

Donnell

CONTACT

DECEMBER, 1975



LaTrobe on the right track....

Charles Joseph LaTrobe died just over 100 years ago, not knowing that the region to which he gave his name would today be the State's main power source.

LaTrobe, born in March, 1801, died December 4, 1875, was responsible for the planning and opening up of the first major access into this part of Gippsland.

The SEC, local historical societies, the Gippsland Folk Museum at Moe and Moe City Council have arranged activities in the Latrobe Valley on December 14 to commemorate the man after whom the region is named.

LaTrobe, described by the history books as a "citizen of the world" and a "complete virtuoso", in 1846 contracted the then-commissioner for Crown Lands, C. J. Tyers, at Alberton saying that he was at last in a position to offer "limited assistance" on the part of the government for the opening up of a road into this part of Gippsland.

Tyers was asked to submit an estimate of costs for the task.

According to information compiled by Jean Court for the Traralgon and District Historical Society, Tyers estimated the cost of a road from Mr. Oakendends Station at Rosedale to the Bunup Bunup River at one hundred and thirty-four pounds ten shillings.

The work was authorised, but — like most public works today — cost increases hit the project and although a grant of two hundred pounds came from Sydney, it was insufficient to recompense Mr. William Farley, the overseer.



How Valley will remember

The Latrobe Commemoration centenary observance in the Latrobe Valley took place on Sunday, December 14.

Here is the programme:

- 11.00 a.m.: Canoeists assemble on the Latrobe River
- 11.30 a.m.: Start of the race toward Narracan
- 1 p.m.: Race finishes
- 1.15 p.m.: Leave Lake Narracan for Gippsland Folk Museum, Moe, where colonial dancers will entertain
- 2.15 p.m.: Ceremony begins with welcome by Moe Mayor Hank Wegh. Naming of creek by the Minister for Fuel and Power, Mr. Balfour.
- 3 p.m.: Afternoon tea. Display of LaTrobe exhibition from Melbourne.

BACKGROUND OF A "VIRTUOSO"

Charles Joseph LaTrobe was born in London on March 20, 1801, to Christian LaTrobe and his wife Hannah.

Charles was educated in Switzerland, and on graduation became a teacher at the Fairfield Boys Boarding School in Manchester, England.

In 1835, aged 34, Charles married Sophie de Montmollin.

Three years later he was appointed Superintendent of the Port Phillip District.

He travelled to Australia in 1839, serving as Superintendent of the

Port Phillip District until the Australian Colonies Government Act was proclaimed in 1850.

From 1851 to 1854 Charles Joseph LaTrobe was Lieutenant Governor of Victoria.

In 1853, Mrs. LaTrobe left Melbourne and sailed for England, followed a year later by Charles.

Mrs. LaTrobe died that year.

Charles married again in 1855 to Rose de Meuron, became almost blind in 1865, and died on December 4, 1875, at Litlington, Sussex, England.

Contact



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Cover

Father Christmas will never run short of friends as long as children are around — that much is obvious from the way he was mobbed at the various social club picnics during the pre-Christmas period.

But perhaps a few of the youngsters depicted on our front cover were wondering how on earth he was going to get his reindeer to pull that giant red sleigh on the night of December 24.

A Christmas Message from AGM (Ops), Bill DeCampo

As we approach the end of the first full year as an Operations Group, we can look back on a period of solid achievement which should be very satisfying to everyone within the Group.

We are a large organisation by any reckoning, and with such a wide range of responsibilities it would be unrealistic to look for spectacular change.

It takes such a great deal of application and effort to achieve improvement that big strides are simply out of the question and, indeed, are undesirable.

However, I am more than satisfied with our progress.

As an Operations Group, we are confronted with challenges we must face up to and — despite and difficulties which may arise — deal with successfully. We cannot afford to simply "stand still".

Lifting of bans on removal of Yallourn was one of the more significant events of the past year.

It gave us the opportunity to press

on with Yallourn resettlement, a program which has brought added responsibilities and pressures as we set about fulfilling our undertakings and resolving the inevitable "human" situations which arise.

I believe we are demonstrating through the Yallourn Resettlement Committee the sincerity of our attitude.

The continuing delay in starting the Newport project is placing additional strains on the whole system as we search for ways of getting maximum performance from existing plant.

Our departments will inevitably bear the brunt of the load in the endeavour to compensate for the delay in building Newport.

The Operations Group re-organisation has already demonstrated its worth.

The sense of purpose throughout the Group is evident and the welding together of departments is a tribute to the co-operation of Group personnel.

The higher status enjoyed by our

Departmental heads both within and outside the SEC organisation has conferred tangible benefits on our overall operation.

During the year, relationships with the Latrobe Valley Community were substantially strengthened, with signs of distinct improvement in some areas.

Looking ahead, there is cause for high expectation and optimism.

There obviously will be no slackening of the demands made on us as an Operations Group, and with the Loy Yang public hearings drawing to a close we are clearly on the verge of an even more challenging future.

The Parliamentary Public Works Committee is expected to recommend on the proposed project early next year.

The long-term outlook is bright.

On a personal note, may I wish every member of the Group — and your families — compliments of the Season and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Transmission first aiders on the ball in "body repair"



Above: The accident scene, and the Electrical Services first aid team goes to work — from left, Danny O'Brien (captain), Ian McLeod, "patient" Jack Mullins, Peter Glasper and John Gillet.

Below: Captain Danny O'Brien receives the Transmission trophy from chairman Charles Trethowan.



Imagine yourself as a member of a party of bushwalkers carrying a patient on an improvised stretcher along a bush road to medical aid when you stumble across a car which has skidded into a tree.

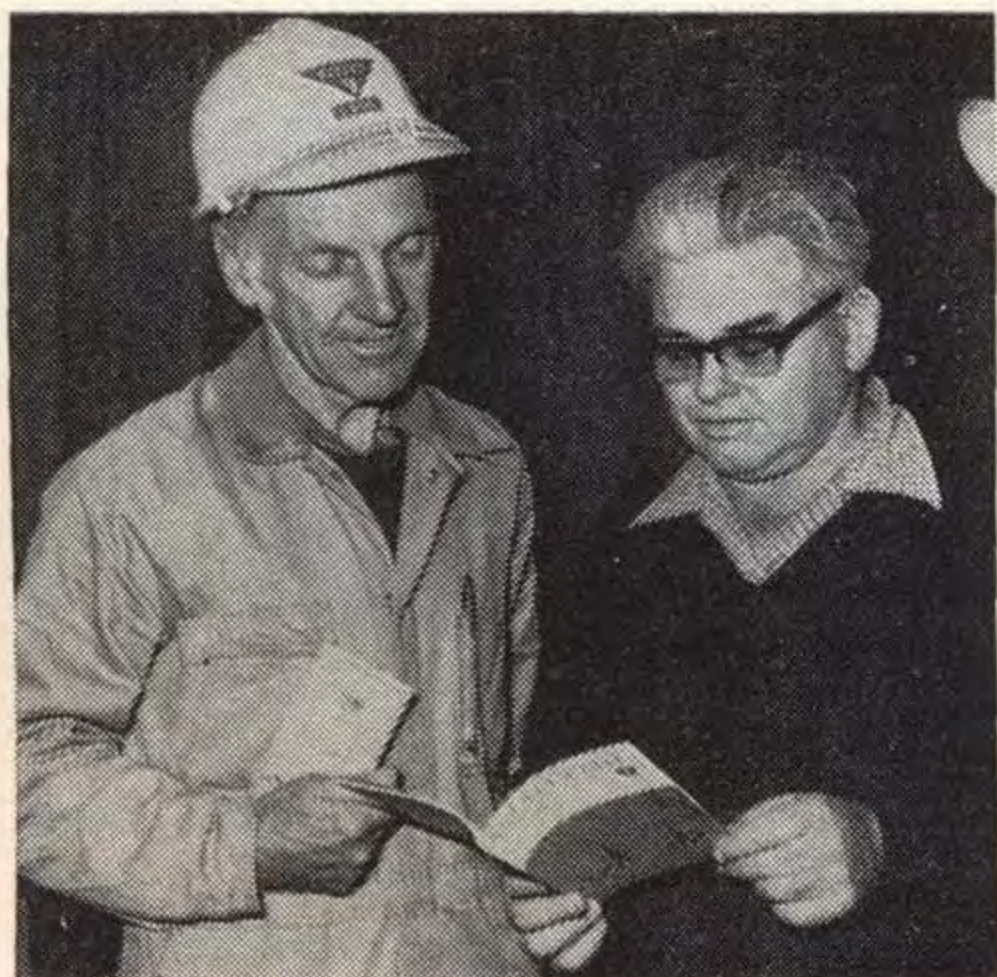
Not only must you cope with a copperhead snake victim, but the driver and passenger of the car have extensive injuries and require immediate first aid attention.

This was the accident situation facing the Electrical Services first aid team when it travelled to Geelong on November 28 to compete in the championship final of the annual Commission-wide first aid competition.

Having already won their way through two elimination rounds, team members were hopeful of taking off the major prize, but had to be content with third placing behind reigning champion Collingwood Area Centre Metropolitan ESR and Shepparton North Eastern ESR.

However, the LV team was awarded the Transmission trophy for the highest placed team from the Transmission departments.

Individual team members received a silver fruit bowl.



Bricklayer Alan Baker (left) maintains he has gained a new outlook on life since his recent heart attack, and he is certainly paying more attention to literature supplied by the National Heart Foundation. He is pictured with relief casualty officer Frank Cross discussing a pamphlet on heart attack symptoms. Copies of this and other related material may be obtained from the Australian National Heart Foundation, Victorian Division, Royal Parade, Parkville.

Lesson for others in one man's experience

Once in a while stories come along which are a little out of the ordinary.

They are unusual because they give a realistic and human insight into topics or subjects which many may not even think about.

Such is the story of Hazelwood Power Station bricklayer Alan Baker, who recently suffered a heart attack of the severest kind — and lived to tell the tale.

In telling his story, Alan hopes to prompt others to seek medical advice whenever they have any doubts about their health.

On August 11, Alan was working on a boiler at Hazelwood when he felt severe pains in his chest and had difficulty breathing.

The pains passed, only to return later to send him quickly to Casualty Officer Peter Gleeson, who advised him to see a doctor that afternoon.

At Moe Medical Clinic, Alan was X-rayed and given a week off work.

Three days later, he was preparing for bed when he was struck down again with severe pain.

Fortunately, his youngest daughter — formerly a nursing sister — had the presence of mind to call an ambulance immediately.

Within minutes, Alan was on the way to Latrobe Valley Community Hospital.

Alan's condition continued to deteriorate, and in the intensive care ward, his heart beat almost ceased; it was only after he had been subjected to 3 DC shocks of 240 volts that his heart began to pick up again.

Alan had suffered — and survived — a "ventricular fibrillation".

He owes his life to the staff at the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital, to his quick-thinking daughter . . . and most of all to the fact that he sought medical attention after the preliminary attacks.

In all, Alan spent 15 days in hospital and was not allowed to return to work until November 19 when he embarked on a course of light duties.

Before his near fatal attack, Alan's job as a bricklayer took him quite often to the very top of the Hazelwood stacks for maintenance work.

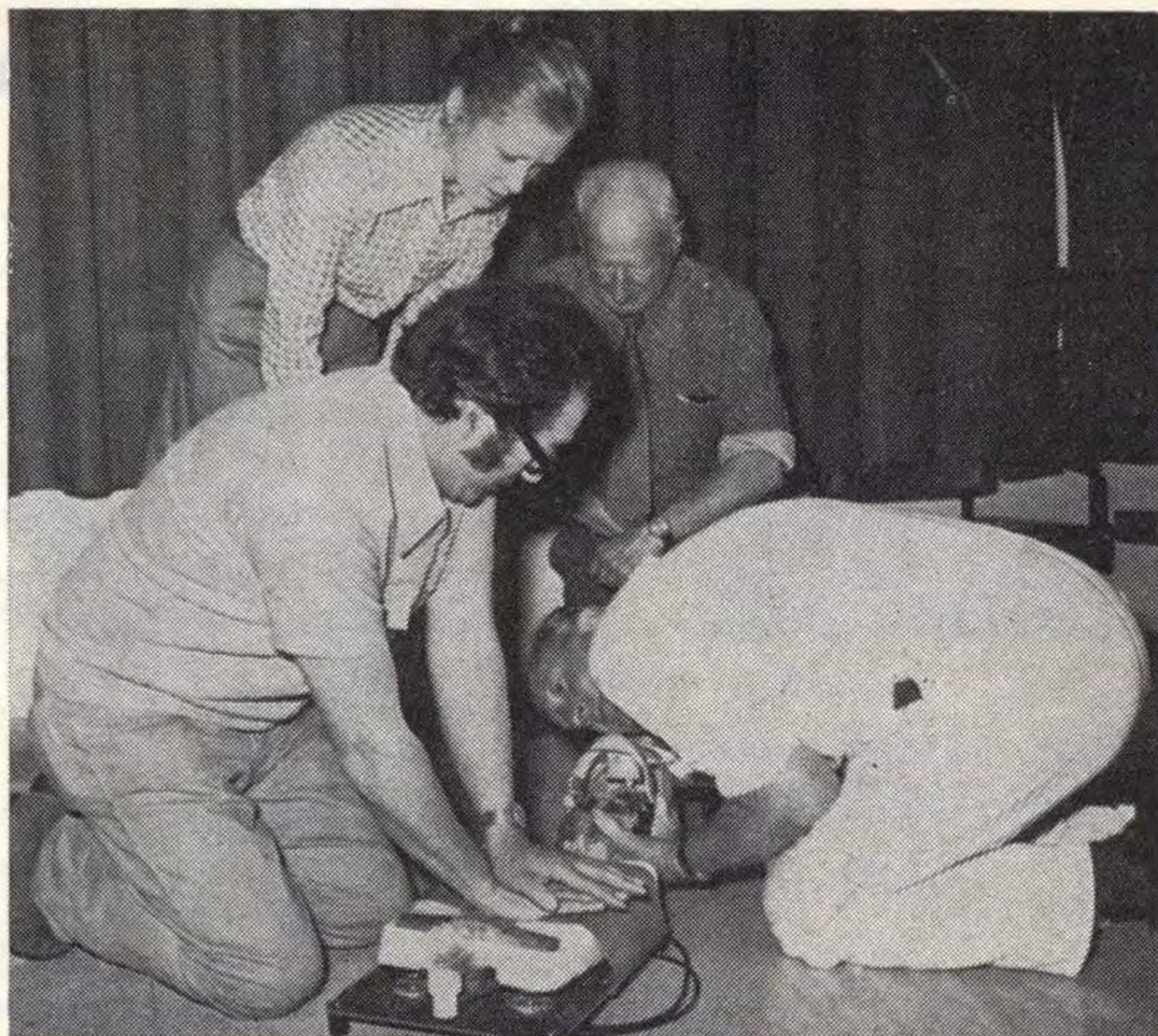
Because of the danger involved, he had been compelled to undergo a rigorous fitness test and a comprehensive course of X-rays only 18 months before . . . and was given a clean bill of health.

