



CONTACT

JULY, 1981



TRAINING FOR THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW

It would seem some Commission employees' hobbies can be gauged by their train of thought. This is especially true of their station when it comes to model railways.

The Latrobe Valley Model Railway Association held its annual exhibition at the Old Morwell Townhall over three days last month, and the fact that more than 1700 people turned up signals the age old fascination that people have had with model trains.

Bob Waples, a fitter at Hazelwood power station, and one of the organising committee, estimated there was about \$50,000 worth of equipment on show. Some 20 club members staged exhibits.

Bob has been interested in model trains for nearly 30 years. "I've been playing with trains since I rescued my first train set from the old man. I got my first Ferris train set when I was 12, and I couldn't get near it for three days while dad was 'checking out that it was o.k. for the kid'," Bob said.

Bob takes the model business pretty seriously. He would have to, spending \$600 on a special limited edition brass locomotive. He has about \$3000 worth of brass models alone.

"If I see one I really like, and I can afford it, I just lash out", he said.

Keith Peters, an operator at Hazelwood, has about \$4000 worth of equipment, which includes about 60 metres of track in the "HO" gauge. Keith is club treasurer.

The club, which is presently looking forward to moving into new club rooms in Moe, has a variable

module layout measuring 4.3 metres by 3.1 metres and can be added to and rearranged to form an infinite variety of shapes and lengths. Most club members have contributed to the building of the layout. Peter said it was one of the advantages of the club for new members.

"They don't have to spend a lot of money to set themselves up in the beginning — they can use the club's facilities", he said.

Bob said the exhibition was a

huge success. "People were still trying to get in when we ended our first night", he said. "We called it a night four hours early on Sunday, as the rush had dropped off. Still and all it was pretty successful".

"We saw a few potential members, and I'll bet a few kids will be twisting dad's arm by now".

Anyone interested in joining the association should contact Bob Waples on 5314, or Frank Leister on 2013.



Frank Leister, association president Terry Swindon, Bob Waples and treasurer Keith Peters at the associations variable module layout during the railway exhibition held at the Morwell Old Townhall last month. Bob is holding one of his very expensive brass special edition locos.

CONTACT



Prepared by
the L.V. Public
Relations Group
for Operations Group
employees.

Cover

Visitors to the Latrobe Valley Visitors' Centre at Morwell can now take a step back into prehistoric time. Reproductions of a pair of two million year old kangaroo skeletons have taken pride of place in a new display. For full story, see page 9.

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Valley air meets objectives: study

Air quality in the Latrobe Valley easily meets most of the objectives set out in the Environment Protection Authority's newly introduced air quality policy, the Latrobe Valley Air Shed Study has shown.

First study results show that concentrations of nominated air quality indicators in the Valley atmosphere are below acceptable levels set by the EPA.

The air shed study has involved the establishment of a \$3 million monitoring network through out the Valley, made up of 18 monitoring stations — 11 fixed and three

mobile stations are monitoring air quality and taking meteorological measurements; meteorological measurements are also made at four 110 m towers.

The Latrobe Valley Air Shed Study Steering Committee's summary of air quality measurements in 1979/80 shows that short and medium term average concentrations for air quality indicators were well below acceptable levels set for protection of human health.

For example, on an hourly basis, the EPA acceptable level for nitrogen dioxide is 150 parts per billion (ppb) at ground levels. Air

shed study measurements show that most of the concentrations in the Latrobe Valley are less than 30 ppb.

Similar measurements of sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone concentrations were in nearly all cases well below half their acceptable levels.

Study results have shown that air quality in the Latrobe Valley is generally very good with only one exception — visibility.

The EPA's criterion for airborne particulate matter — an acceptable level of 20 km local visual distance — has not been met on a number of occasions. It is thought that bushfire smoke, burning off and fugitive dust from local activities contributed to the problem. During a virtual shutdown of power generation for three days last year, no significant improvement in measured visibility was noted. However, continuing analyses will be required to determine the relationship between power station emissions and ground level measurements of visibility.

The Latrobe Valley Air Shed Study is a co-operative project between the SEC, the Environment Protection Authority, the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board and the CSIRO.

Its objectives are to —
 monitor and describe the present quality of the air in the Latrobe Valley;
 monitor the effect of meteorological conditions on the dispersal of emissions to the air;
 list existing emissions from industry, motor vehicles and private homes and those expected to occur in the future;
 mathematically model the behaviour of emissions in the atmosphere by programming a computer to use data from the study to evaluate effects on air quality;
 examine its measurements of the quality of the air and consider the likely future situation, and
 examine possible needs for emission control in the future and how this might be done.

The monitoring network will soon be controlled by a central computer in the Latrobe Valley Control Centre at Morwell, which will record in formation continuously and calculate hourly, daily and monthly averages.

Summaries will be published at six-monthly intervals for public information.



NEIL MOULDS HIS FUTURE

Apprentice, Neil Krutop, has every right to feel pretty pleased with himself.

Neil, from Traralgon, who is a second year apprentice moulder at the Yallourn foundry, has been awarded the prestigious RMIT Beazley prize for his second successive year for his work in non-ferrous casting.

A number of Beazley awards are made each year to outstanding apprentices.

As an added bonus, Neil has also been selected to represent Victoria in a casting competition to be held in New Zealand in October.

The Australian branch of the Institute of British Foundrymen, in association with RMIT, selected Neil for the New Zealand competition. The winner will be awarded the Silver Trowel trophy and certificate.

Should Neil win the three-day competition in New Zealand, he will remain there a further three days to take part in a foundry conference.

Neil was presented with his award at the Yallourn training centre by the past president of the Australian Branch of the Institute of Foundrymen and present head of the materials division of RMIT, Mr. Neil McGraw, and the head of the Department of Metal Foundry of the George Thompson School of Foundry Technology at RMIT, Mr. Keith Crofts.

Neil said he was very pleased to have won the awards.

Above: Neil pictured with Mr. Neil McGraw and services engineer (mechanical) Geoff Thomas, at the presentation of his award from the RMIT.

He'll soon be heading off

Some men are naturally ahead of the times.

After 40 years as Yallourn's barber, Wally Lacey has seen many heads pass through his doors.

Wally served his apprenticeship as a barber in Ballarat, which he finished in 1933. From there he moved to Ararat where he worked for seven years, before finally coming to the Latrobe Valley and settling in Yallourn.

"I began with Mr. O'Shannasse in 1940 in the shop above what is now the property office," Wally said. "We then built this present shop in 1954."

Wally said he would miss being in Yallourn.

"I've spent more than half my life in this shop. It's been a busy shop in the past — we used to have three chairs operating. I got to know all the identities — chaps like Amos Woods who travelled by horse and dray across Australia when he was a young man. He was also one of the early men of Walhalla. He died at 91."

"Mr. O'Shannasse and myself were the only ones he'd let cut his hair. He used to apologise to the other boys in the shop, but he was a man of habit."

Another character Wally recalls is Barney the Bulltosser.

"Barney was a famous water diviner. The SEC used to employ him to find their pipes, but of course, he had put them down in the first place."

Wally said he felt he was leaving a lot behind him.

"Some of the people you met were more than customers — they were more than friends. Even though they've moved out of Yallourn, they will still drive from wherever they are to have their hair cut, or just come and visit."

Wally will be moving out in the next few weeks to a new shop he plans to open in Newborough.

Apart from the heads he hopes to barber, he will be occupied with his lapidary, and his love of chess.

Wally making sure that Ray Cordell from Yallourn drafting services doesn't have a hair out of place.



Jungle Jim Settles Down

Construction Department at Loy Yang has another recently arrived engineer.

Jim Jennings (right) has been with the Commission a little under three months and would probably notice the difference from his previous location.

Always a bit of a wanderer, Jim's last job had him at Wewak on Papua New Guinea's rugged North coast, where he was provincial works manager for the East Sepik Province.

