

Shoener



CONTACT

NOVEMBER, 1975



T.S. LATROBE DOES IT AGAIN

TS Latrobe, the Yallourn based unit of Naval Reserve Cadets, has done it again.

For the second year in a row, the unit has won the Navy League Colour, and in doing so has written itself into the record books.

This is the first time a unit has won the Colour two years in succession, and the first time that the award has been won three times by the same unit (TS Latrobe was successful in 1964, one year after its formation).

Understandably, the unit's Commanding Officer, Ernie Clegg, a L/H rigger at YPS, is walking around with a larger-than-usual smile on his face.

And so too are his fellow officers — Executive Officer Ron Smith (Sp. Class electrician, MB and PI), Chief Petty Officer James Muir (rigger, MOC), Sub-Lieutenant Training Officer Michael Chopping, Honorary Instructor George Lewis (rigger, YPS), and Senior Instructor Dick Gough (Painter, Civil Services Yallourn).

Winning the Colour for the second year running has

given the unit an added bonus by making it eligible for national recognition.

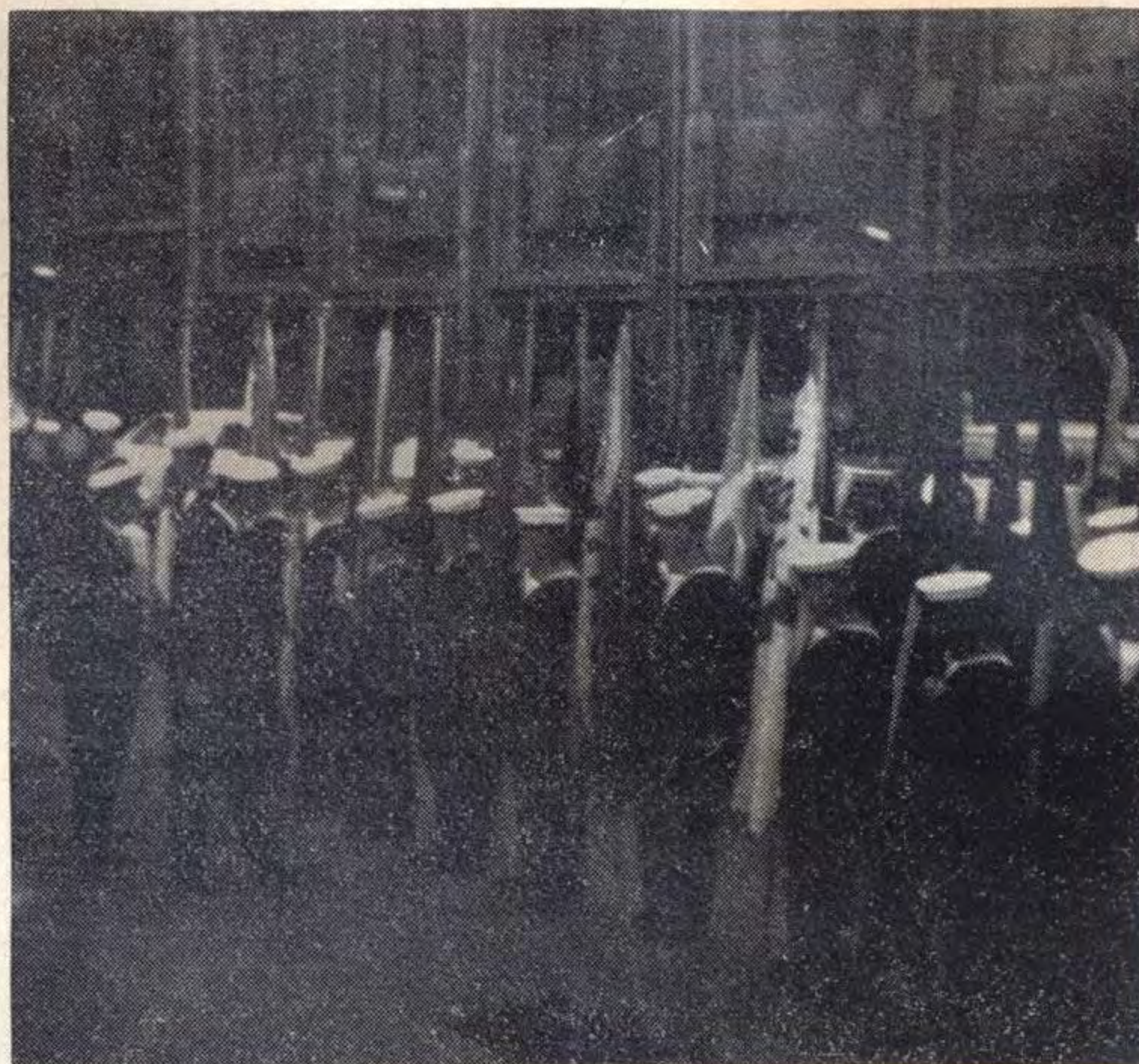
The performance of TS Latrobe will be matched with that of units in other states. The winner of this national award will be announced later in the year.

TS Latrobe follows an interesting and varied programme throughout the year. The unit takes part in 12 weekend camps, as well as making special visits to RAN ships, and depots and other Naval Reserve Cadet units (there are six in Victoria).

The group has only recently returned from annual camp training at Lake Epalock, where sailing, bushwalking and general bushcraft were foremost on the agenda.

But it is not all work and no play.

As a reward for a good year's work, the Unit Committee has hired two cabin cruisers for a weekend trip in November, and this time it is strictly a pleasure cruise only.



Attention. And the members of TS Latrobe stand steady for a group inspection. This shot was taken when the unit attended the Annual Service for Seafarers at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in Melbourne on October 5.

It may be some time before he's pressing Bob Goldie for golfing honors, but Hazelwood PS casualty officer Peter Gleeson has made a late start to a promising career in golf.

Peter, who advertised in CONTACT last month for a set of golf clubs, was almost inundated with offers; well . . . six SEC colleagues replied to the advertisement, with Peter buying the first set.

Since then, at least five people interested in golf clubs have contacted Peter to get in on the act.

Unfortunately, he did not

keep a list of those who answered his ad.

The weather hasn't been too promising, but Peter has had time to try out his new clubs.

Getting Peter out on the course has also revived the interest of his wife Mary (Buddy), a former keen golfer making a comeback after a 30-year break from the sport.

One sport she will not be trying is football.

About six years ago, Mrs. Gleeson spent eight months in hospital with a broken femur after slipping while dodging a football in the backyard of her home.

Contact



Prepared by The Public
Relations Group for
Operations Group employees.

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Cover

Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret certainly created quite an impression when she visited the Latrobe Valley on October 27 . . . and no one showed more interest than the thousands of school children who turned out to greet her. Our cover catches the Princess and her Lady-in-Waiting Lady Anne Tennant chatting with an obviously captivated audience at the Coach Road look-out.

WELCOME SIGNS OUT FOR A ROYAL VISITOR



1. SEC chairman Charles Trethowan greets Princess Margaret at the foot of the lookout tower on Coach Road. The Minister for Fuel and Power, Mr. Balfour, look on.



2. Yallourn "W" PSS Ron Court escorts the Princess along the turbine floor of "W" station.

3. Princess Margaret was a popular figure with an enthusiastic crowd of school children brought from Yallourn district schools.



4. Chatting to "W" Station workmen was obviously a pleasant task for the Princess.

5. A proud moment for the Mayor of Moe, Hank Wegh — a painter with the SEC — as he escorts Princess Margaret to the dais of honor in Moe.



MB and PI first aid teams at work

Finding a fellow workmate lying prostrate on the floor would send most of us into a dither . . . unless, of course, we had more than a passing knowledge of first aid.

Knowing what to do in just such an emergency is the rationale behind first aid training within the Commission.

It is always comforting to know that at least some of our workmates are versed in the finer aspects of first aid, and that should anything go wrong, help is close at hand.

As an incentive to gain first aid training, the Commission conducts an annual competition among teams drawn from all areas of its operations.

