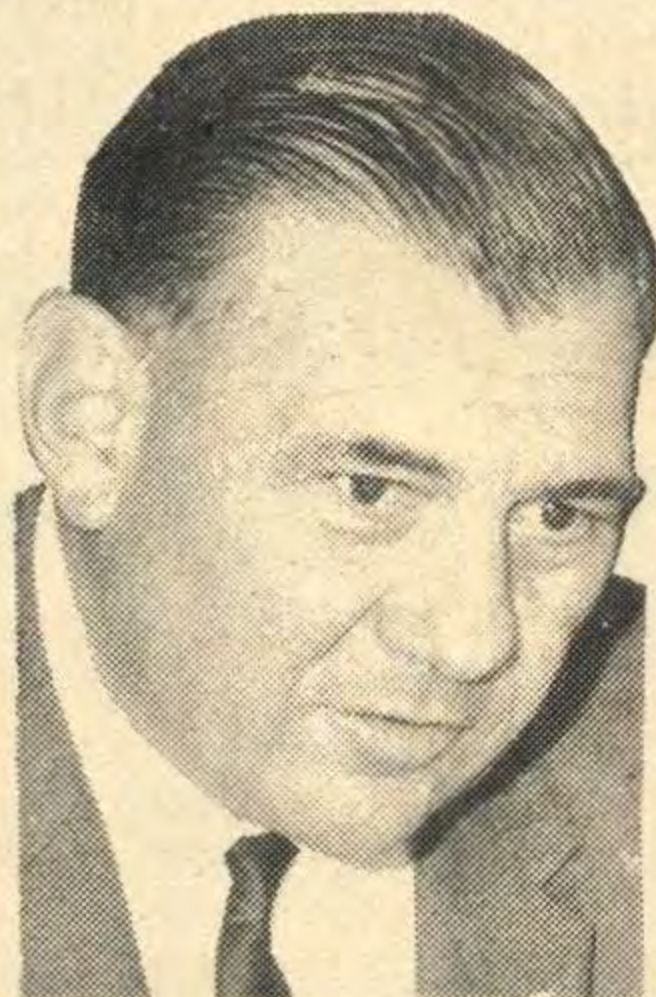
We must all be concerned with the suffering and hardship resulting from these injuries, not only to the victims of accidents, but in many cases, serious inconvenience to their families.

A large proportion of these accidents are avoidable, and attributable to human errors, poor housekeeping, and perhaps in some cases to a lack of interest.

The majority arise from incorrect techniques in manual handling of stores, materials and various types of equipment, combined with persons falling or striking against, and from objects falling or flying, the latter two of course essentially due to bad housekeeping.

Carelessness too contributes largely to the accident rate we suffer. Each one of us has a responsibility to remove any hazard which we see, or if we are unable to do this, to refer it to some person in authority who is able to do something about it.

The crux of the situation is that reports must be submitted, or removal of the hazard must be



* MR. SCHULZ

implemented, immediately and not left even for a half hour as, in the meantime, some one of us can be seriously injured.

Rules and regulations are designed for the protection of the individual and safety in all cases is fundamental in job planning, both in the protection of the individual and of plant, yet only

too often too many of us are inclined to push ahead with the objective to have the job completed in the shortest possible time with complete disregard to the safety factors associated with the work to be carried out.

Carelessness also contributes to the very high accident rate involving vehicles. Many of these are concerned with backing into stationary objects and in parking areas where other vehicles are involved. Each one of this type of accident has the potential to injure an individual and I am quite certain that these cases are due to carelessness or lack of interest.

* CONTINUED PAGE 3



* THIS big Glasgow-built "bird" now dominating the Yallourn "W" site skyline will help us build this next station at a faster rate than ever before – Story Page 3.

HOW WE 'COME OUT FIGHTING'

The Region's fire-fighting resources — officially known as the Bush Fire Suppression Organisation — normally includes 18 men from Morwell SEC Fire Service, and up to 34 from the Forestry Section at Yallourn for rural outbreaks.

Region Forestry Officer, Mr. Ian McDonald, concludes his two-part article on our fire-fighting preparedness.

The Region has two SEC lookouts and two "shared" lookouts for detecting fires. If a large fire gets out of control the men lead forces which can be built up to a total of 360 men by including auxiliaries — men, vehicles, plant and equipment — from many sections in the Valley, e.g., Workshops, Stores, Property Services, Coal and Power Production, Municipal, Construction, etc.

Plumbers, painters, riggers, mechanics, storemen and many other classifications are involved.

THE EMERGENCY ORGANISATION embraces six self-contained, independent, "Suppression Groups" each of 50 to 80 men, 4 plant items and 20 vehicles.

All multi-purpose plant, vehicles and equipment are used and 5 to 6 mobile vehicles and 8 Walkie Talkie Type radios are used in each Group.

"Step-up", "One Lick" and "Rotating Tankers" type progressive action techniques are necessarily used for the safe, effective operation of the large numbers of men, plant and vehicles involved.

These are particularly necessary to make



any positive impression on a major fire when rough, restricted fireline access and constant fire danger are unavoidable.

Each group is divided into primary and service sections including a trails section equipped with two bulldozers and a grader and responsible for construction and maintenance of access trails, clearing fire breaks, or pushing in the fire edge.

Each tanker section has two 800-gallon

* The Chairman Dr. Connolly studies maps of LV Region fire control areas with Regional Forestry Officer, Mr. Ian McDonald, before an aerial inspection. Commissioners made a point of familiarising themselves with our fire precautions during their recent two-day visit.

* Elements of the fire fighting group test equipment and drill near Yallourn. The leading Bedford tipper with 800-gallon slip-on tanker is crewed by J. Meuleman, driver; T. Kelly, monitor op.; and Bluey Potter, tanker boss.

The second vehicle carried a Caterpillar D4 dozer on the Freighter tiltbed trailer and is manned by J. King, driver; J. Wojciow, dozer op.; P. Gleeson, and S. Rendall, trails bosses.

At rear is a 1-ton Inter ute with trailed filler pump (Volkswagen-Coventry) crewed by G. Taber and J. Kelly.

slip-on tankers with deck-operated "water guns" (Monitor Knock-down Units) capable of delivering 40 gallons per minute at 200 psi pressure.

There are four 400-gallon auxiliary canvas bag tanker units with pumps and hand-guns on 100 foot hose lines, for consolidation purposes.

Another four similar units with high-spray pumps are used to patrol controlled firelines and progressively put out the fire.

The service section of each group is equipped with a filler pump capable of filling group tankers at the rate of 6,400 gallons in 32 minutes.

Then there's the fuel and service vehicle with mechanic, the canteen which must provide good quality food and drink so vital to maintain top physical condition under extreme conditions, and security staff to restrict entry of people other than group personnel to the fire area.

We're in the Social League

Mr. Ron Farrington, President of the Association of SEC Social Clubs, Latrobe Valley, has been formally appointed as first Valley member of the Commission's Social League Council.

In December the Commission announced that it approved of the Valley body's affiliation with the social League and would increase the Council by one member.

The move is expected to greatly assist the co-ordination and advancement of social activities throughout our Region.



Safety is our aim

* FROM PAGE 1

If we all paid the same attention to these manoeuvres as we do when driving our own vehicles, more than 90% of this type of accident would be eliminated.

There is a very wide variety of safety equipment and protective clothing available and yet it is not used nearly to the extent that it should be. Both employees and supervisors have individual responsibility to ensure the appropriate protective clothing or safety equipment is used on all jobs and if it is not readily available the job should not commence until it is procured.

Safety spectacles for example are available on free issue to every employee involved in work that could cause an eye injury and yet daily one will see tradesmen, supervisors and trades assistants engaged on work which is quite hazardous to the eyesight and there are no safety spectacles being worn.

It is quite tragic when one realises the distress and suffering

caused from many of the accidents which take place. This can be both physical and financial and generally speaking make-up pay is not allowable if the accident is due to skylarking, misconduct, defiance of instructions or non-use of safety apparel or equipment which is available.

