

CONTACT



THE STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION LATROBE VALLEY REGION MAGAZINE — JULY 1969

"NEW LOOK" FOR THE BERNIE BOYS

- Briquette reorganisation

(BY BRIQUETTE
ENGINEER LV,
MR. ALAN CROCKETT)

Briquettes are still Victoria's cheapest fuel. To assist in maintaining this premier position in the face of rising costs and intensified competition of other fuels, and to give better customer service, the whole briquette production and distribution system is about to be re-organised.

This will mean some big changes, particularly in distribution.

Instead of the briquettes for the domestic market being transported, handled and stored loose and then bagged at Commission depots and by fuel merchants throughout the State, it is intended that all household briquettes will be bagged at Morwell as they are produced.

Bagged briquettes will be railed direct to fuel merchants at convenient sidings and there will then be no need for the majority of metropolitan briquette depots and storages.

From the rail siding on it will be the merchants' job to attend to all distribution requirements including unloading of trucks. The Commission's involvement at the market end of the distribution system will only be to a minimum extent when calls on emergency reserves are necessary.

Apart from the economies to both merchants and Commission, under this scheme

(Cont'd P. 2)

MEET OUR BIRDS IN BOILER SUITS



There are only six female technical service officers employed by the Commission and four of them are in the Latrobe Valley.

They are pictured above: Helen Grant of Morwell, Maria Whelan of

Newborough, Suzanne Parry of Moe, and Annette Hayes of Newborough.

The girls work in the chemical laboratory at the Yallourn Power Station.

Who's who? Just check those hard hats fellas!

Manager's Message

Information: Ask for it! Don't wait for the platter!

It has been evident over a period that our Communications within the Region are unsatisfactory and there is a large volume of information which I have been endeavouring to convey to ALL of our employees for some considerable time without success.

It is necessary, too that when information is promulgated it should be brought up to date at frequent intervals.

It is evident some personnel are not aware of basic information which by its very nature should be known to everybody employed in the Region.

One of the reasons for this is a lack of appreciation that good communication is essentially a multi-channel exercise. These channels should exist from Management to employees, from employees to Management, between Divisions at all levels, and between personnel and the specialists in whatever Division these may happen to be.

To achieve this objective of establishing good communications, it is necessary therefore for employees in the Region to be thoroughly familiar with first, their own Divisional organisation and secondly, the Regional organisation. Knowing where to go to obtain information we must then approach the best apparent source of information irrespective of the Division in which it is located.

Individual Divisions have a responsibility to ensure that there is adequate internal communication and exchange of information.

To enable better communication between Divisions, I propose issuing in the near future a schematic diagram indicating the locations of various specialists so that people can utilise their specialist services.

In addition, in future issues I will be providing you with up-to-date long term plans for the Latrobe Valley Region supported by reasons which have led to the adoption of these plans.

Immediately however it is essential that personnel at all levels persistently ask for information they need not wait for it to be handed to them on a platter.

Conversely, it is equally important that we all readily supply significant information to those whom it may affect.



Changes in briquette complex

(From P.1)

a significant improvement in briquette quality to the customer will follow because damage incurred in multiple handling and storage will be avoided.

In the industrial market the revised distribution system will not differ greatly from present arrangements in which bulk loose briquettes are consigned either direct to customers or to Commission depots. Main difference will be establishment of the major industrial briquette storages at Morwell with a corresponding elimination of large metropolitan storages.

The change is planned to be made progressively and as early as possible. Some main features in our Region will be :-

- * An early build-up in the output of bagged briquettes from the existing bagging hoppers at Morwell. This will involve more extensive shift working in this section.
- * The installation of a mechanical bagging plant at Morwell factories capable of bagging at a peak winter rate of 3,000 tons or 60,000 bags of household briquettes a day. This plant will operate on a shift basis to match briquette production and will have an output of over 10 million bags a year.
- * An extension of the existing 15,000 ton industrial briquette storage at Morwell to 25,000 tons.
- * Establishment of a new 40,000 ton industrial storage adjacent to Morwell factories 'A' and 'B' with a stocking and reclaiming conveyor system to enable outloading of the briquettes to the existing rail loading centre. This will form a working stock to cover daily and seasonal fluctuations in industrial market demand.
- * Establishment of a 40,000 ton emergency storage in the Morwell area to provide supplies in the event of unavoidable cessation of production. This storage may possibly be serviced by the conveyor now supplying briquettes to the Lurgi gas plant.
- * Development and introduction of an ordering and consigning system to forecast and receive all briquette market requirements and to closely schedule production and rail truck despatch according to market demand.
- * Adjustment of Morwell factory operations to maximise production over the winter months and to minimise seasonal storage requirements. This adjustment will include installation of air injection equipment to increase coal driers output.

Service Register

25 YEARS

E. S. Jones Administration Division
W. G. Theobald Power Division

30 YEARS

M. F. Gray Services Division

35 YEARS

W. Burgoyne Services Division
C. Foy Administration Division
L. S. Hyde Services Division
P. Smith Services Division

Congratulations to the following long service men, who, at July 31 had:

20 YEARS

R. F. Bobsien Services Division
F. W. Daddo Briquetting Division
A. B. Furness Coal Division
J. L. Heenan Coal Division
G. E. McCarrick Coal Division

"New" No. 10 Dredger to be tested next month



This article has been written by MR. RON McPHERSON, Engineer in Charge, Dredger Erection Site.

Travel down the Midland Highway towards Yinnar and you'll see, just some two hundred yards to the left leaving Morwell, two rather strange-looking structures already about one hundred feet high: Nos. 10 and 11 Dredgers in course of construction.

Many will recall the accident which occurred during testing of the then-completed No. 10 Dredger in May, 1968. The new feature of a tilting ballast box, which makes this Dredger safer in operation than any now in service, became unstable when being tested to its extreme limit and the resulting crash very extensively damaged the machine.

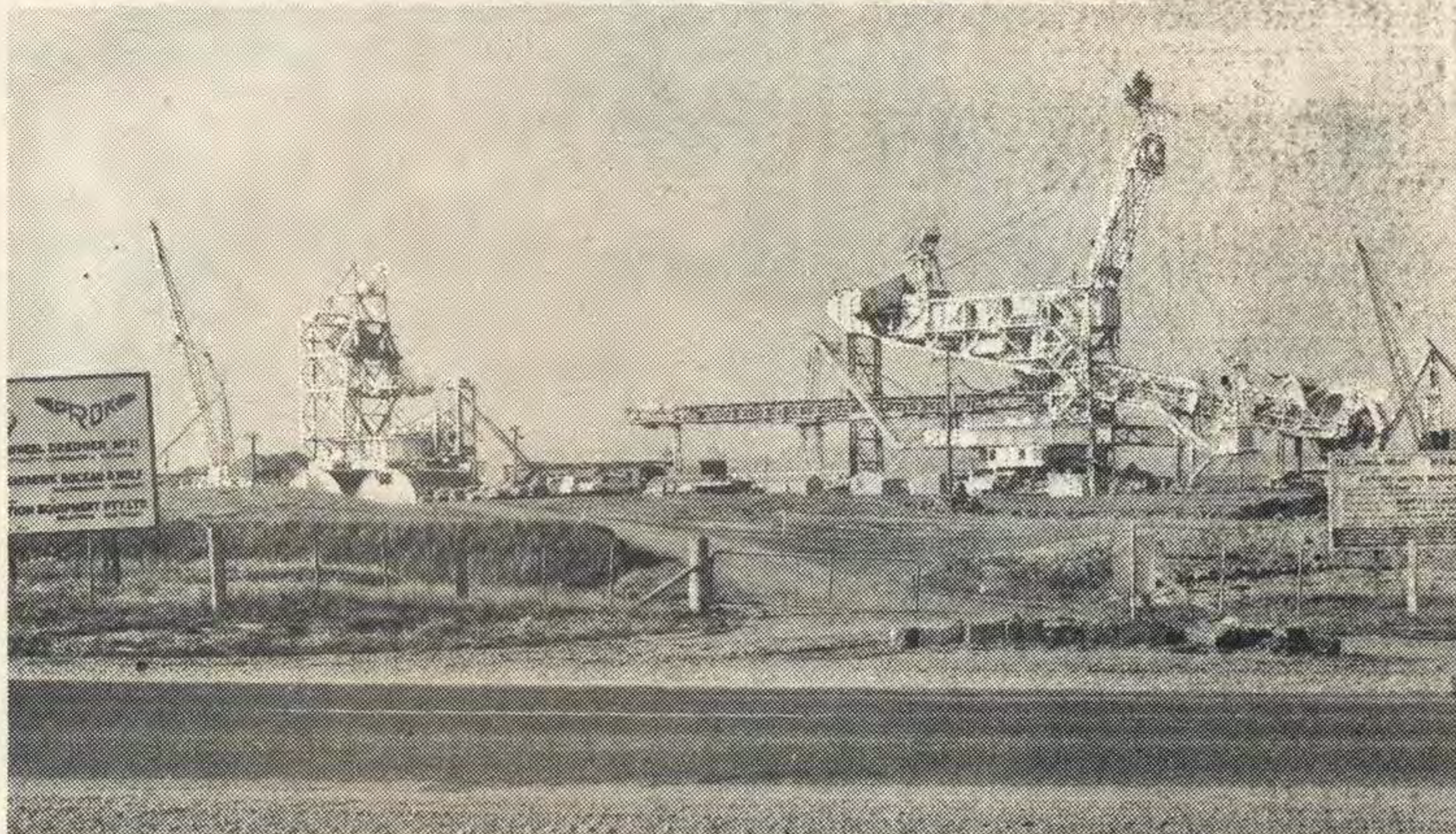
The design was altered by providing limiting links for the ballast box which will ensure its complete safety, and provide a good degree of protection against falls of coal or other uncontrollable forces which tend to make a dredger unstable.

