# CONTACT

THE STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION LATROBE VALLEY REGION MAGAZINE – MAY 1969


# OUR SAFETY PRACTIONERS

* Regional Safety Officers George Troke, John Bussell and Safety Engineer Norm Trathur, share knowledge and experience of accident prevention activities throughout the region, and keep up to date with developments and techniques designed to eliminate or minimise accidents.

## *Manager's message*

# SAFETY RECORD RISES - THEN DROPS BACK

**After introduction of "Contact" in December, 1968, and following the establishment of Safety as our Number 1 Theme for 1969 in the Feb. issue for some three or four months we achieved a marked improvement in our safety record and decided improvement in the severity rate applicable to disabling injuries.**

**In recent weeks however, there has been an upward trend in the number of disabling injuries although fortunately the severity rate has remained comparatively low.**

An examination of the statistics indicate that this lapse is due, not to bad housekeeping, unsafe working practices or inadequate use of the protective clothing supplied, but to human failings which are essentially the responsibility of the individual not so much of the organisation.

However, we can help the individual by encouraging him to be more observant, to concentrate more on the job in hand and generally to be more alert and conscious of the permanent hazards with which he is surrounded.

Running up and down stairways and ladders should be discouraged at all times; Watch where you walk; have respect and regard for slippery conditions underfoot. Lack of attention to these kinds of hazards are causing most of our minor injuries and each have the potential to cause a fatality.

The really intricate and to some extent dangerous operations we are occasionally called upon to carry out very rarely cause an injury.

Another potential hazard to life and limb looms up with the foggy wintry conditions which will be with us now in the months ahead.

Don't speed, and exercise considerably more care than is required in normal traffic conditions which are already extremely dangerous.

Do this, remain alert at all times, and I am sure our safety record will again begin to improve.

# They'll be missed

**The appointment to Monash House of Regional Accountant Mr. Peter Duncan will leave us not only the poorer for one of our best-known and respected senior management personalities, but for a family which has taken an intense and lively interest in the community.**

**Mr. Duncan leaves in a few days, but his wife Ilma and children Sue and Peter Jnr. will remain in Morwell until the end of the school year. Elder daughter Robyn is already in Melbourne as a student teacher.**

He will take up the post of Manager, Supplies and General Services.

Mr. Duncan joined the Commission in 1937 in the capacity of "the lowest of the low" (his description), a storeman improver!

He met his wife-to-be a year later when she came to work for the SEC at Head Office as a comptometrist. Then came the Second World War and after training in Australia and Canada Mr. Duncan served in Bomber Command in Europe and North Africa as a wireless operator before a South West Pacific theatre tour of duty.

He was in America as a Flight Lieutenant when the war ended.

Returning to the Commission he rose through the civvie ranks in Melbourne until his appointment to the post of Assistant Works Accountant, Morwell followed after three other promotions to the new position of Regional Accountant, Latrobe Valley, in July, 1963.

Mr. Duncan's extra-curricular activities have always been directed towards education and training, and it is not surprising to have found him as foundation secretary of Crinigan Rd., State School treasurer of the Morwell Technical School council , and director of that school's hall co-operative.

He was made a Life Governor for services as a Latrobe Valley Ambulance Service committeeman and treasurer, was a director of Latrobe Valley YMCA foundation member and Committeeman of the Morwell Club, and more latterly has been a leader in the Latrobe Valley Festival Organisation.

* **SAD AT LEAVING?** Serious faces belong to (from left) Mrs. Ilma Duncan, Peter 10, Sue 17, and Mr. Peter Duncan.

With his family he has shared an intense interest in swimming and was chief judge for the district.

Professionally he is a member and past-chairman of the Australian Society of Accountants, Gippsland - Latrobe Valley Branch.

## Geology

But Mr. Duncan's most spectacular achievments have been in the field of geology and palaeontology. His priceless collection of fossils, notably from the unique Koonwarra beds in South Gippsland is regarded as one of the best, in the world.

His work in the mineral and fossil field has been mentioned in numerous scientific papers and theses, and he has presented items to collections in both the National Museum and the Mines Department.

Mrs. Ilma Duncan, like her husband, leads a crowded life, sharing time with her family, a part-time physical-education teaching post at Morwell High , swimming administration, life - saving tuition, basketball coaching, and demonstrating her outstanding ability in the field of landscape painting.

## Water Color Flair

A serious artist since her school days, Mrs. Duncan is a competent oils artist with a real flair for water colors which has resulted in Gippsland scenes from Bindi Station in the far east to Wilson's Promontory, and many from other parts of Australia, now gracing the walls of homes throughout the Latrobe Valley, Melbourne, and overseas.