Even in those cases when an accident does occur and make-up pay is allowable, it still does not compensate the individual to the full extent of his normal earnings. If Workers' Compensation

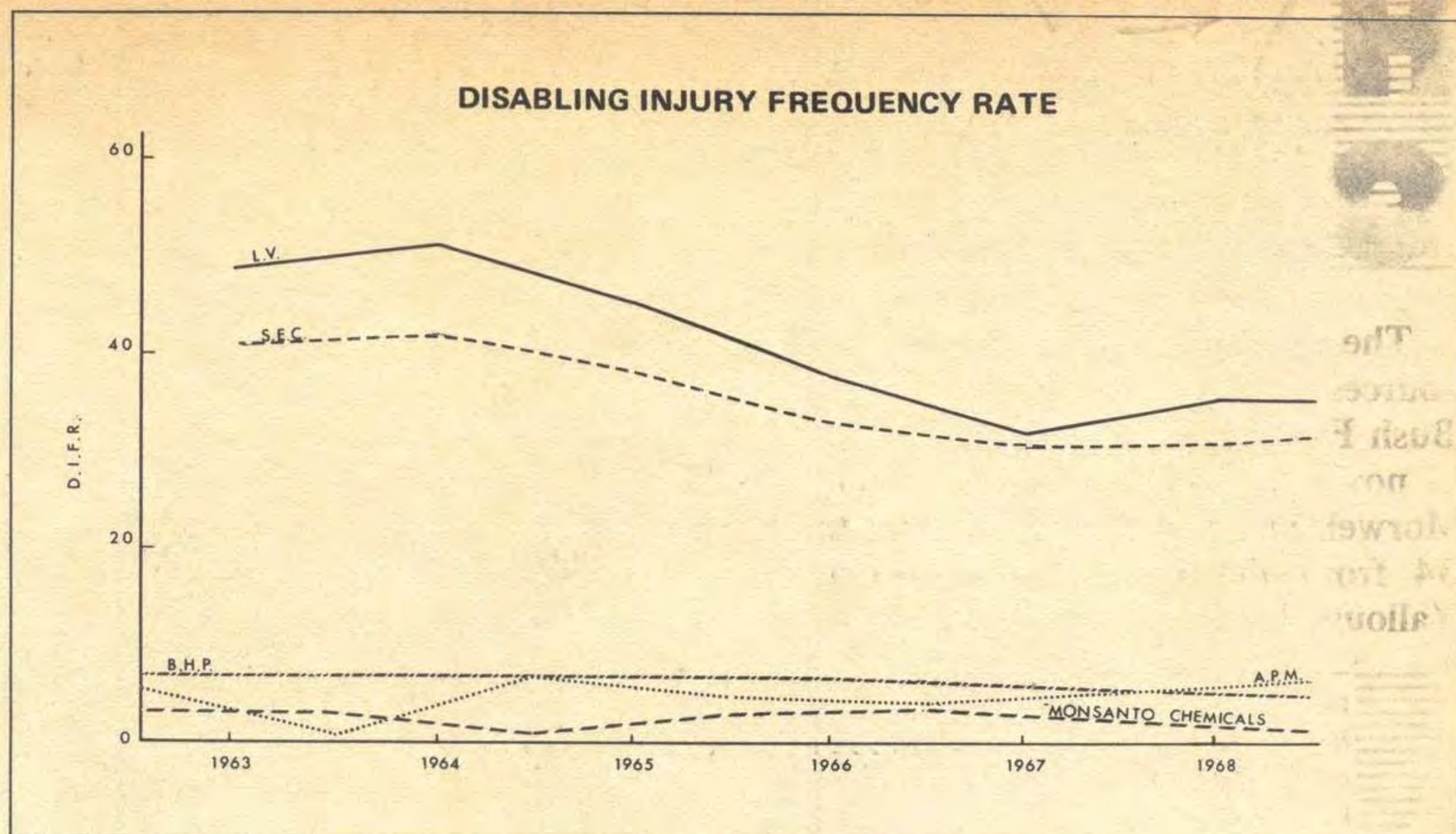
only is allowable, it is far short of the employee's normal take-home pay.

I feel too that it is essential that we have the full co-operation of all the union representatives to eliminate accidents and I issue an invitation to representatives of the individual unions to submit any constructive suggestions or criticisms which will improve our overall safety record.

You will see from the accompanying graph that our industry, which compares in size and has

comparable hazards to other industries which have been chosen, is a long way behind them in the safety records they are achieving and maintaining.

It is up to every one of us to make a concentrated effort, not only now, but at all times, to ensure our safety record in future will be comparable with those of other industries of similar size.



Crane will make "W" go up in a hurry!

When the giant derrick crane erected by Johns and Waygood at Yallourn ends its job there it will have lifted well over 16,000 tons of structural steel — the weight in Yallourn W's boiler house structure.

The 50-ton Glasgow-built crane, first operated at Rugby B Power Station in England, stands on three high-tensile steel legs with the base of its jib 219 feet above ground level.

The jib is 150 feet long and can lift 50 ton at 120 feet radius or 20 ton at 144 feet radius. A 17-foot fly can be used for lifts up to five ton.

Total weight of the crane and its supporting legs is 307 tons, stabilised with 176 ton of concrete ballast on each of the two back legs and 117 tons on the king post leg.

Erection of the unit was carried out using three lifting towers installed around the base of each leg. The legs are lifted simultaneously by three electrically operated winches to a height of 20 feet. At this

point three more 20-foot sections of leg are moved in while the crane is held aloft by the winches. These new units are bolted to the base of the existing legs and the crane is then lowered to the ground by the winches, now 20 feet higher.

Each lift could only be effected in comparatively calm weather conditions. During the erection period Johns and Waygood representatives kept in close contact with the meteorological section of the RAAF base at Sale.

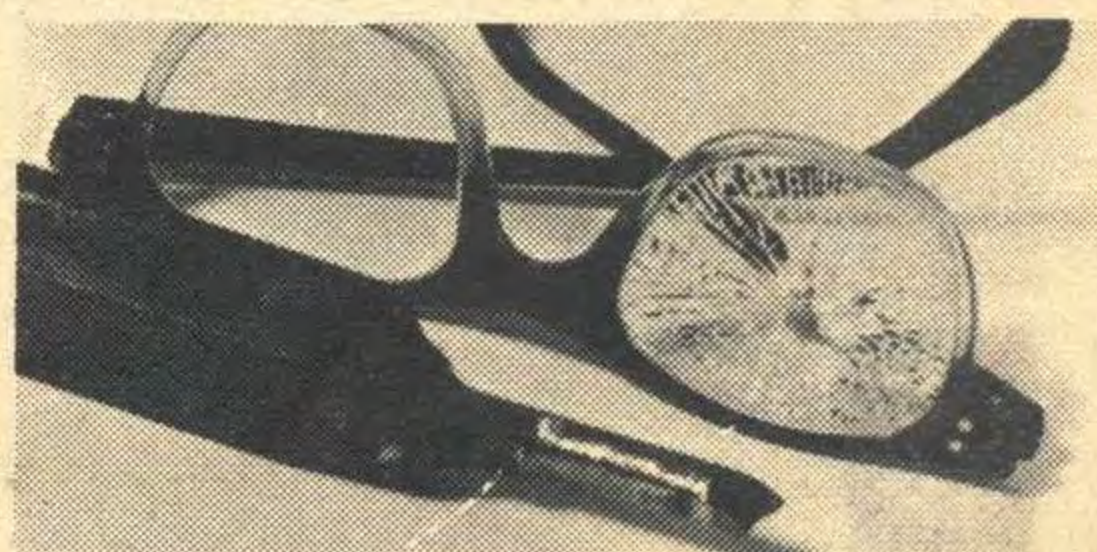
When the crane is erected to its full height the three legs sit on bogies which in turn are mounted on rails on top of heavy girders. This enables the crane to be towed to a new lifting location when it has erected all the steel that it can in one position.

With this crane and two 10-ton cranes operating the proposed erection rate of steelwork will be in the order of 1,200 tons per month — by far the fastest erection rate of any of the Region's power stations so far constructed.

The crane was purchased specifically to work on the boiler house structure.



* HERE'S our most graphic argument for full observance of safety rules within the Region. This lathe operator retains the sight of both eyes thanks to the protection of safety glasses. Enlargement shows shattered lens and the cutting tool which almost did the damage.





"FUN WITH FOOD"

Presented by

Home Advisory Service expert
Trina Williams



CHICKEN AND MUSHROOM PANCAKES

basic pancake batter
2-3 oz mushrooms
 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz flour
1 oz butter
 $\frac{1}{4}$ pint stock or milk
1 teaspoon chopped parsley

1 tablespoon cream or top milk
1-2 hard boiled eggs
4 oz cooked chicken (finely diced)
melted butter
grated cheese

Melt half the butter in a saucepan. Chop the mushrooms, add to the pan, cover and cook for 3-4 minutes. Draw aside, add the remaining butter, the flour and the stock. Stir until boiling, then add the parsley, cream, hard-boiled eggs coarsely chopped and the chicken. Season to taste and set aside to keep warm.