After a thorough examination of the damage and manufacture of new parts both in Germany and at Marfleet and Weight's, Melbourne Works, rebuilding started about August 1968 and has been proceeding concurrently with stripping of damaged parts which had commenced early in June, 1968.

No. 10 Dredger is now expected to be ready for testing to commence in August-September and be handed over for commercial operation in November-December.

No. 10 will replace No. 20 Dredger on excavating overburden (No. 20 had been brought back into service after the collapse of No. 10 and will also spend about 60% of its operating hours as a coal-winning machine).

The 33-foot diameter bucket wheel will be capable of excavating 2,600 tons of



solid overburden in an hour either from a face height of 60 feet or delivering to a conveyor 30 feet above the bench on which it is working.

Power supply will be through a 5,000 feet long trailing cable on a drum, which is part of the dredger, to a 400 kVA 6,600 volt transformer. The Dredger will travel at a maximum speed of 1/3 m.p.h. and be capable of climbing a 1 in 20 grade. Although its service weight will be approximately 1,640 tons, this will be distributed by large pads, so the ground pressure will be only 1 ton per square foot.

The length of the machine will be 280 feet and its height 130 feet. Supplier is Krupp of Rheinhausen, Germany, but a large proportion of the steelwork is Australian.

Because No. 10 did not move off to the Open Cut in May, 1968, there had to be

a large extension at the construction site to allow erection of No. 11. As well as the two 15-ton travelling cranes used for No. 10 an additional crane of 20 tons capacity with a 120 foot jib was provided.

No. 11 Next Year

Erection of No. 11 commenced in September, 1968; it is due to be handed over for commercial operation, digging coal, in 1970.

Although this machine is being supplied by a different manufacturer, Buchau R. Wolf of Neuss/Rhein-Stresemann, Germany, its performance will be very similar to that of No. 10. It has to be capable of excavating 1,760 tons of solid coal in an hour (2,400 tons solid overburden).

Service weight, ground pressure, travelling speed, length and height are very similar to those of No. 10, but when completed it will look quite different. There will be no tilting ballast box and the counterweight truss will be much slimmer. The method of supporting the discharge boom will also be different. As with No. 10, a large proportion of the steelwork is of Australian manufacture.

Both dredgers are needed to keep up supplies of coal to Hazelwood Power Station, and No. 10 to dig the increased quantities of overburden required. Both machines will deliver to the constantly extending conveyor system of Morwell Open Cut.

Should you wish to get an idea of the quantity of material being dug by one of these dredgers, just estimate how many ten-ton trucks would be required to take 2,600 tons of overburden every hour from No. 10 Dredger, a distance of 2 1/2 miles to the overburden dump!

Wise owl award



On May 5 this year Mr. Frank Taylor, Instrument Maker and Repairer, was welding the blade of a band saw when a piece of molten metal flew off and struck his safety spectacles at a spot directly in line with the pupil of his left eye.

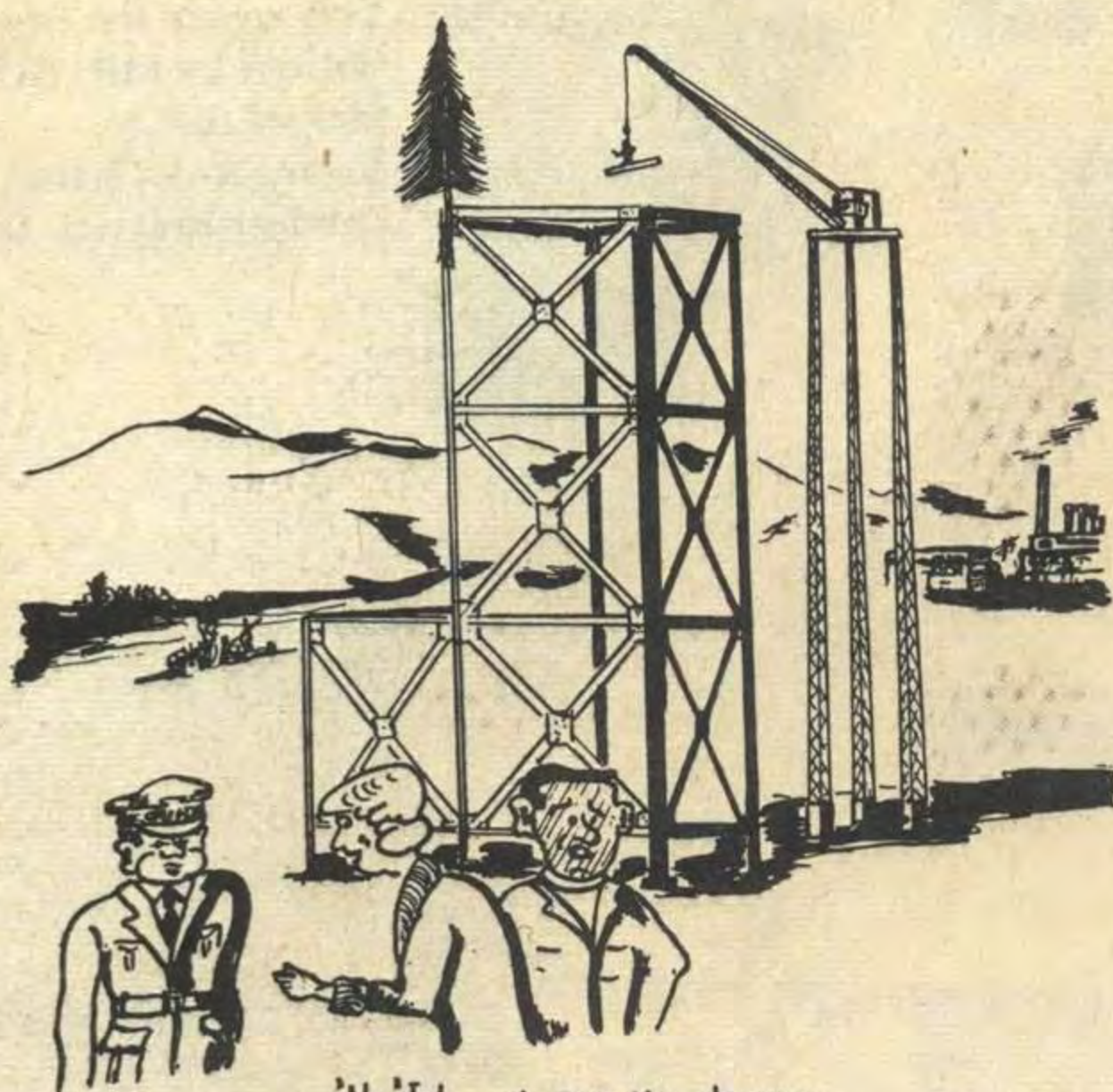
This work had been carried out on a number of previous occasions without incident.

At a function in the Power Station Lecture Room this month Mr. J. J. Robertson Power Engineer, Latrobe Valley Region, presented Frank with a certificate, a Wise Owl Badge to wear in the workshop and a Gold Badge for his lapel.

The Wise Owl Club was formed in Australia in 1967. Frank is Victoria's sixth Member, the Commission's fourth and the Region's second.

The Club is sponsored by the National Safety Council of Australia and the Australian Foundation for the prevention of blindness.