The competition requires a team of four first-aiders to deal simultaneously with three sudden casualties. Team members must methodically examine the patients, determine the exact nature of their injuries and administer appropriate first aid treatment, all within a prescribed time.

Areas to be represented



During practice sessions for the first aid teams 'patients' are expected to carry out their part with a certain degree of realism.

in this year's championship are the Wimmera Electricity Supply Region, Northern and Midland Electricity Supply Region, Transmission Operations Department, Transmission Development Department, Supplies and General Services Department, Metropolitan Electricity Supply Region and, of course Operations Group.

Morwell Briquetting and Power Installation entered two teams, both of which

had been in training since May.

Our photographer was on hand at a recent full-scale rehearsal to take this dramatic shot of the team and their 'patient' at work.

Other local entrants included Yallourn Power Station (two teams), Morwell Coal Production, Yallourn Coal Division, Civil Engineering Services and Electrical Services.

Heat winners in the com-

petition move on to compete in semi-finals with three teams winning through to the championship final at Geelong on November 28.

This year is the 27th for the championship, but so far, local teams have met with only limited success.

A team from Yallourn was successful in the event's inaugural year, and Yallourn Coal Production brought home the bacon in 1964.

Hopefully, the drought will be broken in 1975.

Stop Press

At the time of writing, elimination and semi-final heats had already taken place, with the team from Electrical Services, Transmission Division winning the honor of carrying the colors for the Latrobe Valley area into the grand final on November 28.

The Transmission boys will certainly strike some tough opposition from its championship rivals, Shepparton ESB and Collingwood Metro.

Congratulations must go to the Yallourn Coal Division and Yallourn Power Station teams for their efforts in reaching the semi-finals.

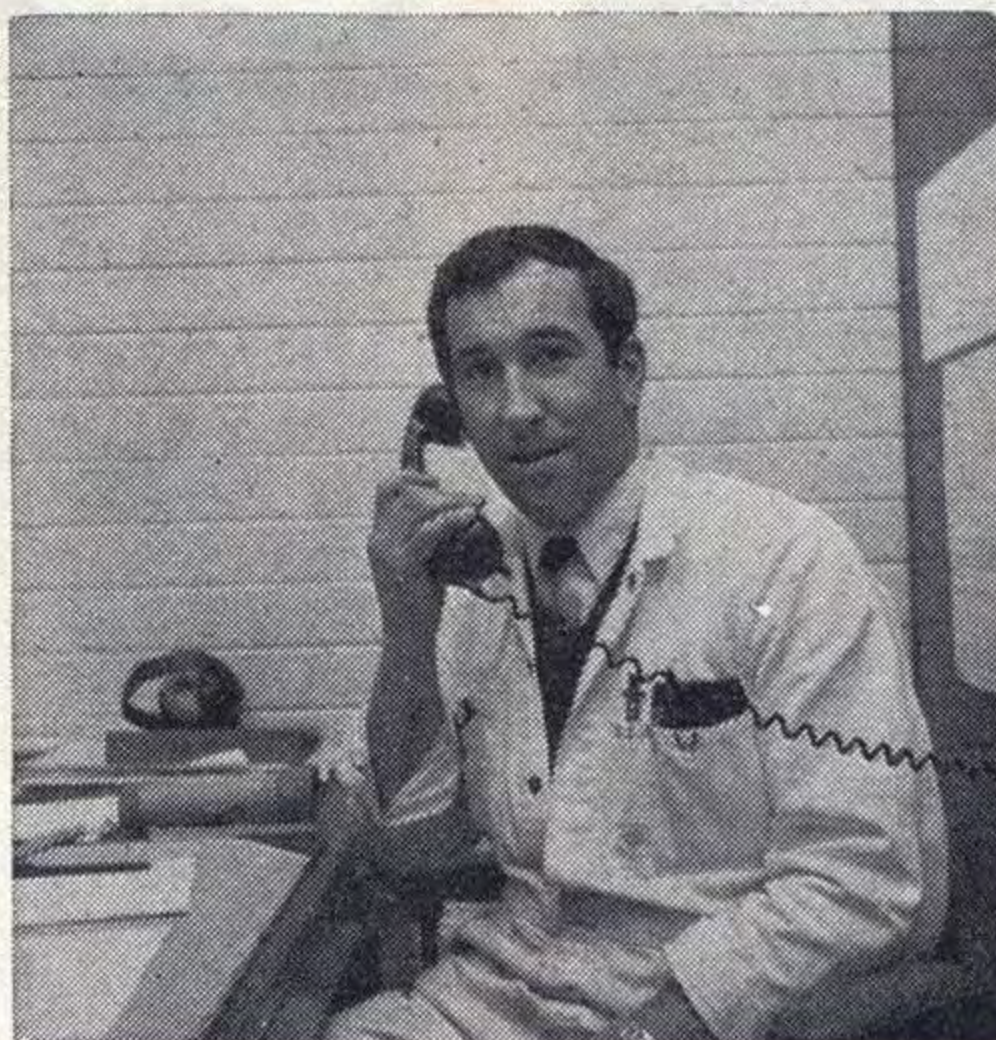
Social League get-together

The next quarterly meeting of the SEC Social League Executive Committee will be held at the Yallourn Visitors Reception Centre on November 28.

Traditionally, the third such meeting for the year is held in the country, and this year the Latrobe Valley Association of Social Clubs will act as hosts.

The meeting will be attended by 40-50 delegates from all metropolitan and Victorian country social clubs.

APEXIAN OF THE YEAR



Hazelwood Power Station electrical fitter Robert Tate has won the 'Apexian of the Year' title for Traralgon Apex Club.

Robert, secretary of the club, has been a member for the past seven years.

The award is in response to the active service he has provided during this period.

Robert is pictured going through his paces as A/foreman in the absence of regular foreman Terry Miller.



AREA ADMINISTRATION



No-one can doubt that the Payrolls section in the Morwell administration building is a hive of activity . . . the complexity of the timekeeping function ensures that.

But behind the scenes lie some interesting facts which make this "beehive" all the more significant.

Few people realise that the cost of labor is the Commission's highest operating expense, or that the average weekly gross payroll for wages personnel in the La Trobe Valley amounts to more than \$880,000, which adds up to a gross annual payroll of \$46-million.

And how many would appreciate that individual gross pay per week is in the region of \$173 — averaged over nearly 5,100 employees

Hence the importance of the timekeeping role.

The aim of the Payrolls section is to provide each employee with a pay docket ensuring that the right amount is paid at the right place at the right time.

But this is not quite as simple as it may seem on the surface.

Specifically, the extensive range of awards and related rates, with their multitude of conditions and allowances, make the task a complex one.

You can almost hear the whirr of activity. With calculator machines pounding and ball-point pens scratching, time-keeping staff get down to the real business of preparing the pay.

We all have stake in "tidy" timekeeping

Additionally, timekeeping procedure must contend with workers' compensation payments, long service leave payments, deductions for medical benefits and group assurance, recreation and sick leave, savings deductions and taxation, plus a host of minor items — many or all of which can vary from week to week.

These are only a sample of the variable factors which must be taken into account—and with more than 5,000 pay dockets being processed each week, the complexities of timekeeping are readily apparent.

In any discussion on timekeeping, it is obvious that the timesheet is the vital initiating document.

Just as a motor vehicle will not perform satisfactorily if fuelled with a low-grade petrol, so too will the timekeeping system fail to function effectively if 'fuelled' with a 'low-grade' timesheet — that is, one not correctly compiled, properly authorised and promptly

submitted.

The importance of responsible officers in these activities cannot be too highly emphasised.

A completed timesheet is an employee's claim on the Commission for wages due.

To ensure that he has done all he can to receive his correct pay, each employee should check that all hours worked and entitlements for the week are clearly detailed on the timesheet before its authorisation.

The officer responsible for authorisation — foreman,

overseer or supervisor — must make certain that any change in times, classifications or allowances, or any other variation from the norm, is sufficiently detailed on the timesheet.

On leaving the hands of the officer responsible for authorisation, timesheets are forwarded to the central Payrolls office via field timekeepers, and in both locations, accuracy checks are made.