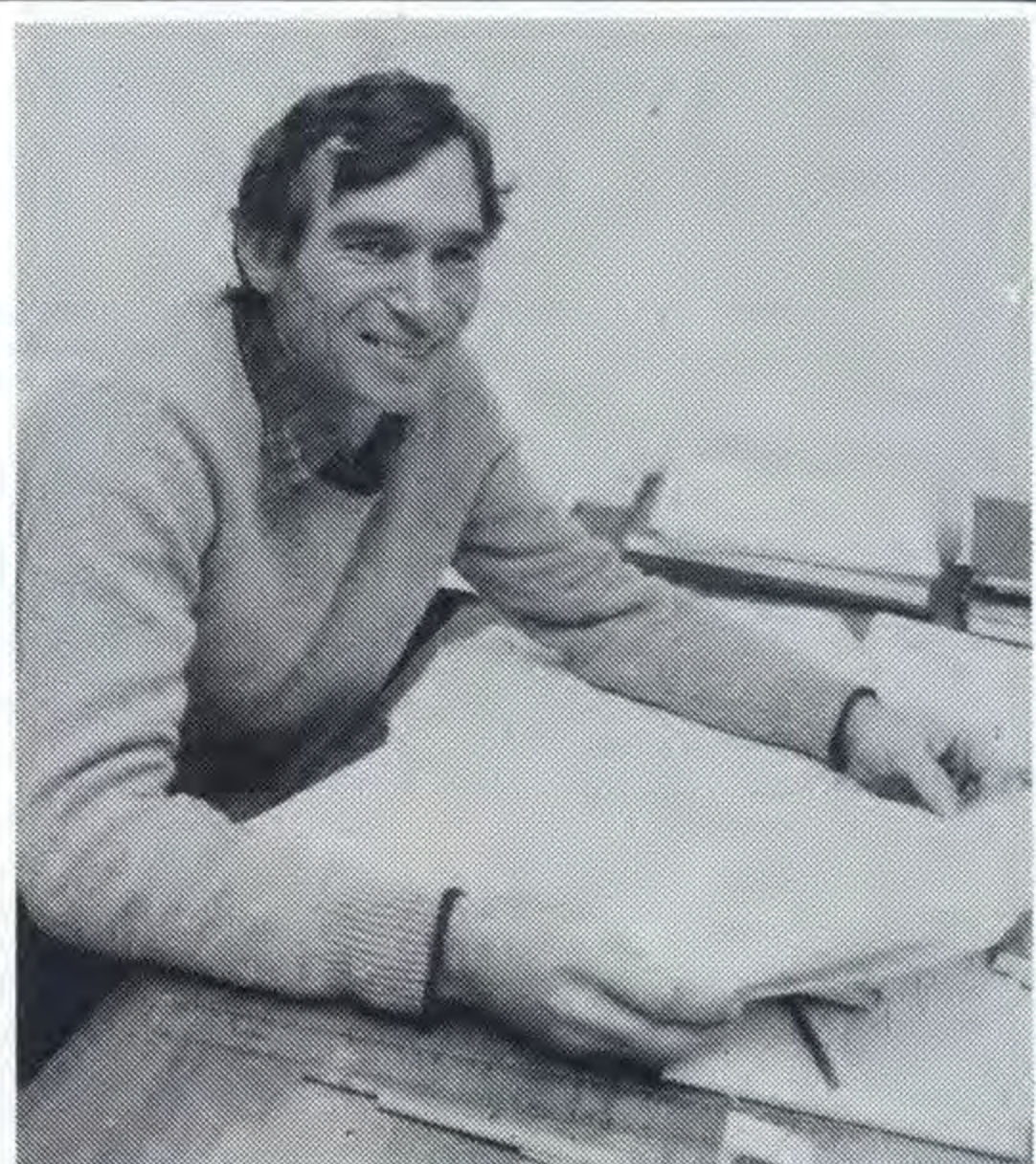
It was a difficult position in terms of local manpower Jim said. "There was an enormous fluctuation in the size of the workforce and we had a few riots on our hands."

Jim stayed there until his one year contract expired, and then came back to Australia to "settle down".

For the previous five years, Jim had his own business building houses and boats in Perth and Hong Kong, and for two years before that he was a civil project engineer at Mt. Newman in Western Australia. However, in spite of all the exotic places he's been, it's good to be back in Australia, he says.

"It's a distinct advantage in being with the Commission — there's a certainty of employment, it gives me a place to settle, and the conditions are good."

Jim has recently bought a 17 hectare farm near Narracan, complete with house, pastures and other improvements.



The numbers game

We seem to have a few budding poets in our midst.

This anonymous piece was slipped under our door:

The SEC,
A world of AGM's, DCO's, PSS's,
AC's, CAO's and OA's,
Where you work on LTI's, MRV's,
MRS's and A's to P,

Your work place can be YPS,
HPS, YWPS, HQ or MB & P,

You are either a 12345Y or when
the phone rings a "three six three
five",

Your responsibility becomes
1501,

Your activities can be summed
up as 308571,

And you drive around in M863,
Ahh!!!! Life at the SEC is as easy
as ABC.

Signed 06759X



AREA ADMINISTRATION



Mid-year apprentices sign up

The Commission's mid-year intake for apprentices was completed last month with 96 successful applicants being accepted into three trades — fitting and turning, boilermaking and electrical mechanics.

A total of 60 boilermaker and fitting and turning apprentices began work on June 10th, and a further 36 electrical mechanic apprentices started with the commission on June 29th.

This intake, the last for 1981, brings the Commission's apprentice workforce in the Valley to 850.

Personnel Officer John Drewett welcomed the new apprentices and congratulated them on their appointment and selection. He said an apprenticeship led to the skill and knowledge necessary to produce a tangible product.

"The opportunities offered by an apprenticeship include both personal growth, and growth in your chosen trade; a personal development leading to a mature outlook on your responsibilities, and the opportunity for promotion, which leads to greater job satisfaction."

During 1981, apprentices for 17 trades began work with the Commission.

Application forms for January 1982 school leaver intakes will soon be available for intending apprentices.

Above: Some of the mid-year apprentice intake with Yallourn Training Centre personnel during the signing on session prior to beginning with the Commission. From left are: Suzane Andrew (fitter and turner), Noelene Goss (training centre), Rosalyn Parr (fitter and turner), John Werner (boilermaker), Shayne Williams (fitter and turner), Richard Gauci (fitter and turner), and Joe Dellafortuna (training centre).

NEW MORWELL FUEL DEPOT

Work has begun on a new fuel handling and storage depot in Morwell.

Materials and Services Officer Athol Robinson said increased fuel usage had resulted in an upgrading of the level of the fuel holdings.

"In doing so, we were required to comply with the Inflammable Liquids Act as laid down by the Department of Minerals and Energy," Athol said.

"We looked at 12 possible ways in which we could comply with the Act's regulations, and we decided to rationalise the holdings and centralise the depot in Morwell, where it will serve both Yallourn and Loy Yang.

Athol pointed out that this decision would save the cost of building three structures which would have to comply with departmental regulations.

"Besides, Yallourn and Loy Yang will be served by regular transport facilities, and this means users' requirements will be well met."

Local contractors, Donpra Industries Pty. Ltd. have been awarded the \$206,000 contract.

S.E.C. contract supervisor Charlie Medhurst said the contract was right up to schedule so far.

"Donpra have been very keen to start — the footings have been

finished, and the steelwork is now being completed in Melbourne. The drainage is being built at present."

The new building, which is expected to be completed in early August, will measure 60 metres by 15 metres.

Driffield talks well attended

Public Relations Group's Public Liason Officers are winding up their series of employee information sessions on the Driffield power project — Morwell River diversion proposals.

Between March and June more than 3000 people attended 98 sessions throughout the Latrobe Valley works areas.

The information sessions, which involve a short address and slide presentation, followed by questions, are designed to ensure all employees have a thorough understanding of the project proposals.

Although sessions officially finish at the end of July, any group wishing to take part can still do so. Supervisors should contact Mary Blowers or Alec Wood on extension

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COAL PRODUCTION

Model on display

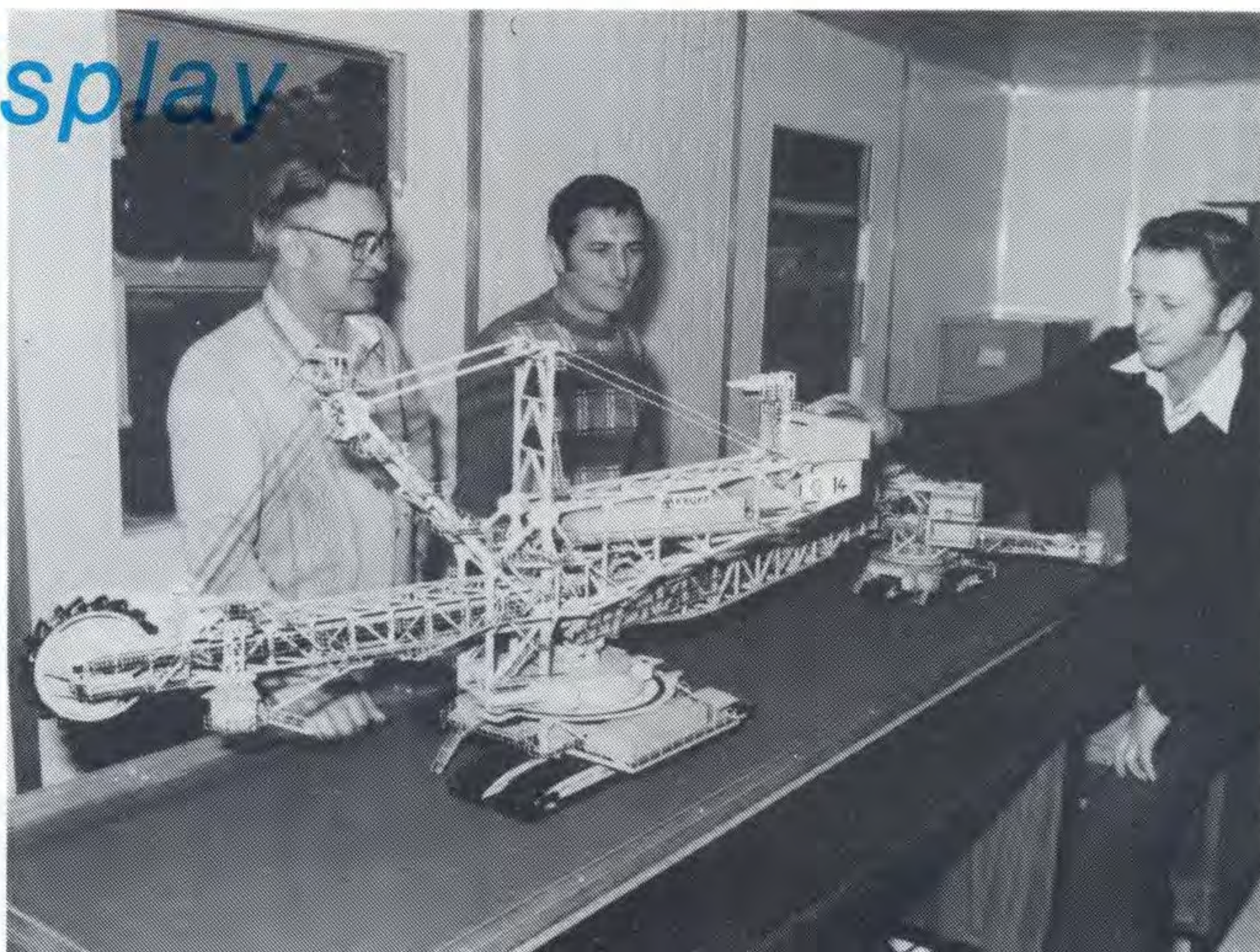
While work is nearing completion on No. 14 dredger on the dredger construction pad, a scale model is providing an overall picture to the operators who will be controlling the \$16,000,000 monster.