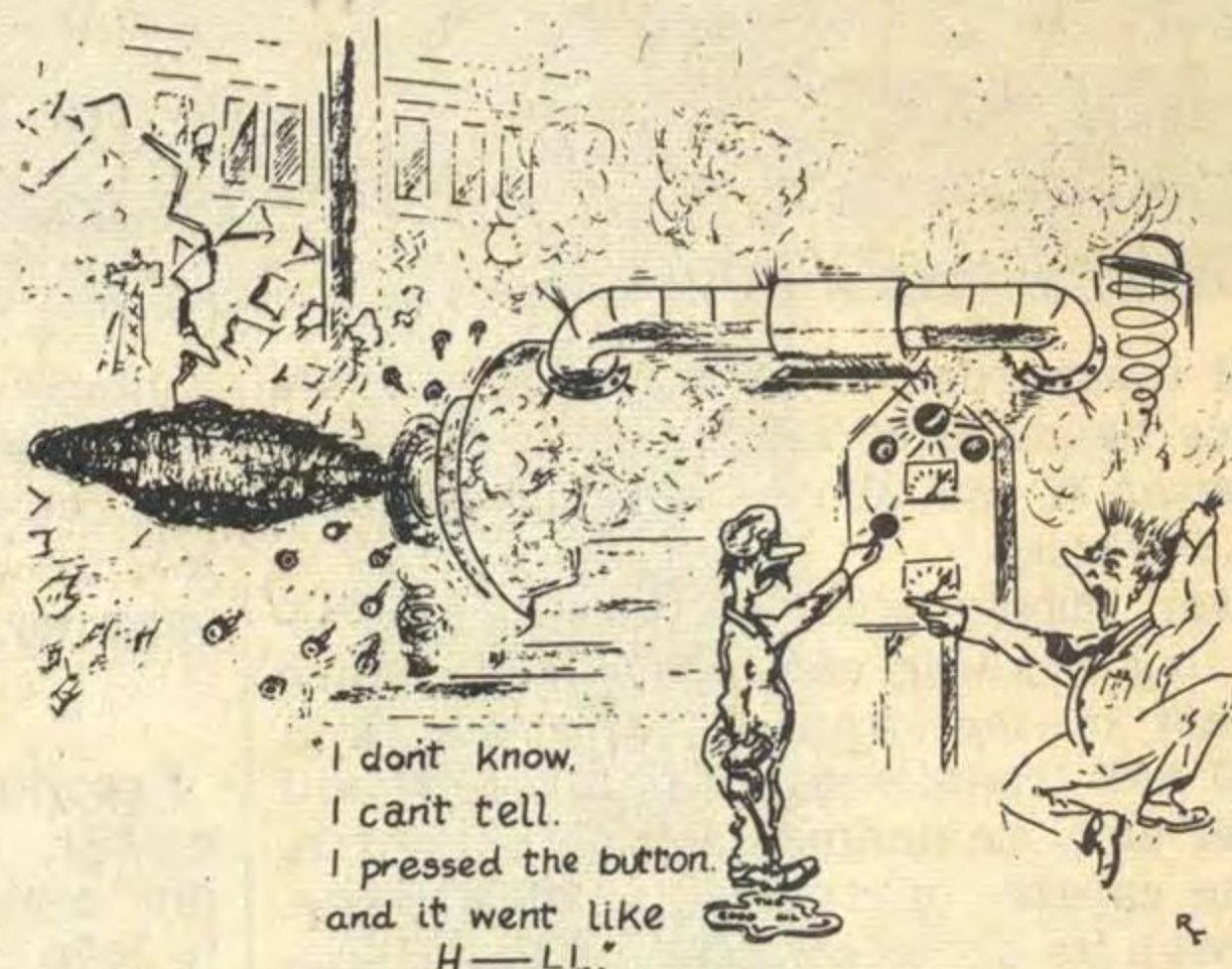
Contact Laugh-in



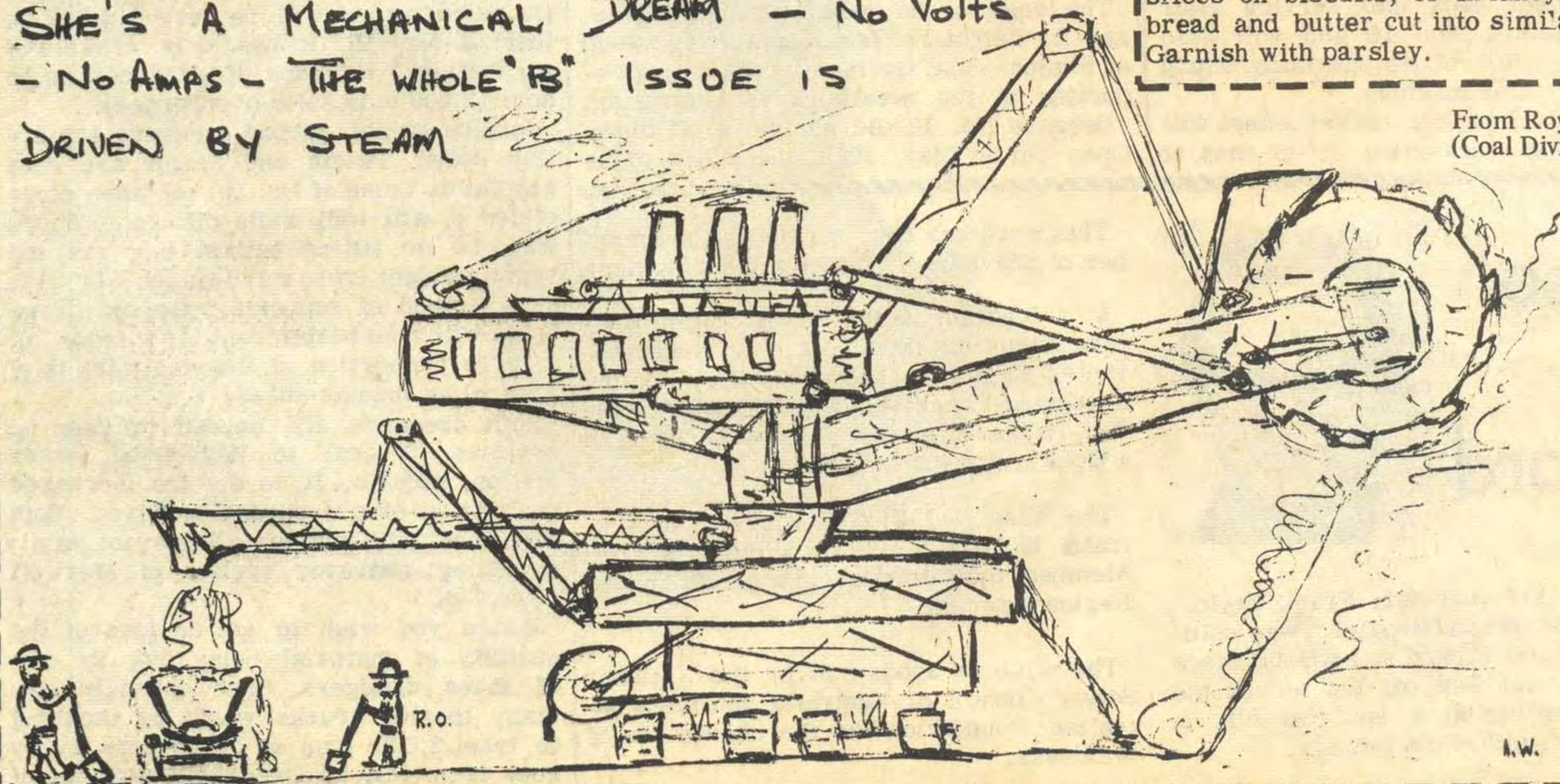
From the pen of Mr. H. Clegg
(Yallourn Power Station)

'No 'It's not for the dogman.

Contributed by Bob Essler
(Morwell Briquette Factory)



SHE'S A MECHANICAL DREAM — No Volts
— No Amperes — THE WHOLE 'B' ISSUE IS
DRIVEN BY STEAM



From Roy Mawby
(Coal Division)

Contact is pleased to publish its first three "home-made" cartoons. These came in response to our appeal in last month's issue and the gentlemen concerned are \$3.00 better off.

We received a number of cartoons and although some of them were quite funny they had a limited appeal — dealing with their sections only.

Contact wants more cartoons of wider interest and will pay \$3.00 for every one published. Send them with your name and section to the Public Liaison Section, Morwell.

Lovely recipe

The following recipe, extracted from a recent edition of "Cooking Better Electrically", is published by Contact in the interests of more gracious living, without further comment:

COOKING FOR NEWLYWEDS

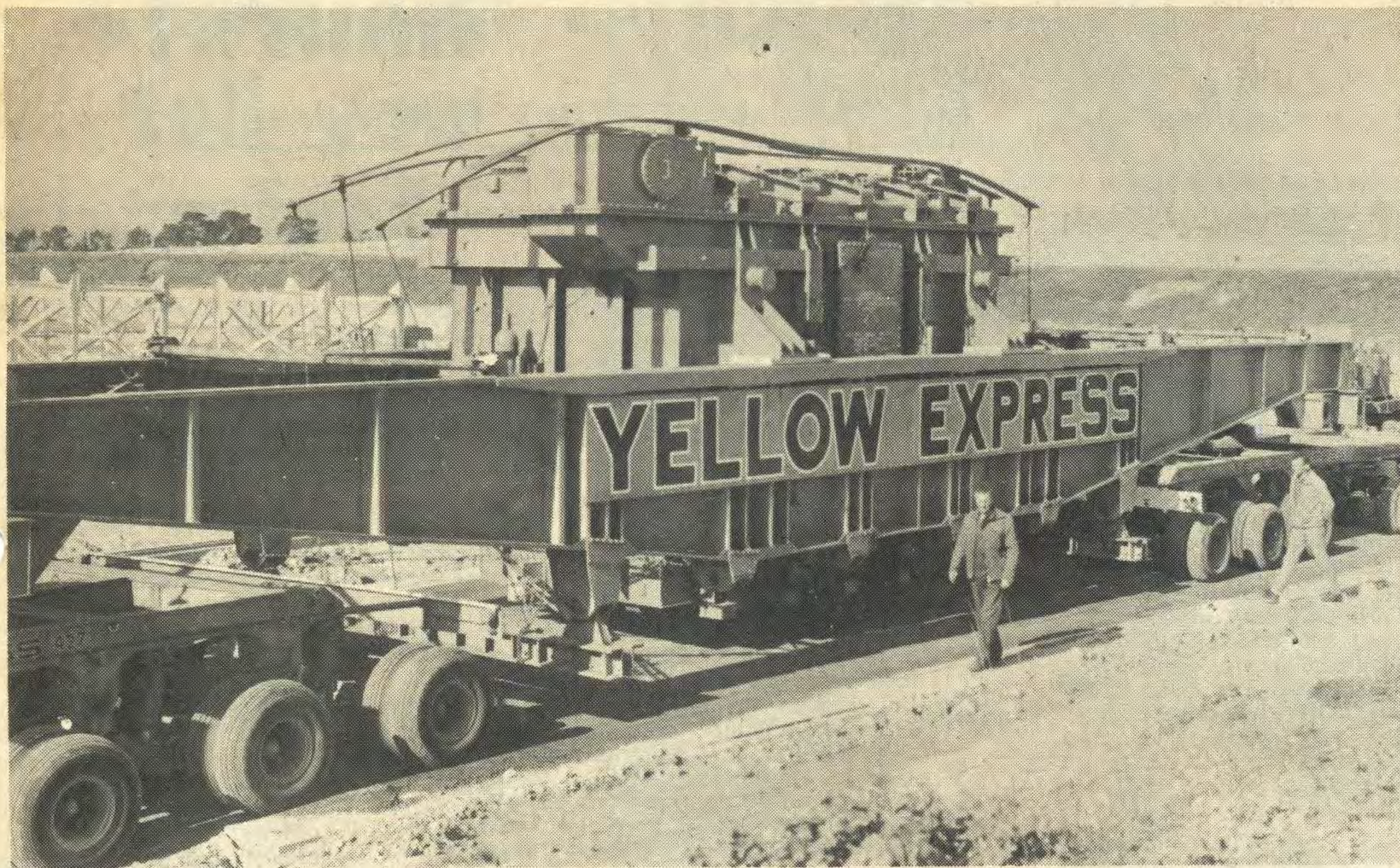
Savoury Tit-Bits

CRAB SAVOURY.

