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CONTACT

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contact



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Editor: Kevin Richardson

Cover

Hazelwood's eight 200-megawatt turbo-generators are a key element in Victoria's power generation complex and power is what our cover is all about.

In the background are the eight HPS chimneys, while in the foreground is a tower in the 220 transmission line from Morwell Power Station to Hazelwood, forming part of the link between Morwell and Hazelwood, and the overall system.

The LV system, via various transmission lines — six 220 kv to Rowville near Dandenong, and two 500 kv lines to Keilor — transmits a maximum demand of as much as 2,000 megawatts.

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Varied interests — but just one employer...



THE name Hibbert is well known throughout the LV Department; four members of the family have given a total of more than 60 years service to the SEC, and the total is still rising.

Rex Hibbert, an electrical draftsman at Yallourn, has spent 10½ years with the Commission; test laboratory technical officer Cyril Hibbert is in his 21st year, and brother Neil, a Hazelwood PS trimmer, is on the way to 13.

Cyril Hibbert senior retired in 1969 — he was a coal production maintenance crane driver — after serving for 18 years.

He lives in Newborough in his retirement, but spends a lot of time travelling around and meeting old friends, many of them with a Commission background.

Fit and ready to serve the Commission for many more years, Rex (left), Neil (right) and Cyril Hibbert (seated right) are photographed with their father, former SEC employee Cyril Hibbert. He retired in 1969, after 18 years with the Commission.

For the other members of the family, interests are varied.

Rex is a qualified pilot, a former parachutist and sergeant in the Air Training Corps; Cyril is an accomplished craftsman with a big reputation for repairing of boats, and Neil is keen on scuba diving and abalone fishing.

All three, until fairly recently, had a shared interest in the Citizen's Military Forces.

"COMMISSION WEDDING"

A Papal Blessing from Pope Paul was received by Commission newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Alf Vella, before their marriage in St. Kieran's Church at Moe on May 4.

The groom is a CAO in Personnel, and the bride, the former Stella Frendo, is a special typist at the Departmental Education and Training Centre at Yallourn.

The wedding ceremony, conducted by the Rev. Fr. D. Madigan, involved a third SEC personality, Alf's brother Stephen, who was best man.

Stephen is an engineering assistant in Transmission.

Stella has been with the Commission since 1970, working at the Yallourn typing pool; in the main office and in Tests and Communications before taking up her current position.

Since joining the Commission in 1966, Alf has come full circle.

He began with Personnel and tried several other areas before returning to Personnel in 1972.

As this issue of CONTACT goes to press, the Vellas are honeymooning in the snowfields of New South Wales.

Rostrum gets their tongues wagging

A public speaking club in which there are no sacred cows—even religion and politics are fair game—provides stimulating fare at midday and evening dinner meetings for thousands of Victorians.

The Latrobe Valley is no stranger to the activities of the organisation, the Rostrum Movement, and SEC personnel have been quick to see the value of membership.

Briefly, Rostrum is for men who wish to improve their public speaking, and who—in the words of the Movement “hold that freedom of speech, loyalty to truth, clarity of thought and a love of the English tongue...are of utmost value to the community”.

Not that that is how current Morwell president Alf Obersby (Engineer, HQ) and secretary Barry Ross (Surveyor-in-Charge, Morwell) expressed it.

As Alf pointed out, apart from encouraging and improving public speaking, Rostrum provides a medium for the practice of speaking under the critical (constructive) eye of others in the club, and gives practical experience of committee procedure.

It's for that reason that offices change hands every six months, ensuring that all members—membership is limited to about 20 for each club—are called to serve in some executive capacity.

The Morwell group, which has 13 members, meets each Wednesday for lunch at Golden Hill, and from about 12.00 to 12.45 p.m., speakers present brief prepared speeches; are called on for important speeches; are asked to comment “off-the-cuff” on current news items, or may be asked to speak—again without warning—on a subject, and to pose a pertinent question which another member must answer.

There are even sessions at which interjectors and hecklers will do their



Called to order, another meeting of Morwell Rostrum Club gets under way. There is a strong SEC flavor about the club, although officials are quick to point out that this is only coincidental.



Retiring president Alf Obersby gets a round of applause from all members, including secretary Barry Ross. New officers will take over in July. They are—president Barry Ross, secretary Robert Castelov (HPS), treasurer Richard Elkington (HPS), and joint critics Tom Davey and Roy Brenton, both from Hazelwood.

best to put the speaker off his stroke.

The net result is that members develop an ability to think and speak in an orderly manner, and to gain the confidence which is one of the public speaker's greatest assets.

Apart from the practical benefits which flow from active membership Rostrum outings are enjoyable social occasions.

The Morwell group is not an SEC club, but there is a strong Commission representation.

Apart from Alf Obersby and Barry Ross, the club includes among its members Hazelwood Technical Services Engineer Bob Castelov (treasurer), MBS

efficiency engineer Col Gray, acting technical services engineer at Hazelwood, Roy Brenton.

Tom and Roy are trained critics, and although they are sympathetic to the newcomer can be extremely hard taskmasters for the more experienced speaker.

But if Rostrum members are to overcome dinner speaker nerves and learn to “think on their feet”, as Alf Obersby puts it, application and constructive critics are essential.

Any person interested in membership of Rostrum, would be welcome to attend any lunch-time meeting.

Contact is on the lookout for stories with a sporting flavor — newsworthy achievements . . . coming events . . . unusual sporting interests. Let the Editor know on Extension 3228 and he'll let others in on the story.

valley visitors



The Minister of Minerals and energy, Mr. Connor (second from right), took a look at Morwell's open cut

during a flying visit to the Works Area on April 29. He is pictured here with Coal Division Manager Jack

Vines, endorsed ALP candidate for McMillan, Barry Murphy (left) and the Member for Morwell, Derek Amos.

Electrical retailers and builders have got to know the SEC a little better as a result of visits to Yallourn and Morwell in recent months, and there are several on the list for this month. At right, a group of electrical retailers gains an insight into Hazelwood Power Station.



DURING April, there was a particularly high number of visitors, with a concentration during the Easter break when more than 1,300 people inspected our Morwell, Yallourn and Hazelwood undertakings.

Visitors of particular interest included members of the Australian Administrative Staff College and their families, and metropolitan and provincial journalists who attended a seminar in Morwell.

Overseas visitors included Rotary Exchange students from New Zealand and a group of five young Japanese executives on a Rotary sponsored study tour of Australia.

The party was led by Toshio Takeuchi a Japanese Rotarian and hotel proprietor.

Local groups who looked us over were the Morwell Apex Club who visited Hazelwood Power Station, and members of the local branch of the Institute of Engineers, who inspected coal-winning equipment in the Morwell Open Cut.

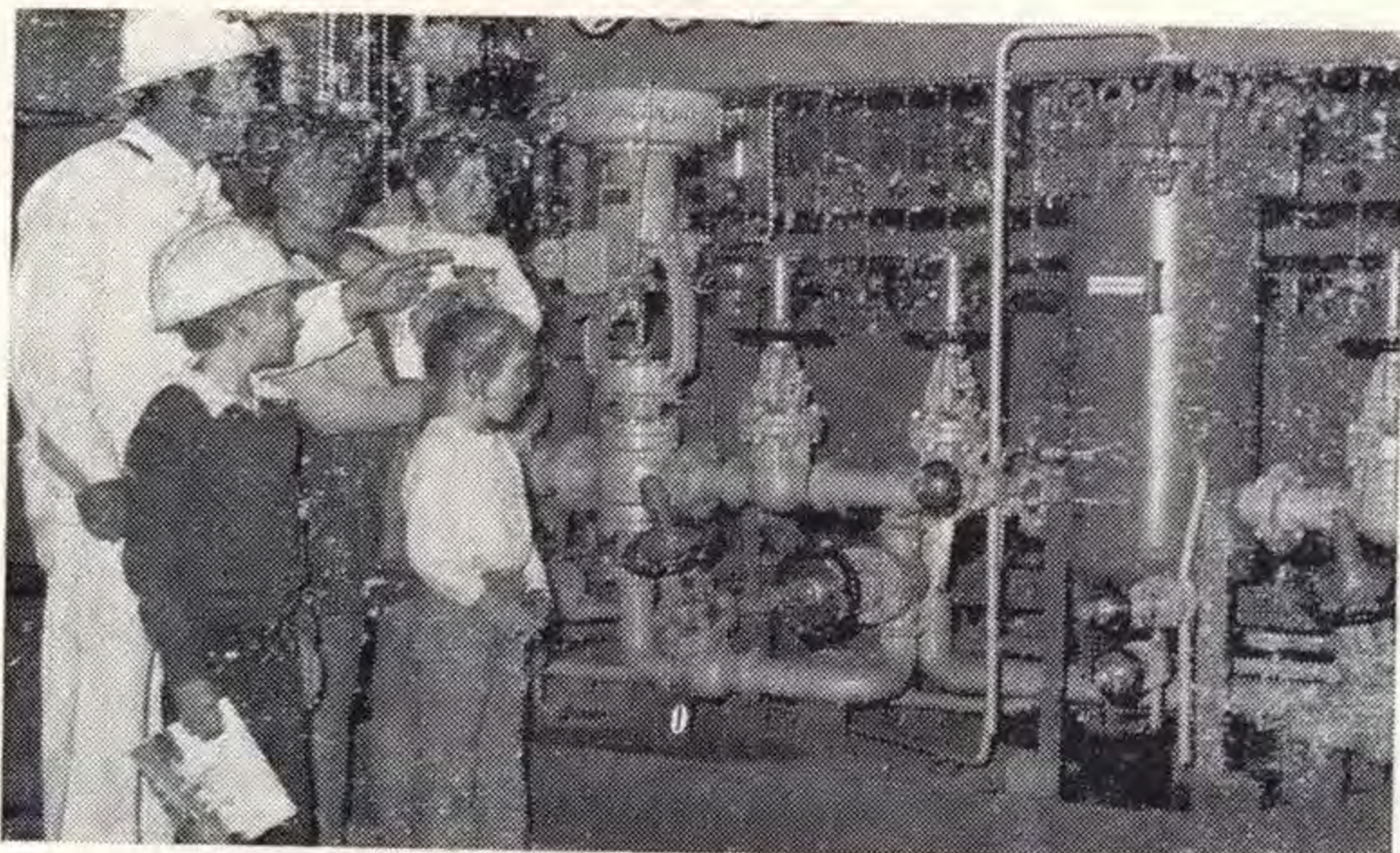
A group of final year Mechanical Engineering students from the Caulfield Institute of Technology spent a day looking over Hazelwood Power Station. This was of particular interest to them, since their studies have involved design of boiler equipment for the station.

A group of women from Warrnambool, whose visit to the Valley was hosted by the Gippsland Ladies' Bowling Association, inspected the Morwell and Hazelwood area.

Women bowlers are adaptable . . . and they're willing to try out the lawns at Morwell for a spot of bowling. This group from Warrnambool expressed keen interest in SEC development during a visit to the Latrobe Valley last month.



...and to Yallourn 'W'



Assistant Unit Controller Len Rawlings, photographed with his wife Irene and children Shane (9), Joanne (7) and Karen (4). They were at the start of an interesting 1½-hour tour of the station.



Assistant Power Station Superintendent Ian Runge shows the family where he spends part of his working day. With Ian and Margaret are, from left, Peter, Katherine and Andrew.