"Honey" Knipping and Charles Spiteri who were recently selected from a number of applicants, are presently undergoing a familiarization period with the innovations which distinguish this dredger from previously commissioned ones.

Not the least of these will be the new dredger's increased capacity—60,000 tonnes per day, double the output of the commission's other dredgers presently operating.

Under the supervision of foreman Joe Haustorfer, "Honey" and Charles will be instructed in various aspects of the dredger, from the operation of it to the many maintenance tasks which must be carried out.

The model, scaled to 1:75 of the 4,200 tonne dredger, was built by Krupps, the German firm who also have the contracts for both No. 14 and 15 dredgers. The SEC Fuel Department model maker estimated the cost of the model alone to be in



the order of \$30,000. The model will give a three-dimensional view of the layout in relation to electrical conduits and fire services pipes, and the general workings of the giant dredger.

The model has been on display at Monash House in Melbourne for some time, and after its display at Loy Yang coal production, it will go

onto the Commission's career display, being held at Morwell Civic Centre from July 14th to July 17th.

Above: Operators "Honey" Knipping and Charles Spiteri with foreman Joe Haustorfer inspect the scale model of the giant Krupps 4,200 tonne dredger which will shortly be going on display at the Commission's career display.

TRIP MAY PROVIDE HISTORICAL (H)ANSWERS

The ancestry of the Commission's first Chairman, Sir John Monash, will come under close scrutiny during an overseas trip by Hans Faubel, a Technical Officer in the Morwell Coal Production Planning Group.

Hans, who is on long service leave, flew out of Melbourne on 11th July for a three month holiday, part of which will be spent researching Sir John's ancestry. He plans to visit a small village in Poland where the Monash family originated.

"Depending on the political situation, I'll be visiting the place they came from. Although it's a semi-sentimental journey, I feel it will be beneficial from a historical point of view," Hans said.

Hans has been researching Sir John Monash for quite some time,

concentrating mainly on his Chairmanship of the Commission, his involvement with the Latrobe Valley, and his military role as a World War 1 general.

"I'll also be going to London where I hope to meet a relative of Sir John who is working for the BBC, and I'll be contacting Bavarian Radio which recently broadcast a program called 'A General and his Grandfather' which was about Monash and his forbears," Hans said.

Hans is President of the Moe and District Historical Society and recently he and his wife, Annelies, were made life members. They've been involved in the society for 18 years and Annelies is editor of 'Coach News', the society's journal.

Recently, they were thrilled with the news that the society has



found a new home. The old Moe Court House has become the societies' new home and besides being used as a meeting place, it will house historic documents and artifacts collected over the past 20 years.

The society has set aside one room dealing exclusively with the history of Yallourn and anything of interest will be appreciated by them.



ENGINEERING SERVICES

FIRE SERVICE'S ROLE EXTENDED

After a long strrrrrretch to the top of No. 8 dredger, the tele-squrt extended ladder is swivelled around, and with Chris Salter on the ladder, and Glen Bennett operating the controls, the "victim" is gently lowered to the ground.



Fire Services mighty R.F.W. Tele-Squrt fire truck was put through its paces last month in an entirely different role.

The 450 h.p. truck, equipped with an extending ladder capable of reaching 75 ft., was tested as a rescue vehicle.

The test took place on No. 2 bench at No. 8 dredger in the Yallourn open cut during the dredger's four-day maintenance period.

A dummy was used as an accident victim, and was carried to a walkway along the dredger, about 60 feet above the ground. The fire truck was then parked adjacent to the dredger, and once the four hydraulic "legs" on the truck were in place, the extension ladder was raised, the fire services supervisor, Chris Salter, organising the exercise from the top of the ladder.

An intercom connected from the top of the ladder to the operator, Glen Bennett, on the truck allowed the ladder to be manoeuvred precisely into position, with communication between Chris and Glen.

The "Neil Robertson" stretcher, complete with dummy strapped into position was then slung from the end of the ladder, and was lowered to the ground without a hitch.

Chris said they decided against using a "live" dummy. "Initially you have to use a dummy until you get confident with the procedure and the application of the equipment. Once that's sorted out, you can then use a volunteer."

The long term purpose of the exercise is to have the fire services team work in conjunction with the Yallourn and Morwell open cut's rescue teams, and the use of the fire truck is obvious.

"I think this morning's exercise was purely experimental to see if the engine could be used as a rescue vehicle," Chris said. "It came up trumps."

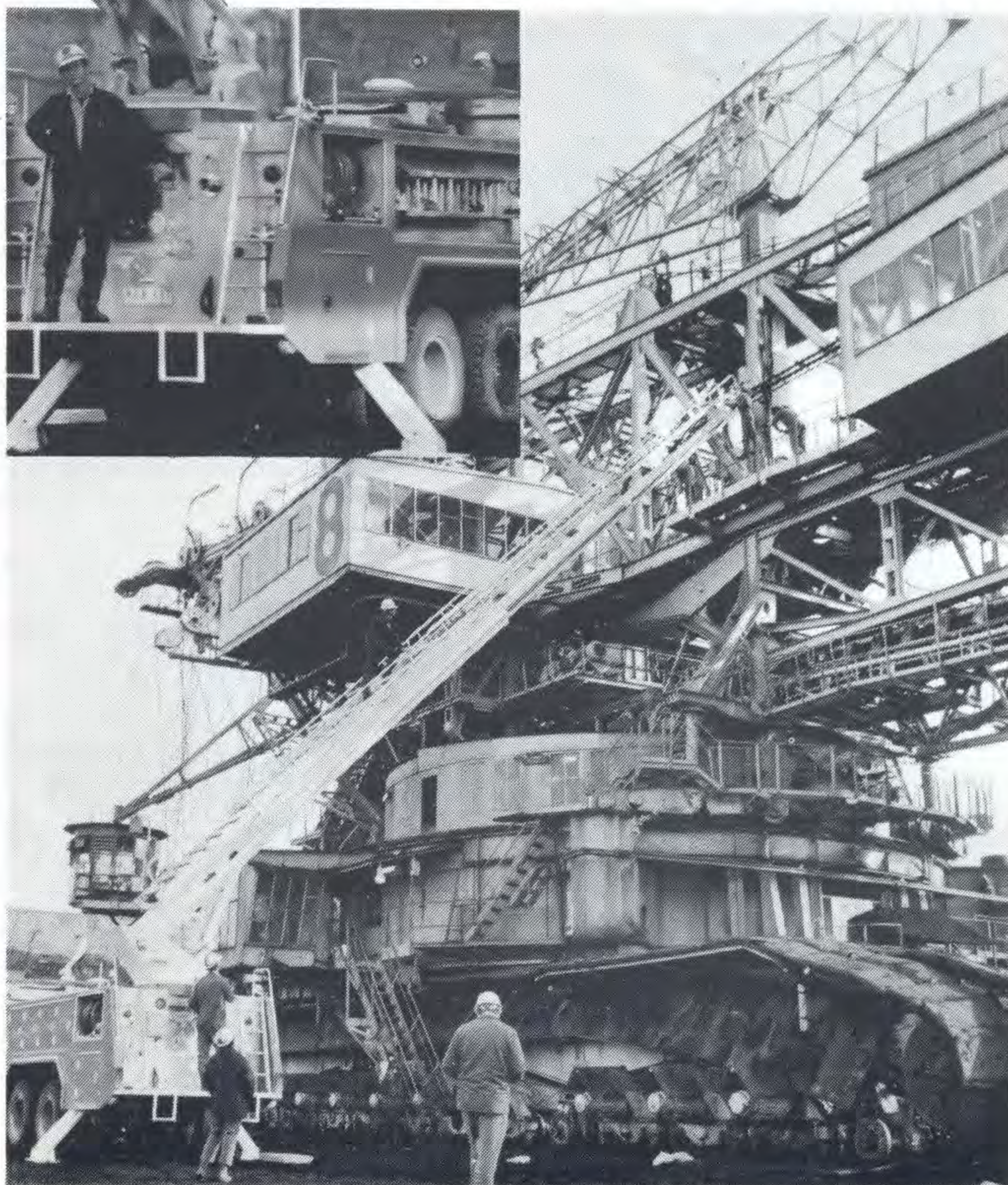
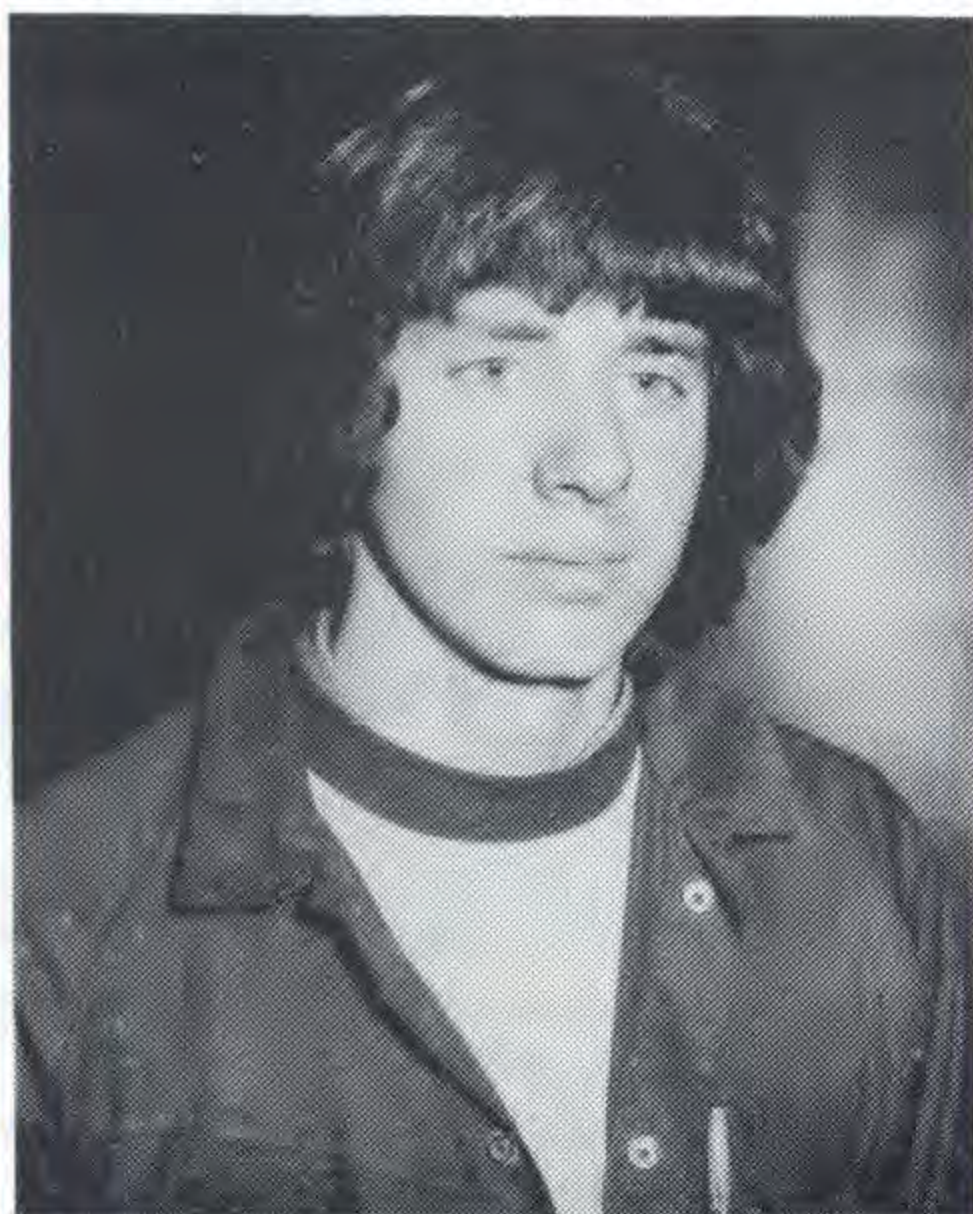
Apprentice award