1 can crab meat, 1 dessertspoon gelatine, 1/4 cup hot water, 2 egg yolks, 2 tablespoons vinegar, 2 tablespoons melted butter, 3/4 cup milk, 1 teaspoon mustard, 1 teaspoon salt, cayenne.

Chop crab finely. Dissolve gelatine in hot water. Mix egg yolks, vinegar, butter, milk and seasonings. Place in double boiler and cook until mixture thickens, stirring constantly. Cool. Add gelatine and crab, mix well. Set in a shallow dish and serve in slices on biscuits, or in fancy shapes on bread and butter cut into similar shape. Garnish with parsley.

...and that's a lot of load!



The middle of this month saw the arrival in the Valley of the first 230kV/515kV transformer for the new Hazelwood Terminal Station. Manufactured by the Tokyo Shibaura Electric Company, Limited, the new "Toshiba" is forerunner of many more Japanese units to come into the area.

Delivery of the main tank to the site was no mean feat for Yellow Express, which brought it complete with its core and windings by road from Port Melbourne.

The company had to use the largest vehicle in its fleet, a fully trailable unit, the largest trailer of its type in Australia, which had been specially procured for the cartage of large power transformers.

The trailer cost approximately \$200,000, is 116 feet long and can be varied in width up to 18 feet. When loaded, it requires three prime movers, one in front and two at the rear and with them in position, the vehicle is over 210 feet long and weighs 123 tons. Add to this the 106 ton weight of the transformer tank and windings and the gross weight exceeded 229 tons. To carry this sizeable load, the trailer has 10 axles and 80 wheels (110 wheels including the prime movers) making an average wheel load of 2.1/4 tons.

It is interesting to note that even with a load of this size there was only one location on the Princes Highway between Melbourne and Morwell which required a detour - the bridge over the Victorian Railways tracks at Warragul.

Raise Or Lower

The vehicle was fitted with an elaborate hydraulic system which enabled the load to be raised or lowered while it was in motion, the maximum movement being 21



By GEOFF HALL,
Engineer, Regional
Control Centre,
Yallourn.

inches. This enabled the ground clearance to be increased to clear obstacles and for the load to be lowered for low clearance bridges or overload wires.

The hydraulic system was also used for power steering of the wheel assemblies at the front and rear of the trailer enabling the vehicle to negotiate corners as sharp as 90 deg. from one 45 ft. wide road to another 45 ft. wide road.

Erection of the transformers at the Terminal Station is being carried out by

T.A. Mellons Pty. Ltd., under the direction of an erector from Japan. It is expected that the first bank of transformers will be completed by January, 1970, and the last by June, 1970.

On completion each transformer will weigh 192 tons, contain 15,000 gallons of oil, and stand 35 feet high. When commissioned they will operate at the highest system voltage - 515,000 volts - in the Southern Hemisphere and the nine in-service transformers will be capable of transforming enough electrical energy to supply three quarters of Victoria's needs.

Spark-a- arkaling!



ROLLS, Mr. Mark (Commercial Administrative Officer, Coal Division, Yallourn) to Miss Alison Dunt of Newtown, Geelong.



How we spend our "leisure" hours!

OR: 'The transitory type curse'

We don't like the idea of blowing our own trumpet; in our youth we were told it was unmanly and it used to be very un-Australian. But this particular fanfare has been forced out of us by a report which appeared recently in a local newspaper, claiming amongst other things that the winning of brown coal "creates and encourages a transitory type workforce with little feeling of pride and permanence."

Now it cannot be denied that a number of S.E.C. personnel come to the Latrobe Valley, make their contribution to its development, and then move on to conquer fresher fields.

Their stay here makes them more proficient and effective in their work, and Victoria in general and the Commission in particular benefits greatly from the knowledge they have acquired whilst with us.

Scattered throughout the State, they in turn become good salesmen and even ambassadors for the Valley and in the end we all benefit.

Great Contributions

Many hundreds, however, have settled down in the Valley, raised families and made great contributions to the municipal, social, cultural and sporting life of our communities. "Contact" thought that you might like to know how some of these "stay-puts" spend their leisure hours.

The Shire President of Narracan and one of his councillors, the Mayor of Moe and three of his fellow councillors, three Morwell Shire councillors, one Traralgon City councillor, and five out of the six members of the Yallourn Town Advisory Council, earn their daily bread through the sale of electricity, briquettes, and brown coal.

Incidentally, all our wages and salaries come from the sale of these three products and not from the taxpayers' pockets, as is so commonly believed. Whilst on this subject we have some pretty good taxpayers in our ranks - collectively we gave the Federal Treasurer over \$5 million in income tax in the financial year just ended.

The President of the Latrobe Valley Development Committee comes from our ranks; three of our officers are prominent in the organisation conducting next year's Latrobe Valley Festival; and the treasurer and one committee-man of ALVA are S.E.C. personnel.

Ex-Servicemen

When the war broke out in 1939, SEC

men weren't slow to become involved and today they are just as well represented in ex-service organisations.

Many hundreds are members of the various R.S.L. sub-branches in the Valley. In the Moe R.S.L. the President, Treasurer one vice President and eight committee-men are S.E.C. men; in Newborough it's the President, Secretary, Treasurer and seven out of the eight committee men; in Yallourn the Vice-President, Treasurer and all ten committee-men; whilst in Morwell it's the Secretary, Treasurer and four committee-men.

The Commission is also well represented in the L.V. Legacy group, supplying the President, Secretary and Treasurer and ten other members. The President, Treasurer and four committee-men of the Air Force Association are Commission "types"; whilst the silent (?) Service, not to be outdone, has a predominantly Commission membership and an all-Commission executive. All the office bearers and most of the members of the United Services Institution are from the Commission as are the instructors of the Air League, Air Training Cadets and Sea Cadets.

There are 13 S.E.C. men spread

over

the three

Apex Clubs

of Moe, Morwell

and Traralgon. Moe

leads with nine including

the President, Secretary,

Secretary-Elect and two life

members, and one of our

young engineers has taken

over the helm of Morwell

Apex.

Twenty-five Commission

men are members of the

Jaycees and three are

Lions.

Helping Handicapped

Filling a long-felt need in the Valley is the Sheltered Workshop located in Moe, and the Treasurer, Secretary, and two board members are our men.

Another S.E.C. officer is the President of Coinda Hill in Traralgon; two others are President and Secretary of Morwell Auxiliary of the Helping Hand Association which assists Coinda, whilst yet another serves on the Committee of the Dalkeith

Home for the Aged.

Twelve Social Clubs have been established by our personnel to satisfy their own requirements, and the hospitality afforded by these clubs to many hundreds of non-S.E.C. people in the Valley has become a by-word.

The Commission is well to the fore in Scouting, supplying no fewer than one Assistant District Commissioner, one district Scout Master, one District Senior Scout Leader, three group scout masters, three assistant group scoutmasters, three scout masters, one district chairman, secretary and treasurer, and six group chairmen, four secretaries and treasurers. In addition, countless others with their wives and members of their families, serve on the many administrative and fund-raising committees.

Schools Too

"Contact" baulked at the idea of finding how many of our people - again with their wives - were members of school committees, but we did discover that at least 27 are on High and Technical School Advisory Councils.

S.E.C. personnel are also well known as patrons of the Arts and can be found in the Morwell Players, the Light Opera Society, the Thespians, Little Theatre, and Yallourn's famous Madrigal Singers.