FAMILIES of Yallourn "W" Power Station personnel last month gained a real insight into the first stage of the \$350 million project — and into the day-to-day operations of their husbands and fathers.

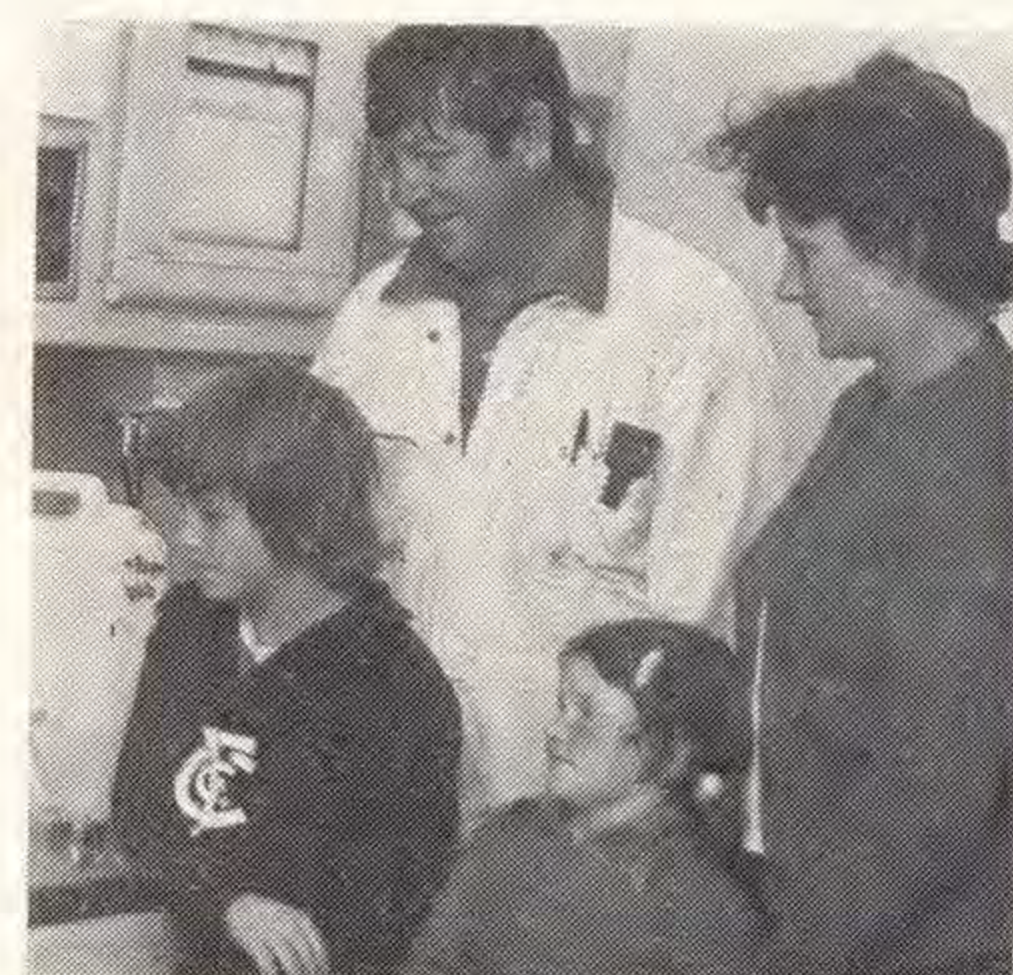
In the first public unveiling of the "W" station — previously only special visitors had been shown through — almost 300 took the opportunity to "see where dad works".

Power Station Superintendent Ron Court said that the response to the family visit had been "staggering," although an indication of the keen interest in the "W" station had been given when a similar visit was arranged earlier in the station's construction phase.

(cont. page 14)



Leading hand cleaner Bob Burn (left) and technical services officer Sam Brymner explain a point in an SEC publication on Yallourn "W" to their wives, Ellen Burn (left) and Jill Brymner.



Scientific assistant Frank Gretton explains the operation of an auto analyser proportioning pump to his wife Gwen, Carlton supporter son David and daughter Karen.

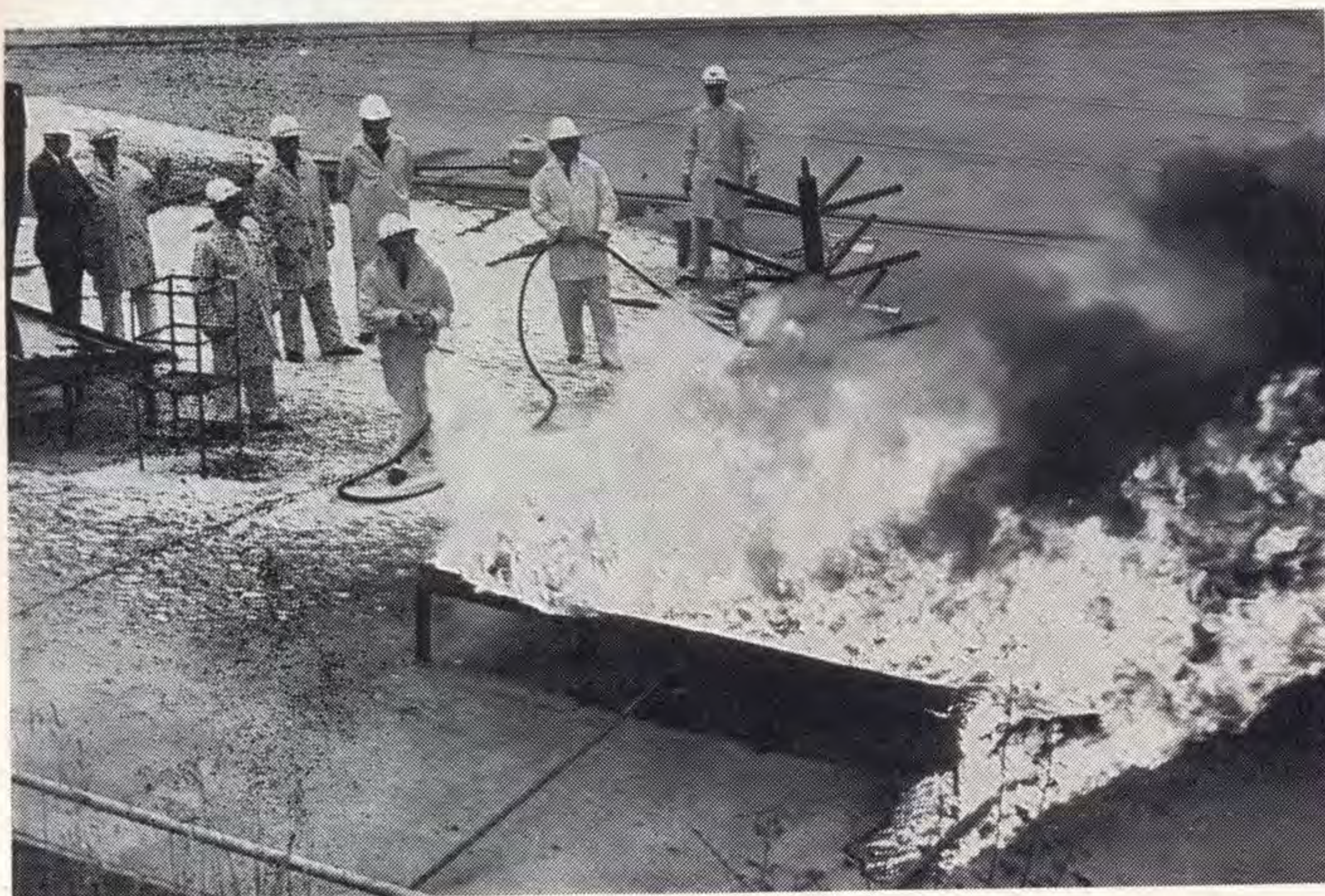


Rotary Exchange student from New Zealand, Frances Edwards (second from left) is one of the family as maintenance engineer

Frank Fletcher explains Yallourn "W" turbines to his wife Evie and children Jane, Anne and Helen. Frances, who has been

here for 2½ months, will return the hospitality when Anne Fletcher returns with her to Waipukurau, North Island, on May 17.

PUTTING THE CHARGE ENGINEER THROUGH HIS (fire) PACES



Ted Cowper (second from left), explains the operation to Arthur Oxley (left) as charge engineer Wal Johnston (YPS) gets into action.

Assistant Fire Officer Ted Cowper introduced course members to the range of fire fighting equipment available within the Works Area.

All members participated in extinguishing small fires, using two-gallon units of soda acid and foam; 25lb of dry powder, and CO2 extinguishers.

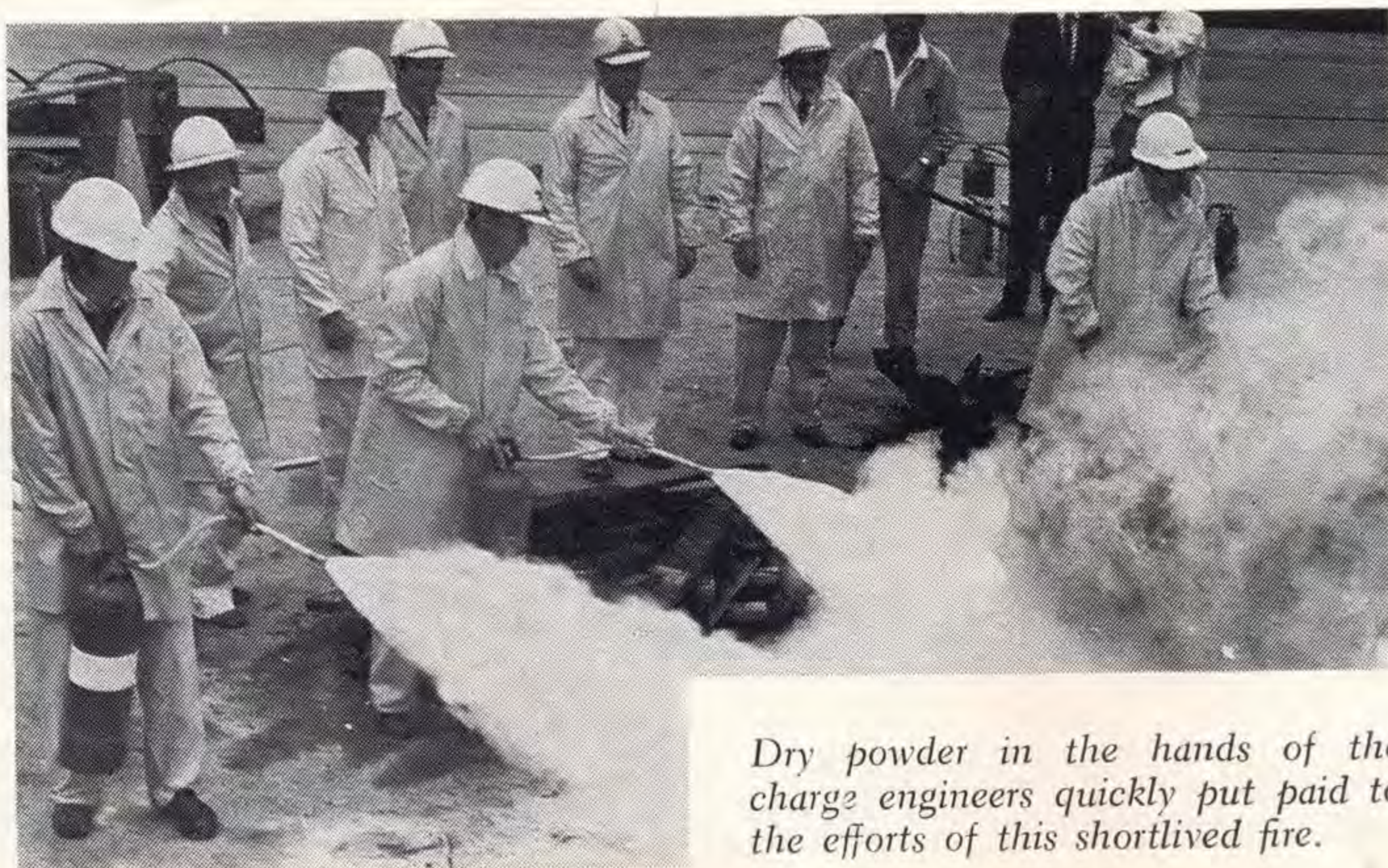
After successfully handling the smaller equipment, larger fires were tackled with 150lb dry powder, 10-gallons of foam and the FB5X foam branch, through which they used protein foam and the recently-acquired "light water".