She exhibits successfully each year at the Herald outdoor art show and has won three ALVA art prizes.

Daughter Sue, 17, A Matric Student at Morwell High, wants to study pharmacy An outstanding competitive swimmer she has been school age champion every year in secondary school, holds five inter-school freestyle records, and has registered a creditable third in a butterfly event of the State country championships.

Sue holds the highest available award in Australian Life-saving.

Ten year old son Peter (Peewee to most) is a potential swimming champion who this year qualified for the finals of every stroke in the Shell All-Junior titles at Olympic Pool!

A past - record holder for Gippsland he shares swimming with a love for animals, owns a "dumb dog", one rabbit, two turtles, and a blue tongue lizard.

A keen fisherman he hooks sand trout in Waterhole Creek and the Latrobe River, and not unnaturally intends studying zoology and veterinary science.

Robyn , 21, a former MHS student and top athlete, is completing her Diploma of Education at Melbourne University, already holds a Diploma of Physical Education.

# Job Safety Courses

A series of job safety courses are currently being run at the Regional Training Centre.

Mr. N. Hellwege of Head Office Safety Branch is acting as course leader and members of Latrobe Valley Management are delivering lectures.

The courses are being arranged for supervisory personnel.

# IN A WORD: SECurity Without Pussy Galore!

**SECURITY! Thanks to the influence of television and films, the word conjures up images of sophisticated but ruthless men. foiling plot with counter plot, aided by a collection of devoted assistants who are always highly feminine and sometimes highly fatal.**

**Dismissing, although with some reluctance, these images what does security mean to the large scale industrial or commercial enterprise in general and to the Commission in particular?**

To be secure, according to a dictionary definition, is to be "untroubled by danger or apprehension". In other words, it is what we like to feel in our homes at night, regarding ourselves, the members of our family for whom we have a responsibility, and our own property.

It is to achieve this same assured state that the Commission, and most other large organisations, have established procedures relating to security and have delegated the responsibility for the carrying out of these procedures to certain officers and sections.

Just as the householder has the right to expect that anyone entering his property does so lawfully and with his consent, so has the Commission this right. In fact, in the Commission's case it is more than a right. It is an obligation placed upon the Commission in its position as a trustee on behalf of the State and its people.

## Spot checks

It is this same obligation which requires that motor vehicles leaving the Work Areas be recorded and checked, on both a regular and a spot-check basis and that, occasionally, personnel are asked to reveal the contents of their bags.

Responsibility for security arrangements in the Latrobe Valley Region is held by the Regional Administrative Officer and the implementation of procedures is, for the most part, carried out by the Patrol Station. This comprises 67 Patrolmen, based at Morwell and Yallourn, and operating under the direction of 2 Supervisors.

All personnel will be familiar with the role played by Patrolmen at the various entrance gates to the Works Areas. However, this is only one aspect of the Section's activities.

**This article by Mr. Frank (007) Miles — Assistant Regional Administrative Officer.**

Two mobile patrols in radio-equipped vehicles operate within the Region at all times outside normal working hours, carrying out checks of buildings, storage areas and other points at which there is some special need for security.

Pay escorts, control of parking and the general enforcement of the Yallourn and Morwell, Hazelwood Works Protection Regulations are among the many duties which fall to the Patrol Section.

## Good-natured

Australians as a race are noted for an irreverent attitude to uniforms. We tend, for example, to withhold a little respect for the Police, or at least we do until such time as we need their help ourselves. It therefore comes as no surprise to Patrolmen to find themselves the target of good natured humour on some occasions and, so long as the humour is such that they can themselves join in, it is welcomed.

It needs to be always remembered though that Patrolmen act under direction and in accordance with policy. It is their job to carry out the duties which direction and policy require. There is nothing to be gained, in these circumstances, from remonstrating to individual Patrolmen against the effects of any of these duties. Appropriate channels are available for the registering of objections "agin the Government".

One final point, which is an obvious one: security is not only the concern of a few, but of us all. If the Police Force was suddenly disbanded we would not expect the whole community suddenly to become law breakers. Rather, we would expect that the overwhelming majority of us would continue to act within the law and would endeavour to uphold it.

It is the same with security and the safeguarding of the Commission's property. This is something in which we can all be assistants.

