

CONTACT



THE STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION LATROBE VALLEY REGION MAGAZINE — APRIL 1969

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING: IT'S THERE, SO "HELP YOURSELF"

The fundamental approach to any accident prevention function is to develop safe working conditions and an awareness which leads to the elimination of all accidents.

This is a fine goal, but unfortunately, it is not always achieved. Parts still slip from workers' hands, tools are dropped or may fall from overhead locations, fluids are splashed, objects fly through the air and unprotected hands are cut by abrasive or sharp-edged materials.

It may not be possible to eliminate all these types of accidents, but workers can be provided with a safe-guard in the form of personal protective equipment, which will protect him from injury.

Alec Halkett will never regret wearing his safety helmet regularly. He was working in a combustion chamber of a boiler at Hazelwood and a fire brick fell from 50 feet above and struck him on his safety helmet. Alec was away from work for only a few hours, but his injuries could well have been fatal. (Alec tells his own story in this issue on Page 4).

Our Stores have an excellent range of protective apparel available to cover most requirements and where there are special needs equipment can be procured without delay, in fact, a very high standard of protective apparel is available to cover most requirements and where there are special needs equipment can be procured without delay, in fact, a very high standard of protective apparel is available to everyone who has the need.

Next time you are tempted to do a job without your protective clothing - stop and try to do it without using the part of your body you should be protecting. Even to light a cigarette blind-folded or to eat a meal without using one hand could prove to be futile tasks.

DID YOU KNOW WE'RE IN THE GAS BUSINESS TOO? PAGE 5 TELLS THE STORY. AND ON PAGES 8 and 9 THERE'S AN EPISODE OF "THE TROUBLESHOOTERS"!

Manager's message

Tilly's got a smile for you!



If you're one of the lucky people who call at the cashier's desk in the Castle each week to pick up your pay, as a visitor to the place, or for whatever reason you may front up to the Regional HQ at Morwell, the first person you'll see as you come through the door is our receptionist TILLY VERBERNE.

She's the cute little brown-eyed blonde who sits just inside the door, with a smile for everyone who comes through it.

Tilly came to Australia from Holland in 1960 - when she was ten. The family - she's the oldest of five, the rest are all boys - settled in Myrtleford where Tilly's father followed his trade of baking.

Just before Christmas, 1967, the family moved to Moe. Tilly started with the Commis-

sion early in 1968, and after about six months in the typing pool at Morwell, came downstairs to take up the receptionist post.

Tilly plays basketball, likes swimming, loves the beach and is fond of dancing. When asked if she had a regular boyfriend, Tilly said it wasn't a fair question! Fair or not, if she hasn't, there's something wrong with today's young fellows after all!



"Late again, Smithers!"



"Yes Sir, So am I!"

Study tour



A four-month mission to America and Europe to study latest developments and projected expansion plans in overseas brown coal mining practices starts this month for Latrobe Valley Region Coal Engineer, Mr. Ken A. Lamin (pictured).

He will be accompanied by Mr. J. M. Alexander, Fuel Development Engineer, based in Melbourne.

Three major aspects in which the Latrobe Valley is particularly involved will be studied by Mr. Lamin:

- * Increasing operational problems associated with dewatering of aquifers under pressure below coal, ground stability and subsidence with the deep Morwell workings, and increasing conveyor maintenance costs;
- * Up-to-date comparison of capability, man-hour productivity, and maintenance methods between Latrobe Valley installations and those overseas;
- * Examination of the economics and technical problems related to larger equipment for future expansion and development.

Slope stability will be studied in San Francisco, Denver, Salt Lake City, and Vancouver before Mr. Lamin attends the American Mining Congress coal convention in Pittsburgh.

Latest bucket wheel dredger designs will be studied in Chicago, and new conveyor techniques at Twin Buttes, Arizona.

Later the two SEC men will attend the Commonwealth Mining Congress in London, and pay particular attention in England to research institutions, computer centres, and open cut iron mining.

Similar investigations into slope stability and increasing machine size will be continued in West and East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Russia.

Final details of the Russian visit have yet to be confirmed.

Mr. Lamin's post will be filled by Mr. J. A. Vines, Operations and Plant Engineer, until late August.

Crown Service time limit

In January 1959 the Commission decided to give credit for previous continuous acceptable Crown service to those of its personnel, both salaried staff and wages employees, who join its employ immediately after such service.

As 10 years have now elapsed since the decision and having in mind the increasing difficulty in obtaining verification of pre-

vious service from some organisations, advice has been received from the Assistant General Manager (Adm) that personnel in the Commission's service at January 1, 1969, who have not yet lodged applications to have their previous Crown service accepted for long service leave purposes, must now do so before June 30, 1969.

We take pride in all our gardens

The parks and gardens in the town of Yallourn and in the Commission's L.V. works area are a source of pride to those of us who live and work here and are much admired by the many thousands of visitors who come to the Latrobe Valley each year.

Aware of the importance of pleasant surroundings, the Commission maintains its own gardening sections for the township of Yallourn and the approaches to the works area at Yallourn, Morwell and Hazelwood.

At Yallourn the staff of 25, works under the direction of Mr. Howard Baird, Overseer - Parks and Gardens; at Morwell and Hazelwood, 15 are under the control of Mr. Doug Maull, Foreman of Gardeners.

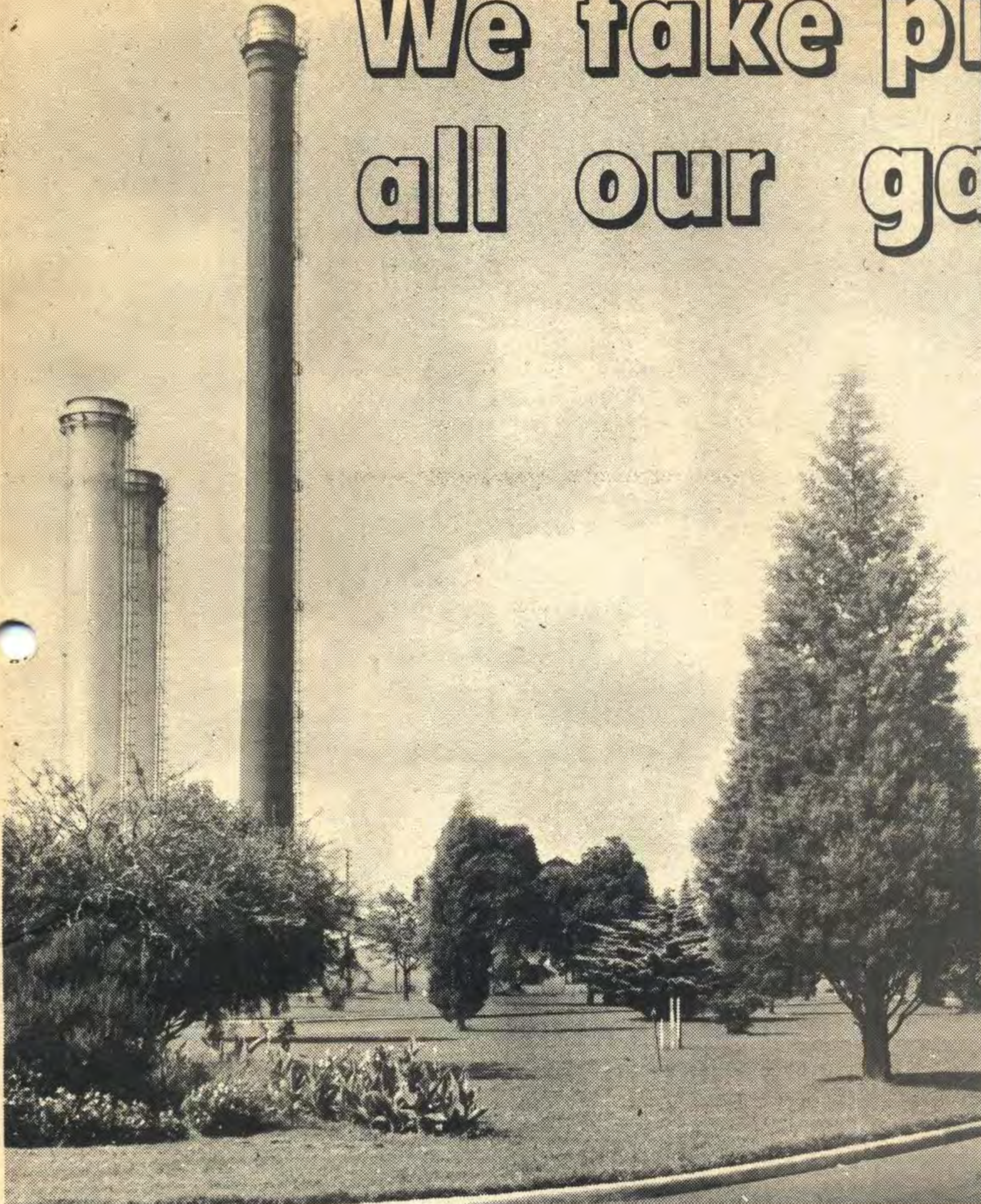
There are certain areas not covered by the gardening staff, but so great is the interest, certain Divisions - notably Briquetting (Yallourn), Coal (Yallourn and Yallourn North Extension) - maintain their OWN gardens.