A fire in a section of an enclosed conveyor demonstrated the potential of the medium foam branch before the group turned its attention to turbex high expansion foam generator, which produced foam at the expansion ratio of 1480:1.

Breathing apparatus and a period devoted to artificial respiration and external heart massage was an important part of the course, which ended with further talks on specific fire hazards, such as dust explosions and gas fires.



"Rookie firemen", from left, Alex Lowth (HPS), Allan Scott (MPS), Lou Saceotelli (YPS) and Brian Gregory (YPS) lay down a heavy curtain of foam.



A series of two-day training courses which began last month for the supervisory personnel of Power Division in the field of fire-fighting has brought an encouraging response.

Initial assessments of a pilot course for supervisors indicates clearly that the courses have an important part to play in preparing power station personnel for effective fire fighting roles.

Services Division is responsible for the training course, and through its Morwell fire control centre, is conducting the exercise at Haze'wood.

The decision to initiate the course at the supervisory level was based on the view that the people responsible for directing fire fighting operations in power stations should be familiar with standard procedures and equipment available.

Civil Services Engineer Max Williamson said that the Commission intended to streamline its fire fighting services, with the aim eventually of developing a single departmental fire service to train personnel, inspect and service equipment and provide technical advice.

However, as is now the case with Coal Division and the briquetting group, it is the aim that effective, self-contained fire systems would be developed within other divisions.

"After all, the essence of fire fighting is to concentrate the right equipment at the right place at the right time — and who better to man the equipment than the personnel on the job?" Max commented.

Dry powder in the hands of the charge engineers quickly put paid to the efforts of this shortlived fire.

Yallourn Resettlement

THE Yallourn Resettlement Committee plans to conduct another survey among Yallourn residents.

Committee chairman Graham Black said that the survey was designed to provide the Committee with information needed to assist long-term planning.

He said that since a first survey was conducted, a number of changes had occurred.

The survey is likely to take the form of a questionnaire to all residents, with interviews available on request or where clarification is needed.

"We want to ensure that the assistance we are making available is in line with the requirements of residents concerned", he said.

The four broad groups of residents to be covered by the survey are:—

- widows and the elderly,
- employee/tenants resident in Yallourn since before April, 1969,
- employee/tenants after April, 1969, and,
- other residents.

There has been a temporary rearranging of some senior engineering posts in relation to Yallourn.

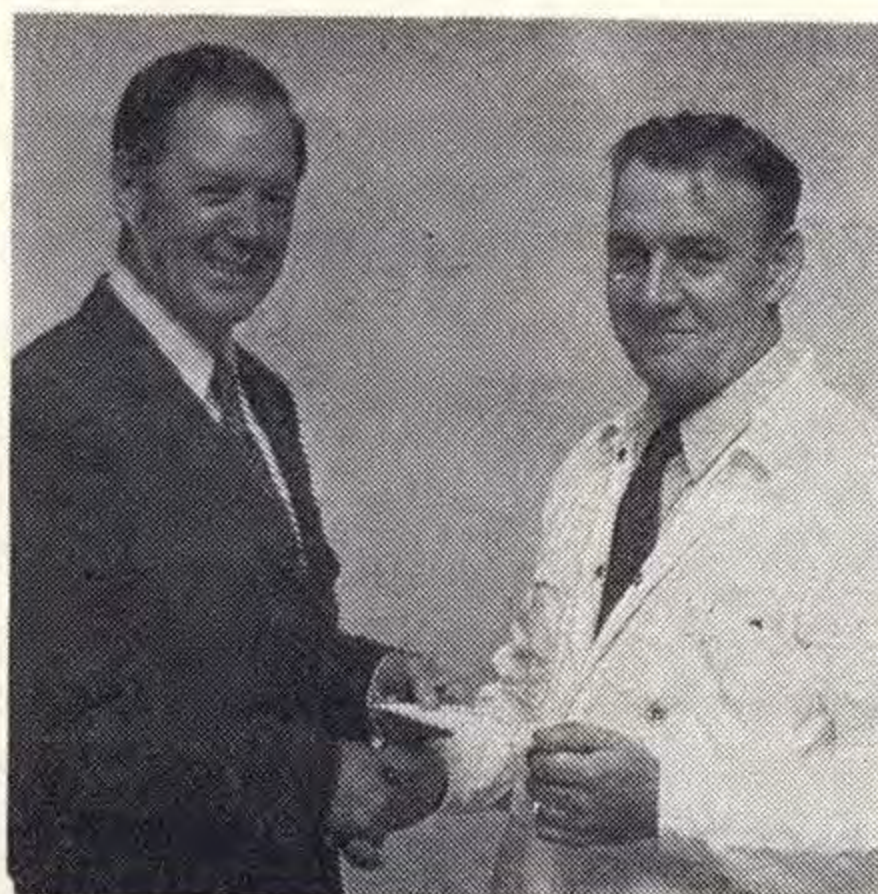
Eric Foote, who becomes Coal Production Superintendent (Headquarters), transfers to special duties, being responsible for aspects relating to the removal of Yallourn township, and arrangements for associated works.

He also continues to be responsible to the Manager Coal, Jack Vines.

Eric will normally be located at the Yallourn Resettlement Operational Headquarters in the Main Administrative Building at Yallourn (phone 2884), where he will be assisted by Resettlement Committee secretary Jack Penney (phone 2885).

The resettlement office in Maiden Street, will be staffed on a part-time basis, and Jack Penny will continue to be available to provide assistance and information to Yallourn residents.

NOW YOU SEE IT NOW YOU DON'T



Hazelwood Power Station technical services officer Sid Saddington was \$120 richer for approximately two minutes on April 30.

That was how long it took for Sid, winner of a \$150 (less tax) suggestion award, to donate the money to his social club in a suggestion award cheque handover with a difference.

Social club representative Noel Hutchinson understandably expressed the hope that Sid will have many more successful suggestions.

Making the award, Deputy Man-

ager Graham Black congratulated Sid on his suggestion — a modification to balance wear devices on HPS feed pumps, which he said would "save manhours and man's fingers".

Graham made the observation that the suggestions which win big awards are almost invariably "simple and ingenious".

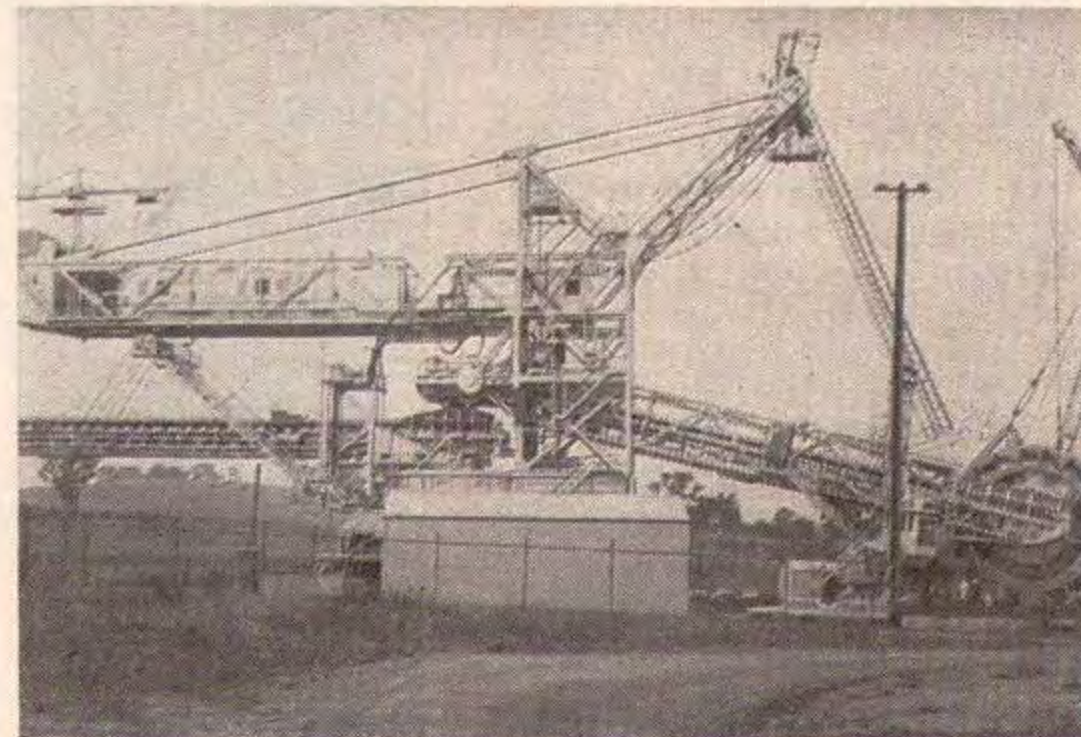
The "representation" of the cheque followed the comment from Sid that this winning of the award reflected "a team effort" — which prompted him to make his decision.

Coal Division employees Ted Baker (2nd from left,) Doug Forbes (centre) and Geoff Sharman (right) received suggestion awards totalling \$90 as a highly appreciated "Easter Egg" on April 11. The presentations were made by Coal Division manager Jack Vines. Pictured with the successful ideas men are Overburden operations supervisor Greg Stuart (left) and mechanical Maintenance Supervisor Bob Leathlean (2nd from right). Ted Baker received \$50 for a modification which reduces coal spillage from TS 2 stacker conveyors; and Doug Forbes and Sharman each received \$20.