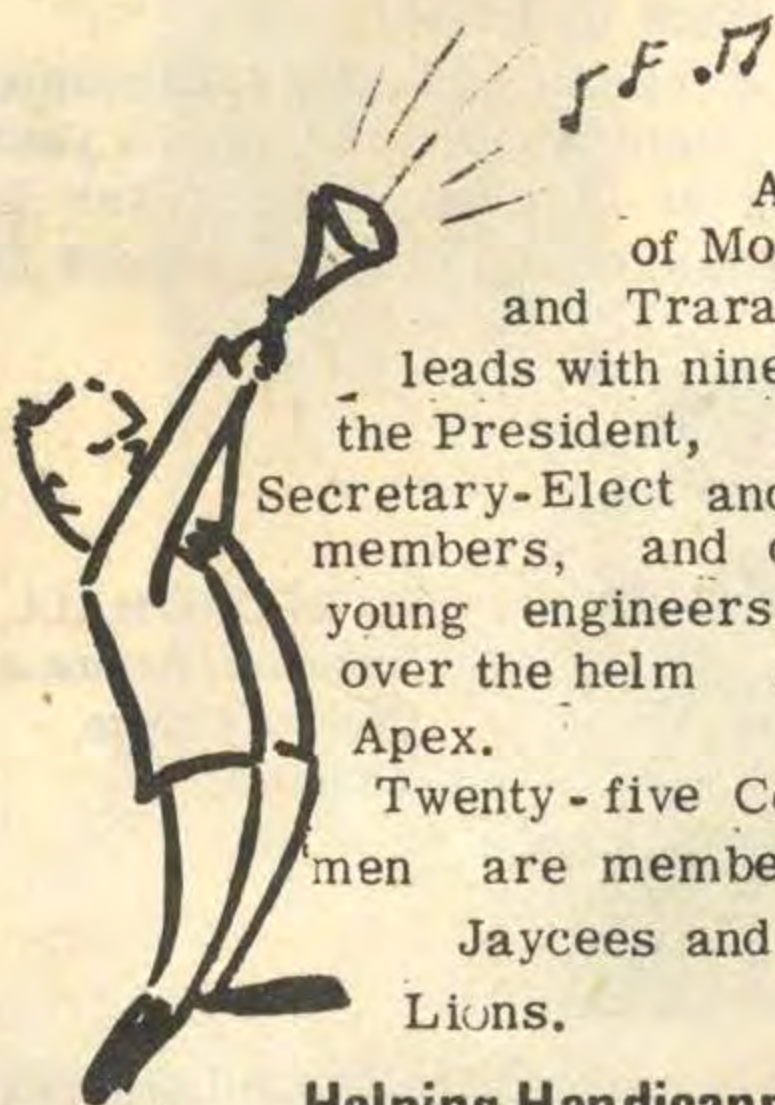
In the sporting field, the Moe, Yallourn and Morwell football clubs have three Commission secretaries and a total of 20 committeemen, not to mention the many players.

In swimming, tennis, cricket, basketball, baseball, soccer, water-skiing and yachting, S.E.C. men play important roles as administrators and in many cases as outstanding competitors. In their hundreds, they can be found on all of the Valley's excellent bowling greens in the summer and autumn months and there are an estimated 560 S.E.C. golfers in the three clubs, Moe, Yallourn and Traralgon, which have a total membership of approximately 870.

On Record

On and off the job Commission personnel give outstanding service to their communities throughout Victoria and in no place more so than the Latrobe Valley.

They do it without fuss or any thought of recompense and "Contact" is happy to place just a little of their service on record. It regrets that so many clubs and organisations have been left out, but you were promised a fanfare, not a symphony concert and as we said before, we really don't like the idea of blowing our own trumpet!



Hobby Coins can tell you a lot!

Before we met Bill de Vroom, we always thought that a numismatist was just a collector of coins. Like many people we had tried this ourselves, but always seemed to be well "cleaned out" the day before pay day.

But, there's a lot more to it than that!

Besides collecting coins, a numismatist studies their design and from them learns the reason for their issue and something of the economic, political, social and even geographical conditions of their country of origin.

Bill's interest in coins was aroused forty-five years ago, when a 5th grade schoolmate brought some to school. His mother started him off with a few and his uncle who owned a cigar shop in Amsterdam helped him on his way.

In 1934 Bill joined the Dutch Merchant Navy as a marine engineer and travelling all over the world, deepened his interest. He now has over 2,000 coins in his collection and estimates its value at well over \$4,000, many of the pieces being irreplaceable.

About 80 different countries are represented in the collection, some in sets and others in single pieces. The oldest coin is a Roman one which he reckons is of the 50 A.D. vintage and several other date from the 3rd and 4th century.

Educational Awards

Bill takes part in the annual papers contest - the writing of articles for the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society in California and several of his papers have been published in "Calcon News", the Association's official quarterly magazine. For two years in succession he won the magazine's second prize for his articles and last year was awarded first prize. His articles have also won two educational awards from the American Numismatic Association.

Service Recognised

Bill is a member of the Morwell Society (which has 20 members) of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society, and is a Fellow of the Numismatic Society of South Australia. This last award was made in appreciation of his great service to the Society in general, and to the Australian Numismatic Journal in particular.



Who Am I?

This is an extract for a British Army First Aid Manual issued during the 1914-18 War to Private Andrew Watson of the Royal Medical Corps, British Expeditionary Force. It is submitted by his son, Tom Watson, First Aid Attendant Workshops area, Yallourn.

I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world;

I have destroyed more men than all the wars of all the nations;

I am more deadly than bullets, and have wrecked more homes than the mightiest of siege guns.

I spare no-one and find my victims among rich and poor alike;

The young and the old, the strong and the weak, widows and orphans know me.

I loom so largely that I cast my shadows over every field of labour;

From the turning of every grindstone to the moving of every truck and train.

I lurk in unseen places and do most of my work silently;

You are warned against me - but you heed me not.

I am relentless - I am everywhere!

In the home, on the street, in the factory;

At railway crossings or at sea.

I bring sickness, degradation and death;

And yet few seek to avoid me;

I destroy, crush and maim;

I give nothing but take all.

WHO AM I?

I AM CARELESSNESS

Mr. Tom Watson, who contributed this question on safety.



**ARE YOU MAKING CONTACT?
IF YOU HAVE NEWS FOR OUR
REGIONAL MAGAZINE PHONE
PUBLIC LIAISON ON EXTENSION
3170 OR 2773.**

Let's have a ball....!



Past president of Hazelwood social club Allan Castelow (left) and wife Joyce chat with current president Frank Pye and wife Marie.



Taking the dance floor at Powerhouse Ball, Kernot Hall, Mrs. R. Rennington and H. Wandmaker.

Complete with fire extinguisher: Elaine and Barry Stewart, Ken and Nancy Freeman, and Anna and Ray Langton enjoy Powerhouse ball.



Gordon Loraine (centre) welcomes Barbara and Graeme Sambell to Karma.



Oh happy days! Cheery grins belong to (from left) Ken Grant, Gloria Warhurst, and Laraine and Tom Rilen.



At the "Captain's Table", Kernot Hall, were (from left) Mr. and Mrs. Bede Gilmore, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Penney, and Head Office guests Mr. and Mrs. Bob White.

"Say cheese!" We don't know what Ken Withell (left) is saying, but wife Dot, and Murray and Lyn French are dazzling our camera with their toothy-pegs!



Foxtrotting gaily at Powerhouse Ball, Mrs. Kay Green and Mr. Peter Collins.



Dancing at Kernot Hall: Betty McKean and Gerald Knight.



What a joke! Big laughs at Morwell staff ball from Alan Faith, Bev and Eddy Brock, Julie Faith, and Joe van Vliet.



Swinging night at Hazelwood P/S ball being had by Rosalie Wood, Tim Skilton, John Rowlands, Ivana Rowlands, and Nora Skilton.



Lookit those legs! Gals and guys at Kernot Hall are (from legs err left) Maria Janoski, Graham Thomas, Teresa Gorbai, John Wasiukiewicz, and Zita and Martin Litjens.



After almost 43 years of service — 39 of them continuous — MR. R. C. (REG) ALLFORD retired July 18.

In Yallourn Workshops a gathering of some 300 attended a function to bid him farewell. Among those present were 13 former Commission employees who, between them, could claim 380½ years of service.

During his service Reg acquired two nicknames — "Battle-axe" and "Stumpy".

All praised Reg for his loyalty and co-operation and made special mention of Reg's constant willingness to help other people. Reg has been active in community affairs and in the sporting world.

It was recalled that many years ago Reg's motor cycle was a means of transport for members of the local football team!

MR. ROBERT A. ANDERSON retired on June 25 after 20 years service. Bob, a clerk with the Education and Training Section, Latrobe Valley Region, was farewelled by a number of his colleagues at a function in the Regional Training Centre. He was presented with a barometer and an electric razor, the gifts of his many friends. Bob is remaining in the Valley and will continue to play both bowls and carpet bowls.

On July 18, MR. J. E. (JOE) ROGERS, Senior Clerk, Supply Section, Stores, Yallourn, retired after nearly 22 years' service with the Commission.

Prior to joining the Commission Joe served in the R.A.A.F. and attained the rank of Squadron Leader.

For many years he and his wife made regular visits to patients in the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital and assisted with the distribution of books supplied by the Red Cross. Both are keen gardeners and fond of fishing.

Joe is a radio "ham" of some note.

A function was held in Moe Club and Joe accepted on behalf of Mrs. Rogers a crystal bowl and dish.

A presentation was made at the home of MR. ARNOLD KAARMAE, Leading Hand Loco Driver, Coal Division, on his retirement from the Commission after 20 years.

Mr. D. Wakefield, Coal Operations Superintendent, who presented Arnold with a portable typewriter, thanked him for his loyal and conscientious service and wished him a long and happy retirement.



All the very best, chaps..



MR. W.T. (BILL) CONNORS, Tradesman's Assistant at Yallourn Power Station, retired after nearly 20 years service with the Commission.