Prepare pancakes. Place a tablespoon of the chicken and mushroom mixture on each pancake, fold over, place carefully in buttered ovenproof dish. Arrange pancakes so that they overlap slightly. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with grated cheese. Place in oven at 425° to brown — 15 minutes.

STORK CLUB

Bob Docking - Claims Branch - L.V. Detachment - DOCKING (Hardy). To Sally and Bob, at Yallourn Hospital on January 9, 1969, a son, Darren Robert. Both Well. Thanks to Dr. Hurst and Staff.

Garrett - To Ron (Costs & Bookkeeping) and Janice, a son, Ian Ronald, at Morwell Community Hospital on December 28, 1968.

Spark-a- arkaling!



The engagement is announced of Graham Shelbourne (Engineer, Electrical Division, LV) to Judith Nation of Trafalgar.

"Contact" Mart

FOR SALE - Large building block close to shops and schools, half a mile from the centre of Moe in a rapidly developing area.

All services available including power, water and sewerage.

Price \$1200 cash; terms available on low deposit - D. Ferguson, 5 Hazelwood Crescent, Yallourn - 52617.

FOR SALE: House, 3 bedrooms. Carpets, auto. stove, blinds, convair. Garage, concreted drive and paths. Front and rear porches built in. Garden and lawns laid out excellent buy - \$5,000 cash. Apply:- 3 Newstead Street, North Newborough.

They'll be back!

The ranks of the unmarried in Data Processing have been further reduced with the marriage of Carol Hall to Philip Cargill of Morwell at St. Lukes, Morwell, on January 18. They will be further reduced when Julie Wilson marries Terry Larkin of Hernes Oak at St. Therese's, Yallourn on February 15.

Bright spot - both girls are returning.

Many workmates and friends helped popular Calc. Operator, Denise "Debbie" Boucher, celebrate her 21st at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Vary Street, Morwell, on January 18. Great night was had by all.

THANKS MEN, AND GOOD LUCK!



MR. FRED GREGORY: Retires after 30 years six months in the operations section, Yallourn Briquetting Works, working his way from cleaner to turbine driver. Active in community affairs and former Moe City mayor.



MR. J.T. (Jock) ANDERSON received an inscribed watch from workmates when he retired on December 12 after nearly 28 years

with the Commission. Mr. Eric Foote (right) Coal Production Superintendent, Yallourn, made the presentation.



MR. FRANK FULLER: Began work here in 1924 dismantling the temporary power station at Yallourn. Retired on January 5 as Assistant Workshops Superintendent and was farewelled at Central Workshops on January 15. Will still live in Yallourn and spend winter in Queensland!



Mr. T.M. (Tom) JONES: Started as a carpenter at Yallourn in 1929 and retired on January 20 as Foreman Grade 3. Farewelled at Morwell Training Centre on December 20 with presentation of suitcases, rug, and wallet of notes.



MR. CHARLIE BRYCE: Spent 33 years with us - 28 at Yallourn Briquette Factory - and was asked to stay on for past nine months until A-factory closed down. Presented with Sher power tool kit in ceremony on December 16.



MR. A. H. (Mac) McKEE, Technical Services Officer, retired on Christmas Eve after 20 years with the Commission. At Central Workshops 200 personnel presented him with a fishing net and basket, power tools, decanter, and a gladstone bag.



MR. E. G. ASKEW: Started in '49 as a pipe layer and jointer with Construction, Yallourn; appointed foreman in '51 and retired in that position on December 18. Was farewelled by colleagues and General Services Superintendent, Yallourn, Mr. R. Norden.



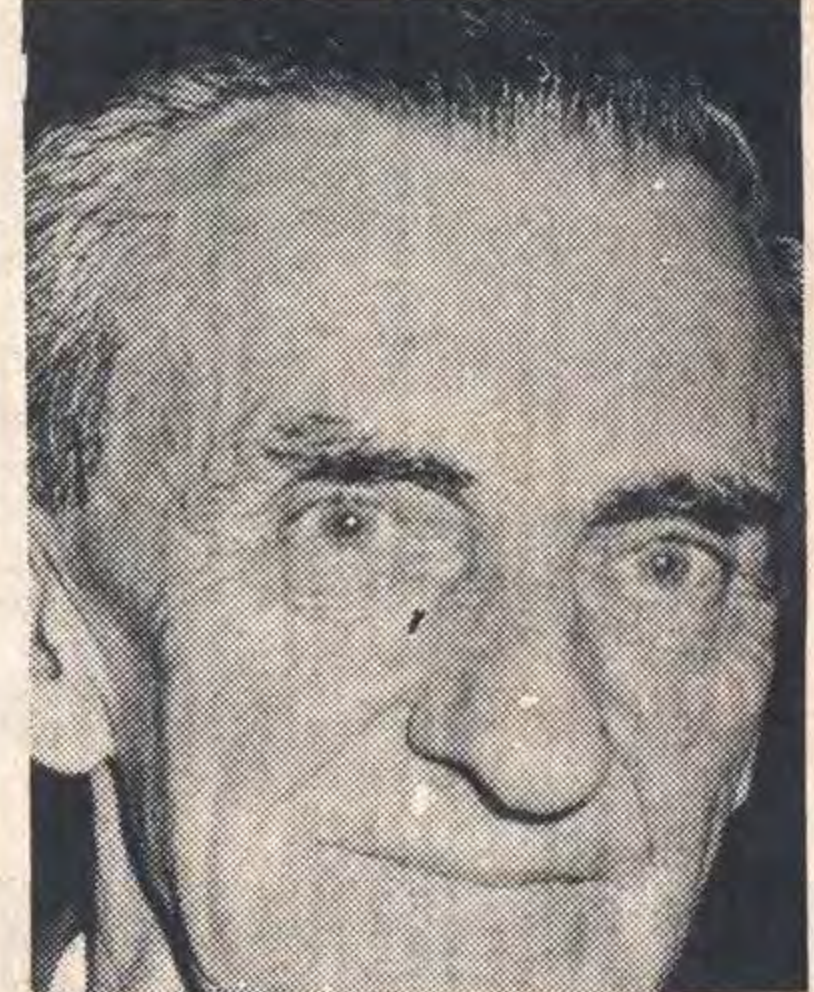
MR. JIM McILWAINE: Structural steel construction expert, Construction Branch Hazelwood, retired December 20 after 40 years with Commission. Joined as boilermaker in 1927, worked on reconstruction of A-Station boilers, construction B-Briquette factory, appointed Morwell Project Construction Supervisor (Structural Steel) in 1951. Has moved into new home in Mornington.



MR. W. (Bill) HARRIS: Farewelled December 17 after 21 years with Commission; retired as Grader Overseer after starting as a fitter. Keen golfer, angler, and billiards player, will take up bowls.



MR. R.J. (Dick) MARSHALL: Retired as a crane driver on December 10 after 34 year's service. Son Jim was present at ceremony in Yallourn Transformer Repair Bay luncheon room. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall will now reside in Melbourne.



MR. A. J. (Andy) WALLACE: Retired January 24 after joining Construction in 1949, later transferring to Accounts. Keen gardener, and very interested in sport and youth work.

DUST

We spend millions to keep it in check



Author of this informative article, **DON BROMILOW**, is Assistant Power Station Superintendent, Power Division.

A current maintenance program costing around \$270,000 on the electrostatic precipitators of Hazelwood's first four units is evidence of the Commission's concern that Latrobe Valley air pollution be kept to an absolute minimum.

Capital cost for precipitators at Hazelwood and Yallourn "W" will total \$10,700,000 - costly proof of our determination to ensure that the smallest quantity of dust escapes and emission is kept well within the maximum permitted under the Clean Air Act.

The increase in generating plant here over the past 20 years naturally raises the question of what the Region's developments mean in terms of dust and char fall-out.

When No. 6 Unit at Hazelwood Power Station comes into service later this year, generating capacity in the Valley will be nearly 10 times that of 1950. Completion of Hazelwood and Yallourn "W" Station by 1973 will take our generating capacity to nearly 16 times the 1950 figure.

In the late 1950's we also brought into service Morwell Briquette Factory, and in the period 1969 - 1971 we will see some move of the older plant on reduced operation or shut down.

The quantity and type of dust or char discharged from a power station chimney is related to the form in which the brown coal is burnt, and the presence and effectiveness of equipment for extracting the dust from the hot gases before they discharge from the chimney.

If the coal is not pulverised but burnt on a moving grate, as was the case with Yallourn "A" and "B" boilers, then particles of some size and in the form of black char can result. This type of ash when discharged from the chimney remains airborne for only a short time before falling to earth.