Auto electrician apprentice, Gregory Wiggins, is a bit of an "ohm-town" star.

He was recently awarded the Repco Autoelectric Services Award for the best second stage apprentice.

Gregory, an RMIT student was presented with a socket set and a framed certificate at a ceremony held at the YWCA centre in Melbourne.

Gregory presently works at the Transport Workshops at Yallourn.



PUB HOSTED COLORFUL CHARACTERS

Queen Elizabeth 11, the Duke of Gloucester, Sir Robert Menzies, Bill Hayden, and Bob Hawke have all been winned and dined under its roof.

So have Desi Raye, Jock McGregor, Barney Briggs and Charlie Byrne.

No, it's not Windsor Castle, not even Melbourne's Hotel Windsor—it's our own recently closed Yallourn Hotel.

In its sixty year history the Yallourn pub has played host to the famous, the infamous, and the everyday blokes like Desi, Jock, Barney and Charlie.

Publican, Paddy O'Sullivan, said one of the best things about the Yallourn Hotel was its uncanny ability to claim allegiance of people at both ends of the social scale. Workers from all over Australia mingled shoulder to shoulder in the bar, saloon and lounge with wealthy visitors, international statesmen and ambassadors.

"As far as I was concerned, I never thought of the hotel as a pub," Paddy said. "It had club atmosphere and people regarded it as their own."

The hotel opened in 1928 and the first licensee was Mr. G. D. Brown. Amongst the interesting bits of memorabilia discovered in the hotel recently was a framed certificate which was presented to Mr. Brown on his departure from the Mallee region in 1921.

It speaks highly of him and his contribution to the town of Ouyen as a councillor, president of two racing clubs, and a loyal friend of any organisation devoted to progress.

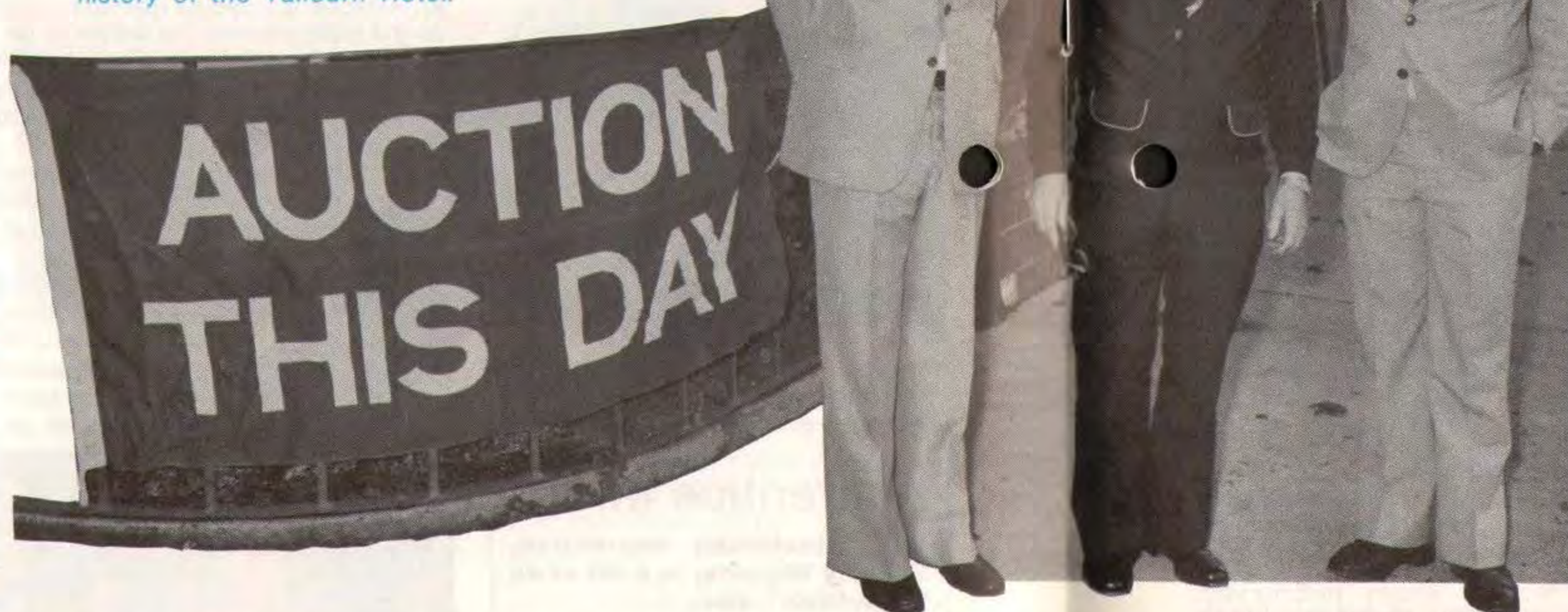
Paddy O'Sullivan has handed the certificate to the Commission so that it can be returned to Mr. Brown's family.

Paddy speaks fondly of the many guests who have stayed in the hotel during his 12 years as licensee.

These included the first Japanese engineers to work on Yallourn W, when work on the project was in its infancy.

Yallourn Hotel auctions off some bits of history

Auctioneers Danny Keating (left) and Charles Keith (right) flank Pat O'Sullivan outside the Yallourn Hotel shortly before the auction began last month. More than 1000 people turned out to the last public gathering the pub will see. Many people came away from the auction with a little bit of history of the Yallourn Hotel.



It's been a long time since Yallourn has seen as much activity as that which took place on June 15, at an auction at the town's hotel.

According to licensee, Pat O'Sullivan, close to 1000 people attended the auction.

Before bidding began, a large crowd of prospective bidders was milling around, checking various items off against the auction list.

A little after 9.40 a.m., Danny Keating and Charles Keith, auctioneers from King and Heath real estate took charge of the proceedings, and the auction got under way.

Bidding began like the start of an 800 metre race — fast and furious — which must have left some of those present wondering whether it would go the distance. Lot 1 went down like the first cold tinny at a butchers' picnic. It took a mere 2½ minutes for the 48 piece crockery set to soar from \$10 to the auctioneer's hammer-fall of \$138.

But, there was a bit of background to that little incident too. Actually, Pat O'Sullivan was bidding on behalf of an absent friend for that particular lot, and no way was he going to let it go.

The tone was set for the bidding of not just the objects up for auction, but for the little piece of history each one contained. A pair of branded beer glasses with stems fetched \$38, and a little later, seven lots of 48 piece cutlery sets, with one exception, all cracked the \$100 mark.

Pat was more than pleased with the turn-out.

"I'm delighted with the success of the day. The people came — the people were interested. They came to get some token of Yallourn and the hotel."

On looking back over the 12 years Pat and his wife Sheila spent at the hotel, Pat said they were contented years.

"I've got very happy memories from the hotel and from the people who used to come here. I'm very happy that the patterns of life directed me to, firstly Victoria, and to Yallourn. I hold the town and people in a deep affection which will be very lasting."