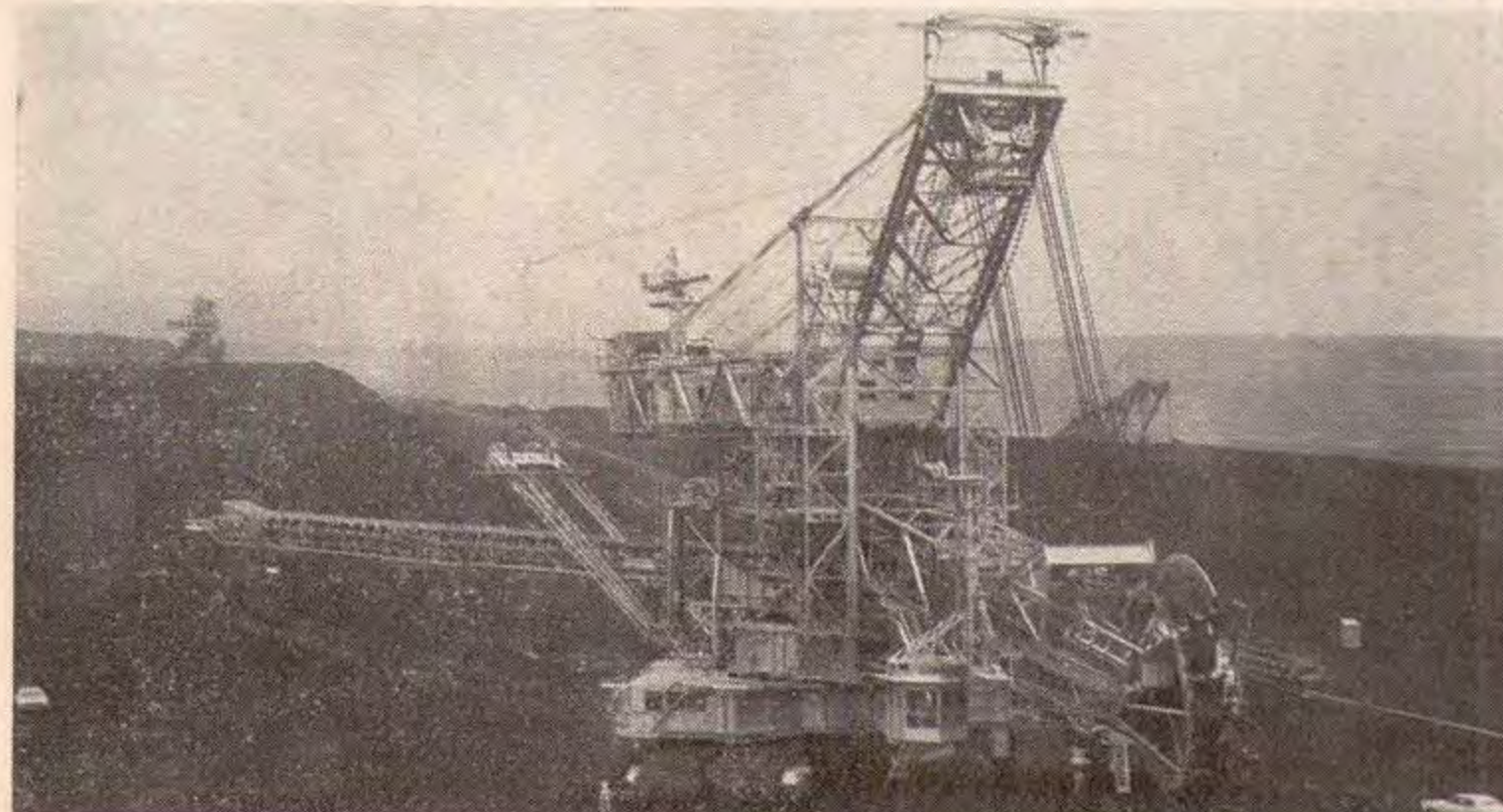
The picture at left (below) takes thoughts back to pre-No. 12 dredger days, when the Hernes Oak site was being prepared, while at the right is the site during construction.

NO 12 OFF TO JOIN THE TEAM



Jack Carter had one of the most important jobs associated with the No. 12 dredger—preparation of the construction site and of ramps and pathways for travel to the open cut.

At last, close to the operating level, the dredger—after safely negotiating the 1 in 40 ramp cut in the coal face—prepares to swing along the level and on to its initial position after a 6.46-kilometre trip.



WHEN the \$4.9 million No. 12 dredger reached its operating face on Yallourn Open Cut's 1A level on Easter eve, it brought to a successful conclusion a complex 16 month project.

For the planners at head office and for construction site personnel under Ron McPherson and Roy Mawby, the main part of the project ended when the dredger left the Hernes Oak construction.

Their thoughts are already turning to the next project — Dredger No. 13.

Preparation for moving the dredger to its Open Cut level, were almost as complicated as the dredger construction operation itself.

Firstly, Auxiliary Operation Manager Jack Carter had to supervise preparation of the construction site and developing of an accurately finished steering test area, complete with 1:20 ramp.

The 2½ mile path for the 1650 ton dredger also had to be prepared, a job which Jack and his team began in November, 1972, less than a month after work began on the dredger.

Ten months earlier, work had begun on construction of the dredger site.

Work there, and on the steering test area, involved the moving of more than 43,000 cubic yards of material, plus the importing of 6000 cubic yards of gravel.

The 3500 foot ramp to the open cut involved a massive cut-and-fill operation in which 14,000 cubic yards of material was moved, giving plant foreman Ray Love and the ten men under his direction a busy time.

The ramp had to be accurately graded to 1:40 and consolidated to give a firm travel path for the heavy machine.

During the actual travel of the dredger, the 100 foot wide ramp resembled a busy highway, with the 12 storey high (123'8") dredger preceded and followed by fire trucks and an assortment of Commission vehicles.

For the final stage of the journey to the coal floor, a 1:40 ramp was cut in the coal face by No. 8 dredger during normal operations, bringing the total volume of material moved throughout to 350,000 cubic yards.

The supply of power to the dredger was a complicated manoeuvre carried out under the direction of the Superintendent of Electrical Maintenance (Coal Production) Paul Pearson.

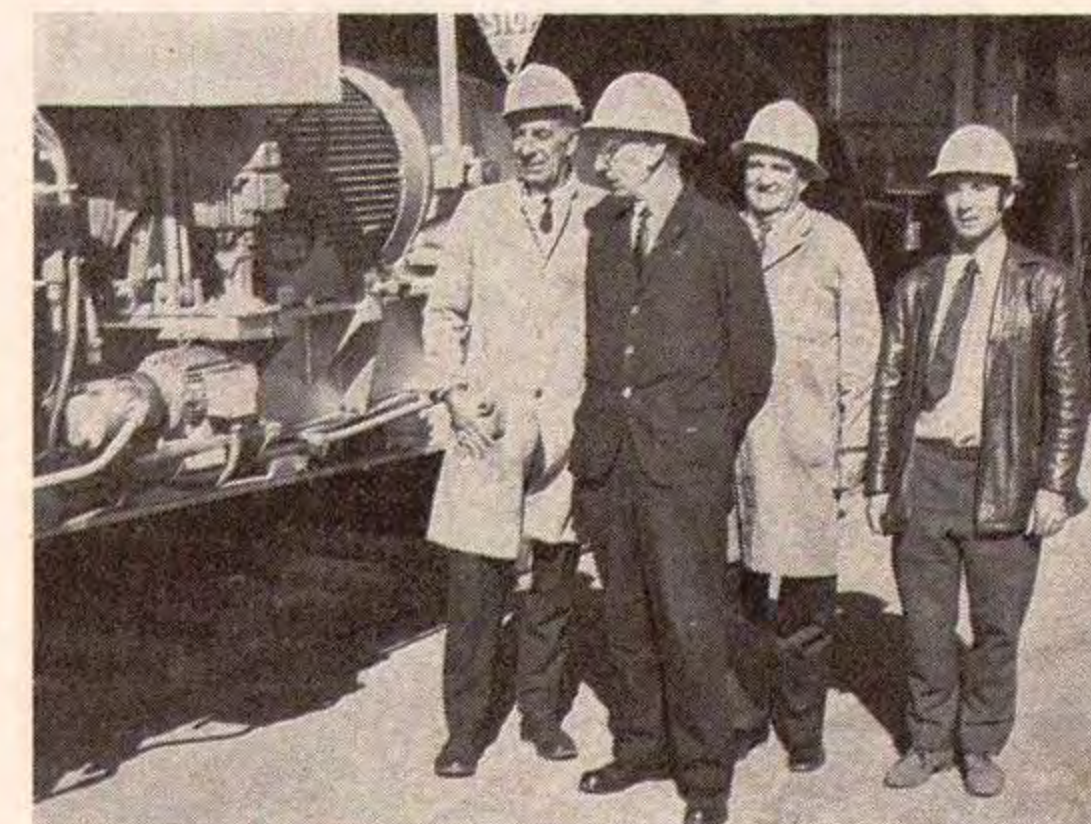
The distance travelled from the erection site to the working face was just over 6 kilometers.

Arrival of No. 12 dredger at its operating level to a "musical chairs" game involving the re-siting of other dredgers, including the old No. 2 dredger, which is nearing the end of its operating life.

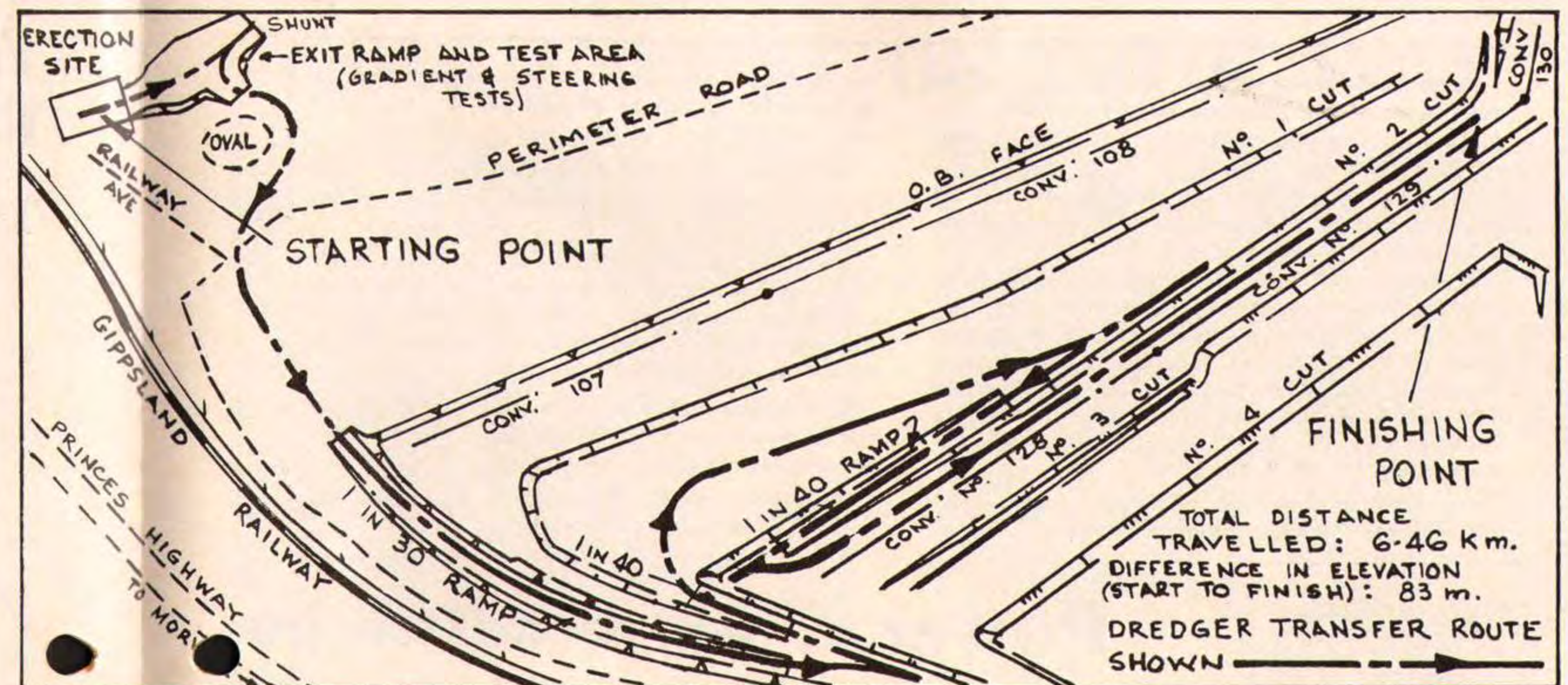
A \$4 million conveyor system built especially for the newcomer is due to come into operation.