Similarly, a recent medical check-up for life assurance purposes had found him fit and well.

Alan's message is therefore quite simple.

Heart attacks can occur at any time, no matter how 'attack-free' a person's previous medical record. And if there is any doubt about the cause of chest pain, medical advice should be sought.

"KISS" OF A LIFETIME....



Coincidentally or not, lectures on heart resuscitation were recently held at HPS by Sister Karen Baker (no relation to Alan) of the Australian National Heart Foundation, Victorian Division.

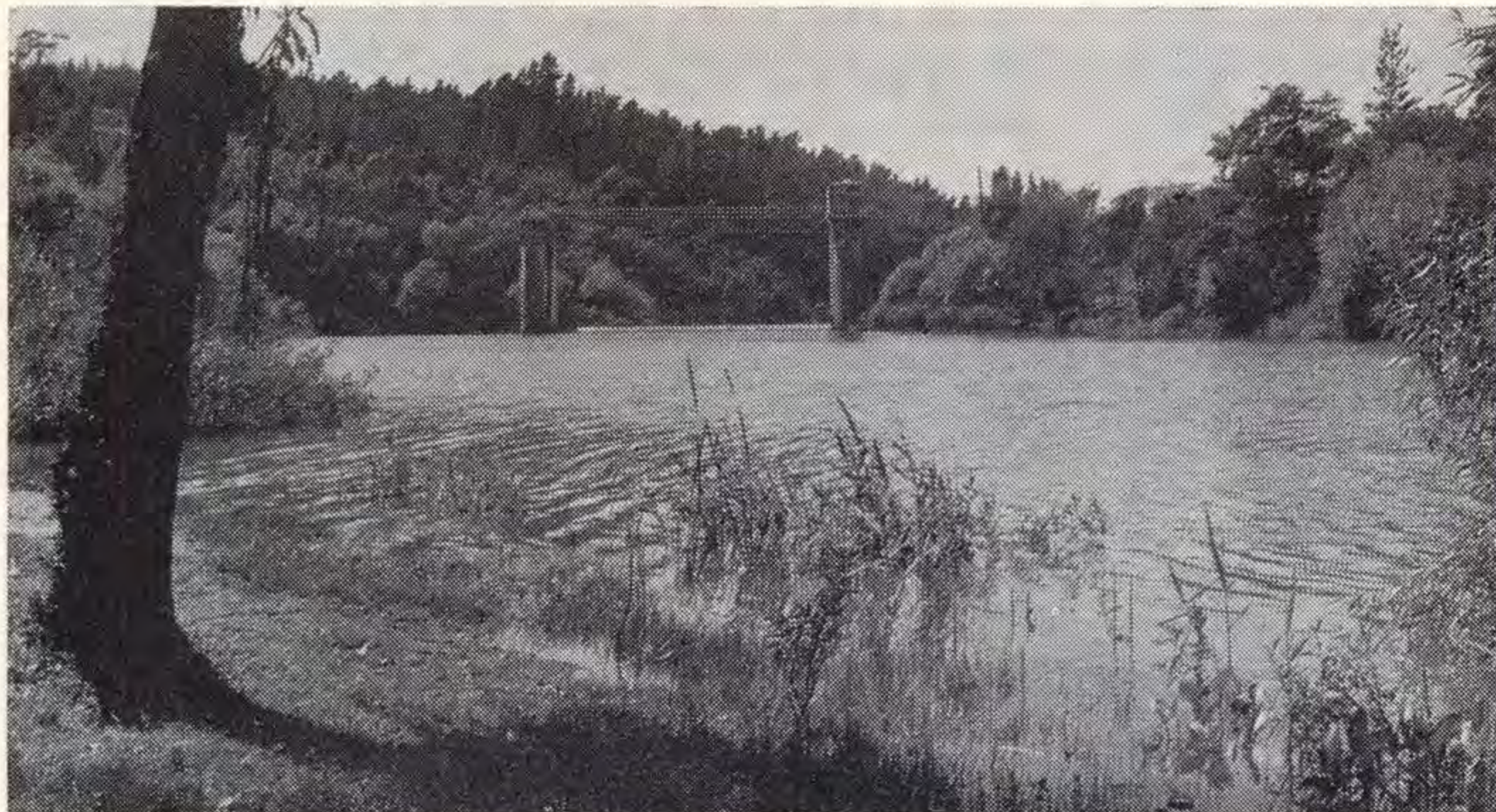
Representatives of the Foundation were visiting the local area at the time and their services were quickly snapped up by station officers.

During the lectures, artificial dummies were used for practical demonstration, and participants were shown the right

Sister Karen Baker certainly had some willing learners at her recent Hazelwood lectures when she brought along some props for practical demonstrations.

and wrong way of applying external heart massage.

Unfortunately, time limitations allowed only two lectures, but reports from Hazelwood indicate that the exercise was well worth the effort.



When finished, the tunnel will run parallel with the river for about 103 metres.

It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ metres below the depth of the river.

Pumps operate throughout the day to clear water seepage.

The SEC commissioned the project as part of a plan to re-cycle cooling water from the power station.

Pipeline Boring has a crew of eight working full time at the tunnel.

The firm, which is sub-contracting for the principal contractors, John Holland, expects the job to be finished soon after Christmas.

Jack hammers are used at the head of the tunnel to break away the soil, which is then loaded into a kibble (bucket) which holds 24 cubic feet.

A crane at the top of the shaft lifts it to the surface.

The aim of the plan to re-cycle the water is to keep in line with requirements by the Environment Protection Authority.

Previously the water was drawn into the power station at the screen pits, and discharged again after going through the cooling towers.

When the water conduit is finished, there will not be any water discharged into the river.

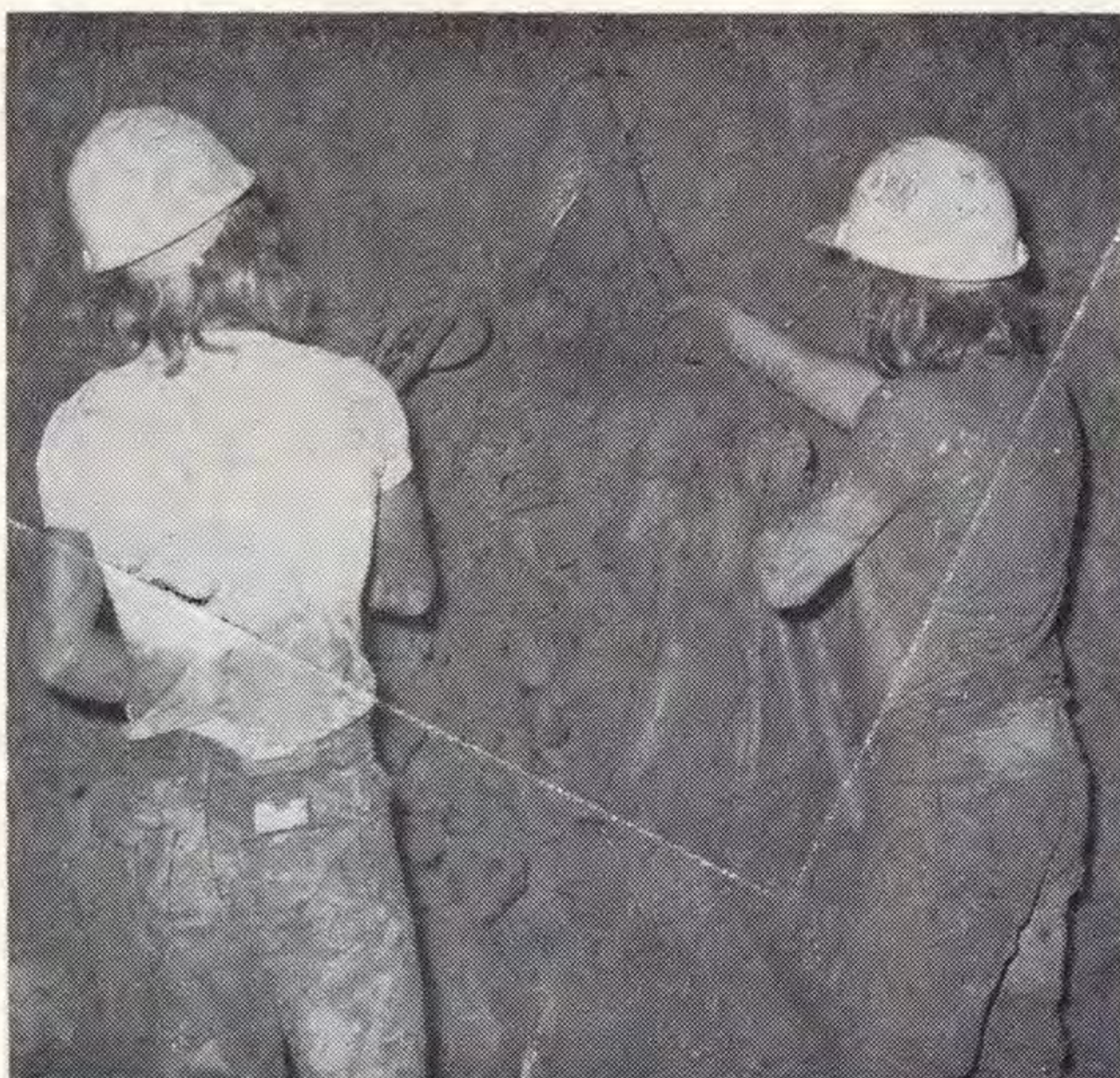
IT'S A DOWN UNDER EXERCISE!

Each day, soon after 7 a.m. a small crew of workers step over a cast iron rail, and begin the descent.

Down into a gloomy square hole in the ground, not to see the light of day again for two hours.

The workers, employed by contractors Pipeline Boring Pty. Ltd., are tunnelling $14\frac{1}{2}$ metres below ground level so that a water conduit can be laid from the Yallourn Power Station to the water cooling towers.

The head of the tunnel was sunk at the rear of the power station, 10 metres from the Latrobe River.



The visit to the Latrobe Valley of Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret, was a day to be remembered for all who had an opportunity to see the Royal visitor.

Careful planning, involving many Commission officers, was required to ensure that organisation for the occasion was of the highest possible standard.

Apparently, the Commission succeeded in its aim.

In a letter to SEC Chairman Charles Trethowan, Victorian Premier Mr. Hamer said he was aware that "the visit to Yallourn "W" Power Station, and particularly the unscheduled tour around the open cut to see the brown coal, followed by your luncheon, contributed in no small way to the (Princess Margaret's) visit to this State."

Mr. Hamer expressed his gratitude to SEC officers who "gave their wholehearted co-operation . . . in planning this engagement".

1975.... a year to remember

Princess Margaret's trip to the Latrobe Valley was certainly a day to remember.



The Loy Yang Parliamentary Public Works Committee was kept busy when it sat in Traralgon.



Many Yallourn houses have been successfully re-sited in surrounding towns.



Operations Group's 1975 program of activities was one of steady, progressive development.

Record outputs, both in power generation and coal-winning, were achieved.

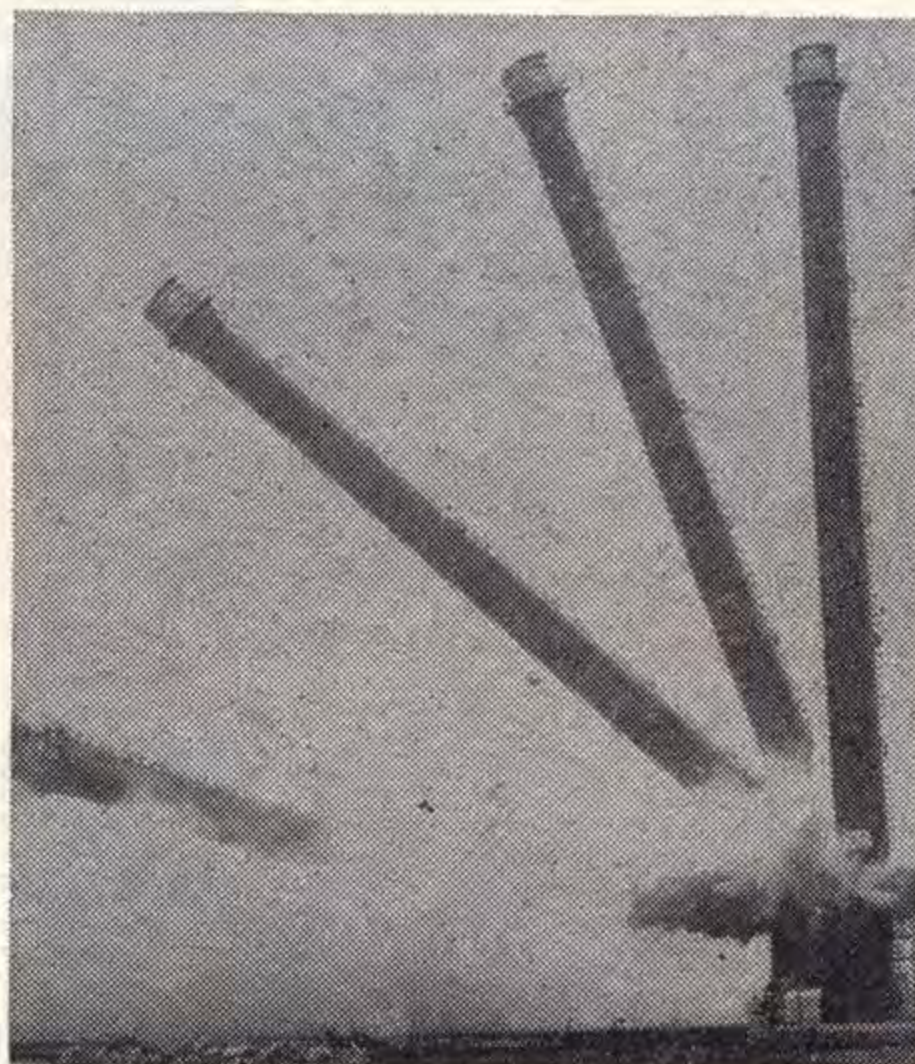
On June 19, the highest daily production of coal from the two open cuts was recorded when dredgers at Yallourn and Morwell dug out 109 876 tonnes during a 24-hour period.