At 2.00 p.m., the auction was still going strong. A fitting finale for one of Yallourn's most memorable establishments, which gave many people an opportunity to share in a little bit of the Valley's past.



Above: Pat O'Sullivan and Noeline Rooney inspect some of the silverware shortly before the Yallourn Hotel auction last month.

'ROO REPLICAS BOUND TO RATTLE ANCIENT MEMORIES

"Thirty million years ago, the place where you're standing now was a forest. An immense primordial forest stretching from horizon to horizon and full of strange giant trees and ferns . . ."

So begins the audio visual presentation at the Commission's Latrobe Valley Visitors' Centre.

Now a new exhibit at the visitors' centre is adding even more to the prehistoric theme.

A pair of two million old kangaroo skeletons — reproductions of skeletons found in a fire hole in Morwell Open Cut in 1975, now take pride of place in a special display in the centre.

The real bones, which couldn't be displayed in the visitors centre because exposure to the air would eventually cause them to disintegrate, are now with the National Museum in Melbourne.

When they were unearthed by a dredger in 1975, the remains caused a sensation in palaeontological circles. Palaeontologists at the Museum and Monash University described the discovery as "incredibly lucky".

They were found about 20 metres below the surface. The heavy clay had acted as a perfect bone preserver keeping the skeletons together and in a recoverable condition.

The discovery is also important because it has helped provide a picture of what the Valley was really like two million years ago. It appears to have been a part of a cold, barren plain covered with lakes and dotted with few trees, mostly eucalypts and she-oaks.

Animal life thrived but until the discovery of the skeletons, knowledge was very limited.

One of the skeletons is that of a giant kangaroo — he's been called *Protemnodon Anak*. The other is a smaller browsing kangaroo or wallaby and his name is just as difficult to pronounce, *Macropus Mundjabus*.

The visitors centre display also features a painted mural by former National Museum artist, Mr. George Browning, depicting what life must have been like for these two pleistocene plain dwellers.

If you'd like to know more about "Proto and Mac" you can see them in the centre between 8.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. every day.





POWER GENERATION

This "Bulldog" really barks

While some of us potter around with cars, trucks, and bikes. Frank Leister, a leading hand electrician at Yallourn W decided he'd do something a bit different.

He's presently in the process of rebuilding an old Kelly and Lewis "Bulldog" tractor.

The "approximately 1950" vintage tractor is a single cylinder, 40 horsepower diesel, weighing 3.5 tonnes. The single cylinder measures 23 cms in diameter, while the stroke length of the unit is roughly 61 cms, giving a cubic capacity of 1403 cc. Maximum engine speed is 600 rpm.

Frank found the old tractor on a farm near Glengarry, and bought it for \$80 five years ago. It was definitely a non-going concern, in terrible condition and very rusted.

"We used a low-loader to get it back to Moe." Frank said.

Interestingly enough, most mechanical parts are still available, right down to the diesel injectors, however, the body work was in a sad state and required a lot of work to repair.

The tractor features three forward gears, one reverse, and a two-speed axle, giving the old machine almost 40 km/h in the top gear/high range.

The manual outlining the starting procedure makes one breathe a sigh of relief for modern technology.

The engine block must be heated for 20 minutes using a white spirit blow lamp. While the engine is warming up, the list of tasks to be memorised is frightening. Firstly, check radiator, then check fuel levels (with dipstick). Grease the nipples, all 63 of them (daily), and then prime lubrication oil. This is done with a brace-and-bit like instrument which is inserted into the engine. It must be turned 120 times, at no faster rate than one turn per second.

When all that is done, and providing the 20 minutes heating-up time has elapsed (it should have), the steering wheel and column are removed and placed in the centre of the enormous flywheel mounted on the tractor's right hand side, and is given three quick "rocks" from compression to compression. By this time, the engine should fire up. But, all your troubles aren't over by a long shot.



Above: Frank with the mighty "Bulldog" tractor, showing the enormous flywheel. In spite of the large muffler on the tractor, its bark can still be heard kilometres away when Frank starts the beast up.

With only one cylinder, the engine can fire up in either forward or reverse, so you have to time the rocking to make sure it starts in the right direction.

Fascinating stuff, but not much joy for blisteringly quick getaways.

However, by the sounds of it all, just getting the old monster fired up is, in itself, nothing short of a miracle.

And speaking of sound, Frank said it can be heard kilometres away.

A "SUPER" TRIP

Yallourn Power Station Superintendent, John Hutchinson, has returned from a 10 week holiday in the United States and Canada.

During his time away, John and Norma his wife visited more than 11 states and provinces covering both east and west coasts, and travelling as far south as New Orleans, and to Ottawa in Canada.

John said he has brought some American customs back with him, including the mealtime practice of having meals with a glass of iced water, and a "bottomless" coffee cup.

"Besides, table wines in San Francisco were more expensive than Australian wines, and not as good," John said.

During the course of his travels, John met Yallourn charge engineer, John Nuttman in Santa Barbara and so a bit of a reunion was in order.

A must on any travel itinerary is the Grand Canyon and John's case



was no exception but he was a little disappointed by it.

"If you think open cuts are desolate, then the Grand Canyon has to be the granddaddy of them all.

In some parts it is 18 miles wide and thousands of feet deep. But it was just so desolate."

John was impressed with the way Americans enjoy the outdoors and

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TRANSMISSION OPERATIONS



Hardly a plane hobby

For some people, life has more ups and downs than it does for others, and in the case of Gwen McEwan, a coiltaper at Morwell electrical workshops, this is most certainly true.

Gwen is among the very few fortunate enough to hold an unrestricted pilot's licence, and much of her time is spent with her head in the clouds.

Gwen began flying about five years ago. Allan, her husband, an electrical T/A at Yallourn W, had decided to learn to fly and Gwen thought it wouldn't be a bad idea to do likewise. Allan pulled out but Gwen went ahead with the idea.

First hurdle to be encountered was to gain her restricted licence, which prohibits flying outside a five nautical mile radius of the takeoff aerodrome.

During the 42 hours spent training for her restricted licence, Gwen had to practise such manoeuvres as stalls, steep turns, forced landings and cautionary approaches. There was also a lot of theoretical study, including pre-solo legislation and basic aeronautical knowledge. She also had to obtain her radio licence.

Gwen took nearly four years to gain her unrestricted licence—and no wonder, at \$48 an hour. As Gwen points out, it's more costly now.

Having successfully passed the necessary practical and theory exams for her restricted licence, Gwen then set about working

towards her unrestricted licence.

More theoretical study was involved including a lot of meteorology and navigation, and more air legislation, as well as an understanding of plane performance.

Her unrestricted licence allows her to fly anywhere in Australia during daylight hours, and with the \$45,000 172 single-engined Cessna capable of cruising at 110 knots (about 220 km/h), you can travel a long way.

"It's only eight hours to Maroochydore on Queensland's Sunshine Coast," Gwen said.

Gwen said a lot of airmanship was expected from a licence holder — not surprising with the value of the plane in the pilot's control, not to mention the safety of passengers.

"The planes are perfectly safe, but if the engine did cutout, there is no danger — they can glide at a rate of seven miles for every 1,000 feet in altitude."

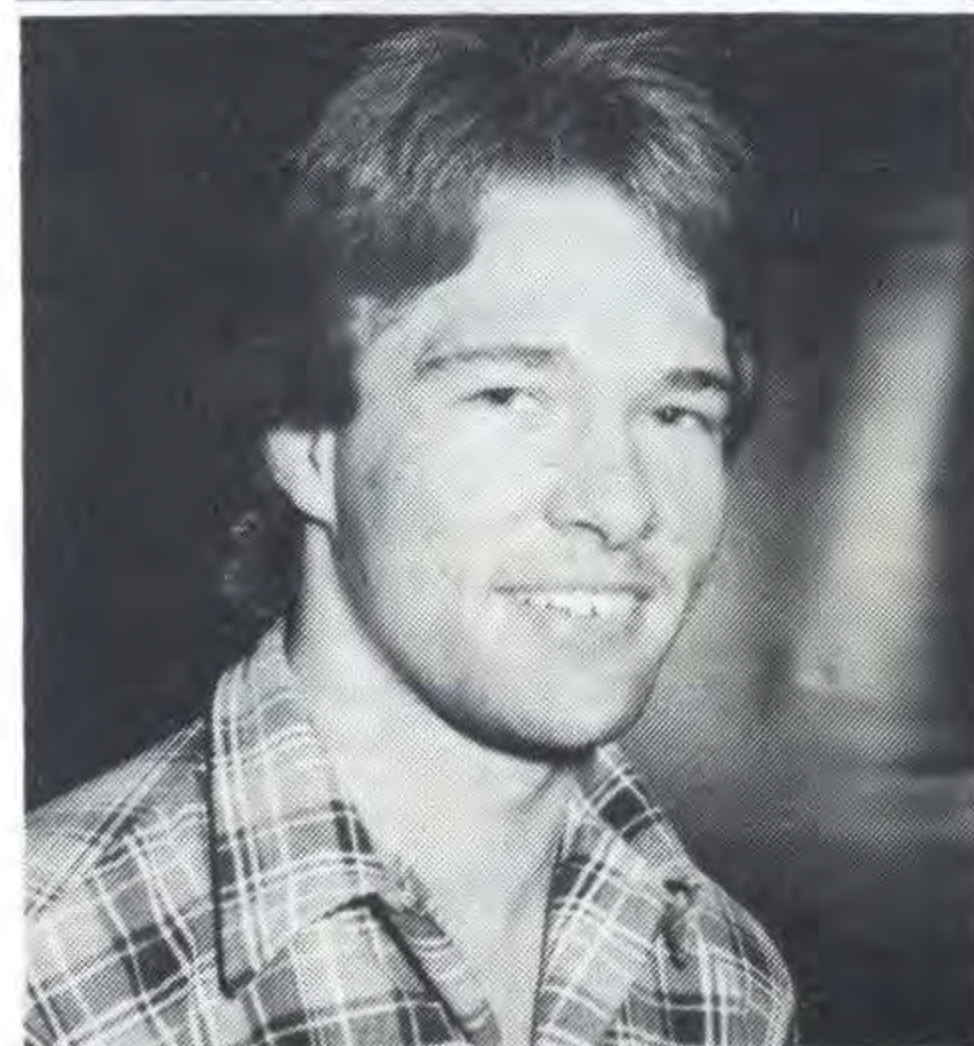
The thought of any possible misadventure doesn't deter Gwen.