No. 12 dredger is capable of excavating to a base height of 70 feet at a rate of up to 2,400 cubic yards (solid coal), with each of the ten buckets taking a 1,000 litre "bite".

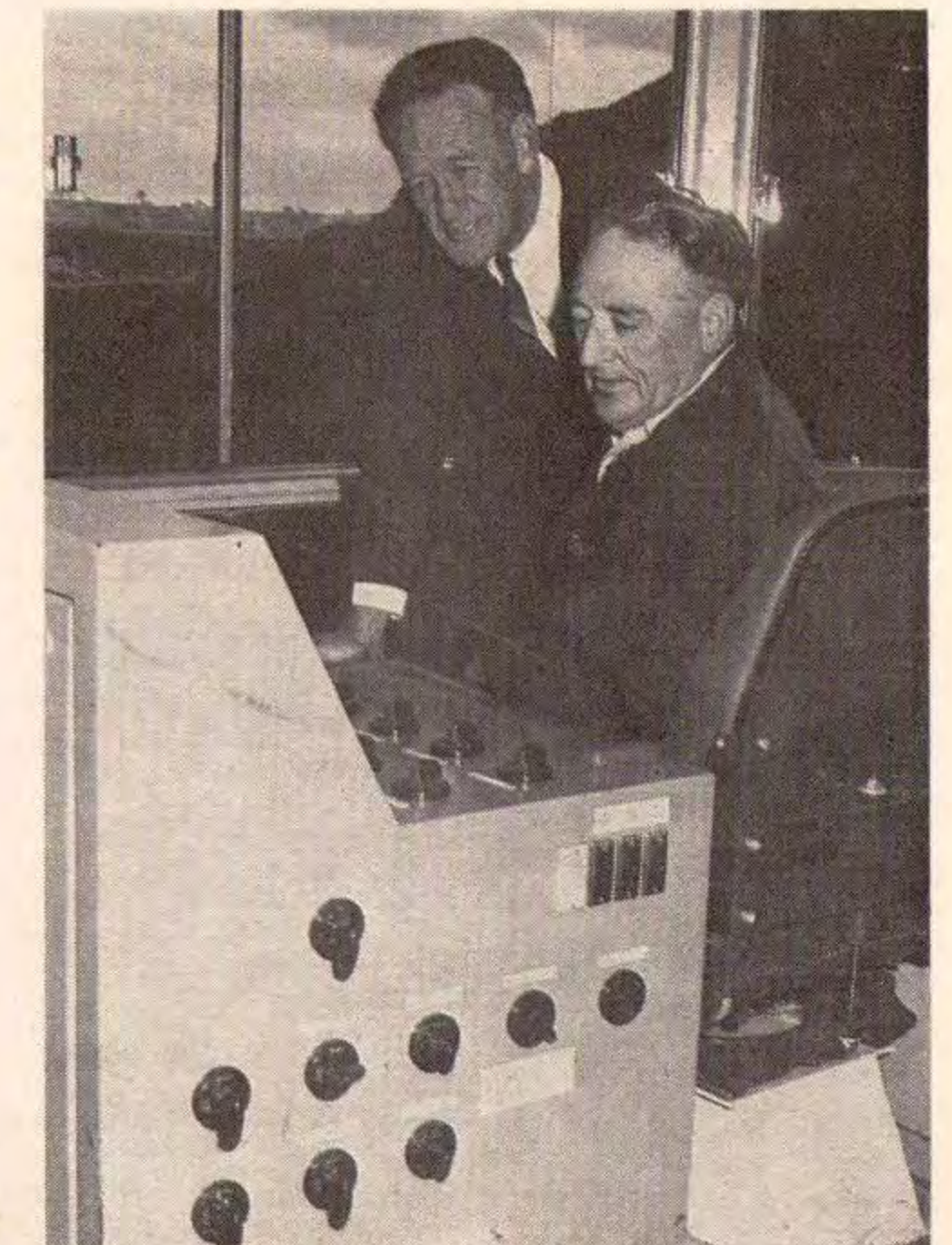
Driven by motors with a combined output of 2500 hp, the dredger draws on 880 kw of electricity — equal to the demand of a township of about 3000 people. Coal won by the dredger can be taken either to Yallourn or to Morwell briquetting works.



From left, Roy Mawby, Ron McPherson, Val Leeson and Malcolm Charles look happy to see their "baby" on the move.



The diagram above shows the course taken by the dredger as it made its way from the construction site; past the test ramps; around Hernes Oak oval and down into the open cut — an overall drop of 83 metres.



Coal Production overseer Max Whitmore (left) and open cut dredger driver Maurice "Park" English discuss the next move in their task of moving the dredger. Max was Park's "eyes", and was the only person in direct contact with the driver. Overall direction was in the hands of Rudi Forster (Fuel Department).

Coal seems likely to take over from oil as the world's major energy source early in the 21st century . . . but only as the first of two "interim" leaders in the world energy market.

Then, according to a forum which brought four top energy experts to the Latrobe Valley early last month, solar energy will take over.

On the panel were State Electricity Commission Power Station Superintendent (HQ) Don Clark Esso-BHP Environment Protection Officer Mr. W. K. Waugh; Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, Dr. B. R. Groves, and the Principal Research Scientist with the CSIRO Division of Mechanical Engineering, Mr. W. R. Read.

Each spoke on a separate facet of the energy stockpile, with Don Clark concentrating on nuclear energy—

the source considered the likely immediate successor to coal—Mr. Waugh on oil and gas; Dr. Groves on coal, and Mr. Read on solar energy technology.

The economic impact of rising costs was seen as a worrying problem superimposed on the existing "energy crisis".

The shortage of petroleum, the most convenient fuel, will intensify as the gap between oil produced and world consumption widens dramatically, with the prospect that the world's economically producible oil will be exhausted by about 2025.

Coal is expected to take over as an interim major energy source until the establishment of large, nuclear operated power generating stations.

However, in the 22nd century, the world may rely for most of its power on solar energy.



THE role of nuclear power in the future energy scene is not entirely clear.

It is seen by many as bridging the gap between full commitment of the world's main remaining sources of fossil fuel and economic harnessing of the ultimate power source — solar energy from the sun.

This comment was made at the Energy Forum by Power Station Superintendent (HQ) Don Clarke (pictured).

In his outline of the development of nuclear power systems, Don emphasised that despite 30 years of research and experimentation, the long-term position of nuclear energy in the overall energy situation was open to debate by informed people.

His remarks, therefore, were to be regarded as a personal assessment.

However, he pointed out that development in the foreseeable future would be based on the familiar steam power system, but with steam produced by the heat generated from nuclear reaction instead of from burning gas, coal or oil.

Such a system could be made relatively small, but since the economics of nuclear power production demand large-scale operation and massive barriers of concrete or other material to shield people from high levels of radio-activity, large fixed reactors of the power station type would be required, the energy being

Power... where do we go from here?

distributed in the convenient form of electricity.

Don mentioned three factors which currently place nuclear plant at a cost disadvantage compared with the fossil fuel-fired plant.

These are :

- the production of nuclear fuel in a form suitable for use in a reactor involves a whole fuel processing system of considerable complexity and cost,
- current commercial nuclear reactors are generally restricted to using an isotopic form of uranium present to the extent of only 7 per cent of total natural uranium, which must undergo a difficult and highly costly, enrichment procedure, and,
- after fuel elements have been used in the reactor, they must be removed while in a highly radio-active state for reprocessing to recover useful materials, while the remaining radio-active waste must be safely stored.

Because the particular isotope of uranium used in current nuclear reactors is in limited supply, reasonably available supplies in the western world could well be committed before the end of the century.

This has placed vital importance on the development of a commercially feasible "breeder" reactor which, as well as producing heat, can also be loaded with the more common non-fissile uranium.

During the normal working of the reactor, part of the non-fissile uranium is converted to fissile material; hence the reactor will "breed" its future fuel

requirements from relatively abundant materials.

Such a development, Don told his audience, would obviously change the whole economics of nuclear power.

Having emphasised some economic aspects of long-term use of nuclear energy, Don turned to the principal environmental aspect of nuclear power — the containment of nuclear radiation.

The engineering of a reactor must be of such standard that there is no possibility of the contents escaping to the environment in the event of a malfunction.

He also stated that the highly radioactive wastes must be safely stored for some centuries.

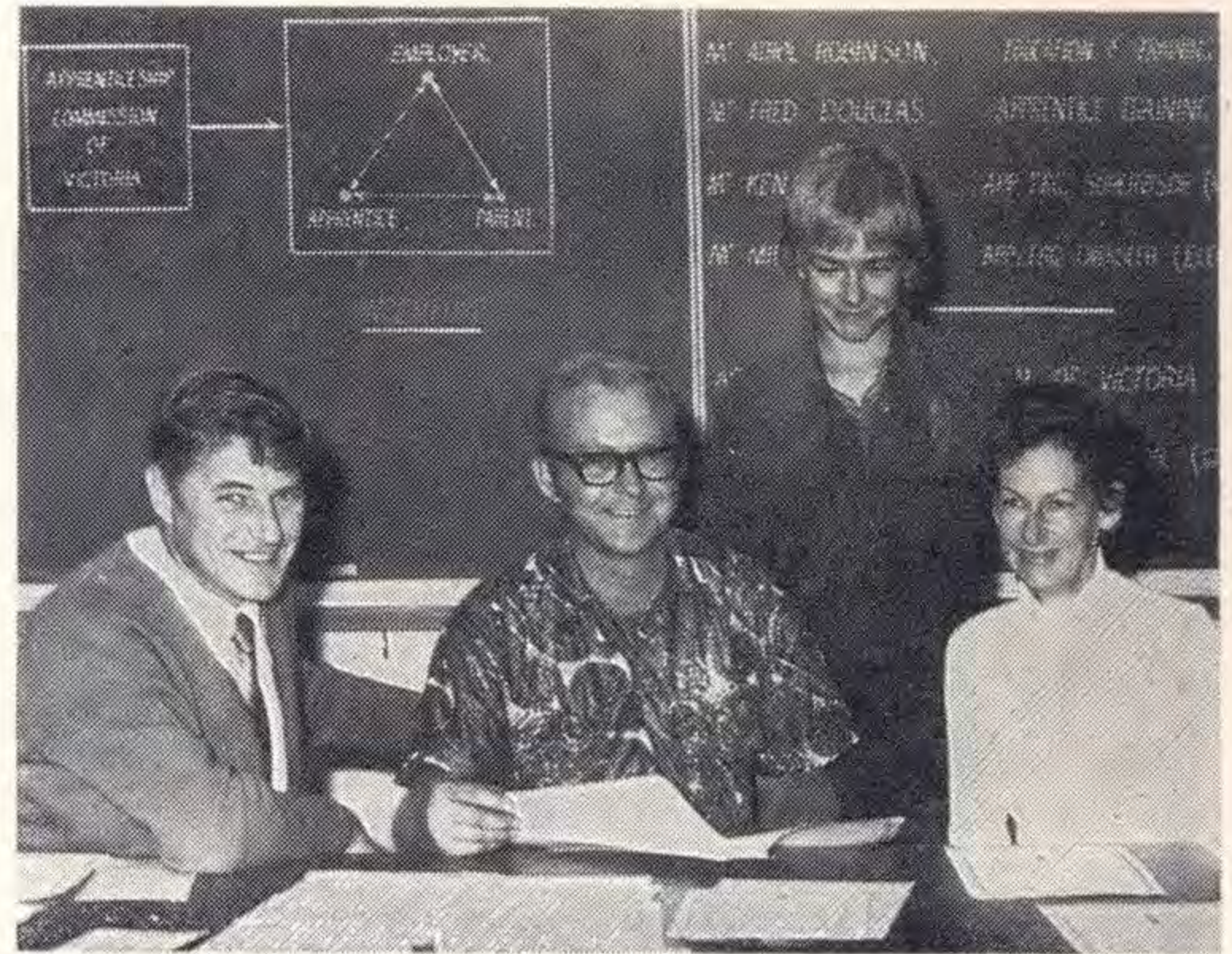
With these points in mind and the growing public awareness of environmental matters, he posed the following questions :