Mr. Arthur Ewen, Power Station Superintendent, Yallourn presented Bill with an electric frypan, a power drill and a slide viewer. These were gifts from his workmates.

Bill has been living in Newborough but is off to Tasmania for his retirement. There he intends to indulge in fishing, shooting and touring.



MR.F.(FREDDIE) CHURCH retired after 19 years' service on July 16.

For some time Freddie has not enjoyed the best of health and a presentation of a wallet of notes, a barometer and a set of glasses was made to him at his home.

Freddie enjoys horse racing, but his first love is greyhound racing, a sport in which he has enjoyed some success.

Freddie is a popular man and served for a number of years as Shop Steward for the Bricklayers Union.



MR. E. A. (TED) GAMBLE retired after nine years' service this month.

Prior to joining the Commission Ted had a farm in the Thorpdale area and a spell of timber felling in Queensland. He then returned to Gippsland and set up as a barber.

All his time with the Commission was in Services Division and he retires as a Skilled Builder's Labourer.

Ted has no intention of being idle in his retirement and hopes to find some work which will occupy at least some of his time.

At a function in 'C. Station Canteen, Yallourn, nearly 200 of his colleagues were present to say farewell to BILL CUNNINGHAM who retired after some 22 years' service with the Commission, the last 10 years of this being continuous and all at Yallourn Power Station.

Bill started his career in Power Stations in 1920 at Nhil. Subsequently he had a sojourn in Adelaide and then came back to Victoria spending some 12 years at Portland Power Station. In 1959 he was appointed to Yallourn Power Station as a fitter in the boiler house.



Apprenticeship drive -how we go about it



What will you do on leaving school? This is the question a Commission representative will put to fourth and fifth form students when he talks at schools in the Latrobe Valley during the coming apprentice recruitment programme.

This article by Mr.
Bob McLeod —
Acting Technical
Training Officer.

Sons of many of our readers will be amongst those students and our readers will be interested to know what occurs in recruiting apprentices each year.

To assist them to decide their future, students will be provided with sufficient information to enable them to make a choice, perhaps with the Commission, or perhaps some other organisation. They are given an appreciation of trade careers available and the apprentice's responsibilities, to himself and his employer. An apprentice's responsibilities include compulsory attendance at trade schooling and a need to produce work of good standard, both on the job and at trade school.

These two responsibilities, together with behaviour are assessed throughout an apprenticeship, but more particularly during an apprentice's three months probationary period.

In early September, advertisements are placed in local newspapers and application forms become available at schools and showrooms.

Vacancies exist in the Latrobe Valley for Fitting and Turning, Boilermaking, Instrument Making and Repairing, Electrical Fitting, and Electrical Mechanics.

Sees for Himself

Tours of works Area are arranged through the Schools for interested students. The aim of the tour is to give each student a chance to see for himself what is involved in the trade in which he is interested. Past experience indicates that many applicants know very little about the job for which they are applying and in some cases have made no attempt to find out anything.

This could mean a student enters a field for which he is ill-equipped and this can cause problems throughout the whole of his working career. The tour is an opportunity for the student to gain the information he needs to make a decision, but it is up to each individual to ask the questions he needs answered. Among the locations students will visit are the Yallourn Power Station, Open Cut, Central Workshops and Apprentice Training Workshops.

Applications are forwarded together with Report Books containing mid-year examination results. The Commission's minimum educational requirement is to have

successfully completed fourth form or be in a position to do so at the end of the year. While good performance at the mid-year examinations will gain the applicant an interview, school results are only one of the factors considered by the Selection Panel.

The role of the Selection Panel is to ensure the most appropriate applicants are selected. Factors considered besides school results include knowledge of what is involved in the job, general interests, any special aptitudes and the applicant's presentation. The interview is also an

opportunity for the applicant to clear up any unanswered questions.

Applicants are notified as soon as possible after the interviews are completed and those successful are offered apprenticeships, conditional on their passing the end of year examinations and obtaining a satisfactory report. Wherever possible unsuccessful applicants are kept on a waiting list to cover possible withdrawals.

So when the question is put to students 'What will you do on leaving school?' ensure your son thinks deeply of what will be one of the most important decisions he makes - a choice of career.

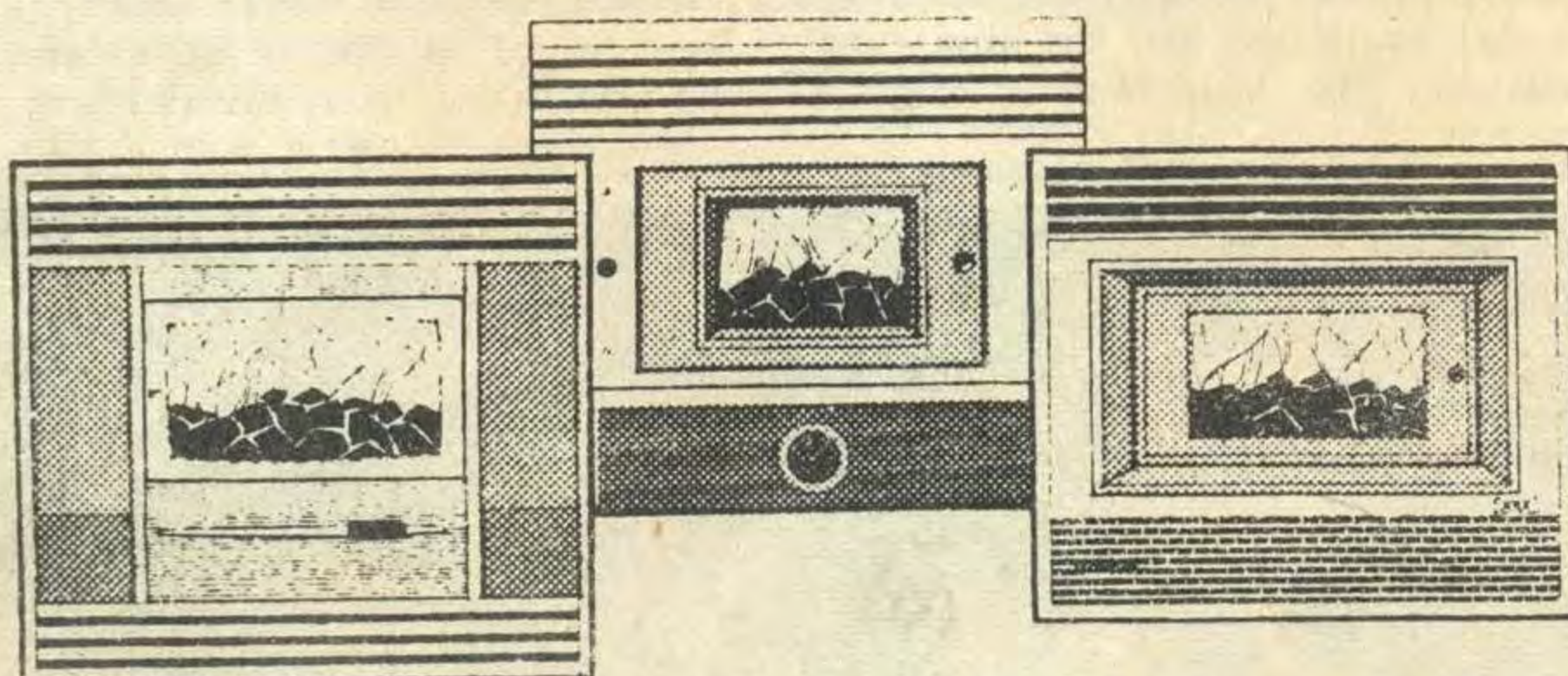


* Who's the lucky man? Why cares? The gal is Yvonne Barrett, who entertained at the Yallourn Briquetting Social Club dinner dance, Rossmore Hotel, Yallourn North, this month. Actually the lucky man is "Flossy" Davis.

* Morwell Staff ball at Kernot Hall on July 18 drew bright crowd, including (from left) Sue Campbell, John Tewierik, Jenny O'Brien, Chris Peters, Rae Owler, Joe Kampheug, Elizabeth Beckman, Bruce Scherell, Kevin Veysey, and Val Fletcher.



Briquettes lead in the



space race!

In our last issue we said the briquette boys were "flat out" keeping up with the heavy winter demand. Apparently that was an understatement: they have been working harder than they ever have before.

The Briquette Sales Branch has announced that despite the most intensive competition between fuels ever known in Victoria, sales of briquettes on both the domestic and industrial markets for the year ended June 30, were an all-time record.

Five hundred and forty-three thousand tons were sold to the domestic market and 564,000 tons to the industrial and export markets.

One of the reasons for the high sales is the firm hold on the heating market enjoyed by briquette space heaters. An independent survey taken in September last year in the Melbourne metropolitan area showed that of all space heaters installed, 40% were briquette, 18% gas and 18% oil.

There are, of course, many thousands of briquette space heaters installed in Gippsland and in particular the Latrobe Valley area.

You have probably got one in your home. Is it working at its maximum efficiency? Just a few simple rules will ensure that you get the most heat for the lowest operating cost.

The important things to remember are that when you first light the heater you keep the draught control open to its maximum until the briquettes are glowing red. A quick start to your fire will be helped by opening the flue damper during this time.

As soon as the briquettes are glowing red, close the flue damper and adjust the draught control to the burning rate required. Whenever you refuel your heater be sure to open the draught control again until the briquettes are well alight.