"It's just sheer pleasure — a world of your own," she said.

How about parachuting? "No way," says Gwen, "I'd rather fly planes than fall out of them."

Above: Gwen at the controls of the Cessna 172 four-seater she regularly pilots. For those of us used to a speedo and a fuel gauge, the plane's console looks positively frightening.

APPRENTICE TAKES AWARD



First year refrigeration apprentice David Henson from Traralgon froze off the rest of the field in the recent RMIT apprentice awards.

David won the FC Lovelock Pty. Ltd. award for the best first year apprentice beginning the course with fifth or sixth year academic standard.

He was awarded two reference texts and a clip-on ammeter at a presentation held at RMIT last month.

David said he didn't expect to win the award. "It came as a bit of a surprise," he said.

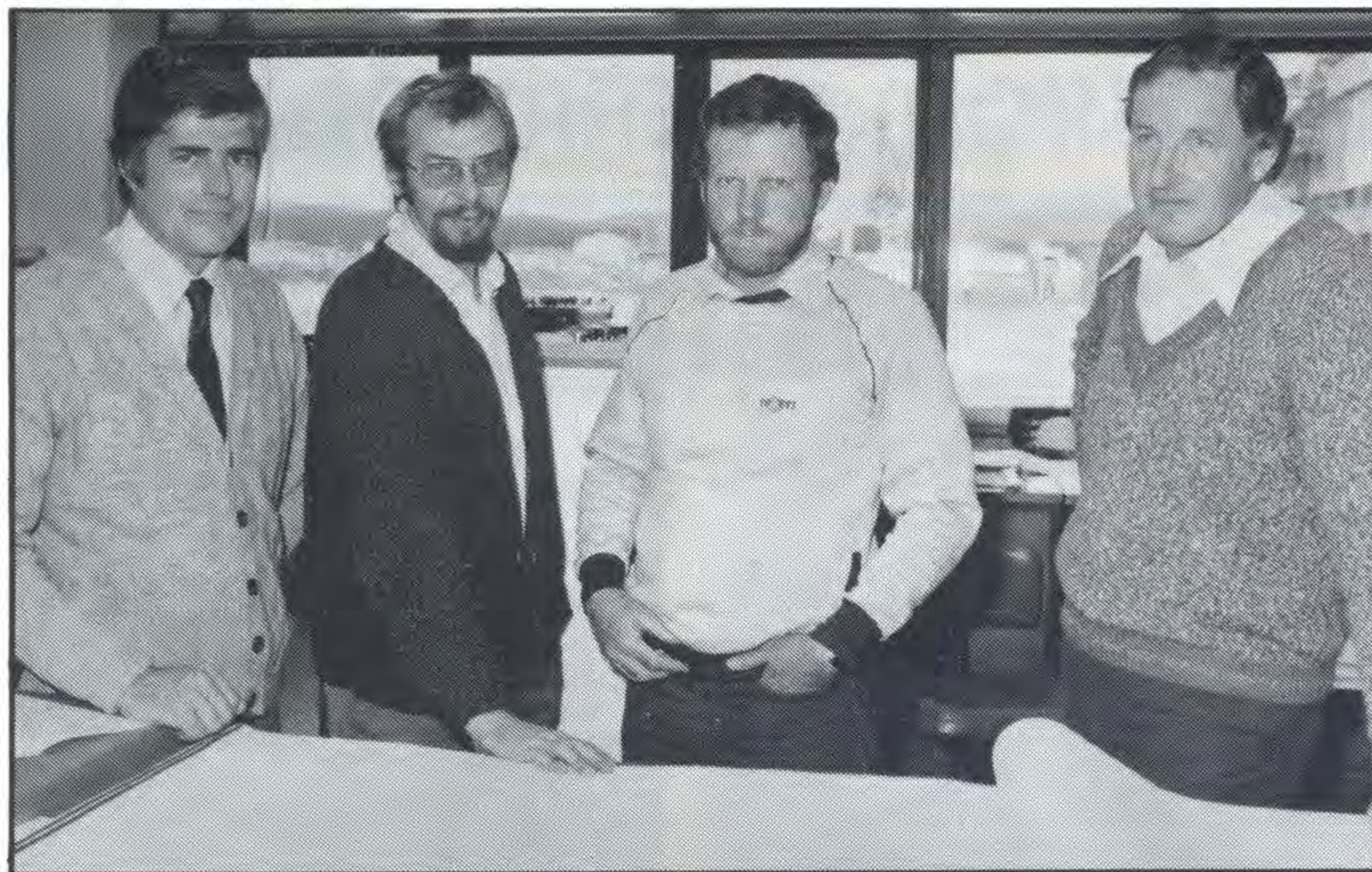
"I don't reckon I would have won without the help of the tradesmen, leading hands and foremen. They really help a great deal — and they're really good at explaining things.

"We usually go out with a tradesman and they give you a part of the job to do, and you really learn that way.

"David Blythman (refrigeration group foreman) and Peter Dyt (leading hand) are always there and both are especially helpful."

David Blythman said the maintenance of the unit control rooms and equipment was an area of increasing responsibility, due to the temperature sensitive nature of a lot of the modern equipment.

"With the ever-increasing plant around the Commission, the refrigeration area is becoming an increasingly diversified field, needing first class tradesmen to constantly maintain and obtain good plants performance."



A greater grater

Someone once said that there is nothing that has already been done that can't be done better.

And it would seem that Klaus Luetjens fully subscribes to that theory.

Some time ago, Klaus and the boys at the Loy Yang soil test lab received an award for using an industrial cheese grater to cut the time it took to grind up soil samples.

The resultant manhour saving to the commission earned the boys \$500 for their effort. The process which used to take a complete shift was reduced to an hour.

However, the process was still a manual one, so working on the idea of further improvement, Klaus and Gavin Hodgson, a TSO with the soil lab, came up with the idea of a mechanical application using an old vertical industrial drill.

A circular grater was attached to the bottom of the drill chuck, and the cylinders of soil are fed onto the slowly rotating grater. The job is now down to 60 seconds.

Morrie Rodda in conjunction with the Morwell workshops' lads contributed to the idea and the drill was supplied by salvage.

The idea has since been taken up by USL at Loy Yang 'B' Station and also Golders at the Loy Yang No. 4 ash pond.

The big question now is whether there will be any advance on 60 seconds!

Klaus is pictured here with soil grater mark two.



COOLING TOWERS ATTRACT INTEREST

The cooling towers under construction at Loy Yang have become something of a drawcard.

Two representatives of the Queensland Electricity Generating Board last month visited Loy Yang to inspect the concrete cooling towers.

Len Stone is a surveyor with QEGB and Eckhard Steinhofer, an inspector with the civil construction division.

Cooling towers at some of the existing coal fired stations at Gladstone, Swanbank (A and B), Tennyson, Collinsville, Bulimba and Callide are made from wood.

However, at Tarong, the site of Queensland's new 1400 Mw station, the cooling towers are to be made of concrete.

The station will have two hyperbolic concrete natural draught towers, each 118 metres high with a 113 metre base diameter.

The two unit station under construction at Callide has one concrete cooling tower for the two 375 Mw units.

During their stay here, Len and Eckhard also visited Yallourn.

"The towers are different in construction to those in Queensland but the principal is basically the same," Len said. Number three tower at Yallourn and those at Loy Yang are virtually exact copies, although there have been improvements with the Loy Yang towers.

Len said it was an extremely worthwhile trip. "Both Eckhard and I appreciated greatly the assistance and co-operation of your people at Loy Yang during our visit, and we feel the benefits gained by the experience of seeing such a large scale operation as Loy Yang will help us as our stations grow larger in the future."

Above left: Len Stone, Alex Szafraniec, Eckhard Steinhofer, and cooling tower supervisor, Ernie Stares, looking over the plans for the Loy Yang cooling towers.

MRA APPEALS FOR BETTER 2-WHEEL DEAL

From the time Marlon Brando donned his leather jacket until Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper went in search of America, and later, Mad Max cleaned up half of motorcycling's outcasts, motorcyclists have either been worshipped, envied or loathed.

Nonetheless, among motorcyclists there exists a feeling and commitment, which anyone who has ever ridden a bike understands.

As part of this, the Motorcycle Riders' Association was formed about three years ago in Melbourne. Branches or registers were soon formed throughout the State, and this eventually led to interstate branches being formed.

Gippsland has its own register and almost half of its 140 members are employed by the Commission.

President Dave Hornsby, a

mechanical maintenance T/A in Morwell open cut, sees the role of the M.R.A. as promoting the interests of motorcyclists.

The M.R.A. has three main aims: to improve the image of motorcyclists; to lobby for sensible and fair legislation; and to advocate that education, not legislation, saves lives.

"In some ways, motorcyclists are singled out as a minority group both socially and in the eyes of the legislators. Because motorcyclists are more exposed to road dangers, the Government makes laws to try and reduce the risks they are confronted with.

"That is not the answer. The solution lies in making other road users aware of the motorcyclist's presence on the road, equal right to the road, and added vulnerability while on the road."