- Will future generations accept the storage of ever increasing quantities of radio-active wastes, especially if a waste storage accident should occur?
- Will the public tolerate an ever increasing number of reactors, to be built in close proximity to population centres — bearing in mind the likely consequences of a serious accident, however remote the possibility of such an accident may be?
- Is there any alternative to large scale nuclear power generation, even should problems with accidental release of radio-activity occur, bearing in mind the magnitude of the problem of harnessing solar energy on a large scale for other than "low grade" energy requirements?

NOW THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY



Frank and Gwen Holt, of Tanjil South, were keenly interested in the work of their son Chris. The family already has an SEC connection through a daughter, Mrs. Susan Garrett, a clerical assistant at Morwell.



Apprentice Commission representative John Seymour (left) chats with Peter and Laurice Beyer and son Greg.

Apprentices who began their three month probation periods with the Commission earlier this year have moved into the second stage of their career training by becoming fully-fledged apprentices.

At an "open day" in the Training Workshops, some of the implications of apprenticeships were spelled out by Commission officers and by Apprenticeship Commission Area Supervisor for Gippsland John Seymour.

The parents — and apprentices themselves — had the opportunity to question Education and Training Centre Officers and trade instructors about their training.

During the open day, parents toured the workshops, watching their sons at work.

Highlight of the function was the signing of formal indentures which set out the conditions and aims of the apprenticeship "contract".

Ian Wearne makes a point about his work to his parents, Ray and Gwen Wearne, of Moe South, and young brother Glenn (4 years).

Fitter and turner apprentice Charlie Van Den Ham, watches as his father John, a former Commission employee, signs apprenticeship indenture forms. Mrs. Ior Van Den Ham is an interested spectator.



THE "IN-BETWEEN" MAN.

RAPID advances in science and technology have led to emergence of a new and separate employment group of increasing importance — the technical officer.

With expanding knowledge bringing new discoveries and applications, the gap between the professional and the tradesman is widening—and it is being filled by the technical officer, the man with an intermediate level of knowledge and skills.

Since the shortage of professional engineers in Australia is expected to continue through the 70's—Dr. J. A. L. Matheson, of Monash University, recently made an almost despairing call for young people to take up engineering courses—the need for a competent "support" group becomes more important.

One point being increasingly recognised is that the day of the upgraded tradesman is drawing to a close, and that the technical officer of the future will be trained in courses designed specifically for his needs.

He will be neither upgraded tradesman nor failed professional.

His education will incorporate studies of scientific and mathematical principles to a much greater depth, than in trade courses, but by comparison with professional, would be more job oriented and specialised.

However, the specialised aspect of the technical officer can make him vulnerable, especially when significant changes in industrial techniques occur.

Some appreciation of related disciplines is therefore essential if he is to have the grounding to enable new developments to be absorbed.

Draftsmen in the Valley are one group of technical officers who are well aware of the narrowness of their educational course, restricting the avenues open to them later in their careers (see story this page).

These factors are recognised by those engaged in the current spate of dialogue. For instance, in his book "Technicians Today and Tomorrow", J. T. Young says—

"If technicians are to be provided both in quantity and quality, the first and most essential step is to accept that they have requirements in educa-

An address by L.V. Department Manager Bill Schulz to members of the Latrobe Valley branch of the Institute of Draftsmen (Victoria Division) during February, raised some interesting points about the prospects within the Valley for draftsmen, the largest single group of technical officers within the SEC's L.V. Department.

Speakers at the meeting expressed strong reservations about the education curriculum, which they say is too narrow in concept.

The result, they said, is that qualified draftsmen have limited opportunity for employment diversification, and — despite relatively high qualifications — a limited field in which to work.

The accompanying article presents some thoughts on the subject.

tion and training as specific to them as are those of craftsmen and technologists (professionals).

"Only by deliberately offering to those about to leave school the opportunity to study to become technicians and devising special courses can sufficient manpower at this level of skill be made available.

"Moreover, it follows that such recruits will only be forthcoming in sufficient numbers if technician employment is seen to be worthwhile and satisfying, and to possess acceptable technical and social status."

The SEC has been training youths specifically for technician work for well over a decade.

The work of the technical officer in the SEC is particularly valuable in the engineering field, where the professional engineer who often calls for detailed information on which to base a decision, subsequently relies on the technical officers' knowledge of methods and processes to give effect to the decision.

It is a prime example of the application of teamwork.

Within the SEC, opening of the Loy Yang field would obviously involve considerable planning and development work involving the combination of talents of the professional engineer and the sub-professional draftsman in particular.

It is an opportunity which must widen the options available, and create a climate for deep involvement in an exciting operation which, as Special Projects Officer Stan Salmon points out, could extend for the entire working life of technical officers currently entering service with the SEC.

Modifications to formal education and training requirements are vitally necessary if the draftsman is to have the opportunity to realise his potential over a broad range of options.

This is the view of the chairman of the Latrobe Valley branch of the Australian Institute of Draftsmen—Mr. Vic. Vale of Yallourn.

Mr. Vale said that draftsmen were concerned at the "closed end" nature of the current Higher Technicians Certificate Course.

"There is no scope for further examination after the trainee gains the Design Drafting Certificate at the end of up to four years study and training.

Nor is there a Statewide standard authority for the granting of exemptions for subjects in diploma courses in which draftsmen may have an interest.

"The solution as I see it is to 'open' the course at the top end to enable the trainee to choose his subjects toward a Diploma in a discipline which he believes to be his best advantage".

Mr. Vale said he would like to see:—

- An advancement of the Design Drafting Certificate above the present Higher Technicians' Certificate, thus permitting trainees to continue more vital subjects,
- an "evening-out" in the teaching level throughout the State and establishing of only externally set examinations,
- a standard Statewide ruling of exemptions at diploma level, for some subjects taken in this "desired new Drafting Certificate", and,
- greater scope for training in the field, since it is felt that background practical experience tends to be inadequate.

...focus on safety

DISCUSSIONS on safety procedures are a monthly part of life for the 59 cleaners in Hazelwood Power Station, but the April discussions were given added impact by a "real-life" story involving the son-in-law of a member of the section.

The experience of Colin Parsell, who works with an SEC contractor, underlined the value of using safety footwear.

While working in the bush near Hill End, Parsell jumped from a 4-foot high log to the ground, landing squarely on the hidden ti-tree stump.

The result was a ruined shoe... an extremely sore heel... and a sadder, but wiser, bushman.

The shoe, with the piece of ti-tree still firmly embedded in place, was the focal point of a group discussion and film on safety footwear.

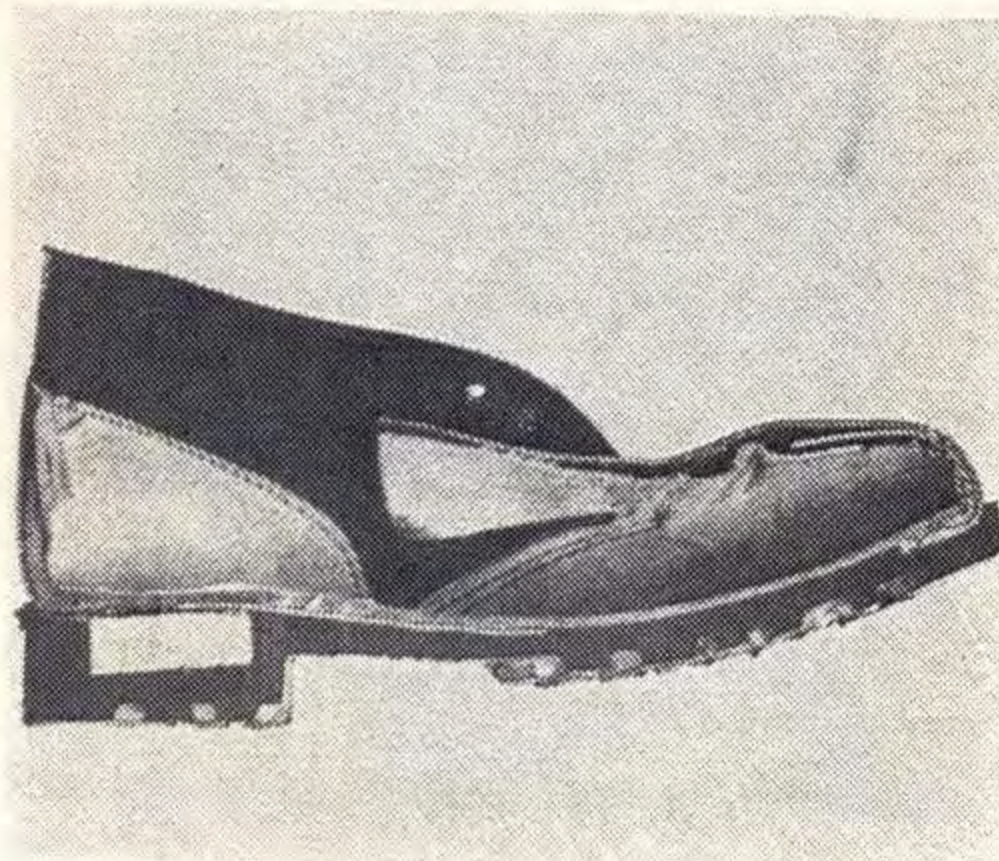
Foreman cleaners Dave Crombie and Ron Jackson were quick to seize the opportunity to drive their safety message home.

Cleaners receive \$2. subsidies toward the cost of safety footwear.