Hours worked and related details are coded by central timeroll clerks for transfer on to special computer input sheets—at which point the original timesheet comes to rest.

It is still the official record on which any follow-up queries will be based, but the coded input sheet now acts as the medium for the future transfer of pay-related information.



Joy Surowka, John DeVries and Peter Halliday obviously don't mind standing in line . . . because cashing their pay dockets is probably the job they enjoy doing best.



ENGINEERING SERVICES

Survey plots the way

Five hundred thousand manhours worked without disabling injury is an outstanding achievement, but for Survey Group in the Latrobe Valley, it is almost a hard-luck story . . .

. . . it could so easily have been a "one million" celebration.

The Group's previous best run — 639,982 manhours— came to an end in 1971, and there has not been a DI in the 527,000 manhours operation since then.

National Safety Council director Frank Turley described the achievement as "extra-ordinary".

He said that the Group's outstanding record was especially significant in view of the "accident epidemic" sweeping across the Australian industrial and domestic scene.

"Hopefully, your example will have flow-on effects in your homes and in the community generally", he told about 75 personnel at a presentation function in the West Mess Banquet room last month.

Engineering Services Department Manager Max Gray and SEC Chief Safety Engineer Charles Polglaze left no doubt about their attitude when they congratulated Survey personnel.

Mr. Polglaze, who said it was rare for a group to reach the 500,000 mark, warned against adopting "the numbers approach" to industrial safety.

"Statistics are useful, but we should never lose sight

of the fact that where safety is concerned, we are talking about people . . . we are not simply playing with figures", he said.

Principal surveyor Bob Peters attributed the out-

standing safety record largely to the work of part-time safety officers Dave Bowditch (Morwell) and John Crozier (Yallourn) and their predecessors Bede Gilmour and John Nerrie.

Vic Cadwallader started something in 1971 when he donated an outsize dummy as the "prize" for the next Survey Group disabling injury accident victim. There has been none since then so it was decided to reciprocate by presenting Vic with a dummy of his own as a memento.



Spotlight on accident "epidemic"

Presentation of a 500,000 manhour safety pennant and certificate last month to Survey Group Personnel in the Latrobe Valley gave National Safety Council director Frank Turley a chance to speak on the "accident epidemic" sweeping Australia.

Accidents in Australia had reached epidemic proportions, Mr. Turley told on audience of 75, but although one family in five would have to cope during the next months with the effects of a serious accident involving one of its number, "no one gives a damn!"

He "cheered" his audi-

ence by predicting that statistically, 15 of his listeners would have such a family involvement in an accident.

"Industrially, Victoria alone will lose 2,500 man years through accidents sufficiently serious to warrant Workers' Compensation claims.

"That is almost half the SEC's workforce in the Latrobe Valley, or the equivalent of 10 factories each employing 250 going out of production for a year because all the workers are in hospital," he said.

Mr. Turley pointed out that for every person injured on the road, six were injured at work and 12 at home.

Because of the lack of concentrated mass media attention, it was difficult to get the message across that the "accident epidemic" was a community problem which imposed a heavy financial burden.

"And the tragedy of it all is that 85 per cent of all accidents are avoidable — and a large percentage involve children.

"Ten thousand are admitted to the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne each year from accidents alone; almost every one as a result of some adult action (or lack of it)", he said.


**ENGINEERING
SERVICES**

Smoking could pay off in this instance

The fact that I had managed to walk five blocks at 4 a.m. without disturbing the neighbourhood dogs seemed a good omen for the smoke tests to be carried out within a few hours by Ian McDonald's intrepid band of mountaineers.

Ian's forestry group, in conjunction with a party from CSIRO, have been engaged in a programme to study the movement of air currents at the mouth of the Latrobe Valley.

The knowledge gained should help in the operation of Loy Yang power stations, resulting in better control of air emissions.

The plan of attack, rehearsed at a briefing the day before, involved the igniting of phosphorous canisters at 13 different locations.

The canisters release extremely dense smoke plumes,

which can be photographed from the air.

Timing was critical to the whole exercise.

The smoke plumes had to be photographed at the tail end of the cold stable condition (before sunrise) in which cold air tends to drain to the lowest point, and again at the start of the warm-up period (after sunrise) in which the air flow would tend to reverse.

Conscious of the need for split-second timing, each group of men — laden with phosphorous canisters, radio and anemometer — tracked off into the darkness to take up position.

The radio was more than a friendly companion to allay fears of being stalked by the black panther . . .

. . . 3UL's Glen Knight had the important task of synchronising the whole operation by informing the groups whether the tests were to go ahead, and whether the photographer's plane was on schedule.

Due to thoughtful planning and excellent field work, the tests I saw were completed without a hitch, and with a minimum of fuss — typical of the manner in which this group carries out its work.

—Denis McGrath



Forestry Officer Ian McDonald makes sure that his men know exactly what they have to do with a preliminary briefing at the Yallourn forestry depot.

In the cold, cold, cold of the morning...

Meteorological studies being carried out by the SEC in association with CSIRO have already begun providing valuable data on pollution dispersal properties of the Latrobe Valley . . . but at the cost of some "shuteye" for at least one group of SEC personnel.

Teams of Forestry Group personnel have been leaving well before the crack of dawn to prepare for the firing of ground flares before sunrise on the tops of Valley ranges.

The plumes are captured on film from the air by senior photographer John Smith, who leaves home even earlier to link with a special flight from Sale airfield.

The photographs enable the surface behavior of the "cold smoke" to be checked, and it should be possible mathematically to relate the circulation to higher wind speeds.

A second stage, not yet under way, will involve the release and tracking of super-pressure balloons as a means of defining turbulence levels. The aim is to determine differences between the Latrobe Valley and the relatively flat areas on which most plumes rise and dispersal formulae seem to have been based.

The first smoke flare test was attempted in June, but was aborted when adverse weather set in. A test was carried out early in July but the teams had to wait until September 9 for another try.

In all, CSIRO scientists have suggested that the tests be carried out at least four or five times, with flares spaced over a distance of about 10 miles.

It is expected that the data revealed by these and other tests either being carried out now or on the planning boards will help engineers not only in design areas but will be invaluable in "pacing" station operation to provide the best possible control of air emissions.



The two vacant Divisional head vacancies in Engineering Services Department have now been filled.

The appointees are:—
Civil Services Division — Services Engineer, Max Williamson (above). Mechanical Services Division — Services Engineer, George Davis (below).

Scratch event winner Bob Goldie demonstrates the smooth swing which has landed him in the front rank of Gippsland golfers.



News with a sporting flavor

Golf took pride of place in the Latrobe Valley during October, when the Association of Social Clubs conducted its annual golf tournament and a 36-strong team from Head Office took on a Latrobe Valley team in the SEC Finance golf day.

The weather was kind to both events, enabling players to display their best form — on and off the course.

The Finance event resulted in a win to the Latrobe Valley team, which won 14-4.

Yallourn golf course was in great condition, helping players such as SEC chairman Charles Trethowan, who finished with the top Head Office score of 39 stableford points, and top Latrobe Valley scorer Don Malpass, who won on count-back from Jeff Miles, Les Kite and Des McLean, on 38 Points.

Best Head Office pair

Organiser Lex Derham has the look of a winner after the highly successful Association of Social Clubs golf tournament last month. Pictured with Lex are ASC president John Hutchison (left) and D grade trophy winner Pat Renehan (right).

were Harold Burn and Alan Waugh (44), and the Valley prize went to Eddie Whelan and Jim Minster (46).

The "If Only trophy was won by former Departmental Commercial Officer Ron Os-

borne, with a score of five points.

The ASC event, which attracted a field of 140 was again highlighted by a scratch event win to top Gippsland golfer Bob Goldie.