Well kept gardens, lawns covering many acres, trees and shrubs are pleasing to the eye and good for morale.

In certain places it is difficult to realise one is in an industrial area.

Many of the Commission's personnel are keen gardeners and the results of their efforts - aided, in many cases, by their families - are to be seen in the beautiful gardens surrounding their homes.

It is intended, commencing with the May issue of "Contact" to publish a gardening hint each month.



* ABOVE: Yallourn Briquetting Works Area provides contrasts between impressive, towering industrial chimneys and neat lawns with garden beds, trees, and shrubs.



* ABOVE: Parks and Gardens Overseer Mr. Howard Baird tends to flourishing plants in Yallourn hot-house. LEFT: Gardener Joe Mullett is one of a team which keeps things in trim at Morwell regional headquarters area.

A bit thin on top, but ...



Alex Halkett is a brick-layer who is normally at the Yallourn Briquetting Works but on February 9 was working in the combustion chamber of No. 2 boiler at Hazelwood Power Station.

"Shell on head - we're not dead" is the slogan of the Turtle Club, and Alex will never forget the slogan or February 9.

Here he tells of the experience which resulted in him becoming a member of the Turtle Club:

"I came over from Yallourn after the job at Hazelwood had started and was told by my boss to "hop in among that lot". From events that followed it was a good thing I brought my hard hat with me and I was the only one of half a dozen blokes on the job who was wearing one. Here's what happened.

The first thing that came down was a spanner which landed clear of us.

Seconds later a fire brick fell, landing on my hard hat and glancing off on to my shoulder. It hit with such a force that my knees buckled and I was pretty dazed. My workmates who had scattered far and wide came to my aid and dragged me outside where I recovered.

After the incident my mates

all donned hard hats before returning to the job.

They checked the safety scaffold above us, found that it had not been finished, so then declared the job "black" until the scaffold was completed. I religiously wear my hat in conditions where I think there is some danger of objects falling from above.

As a matter of fact I have got into the routine of getting into my overalls, picking up my tools and putting on my hard hat before I start work each day. I feel undressed if I don't wear my helmet. It might be that I'm getting a bit thin on top!

My hat is a very comfortable fit and this helps a lot. I suggest to others that they make sure theirs are comfortable too and I am certain they will soon get used to wearing them."



* Alex with the Safety Engineer, Mr. Trathen and the Manager, Mr. Schulz, pictured in the Manager's office, where Mr. Schulz presented him with a wallet and his Turtle Club membership. In accepting the wallet, Alex a canny Scot, provided a touch of humour when he replied: "Thank you Mr. Schulz. I am very pleased to receive such a nice gift, but do you know of the Scottish custom where the donor is required to give a silver coin when presenting a wallet?" The Manager quickly took a coin from his pocket and placed it in the wallet!

Join our blood donors

It may save a life!



Last issue of "Contact" told of the Region's contribution to the Mobile Blood Bank from Melbourne - now we'd like to give a special mention to our own blood bank.

Prior to 1953 doctors of Latrobe Valley Community Hospital, Yallourn, kept records of potential donors and called them in, as and when required.

In 1953 the SEC and the hospital established a private blood bank: the Commission gave its employees the necessary time off and, if required, the hospital supplied the transport.

Towards the end of 1954 the bank was taken over by Red Cross and is now

administered by local sisters.

There are approximately 700 donors in the Yallourn Works Area - many of whom have given 30 pints and over. Donors are called in twice weekly, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in batches of eight. Commission personnel are allowed two hours off duty and again, when required, transport is provided.

When donors from any special group are required, the Personnel section is advised and they are sent straight to the hospital.

At Morwell, where there are more than 300 registered donors. Sisters Strong and McClure of the LVCH visit the Administrative Office on the second Tuesday of every month and collect about 12 pints

* LOCAL blood-donors (from left): Larry Muir, Les Camilleri, Jim Shaw, Herbert Wandmaker, Bert Lazarus, Mike Meany, and Jim Stenhouse.

of blood.

The sisters are helped by members of the local Red Cross Branch in the persons of Mrs. Schulz, Mrs. Stillman and Mrs. Foster.

Co-ordinating all the activities of the blood bank in the Morwell and Hazelwood area is Rod Doig. Rod would like to hear from anyone who can become a regular donor to the LVCH. You can contact him on 3425 or 3170.

Remember, the blood you give can save a life, and it could be yours, tomorrow!



Written for Contact by
MR. DAVID WILSON -
Assistant to Power Eng-
ineer, Latrobe Valley.

WE'RE IN GAS BUSINESS TOO...!

There's a new local product soon to be produced in vast quantities at Hazelwood Power Station - gas! No, we haven't got our pipelines crossed.....the gas is hydrogen and it is vital to the operating of the giant Hazelwood generators.

The electrical energy that can be produced by a generator is limited by the temperature at which the machine will operate safely and efficiently. To achieve the maximum electrical output from a generator and control temperature an efficient cooling system must be provided.

Hydrogen gas and pure water is the best cooling system in operation today, but this has not always been the case.

All the generators installed before 1958 at Yallourn Power Station are cooled by air circulated through the generator.

The Commission's introduction to hydrogen cooling came with installation of the last two machines at Yallourn, closely followed by a hydrogen cooled machine at Morwell Power Station, while all machines at Hazelwood and Yallourn "W" will be cooled with hydrogen gas sealed within the generator casing. The hydrogen in turn is cooled by water which conveys heat away from the generator.

Hydrogen cooling is possibly the "Achilles Heel" of the generator. Without it the generator cannot fully operate; in fact, should all the hydrogen escape from the casing of a Hazelwood machine it must be shut down.

Happily this rarely occurs, but the hydrogen gas cannot be completely sealed within the generator, and when the generator is being overhauled, to work safely, all hydrogen must be removed from the generator.

To make up these losses there is a continual need to provide extra hydrogen. Until recently, the Commission relied on the one commercial supplier in Victoria.

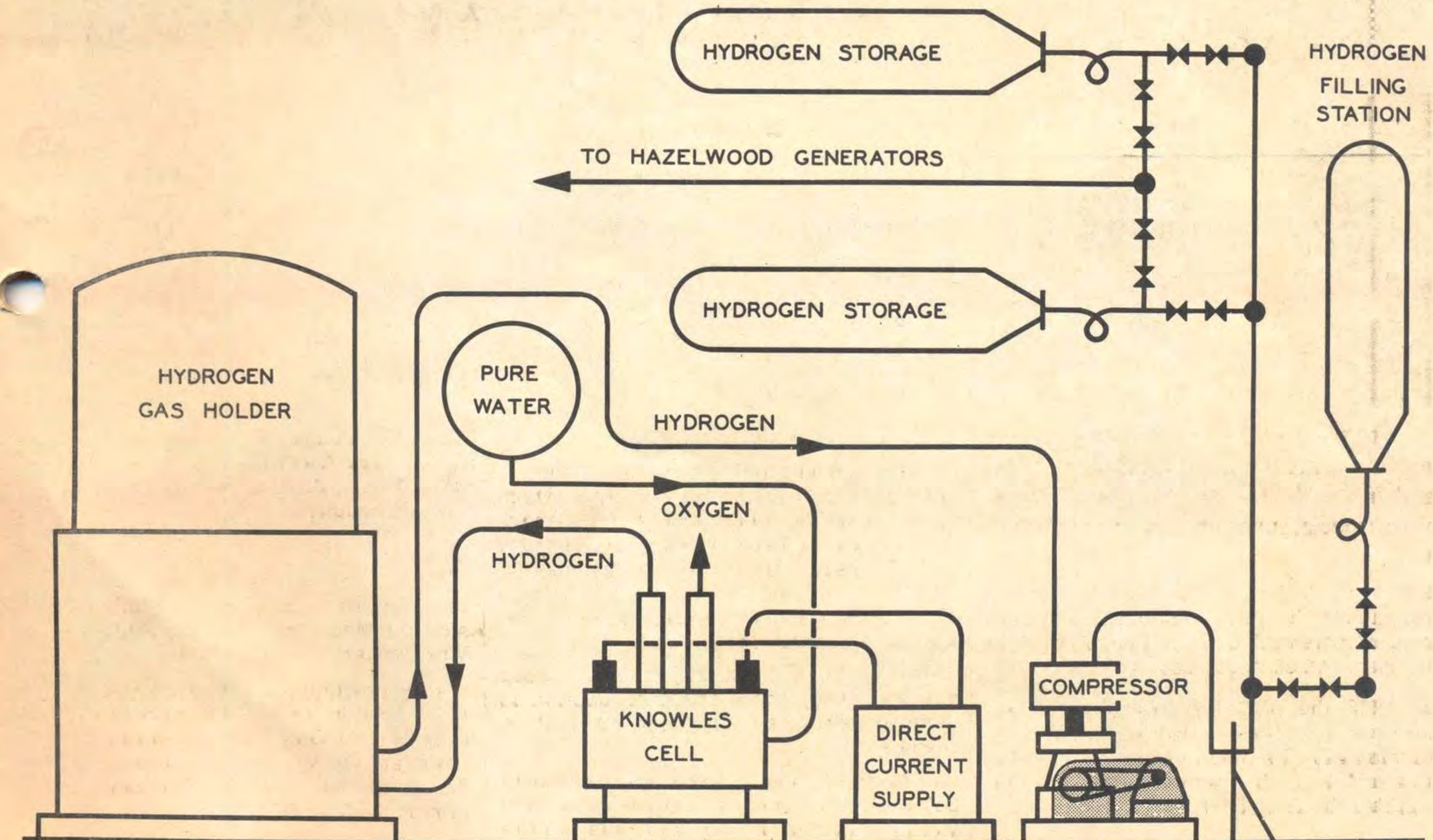
Difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies have been a constant source of concern. Industry demands for hydrogen are increasing. The needs of the Antarctic Division and interstate users are placing increasing demands on this Victorian plant. In emergencies supplies have been brought from New South Wales with attendant difficulties in transportation.