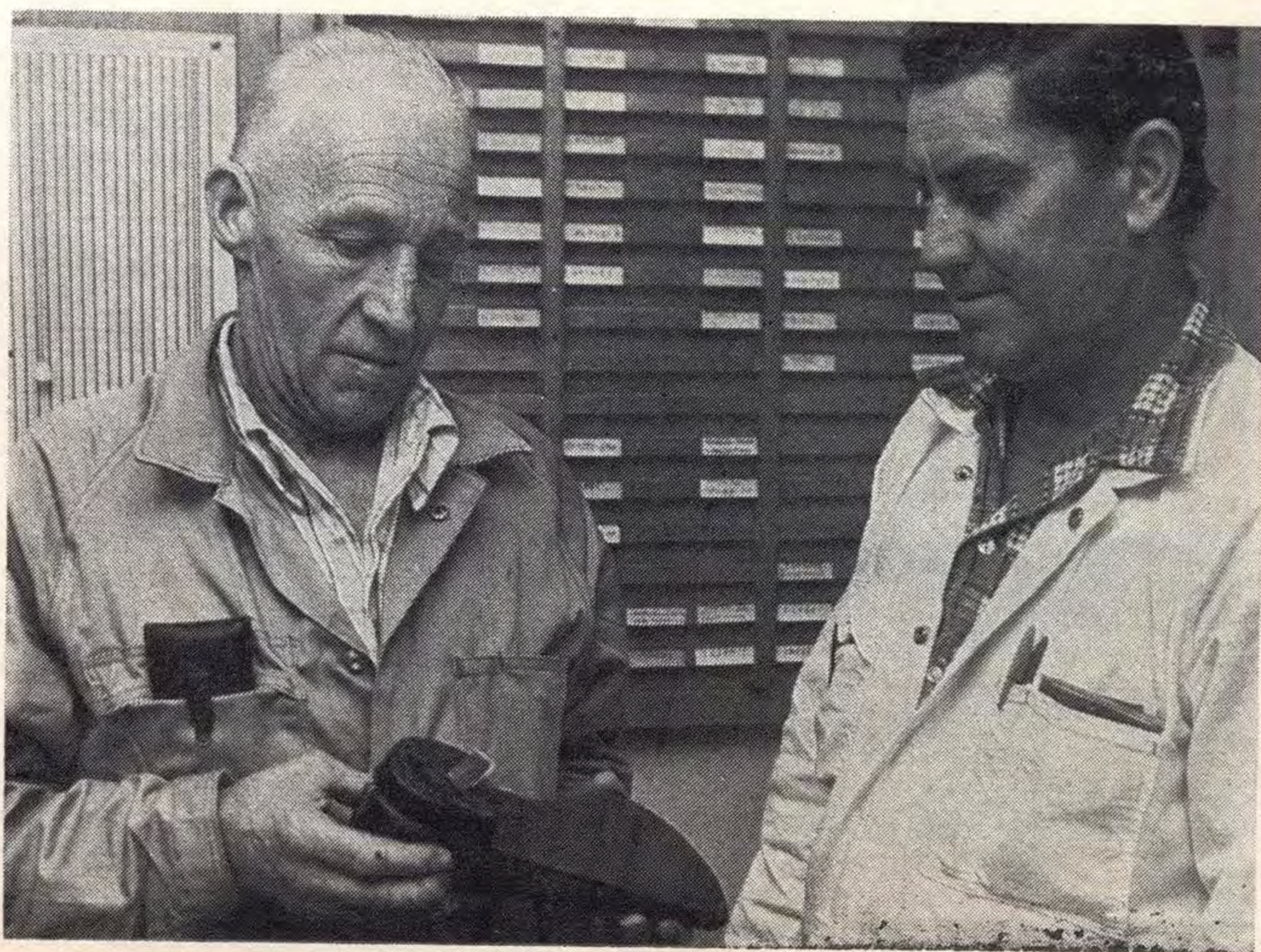
Available from within the Commission are safety shoes at \$5.25(after subsidy); desert boots \$5.10 and a light boot, \$5.29.

Provision can also be made to buy "dressier" shoes from a wider range at Safety House in Morwell.

A Commission subsidy is also available.



The cutaway section of a safety boot (left) shows the type of protection needed against the danger so clearly demonstrated in the "spiked" shoe being studied below by Tom Feeley (left) and Dave Crombie.



Fibreglass hardener can be a hazard

FIBREGLASS has been one of the most significant of the 20th century discoveries for the home handyman, of which the State Electricity Commission has no shortage.

In fact, the Commission has an exceptionally large team of "spare-time craftsmen" who produce yachts, dinghies, aeroplanes, caravans... you name it.

Which is why Contact sees some merit in reproducing part of an article from an overseas magazine with a little-known handyman hazard.

The hazard reported at a safety conference in Canada was the catalyst (or "hardener" or accelerator) added to fibreglass resin before the resin is applied.

An eye specialist told the conference that a drop of the catalyst in the eye would progressively destroy the tissue of the eye and result in blindness.

This would occur even though an attempt was made to wash the catalyst from the eye.

Further, once the chemical has begun to destroy the eye, there was no known way of stopping the destruction, or of repairing the damage.

During his talk, the eye specialist showed a colored slide of an eye damaged by the chemical.

Other slides illustrating eye problems which can occur if the eyes are

not adequately protected were screened, some so unpleasant to look at that several people left the room.

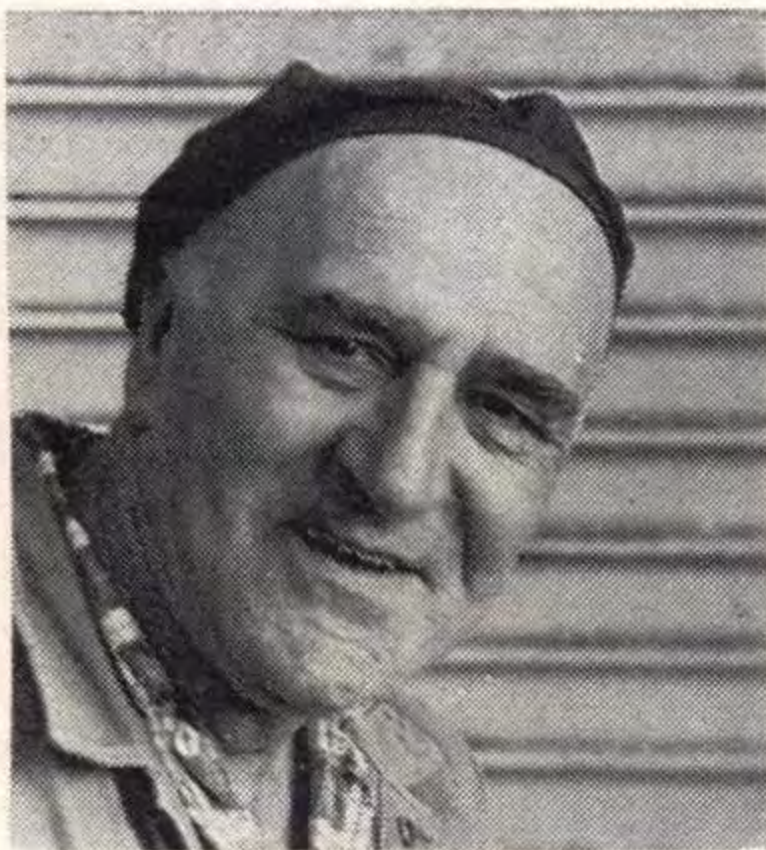
However, the slides illustrated the point that **WHEN HANDLING CHEMICALS OF ANY KIND APPROPRIATE EYE PROTECTION MUST ALWAYS BE WORN.**

The hazard associated with fibreglass resin was unknown to those who attended the Conference, although many had used fibreglass resin either at home or at work.

The hazard is therefore largely unknown to others who use a similar kind of resin and catalyst when working with fibreglass or with some of the hobby kits now available.

Departmental Safety Engineer Geoff Hall points out that Plasti-Bond hardener should be classed in the category referred to in the article.

Retirement



JOHN CATTERINA

Special class welder John Catterina retired from the Commission on April 19 after being employed at Morwell for 13 years, since March 15, 1961. Initially a boiler-maker at Central Workshops, Jack became a welder three months later.



JACK FRASER

Cleaning services foreman Jack Fraser's retirement on March 18 brought to an end 33 years of service with the Commission. A fitter's assistant on joining in 1941, Jack was a patrolman, patrol foreman and camp foreman before taking up the position from which he retired.

LEO HILL

Leo Hill completed just over 15 years service with the Commission when he retired on April 26. A pumpman since 1971, Leo was first employed as a trackman (coal); was a bedman at Morwell for four years, and became a chute assistant in 1963.

WALTER BOEHM

Wal Boehm joined the Commission in mid-1966 with General Services, becoming a leading hand bitumen worker about a month later. He retired on March 14.

IGOR AXACOW

Meticulous attention to the accuracy and reliability of survey information marked the work of surveyor, grade 2, Igor Axacow, who retired on March 8. Igor began as a surveyor, grade 1, in October, 1966.



NORM TAYLOR

Nice surroundings and an enjoyable climate were two factors which prompted Norm Taylor, who retired on March 28th, to settle in Terrigal (near Gosford) New South Wales. Norm didn't waste his time getting there . . . he was on the way the day after a farewell function at the Morwell Briquette Works. His association with briquetting — he was at Morwell from 1949 — was highly valued by the Commission, MBW production Superintendent Cyril Morellato told a large audience. Norm began with the Commission in 1936; served in the Navy during the war, and resumed his Commission career in 1947. He leaves behind a wealth of knowledge and a reputation as a man who had the welfare of his workmates very much at heart.

Yallourn "W"

(From Page 5)

Last month's visit was virtually a pipe-opener to general public viewing.

A \$22 million contract has been let for the design, manufacture, delivery, erection and putting into service of two 375 megawatt turbo-generators and associated plant — the second stage of the Yallourn "W" Power Station.

Installation of the machines will increase Yallourn "W" capacity to 1450 megawatts, second only to Hazelwood (1600 megawatts).

The machines are scheduled for operation in 1979 and 1980 respectively.

Reward for Bowls Champ

(From Page 16)

Another SEC personality, Bernie Clayton, of operations, Yallourn "W", was to have been in the Champion of Champions play off after winning the Yallourn BC pairs title with Terry.

However, he was unable to play, and Ron Curtis substituted for him.

The SEC also had a three-quarter share in the MGBA Champion four, through Les Sewell (foreman mechanic, Yallourn), Ron De Carli (foreman painter, Yallourn) and Jack Thorpe, a retired SEC electrician.

Fourth member of the successful combination was the Assistant Station Master at Yallourn, Stan Findlay.

Marathon

(From Page 16)

Jim, the oldest of the three, covers more training miles than the others at this stage, but the youngster of the group, 26 year-old Alan Ashmore, has an imposing record — he has held all Gippsland distance titles from one mile to 25 kilometres at some stage in a bright career.

John Eyre (38) took up running to build up stamina for his first love, long distance ice skating.

A member of the Australian ice skating team from 1959-62, John toured Europe in 1960, representing Australia at the World Championships in Switzerland in the same year.