Never put too many briquettes on your fire - five or six at a time is quite sufficient. Too many briquettes will tend to choke the fire.

Although briquette space heaters, being a simple unit, are remarkably maintenance free, they will operate better if they are kept clean. The efficiency of these heaters depends on the flue gas passages being cleaned at least once a year. This is a very simple job requiring no special tools and specially prepared "Do-It-Yourself" servicing brochures can be obtained free from the Briquette Advisory Centres at Yallourn and Morwell.

Incidentally, brochures entitled "How to Burn Briquettes to Save You Money"

social calendar

MORWELL S.E.C. STAFF

- 14/11/69 Social/Dinner Dance, Kernot Hall, Yallourn.
- 13/12/69 Children's Christmas Picnic - L. V. Aerodrome.

HAZELWOOD POWER STATION

- 14/12/69 Children's Christmas Picnic - Hazelwood Recreation Ground

CENTRAL WORKSHOPS, YALLOURN

- 22/ 8/69 Smoke Social - place not finalised.
- 12/12/69 Christmas Cabaret - Shaws Ballroom
- 14/12/69 Christmas Picnic - Glengarry Recreation Reserve.

CENTRAL WORKSHOPS AREA, MORWELL

- 31/10/69 Dinner Dance - Kernot Hall
- 30/11/69 Christmas Picnic - Thorpdale Football Ground

MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORY

- 19/ 9/69 Tenth Anniversary Ball - Karma, Morwell.
- 7/12/69 Christmas Picnic - Venue to be A.P.M. Recreation ground on Maryvale Road, adjacent to the A.P.M.

YALLOURN BRIQUETTE FACTORY

- August Annual General Meeting.

LATROBE VALLEY STORES GROUP

- 7/12/69 Christmas Picnic - Thorpdale

are also available from these Advisory Centres.

The Briquette Sales Branch has attributed some of the increase in demand for briquettes to the success of briquette downjet units in the central heating market. We will tell you more about these modern automatic units in our next issue.



Three Safety Awards were presented to personnel of the Yallourn Briquette Factory early this month.

Mr. Jack Bussell, Safety Officer, Yallourn addressed those present at a function in the Briquette Factory Canteen and complimented them on their achievements.

Mr. E. Bell, Briquette Production Superintendent, Yallourn, presented the awards.

He endorsed Mr. Bussell's remarks and made special mention of the Factory's Safety Officer and the Safety Committee.

The awards were as follows:-

GROUP 4 (SHIFT OPERATIONS)
100,000 man-hours on 31st May (420 calendar days).

This Group has now - 4th July - achieved 108,000 man-hours without a disabling accident.

This is their third safety award.

GROUP 10 (ELECTRICAL)
100,000 man-hours on 22nd June (460 calendar days).

As at 4th July this Group has achieved 103,000 man-hours without a disabling accident.

GROUP 5 (OPERATIONS TRANSPORT, YARD AND FUEL DISTRIBUTION)
100,000 man-hours on 28th February (420 calendar days).

Up to 4th July the above figure has increased to 128,000 man-hours.

In addition to individual awards to Group Members the Group was awarded the Competition Shield for the best results of the year.

- (a) Longest continuous run without a disabling accident.
- (b) Least number of minor injuries.



TOP : Group 4 - ABOVE: Group 10 - BELOW: Group 5



The drill on our drilling bit!

Travelling through the Latrobe Valley many will have noticed the somewhat ungainly drilling plants, operating in paddocks, open cuts, or along roadsides. This has been going on since early days in development of our brown coal resources and, in particular, since formation of the S.E.C. drilling section.

One of the initial aims of the drilling has now been largely achieved: the coal seams have been defined and proved over large areas of the Valley. Huge thicknesses have been found to exist, especially at Loy Yang, with the coal seams and associated sediments filling the whole valley.

Confidence in the future reserves of brown coal has been built up by and has resulted from the efficiency and success of past drilling programs.

Things have moved a long way since the early days when, in 1941, the Brown Coal Investigations Section was formed. At this time operations were carried out with two rigs borrowed from the Mines Department.

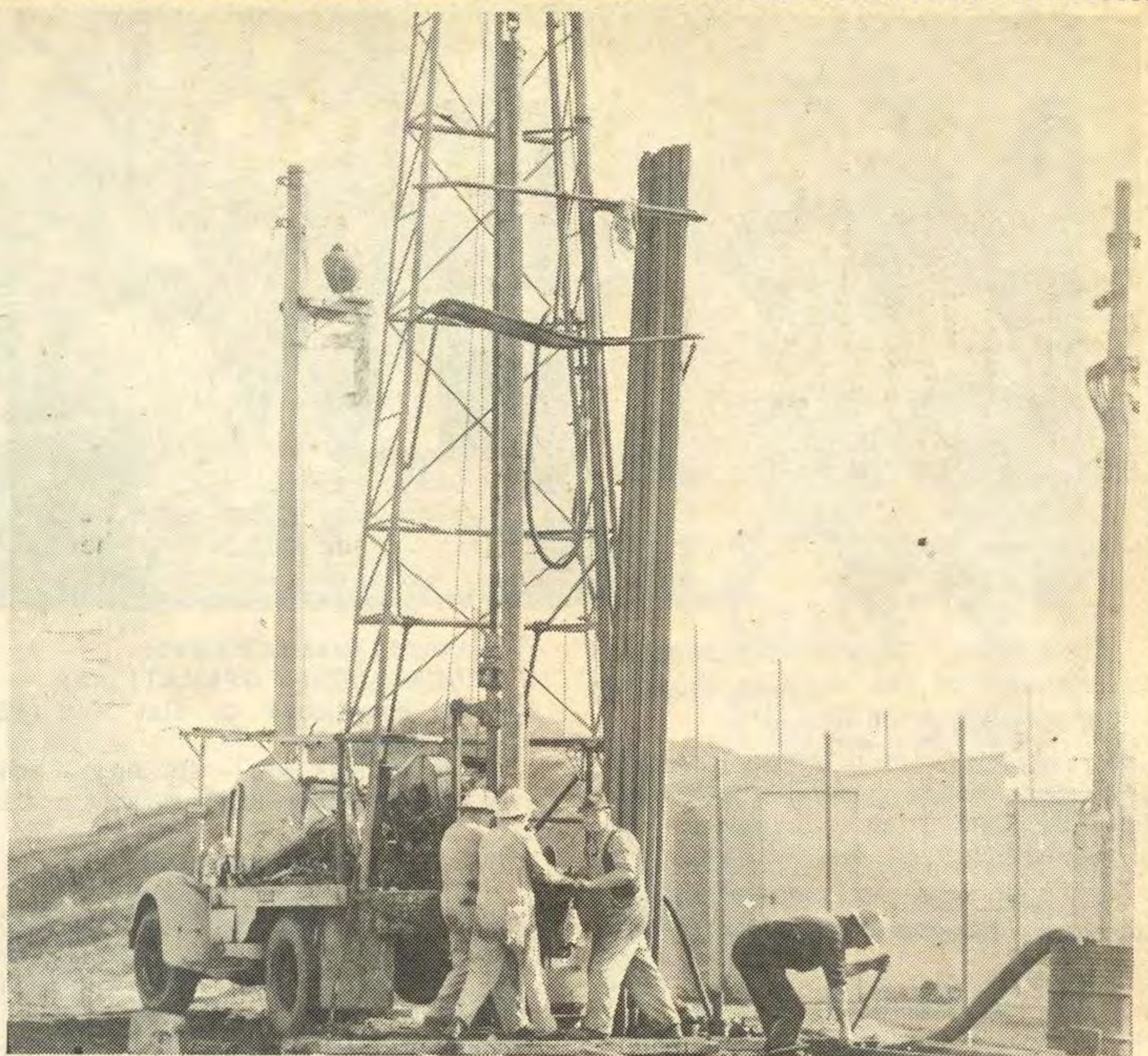
BULLET HOLES

Eventually, however, the Commission obtained its own rigs (one of which arrived from the Pacific war zone complete with bullet holes) and the nucleus of the present organisation was established.

Early members, probably still known to many readers, included Herb Hill, Len Reeves, the late Herman Zwankhuisen, Don Holmes of Fuel Department, Claus Gloe of P. & I. Department, and our perennial Fred Badenhop. Operations were carried out, with considerable independence, from a residential area of Traralgon. Perhaps it is this factor which bred so many characters of the early days; who knows?

As time went on the name of the section changed, eventually to Exploration and Geological and the accent of the drilling adjusted to changing requirements. Nowadays there is more concentration on requirements of the greatly expanded operational side of the undertaking.

A great deal of drilling is still carried out, however, in exploration and proving of untouched resources. Coal is still carefully recovered from bores and despatched to the Commission's Central Scientific Laboratory for analysis - coal which last saw the light of day some 20 to 50 million years ago when the Valley was clothed in swampy primeval forest.



Despite this apparent antiquity, the Coal Measures are geologically young and are of 'soft' sediments and brown coal.

These materials are easily drilled by either percussion rigs, which work simply by repeated dropping of the tools, or by the more sophisticated rotary drill. The latter works by turning the drilling tool into the ground and is easily recognised, if not by the bullet holes from its war time usage, by its truck mounting.

By Dr. Colin Barton,
Regional
Geologist



Slowly, over the years to June, 1969, contractors and S.E.C. plant built up an impressive drilled total of 2,054,66- ft. in 7,776 separate bores. One hole has, in fact, gone to a depth of 1,500 ft., and has still been well short of basement.