**Which brings us back to the thoughts at the beginning of this article. I wonder if we COULD find places in the Patrol Section for Emma Peel or Pussy Galore?**

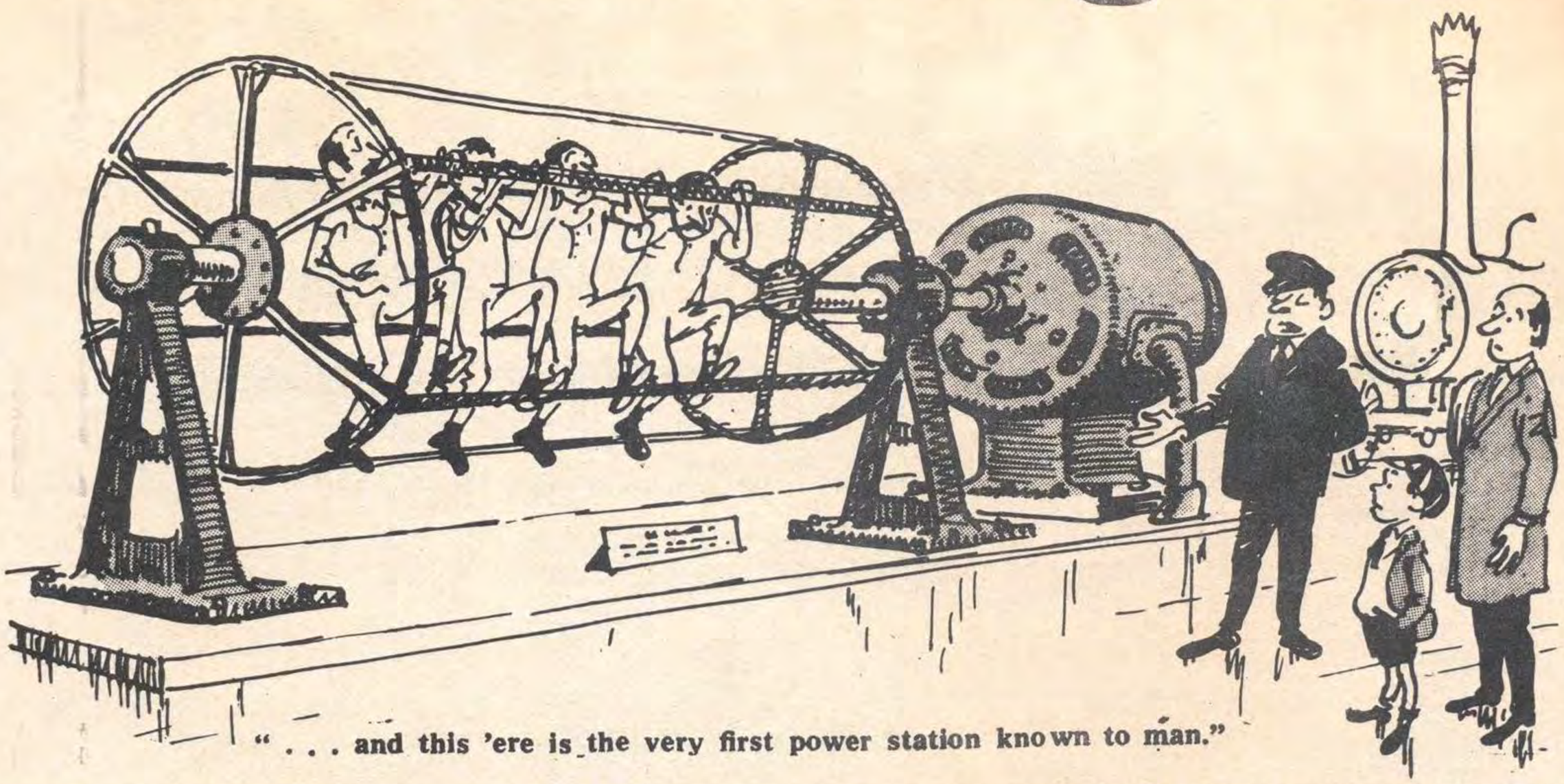
**We thought you would like to know her name. You have probably seen her quite often – just inside the main door at the Yallourn Offices.**

She is BRENDA FIELDS, the receptionist at the Admin. office block in Yallourn.

Brenda was born in Stranraer, Scotland, and came to Australia with her parents in 1957. She went to the Elizabeth Street State School in Moe, then to the Moe High School and joined us in 1967.

Brenda likes dancing and swimming and spends a fair bit of time in the winter months watching that funny game, baseball – her fiancee is a baseballer with Yallourn. Too late fellas!!

# Contact Laugh-in



"... and this 'ere is the very first power station known to man."

# HOW WE *DO* TALK!

This article by Regional Communications Engineer, Phil Evans.