"Roughly, 75 per cent of motor-cycle/car accidents result from the car turning in front of the cyclist, and this is often borne out by the driver's excuse of 'I didn't see him'."

While Dave believes that sensible legislation is necessary, motorcyclists also should have a say in their own destiny which is embodied in the M.R.A. motto — "Let those who ride, decide".

"But, before riders can be allowed to assume this responsibility, they also must be educated," Dave said. "This is why we promote rider-training sessions, especially for those on L or P plates. Some blokes hop on a bike and reckon they know it all and a bloke with only a bit over a year's riding experience can go out and buy a 1000 cc machine, and he really has no idea how to handle it.

"It's better to be taught how to ride properly than to learn the hard way — through mistakes. Some blokes' pride stops them from asking for help."

The association promotes many other activities encouraging a community minded spirit. Every three months, members organise a group blood donation at the Moe Hospital, and each Christmas a 'Toy Run' is held where association members buy or gather toys for underprivileged children. Last year \$1000 worth of toys and \$270 in cash was raised on the run.

New members are always welcome and meetings are held every fortnight in the Scout Hall, Waterloo Road, Moe. Inquires can be directed to Gippsland Register Chairman, Greg Mitchell on 71 0296 (BH) and 27 4885 (AH).



Standing: Mary Blowers, Keith Cooper, Glenn Armstrong, Alex Angus, Brian Tress, Ian Rowe, Chris Hall, Neil Wilson, Dave Ripper, Dave Hornsby, Grey Mitchel.

Kneeling: Pat Herley, Kevin Chitty, Gary Widdowson, Peter Kelly, Grant O'Neil.

A "Super" Trip From Page 10

the effort they make to preserve their national parks.

"They really get out and use their parks; there's a great emphasis on camping and hiking," he said.

"They really look after their parks too. They are working on keeping cars out of the parks altogether and returning them to their former natural state."

Moving into the deep south, John said New Orleans was a very exciting place. "There was a spirit and a feeling with the entertainment that had been handed down over the

years. You could stand on a street corner and hear three jazz bands playing at once. It was a little confusing."

They eventually arrived in Washington. "The closest we've got in Australia to Washington is Canberra—it's very open, clean and dignified," John said. While there, they visited the Gettysburg battlefield, the site of Lincoln's famous address, where there are over 1000 statues and memorials to the fallen, and all the cannon used in the battle have been preserved where they stood.

The final leg of the trip was back to Australia — 19 hours flying time and 45 hours without sleep; enough to make anyone glad to be home.

Driffield talks well attended From Page 5

3244 to make the necessary arrangements.

The Parliamentary Public Works Committee has completed hearing evidence in the first stage of its inquiry into the Driffield proposal. The committee is expected to report by July 31st on the timing of the development and the selection of brown coal for generation in preference to alternative energy forms.

The second stage of the inquiry, dealing with the selection of Driffield as the preferred and most economic brown coal development, the proposed diversion of the Morwell River and environmental effects of the development, is expected to begin in August.

Service Register

Commission staff and wages personnel who reached significant service milestones during July are included in this register

25 YEARS

Guenter Schneider	Morwell Briquette and Power
Guido Vikis	Central Workshops, Yallourn
Roy Harbridge	Test and Communications
Kevin Durea	Morwell Open Cut
Bill Patton	Hazelwood Power Station
Tony Latimer	Morwell Briquette and Power
David Noble	Hazelwood Power Station
John Bennett	Yallourn Power Station

30 YEARS

Geoff Fullard	Central Workshops, Morwell
John Pace	Yallourn Power Station
Ron Steele	Central Workshops, Yallourn
Don Shaw	Central Workshops, Yallourn
Jim McLenaghan	Yallourn Open Cut
Les Morgan	Yallourn Open Cut
John Horn	Yallourn Open Cut
Bill Burns	Yallourn Power Station
David Trainor	Coal Production, Headquarters
Jim Brown	Civil Works, Yallourn
Hayden Sommerville	Civil Works, Yallourn

31 YEARS

Jim Guthrie	Survey
Joe Walton	Yallourn W Power Station
Mark Storie	Stores, Morwell
Vytantas Bucys	Yallourn Open Cut
Ken David	Central Workshops, Yallourn
Mike Sullivan	Yallourn Power Station
Bill Warnock	Yallourn Open Cut
Ron Bilson	Central Workshops, Morwell
Max Kane	Yallourn W Power Station

32 YEARS

Bill Evans	Yallourn Power Station
Frank Daddo	Morwell Briquette and Power
Arthur Furness	Yallourn Open Cut

33 YEARS

Denis Barry-Murphy	Yallourn W Power Station
Jim Ludlow	Catering

34 YEARS

Julius Tadday	Yallourn Open Cut
Jim Blucher	Transmission Services
Frank Williams	Municipal, Yallourn
Keith Cooke	Yallourn Open Cut
Colin Gordon	Yallourn Power Station

35 YEARS

Charles Spark	Yallourn Open Cut
Les Wurlod	Yallourn Power Station
John Embleton	Morwell Briquette and Power
Ian Smith	Morwell Briquette and Power
Colin Somers	Hazelwood Power Station

37 YEARS

George Theobald	Yallourn Power Station
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40 YEARS

Neville Lawrence	Yallourn Power Station
Irving Baillie	Central Stores, Yallourn

41 YEARS

John Haughton	Central Workshops, Morwell
John Arnold	Central Stores, Yallourn

Loy Yang tees up



Loy Yang social club is responsible for these tee-shirts which are modelled to splendid advantage by Sue Reside (SEC Construction Department) and Wendy Norwood (Coal Plant Division).

The tee-shirts are available in two

different designs and two different colours, the power station in brown, and the dredger in blue.

They are available for everyone at Loy Yang and members of the general public. Adult sizes cost \$5.00 and children's sizes are \$4.00.

A common contact for Eric

Hazelwood power station unit attendant, Eric Lawton, is becoming a bit of a skating celebrity, not only within the Commission, but overseas as well.

Eric sends "Contact" to his parents in Mossley, Lancashire, England, and the local paper got hold of Eric's story and published it.

As a result of that story appearing, Eric's parents received a letter of congratulations from The Right Honorable Robert Sheldon, the local British House of Commons member.

The letter also conveyed the Right Honorable member's best wishes for Eric's appearance in the Victorian State Championships, which Eric went on to win.



retirements



ARTHUR MANSFIELD



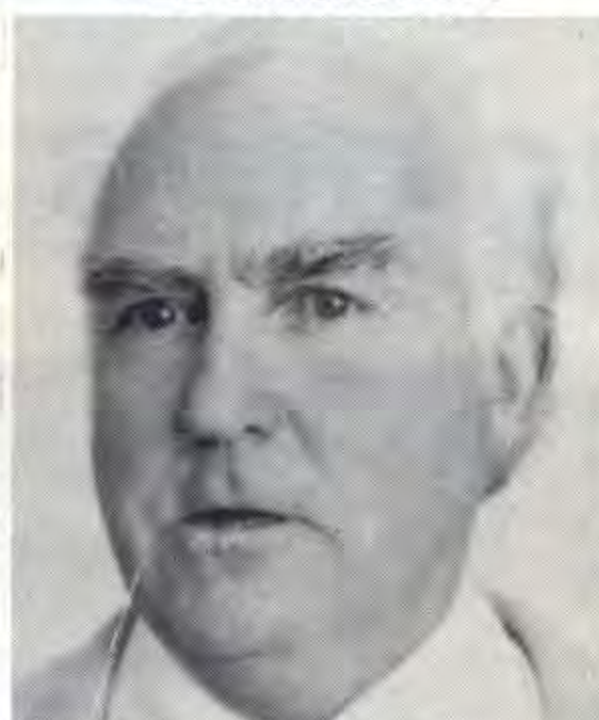
Arthur Mansfield retired last month from the position of motor mechanic at Yallourn Transport Workshops after 9½ years service.

At a presentation at the old workshop canteen, Senior Transport Maintenance Officer Wally Entwistle presented Arthur with a portable electric bench grinder and a drill stand.

Wally enjoys tinkering with things mechanical, and so his new grinder and drill stand will come in handy.

From Moe, Arthur and his wife are thinking of moving out of the district sometime in the future.

LEO McCARTHY



Around or two of golf seems to pass a bit of time for recently retired Leo McCarthy.

Leo, a senior clerk with Power Generation Department, was seen enjoying a round with another recently retired Commission employee, Joe Walton.

Leo joined the Commission almost 33 years ago as a clerk at Yallourn, and occupied a number of positions in that time.

A small function was held for Leo in the Area Administration canteen, where he was presented with a barbecue, and a number of other gifts.

He and his wife are planning a trip to Europe in the near future.

DANNY COGGAN

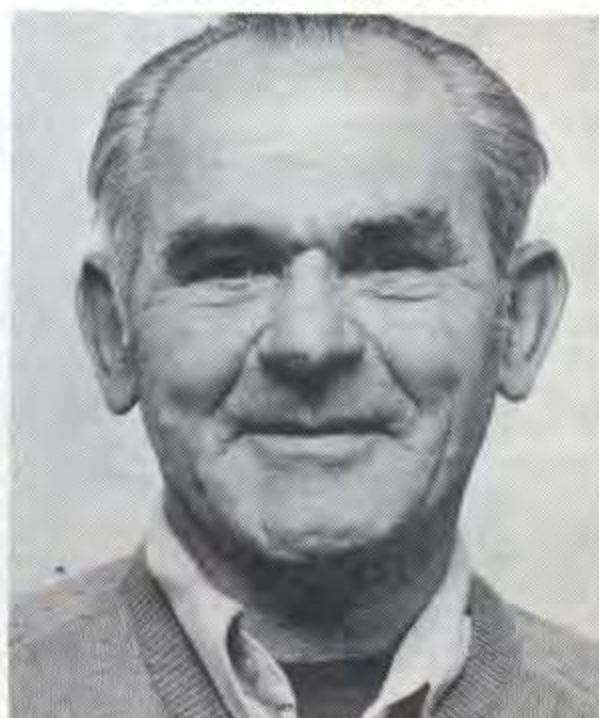


Danny Coggan retired from the Commission last month after 30 years service.