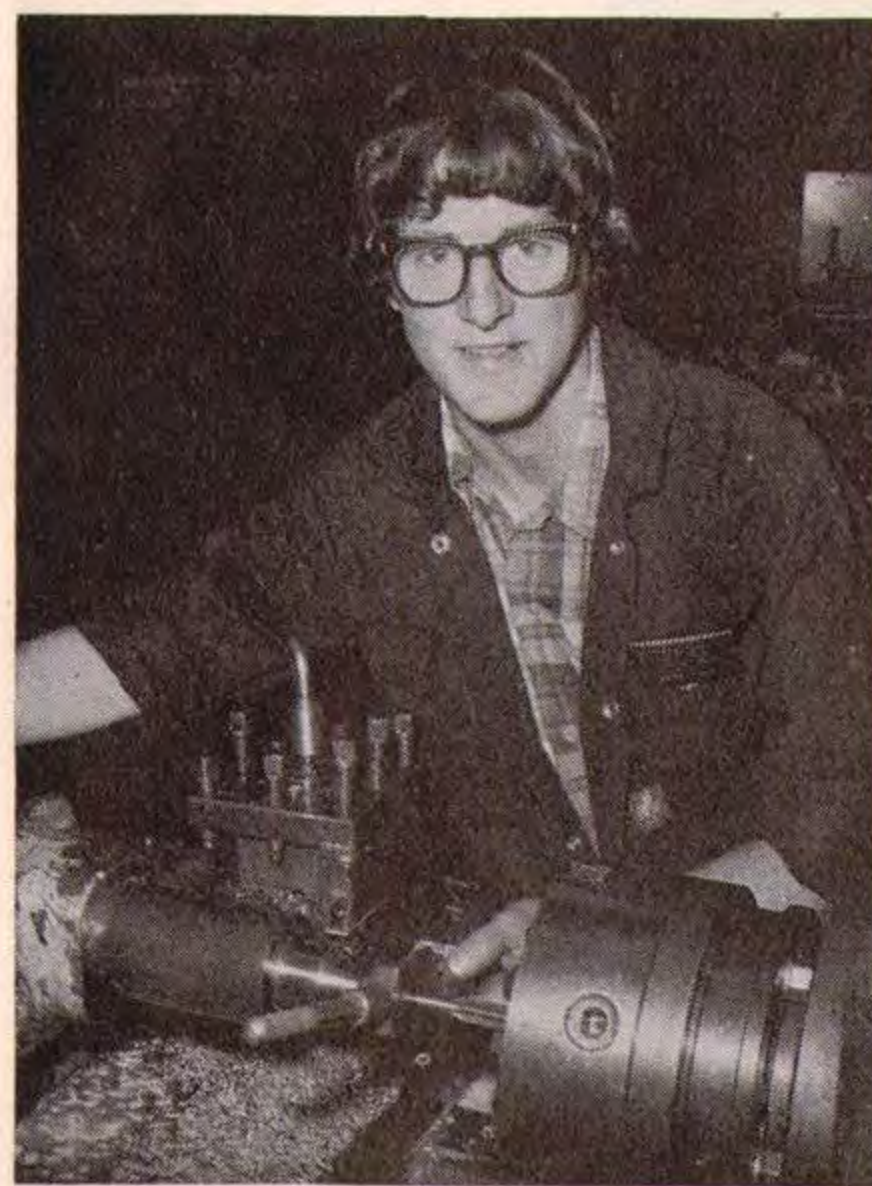


Top M.G. Award to Apprentice

Second year fitter and turner Ray Di Carli certainly looks the part at work . . . and he must obviously look the part on the football field, judging by his success in the best and fairest award for the Mid-Gippsland Football League for season 1975.

Ray plays with Yallourn North, and this was his first year with the senior side.

And at 18 years of age, he has many years of good football ahead of him.



SOCIAL CLUBS AWAIT THE FESTIVE SEASON

MORWELL STAFF

Patrons who enjoyed themselves at the recent show eve social at Golden Hill came back for "seconds" on November 3, Melbourne Cup eve, when a similar function was held.

A highlight was the running of a Cup sweep which gave ticket-holders the chance (24 actually) of drawing a horse to carry their colors the following day.

Next important date on the Social Calendar is the Annual Christmas picnic to be held on November 23 at Yinnar recreation reserve.

MB AND PI

Shaws Ballroom in Moe was the place to be on September 26, when over 250 people ate, drank and danced the night away. The Melbourne group The Trutones (described by secretary Buddy Crane as 'the best group we have ever had') supplied the music and the happy patrons did the rest.

For canteen-manager Lex Derham, the evening held special significance. He was presented with a life Membership certificate for services rendered over the years.

The next social will take place in April, but in the meantime, club members are requested to keep two other dates in mind . . . All roads will lead to Yinnar on December 14 for the Annual Christmas picnic, and on February 15, swimming gear will be the order of the day when a 'beach picnic' party will invade the sunny sands of Inverloch.

MAIN OFFICE YALLOURN

Christmas season must be social season for the Yallourn main office.

Club members are in for a heavy programme, kicking off with a golf day at Yallourn on November 30, and following up with the

Christmas picnic at Mossvale Park on December 14 and a Christmas social at Golden Hill on December 19.

Other news is the change in the executive 'face' of the club. At the annual general meeting in August, Neil Harwood retained his post as president, but newcomers are Sue Keighley (treasurer), and Bill Bremner (secretary) as well as several new committee members.

STORES GROUP

The popular Yinnar ground is the venue for the club's Christmas picnic on November 30.

Also coming up is the Christmas dinner dance on December 12.

Dick Winters Band will be on 'duty' at Shaws Ballroom to ensure that the expected 150 guests have a night to remember.

YALLOURN PS

The YPS Social Club will conduct its Christmas picnic on December 7, at Yallourn No. 2 oval.

Another item on the pre-Christmas agenda is the dinner dance at the Newborough Public Hall on November 21.

Music will be supplied by a local group, and 90 couples are expected to attend. Patrons are in for a great night if previous club functions are any indication.

HAZELWOOD PS

Possibly the biggest Christmas picnic ever seen in the area will take place at Yinnar on December 7. HPS Social Club will have toys available for 935 children, so it's certainly going to be a hectic afternoon for organisers.

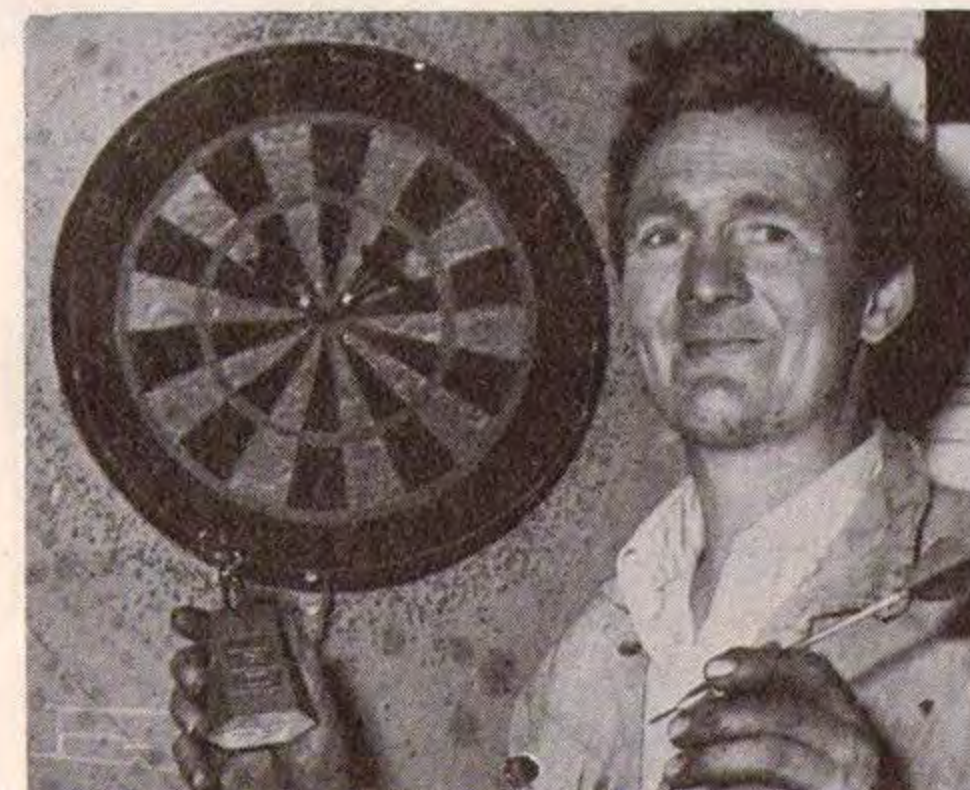
The annual dinner dance at Shaws Ballroom on November 7 gave the mums and dads all an opportunity to work out some sort of group strategy.