During the year, preparation for expansion of Morwell open cut led to closure of the Mirboo North railway line and the former Midland Highway.

Work associated with Yallourn resettlement increased dramatically for Area Administration personnel following the lifting of union bans which had been in force since 1973.

Efforts are continuing to meet the needs of Yallourn residents and to ensure that the Commission requirements are met with a minimum of disruption to individual residents of the town.

Power Generation Department chalked up several achievements, including generation of 2 368 MW on June 2. On that day, six units operated for a total of 680 hours, and seven units were in action simultaneously for 309 hours at Hazelwood Power Station.



Yallourn "W" Power Station's second unit was commissioned and accepted for commercial operation on July 15.

On the safety front, Hazelwood F won the most improved station award.

Engineering Services Department had an extremely busy year, but was able to keep abreast of developments.

They provided a wide range of services, as well as maintaining general workshop facilities, civil works, drafting, metallurgical and survey.

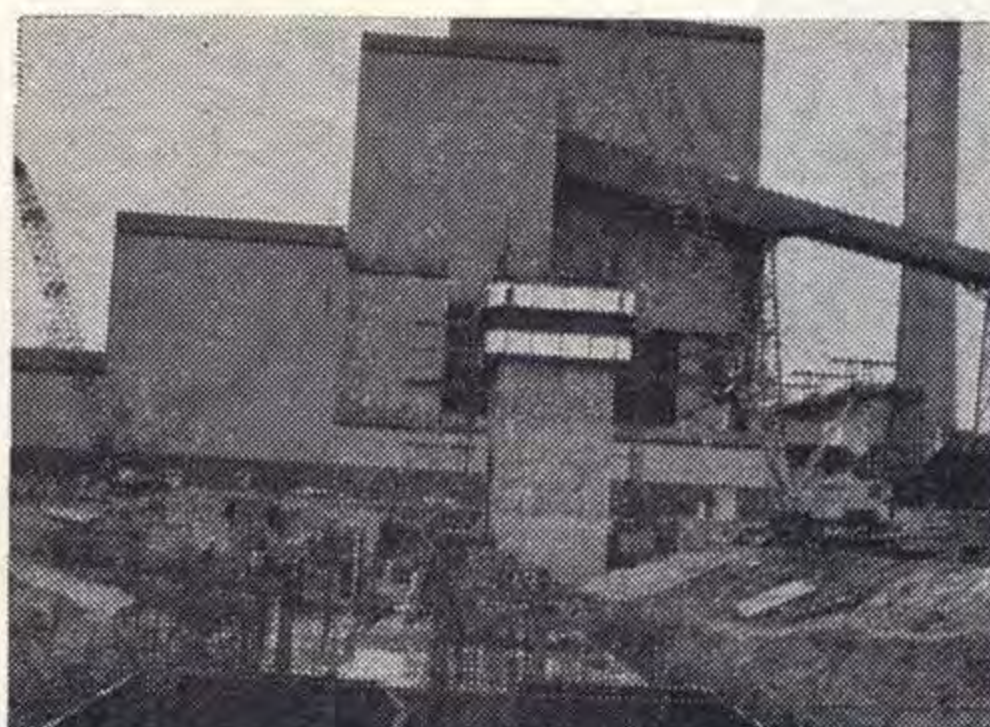
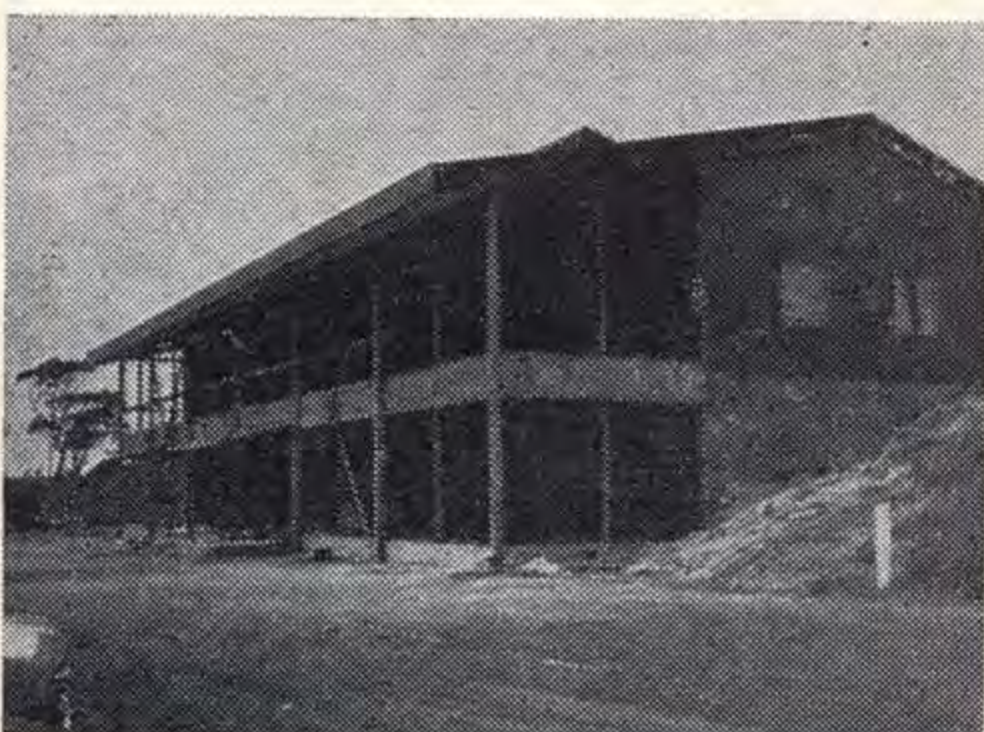
Installation of major equipment in workshops brought facilities to an even higher standard.

Transmission Division had its share of re-organisation with the Tests and Communications Section being divided into two new sections — electrical laboratory and field tests.

The 500 kv CB's at Hazelwood Terminal Station were given their first major overhaul.

Latrobe Valley personnel looked further afield when electrical workshop personnel assisted Hydro Division in the repair of Eildon Power Station generators. Work began on the LV Control Centre; local tests helped establish the cause of a problem which led to an unusually severe system oscillation, and the Field Services 1st aid team won its way into SEC finals at Geelong (see page 3).

and looking ahead....



SOCIAL CLUBS SHARE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



About this time every year the festive season gets into full swing and everyone is besieged with the Christmas spirit.

And that includes the children most of all.

These candid shots taken by our roving photographer when visiting some of the social club picnics around the area show just what we mean.

1. Toys and Santa Claus are what Christmas is all about to youngsters, but Tony (left) and Stephen Marland seem completely overawed by it all.

2. "Gee, I got here first but I don't know if I am supposed to break the tape."

3. Who said Santa Claus is not popular . . . certainly nobody in this crowd.

4. Leanne and Allison Foster were determined to wear their new outfits, no matter what the weather was like.

5. It's been a long and exhausting day, but who better to console one than Santa Claus.

6. Anne Bechaz and her daughter Nicole certainly found the fairy floss to their liking.

7. Playing tunnel ball is one way of keeping out of mischief . . . at least until Santa Claus arrives.

8. Betty Maloney can testify that there is a lot of behind-the-scenes activity at any picnic.

Frankie takes stock



Many harassed husbands consider that when they took that fateful walk down the aisle they "threw away their freedom for life".

So it should not really come as a surprise to discover that certain perceptive personnel (notably the cleaners at HPS) have evolved a certain symbolic ritual which each of their members about to take the plunge must undergo.

Whether willing or not, the 'victim' is placed in a medieval type stock, has his legs chained to a four-gallon drum weighted with concrete . . . and suffers the indignity of being doused with water while standing completely helpless.

And that's why cleaner Frankie Vella recently found himself in this embarrassing situation.

But Frankie's smile indicates that at least he thinks it all worth while.

Good Neighbor Rick takes it seriously

Life is hard when you are in a strange country, not knowing where to go when ill, what to say to the butcher when you want some meat, or how to read the newspapers.

Dozens of migrants who have moved into the Latrobe Valley have found themselves in the same predicament.

As Yallourn section leader draftsman Rick Fuentes did 23 years ago.

Today, Rick uses that experience to help many migrants — as he was helped then.

He is secretary of the Moe branch of the Good Neighbour Council, an organisation formed to help migrants assimilate into the community.

The Moe branch covers Yallourn, Yallourn North, Newborough and Moe.

Rick says: "The GNC does not give financial help as such, but advice. There are many things a migrant can't understand, and has to be told about.

"We also advise them to become naturalised."

Two executive members of the Moe branch of the Good Neighbour Council, secretary Rick Fuentes (left) and Evan Jorgensen.



W. Germans focus on us

A three-man camera crew in Australia to film the Federal election campaign travelled to the Latrobe Valley to take the film.

They were Fritz Koenig, Dr. Winfried Scharlau and Henning Hüge.

Dr. Scharlau, while being shown around the works area, said the German audience would be very interested in Australia.

He said European countries were now beginning to take a bigger interest in overseas affairs.

He said that Australians were "very lucky" to live in such a beautiful country.

Dr. Scharlau said that some parts of Hong Kong, where the three men are stationed, 50,000 people live in an area half as long as the Morwell open cut.

A TV film on the Yallourn and Morwell works areas has been screened to an audience of 20 to 30 million people in Germany.

The film, on Australia's resources, was shown on the "Mirror of the World" program, a popular Sunday night feature.



Migrants who have been in the country longer than 10 years can usually find their own way.

The first couple of years are the most vital.

Rick, a member of the Council for nine years and secretary of the Moe branch for two, migrated to Australia in 1952.

Although a qualified draftsman in Spain, he first began working with the SEC as a cleaner.

According to Rick, it is not hard for people to settle in a new country if they are prepared to make an effort.

"One of our biggest problems is that people who come here can easily become depressed," he says.

The Good Neighbour Council works in close liaison with the Department of Immigration.

There are two other SEC employees actively involved with the Moe branch of the Good Neighbour Council.

They are branch president Evan Jorgensen (Coal Production, Spare Equipment Officer), and Jerry Kruger (Yallourn Transmission).

Recently, Rick and his wife Maria were guests of honor at Parliament House in Melbourne, where they attended a function organised by the Governor General, Sir Henry Winneke, and Lady Winneke to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Good Neighbour Council activity in Victoria.

WANTED TO BUY

1 x Two-man fibreglass kayak with or without paddles, etc.

Contact Frank Carter, Morwell 3646.

Holiday tip: don't drive when you're tired

Holiday trips are peculiar . . . they seem to be the setting for many serious automobile accidents which — on the surface at least — seem to go begging for an adequate explanation.

However, more and more, the causes appear to be related to Driver Fatigue and/or "Highway Hypnosis".

This is not difficult to understand.

Some medical authorities believe that there is just as much heart strain in driving a car 250 miles, as a jet pilot experiences in a six hour flight.

Have you ever experienced these symptoms?

- Do you find yourself shifting position and unable to get comfortable?

- Do your legs show signs of slight cramps or twitches?

- Do you get the feeling that oncoming traffic is headed directly at you?

- Do you get a feeling of confusion when coming into a shaded area after driving in bright sunlight?

- Do you have a memory loss when you try to recall the stretch of road just passed?

- Do you have a stuffy feeling or a slight headache?

- Do you feel drowsy and have trouble keeping your eyes open?

Say yes to any of these questions and its very possible that fatigue is catching up with you.

If fatigue occurs, pull off the road as soon as possible and try to relax for a while.

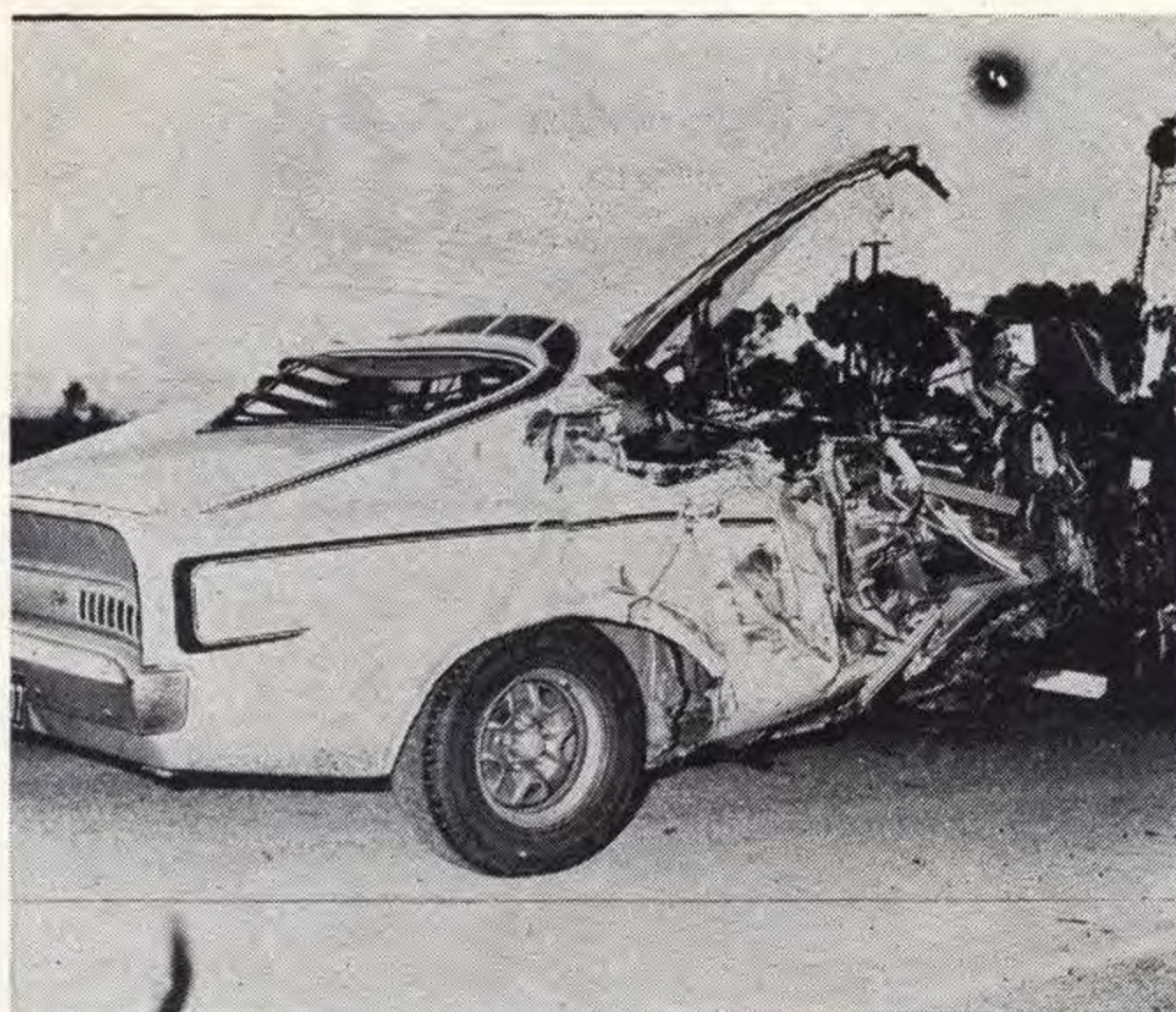
Get out of the car; stretch your legs; take a short walk; take some deep breaths and exercise the lungs; exercise to get some of the muscle kinks out.