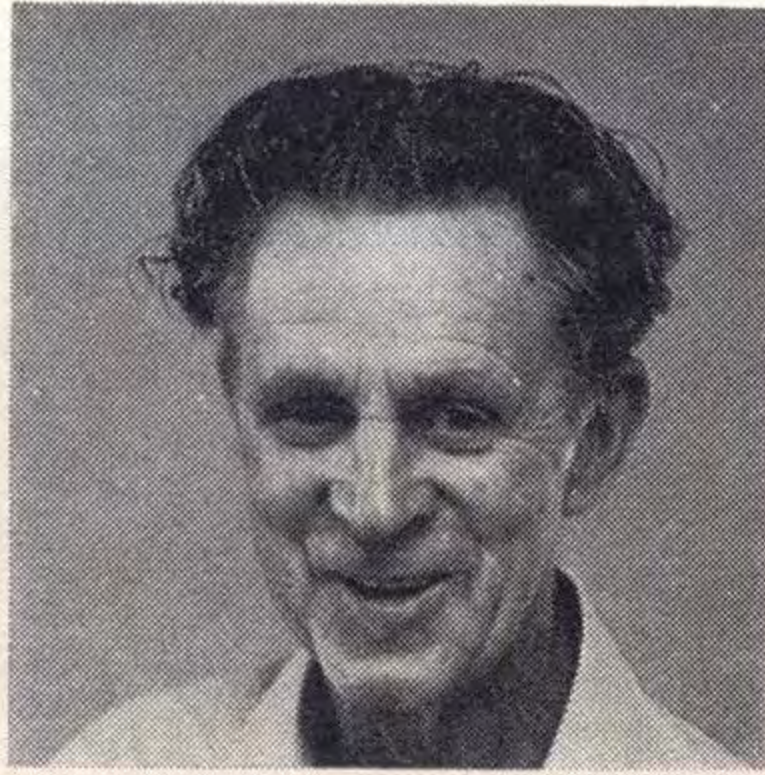
The three runners have set themselves a tough target of 2 hours 40 minutes, qualifying time for the National Championships.

Retirement



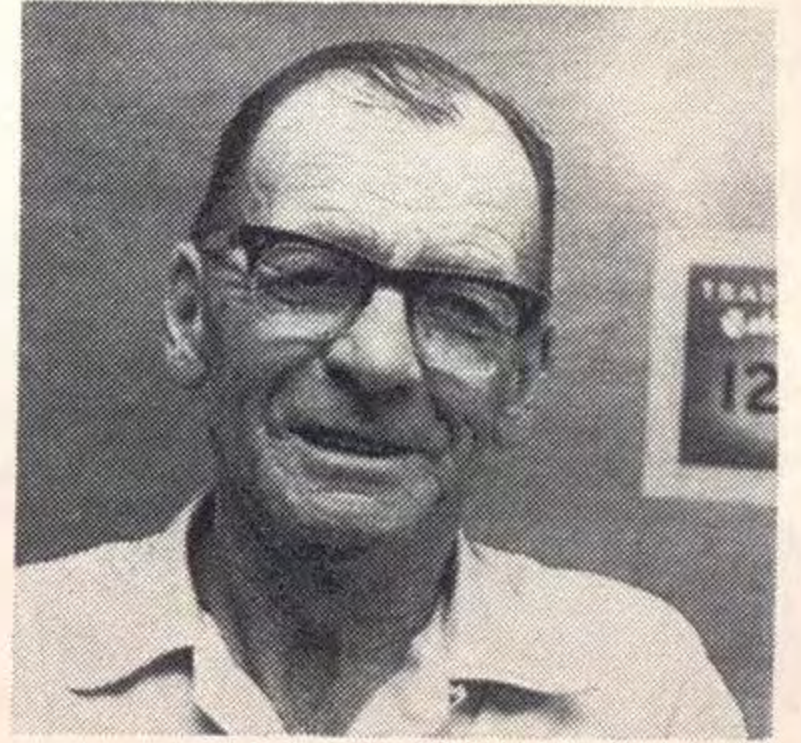
HARRY HINNEBERG

Crane driver Harry Hinneberg moved around during his 10 years with the Commission. A pick and shovel man in 1964, he became a cleaner in the same year; became a trades assistant at Central Workshops at the end of his first year, and transferred to the briquetting works the following year. He was appointed a crane driver in 1965.



RALPH SMITH

Briquette works fitter Ralph Smith retired on March 18 after serving the Commission since June 25, 1956. Initially a fitter with Central Workshops at Morwell, Ralph transferred to the briquette works in Morwell on 19-3-1962. He retired from that position.



CHARLES SHERWOOD

Charles Sherwood, who retired from the Commission on March 25, has serviced thousands of vehicles in his 28 years as motor mechanic at Yallourn Transport Workshops. First employed in January, 1946, Chas. was reclassified leading hand in charge of 11-20 men in February, 1947. In 1959, he became a leading hand inspector (3-10), and at the time of his retirement, was in charge of more than 20 motor mechanics.

VAL LEESON

As this issue of Contact goes to press, Val Leeson is somewhere on the high seas, on the way to a tour of Europe which will take him on a typically thorough jaunt through some of the world's best known tourist spots. Val, a Coal Division overseer, retired on April 13 after serving the Commission for more than 25 years. He joined in 1949 as a boilermaker, moving through several classifications to the position of workshops overseer in 1960. His most recent task has been with the No. 12 dredger, now safely in position, and with the conveyor system which serves it. Those most closely associated with Val farewelled him at Yallourn on April 12.



Turn On... For Safety's Sake

The Morwell and Yallourn Works Areas have been shrouded in fog several times in the past month, and more can be expected — especially during the mornings — for the next few months.

Departmental Safety Officer Geoff Hall has commented on the large number of drivers who take the risk of finding their way through the fog without benefit of headlights.

Commission regulations, which apply to Commission drivers, contractors, sub-contractors and their employees and any person entering the works area under permit, require the use of full headlights on low beam during fog conditions.

The ruling applies equally to all works locations, although some ob-

viously present exceptional hazards.

Driving with parking lights only is of no value, Geoff Hall points out.

"Next time there is a heavy fog, take a look at the cars on parking lights — if you can see them.

"The only safe way is to use full headlights on low beam; both inside and outside of the two works areas," Geoff commented.

the sporting scene

They're champs, & that's not biased.

Les Sewell and leading state bowler John Dobbie admire the champion four perpetual trophy while Ron De Carli, Roy Norden and Stan Findlay look on.

THE Mid-Gippsland Bowling Association's annual presentation dinner at Trafalgar last month brought some old friends face to face across the awards table.

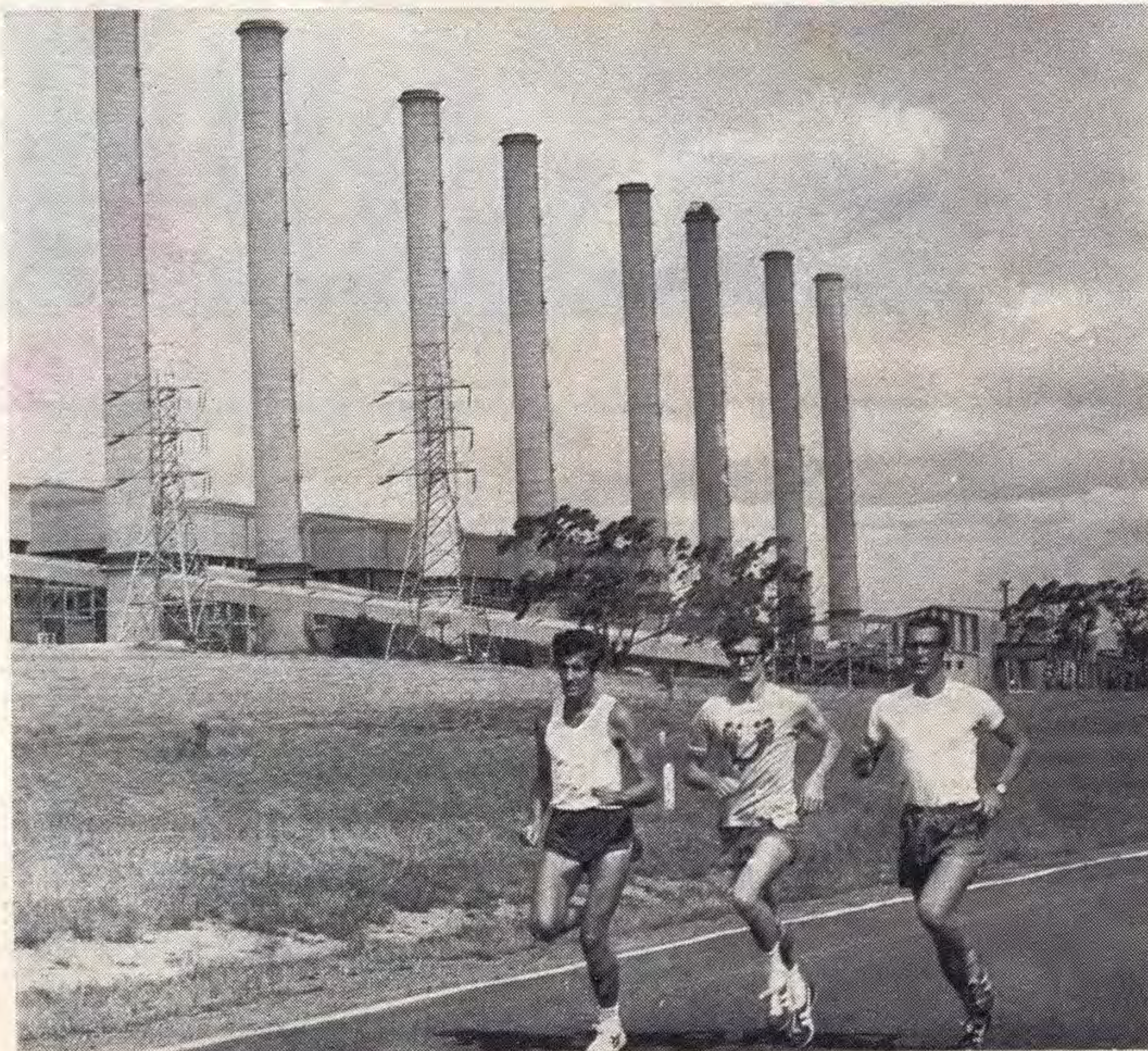
On the handing out side was recently retired Yallourn Municipal Works Engineer Roy Norden, who is president of the MGBA.

Roy seemed to take especially great pleasure in congratulating several former workmates on their success on the greens in Association competition.

The MGBA's Champion of Champions pairs title was won by the "makeshift" team of Terry Miller (foreman electrician at Hazelwood) and Ron Curtis (leading hand painter at Yallourn). (cont. page 14)



Strong... Energetic... Capable...



THAT'S the way to describe marathon runners Jim Willis, John Eyre, Alan Ashmore and John Lyon, all Commission employees — and all dedicated to achieving and maintaining physical fitness through running.

Lyon, a Yallourn "W" station personality, is just getting back into action after injury worries. He set the Yallourn Amateur Athletic Club marathon record of two hours 48 minutes back in 1967.

The other three — Willis at Morwell, where he works in records; Eyre (metallurgist) and Ashmore (grade 2 CAO, transmission) at Yallourn — regularly cover distances of up to 80 miles weekly.

They'll be starters in the annual Traralgon Marathon on June 2, and barring injury, will be facing the starter in the Victorian Marathon Club event at Tyabb on June 30.

However, the big events in their sights are the State titles at Point Cook, on August 10; the Country Championship on August 24 at Bendigo, and the Australian Championship at Adelaide on September 21. (cont. page 14)