He joined in 1951 as a motor mechanic, and five years later he was promoted to a staff position as a boilerhouse engineer, grade one at Yallourn power station.

In 1970, Danny was promoted to assistant charge engineer at Yallourn power station, and acted in that position in all stations. It is from this position which Danny now retires.

JOHN KULPA



John Kulpa retired from the Commission last month after 18 years service.

He joined in 1963 as a pick and shovelman, and after progressing through a number of positions became a day office cleaner with Area Administration, Morwell.

John and his wife live in Morwell, where John is a very keen gardener.

They are planning a trip to New Zealand possibly later this year.

FRANK TOMLINSON



After a little more than 28 years service, Frank Tomlinson retired from the position of Station Operations Engineer, at Yallourn power station.

Frank joined the Commission in 1952 as boilerhouse engineer (generation staff) at Yallourn.

He was shortly after appointed Assistant Station Operations Engineer at Yallourn, and in 1962 was appointed to the position from which he retired.

A number of functions were held for Frank, including one by the Operations Group and one with Yallourn power station section heads.

GEOFF WHELAN



Geoff Whelan retired from the Commission last month after almost 24 years' service.

He joined the Commission as a trades assistant at Yallourn in 1957. He briefly tried rigging, and then became a machinist where he remained until 1963.

Geoff then gained a staff appointment as patrolman, the position from which he now retires.

A send off was held for Geoff at the patrol office where Assistant Co-ordinating officer, Hugh Gunn presented Geoff with a pendulum wall clock, and his wife Shirley with a set of crystal glasses.

Geoff intends to stay in Moe, where he will follow his interest in lawn bowls.

FOR SALE

Remington ADL .243 — perfect condition — fired only sixty rounds. \$300.00

.243 reloading components, 140 loaded rounds, 310 empty cases, 1 lb win 748 powder, 1 lb Dupont 4350 powder, 30 Norma 90 gr projectiles, 260 75 gr Hornady projectiles, 100 80 gr Speer projectiles, 100 85 gr Sierra projectiles, 600 primers, 1 .243 Lee loader, \$100.00 the lot.

Harrington and Richards .22 fire shot repeater; 4x scope; swivels, sling and case included. \$130.00.

Genuine reasons for selling. Contact Brian Davey A.H. 69 6202 or SEC 3725.

Chesney 18ft by 8ft caravan, new large annexe which divides into two rooms. \$3,500.00 O.N.O.; A.E.G. heavy duty carpenter's saw, 210 mm, \$100.00; 20 pound gas bottle, \$30.00; Two bird cages, one large and one small, \$30.00 for the two.

Contact Dick Jones on (054) 46 8819 or call or write 19 Oak St., Bendigo.

Color matched Z1-R style fairing for Yamaha RD350LC. Slightly graunched. Cost \$80.00 new, sell for \$45.00 complete with brackets. Phone Pat Herley 3228/3552.

1979 HZ Holden sedan in immaculate condition. 253 V8—four on the floor. Extras include—chrome mags, B.F. Goodrich tyres (brand new) and sunroof, 10 months registration. Price \$6,500. Phone 49 2227 after 6.00 p.m. or ext. 2157.

HK Holden 161 manual sedan in good condition. Extras include radio and heater. 12 months registration. Phone 49 2227 after 6.00 p.m. or ext. 2157. Price \$1,100.



SPORT



Fund raising gets fit fitter to Europe

The fund-raising appeal for Rene Mol, fitter, from Hazelwood, to get him overseas for the European Grand Prix kayak competition has been a resounding success.

Fund-raising manager Ray Medew said on last count they had made the \$4,200 mark, which was the amount required to get Rene to Europe to take part in the competitions.

As expected, Rene was about as excited as you could get.

"The response has been terrific, and the blokes at the maintenance section were right behind me," he said.

A number of competitions were held at Hazelwood to help Rene on his way, and the Department of



Youth, Sport and Recreation came to the party in a big way.

They donated \$900 outright, and made Rene a \$600 interest-free loan. Even though Rene has officially reached his target amount, the \$600 loan has still to be met, and whatever extra money comes in will be used to settle that loan.

Rene and his doubles partner Jim Sloan from Albury competed in Echuca during the month in a 16 kilometre race, and easily won, but the practice was handy.

Rene and Jim, together with team manager John Mayne are leaving for Madrid, Spain from Melbourne on July 31.

We all join in wishing Rene the best of luck in the competitions.

Worth their weight in silver

Central Workshops fitter, Mario Gatt, and Yallourn W apprentice boilermaker, Doug Van Opinjen, have struck silver with the barbell.

At the recent Victorian Open Power Lifting Championships, they both came second in their body weight divisions. Mario, at 67½ kilos is a lightweight, while Doug who tips the scale at 90 kilos is a heavyweight.

Their efforts won both of them a silver medal.

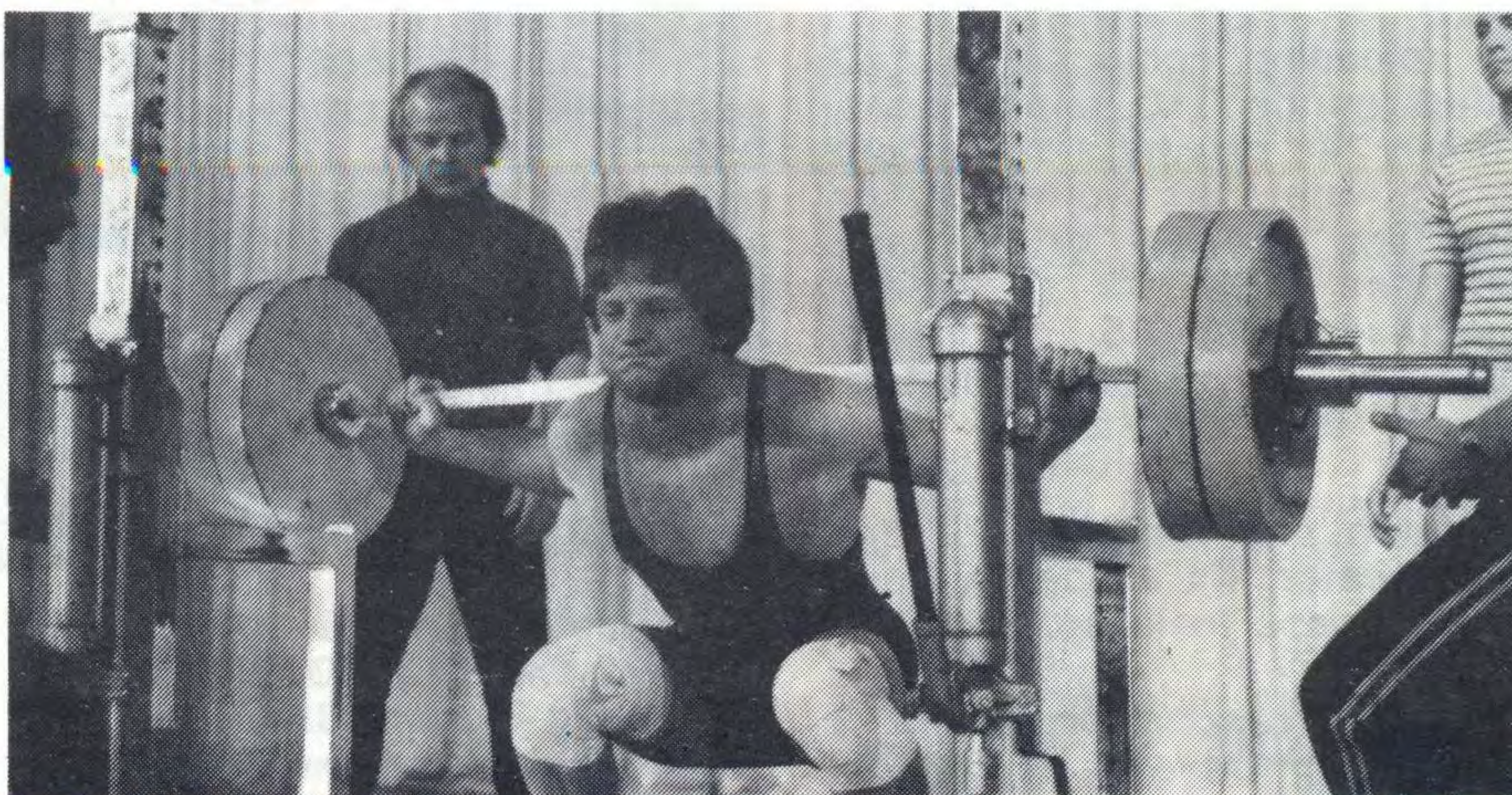
Neither Doug nor Mario are strangers to success in their sport. Mario has won three gold medals at Victorian Country Championships since he took up the sport three years ago. He said he enjoys power lifting because he is well suited to the sport.

Doug is the reigning Australian under 20 champion and has been for three years. He took up the sport to keep fit but said that he now looks on it more as a social activity.

Doug and Mario practice twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays at Yallourn Technical School.



Mario Gatt who won a silver medal at recent Victorian power lifting championships.



Danny Van Opinjen squatting with 210 kg weighing heavily on his shoulders.