While driving, try to carry on a conversation or sing along with your passengers, or, if you're alone and have a radio, listen to talk shows or fast bright music — but stay away from the soft dreamy stuff.

Another technique is to practise shifting the focal point of your vision frequently by looking into the distance; reading your dashboard, or watching objects in the middle distance, all in an irregular pattern.

And most importantly — don't attempt to cover greater mileage distances than you can comfortably handle, particularly on your first day out.

Remember Drive to Stay Alive.



Safety Officer George Troke has submitted this article. If you intend travelling in the Christmas period when the roads will be clogged with traffic — or at any time for that matter — take George's advice.

Everybody at Yallourn "W" power station will miss the smiling faces of the likeable Japanese.

And the Japanese will miss them — and the country where they can get a good steak for a reasonable price, and a game of golf.

About the middle of January next year, the remaining four electrical experts from the Japanese firm, Toshiba, will return to Yokohama.

For five years, the firm has had up to 30 of its employees working at the Yallourn station, installing electrical and mechanical equipment for turbines and generators under contract for the SEC.

Now only maintenance work remains to be done.

The Australian manager for Toshiba, Shinhachiro Yoshimura, aged 34, has been working at Yallourn for five years.

"Yoshi", as everybody calls him, says he will miss some of the habits he has got into since he arrived.

Yoshi, and the other three Japanese — Takashi Kashiwabara (Kashi); Masatoshi Hazome (Massy); and Masaki Kaneko (Bill) — have even acquired a taste for a cold beer after knock-off time.



The Toshiba Japanese engineers have taken a liking to the Australian way of life. But during the day, it's down to some hard work. They are pictured (above) studying drawings and (below) at the turbines they helped to install.



Yallourn resettlement



L.V. Village (first stage) Opens

Yallourn people were among the first to be accommodated in the Latrobe Valley Village (for the Aged) Society project at Newborough, which was officially opened on December 6.

Despite adverse weather, the Society made up a lot of ground during the past month to complete the first eight flats.

Even before the first group of flats reached occupancy stage, Society members were making every effort to overcome financial problems standing in the way of their planned second stage of 16 flats.

An SEC undertaking to ensure that funds will be available has enabled the Society to let a \$1/3 million contract to a Latrobe Valley building firm. The contract, let to the Moe firm of J. G. and K. M. Gray Pty. Ltd., is for four blocks of four flats each.

Twelve of the 16 flats will house Yallourn residents.

The SEC, which gave practical support to the Society when it encountered first stage difficulties, has been actively seeking a solution to financial problems stemming from the announcement earlier this year that Commonwealth funds which the Society had been anticipating would not be available for at least 12 months.

Society officials expect the new flats to be completed within 6-7 months.

Further development on the 14 acre site will depend largely on availability of Commonwealth funds.

The Village is intended ultimately



Former Yallourn resident Mr. John Duxbury (seated) and Mrs. Duxbury were pleased to welcome visitors to their new home in the Latrobe Valley Village after the official opening on December 6. Standing are, from left, Senator John Button, Cr. Joe Tabuteau and George Bates.

to include more than 60 flats, a 64-bed hostel and a nursing home capable of accommodating 50 elderly people.

Situated behind the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital at Moe, the Village is sited in an area in which it is planned to foster balanced residential development and provision of general community services.

Tenders closed on December 9 for the building of 12 two-bedroom flats in Newark Avenue, North Newborough.

Both the Housing Commission, which will supervise building of the units, and the SEC are anxious for a building contract to be let without delay.

Part of the SEC's plans to provide accommodation for Yallourn's older residents, the flats are likely to be ready for occupancy late in 1976.

Meanwhile, the Resettlement Committee has asked the Housing Commission to prepare plans for another 10 units in the same area.

Cricket on... but power boats "hit for six"

It was certainly a day for sporting enthusiasts on Sunday, November 23 . . . at least it looked that way before the weather decided to turn nasty.

Organisers of both the Hazelwood Power Boat Club meeting and the Association of Social Club's Lightning Cricket Premiership at Yallourn were hoping for fine, sunny weather and large crowds, but their prayers went unanswered.

Early in the day it seemed that power boat enthusiasts parked on the banks of Hazelwood Pondage were in for a real treat.

Power boat club officials, including secretary Mick Bren (unit attendant, HPS) and treasurer Phil Boehm (plumb-

er, Morwell Civil Works), had worked hard to get the 14-race program, and the 54 competing boats, together . . . but their efforts went unrewarded when choppy conditions out in mid-lake caused the cancellation of the program after only nine events had been staged.

Fortunately, the club was able to switch the main race on the program, the Hazelwood 1000, to Glenmaggie on December 14.

The race had attracted one of the classiest fields possible, and fans were obviously disappointed.

Out at the Yallourn ovals, the picture was a little different.

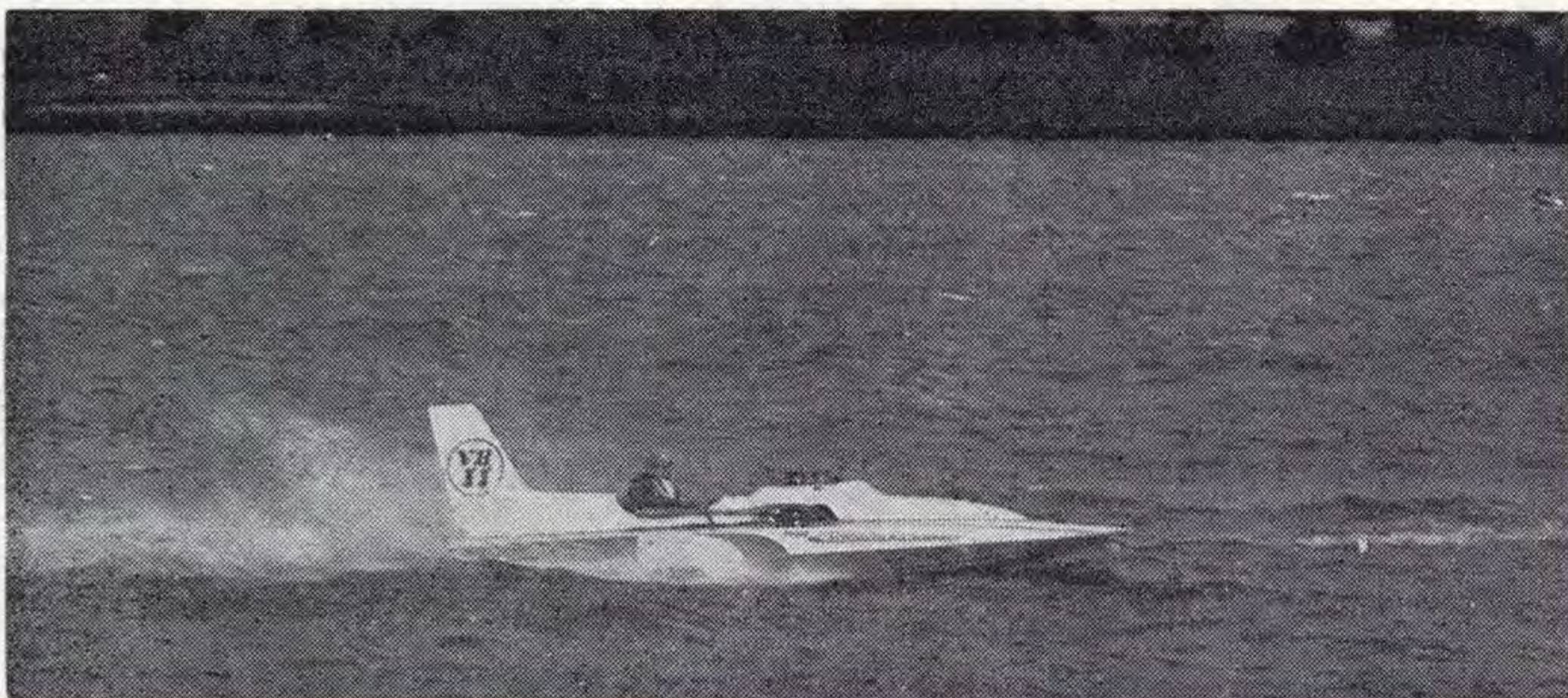
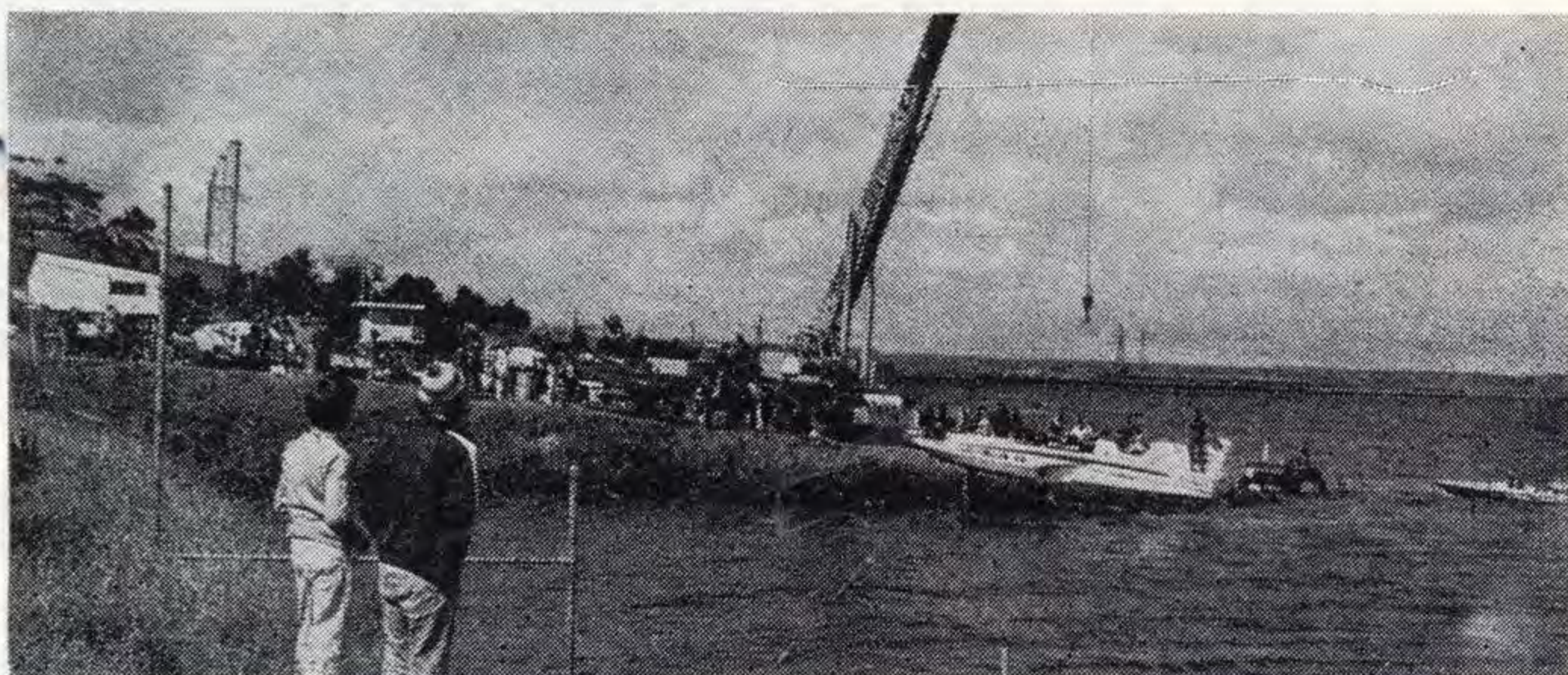
Cricket is a game which is rarely played in the rain, but with players as keen as those who fought for the Valley Cup, a spot of bad weather does not seem to matter.

Ten teams took part in the competition, with the rain causing some upset results.

The grand final was fought out by Yallourn Power Station and Yallourn Main Office, with the latter team just managing to sneak home by three runs in a cliff-hanger finish.

When the dust had finally settled (or was it mud?) Manager Area Administration George Bates made presentations to the winning team and the runners-up.

He also handed out individual awards to —



- Best fielding — Bruce Mussared — 4 catches
- Best bowling — Bob Duffy — 7 wickets
- Best batting — Merv Graham — 93 runs.