Trades assistant Keith Davies of Morwell Central Workshops, has finally thrown a bull's-eye . . . and he has won himself a trophy to prove it.

Keith, a member of the Traralgon Crown Hotel darts team for the past nine years, recently won his team's 'Most Consistent Player' award for season 1975, his first-ever darts trophy.

Naturally he was pleased with his win, but he maintains much of the thanks should go to team captain Keith Blake for the support he has given individual team members.

Keith's first trophy win would appear to be well-deserved — before beginning his career as a darts player, he served as secretary of the club for some years.



"Shift" cricket season begins

A Gippsland Institute team has been added to the LV Mid-Week Cricket Association, which has made a bright start to its 1975-76 season despite some decidedly patchy weather.

The SEC has five teams in the seven team competition, each of them keen as mustard to wrench the premier crown from the powerful Police side.

Competing in the Association this season are Hazelwood Blacks and Whites, CWS, Yallourn "W", Briquette, GIAE, Police and APM.

As well as picking up an extra team, the Association also has two new umpires — new to the LVMWCA but not to umpiring.

They are Bert Hill and Hugh Tate Snr., both of whom are on the Traralgon District Cricket Association Panel. Also on the five-man panel are its capable secretary Elmo Orchard, one of the most experienced umpires in Gippsland, Harry Shillinglaw and Alec Wiggins.

Apart from dismissing batsmen and turning down appeals, umpires also have the important task of choosing the Association's top fieldsman, and in the case of SEC teams, choosing the team's best fieldsman.

The SEC's Social League has donated a new trophy for each SEC team.

The Association will be led this year by Lloyd Lewis; secretary/treasurer is Harry Smith and Dennis McAuley is publicity officer.

The 21 round season winds up on March 3, with the final series on March 10, 17, 24.

There will be a three-week Christmas break, from December 17 to January 7, 1976.



POWER GENERATION

Hazelwood PS — and Group 26 win awards

Two important safety performances were recognised with a presentation in the HPS lecture room on September 12.

First cab off the rank was group 26, the coal and ash-handling group, which received a pennant and certificate from the National Safety Council for its effort in notching up 100,000 'DI free' hours.

Safety representative Adrian Casey accepted the award from MPG Jack Robertson.

PSS Bruce Johnston took on an unfamiliar role when the second award was presented.

Bruce's normal task at such award functions is as a 'presenter', but this time he was on the receiving end when he accepted the 'Most Improved Power Station' trophy on behalf of the Hazelwood Station.

The award was initiated in 1966 when it was not unusual for power stations to have an annual DI rate approaching the 50 plus mark.

Fortunately, safety awareness has increased greatly since then, with Hazelwood carrying off the latest award with a DI rate of 14.4, an improvement of 14 per cent from the previous year.

Craning their necks...

There were plenty of interested on-lookers at the Yallourn Power Station on October 6, when a large crane moved on to the old 'A' station site.

What's so special about a large crane?

Nothing usually, but this particular crane created so much interest because its type is the largest available in Australia. It gained considerable publicity throughout Victoria when ATV O used it at a mobile "bird" to provide a spectacular panoramic camera angle for the VFA 1st Division grand final at the Junction Oval in St. Kilda last month.

The GCI 5,400 mobile hydraulic crane is certainly an imposing sight.

It possesses a maximum tip height of 270 feet at an angle of 75 degrees; at a height of 170 feet it has the

capacity to lift a staggering 60,000 lb; and it is loaded down with safety features to give its operator's maximum safety control.

The crane was called in

at Yallourn by Warragul Scrap Metals, the firm contracted to remove several conveyors from in and around 'B' station and to transport them to Apex Quarries in the Melbourne suburb of Epping.

The Warragul company soon discovered that the nature of the task demanded something special... hence the GCI 5,400.

Clarke Mobile Cranes, of South Melbourne, are the owners of the \$300,000 crane; in fact the company owns the only two in Australia.

Man in charge of the Commission's side of the operation is Maintenance Supply Supervisor Allan Cameron.

He is obviously pleased that the job was carried out with the best equipment available.



Safety is becoming a popular word out Hazelwood way . . . just ask the obviously safety-conscious coal and ash-handling and administration group.

Anyone for Possum stew?

Onlookers marvelled at the prowess of possum-trappers Ron Cook (left) and Buddy Wurlod.



VENTURERS' AWARDS MAKE DADS PROUD!

There were some proud dads at the Newborough Scout Hall last month, when eight members of the Newborough Venturer Unit were presented with Queen's Scout Badges, the highest award available in Venturing.

And among the eight fathers at the ceremony were six who work with the SEC — Brian Lalor (son Anthony

received his Queen's Scout Badge), Keith Hall (Stephen), Ron Walsh (David), Alex Hackett (David), John Parsons (Norman) and Alec Callen (Graeme).

The SEC's Peter Butcher, who leads the Newborough Unit, was almost as proud as the successful scouts' parents.

Since being "leg-roped" into scouting 12 years ago, Peter has spent 10 years with Venturers and their fore-runners, Senior Scouts.

Weekly nights out at the Newborough Hall and fairly regular weekend outings take up a great deal of his time, but Peter finds it all highly rewarding.

In his "spare" time, he is a member of the Volunteer Emergency Reserve.



David Halkett (Alex Halkett, brick-layer) receives his badge from District Commissioner, MacDonald District Russ Savage while Ventura leader Peter Butcher (Accounting section, Morwell) offers his congratulations.

Anyone for possum stew . . . ? That could have been the catch-cry last month in the Yallourn Stores area when a possum inadvertently strayed into the canteen.

Not that the possum was going to give in lightly.

For quite some time the might of the SEC (in the form of riggers Ron Cook and Buddy Wurlod) was unable to bring the 'vicious' creature to heel.

The possum has been seen around the Stores area on many occasions, particularly during the evening hours, but this was the first time the animal had ventured so close to human habitation.

The possum is a pretty hardy creature — he has been seen eating rat-sack on several occasions with no visible ill-effects.

As for that possum stew . . . Stores personnel can stop worrying.

The possum was released into the scrub later in the day, no worse the wear of his experience.

LIFELINE gift to the community

Life Line, an organisation which provides a round-the-clock telephone counselling service for people experiencing personal problems of all kinds, has gained wide support for its contribution to the Latrobe Valley community.

This was acknowledged by Area Administration Chief Administrative Officer Ken Yelland at a special meeting of the Yallourn Town Advisory Council last month.

Highlight of the meeting was the presentation by chairman Cr. Neil Wishart of a \$1 000 cheque to Line Line, a donation which Ken Yelland said "reflects the SEC's deeply-felt sympathy for the needs of the LV community".

Life Line, he said, provided a unique and valuable community service.

The \$1 000 donation — it will be reviewed annually—could bring closer the appointment of a full-time director for Life Line, to succeed part-time or the Rev. Don Thomas.

Since its inception seven years ago, the organisation has received more than 6 000 calls — a load which requires the services of 96 trained counsellors.

● Life Line counsellors are available at any time on 34 4311.