To overcome these difficulties and ensure a reliable supply of hydrogen gas the Commission decided in 1966 to install its own hydrogen plant. The plant is now nearing completion at Hazelwood and is situated almost adjacent to the Training Centre. It should be in full operation by May and is capable of producing sufficient hydrogen to meet Latrobe Valley power station needs for some years.

The plant can also recover oxygen, which is a by-product of the plant, and this oxygen will be used in welding operations in the Latrobe Valley Region.

The plant selected produces hydrogen by the electrolysis of water. Direct electric current passing through water decomposes it into its elements hydrogen and oxygen. But pure water is practically a non-conductor of electricity. To make the electrolysis of water an economical process an electrolyte has to be used. This is pure water to which a little acid, alkali or salt has been added.

* CONTINUED PAGE 12



HYDROGEN PRODUCING PLANT



Its into the classroom for dredger crew members (from left) John McNamara, Doug Warfe, Harry Ryley, Kelvin Smith, Bert McEvoy, Daryl McConnell, Noel Burke, and Laurie Campbell.

Under Mr. Tom Adams, Investigation Engineer, Coal Division, they were on a basic duties training course at the Training Centre, Yallourn.

LEFT TO RIGHT - STANDING:- John McNamara, Doug Warfe, Harry Ryley, Kelvin Smith, Bert McEvoy, Daryl McConnell, Noel Burke and Laurie Campbell with Instructor Mr. Tom Adams, Investigations Engineer, Coal Division.

LEFT TO RIGHT SEATED:- Noel

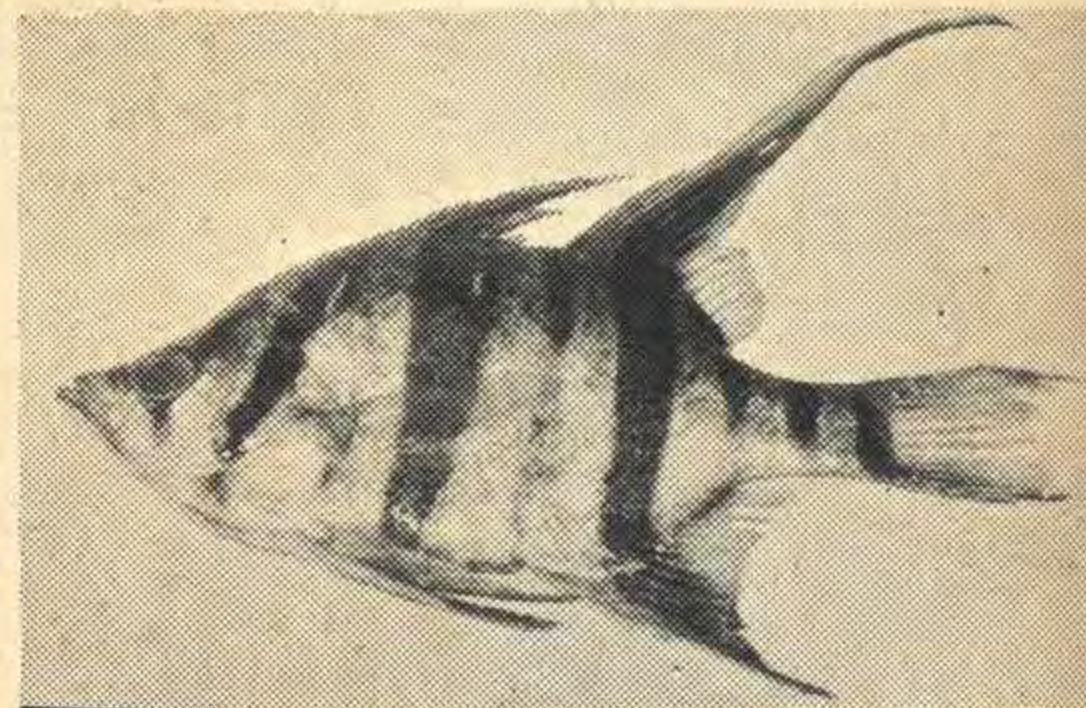
Burke, Kelvin Smith, Bert McEvoy, Daryl McConnell, John McNamara, Harry Ryley, Doug Warfe and Laurie Campbell.

They are dredger crew members on a dredger crew's basic duties training course. The course lasts two weeks and is intended to supplement field training. In the field the dredger crews learn certain procedures; at the Centre they learn the reasons for these procedures.

In years gone by all training was practical - nowadays the idea is to back up field training with theory.

In short, the idea behind the training is to make the job meaningful, not just a set of rules and procedures to be followed.

Just the Old Wife!



Remember the fish Coal Production, Yallourn, clerk John Brown caught at Loch Sport? Well Mr. Allan Ellis has identified it as an "Old Wife or Zebra Fish" from a fish species book at B.W.S. Office, Yallourn. Here's what the book has to say about it:

Enoplosus Armatus.

These fish look just like a fleet of little yachts in full sail when they swim past the wharf-piles and rocks. The first illustration of an Old Wife Fish came from N.S.W.; it was published in 1790 by Surgeon John White. Grows up to 10" and can be netted in Q., N.S.W., Vic., Tas, S.A., WA.

LV Accountant for Melbourne

The Region will lose one of its best-known identities, with the departure for Melbourne early in June, of Mr. P. Duncan Regional Accountant.

Mr. Duncan will take over the post of Manager, Supplies and General Services and will be located at Monash House.

Appointed to the Valley as Assistant Works Accountant, Morwell in 1954, he became Assistant Works Accountant, Yallourn in 1956, Works Accountant, Morwell in 1957, Administrative Officer, Morwell in 1958 and Works Accountant, Yallourn in 1962. With the formation of the Latrobe Valley Region on July 1, 1963, he was appointed Regional Accountant.

Mr. Duncan will be farewelled at the R.S.L. Club Rooms on Wednesday, May 28 and all sections will be advised of the details later.

S.E.C. golfers made it three in a row with a win in the annual clash against a team from A.P.M., held recently at the Traralgon Golf Club.

Individual trophy winners were:- A.P.M., Clive Barrass, 40 points; S.E.C., Ted Ross, 38 points, on a countback from Bob Bertrand, Mat English, Vic Leek and "Acka" Ross.

Nearest the pin was won by Clyde Lobley



SO NEAR AND YET.....Clyde Lobley and Ted Ross of Morwell Workshops are trying to be serious but APM's Clive Barrass isn't impressed during annual APM-SEC golf day at Traralgon

— Three in a row —



This article on the history and activities of Central Workshops Sick and Accident Benefit Society, Social Club, and Welfare Committee were submitted by MR. BRUCE MCKISSACK, an Assistant Apprentice Training Supervisor and well-known workshop identity. So interesting and so comprehensive are his comments we, because of space shortage, have decided to spread it over three issues. The first deals with the Sick and Accident Benefit Society and in later issues we will highlight the Social Club and Welfare Committee.

THE 3 A's OF A GOOD JOB

One bloke said: "Money isn't everything" and his mate replied, "Maybe not, but it is a long way in front of what comes next."

Possibly both could be right, but one thing is certain, in our workplace where we spend nine hours per day, 5 days per week, the 3 "A"s are a most important requirement, irrespective of our financial reward for our job.

How many of us, particularly the younger generation, realise what has been necessary, who has been responsible, and what would the job be like without the efforts of that band of people, who have over the years, constantly toiled for every little reward, (financially), so that we now have a workplace where the circumstances are such that work is not a drudge or oppressive.

Certainly such circumstances did not just happen, and in the Yallourn Central Workshops, there exists three organisations which can lay claim to being responsible for much of the present day-to-day privileges and amenities we have come to accept as our right.

The three organisations referred to are:
 (1) The Central Workshops Sick and Accident Benefit Society.
 (2) The Central Workshops Social Club.
 (3) The Central Workshops Welfare Committee.