1. The Yallourn Main Office team certainly looked ready for action before the all-important grand final.

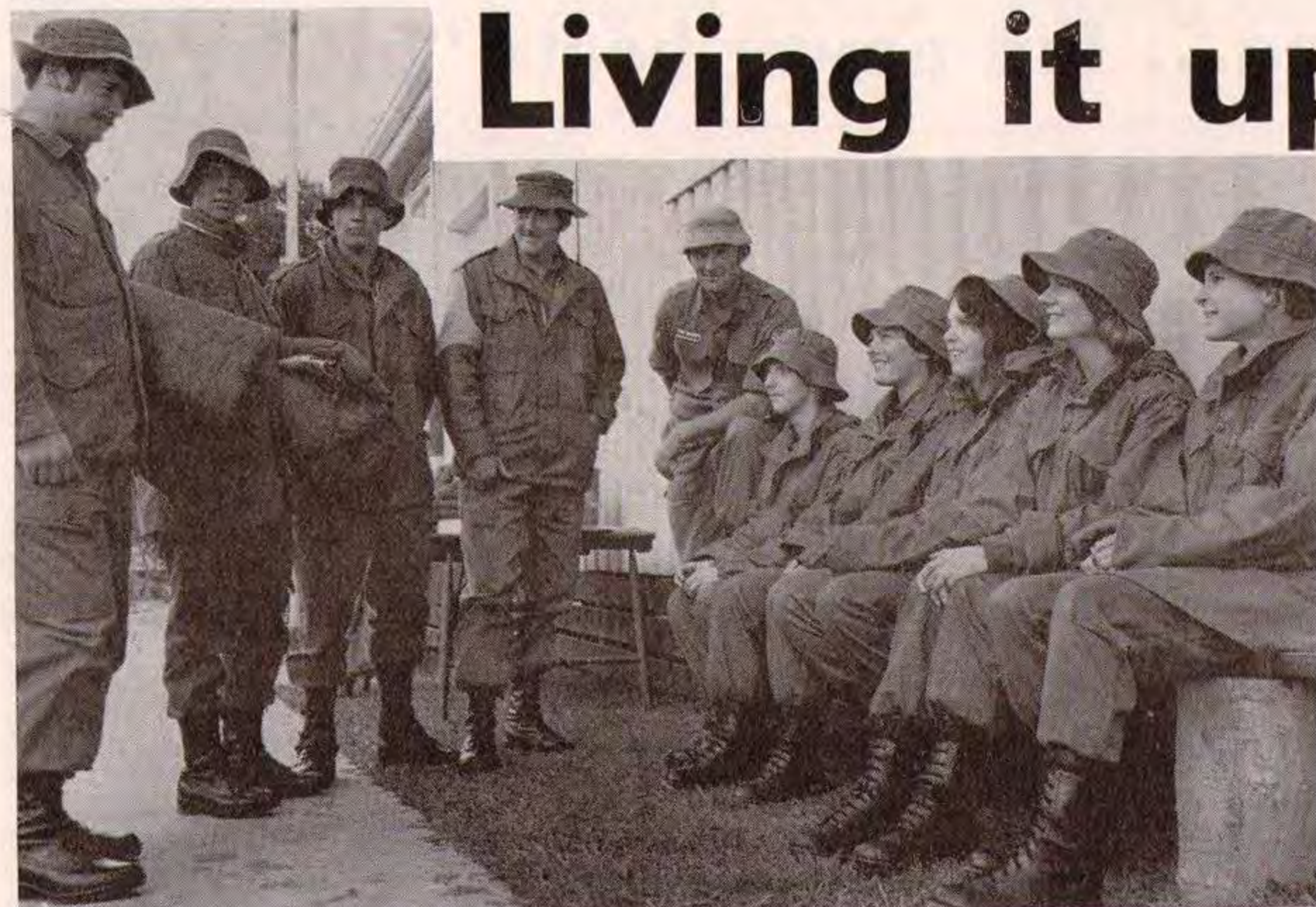
2. The boys from Yallourn Power Station were certainly not going to go down without a fight . . . and they very nearly pulled off an upset victory.

3. Opening batsman Merv Graham shows the style which won him the batting aggregate.

4. Highlight of the boat races was the appearance of the Rolls Merlin-powered Solo, seen here being placed in the water by a large crane, provided courtesy Di Fabrizio Steel Fabricators.

5. The poor mid-lake conditions are illustrated as this competitor gallantly struggles down one of the long straights.

Living it up — army style



Increasing numbers of SEC employees are turning to the Army way of life in their spare time.

The Australian Army Reserve, formerly the CMF (Citizens Military Forces), has attractions for the action men.

Joining up means a fortnight in camp, weekend bivouacs, and expert training in many fields.

It also means extra money — all tax free.

The SEC sponsors its own unit, the 39 Electrical Mechanical Squadron, which recently returned from annual camp at Puckapunyal.

The pictures tell the story.

Seventy-five SEC employees from Latrobe Valley and other parts of the State took part in manoeuvres, mock war and battle exercises.

The unit's Administrative Commander, Captain Geoff Hall (Electrical Work-

shops Engineer, Yallourn), said the AAR aimed to put into defence technique the skills of civilians who enlist.

At the Puckapunyal camp, SEC employees installed electrical supply to an airfield, and Forestry Commission employees established a working sawmill.

Captain Hall said the AAR was on the lookout for recruits to build up the strength of the SEC unit.

"It's a good life, one which provides a break from regular employment," he said.

• The 38 Field Squadron, based at Yallourn, also includes a number of Latrobe Valley SEC employees among its members.

The squadron attended camp at the same time as the SEC unit.

Those interested in joining the AAR should contact captain Hall, or Lieutenant Mike Meany, apprentice training overseer at Yallourn.



Heave ho . . . and the heavy planks on a bridge go into place. It's all real army life for those in the Australian Army Reserve. Pictured are, from left, Corporal Ray Haines (boilermaker, Hazelwood Power Station); Sapper Phillip Hough (apprentice fitter and turner, central workshop, Yallourn); and Staff Sergeant George Harris (Power Generation Department, Hazelwood).

Army camp is no longer just for men — Australian Army Reserve ranks are now open to women. Pictured are Latrobe Valley SEC employees talking with new recruits (female) at the recent Puckapunyal camp. SEC personnel, from left is Sapper Gary Bechaz (open cut, Morwell); Sapper Gary Kelith (fitter and turner, Yallourn); Sapper Justin Stewart (linesman, Morwell); Corporal Ken Hamilton (welder, Hazelwood Power Station); and Corporal Kevin Murdoch (rigger, production maintenance, Morwell).



Above left: Working on a water pump are Sapper Dave Whitehead, front left (Central Workshops, Morwell); Lance Corporal Alistair Thorpe, back left (briquette factory, Morwell); Sapper Roodolph Roodenry, front right (trades assistant, Hazelwood); Lance Corporal John Dinsdale, back right (Central Workshops, Yallourn).

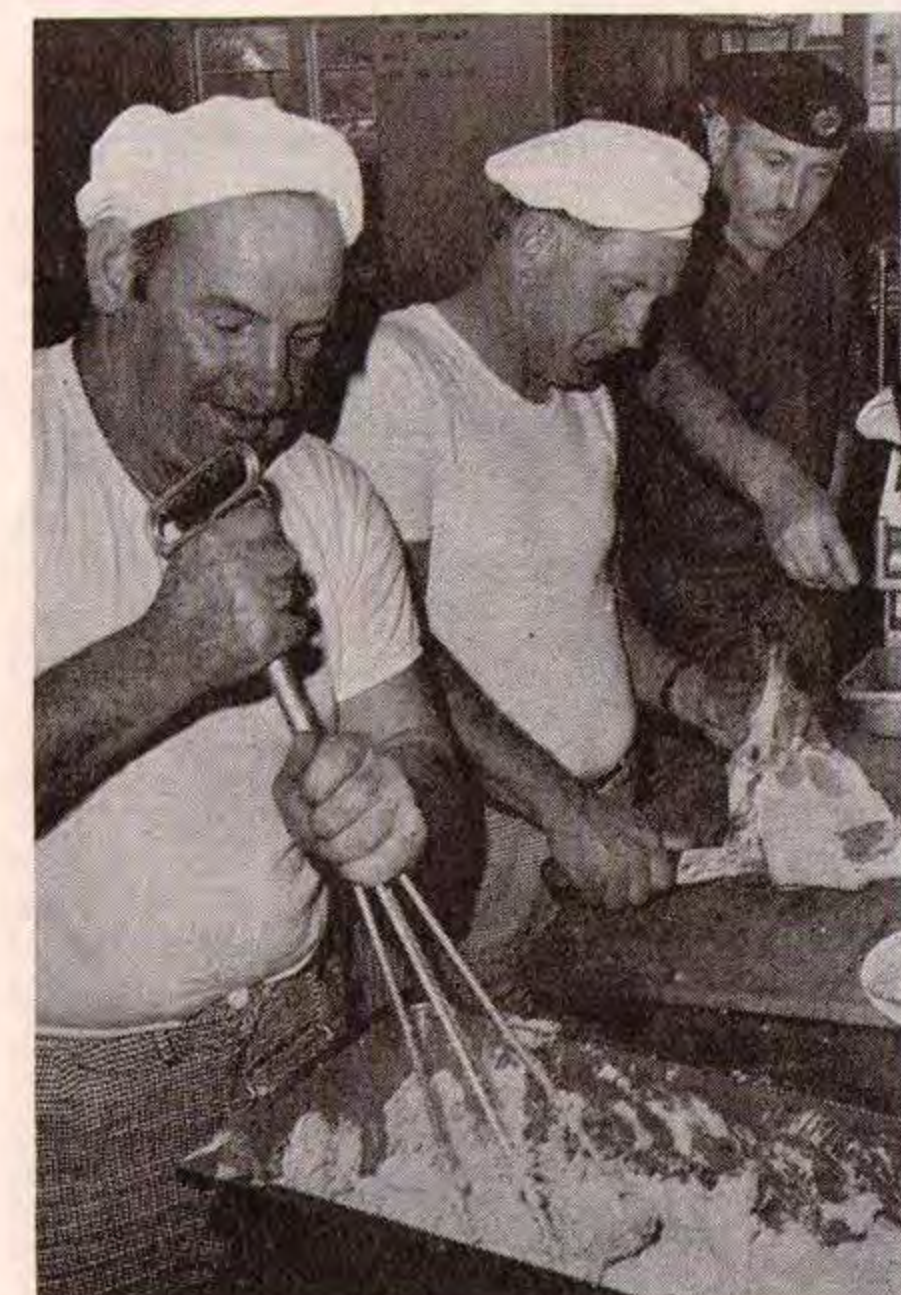
Geoff Hall (Electrical Workshops, Yallourn).

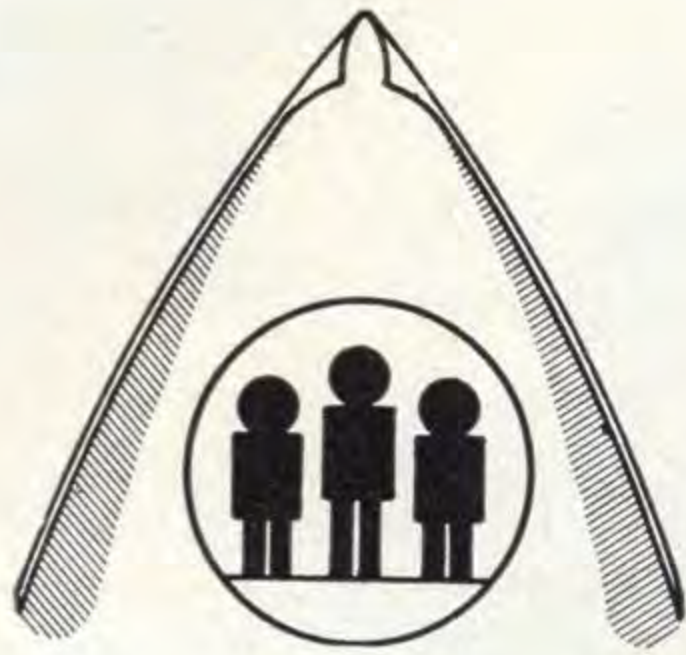
Above right: Sergeant Ron Merrigan (Shepparton) makes sure all members of his party are present and correct before setting off on a 3-day infantry tactical exercise.



Below right: Attending a lecture on demolition are, from right, Corporal Allan McGregor (accounts office, Morwell); Sapper Jack Dezaayer (elec. transmission, Yallourn); Sapper Tom Skee (electrical, briquette factory) and Lance Corporal John Lane (linesman, Colac). The instructor is Staff Sergeant Geoff Lyons (linesman, Morwell).

Below left: Major Tom Davey (Hazelwood PS) puts former Colonel Mr. G. T. Gay — the SEC's Chief Electrical Inspector — in the tactical picture, along with Lieutenant Mike Meany (Apprentice Workshops, Yallourn) and Captain





AREA ADMINISTRATION

They cater to all tastes



Preparing and serving about 400 meals every day is enough to keep any kitchen crew busy . . .

. . . But December is the hectic time of the year for the cooks at the Central Kitchen, Yallourn.

During the month, the staff of six cooks, two supervising staff and 33 women will dish up more than 1200 extra meals for various Christmas functions.

Acting Catering Officer Len Cox says the meals served vary, according to section requirements.

Len, who for many years was supervisor at the old East Mess in Morwell, says the cooks and other kitchen personnel take the extra meals in their stride.

"We have never missed a beat.

Preparing meals quickly and efficiently is the way the canteen cooks operate. Pictured is cook Alec Wilson grinding carrots in the kitchen.

"The cooks have all been here so long that they know it off by heart," he points out.

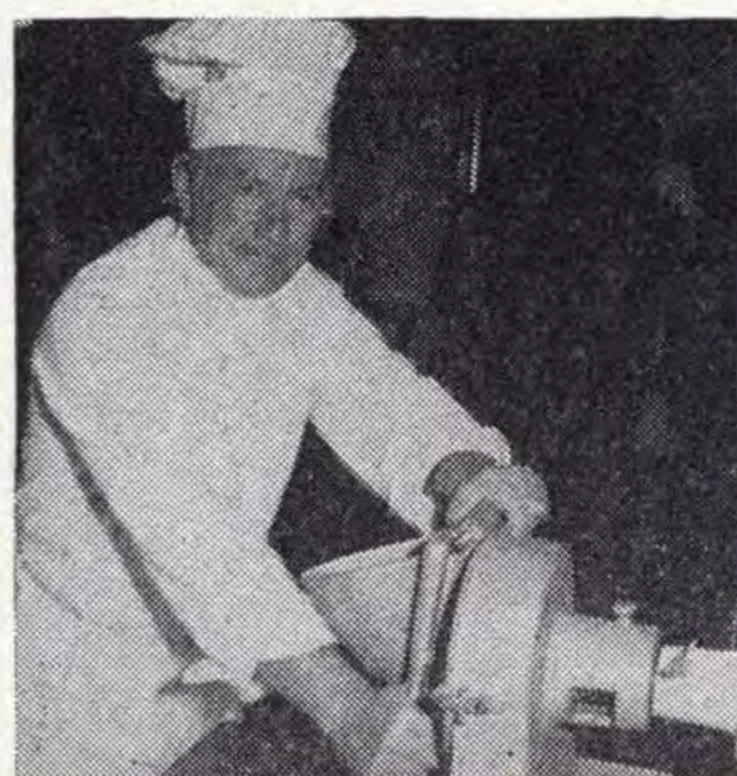
The central kitchen supplies daily meals to the 16 canteens in Latrobe Valley.

The meals are put in "hot boxes" and transported in panel vans to the canteens.

"We get to know the likes and dislikes of our customers.

"For instance, some things are always popular — like roast pork and steak and kidney pie.

"We vary the menu on a six-week cycle. During this cycle there has to be some repetition, but it is minimal.