Valley Cup up for grabs again

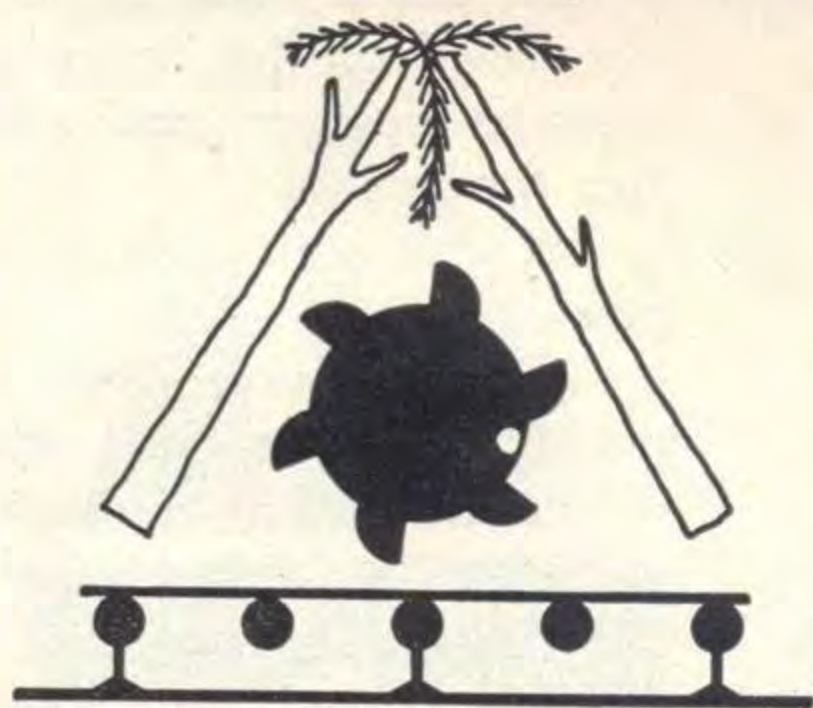
The annual Valley Cup lightning cricket premiership at Yallourn next weekend brings together some of the Commission's top cricketers.

It also creates an opportunity for some unlikely stars to make their bids for fame.

Open to all social clubs within the Commission, the Cup competition has again attracted a number of Melbourne teams in addition to those based in the Latrobe Valley.

Players and spectators will get together after the round of matches for a barbecue and other refreshments.

The first event last year was an outstanding success, both on the field and socially.



COAL PRODUCTION

New Conveyors to Yallourn

The two rising conveyors soon to be installed in Yallourn open cut represent a significant step forward in economical handling of coal supplies to a power station.

Extensible head ends on the conveyors, the first of four to be installed to service the raw coal bunker at Yallourn 'W', will enable operators to discharge coal at any point along the 116 metre long bunker, without the need for a complex system of distribution conveyors.

For instance, what the Yallourn raw coal bunker system will achieve with four extensible head conveyors requires a 14 conveyor system at the Hazelwood bunker.

The \$5 million contract for the two new conveyors has been awarded to Ascom Pty. Ltd., of South Melbourne.

With the enlarging of Yallourn 'W' to four units — the third and fourth units are planned for operation by the winters of 1979 and 1980 respectively — the existing train system does not have sufficient coal-carrying capacity.

Under normal conditions, the planned conveyors will feed the 40 000 tonne raw coal bunker at a steady rate of 3 600 tonnes per hour,

well below their 4 800 tonne per hour capacity.

Travelling at six metres per second, the conveyors will carry coal from the open cut system about 485 metres away.

The extensible heads, which will be automatically controlled to maintain even coal levels — using electronic sensors as a guide — could also have another useful application.

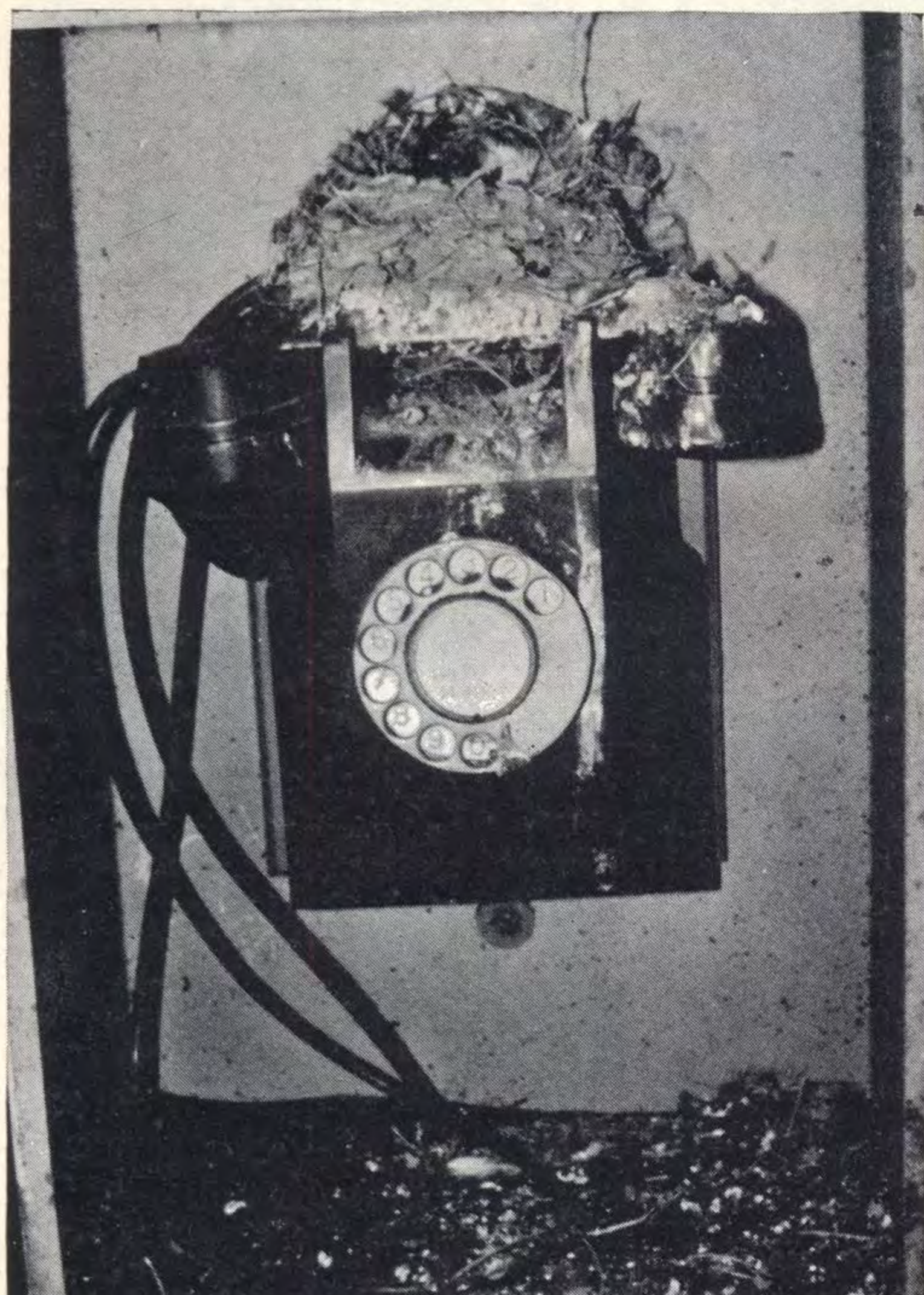
They could be used for separation of clean coal, and perhaps even different lithotype coals.

The first of the new conveyors is expected to be operational by March, 1978, nine months before completion of the second conveyor.

The raw coal bunker, currently under construction near the White Bridge at Yallourn, will be 27 metres high.

Made up of 27 500 cubic metres of concrete and 3 750 tonnes of reinforcing, the bunker is scheduled for completion by March, 1977.

Four conveyors at the base of the bunker will be fed by rotation reclaimers, taking coal via various interchanges to any of the Yallourn power stations, and to a new train loading station for coal to Morwell briquette factory.



This line temporarily out of service . . . !

This must be the most homely phone in the whole of the Commission.

At least, that's how a family of birds saw it sometime during the year.

The phone, at the splicing station of 161, 162 and 163 coal conveyors in Morwell—the conveyors feed Hazelwood PS—obviously comes in for little use.

When Transmission technicians checked it out, they found that the phone was in good working order and that the occupants had flown the coop.

Commission phone number 5285 is now back in service.

Arbitrator is on the job...



Municipalities, community and sporting organisations and individuals have made 150 separate submissions to Mr. Ray Burkitt, the independent arbitrator appointed to advise the SEC on replacement elsewhere in the Latrobe Valley of Yallourn Community facilities which would otherwise be lost to the region when Yallourn Township is removed.