If the coal is pulverised into a fine powder, and then burnt, the residue is a very fine light brown dust which can remain airborne for days and travel hundreds of miles in the upper atmosphere.

All our post-war boiler plant in the Valley burn this "fine powder" coal.

The early Yallourn boiler plant installed between 1928 and 1938 was not equipped with dust collectors, but Yallourn "C" boilers, installed in 1954 - 1957 and all

subsequent plant has dust collecting equipment.

Dust collecting equipment may be a cyclone type of collector, in which the gases follow a long spiral path, the suspended dust particles subjected to centrifugal action are forced to the outside of the gas stream and are sheared off and directed to collecting hoppers, or maybe an electrostatic precipitator, in which a forest of positively and negatively charged high voltage electrodes results in the passing dust particles becoming electrically charged and driven to the collecting electrodes from which the dust is collected at intervals by giving the collecting elect-

to all industry in the State.

The Senate Select Committee on Air Pollution hearing in Melbourne last December is evidence also of the Commonwealth Government's interest in the overall problems associated with air pollution.

Specifications for the Commission's newer plant have been framed to meet State regulation requirements, and our engineers go a great deal further to ensure the plant installed is at the forefront of modern practice for control of pollution.

Models of both Hazelwood and Yallourn "W" stations were subject to wind tunnel



* **REMOVING** steel rods from the roof of a precipitator are riggers M. Lions and A. Mifsud. Foreman Stan Randall is at left.

rode a sharp rap.

Electrostatic precipitators are used on Yallourn and Morwell Briquette Factory drier stacks, Hazelwood boilers and will be installed on the Yallourn "W" boilers. They are the most effective type of dust collector available today.

Almost every industry is faced with problems of dust removal from air or gases to prevent atmospheric pollution, and there are established methods for measuring the quantity of dust in gases passing up a chimney, and for determining the amounts of dust which deposit out over areas surrounding industrial activity.

State Government Regulations, promulgated in 1965, lay down standards for the maximum concentration of emission of certain gaseous, liquid and solid pollutants, and these regulations are applicable

tests to establish that the chimney plume would rise clear of the area, and not be pulled down to near ground level by the conditions that may prevail around the area, and the chimneys are made high enough (450 feet at Hazelwood, and 550 feet at Yallourn "W") to ensure adequate dilution of effluent gases with the atmosphere.

Hazelwood's precipitators control dust emission to a level that is about one half the regulation figure, while Yallourn "W" specifications call for a similar efficiency level while burning coal with twice the normal ash content!

The Commission's interest and concern over dust and char emission goes back many years.

* **CONT. PAGE 7**

A systematic study of the dust deposition experienced at Yallourn commenced in 1940, and in 1957 additional surveys relating to the operation of Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factory were started. In 1962 the surveys were extended at Yallourn, and to cover an area related to Hazelwood Power Station operation.

The Clean Air Division of the Victorian Department of Health is also active in the Latrobe Valley, having instituted a survey of dust deposition in late 1959.

For our field surveys, dust gauges are used. The gauges which comply with a British Standard Specification are inspected on a thirty day cycle, the contents collected and processed in a laboratory to produce a result which is stated as a mean rate of dust fall out for that location per day.

We have 35 such gauges located in Morwell, Yallourn, Newborough, Moe and distributed as far as Traralgon, Coalville and Yinnar.

From the results given by these gauges over the years, the usual dust deposition rate for each location has been established, and trends away from the usual figure can be detected, and may be able to be related to a change in industrial activity, or long term variations in the weather conditions.

This leads us back to the original question: what do the developments which have taken place, and which are projected mean in terms of dust and char fall out in the Region?

Results of the field surveys over the period 1963 - 1968 show that despite the increased tempo of activity the dust depositions experienced in the Region have remained very much the same.

Completion of Hazelwood and commissioning of Yallourn "W" are not expected to alter this picture for the reasons previously stated: excellent overall design, first class dust collecting equipment, and high chimneys.

However the shutting down of Yallourn "A" boilerhouse last October and Yallourn "B" boiler (the only remaining operating plant without dust collectors) this October coupled with the reduced operation of "C" and "D" boiler plant, will reduce dust emission from Yallourn Power Station by more than 50%.

This plus the reduced operation at Yallourn Briquette Factory will result in a very noticeable reduction in dust deposition in Yallourn and surrounding areas.

The Commission is very aware of the need for continuous research on pollution studies using the most advanced equipment available.

Regular plant maintenance, water sprays on the open cut coal faces, chimney dust emission tests, are all part of our continuous efforts to regulate the effects of airborne dust, and minimise the problems this material can bring to the people of the Latrobe Valley.

Here's cheers!

It was tankards all round for the 15-man Yallourn North Extension Open Cut team after they achieved 556 days without a lost-time accident in December.

It is the third time the team has achieved this figure and breaks between were only of one day's duration on each occasion.

Mr. Eric Foote, Coal Production Superintendent, Yallourn, made the presentations of a tankard and he and Mr. J. Kovacs, Engineer-in-Charge, Yallourn North Extension Open Cut, congratulated the men on their achievement and thanked them for their co-operation on the job.



* Right in line with the aim for 1969 - "greater safety" - are men of the Morwell Transport Workshops who completed 252,500 hours without a disabling injury to the end of July last year. Pictured with the

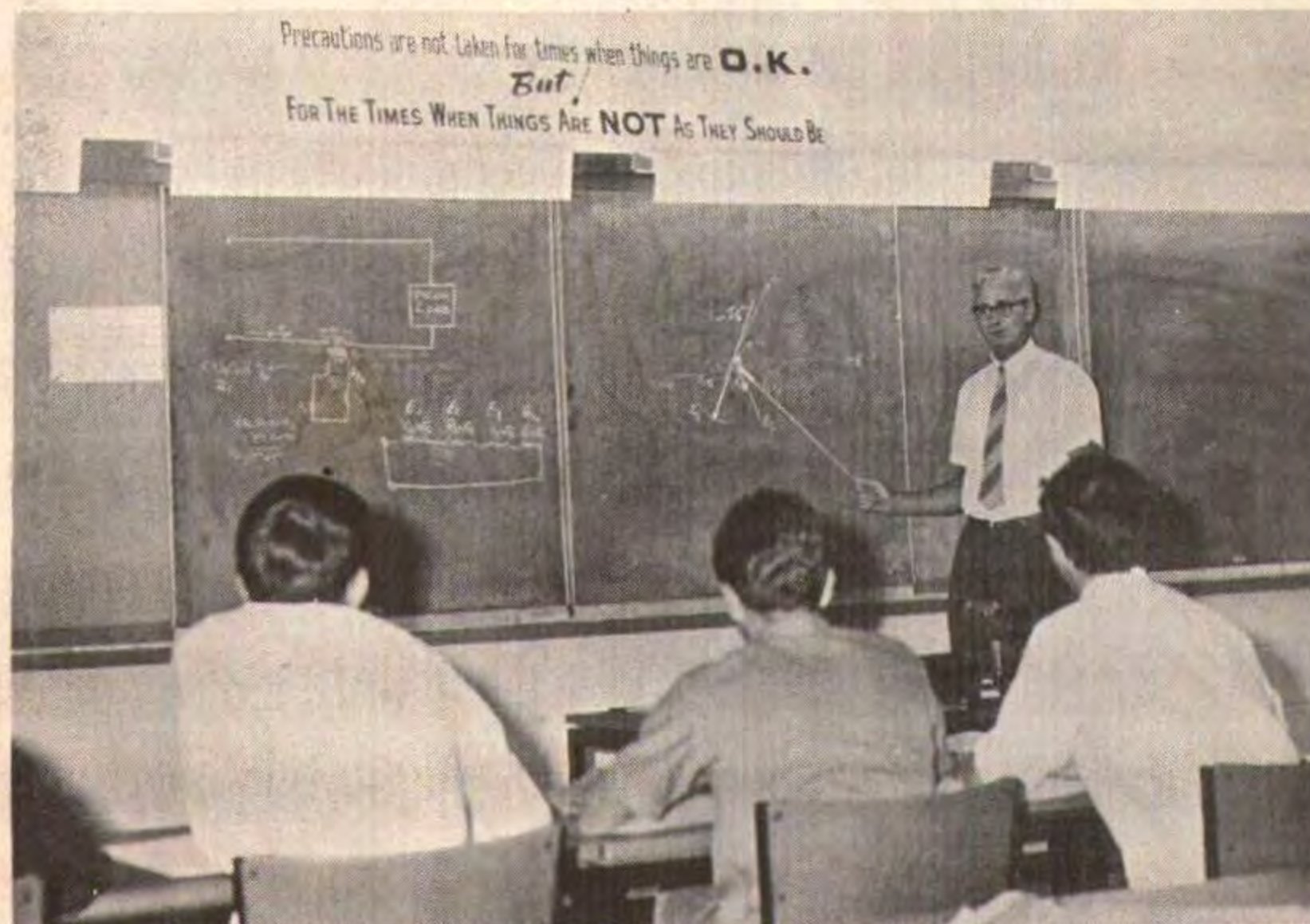
National Safety Council pennant and certificate are (from left) Alan Johnson, Jimmy Hoban, Vern Just, Micky Maxwell, Mick Brown, Les Cain, Ray Anderson, Chris Baker, and Ted Feehley.