"When it is repeated, it is because the menu has proved popular", he says.

The kitchen supplies three courses — soup, two choices of the main course, two choices of sweets.

The menu is changed for winter and summer.

The 33 women also provide a tea service to various departments.

All of the six cooks are old hands.

Jim Ludlow has been working in the kitchen for 28 years. He says: "It is all pretty plain sailing. We know our jobs, and we think we provide good meals."

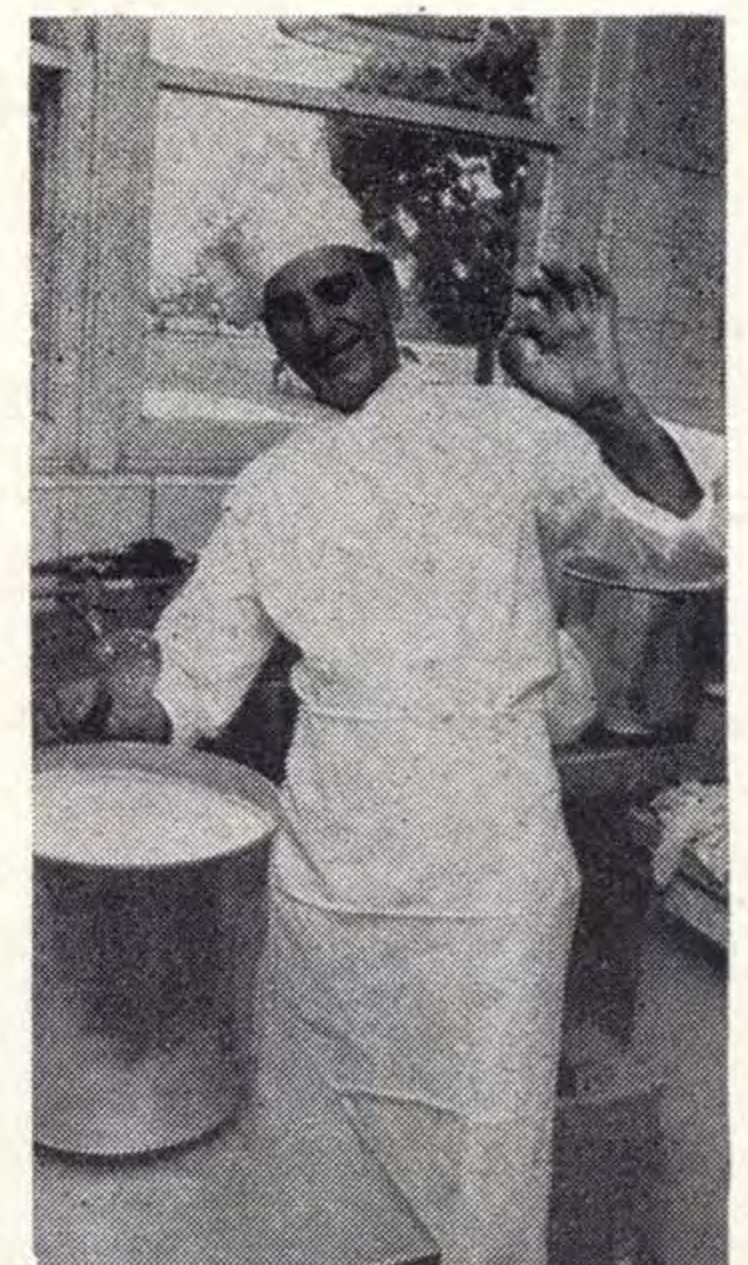
Other cooks are George Gehrig (began 1949); Charles Borg (1950); Alex Wilson (1955); George Paul-et (1958) and Frank Vella (1952).

The Acting Canteen Supervisor is Charlie Carlton, who began in 1949.

Work begins at 6 a.m. each day, and knock off time is 3 p.m.

Above: The proof of the pudding is in the eating—at least that's what they say at the canteen. Pictured above, from left is Len Cox, Jim Ludlow, Alex Wilson, Charlie Borg, George Paulet, Frank Vella, George Gehrig and Charlie Carlton.

Below: It's delicious. Cook Charlie Borg shows his approval for a good brew.





AREA
ADMINISTRATION

Ed. Keating enjoys Civic Father role

Yallourn "W" Power Station gate patrolman Eddy Keating didn't know much about local government in his younger days.

All he knew was that he paid rates on his Yallourn North home to Narracan Shire.

Then, back in 1962, members of the Yallourn North Progress Association knocked on his door.

Could he help them out?

Could he stand for Council so that Yallourn North could get a better "go" from Council?

Eddy Keating was the sixth person the Association had asked — and he accepted.

This year, Cr. Keating is serving his 13th term on council, and his second as Shire President.

He is one of eight SEC employees serving the Latrobe Valley Community as councillors.

CONTACT, in its September issue, published a story about Moe Mayor Hank Wegh, who is an SEC leading hand painter.

Other SEC employees in civic life are Moe Councillors Pat Bartholomeusz (Engineering Services, Morwell); Don Ferguson (Engineering Services, Yallourn); Jim Connaghan (Power Generation, Yallourn); Traralgon City Councillors Alf Ashworth (Engineering Services, Morwell) and Charlie Effenberg (Electricity Supply Branch, Traralgon).

Cr. Keating, married with four sons and 10 grandchildren, has lived at Yallourn North since 1945.

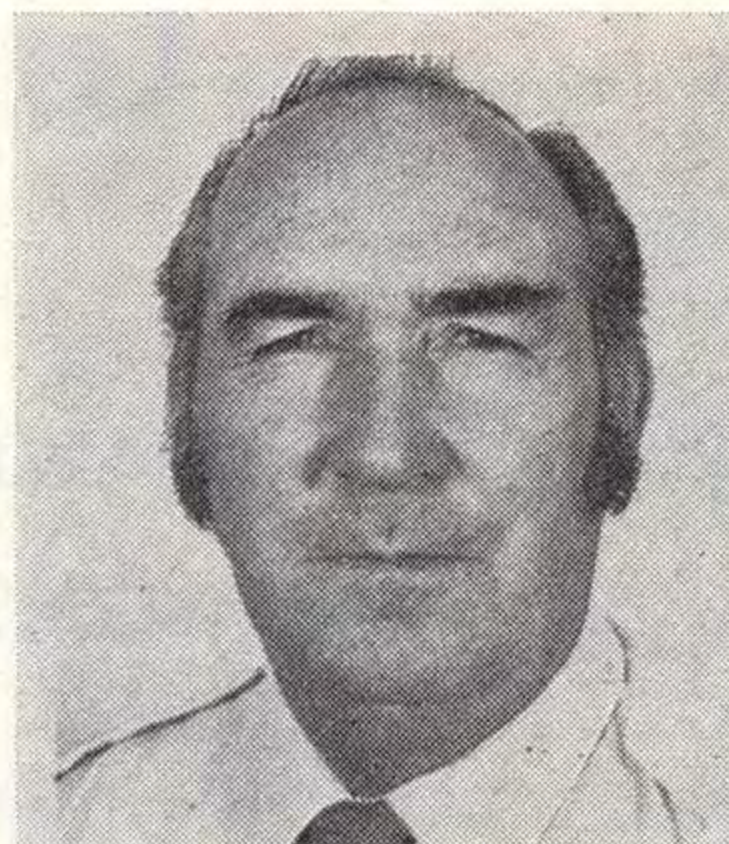
When he was elected to Narracan Council in 1962, he was Yallourn North's first resident councillor.

His first term as Shire President was 1968-69, the

year in which the then Minister for State Development, the late James Manson, selected him to serve on the Latrobe Valley Development Committee.

He is still on that committee.

Cr. Keating, a life member of the Latrobe Valley Hospital, is senior vice-President of the Board of Management.



He is chairman of the Hospital's house and building committees and was active in arranging the purchase of the Yallourn North Public Hall from the SEC.

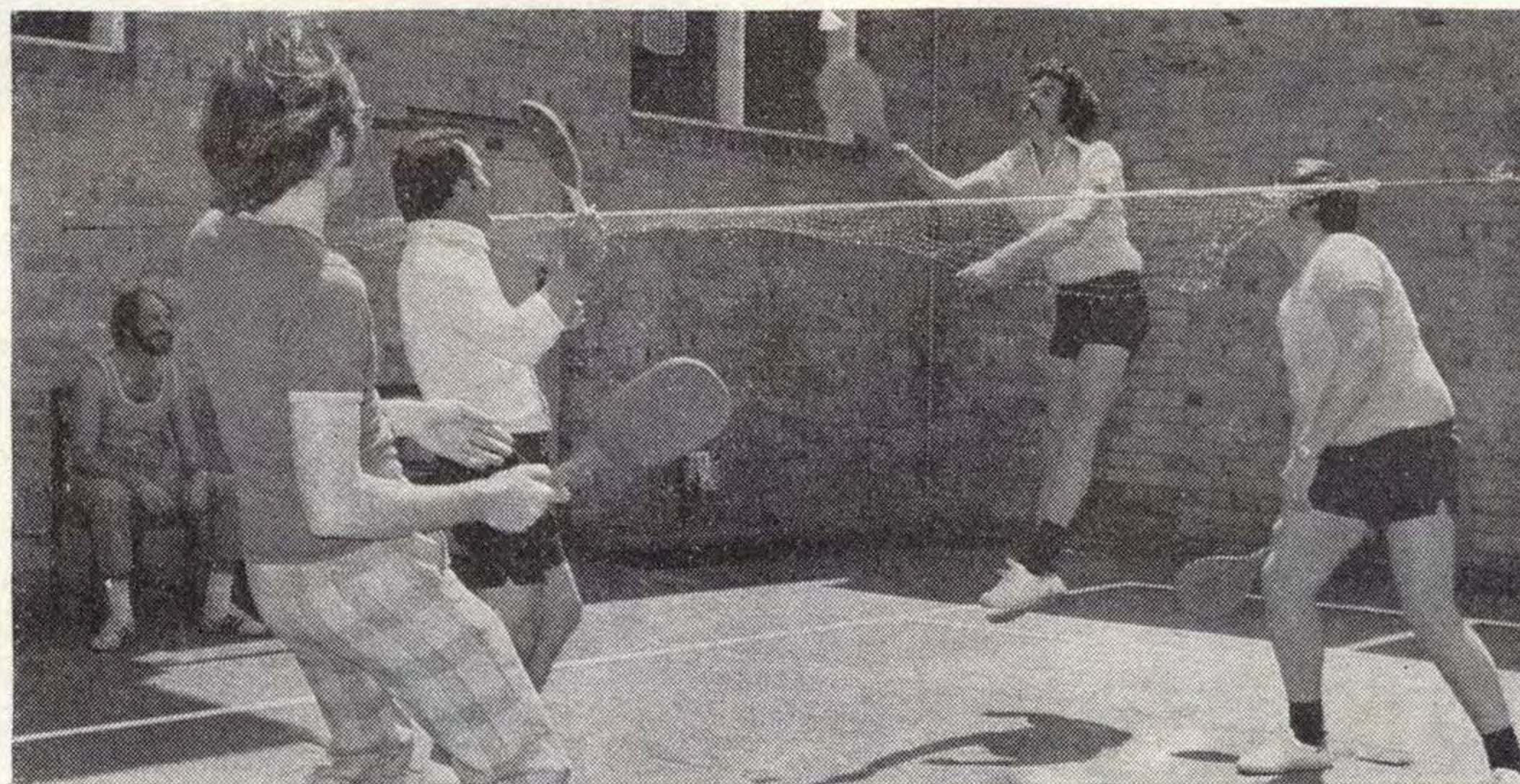
Cr. Keating also has taken a keen interest in the Yallourn North Water Trust and Sewerage Authority, of which he was inaugural chairman.

Other interests include the Erica Water Trust, Yallourn North Recreation Reserve, Yallourn North Bowling Club, and Yallourn North Football Club.

He is also a probation officer and commissioner for taking affidavits.

We didn't have the heart to ask how he filled in his spare time.

BADDINGTON CHALLENGE CLASH



"BADDINGTON" BOILOVER

November 20, 1975, saw one of the biggest boilovers in the annals of competitive sport.

Considered by many astute judges to be a 'good thing' the young and confident Accounting "baddington" team — the game is a modified form of badminton — was sent out a pronounced favorite when it travelled to Yallourn to do battle against the experienced but slow-moving team from Property Section.

Of course, the boys from Property were playing on their own home ground, but the opposition — who had been training for the big clash for weeks and with youth on their side — were expected to be far too strong, particularly in those nail-biting close

Russell King, of Accounting, reaches high to put away a smash while partner Tony Dickinson looks on. But it was not enough, and the Property team of Brian Eddy and Paul Devlin coasted to a 21-17 victory.

finishes.

But such was not to be, and experience won the day . . . easily.

Out of a total of eight games, four singles and four doubles, the favorites notched only one win as they slid to a crushing defeat.

So the Property team accepted the trophy while their battered opponents set out on the long trip back to Morwell, happy to lick their wounds and plan strategy for a quick return bout, possibly early in the New Year.



POWER GENERATION

Yallourn's own Jackson Five

The Jackson family(ies) of Yallourn North believe they're on a good thing with the SEC — and the feeling could be mutual.

Since 1935, when Fred Jackson joined the SEC at Yallourn — he was still at Yallourn when he retired in 1967 — the SEC's Jackson tally has risen to five, over three generations.

Fred's sons John (YPS foreman Gr. 3) and Bill (YPS boilermaker foreman) have spent 24 and 27 years respectively with the Commission and each has one son working here.

They are John's son Stephen, a 1st year fitting and turning apprentice, and trades assistant Peter Jackson, currently working with a Technical Services dust emission team carrying out "detective" work at LV power stations.

The Jackson family has a big name in Gippsland's sporting circles.

John and Bill were well known local footballers in their day, but Fred — whose first job in Yallourn was as physiotherapist at Yallourn hospital — has really turned the spotlight on the Jackson name.

He's the healing magician footballers turn to when aches, sprains and pains get the better of them — and that's not just Gippslanders.

His address and phone number are compulsory knowledge for coaches throughout Victoria, and he's helped out trainers of four-legged runners on many occasions.



The Jackson family, from left, John, Peter, Fred, Bill and Stephen, photographed during a rare on-duty get-together at Yallourn power station.

Appropriately, his classification when employed by the SEC was — "heat treater without supervision".

The whole family speaks highly of the SEC as an employer.

John and Bill have each broken their service for brief spells of em-

ployment elsewhere, so they have a yardstick against which to measure the Commission.