Mr. Burkitt has begun making a preliminary assessment of the recently closed submissions, many of which involve applications for more than one facility.

"The number of applications and the wealth of detail involved especially those with multiple applications — underline the complexity of the job, both for me and for those making submissions.

It is already clear that there will be a need for additional information on some submissions, and it is going to take some time to tidy things up before getting down to the face-to-face interviews which I regard as vitally important", Mr. Burkitt said.

Recalling his pledge to the Latrobe Valley Community that his work would be a "cards on the table" operation, Mr. Burkitt said that he would keep organisations and the public informed of his progress.

Mr. Burkitt said that while for obvious reasons he was reluctant to set a firm timetable for his activities, he expected that the first discussions with Municipal Councils would begin during November. He would meet four of the five councils concerned before the end of the month, he said.

"It seems logical to me that my first detailed discussions should be with municipalities, which are the most representative of the bodies making submissions, and which have the widest range of responsibilities.

"I would expect then to arrange

150 WAYS TO CONTRACT A 'HEADACHE'

talks with those major community and sporting organisations which have made submissions.

"An important element in the whole programme will be on the spot discussions. I want to take a close look at facilities under consideration, preferably in company with some of the people making submissions.

"And I will also be looking at locations in which it is suggested the facilities should be re-established", Mr. Burkitt said.

Yallourn — steady movement

The timetable for removal of Yallourn township does not require any compulsory movement of residents from the town before 1979, but residents are voluntarily moving at a steady rate.

Since January 1 this year, more than 200 tenants have left the town, while over 100 new tenancies have been approved.

In keeping with the wishes of residents keen to make their resettlement arrangements as soon as possible, there has been an increase in the flow of houses from the town.

The SEC is now working to meet the requirements of the substantial number of Yallourn residents wishing to

Independent Arbitrator Ray Burkitt has held his first meeting with the three-man panel appointed to advise him in his task.

Mr. Burkitt said that the wide spread of interests represented ensured that all avenues would be fully explored whenever he sought the panel's advice.

On the panel are Yallourn Town Advisory Council elected member and former SEC Amenities Officer George Evans, Central Gippsland Trades and Labour Council secretary Franz Onger and Yallourn Resettlement Committee chairman George Bates.

Pictured at their meeting in the Yallourn Library are, from left, George Bates, Ray Burkitt, George Evans and Franz Onger.

- Under his terms of reference, Mr. Burkitt is to recommend to the SEC the extent to which facilities should be re-established, and to nominate appropriate locations within the Latrobe Valley for the siting of certain facilities which will no longer be available following extension of Yallourn Open Cut through the existing Yallourn township area. In considering his recommendations, Mr. Burkitt will give "due recognition" to the possibility that a financial payment by the SEC toward the cost of a new facility may be more appropriate than actual provision of the equivalent of the Yallourn facility.

live in Yallourn houses relocated in neighbouring municipalities.

Houses not bought by Yallourn residents for removal or relocated by the SEC, will later be advertised for sale to the general public.

In round figures, at least 600 of the 900 houses in Yallourn conform to Uniform Building Regulations and are capable of being re-erected elsewhere.

Surveys of residents indicate that about 60 per cent plan to resettle in the Newborough area, with smaller numbers at Moe, Churchill, Morwell, Traralgon and Yallourn North.

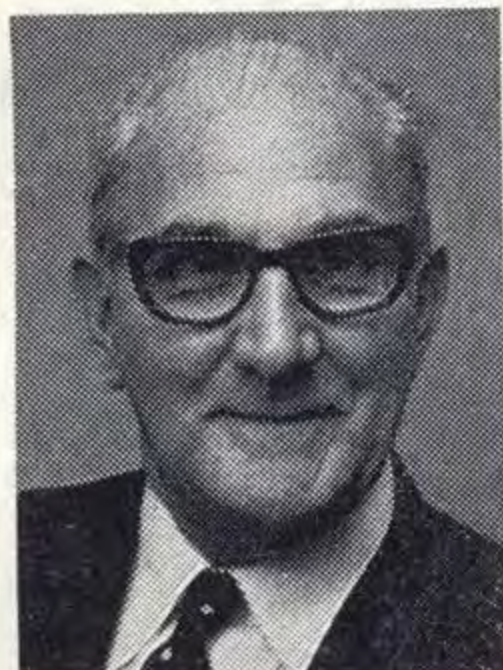
Based on these figures, most of the SEC's resettlement developments are within Moe City boundaries.

retirements

FRED ASHWORTH

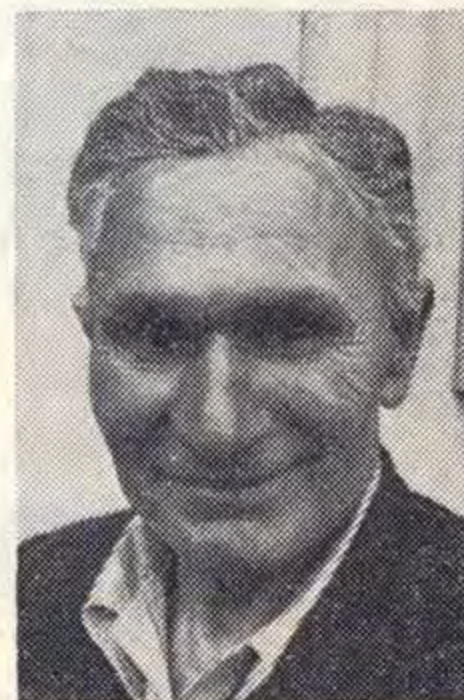
On September 19, the Commission lost another of its very familiar faces when driver Fred Ashworth completed his final mail run. Fred, well-known for his 'Pony Express' run from Yallourn to Morwell and back again, is the man mainly responsible for getting that urgent business letter or memo through on time. He was involved in driving for all his Commission life. He began as a motor driver at the Yallourn Municipal Depot in 1948, occasionally acting as leading hand, but 10 years later was re-classified as a driver-administrative, the post he held at retirement. After being on the go for such a long time, Fred is surely entitled to

take a rest, but he won't hear of such a thing. Retirement will allow him to concentrate more on his boating activities — the marine compass he received from workmates on his final day will certainly be useful — as well as his other hobby of tinkering with old television sets. He has also acquired another house in Morwell, so he still has plenty of miles to cover.

WILLIAM STURK

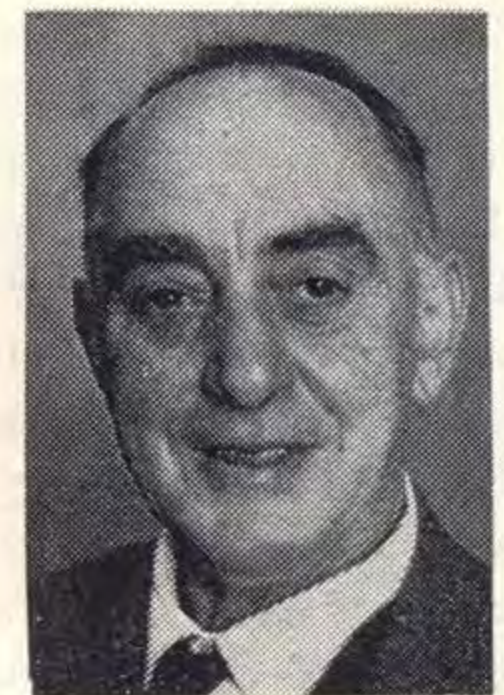
A wrist-watch and a copy of the book 'Brown Power' was presented to Coal Stalwart Bill Sturk when he attended a farewell function at the Southern Pivot on September 19, his final day with the Commission. Bill has been resident in the Yallourn open cut for the

whole of his 14 year stay, working at different times as a pickman, conveyor attendant, greaser and finally, operator grade 3. Retirement plans include a trip to Europe where Bill hopes to visit his mother who is well into her eighties. On his return, he intends to stay in Traralgon, taking things very quietly.