The Sick and accident Benefit Society is the oldest of the three organisations, the original meeting being convened by J. Emmerson, H. Bingham and H. Jones in St. Theresa's Hall, Yallourn on May 28, 1936. Thirty-five persons were present.

On a motion by A. Enever and J. Fullwood a provisional committee was set up and included L. Parry, J. Amos, A. Enever, H. Jones, H. Emery, and E. Franklin, with J. Emmerson (president) and A. Muir (Secretary). The committee was instructed to draw up a draft constitution and report back to a further meeting.

Similar societies were operating at the Power Station, Open Cut and Briquette Factory. A collection after the meeting showed 2/3 in hand after paying 5/-

room rent.

One week later a further general meeting was presented with a constitution and elected a full committee, adding H. Muir, P. Owen, H. Lamb, E. Spencer, S. Rose, S. Jones, T. O'Connor, G. Fletcher, G. Carr and H. Smith. This meeting instructed its officers to register the Society officially.

The original name and objects of the Society have never been changed and very little of the original constitution; a tribute to the original architects and their foresight.

The object being to provide relief in case of sickness, accident or death of its members and its membership is open to all persons employed full time in the Latrobe Valley by the S.E.C. Right through its existence there has been close liaison with the S.E.C. Industrial Records and Timekeepers and Yallourn Medical Society Doctors.

In 1959 the S.E.C. agreed to deduct membership fees from the pay packets. This has been a great boon. Membership increased from 800 to its present 1,850; and no unfinancial members.

Benefits from the Society include payments of \$10 per week, but the member must be off work for 5 working days. Full benefit can be paid for 26 weeks in each financial year.

One of the Society's greatest and no doubt, most appreciated duties, is the payment of \$250 to the member's next of kin, - Usually two or three days after the funeral of the member.

How much this can mean is possibly expressed by the case of a member not long in this country from overseas, who had the misfortunes to contract a fatal illness and his wife and young family were left in a desperate situation. However, the Society's immediate cheque and \$160 collected by the Welfare Committee enabled the family to return home to her parents, and her appreciation is expressed each year since, in the form of a Christmas Card and best wishes to the Workshop people.

Many cases of a similar nature could be listed, but on the debit side the Society has to be constantly on the alert for the "smarties" who would impose on the

Amenities Atmosphere Assurance

Society, some of them in more than two similar societies, who, if they can, arrange a doctor's certificate, find themselves better off than on ordinary wages

Work transfers both voluntary and under the S.E.C.'s recent re-organisation, has spread the membership through many centres of the Latrobe Valley. Members are reluctant to surrender their membership and therefore the Society has seen fit to appoint stewards in the following locations:

Municipal, D. Foley, Forestry, J. Hannan; Civil Constr, J. Love, Main Office - J. Watt; Main Store, J. Buntin C/W/S - C. Metcalf, E. McDonald, M. O'Neill; Power Station, V. Wiggins, L. Sicluna, W. Nelson; T/W/S, L. Hubbert, E/W/S B. Frost; Briquette (Y), J. Wilkinson; E.S.C., E. Pritchett; Area Lines, T. Raymond; Briquette Sales, C. Murdoch; Nursery, A. Smith C/P/M, E. Lewis, C. Green; E.O.C.P., K. Johnson.

If any person wishes to contact the Society they may do so through Box 7, Yallourn Post Office.

The 1967/68 Financial Year was disastrous and showed a loss of \$4,000, but by increasing membership fees 5c per member per week, this year's third quarter shows a profit of \$2,000 and the anticipated winter drain on funds can be faced with confidence.

* REVIEWING PROGRESS are (from left) Bruce McKissack (Welfare Committee President); Russ Cannon (Social Club President); Arthur Tibballs (Sick and Accident Society Secretary); Frank O'Donnell (Social Club Secretary); Jack Gollings (Welfare Committee Assist. Sec); and Bob Bates (Sick and Accident Society Treasurer)



Have you been guilty of playing the latest Latrobe Valley numbers game? Venu for the game — almost any location within the Shire of Morwell. Rules of the game — should not be played by any person driving a car. The game — how many chimneys at Hazelwood Power Station are smoking, or in other words how many units are in operation?

To the engineers at Hazelwood the chimneys never smoke, but emit a plume, and as was reported in the February issue of Contact by Mr. Don Bromilow we are spending around \$270,000 on precipitator maintenance to ensure that air pollution is kept to a minimum, and well within the limits permitted under the Clean Air Act.

Since January 1968 the following total outages have occurred: No. 1 - 25; No. 2 - 14; No. 3 - 16; No. 4 - 15; No. 5 - 21 (Initial synchronising 21/5/68).

During the first 12 months of operation it is usual for a considerable number of forced outages to occur and No. 5 is no exception as shown above.

If we confine our attention to the first four units, outages total 70 and of these 22 were due to tube failures. The main failure areas have been at the points marked A, B, C and D on the diagram.

REFERRING TO POSITION "A" — Furnace wall tubes are welded to the buckstay at this point, but due to differential expansion produced by the water sootblowers installed in the sloping hopper wall, these welds have been broken, and in many cases where the weld has been strong, a hole has been pulled in the tube. Although a leak at this level in itself may not be serious, and necessitate the boiler being shut down immediately, it can cause starvation in the tube, with the result of a burst tube higher in the furnace due to overheating; fast action on the part of the Unit Controller in shutting the unit down safely is required in these situations.

POSITION "B" — Investigations have led us to believe there may be a water circulation problem associated with the tubes in and out of the "J" header in the rear wall of the boiler. As a result of this circulation problem overheating has occurred in roof tubes and many failures have resulted.

POSITION "C" — In our endeavour to extend the operating life of boilers between major cleans, steam pressure supplied to the sootblowers has been increased to approximately 300 pounds per square inch, to improve their on-load cleaning capabilities. As a result of these increased pressures the sootblowers have been causing the primary superheater elements to swing up to 14" as the nozzle passes. This swinging action, in line with the element, has produced fatigue cracks in the tie welds at position marked "C1". Leaks in this area have caused tube starvation, overheating and failure at the areas marked "C".

(Its known as "the numbers game")

POSITION "D" — Superheater screen tubes at this position are prevented from vibrating by tie welds between each tube. Differential expansion and vibration causes these tie welds to fail, and in so doing it is not uncommon for a hole to be pulled in the tube.

During this summer overhaul period considerable modification work has been done in an attempt to eliminate these problems. In the case of failures at "A", a completely modified type of attachment has been installed; in the case of failures at "B" further investigations are proceeding but failures have decreased since a modification to the feed water supply to the drum; in the case of "C", stabiliser bars have been fitted to all unclamped super

load with No. 3 bearing vibrations at 3.5 mls. (thousands of an inch) and H.P. eccentricity at 2.2 mls. On Monday, March 3, vibration had increased to 4.8 mls. and obviously some further change had occurred. On Tuesday, March 4 vibrations had increased to 5.2 mls. and eccentricity had risen to 3 mls. This further change was also accompanied by a change in note and the unit was shut down. During the run down as the shafts passed through their critical speeds vibrations at No. 3 and 4 bearings rose to 6.5 mls., while No. 6 rose to 10 mls. (instrument full scale).

Lifting of the L.P. cover revealed nothing obvious at the gland areas, although a rub

he discovered that the shaft was cracked approximately 60% around the circumference of the gland. The shaft at the gland area is 17 1/2" diameter with a 4" hole in the centre. The crack also appeared over a 120 arc in the centre bore so that in fact two thirds of the cross sec-

tion was cracked.

The cause of the failure is still unknown and the cracked section of the shaft was removed and air freighted to England for urgent investigation by Parsons, while the remainder of the shaft will proceed by sea.

The L.P. rotor from No. 7 machine is now being installed in No. 4 and following extensive alignment to H.P. and generator by Parsons, it is expected to run about May 1.

In order to obtain the most advanced plant our generating units are ordered almost at the drawing board stage to secure the most modern and efficient plant available.

We have had troubles with all previous plants at other stations but have always managed to rectify them.

We are quite confident that Hazelwood is not an exception and it will eventually become the most efficient station in the System.

Trouble Shooters at Hazelwood!



This article by one of the Troubleshooters — Power Station Superintendent, Hazelwood, MR. DICK WILSON.

heater elements to reduce the tendency for them to swing as the sootblower nozzle passes; in the case of "D", welded connections between secondary super heater tubes and screen tubes have been eliminated and investigations are in hand re an alternative to the tie welds.

Turning now to the turbine side and in particular No. 4. Early in February we experienced some difficulty in maintaining normal vacuum conditions and it was thought that the No. 3 gland was the trouble because previously we had found a cracked pipe in the condenser of another unit. Operation at this stage was not affected. On Sunday, February 23, the unit was shut down to repair a condenser leak and after three attempts to run-up the unit was finally synchronised, but when increasing load the vibrations at No. 3 bearing became excessive and the set was tripped.