Bill has a son Michael, who is seeking employment with the SEC, and John has two sons who may soon enter the employment market . . . and what better target than the SEC!

Here's an unlimited offer too good to refuse.

Personnel now have the chance to obtain a 'Kidde' fire extinguisher at a ridiculously low price.

The non-rust aluminium and plastic extinguishers, suitable for ANY type of fire because of a dry powder spray and approved by all Australian authorities, retail at between \$40 and \$50 but are now available to personnel for \$13 with a screw-on-wall bracket attachment or \$14 with wall bracket and vehicle bracket attachments.

Contents weigh 3½ pounds and the extinguisher is equipped with a measurement gauge; refills will be available for approximately \$5.

The offer is open to everyone, but members of social clubs affiliated with the Association of Social Clubs must make application through their clubs.

Non-members, as well as retired personnel, should contact ASC secretary Frank Miller on 3413.

Payment must be made with the order.

Sample extinguishers are now on display at various points around the area. Social club members should contact their club secretaries for further details.

● **Power packs for pocket calculators are now available from Frank Miller at a cost of \$5.50.**

POWER
GENERATION

IT'S GETTING TO BE A HABIT....

Hazelwood Power Station must be a clear leader in the safety stakes . . . if the winning of group safety awards can be taken as any indication.

Since 1965 and up to October this year, the station had received a total of 24 safety awards, and this impressive record was strengthened even further on October 15 when two mechanical maintenance groups—shift group 27 and riggers group 9—received awards.

Les Passey accepted the certificate and pennant on behalf of the shift group.

By September 30, the 26 strong group had clocked up 260 632 manhours without disabling injury. The group has not had a 'DI' since being formed in February, 1971.

The 100 000 manhour award for group 9 was accepted by safety representative Don Stewart, who confidently predicted that the man "stepping into his shoes" would next year pick up a 200 000 manhour award.

The effort and safety

awareness of the 55 riggers cannot be overemphasised.

They often work in hazardous situations erecting staging to ensure that their fellow SEC employees may work more safely.

At the presentation, the point was made that 100 000 manhours is equivalent to the total working life of a man who begins work at 15 years of age and works through to retirement at 65.

The efforts of both groups become much more relevant when viewed in this light.



Above: 250 000 'DI' free manhours certainly takes a lot of effort, and these members of the 26 strong mechanical maintenance shift group 27 appear justifiably proud of themselves.

Below: Similarly with mechanical maintenance riggers group 9 . . . its 55 members clocked up 100 000 manhours, so they've got plenty to smile about as well.



The mechanical maintenance credit co-op . . . or that's what it looked like after suggestion award cheques had been handed out to this group of smiling personnel. 'Co-op members' are from left to right (back row) Rory Leach, Mick Opalinski, Peter Charleston, Peter Young, Trevor French, Brian French, Jim Meaney, Wally Nunn, Fred Stott (front row) Reg Kemp, Kevin Clegg, Laurie Blucher, Ray Stanlake, Des Healy and 'director' David Hankinson.

Suggestive Section

Suggestion award presentations are nothing new at Hazelwood Power Station.

Since becoming fully operational in 1971, Hazelwood has become the home of the great majority of award winners.

But a presentation out of the ordinary was made on November 18 when Engineer Dave Hankinson handed out 14 cheques ranging from \$100 to \$20 . . . and all to members of mechanical maintenance.

The top award of \$100 went to
(Continued on Page 23)



ENGINEERING SERVICES

Overseas Traveller

Senior Transport Maintenance Officer Frank Cook, 56, was stranded in the heart of Russia for 2½ days during his recent trip overseas.

The drive shaft on the mini-bus in which his party was travelling broke, and customs held up delivery of a replacement shaft.

During the 2½ days, Frank—with his wife Cora,

and daughter Patricia — toured Moscow's famous underground railway system and other parts of the city.

Frank says he was surprised to see women working with the men on the roads in the country.

He says the food also was very different.

Frank and his wife were away on their overseas trip for a total of three months, which included visits to London, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Greece, Italy, Holland and Singapore.



NC Lathe family is expanding

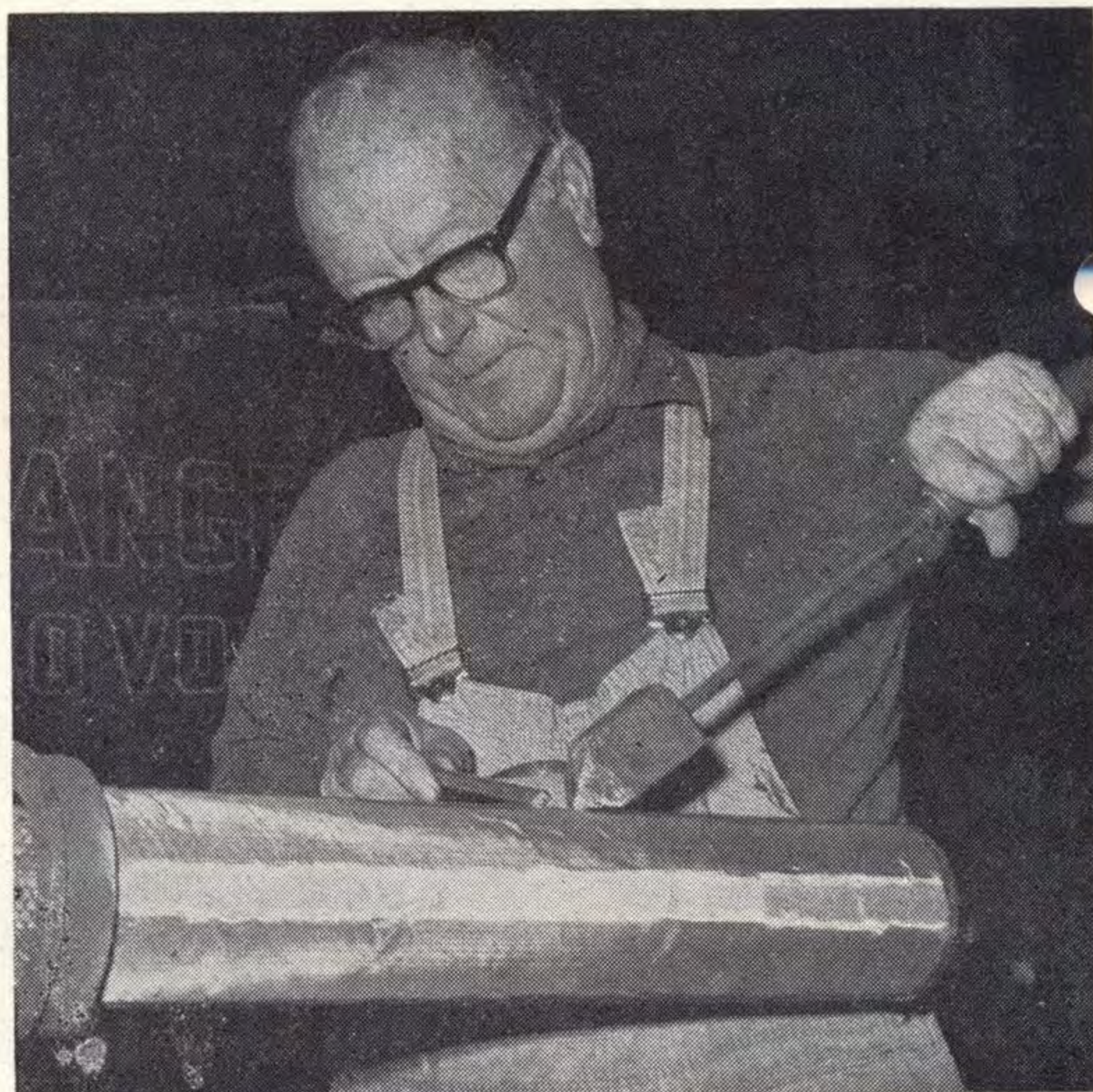
A second numerically controlled lathe has been installed at Central Workshops in Yallourn.

It is the biggest lathe of its type bought by the SEC.

The Japanese firm "Okuma" sent two of its engineers — Hadeo Kobayashi and Yoshihiro Suzuki, of Tokyo — to Australia to install the lathe.

The lathe is six metres between centres by one metre swing over the bed.

It will be used for work including large conveyor and other similar shafting.



Yallourn coppersmith, Ian Stewart, 56, is back at work after the longest and toughest 12 months he has had to endure.

Twelve months of loneliness, and finding out just how hard it is to get along without one of your legs.

Today, working in Bay 6, Engineering Workshops, Ian Stewart is glad to be doing something constructive again since he had a leg amputated after an accident at work.

"I had to change my complete lifestyle," Ian explains.

"Soon after the operation at Traralgon Hospital, I thought that I would get back to work some time.

"But then I began having doubts when I did not progress as well as I expected about half-way through the 12 months.

"I could never have managed to get back to

work without my family."

Ian has five sons and four daughters aged from 34 to 13.

He lives in Churchill Road, Morwell.

Ian, who once played competitive soccer in his home country, Scotland, says he is thankful to many people who helped him through the worst period.

He particularly mentioned Dr. Skandarajah, of Morwell, and workmates who took up a collection on his behalf.

"You just don't realise how much a little bit of help is appreciated at times like that.

"It's all worthwhile now that I am back at work with the boys."

Ian, who has been a coppersmith with the SEC for five years, previously worked with the Gas and Fuel Corporation.



TRANSMISSION



Engineer Joe Vanyai spent many hours designing the lighting system for the Gippsland Folk Museum.

At left, he is pictured adjusting the floodlight on the historic water wheel.

The job's done, and thousands of tourists will see the work of SEC personnel. Below, Kilsyth family John and Kaye Ives are pictured beside one of the antique lights outside the former Sunnycreek Primary School, one of the many historical buildings.

Lighting - in the old fashioned way

The SEC has thrown "light" on the Gippsland Folk Museum at Moe — literally.

It recently completed the installation of antique lighting at the museum, one of Gippsland's best-known tourist attractions.

The lighting, designed and manufactured by SEC personnel, operates automatically on a photo-cell system.

At dusk or dawn, the lights are turned on or off without manual operation.

Museum manager Mr. John Sydenham told CONTACT that the lights were "a tremendous asset" to the Folk Museum.

"We are very grateful to SEC", he said.

Engineer Joe Vanyai, of Contracts Group, Electrical

Services, was the main designer of the project.

Field Services (Yallourn) tradesmen Richard Sampson, Ollie Bianconi, Colin Whitbourne and Keith Tomhold installed the lights.

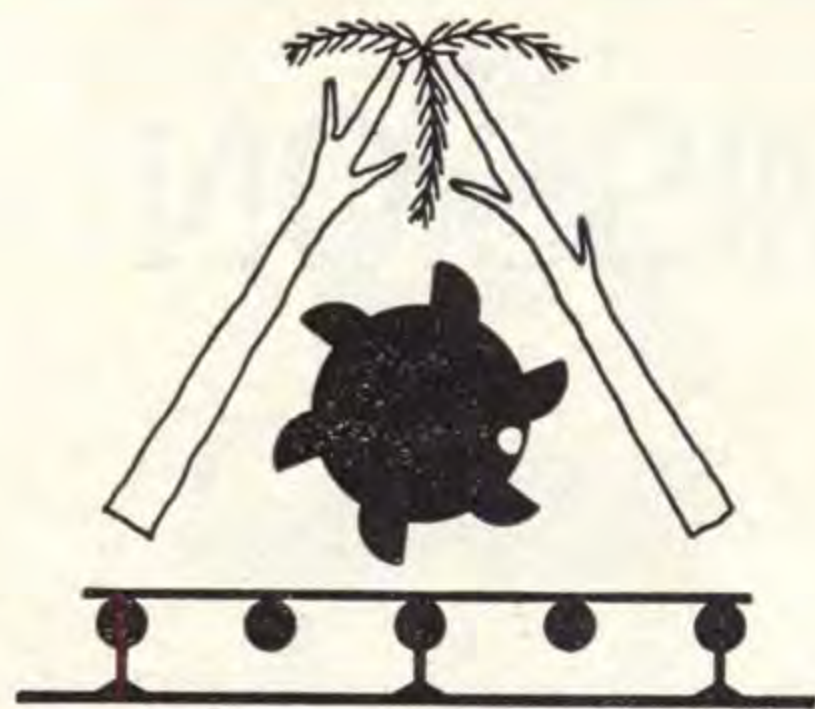
The project included floodlighting of the railway water tank and the Museum's water wheel.

The antique lights, supplied by the SEC's Public Lighting Section at Richmond were put up along the main avenue, on the railway station and in the carpark.

The lights and fittings were restored to their original condition under the supervision of Duncan McKellar, of Electrical Services, Morwell.

The light standards were cast at the foundry, Yallourn.





COAL PRODUCTION

Pumps to end "Bottomless" myth



Coal Production personnel have taken on a big job which could finally prove that a part of old Morwell folk lore is nothing more than a myth.

They are trying to pump dry the "bottomless pit" on the western end of the Morwell open cut, about half a mile from the home of Mr. Alf Ronald.

The pit's history is surrounded with intrigue.

Locals say that it has taken the life of many ani-

mals, and — they say — at least two people this century.

Many years ago, two men on separate duck shoot-expeditions are said to have drowned after becoming stuck in the silt surrounding the pit.

The area, which hundreds of thousands of years ago was a lake about 300 metres in diameter, will be engulfed by the open cut within about two years.

Because of silting over the years, the pit measures only 50 metres in diameter.

The engineer in-charge of auxiliary operations, John Harrison, says he is confident that the pumping will disprove the bottomless pit theory.

His own estimate is that the pit was once about 20 metres deep, but — because of silting — is now only six metres in depth.

He says the locals probably thought it was much deeper because of the depth and nature of peat, which — when a tied weight was lowered into the pit — could have felt like water.

In an attempt to drain the pit, two pumps are operating 24 hours a day.

One pumps out 200 gallons a minute and the other 20 gallons a minute.

In the first day of pumping at a rate of 200 gallons a minute, the depth of water in the pit fell half a metre.

The water is being pumped over a levee bank into Ronald's swamp, about 50 metres distant.

Eventually, it runs into the Morwell River.

This 1½-metre long black snake made a mistake when it chose to sunbathe on a log, while two members of Coal Production maintenance crew were around. Plant operators Ray Little and Harvey Arnold spotted it and quickly made sure that no-one would be in danger. Holding the snake is Harvey Arnold.

SNAKES ALIVE - BUT NOT FOR LONG

Fossil remains of two more pre-historic kangaroos have been found in the Morwell open cut.

They were found at the northern end of the number two firehole.