**Regional personnel make more than five million telephone calls during a year. Most of these calls are between points within the region but eight percent are extended to commercial and SEC establishments outside the region.**

This amount of talking requires 3,500 telephones, three telephone exchanges totalling 2,200 telephone numbers, 110 mobile radio units, four radio base stations, two trunk line switchboards, eight power and wire line carrier equipments, about 150 miles of underground telephone cable, and many other sundry equipments.

The Postmaster General's Department as the statutory communications authority sets the performance standards and operating conditions with which our regional system must comply.

The SEC automatic telephone exchanges at Morwell, Hazelwood and Yallourn are linked together through SEC supervisory cables and some cable conductors leased from the PMG, the connections to the PMG telephone system and to other SEC establishments are made at the manual telephone trunk switchboards at Morwell and Yallourn.

Public telephones are installed at some locations in the works areas to enable personnel to make private PMG calls.

The Postmaster General's Department authorises the installation of SEC trunk circuits on the condition that such trunks are used only for telephone calls concerned with the operation and maintenance of the power system, all other trunk line calls must be made through the PMG system and paid for at normal rates.

Accordingly all trunk calls originating in the region are classified as either "operational" or "administrative" and the switchboard operators select SEC or PMG trunks to suit the classifications.

The SEC trunk lines to Melbourne comprise seven channels operating through power line carriers borne on the 220,000 volt power lines and seven channels operating through a wire line carrier on the telephone line in the main line easement between Yallourn and Rowville.