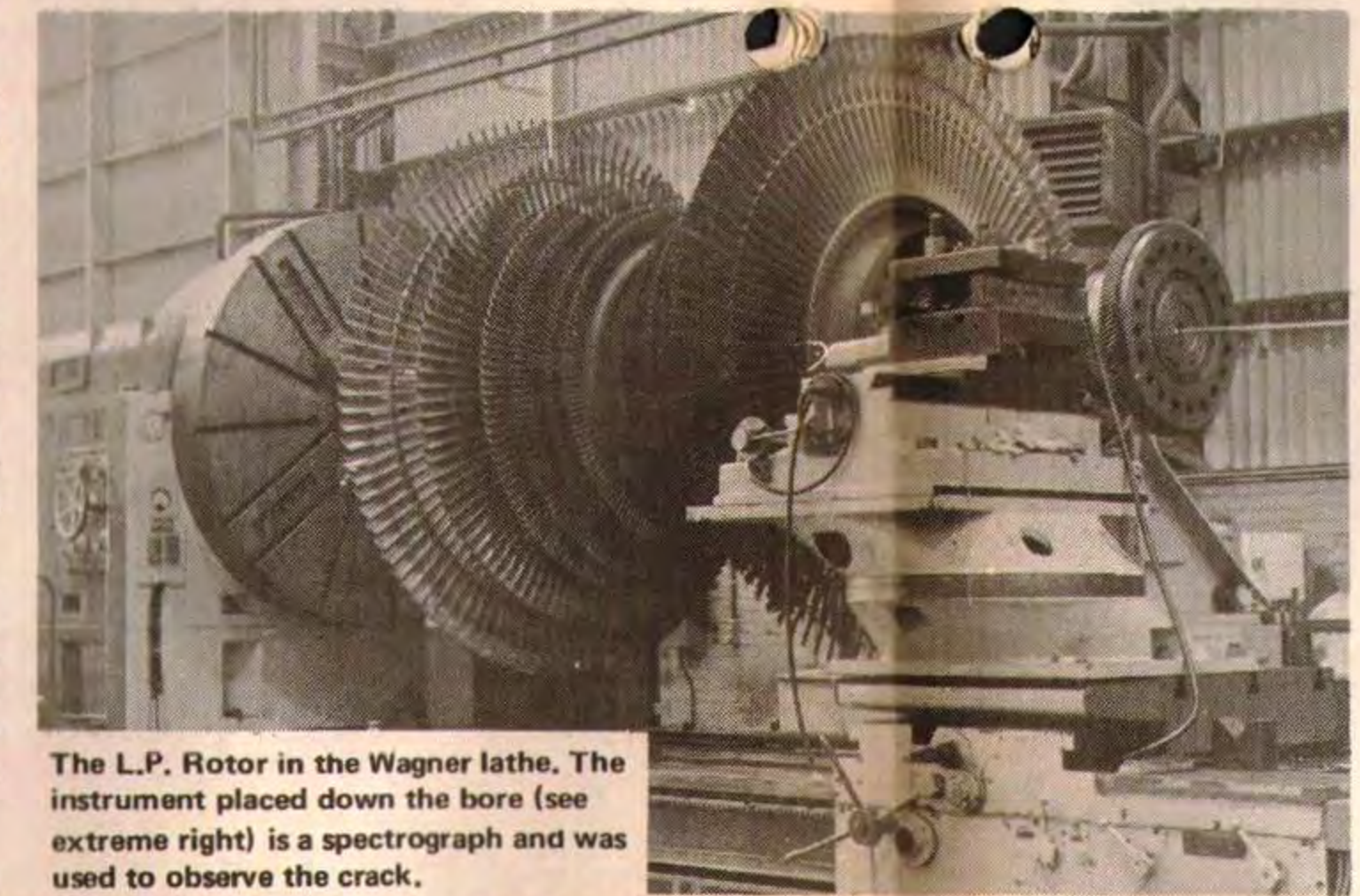
A further attempt was made after approximately 7 hours barring and although vibration at No. 3 was 3 mls. the set was placed on load. Again vibrations increased as the load was raised but some measure of control was obtained with changes in gland steam temperature and condenser vacuum.

The unit continued to operate at full

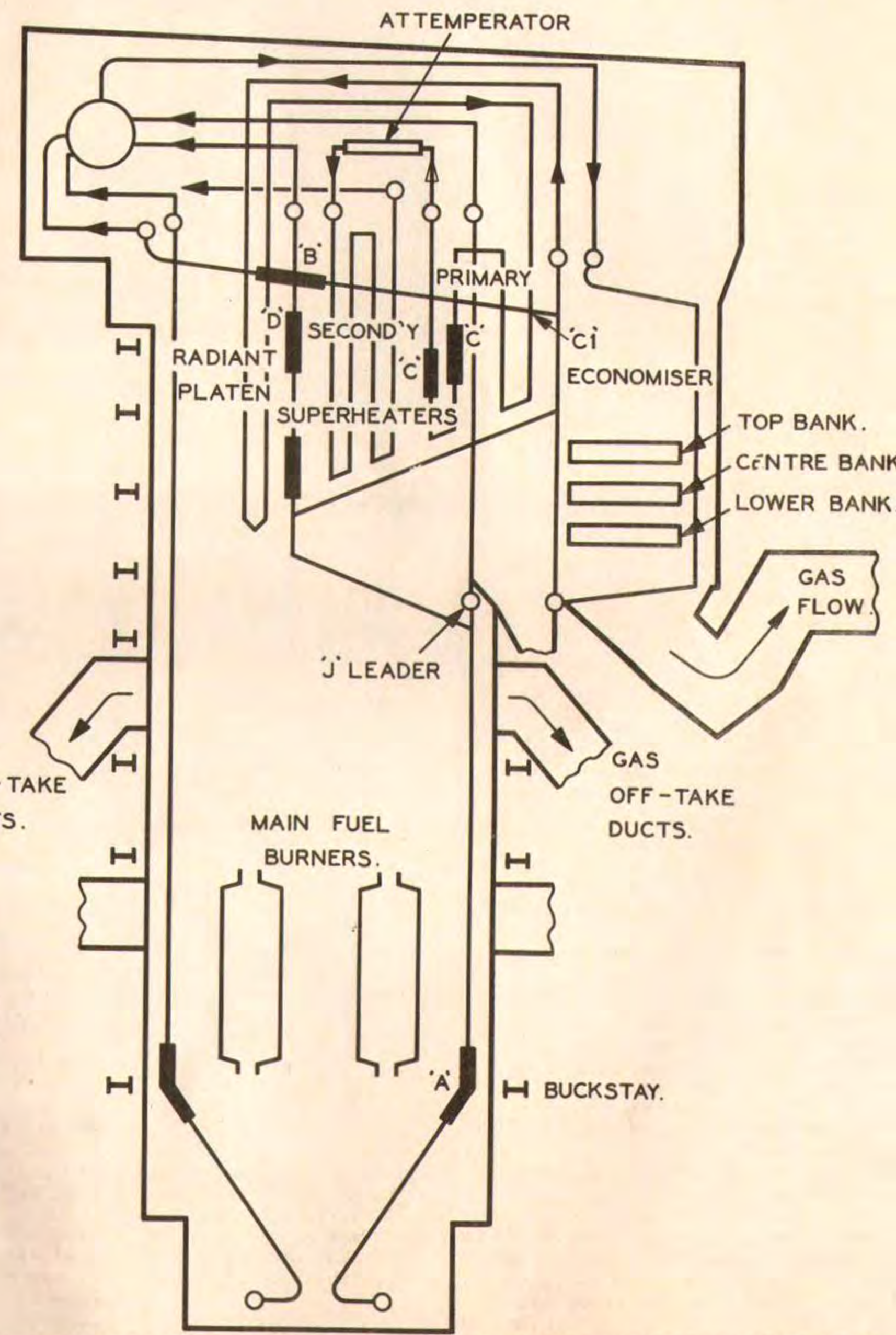
had occurred on one of the inlet row of blades. The couplings were parted and measurements taken at these locations indicated wither a loose generator half coupling or a bent L.P. spindle.

The spindle was then removed and dispatched to the workshop for a check on its straightness in the Wagner lathe. This check indicated a sharp bend at the inner side of the outboard gland and arrangements were made to attempt to straighten by the spot heating method.

Prior to this the Metallurgist was requested to check the area for cracks and



The L.P. Rotor in the Wagner lathe. The instrument placed down the bore (see extreme right) is a spectrograph and was used to observe the crack.



From the land, he's a man of industry

Frank Robertson is a product of the Australian bush - which explains a great deal about him - his kindness, friendliness and his general attitude to his fellow man.

He was born in the Heyfield district where his parents were farmers, one of a family of ten - five boys and five girls.

Frank comes of real pioneering stock - his grandparents on both sides pioneered in the Heyfield, Maffra and Glenmaggie districts.

In his early twenties, he left the farm and came to Yallourn and the Commission, where he worked amongst other jobs on the building of "B" station, Yallourn Power Station. After the flood of 1934, he was employed on the re-building of the present weir and later worked on the pumping station for the town's water supply.