DE-WATERING

Perhaps one of the most spectacular features of the drilling has been its connection with the important de-watering of Morwell Open Cut. Here the water is held in a bed of sand some 20 feet to 150 feet beneath the floor of the open cut.

Before the cut was opened this water stood at a level within the overburden,

but water level has been and is still being progressively lowered to reduce upward pressures on the bottom of the open cut.

The water is taken out by putting down bores into the sand, inserting a sieve or bore screen and installing an underwater pump to deliver water to the surface. The water is quite suitable for stock or human consumption and is quite hot as a result of slow chemical and geological changes in the brown coal. Over 5,000 gallons of this water are now pumped out of the open cut every minute.

So next time you see that rig operating, remember it is performing a valuable function in adding to our knowledge of the area's brown coal - a knowledge which is most important in providing a basis for assessing the course of future brown coal operations.

SWITCH 'EM

OFF



Should you drive with either your headlights or parking lights on because of fog conditions remember to switch them off when you leave the car otherwise your battery could become flat. Under our winter conditions the headlights if left switched on will flatten the battery on an average car in approx. two-three hours and the parking lights in approximately nine hours.

Personality of the month

OF UFO'S, PROTEST, HELPING PEOPLE

Do you believe in U.F.O.'s? (That's unidentified flying objects); that today's youngsters have the right to protest — without the violence of course?; that we oldies — those of us with closed minds — are as much if not more to blame for the so-called generation gap?; that it's about time all of us did something concrete to help preserve Australian fauna and flora and in its natural habitat?

If you believe in all these things, you're not alone! So does our Personality of the Month!

With the recent legislation on "equal pay" fresh in our minds, Contact decided to get in on the act, and this month has chosen a lady. She's a trained social worker, who not only believes in some of the things we mentioned above, but also tries to do something about them. She's Miss Betty Kemp and she works at the Municipal Library in Yallourn.

Born in Melbourne, Miss Kemp attended the Ivanhoe State School and Melbourne Girls High. She left school at 14 and after doing a business course went to work with the National Mutual as a stenographer. It was about this time too that she became interested and active with the YWCA.

Because of her particular work and through the "Y" she met many people of all classes and she developed a desire to help them. So she left the company and went to work in the Almoners Department at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Here she met social workers and saw the great work they did and the even greater need there was for more of them. She decided to become one. This, however, meant a University course, which in turn meant Matriculation and so back to school she went where she matriculated and then went on to Melbourne University. To solve

her accommodation problems she took a job at Queen's College as a waitress — in return for which she was able to live-in free.

The diploma course in social services was a three-year one, a great deal of which was practical. To get the practical experience she worked in a voluntary capacity with the Commonwealth Social Services Department and later with the Brotherhood of St. Laurence. Though her cases took her all over Melbourne, a great deal of her time was spent in Carlton and other less privileged suburbs, where she worked with neglected children, deserted wives, widows and families whose breadwinners were in gaol.

She saw many instances of hardship and poverty, especially amongst deserted wives, and although never subjected to physical violence, had to face up to the threat of it on occasion.

On graduation she offered herself for service in New Guinea with the Y.W.C.A., but the "Y" was unable to use her there at the time — so they sent her to the Moe-Newborough area in 1962. Working in an area of full employment and comparative prosperity did not present the challenge she preferred or for that matter, for which she had been trained.

She had by this time come to like the Valley so she joined the S.E.C. as a typist, first at Yallourn Power Station



* Miss Betty Kemp.

and later in the Library.

Miss Kemp prefers the country life, but like so many others is disturbed by the lack of suitable employment for girls. This, she feels, is responsible for much of the worry and discontent, especially among parents.

A member of Yallourn Penguin Club before it disbanded, and one of the first members of the Moe branch of the Good Neighbour Council when it was re-formed, Miss Kemp is on the Committee of the Yallourn Film Society, librarian of the L.V. Field Naturalists Club and minute Secretary of the Warragul U.F.O. Club.

Though she has decided views on social problems, young people, and those flying things, she would not be drawn on the very vexed topic of censorship, claiming that it is not the duty of a librarian to censor other people's tastes.

Our Personality of the Month likes working in the library, because she meets people there and very often is able to help them; and when you talk to her you get the impression that she likes nothing better than helping people.



* Smiling group at Hazelwood Power Station ball at Morwell's Karma on July 18 were Mr. and Mrs. George Milne (left) and Mr. and Mrs. Stan Hughes.

carter's column



The daily indoor bias bowls competition conducted by the Yallourn Transport Workshops Social Club of 77 members, is one of the most highly organised, quick "firing" competitions ever held. Each match consists of six ends, with play restricted to 30 minutes each lunchtime, the organisers cannot afford any hitches. Matches are held, each lunchtime, Monday to Friday, in the special bowling rink at the Transport Workshops.

The method of competition is the round robin, and after the teams have played one another once, the two top play off for the premiership. The trophy is, as Club president, Mr. Frank Cooke puts it, valued at about \$5.00, keenly sought after by the contestants. As soon as one competition is completed, another starts.

At the time of writing the competition leaders are the Demons, skippered by Terry Barclay, and the Stirrers (would have thought they might have been the "wooden spooners") - skippered by J. Rejelje.

Then follows - (Skippers in brackets) - George Cross (S. Camilleri); Rebels (B. Fowler); Tigers (I. Houston); Bandits (J. G. Hammond); Hawks (R. Robertson); Bombers (W. Armstrong); Cats (G. Newton); Magpies (N. Sampson); Saints (J. Gannon) and Monarchs (W. Weir).

The precision of organisation of the competition is mainly due to the good work of the bowls organiser, Len Gall, aided by President Frank Cooke; Secretary Kevin Farley and Treasurer P. Hausley.

Latrobe Valley produces many champions in sport, and its such contests as the Transport Workshop one which can lay down a basis for future greatness.

Incidentally, I believe that visitors are welcome - and its a pleasant way of spending lunchtime, if, of course, you are not competing somewhere else. Could be, there are some other lunchtime bowls who will challenge the Transport boys for best in the SEC.

Saw a lot of Commission types gathered in earnest vocal activity last Sunday afternoon at Yallourn oval - wandered down, pencil poised. There was Yallourn and its neighbor, Newborough, locked in "mortal combat" - doing battle were the under-eights soccer players aided by entreaties and freely given advice from the 'poppas and the mommas'. No wonder soccer advances. This was a well organised match; players correctly, cleanly and neatly uniformed, and this included knicks and socks. Clearly numbered also. Which reminds me, some of those players were younger than the num-



* From left to right - Denis Scambler (Clerk); Jan Rudy (Motor mechanic); Kevin Farley (Auto electrician); Terry Barclay (Driver - Demons' Skipper); Jim Gannon (Parts Procurement Officer - Saints' Skipper); W. Melenczenko (Motor mechanic apprentice); John Peaty (Auto electrical apprentice).

bers on their back, particularly No. 7. - 5 years and 30 inches - and he knew his way around. Good work the Ps and the Ms, keep it up.

"What about writing something about Fitzroy (VFL)" - week after week Andy Marinkovic of Electrical Services, Yallourn fires the request. I find football obituaries saddening, but recently the "Lions" came into the own - they beat St. Kilda. I know they did, the happy faces of Andy and fellow workmate, Tommy Raymond glowed on a recent Monday morn. We make note Fitzroy is a football team. BUT - Oh my! What a long time it gets between cheers. Still this is for sure - their supporters in the Valley are 'lion-hearted'.

100 games in a sport is a big achievement, and this Keith Hall of Pay Section has done - with the Morwell Cougars in the LV Baseball Association. One of Gippsland's greatest enthusiasts for the game, Keith, on transferring

from his home town, Ballarat, was dismayed to find the "diamond game" had not reached here - so - from Yallourn to Dandenong he goes each Saturday, for two years, as a member of the Saints in the Dandenong comp. After a couple of years in football with Newborough, (he was a foundation player), he returned to his first love - baseball, when as one of a group of five he assisted to form the LV Baseball Association.

He had brought from his native Ballarat a lot of baseball know-how. Commencing a successful career at the age of 11 years with the junior Ballarat High School team, he graduated to senior game with Ballarat City, playing over 200 games. This with his junior and Dandenong play added to his LV matches, brings him near the 400 mark - and he's young enough for 500 to 600. President (2 years - LV); Vice president (3 years - LV); Coach (4 years - LV); Secretary (7 years - Ballarat) and Delegate (6 years - Ballarat), are only some of the 'baseball deeds' of Keith. BUT he does not have all the records in the family. Wife Leta has been scorer in practically every match Keith has played. In a word, she has his tally!

• He's done it again! Rifleman Alan Schroeder of Yallourn Stores is again champion of Central and West Gippsland. Originally from South Australia, Alan commenced his "deadly" work with the rifle against the locals in 1948 and since then has won the local championship 19 times out of 20. What happened in the one year he missed the title? 1956 it was; he was in Bisley, England qualifying to be one of the best eight shots in the world. He's a King Plate winner and twice won the David Syme Aggregate against the best shots in Australia and elsewhere. He could win as many times again, I think.

WAS YOU THERE! Yallourn, after a stern struggle, defeated Maryvale at football 11.9.75 to 7.7.56. The scribe at the match said - "the players leapt into the fray in good style". Best for Yallourn - Col Benson. Bill Godfrey, and Tim McCoy. The date? October 1940.

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