* Four and a half years without a lost-time accident (270,000 man hours) is the proud claim of the Yallourn Transport Workshops' 30 personnel, three of whom are pictured receiving personal awards from Mr. Roly Head. From left they are Noel Sampson, Frank Cook, and Tom Watson. Mr. T. Duffy - Regional Transport Engineer,

congratulated the section on their outstanding safety record and made the presentation to Mr. J. Grant - T.M.D. and Mr. E. Techely - Foreman and Part Time Safety Officer. Each employee in the Section received a personal award to mark the occasion, these included Electric Toasters, Electric Soldering Irons, Battery Hand Lamps etc.

CHAIRMAN TO OPEN \$250,000 REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE AT YALLOURN



* ABOVE: Lecture rooms are fitted with modern teaching aids, including 16 mm movie and overhead projector equipment. BELOW: Typing Superintendent Mrs. G. Hunt guides the work of (from left) Bernadette Curran, Barbara Gibson, and Margaret Heeremans.



Not many people realise that the Latrobe Valley Region is conducting its own "college" at Yallourn.....for that is probably the most apt way of describing our brand new Regional Training Centre which is now in operation.

The Centre, which cost in the vicinity of \$250,000, will be officially opened on Wednesday, February 19, by the Chairman, Dr. J. J. Molloy.

It has all the appearance of a modern educational institution - and the sort of planning which would make many headmasters envious.

Lecture rooms and classrooms are fitted out with modern visual aids, while there is even a model control panel designed to pose deliberate problems for appropriate operations personnel!

Prior to 1966 our training activities were fragmented, often marred by unsatisfactory conditions, and in February of that year a committee, chaired by Mr. F.L. Easterby, Education and Training Superintendent, and comprising Messrs. G. Black, L.A. Crockett, and R.C. Bigelow of this region, was established.

The committee recommended a centralised training establishment for Yallourn in proximity to the apprentices' training workshop, and an annexe at Hazelwood utilising the original construction to provide power station operator training.

The Centre at Yallourn, completed in November, is designed to provide more efficient use of classrooms, share the services of specialised instructors, streamline administration, and improve the scope for library and other educational aids.

The North Building is designed for:

- * Training of Engineering Assistants (Elec. Testing);
- * Training of Electrical Operators;
- * Classroom sessions associated with apprentice training;
- * Training in special technical skills, e.g. maintenance of electronic components;
- * Electrical Courses for Power Division operations personnel.

The South Building accommodates the Education & Training Section (including

Training Centre Administrative Staff) and includes classrooms that will be used for:

- * Coal Division Operator Training;
- * Supervisory Training;
- * Safety Training;
- * First Aid Training;
- * Lectures to the full complement of first year apprentices;
- * Some of the basic training of trainee draftsmen.

Capacity has been built into the Centre to handle other forms of special training expected to develop such as re-training of personnel as a result of operating changes and new programs designed to improve technical skills with a view to improving efficiency.

The Apprentice Training Centre has been transferred to the administrative control of the Regional Training Centre.



* ABOVE: Instructor Barry Foley with a practical demonstration for electrical testers I. Little, K. Hunt, and J. Mazur. BELOW: The new building.



With 16 weeks of Long Service Leave, my wife and I planned a "round Australia" motoring holiday. We had our 1959 F.C. Holden, with a new battery under the bonnet, checked and serviced, and shod with four new tyres.

On July 10, we left Moe for Adelaide, towing a folding type caravan stocked with food and water, and three spare tyres on the pack rack.

From Port Augusta, we headed west to Ceduna, where the sealed road finished for the time being.

The Nullabor plain stretched ahead of us, and we set off for Madura, 436 miles away, over every type of road surface you could find, stopping overnight at water tanks, at points along the track.

The road is sealed from 20 miles east of Madura, to 100 miles north of Carnarvon, which we reached some time later.

Meanwhile we stopped at Norseman, Esperance, Ongerup, Albany, Bridgetown and Bunbury, passing through the great farming and forest acres of Western Australia.

On to Perth, then 160 miles north to Machagee, where we visited an 8,000-acre farm of sheep, cattle and crops.

We travelled to Geraldton, a seaport exporting sheep, wool and wheat, then on to Carnarvon, where the NASA Space Tracking Station is a visible landmark set on a high hill. There is also a busy port here, for export of produce.

One hundred miles north of Carnarvon, the sealed road ends again, and rough road conditions had to be endured for 736 miles to Port Hedland, where the main port is situated to handle the iron ore from Mt. Newman and other centres.

Mt. Newman is being developed 265 miles inland, and the ore will be transported by rail, over a track made of 132

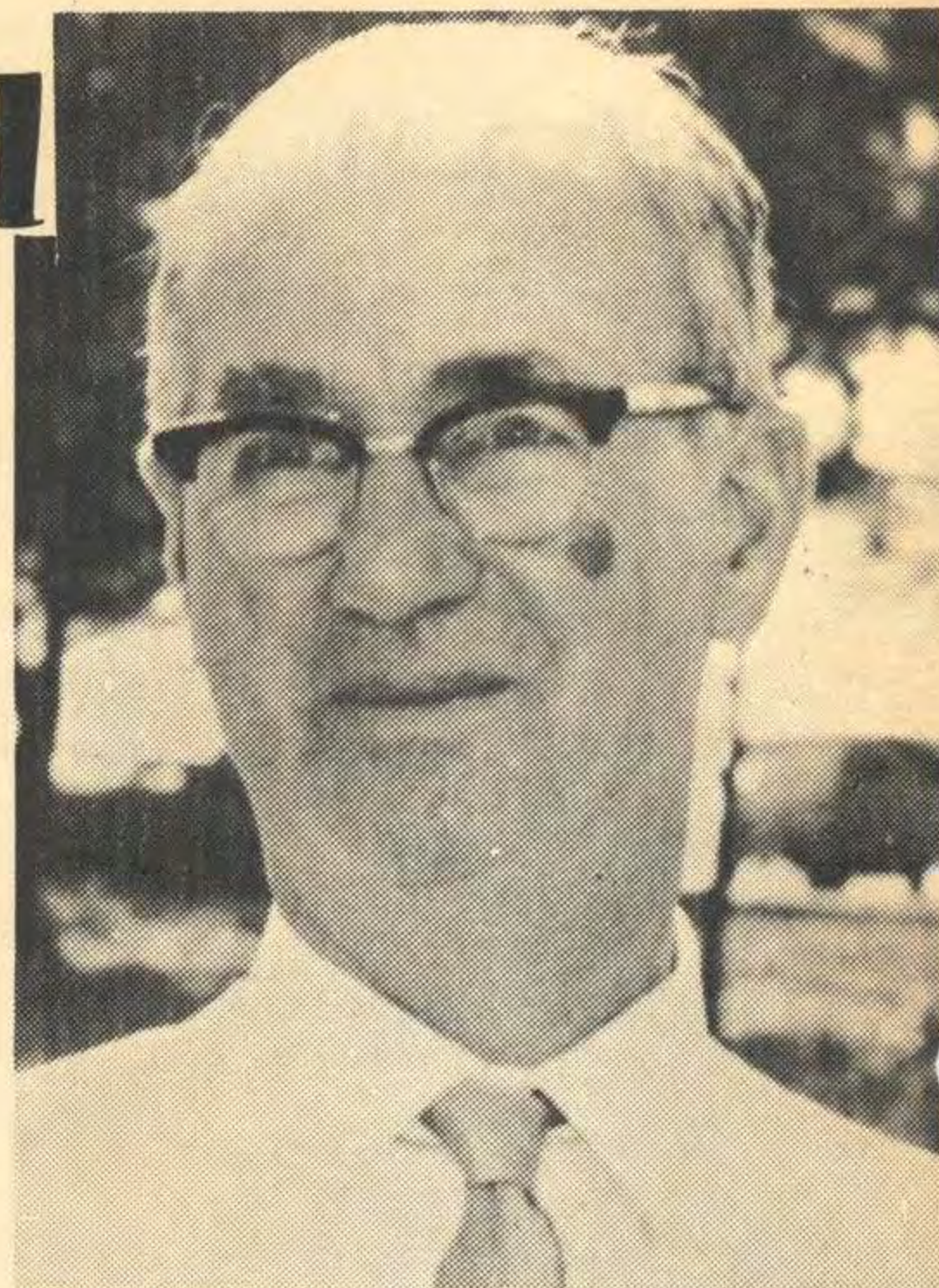
Bill boiled the billy on the Nullabor

lb. per yard rail, set on 870,000 sleepers: 8'-6" long, of 9" x 6" of jarrah and wandoo.