Fossil remains of at least six animals of pre-historic origin were found at the southern end of the fire-hole earlier this year.

All the remains have been sent to the National Museum, Melbourne.

Palaeontologists from the museum have cleaned up the first fossil find in readiness for closer examination and comparison with related finds elsewhere.

It is not known at this stage whether the Morwell open cut fossils will be "assembled".





COAL
PRODUCTION

Committee focusses attention on coal

Government approval is being sought for a \$ $\frac{3}{4}$ -million brown coal research program put forward by the recently formed Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee.

Fuel and Power Minister, Mr. Balfour, said that implementation of the first phase of the program would cost \$180 000 in the current financial year, with the full program to be carried out in phases over the next three years.

The Victorian Government will invite the co-operation of private industry in a research effort which will provide the essential information needed to select coal of the most suitable quality for conversion to oil.

Mr. Balfour said that since its inauguration on August 5 this year, the Committee — under the chairmanship of Dr. Howard K. Worner — had embarked on an active working program, establishing a number of important contacts with relevant overseas organisations.

The Committee undertook a two-day tour of existing and proposed developments in the Latrobe Valley last month, during which it held a number of discussions with local community, industry and Government representatives and with staff and council members of the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.

Dr. Worner said the Latrobe Valley brown coal deposits represented a most valuable source of primary energy which would provide Victoria's energy re-

quirements for generations to come.

He said that future development of economic oil-from-coal plants in the Latrobe Valley could help shield the community from a potential energy shortfall until more advanced technologies based on other forms of energy were perfected.

Emerging coal technologies, which could also result in extensive use of processed brown coal in the chemical and metallurgical industries, could eventually be useful in the manufacture of synthetic natural gas to supplement natural gas supplies from the Bass Strait fields when required.

Dr. Worner said the Committee was examining all these aspects and would soon submit further major proposals to the Government.

● **The Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee was established in May this year to initiate, direct, review and report on all necessary research and development relating to the upgrading of the Victorian brown coal resources for purposes other than power generation. The primary objective of conversion processing is for the economic production of oil from brown coal. The Committee is principal adviser to the Victorian Government on such matters, and will report directly to the Minister for Fuel and Power.**

The SEC's Chief Engineer, Planning and Investigations Department, Dick Urie, is on the Committee.



Dr. K. D. Lyall (left) and Professor S. R. Siemon (centre) provide an attentive audience for SEC's Dick Urie.

\$1 MILLION PROJECT IN YALLOURN OPEN CUT

Work has begun at Yallourn open cut on a \$1 million-plus project to re-arrange fire and water service facilities.

As well, the project involves anti-pollution control work, construction of treatment works and installation of three pumping stations.

The work, expected to be completed by about the end of next year, will ensure that the quality of water discharged into the Latrobe River accords with the standards of the Environment Protection Authority.

A big fire service and flood regulation pond which will hold 850 million gallons of water will be created south of the existing dump.

Another smaller treatment pond will be created to the south of the main pond.

Water in the ponds, from rainfall run-off, will be re-

cycled through the existing pipe network in the open cut for fire protection.

The existing pumping station on the Latrobe River at the Yallourn Power Station will be retained.

It will be used for fire protection along the coal conveyors.

An automatic control system will be installed to activate the pumps and associated equipment to meet demand.

A new 750 mm diameter fire service pipeline will be constructed across the bottom of the open cut to link the pivot area fire service system with the new fire service pumps.

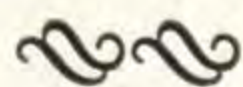
A 450 mm diameter extension will connect the pumping station with the existing Witts Gully pipe on the eastern batters.

retirements

GEORGE HUNTER



A travelling case and a toaster were presented to George Hunter before he retired from the Commission on October 30. George, a member of the workforce for more than 26 years, has become a familiar face to most personnel, particularly in his role as 'duplicator operator' with the Morwell clerical section. Before that, George worked as a payroll clerk, winning a grade 2 posting in 1955. Activities in the twilight of his career have been centred on the Yallourn stores area, with his retirement post being admin. officer grade 2 with the materials storeroom records section. George is a fairly keen golfer, so it is a fair bet that he will now be spending a lot of time trying to improve his game. And of course he would not be averse to a 'coldie' should any of his workmates care to stop by and discuss old times.

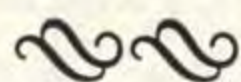


SYDNEY MELBOURNE



One of the commission's first mail boys, Sydney Melbourne, has retired after a total of 32 years. Syd, 65 on November 11, used to walk

five miles a day to collect mail for the Commission in 1923. He was then aged 13. On his recent retirement, Syd was presented with a wallet of notes by the Acting Superintendent of Briquette and Power Installation at Morwell, Mr. Cyril Morellato, who told a gathering of Syd's workmates that the commission was not only losing a very experienced man, but also a "hell of a character". One of Syd's workmates for many years, Owen O'Bryan, said Syd was always easy to get on with and wished him all the best from the power house shifts. Syd worked on and off for the Commission eight times — a total of 15 years at Yallourn and 17 years at Morwell. He got his fireman's ticket in 1932. Since, as Syd put it himself, he has done most things — including working the "drag lines", overhead loaders, and tractors. On his retirement he was firing at the number eight boiler.

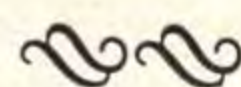


MILADIN 'Alek' ALEKSIS

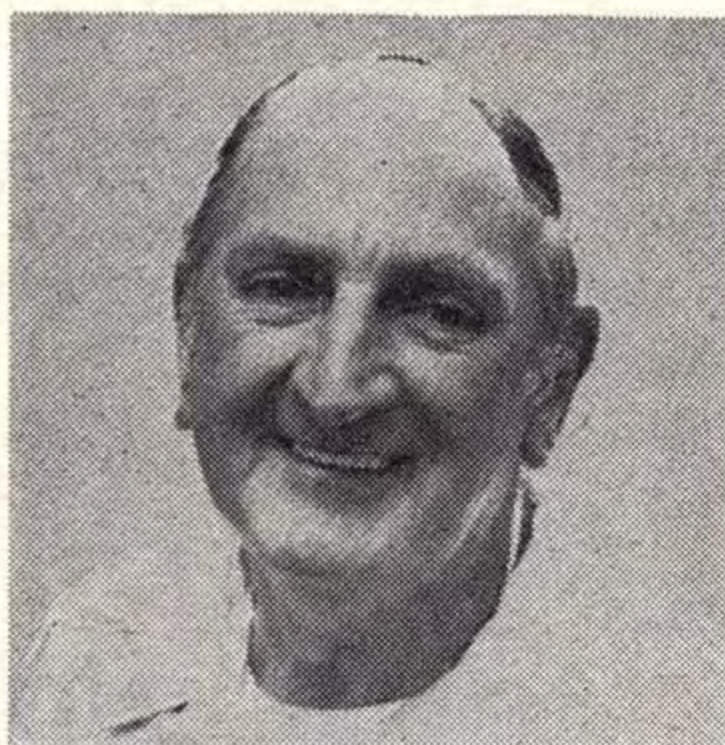


Members of the Morwell General Services work staff had special reason to feel sorry on October 14, the retirement day for leading hand gardener Alek Aleksis. Not only were they losing a friend and a fellow workmate, they were also losing the man who had done such a good job in tending the lawns and gardens around the General Services area. Alek has been tied up with

the gardening side of the Commission's operations for the past 13 years. He actually began his Commission career in 1951 as a pick and shovelman at the Morwell Briquette site but left after a short time to work with Victorian Railways. He returned in 1955 as a dogman with Construction; after 6½ years he was reclassified as a gardener, working his way up to the post of leading hand by 1965. Alek's retirement plans include a trip back to his native Yugoslavia — the fistful of notes he received from A/Civil Works Engineer Ian McBain at a farewell send-off in Morwell will obviously come in very handy.

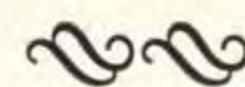


ARTHUR HARPER



Yallourn PSS Don Bromilow was obviously pleased to officiate at the retirement farewell for cleaner Arthur Harper on November 14 in the 'C' station canteen; it gave him the chance to stress the important role that cleaners play in the life of any station. But Arthur's 30-year stay with the Commission has not been confined to the cleaning ranks. In fact, he spent the great majority of his career doing another important task at the old Yallourn Briquette Factory—he began in 1945 at the factory as a launder attendant but soon branched into the field of firefighting. During the period from late 1945 - 1972 he worked as a fireman, regulating

fireman and leading hand fireman before eventually transferring to YPS as a cleaner. Don Bromilow was also delighted with another duty he had to perform — it was his task to present Arthur with an envelope of notes on behalf of assembled workmates.



FRED RYDER



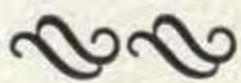
The chances are that every time Fred Ryder takes a walk through the gardens of Yallourn during his coming days of retirement his thoughts will spring back to the many happy days he has had with the Commission. Fred has been connected with the Yallourn gardens for his entire 20 years; he began as a gardener at the nursery in 1955 and over the years has become well known to most townspeople in Yallourn, particularly in the area of the Broadway gardens. Before joining the Commission, Fred worked as a gardener at Sunbury, so it is a fair bet that his own garden will now be receiving a lot of attention, although he did confide that interior decoration of his house was a primary consideration. The days ahead will also give him time to make full use of his newly acquired automatic coffee-maker and mohair rug, gifts he received from workmates on his final day. (He also received a car first-aid kit, but hopefully it will not be required very often).

retirements

JIM BATTY



After more than 21 years service, patrolman Jim Batty is entitled to believe he deserves a rest — but Jim's family has taken first call on his retirement 'services'. Jim has plenty of odd jobs to do around the place before he can really settle back and take full advantage of those fishing trips to Mallacoota that he has promised himself. Nicknamed 'the gentle giant' because of his size and quiet manner, Jim has been a member of the patrol section since 1955. He joined the Commission the year before and worked in the Yallourn area as a storeman, fork lift driver and mobile crane driver before moving across to patrol. Workmates showed their appreciation for Jim's help and friendship over the years when they presented him with a power drill at a small send-off in the Morwell patrol quarters on October 17.



PERCY QUICK

The popularity of L/H office cleaner Percy Quick was illustrated on October 23 when General Services personnel and fellow workmates turned up at the Morwell Services area training centre to give him a rousing send-off. Percy was quite a character both on and off the job — one story was told of him going away with one of his football teams to a neighboring ground . . . and not returning until four days later. But during his retirement Percy intends to take things a bit more easily — his aim is to devote most of his time to the noble art of lawn bowls where even he will find it difficult to get into trouble.

RAY McPHERSON



It seems that the retirement plans of Ray McPherson, a Commission veteran of over 37 years service, have already been taken care of: when asked why he had chosen a new vacuum cleaner as a farewell gift, he replied "I'm going to use it more than Mum, so why shouldn't I have a new one". Perhaps he was joking. Ray was offi-

cially presented with his vacuum cleaner as well as two fishing reels at a farewell send-off at Yallourn fire station on November 14. Among the well-wishers were former fire chief Gerry Ingram and Ray's son Bob, Supervisory Engineer at Hazelwood Power Station. Comments passed at the well-attended farewell indicated that Ray was a very popular personality, both on and off the job. He started in 1938 as a laborer with Construction, Yallourn and then spent time as a fitter's assistant and a fitter before being appointed fireman in 1946. He was promoted to Station Sub-Officer in 1962 and his work in this position was in no small way responsible for the grand record the Yallourn Fire Brigade enjoys today.

Social Club Forum

The Association recently acted as host for the quarterly meeting of the SEC Social League Executive Committee which, in the words of ASC president John Hutchinson, was 'most successful'.

More than 40 delegates from all over the State held discussions on the future role of the Social League and commented on a series of points put before the meeting.

A buffet dinner ensured that the day ended on a happy note with special guests AGM (Ops) Bill De Campo, Manager Area Administration, George Bates and Mechanical Services Engineer George Davis joining the Social League members.

● **Details of 1976 Social League Scholarships have just been released.**

Applications for the 12 awards of \$80 (for Higher School Certificate students or students of equivalent level) and 16 awards of \$60 (first year, secondary students) close on February 20, 1976.

Eligibility for awards is confined to children of serving or deceased members of bodies affiliated with the SEC Social League.

For further details, contact your local social club secretary or ASC secretary Frank Miller, extension 3413.

Suggestive Section

(Continued from Page 17)

shift foreman Peter Young, who came up with an idea to prevent water entering precipitator hoppers when rotary air-heater work is being performed.

Fitter Laurie Blucher also received a sizeable award of \$75.

He suggested that more holes be drilled in the scraper chain shear pin drive assembly, thereby cutting down on replacement costs.

The most active suggester was L/H fitter Trevor French, who received a total award of \$80 for his two ideas relating to non-return valves of chemical feeders in the water treatment plant.

Valley Visitors

Special visitors to the Latrobe Valley during the month of November included senior officers from Nissho-Iwai Chemical Company and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan.

Nissho-Iwai is interested in the crushing of briquettes (or alternatively using the dry brown coal before it reaches the briquetting stage) spraying it with oil and shipping it by bulk carriers to Japan where it could be utilised as a valuable fuel.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries have been engaged as the chemical company's consultants for the project.

Members of the seven-man party spent two days touring the Yallourn and Morwell works area as well as paying a visit to the neighboring Australian Char Plant.

Visitors of a different kind paid us a special call on November 12, when members of the Association of Retired Principals of Technical Schools/Colleges and their wives were touring the Valley.

Included amongst the party were former Yallourn Technical School principals Howard Beanland and Edgar Scott and former Morwell and Traralgon Technical School principal Tom Clements, all familiar faces to local residents.

The 60-strong group was shown over the Yallourn open cut and Yallourn 'W' power station before moving on to Churchill to inspect the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.

Earlier in the month, the SEC played host to a group of industrial relations experts taking part in the 1975 Residential Convention of the Industrial Relations Society of Victoria.

Tours of the SEC operations area and of the APM Maryvale mill were organised to give participants a first-hand view of modern decentralised industry.

The younger generation was also represented in the visitor's list when a party of 50 apprentices from the Victorian Railways was taken on a guided tour of the Yallourn Workshops.

Instructors from our local Education and Training section acted as guides for an interested audience.

Above: Pictured at the reception centre are retired principals (from left) Howard Beanland, Edgar Scott and Tom Clement.

Above: Hazelwood Power Station was just one port of call for this group of visiting Japanese businessmen.

Below: Apprentices from Victorian Railways found plenty to interest them when visiting the Yallourn Workshops.