In 1938 he went on to operations at the Yallourn Power Station and later became a turbine driver, a position he now holds.

Although he had been interested in Unionism and a member of the F.E.D.F.A. since his earliest days on operations, he did not take an active part in Union affairs until 1959, when he became Secretary of the Yallourn sub-branch of the F.E.D.F.A. a position he has held ever since.

He is a past President of the Victorian branch of the F.E.D.F.A. and a member of the Management Committee of the Union.

As you would expect from a Union Official Frank is very conscious of the great part played by the Trade Union Movement in the every-day life of Australia.

High Standards

"The high standard of living enjoyed by the people of Australia is", he says, "due in a large measure to the efforts of the Trade Unions". He also claims that the high standard of living of the people of Victoria and indeed, the present industrial achievement of the State, can be attributed largely to the electricity generating industry, particularly to the Yallourn Power Station, which, for so long, was the backbone of the State's generating system.

With automation well on the way, Frank sees a very important role for his Union in protecting the future of its members and their dependents.

Frank speaks very highly of the New Australian members of his Union. "one of the most gratifying aspects of the period of my association with the Union", he says,



"is the support given to the Trade Union movement in general, and to the F.E.D.F.A. in particular, by the many people from overseas who have come to live and work

he spends a great deal of his leisure time looking after their interests."

Amongst his Union members, Frank is "looked-up-to". He "looks before he leaps" and he pays a great deal of attention to the needs of the "little man".

Family Man

Frank is a great family man - two sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren, and judging by the number of family snaps, a very proud grand-dad indeed.

His two sons served their apprenticeship with the Commission; the elder, Bryce, is now a Sales Engineer with Gilbert Lodge; the younger one, Don, is with the Transport Maintenance Workshops in Yallourn. Daughter Judy - Mrs. Randall Peart - is a farmer's wife in the Traralgon district.

In his leisure time from work and Union affairs Frank works in his garden. Shift work spoilt him as a football barracker, but he has a soft spot for the "Blues" (Yallourn variety).

His idea of a good holiday is to go away with Mrs. Robertson on a quiet camping and fishing trip and their favourite spot is along the south coast of New South Wales.

That's Frank Robertson - a level-headed dedicated trade unionist, who knows what he wants and how to get it; a very proud grand-dad and good family man: above all, a dinky-di Australian who gives a lot of his time and talents for his fellow workers - especially the "little blokes," and our "Personality for the Month."

PERSONALITY of the MONTH

amongst us. There are many nationalities represented in our Union and I would like to pay my personal tribute to the good and loyal support they have given us".

As a Union leader, Frank is respected by all with whom he has any dealings.

"Frank Robertson is a very down-to-earth man and a very genuine person and one cannot help but treat his approach to the various problems and issues with a great deal of respect", says one senior officer with whom Frank has many dealings.

"He has a manner of approach as a Union leader, which implies strength, yet it is tempered with moderation", says another.

"He achieves his aims, in most cases, by his reasonableness in his approach to problems. His outstanding thought is for the betterment of his fellow unionists and

TO MAKE CONTACT WITH CONTACT, CONTACT THE PUBLIC LIAISON SECTION MORWELL OR YALLOURN. WE'RE INTERESTED IN YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS!



Mr. Roy Matthews, Leading Hand Storeman, in charge of the laundry at Eastern Road Hostel retired on March 28 after 26 years of service.

At a function to bid him farewell, he was presented by Mr. Frank Miles, Assistant Regional Administrative Officer, with the Commission's cheque, a wallet of notes from his colleagues and a laundry bag.

MR. STEVE CURTIS, Overseer in Services Division, after 20 years of service, retired on April 1.

During his service Steve was associated with the building of No. 8 Dredger, Yallourn Briquette Factory and the inspection of boilers during the construction of Yallourn "E" Station.

Mr. Roy Norden, General Services Superintendent, Yallourn, presented Steve with a fishing reel as a token of the esteem in which he was held.



Mr. A. J. TILBURY, Leading Hand Boiler Cleaner, after almost 20 years service with the Commission, retired on April 3.

Mr. J. J. Robertson, Power Engineer, Latrobe Valley Region, presented Arthur with the Commission's cheque and an envelope of notes a toaster electric blanket and travelling case from his workmates.

Arthur, who is a widower,



MR. E. S. (TED) JOHNSON Leading Hand Plumber with Municipal Department, Yallourn, retired on April 3 after 42 years of service with the Commission.

Always an unruffled man he has many friends in the area. In the past he has been a Union Steward and played football for Yallourn.

MR. LEO HORTON, Tradesman's Assistant at Yallourn Power Station, was farewelled on April 11.

He was associated with the Commission for about one year in 1949. He rejoined the Commission in 1951 and was employed as an electrical Fitter's Assistant. In 1955 he became a Survey Chainman and later, in the same year, Trades Assistant. Still later in 1955 he was a Fire Service Operator in Yallourn Open Cut.



They've retired

MR. D. J. (DINNY) SULLIVAN Turbine Driver, Yallourn Briquette Factory, who retired on April 1, arrived in the Yallourn area in 1922 and was employed by the Victorian Railways. He was associated with the laying of the original railway sidings.

In August, 1922, he joined the Commission as a labourer on the excavations for Yallourn "A" Briquette Factory. He continued with the Commission on construction at Yallourn Briquette Factory, Yallourn Open Cut and Yallourn Power Station until October, 1925.





Mr. J. W. (Chirp) Manners, Truck Driver, Municipal Depot, retired, after 43 1/2 years service with the Commission, on March 24.

Several spoke highly of Chirp's charitable and social work over the years, and his excellent record of service with the Commission.

He was amongst those invited to the Commission's recent Jubilee dinner in Melbourne.

He apparently was given the nick name of "Chirp" by one of the teachers at the School of Mines, Daylesford, because he was always talking.



MR. J. P. MORRIS, Acting Transport Overseer, Coal Division, Yallourn, retired on April 18.

Jack Morris joined the Commission in February, 1958. He had previously been employed by the Tramways in Melbourne.

In June, 1948, he was appointed Loco. Driver and in 1964 advanced to Foreman, first on relief shift then as Level Foreman (No. 1 Level, Yallourn Open Cut). Later he became Acting Transport Overseer, the position he held on retirement.

Mr. Hector BULLER, Patrolman, after 32 years of service, was farewelled on April 17.

Hec has been in ill health for some years and all speakers praised his cheerfulness in adversity.

Hec joined the Commission in 1937 and for some years worked as a Trades Assistant in the switchyard at Yallourn Power Station. In 1940 he joined the Patrol.

Service with the A.I.F. followed, and he returned to the Commission as an Auxiliary Policeman. He is the last man in the Patrol to have held this appointment.



How to "extract" \$100 awards!



Awards of \$100 each were made to Mr. Bill Drummond (Blacksmith - Municipal, Yallourn) and Mr. Gil Mitchell (skilled Builder's Labourer - Municipal, Yallourn) last month.

* MR. GIL MITCHELL demonstrates the post extractor invention to Mr. Max Gray and workmates. Inset: Mr Drummond who perfected Mr. Mitchell's original concept.

The awards, presented by Mr. M.F.A. Gray, Services Engineer, Latrobe Valley,

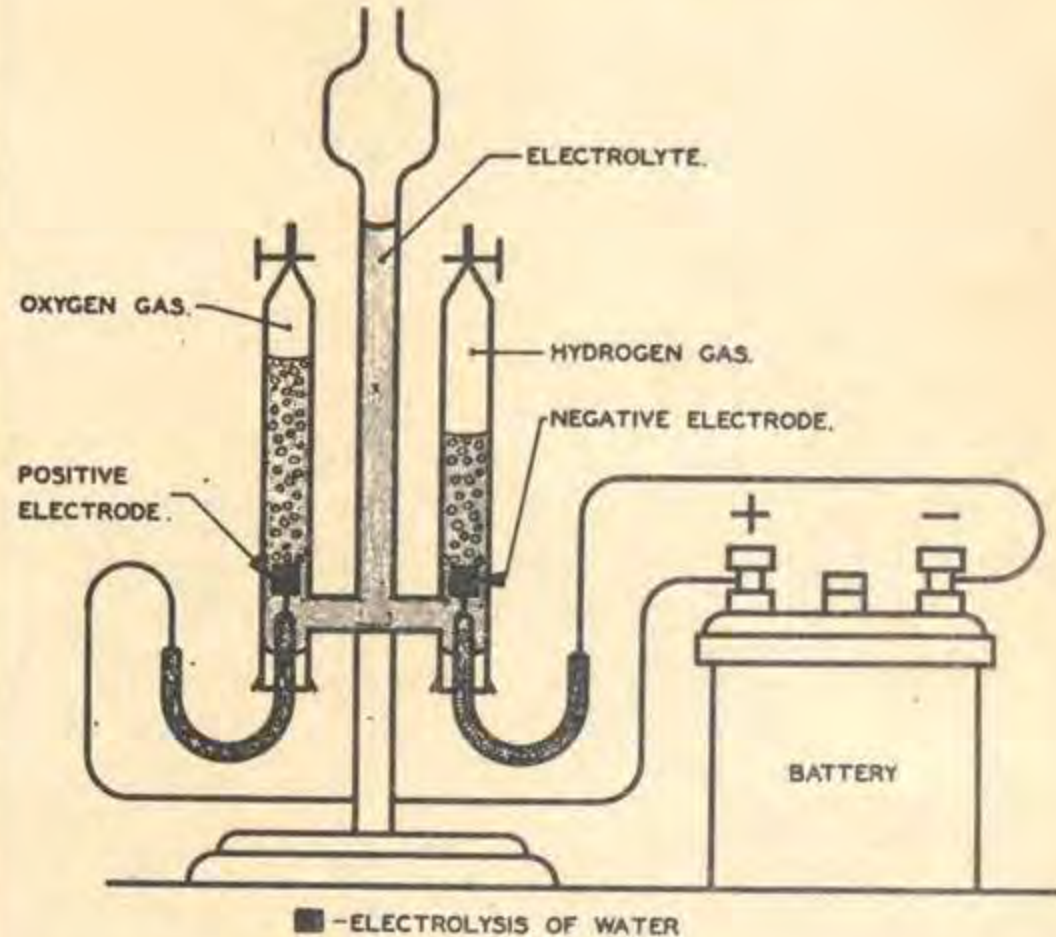
were for a fence post extractor which had been initiated by Mr. Mitchell and perfected and made by Mr. Drummond.