Leaving for Broome, 380 miles north, we encountered rough road conditions again, then on to Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Kununurra all in the Kimberley area.

We reached Katherine and travelled north to Darwin. Returning through Katherine we turned east at Three Ways to Camooweal, Mt. Isa and Cloncurry, north to Normanton in the gulf country, east to Croydon, Georgetown, Mt. Surprise, Mt. Garnet, then across the range to Cairns.

An Account by BILL BATHIE - Civil Workshops Overseer, Yallourn - of his 10,300-mile drive around Australia.



From Cairns we had a leisurely run to Moe, via the Pacific Highway.

The total mileage covered was 10,300 miles and 500 gallons of petrol were consumed.

Everywhere the countryside was at its best, after general rainfalls. It was interesting to note the change in the countryside from day to day.

One must admire the explorers who opened up this great country of Australia for future generations.

Are you making Contact?

This is the second issue of YOUR magazine, and we hope you like it.

If you don't, then we're pleased to have constructive criticism; if there are items you feel "Contact" should be covering, by all means let us know.

For instance we'd like to see more contributed items about people within the Region, and are in the process of establishing "Contact" points among the various sections to make it easy.

Sports, social, general interest..... channel your info through Public Liaison Section (Morwell 3170 - Yallourn 2773) and we'll do our best to fit it in.

By the way, one of the aims is to have every retired person in the Region on our delivery list, so if you hear of someone who's missing out on our journal please advise.

Karl's a 2-eyed wise owl!

Mr. Karl Weber, Electrical Fitter, Electrical Workshops Yallourn, is first member in the Latrobe Valley of the Wise Owl Club of Australia.

The "Wise Owl" Club, an international organisation with headquarters in the USA is sponsored within Australia, by the National Safety Council and the Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness.

Qualification for membership is that the sight of an eye must be saved by the use of eye protection.

While using an air grinder to remove fused copper from the stator of an electric motor, the grinding tip - which was 1/2" diameter and spinning at 30,000 r.p.m. - broke and a piece flew and struck the centre of one lens of the safety spectacles Karl was wearing.

Result: one small chip from the lens and no damage to Karl's eye.

Just in case anyone doubts the effectiveness of eye protection, there are seven people in the Central Workshops, Yallourn, who have qualified for the Wise Owl and

who would have been members if the Club had been in existence when the incidents occurred.



NEW FACES OF '69

Every year we welcome to the Region many young people who intend making their career in various facets of the Commission.

This year there are 120 young men who have entered the Apprentices' Annexe and will concentrate on learning the many skills of the metals and building trades.

Twenty eight Junior Commercial Officers have commenced duty over the past three or four weeks.

They include six Junior Clerks, eight Junior Typists, four Junior Female Machine Operators, and 10 Junior Female Clerical Assistants.

The number are in keeping with the intakes of previous years.

On this page we introduce a few of those fresh young faces.....you'll be seeing them around!

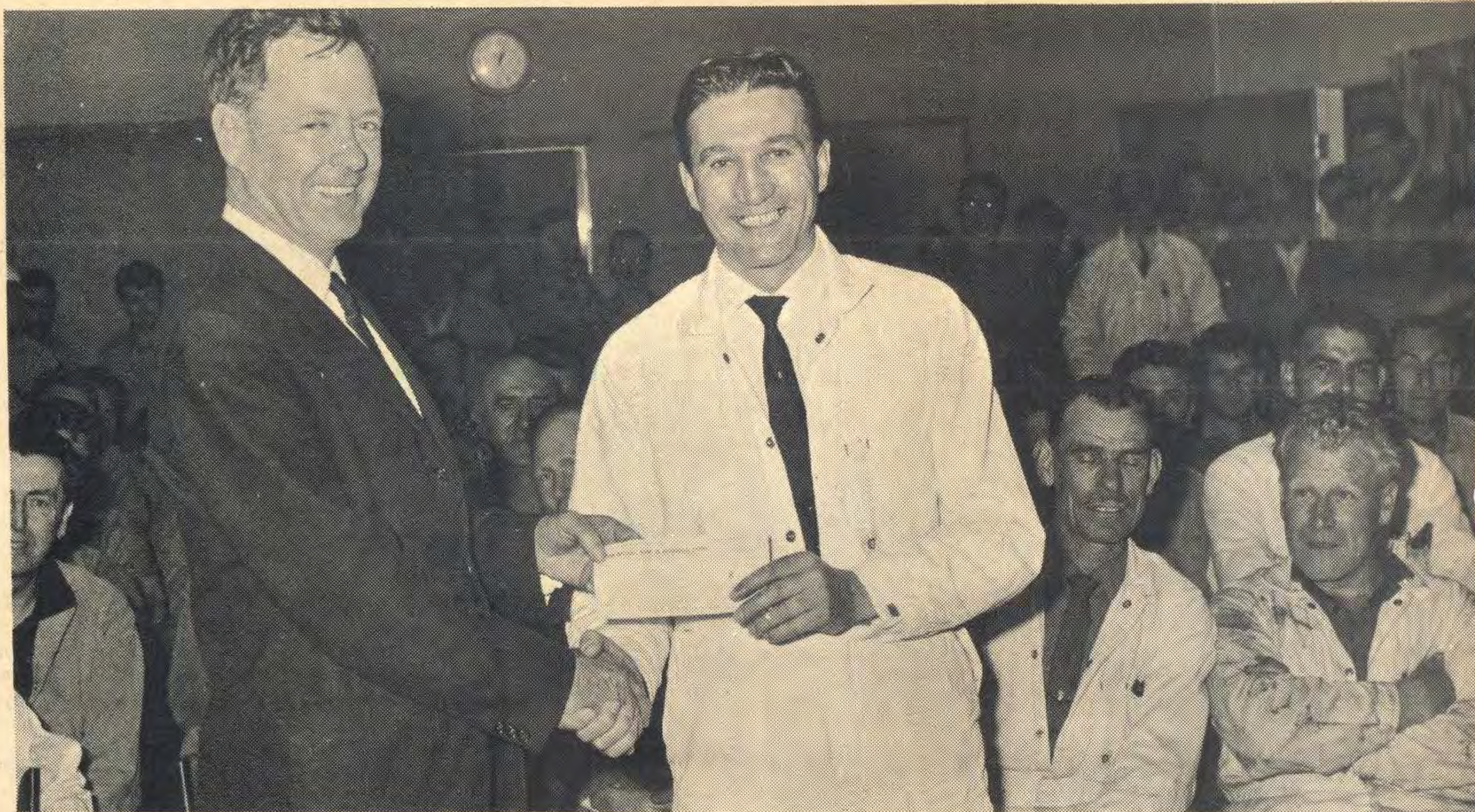


* ABOVE: Junior Clerks (from left) Henry Verberne, Russ Johnston, and Kevin Briggs.
BELOW: Our attractive complement of junior typists and clerical assistants.



\$800 SMILE... and

That's an \$800 smile Carlos Peruzzi, a temporary foreman Grade III at Morwell Power Station, is wearing as he accepts a cheque from Assistant Manager Mr. G. Black.



Mr. Peruzzi made a valuable suggestion back in '65 dealing with modification of brickwork in Morwell Power Station boilers and aimed at reducing maintenance costs.

Since then two awards have been presented to him subject to satisfactory implementation, and Mr. Black presented him with the final \$300 bringing the total to \$800.

Best suggestion of the year was won by Leading Hand Coppersmith, Harry Dyer of Yallourn Workshops, whose design of trestles for bending steel pipes originally earned him \$200, plus the award of \$60.

Awards for the Commission's top suggestions each year started in 1963 and for the first time all have been won by personnel in the Latrobe Valley Region.

The acceptance rate of suggestions in the Valley is 40%, compared with the Commission rate of 32% - so we're out in front in the ideas race!