MARIAN SECZYK

Quiet at work and quiet during retirement . . . that's the story for Marian Seczyk, who left the Commission on September 5 after 21 years service. Marian, quietly spoken during his working days with Coal Production, Yallourn, nevertheless made many friends, most of whom turned up at the auxiliary canteen for a farewell send-

off on his final day. Workmate Viv Gore presented him with a wallet of notes while engineer Graham Freshwater thanked Marian on behalf of the Commission. Marian began his stay with Yallourn Coal as a laborer but in 1957 won re-classification as a coal conveyor attendant. He was further re-classified in 1964 as a plate-layer, the position from which he retired to Newborough.

WARREN BARROW

Warren Barrow, who retired from Commission service on September 19, doesn't believe in wasting time. Within two days of his retirement and farewell in the Administration Lecture Room at Yallourn Power Station, he had taken delivery of the VW Kombi van which will no doubt become a "home away from home" during a retirement which will involve plenty of touring. YPS Superintendent Don Bromilow thanked Warren for his contribution during a relatively brief stay at the station. Most of Warren's 29 years with the Commission were spent in Yallourn open cut as greaser, loco. driver, ditch bunker loader and driver. Station Operations Engineer Frank Tomlinson also spoke at the farewell, which was highlighted by the presentation of a wallet of notes to Warren and a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Barrow.

**COL MCPHEE**

Unfortunately for Col McPhee, illness has brought an early end to his long career with the Commission, but that still did not stop him from clocking up an impressive record of 34 years service. Workmates acknowledged this fact on Septem-

ber 10 when they crowded into the Services area canteen to see and hear MES Max Gray present Col with a well-stocked wallet. During retirement, he intends to take up residence at Kalimna and spend his days fishing and possibly reflecting on his long association with the

Commission. He began in 1941 as a wages employe, winning promotion to staff in 1954 as a foreman carpenter with Design and Construction, Morwell. Four years later he transferred to General Services, where he remained until retirement.

retirements



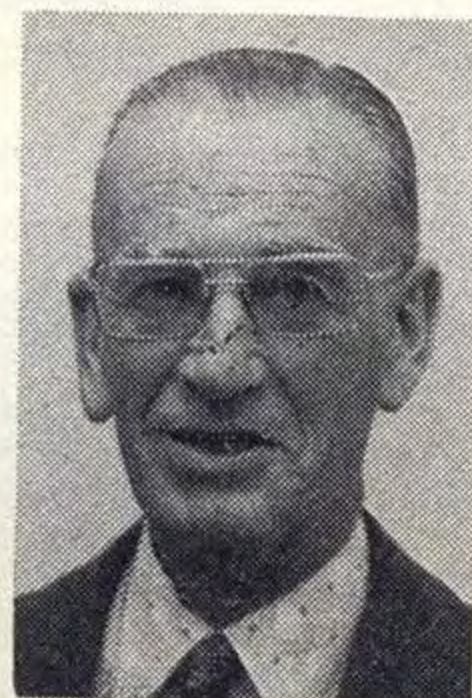
ALAN ELLIS

Alan Ellis, a man who did so much work behind the scenes, both on the job and outside, retired on September 12. Speakers at a function in the West Mess and at a farewell send-off in the Yallourn Workshops all emphasised that Alan had accomplished a great deal, quietly and unobtrusively. For example, he is in no small way responsible for the quality of the Yallourn Workshops, the equal of any similar workshop in the world.

In the LV community, Alan has been closely associated with Yallourn Soccer Club, the Ovals Trust and the erection of the Newborough sporting complex. His good work was recognised by the good wishes and retirement gifts from the people with whom he has worked, both on the shop floor and in the corridors of management. Included among his 'trophy' was a lawn mower, a belt sander, a hand-crafted glass-top table with matching wrought-iron chairs — an example of the

truly superb craftsmanship which does exist at the workshops — a band-saw manufactured and presented by the apprentice training annexe, and a cake-stand and bouquet of flowers for Alan's wife, Beryl, the latter presented by girls from the Yallourn Workshops complex. Alan's career with the Commission spanned 24 years: he began as Asst. Workshops Superintendent at Yallourn in 1951, and after eight years was appointed Workshops Engineer. In 1972, he was retitled Mechanical Services Supt. in charge of the Hazelwood 'Mod Squad', and was appointed to his final post, Workshops Supt. Headquarters, in 1972. Although the Commission will certainly feel Alan's loss, the community will possibly benefit from his retirement. He will now be able to devote himself more fully to his pet outside activities. Also high on his list of priorities will be his budgerigars; he has been breeding them for years and has built up quite a sizeable (and raucous) aviary.

BILL JOHNSON



Painter Bill Johnson is obviously a man who is not prepared to stay too long in the one place . . . at least that's the indication given by his "mobile" career with the Commission. Bill has clocked up 'nearly 20 years' service but it has taken him three goes to reach this total. He began in 1950 and stayed for eight years, work-

ing mainly as a painter, before moving on to do some private contract work. He returned in 1960 to Morwell General Services but was on the move again after just on 20 months. By 1965, he must have decided that the Commission was the right place to be, so he returned to the fold and worked at both the Morwell Briquette Factory and Morwell Central Workshops before retiring on September 24. Supervisor Alec Cousland and fellow workmates made sure that Bill would not forget his final moments with the Commission when they presented him with a wallet of notes at a farewell function in the Workshops canteen, and followed this up with a further get-together at the Morwell RSL the same evening.

RETIRED COULD HAVE OWN SOCIAL GROUP

Retired SEC employees still living in and around the Latrobe Valley often cross paths at the local supermarket; on the bowling green, or in the crowd at sporting or cultural activities.

Most of them welcome the opportunity to get together and chat over old times and interests.

Now, the Latrobe Valley-based Association of Social Clubs believes there is merit in going a step further — to the formation of a social club for retired employees.

ASC secretary Frank Miller, who explained to CONTACT that the idea was "just a thought" at the moment, said that attempts were being made to gauge interest among retired employees.

"There is a thriving SEC Retired Personnel Association in Melbourne which has a strong membership and which arranges regular functions for its members.

"It is affiliated with the SEC Social League and has access to all the benefits that implies," Frank said.

The Association is willing to foster a retired employees' club, and will give every support to get a club on its feet.

After that, the club would have full representation within the Association, along with existing social clubs.

So its over to retired personnel.

The person to contact for more details is Frank Miller, extension 3413.

Valley Visitors

With politicians so much in the lime-light at present, it did not seem out of the ordinary for MP's to appear on the SEC horizon; and that was the case on October 15, when five British Parliamentarians toured the Yallourn, Morwell and Hazelwood areas.

The Parliamentarians were on a tour of Gippsland, following up their SEC visit with a trip to the Longford gas plant the next day.

The MPs were Labour members Gordon Bagier, Alec Woodall and John Garrett and Conservative members Eldon Griffiths and Spencer Le Marchant. Also included in the party were UK Parliamentary Officer Mr. H. G. Davies and Victorian Parliamentary Officer David Farnsworth.

The visitors showed keen interest in Yallourn 'W' Power Station and were obviously impressed by the size and sophistication of the Yallourn and Morwell open cuts.

Other visitors equally impressed were five officers of the PMG who paid us a call on October 23.

This group was more interested in the radio communications side and group members were certainly given 'the good oil' by Telephones Engineer Stan Brown and accompanying Melbourne engineers Keith Pocknee, Brook Clancy and Ken Bloomfield.

Included on the itinerary of the annual conference for Distribution Engineers of Distribution Engineering Dept. was a tour of the Yallourn and

Morwell works areas as well as an on-site inspection of the proposed Loy Yang project.

The 25 engineers were in the Valley from October 27-31, with a full programme covering lectures and discus-

sions on engineering and assorted personnel topics.

This was the first time the conference has been held in the Valley area, so an organised tour of operations took on a high priority.



Top: PSS Hazelwood Arthur Ewan and his five visitors from the PMG have obviously found something to smile about as they take a close look at a model of a station turbo-generator.

Centre: On the spot for first hand information . . . that was the story when Distribution Engineers took time out from the "class-room" to inspect modern open cut operations.

Left: These three British Parliamentarians were displaying a keen interest in an SEC souvenir when caught by our photographer.