One facet of the production of Contact is now being handled by the staff of the Latrobe Valley Sheltered Workshop in Moe. Express Offset Press, printers of our magazine, have arranged for the workshop - which is staffed by physically handicapped people - to guillotine the issues. Pictured is Marlene Clinnick of Morwell at work on last month's issue.

Compressed to 2,000 p.s.i.

* FROM PAGE 5



The diagram illustrates a laboratory apparatus designed to produce hydrogen and oxygen by the electrolysis of water and a block outline of the Hazelwood hydrogen producing plant.

When direct current is passed through the electrolyte from one electrode to the other HYDROGEN gas is evolved at the negative electrode whilst OXYGEN is evolved at the positive electrode. The gas bubbles rise from the electrodes immediately the electrodes are connected to a source of direct current and the volume of hydrogen collected in one tube is twice the volume of oxygen collected in the other.

Hazelwood hydrogen plant produces hydrogen and oxygen in Knowles' cells which operate on exactly the same principle as the laboratory apparatus but using an alkaline electrolyte so that the cell may be constructed of steel. Instead of only using one electrode for each gas several plates are used and other refinements have been made to enable the gases to be produced safely and efficiently on a large scale.

Once the plant is placed in operation hydrogen and oxygen is produced continuously and automatically and the hydrogen and oxygen gas evolved in the cells is collected in separate gas holders.

The hydrogen is then compressed to 2000 p.s.i. and stored in fixed storages capable of holding 40,000 cubic feet of hydrogen.

These storages are connected to a pipe line which feeds hydrogen through pressure reducing valves to the Hazelwood generators.

A separate hydrogen filling station is provided so cylinders can be filled with hydrogen for use at Yallourn and Morwell Power Stations and later Yallourn "W". This local production of hydrogen - a vital need - will give greater reliability to Victoria's power industry.



Group 2, which is shift 2, at Morwell Briquette Works, has achieved the distinction of working over 600,000 man hours without a disabling injury, as at January 1. There are 62 men in the group and their achievement represents a period of five years.

Of the four shifts at the Factory, shift 2 is the first to reach this most commendable target.

Presentation which included birko drink heaters, electric clocks and toasters were made by the Briquette Production Superintendent, Mr. C. Morellato.



Mr. W. (Bill) Bathie, Overseer, Services Division, retired on Monday, March 24, after 31 years of continuous service with the Commission. His overall service totals 34 years.

He came to Yallourn in 1929 and worked on house construction, but in 1930 returned to Williamstown and remained there during the depression, until 1934 when he returned to Yallourn.

He commenced with Coal Production Maintenance and in 1935 was transferred to the Carpenters' Workshop in Central Workshops, Yallourn. He had been with this section until his retirement.

He enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in 1941 and served in the Pacific Area.

At a farewell function in Yallourn Central Workshops, Mr. Max Gray, Services Engineer, Latrobe Valley Region, on behalf of Bill's workmates, presented him with a wristwatch and a brooch for Mrs. Bathie.



Service Register

YALLOURN POWER STATION

- 28. 5.69 Annual General Meeting.
- 4. 7.69 Annual Cabaret Ball - Kernot Hall.

MORWELL S.E.C. STAFF

- 16. 5.69 Social)
- 18. 7.69 Annual Ball) Kernot Hall
- 14.11.69 Social - Dinner-Dance)
- 13.12.69 Children's Christmas Picnic - LV Aerodrome.

HAZELWOOD POWER STATION

- 9. 5.69 Smoke Night - Supper Room, Morwell Town Hall.
- May, '69 Annual General Meeting.
- 18. 7.69 Annual Cabaret Ball - Karma.
- 14.12.69 Children's Christmas Picnic - Hazelwood Recreation Ground

CENTRAL WORKSHOPS - YALLOURN

- 9. 5.69 Bi-annual Cabaret Ball.
- May, '69 Annual General Meeting.

MAIN OFFICE YALLOURN SOCIAL CLUB

Formed in January, 1969.

- President: Charles Spencer
- Secretary: Keith Hall
- Treasurer: John Carswell

No events have yet been arranged.

CENTRAL WORKSHOPS AREA - MORWELL

- 2. 5.69 Social and Dance - Karma, Morwell
- 31.10.69 Dinner Dance - Kernot Hall.
- 30.11.69 Christmas Picnic - Thorpdale Football Ground.

MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORY

- 13. 6.69 Smoke Night - Ronald Reserve Hall, Morwell.
- 8. 7.69 Annual Meeting.
- 19. 9.69 Tenth Anniversary Ball - Karma, Morwell.
- 7.12.69 Christmas Picnic - Venue to be arranged.

ELECTRICAL SERVICES DISTRIBUTION YALLOURN

Annual Meeting in June. Program of Social Activities not yet finalised.

YALLOURN BRIQUETTE FACTORY

- August Annual General Meeting.

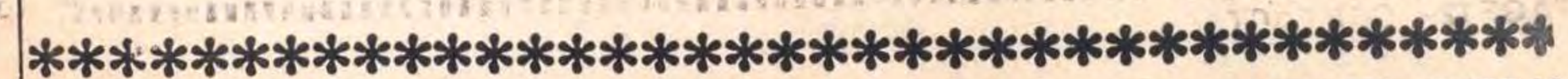
LATROBE VALLEY STORES GROUP SOCIAL CLUB

Formerly known as Yallourn Stores Branch Social Club. The annual meeting was held on 17/4/69 and the name changed to the above. Office Bearers and Committee are:-

- PRESIDENT - Brian Spencer
- VICE PRESIDENT - Jack Wilkinson
- SECRETARY - Malcolm MacDonald
- TREASURER - Peter Smith
- ASST. SECRETARY - Spencer Goss

COMMITTEE: John Magnusson, Barry Warner, Alan Cameron, Rupert Bartley, Bob Brown, Ken Hewitt, Derek Pym, Ted Polkinghorne, Sophie Kolasa and Brian Burk.

Social activities will follow the same pattern as last year and the dates will be finalised in the near future.





• PICTURED concluding the presentation to Sister Barrett in charge of the Children's Ward, are YPS Social Club president Frank Fletcher watched by treasurer Jack Davis, and young patient Andrew Cowles.

Charity, they say, begins at home!! It probably does – but as far as the boys at the Yallourn Power Station are concerned it doesn't stay there.

In the last 12 years Yallourn Power Station Social Club has given over \$1,500 to the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital, in either cash or kind.

The presents have included dolls for the children's ward, a set of medical books for the use of the nurses, three electric fans, a blood pressure machine for the blood bank.

The last gift, made on March 32 was a television set to the children's ward.



Anyone for bridge?

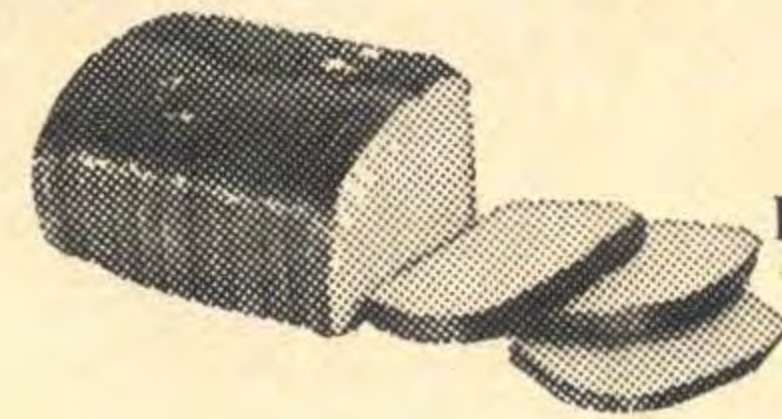
The Region has its fair share of card schools, which operate daily during the lunch-break. The favourite game appears to be solo, though crib and "five hundred" have their followers.