Last year the Valley collected \$4,600 from the \$10,000 paid out for suggestions.

The Reserve Award (Technical) of \$45 (original payment \$225) for portable staging for use on hammer mills at Hazelwood was shared by Messrs Kevin Brew (fitter, Power Division), Fred Cutts (foreman, and Stan Randell (L.H. fitter).

An end-of-month adjustment to time sheets won the Reserve Award (Commercial) of \$45 (original \$75) for Accounting Division clerk Mr. Brian Dooley.

others too!

* PICTURED: Power Engineer Mr. J.J. Robertson with (from left) Kevin Brew, Stan Randell, and Fred Cutts.



It's worth bottling...to

save a life



* Blood Bank organiser Rod Doig has "that look" as he watches Harry Shillinglaw making his contribution!



* A few minutes' rest after donating blood for (from left) T. Heinemann, Graeme Brodtmann, and David Crafter.



* Bill Bremner, a regular donor, has his card checked before giving blood.

One of the least publicised services given by our personnel to the Latrobe Valley community is the Blood Bank.

Organised by Rod Doig of Administration Division, Latrobe Valley personnel give between 140 and 150 pints of blood to the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital annually.

In addition, the Red Cross Bank from Melbourne visits the area periodically. On its last visit in December, it collected 201 pints.

The Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service depends entirely on its voluntary donors. They receive no tangible reward. But when blood is wanted the need is often desperate, and by giving their blood they undoubtedly help to save many lives.

In these days few people will get the opportunity for acts of dramatic heroism, but almost everyone can be a blood donor. Donor panels in Australia are only just big enough to meet the daily needs of the hospitals.

If you wish to enrol as a regular donor, you should contact Rod Doig on Extension 3425 or 3170. If you do so you will be asked to give blood no more than once in every three months, and are free to refuse any call if you wish.

At the transfusion centre or mobile unit, this is what will happen: When you arrive a tiny drop of blood will be taken from your finger or ear lobe and tested to see that you are not anaemic. If the test is satisfactory you will lie on a couch and a pneumatic bandage will be wrapped round your upper arm.

There's No Pain

With a very small needle an injection of local anaesthetic will be given at the bend of the elbow; this deadens the skin.

Then a needle with a tube attached will be inserted into a vein; this is completely painless. The blood will run into a bottle, out of sight, in five minutes or so. When the donation is complete the needle will be removed, and you will rest for a while before going to another room for refreshments.

That is all there is to giving blood. It is almost painless, not at all unpleasant, and no healthy person is any the worse for it.

To be a donor takes little effort but the satisfaction of helping to save a life is considerable.

Team analysis gets value plus!

Churchill blocks available

The Housing Commission has made available for Region employees, a limited number of allotments at Churchill at the fixed price of \$1,600 per lot, subject to the Commission's conditions which include the building of a brick or brick-veneer house within 24 months of the land purchase.

Employees nominated by the Commission will be subsidised to the extent of \$800, provided the building conditions are observed and that the purchaser continues in the Commission's employ for three years from the purchase date.

Selection of an allotment can be arranged directly with the Housing Commission's agent (Keith Williams Pty. Ltd., 10 Commercial Road, Morwell) on presentation of a letter of introduction, which may be obtained from the Property Assistant, Morwell, telephone ext. 3418.

Luncheon to mark close of factory

The Chairman, Dr. Connolly, will formally close "A" Factory, Yallourn Briquetting Works, on the morning of February 19.

The factory, which has been operating for more than 40 years, has reached the end of its economic life.

For Dr. Connolly there will be special significance in the occasion, as he was one of the early members of the factory staff.

A special luncheon, to which former employees associated with the establishment of the briquette industry have been invited will be held at West Mess.

A glass of water is worth more to a thirsty man in the desert than to a man seated beside a flooded river that's one way of describing a new technique known as Value Analysis recently introduced to the Commission and which is saving thousands of dollars annually.



By HARRY LIEFMAN,
Consultant, Works and
Methods Detachment,
LV Region.

The prime aim is to reduce the cost of a given article through the "team" approach, and to determine its basic and secondary functions.

Take, for example, a lady's shoe, the basic function of which is to protect the foot, the secondary to decorate m'lady's leg!

Another example is a beer can, the basic function of which is to contain beer, the secondary, sales appeal (hence all the pretty printing and the pull ring method of opening.)

After gathering all information and determining functions of the item the Value Analysis team then conducts a brain storming session.

In this session the team leader states the basic function of the article and everybody suggests any idea that occurs to them which may also perform this function.

No crazy ideas are ignored as it is possible that a completely way out idea may be the basis of a practical solution to the problem.

Ideas are further discussed and refined to make sure they are practical and to establish what they would cost.

Naturally many will now be discarded as impractical or too costly and the remaining ones will be further refined and considered until only two or three are left.

These two or three will be practical alternatives to the original and should be obtainable at a lower cost than the original. These are now considered in detail and a final selection made which is recommended to the user section for adoption.

A trial sample may be obtained so field trials can be conducted to ensure no practical aspect has been ignored.

In our Region some of the items studied are:-

(1) Wood Fire Hose Box which is to be eliminated and replaced with a fibro cement box with a resultant savings of approx. \$9,000/year.

(2) The coal feeder chains in Yallourn C, D and E Power Stations have also been examined and certain parts of them have been redesigned. This study resulted in an estimated savings of between \$17,000 and \$25,000 per year depending on which proposal is finally adopted.

(3) The wood press blocks used in the briquette factories are to be replaced by small hydraulic jacks and this change will save \$7,000 per year after paying for the jacks.

(4) At present a steel shear pin used on the Hazelwood sootblowers is being investigated and a plastic pin is being field tested to establish if it will satisfactorily perform the necessary functions of this shear pin. The plastic being tested is the same plastic as used in manufacturing knitting needles. If successful, and so far it is, the cost to Hazelwood Power Station for these pins should be reduced from 40 cents to approx. 2 cents each.

There are many other items where similar savings can be achieved by redesign, change of materials or better methods of manufacturing them. In a few cases it may be better to use a more expensive material which will result in a longer life and thereby achieve savings through less replacements.

Toughest part of Value Analysis is to select the item to be examined and the types of item suitable for this purpose are those which are repeatedly being manufactured in the workshops or being re-ordered through stores or items of plant which repeatedly require the same maintenance work.

After reading this article think of one of these items or look at your next job and write down six alternatives to it ask your friends to assist you and you will be surprised how this list will grow. Remember no idea is a crazy one.

After you have collected all these alternatives work out which are the most practical and refine these until there is only one left which you are sure will perform the same function as the original.

If you require any assistance ask your foreman or supervisor and get his opinion. Finally put your alternative idea into the suggestion scheme and call it "V.A. Idea" It is your idea and you should get the reward for your efforts.

Try it out. If nothing else happens the swapping of ideas can be an interesting change and you will be surprised at some of the alternatives you come up with.

Trades training plan keeps pace with modern methods

* "Contact" extends the congratulations of the Region to Thys Brands, Arthur Francis, John Ellingham (seated), Raymond Burns (seated), Philip Pollutro and John Ciercan. They are pictured with Apprentice Training Supervisor, Mr. Jim Goldsmith.



Five hundred boys are now in training as apprentices with the Region and there is a constant demand for improved training methods, Education and Training Officer, Mr. R. Bigelow, told parents at the Apprentice Open Day.

The maximum number that could be effectively trained would commence in 1969 and it was expected that most would be required to continue employment as tradesmen.

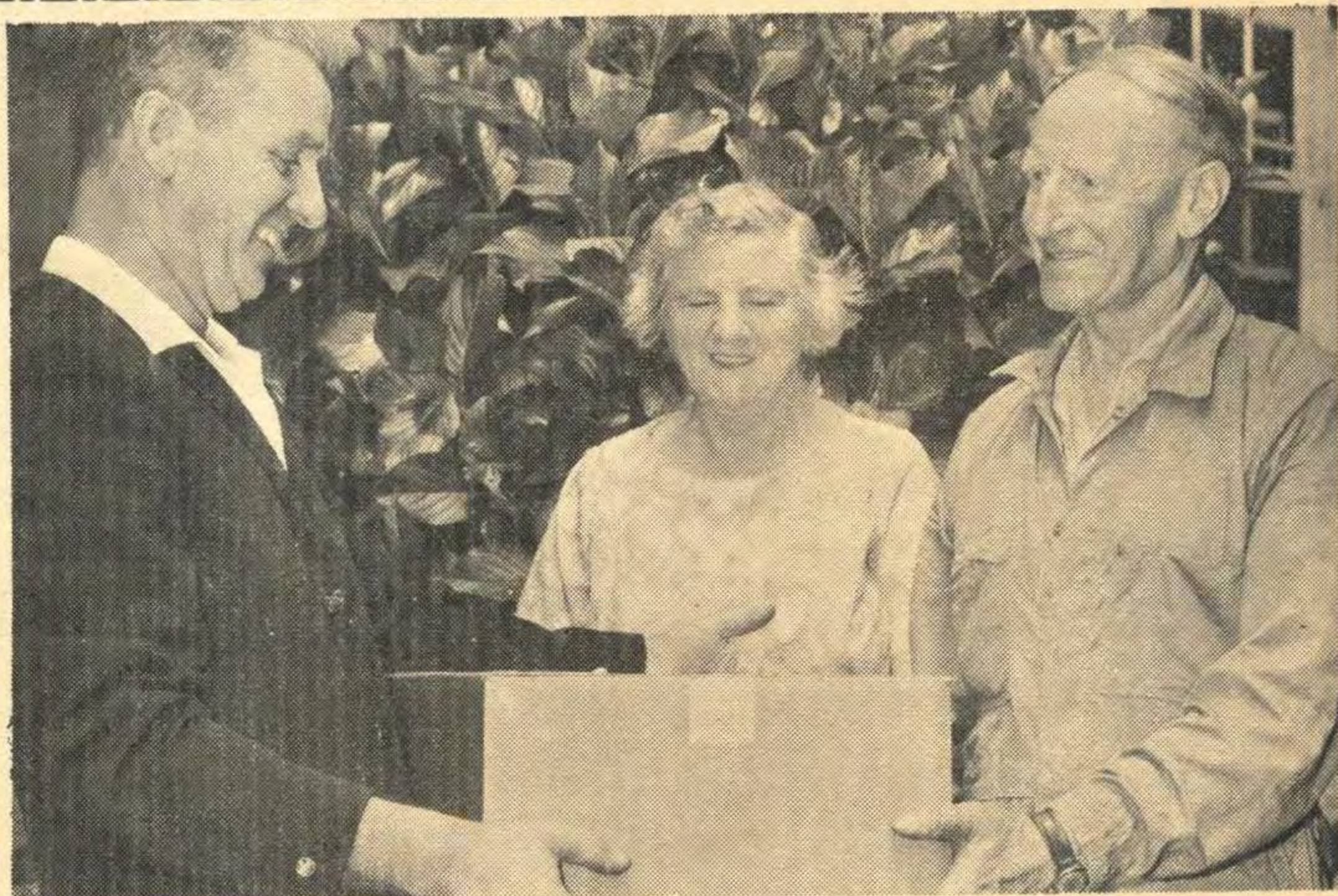
Mr. Bigelow said that criticism of the Region because it could not guarantee employment of all apprentices on completion of training was unfair. The Commission was training more boys than it may need to assist the large number of boys wanting to be apprenticed in the area.

Apprenticeship training in all trades was constantly under review to keep pace with the wider knowledge being demanded of tradesmen.

Region Manager, Mr. J.W. Schulz, told parents the Apprenticeship Commission regarded the SEC scheme highly; it compared more than favorably with courses elsewhere in the State at a time when the standard required from tradesmen was becoming higher and higher.

Presentation of "Outstanding Apprentice of the Year" awards were then made to Arthur Francis (Electrical Mechanic), John Ellingham (Instrumentmaker), Raymond Burns (Boilermaker), Philip Pollutro (Electrical Fitter), John Ciercan (Turner), Thys Brands (Fitter).

Social club gift



Throughout the year the 600 members of Yallourn Power Station Social Club donate toward a presentation for each member who retires, and every Christmas a number of hampers go out to retired members and widows of retired members.

This Christmas 15 hampers valued at \$15 each were presented.

PICTURED are Mr. and Mrs. H. (Bert) Theobald of 2 Church Street, Yallourn, receiving their hamper from Mr. Jack Davis, Technical Records Clerk, Yallourn Power Station, Treasurer of the Club.

Bert was a boilermaker in the Commission and now devotes his time to his garden and doing odd jobs for the Presbyterian Church in Yallourn.

After ten years service with the Yallourn Soccer Club (plus expert tuition in physical fitness by Dad) Johnny Poelsma, of Yallourn Painters, brings to his assistant coach job at Yallourn an extraordinary amount of 'know-how' for a young man. If and when Yallourn achieve State League honors much will be to the credit of the young veteran from a family in which physical fitness is a way of life.

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Yallourn Football ranks will have a big gap this season. Mike Collins of Accounts could be transferring to New Guinea shortly. Asked, if he remains at Yallourn, would he be playing, he replied it was most unlikely but, if he goes North, would like to do some coaching. If Mike stays, Yallourn, grab him for your junior coaching!

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Usually when top executives of an organisation meet, it is in sombre suits and quietly decorous air. Yallourn will see another side on March 12, when executives of the Sydney County Council (N.S.W.) and S.E.C.V. meet at Bowls for the second of a three matches series for the "Top Brass Shield". Tests were first played in 1967 and the S.E.C.V. are Shield holders. Latrobe Valley will be well represented in the "Second Test", by Austin Lynch, Arch Sneddon, Roy Norden, Jack Robertson, Harry Hoffman, Alan Castelow. Ben Lauritz and L. Farquhar of the Metropolitan area will match up the team. Yallourn Bowling Club will be hosts to both teams.

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Boxing is today's leading topic - two world champions in Victoria. A local whose topic is often boxing is Nick Lagos of Stores as he tells about the Morwell RSL Boxing Club. As Secretary, Nick says they need help financially and physically.

Incidentally, Nick has a young potential at home - 13 years old but who knows, we could see Nick and Jimmy bringing fame to the Valley. In the meantime Nick is directing his energies to furthering the cause of amateur boxing in the Valley.

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Electrical Services Engineer Bill Smith may have explained a mysterious disease of many golfers, who for no apparent reason, become tense and taciturn. Said the ESE at Neil Robertson's farewell: "Neil and I have been friends for years, but when I tried to outhit him on the golf course, I developed a slice. Hardly spoke to him for weeks." Dear readers - if your golfing friends are cutting you short these days, maybe they're slicing.

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Apprentice Painter Les Hawken of Yallourn Power Station, prolific winner of trophies in Latrobe Valley football last

carter's column



* MR. JAN POELSMA lays down a training point to son JOHNNY.

season, will probably spend another year with his team, Trafalgar, before going to Hawthorn.

Les, who would have been hot favorite to repeat his wins in LVFL this season, joined with other players at the Club's annual meeting to change over to Mid Gippsland League. I felt it was a praiseworthy sporting gesture to his mates. Except for Les, Trafalgar has lacked height and weight for the LVFL.

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Only one small step forward in the efforts to get tri-angular contests under way (December's 'Contact'). A Shield will be provided for a team trophy. Hope to contact social clubs during this month to further the cause. Would appreciate comments on the proposal. Now that we, in the Valley are in the Social League, let's take full advantage of it!

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Over six months dedicated work (he says - pleasure) and \$300, and Tony Andrews of Yallourn Workshops has something he can be proud of. An aerial propelled boat, or to use his term - a swamp boat or skimmer. Tony said the draught of the boat is so small, that, once moving, it is mobile on wet grass. Asked what he would use it for - replied, laconically, "It will be useful for fishing".

Mentioned last issue that Tom Grimes of Personnel had the secretary reins of Yallourn Football Club in his hands, but, now I understand he is a strong tip for the Latrobe Valley League job. Here, he could

join Les Taylor of Costs, who has received his 10th nomination for the treasureship. Les has guided the finances of the League well - in times of falling receipts and rising costs. That the League is as solvent as it is, is due to Les.

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Metallurgist Don Ferguson and Alf McMicken of Yallourn Power Station are having a longer wait for a decision than the bloke on telly who asks contestants will they come back next week. Don and Alf have a tied score for the Spring trophy of the Latrobe Valley Yachting Club, but must wait until April 13 to decide the issue. Are they nervous? Not a bit of it - it's plain sailing.

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Memo - Briquette Cricket Club (Mr. Don Flannagan). The "Eastern Road Tests" are played daily with all intensesness of an international game. Felt such enthusiasm should not be overlooked; so, Don, a lunch-time stroll could find another Ron. Cox or Alex Jones.

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Continuing his good efforts with the rifle, Bill Breasley of Yallourn Workshops has intensified his training on the range. Two open shoots before the Victorian Queen's Plate on March 6 should make him a strong contender for the State team to visit West Australia in September.