However in the Main Office at Morwell, there's a bridge foursome: Jim Helms, Drawing Office; Jim Knowles and Alan Edwards, Coal Production; and Ted Helyar of Transportation.

The quartet recently heard players at Morwell Prison Farm were looking for some tougher opposition, so the boys went along and beat them - on two occasions.



"FUN WITH FOOD"



Presented by
Home Advisory Service expert
Trina Williams



"Pizzas" served piping hot, have become a favourite food for teenager parties. But they also fit well into family menus, and are ideal for lunch or supper.

ITALIAN PIZZA

Traditionally the pizza case is made of yeast dough, but short crust pastry or a simple scone dough can also be used.

- One tablespoon chopped spring onions,
- 1 lb. tomatoes,
- 1 teaspoon mixed herbs,
- salad oil,
- 3 oz. mozzarella cheese,
- 2 oz. stuffed olives
- 8 oz. short crust pastry,
- 4 shallots.

Roll out pastry to fit greased pizza pan or 9" pie plate. Saute shallots, chopped tomatoes and herbs in a little oil 3-4 minutes, cool, drain off excess liquid. Spread over pizza pastry, cover with diced cheese and sliced olives. Allow to stand 10 minutes. Glaze with a little oil, then bake in a moderate oven 20-30 minutes.



MUSHROOM PIZZA

- 3 tomatoes,
- 2 oz butter,
- salt and pepper,
- 1 pkt. cheddar cheese slices,
- 1/4 lb. mushrooms,
- pizza case.

Saute peeled sliced tomatoes in 1 oz of the butter until tender. Drain and place in base of pizza case, season with salt and pepper. Arrange cheese cut into triangles, over tomatoes. Garnish with mushrooms which have been sauteed in remaining butter. Bake in oven 450, reset to 400 20-25 minutes or until golden brown.

From 1945 to 1955, Stan Brown (pictured with his son, Doug.) of Latrobe Valley Communications, played 168.1/2 games for Yallourn Football Club as a back pocket and a half as a winger. That half match was a disaster. Stan, always a vigorous player dashed along the wing and collided with team-mate Simon Shaw, who suffered three broken ribs. Said Coach Les Jones - "Back to your old position on the backline, you'll never get out of there again". Incidentally, Stan was a member of Yal-

carter's column



member of five premierships teams in tennis - three with Yallourn and two with Morwell.

Journeyed to Country week tennis every year for the last twenty-three years as a member for Latrobe Valley B Grade until last year, when he

Tennis Club in the local competition, Stan recalls that three years ago when Volleyball first started they had six teams; today there are 27 teams competing.

Doug Brown is following in Dad's sporting footsteps in football, tennis and volleyball, but in addition the youngster shows promise in table tennis. Doug commenced his football career as a winger last year but is now on the half back wing. Could be he'll make back pocket. It is in the field of tennis that Doug shows great promise winning 1968 club under 16 championship and this year took out the under 18 title.

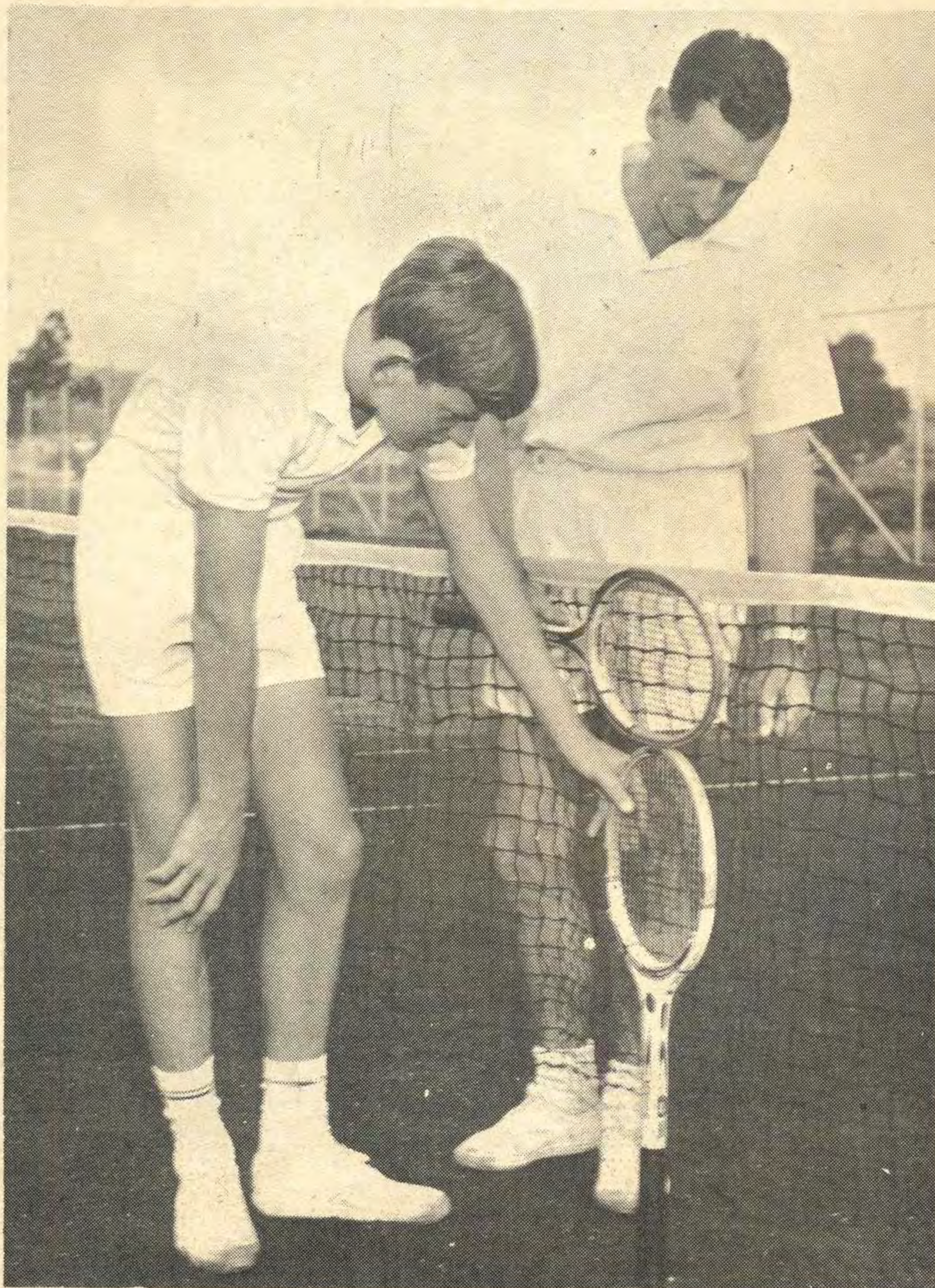
Stan, always a true amateur, places much emphasis on playing the game for the game's sake, but quips he - "if you can win, all the better!"

A convert from soccer to Aussie rules football, and won its top trophy as a Yallourn player in the Latrobe Valley League, Steve Szabo, has entered the diamond game this season, as a player for the Morwell Baseball Club. Will take out the Latrobe Valley baseball best and fairest in his first year, - is a natural question. A remarkable sportsman, Steve was also a prominent Latrobe Valley basketballer.

An honor roll of brave men - R. Atkinson (YPS); D. Bryce (MPS); P. Griffen (TRB); M. Johnson (ESD); J. O'Callaghan (Coal); K. Laity (Elect. Services); S. Lovison (Workshops, Yallourn); J. McIntyre (Apprentices); B. Scorse (Ops); H. Smith (Transport); D. McMillan (Stores); M. O'Callaghan (ESD) and M. Maddren (Accounts). Who are they? These are "those so and so idiots in white who don't know the rules" you "discuss" each Saturday - you know, football central umpires. And, they look so normal at work. Coming Dr. Jekyll.

"If we could get enough people to assist, it would be possible to make up a roster, and you would possibly only be required twice in a season". - extract from a bulletin sent out by the Yallourn Junior Football Club, who cater for three age groups - 13, 15 and 17 years. What a frightening indictment of parental disinterestedness or perhaps, carelessness. Particularly in a close-knit community like Yallourn. You would hardly think that such an appeal would be necessary.

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lourn's last premierships team, way back in 1948.

Queried on his trophy wins, Stan admits to an unusual record - winner of the Club's most consistent award, seven times in ten years of play.

Better known these days as a tennis player, Stan Brown has played continuously for 29 years and has been a

dropped down to C Grade with son, Doug and three other juniors to give the lads some stability. You won't believe it - but, this was first time Latrobe Valley won the B Grade title.

One of the pioneers in the Valley, Stan has competed successfully in Volleyball over the last three years, and he and sixteen years old son, Doug play for