The installation and maintenance of all communications facilities in the works

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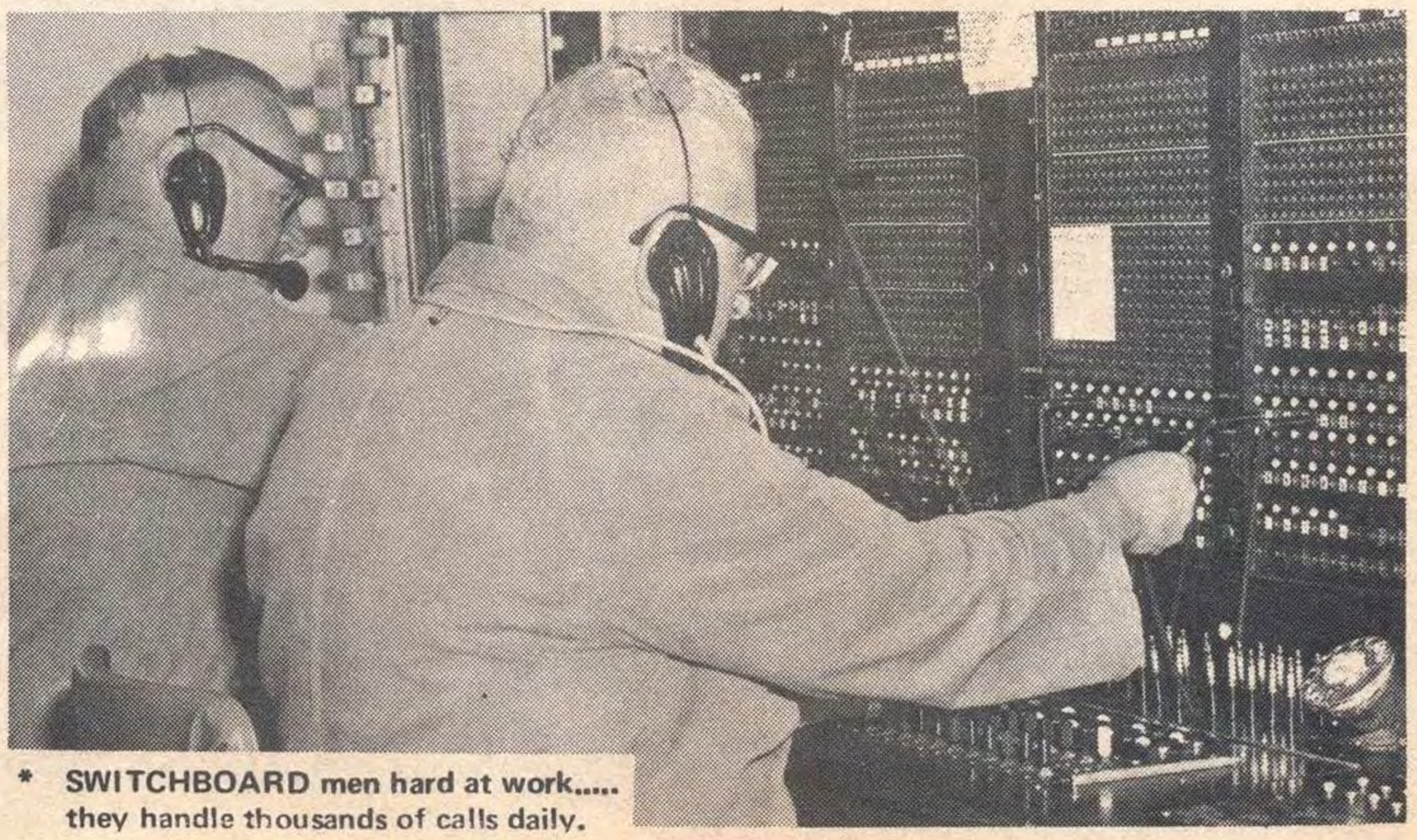
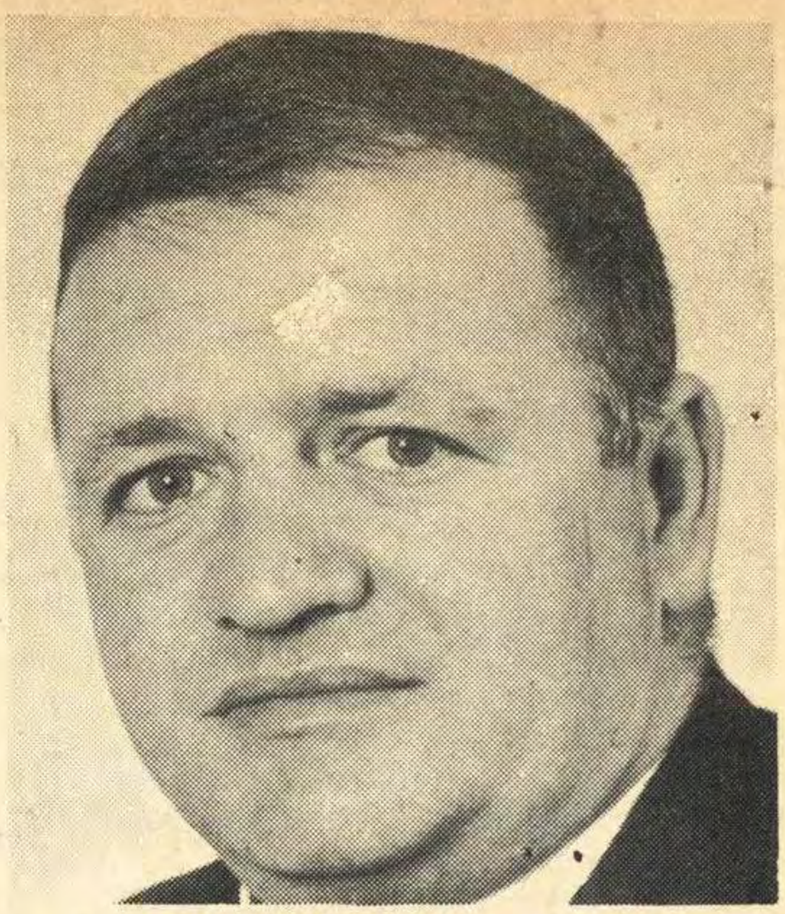


* SWITCHBOARD men hard at work..... they handle thousands of calls daily.

## *Our Padre explains:*

# WHY THE CHURCH HERE?



* PADRE BOB CLAYTON, who contributed this article to "Contact" to explain the Church's role in industry.

**In the past few weeks I have been engaged in the first steps of being introduced to the Latrobe Valley as the first Staff Chaplain of the Inter Church Trade and Industry Mission (I.T.I.M.).**

During the course of this orientation the question has been formed numerous times: Why the Church here? A question not only asked by men engaged in Industry, but by members of the Church itself.

When a prominent industrial missioner described his work with industry to a group of young theological students, he met with the comment "I think I understand what you do: I think I understand why you do it; what I fail to understand is why the CHURCH should pay you."

What answer can we give? Why should the Church use its resources in men and money to grapple with the needs of industrial society? What are the credentials of industrial mission: the proofs of its validity and its right to be regarded as a proper and central part of the Church's work.

These are not easy questions to answer, and particularly so in the short article this is intended to be, but a few guidelines of thought may help to portray the role as the Industrial Mission sees it.

One of the most important perspectives of the Church which claims allegiance to Jesus of Nazareth, is that of servant. The Church as the servant of the world in which it lives has often been obscured, but if the Church is to be true to itself – it must serve. This is the foundation on which Industrial Mission is based.

All the members of I.T.I.M. exist to serve industry. Both laymen and chaplains of the ten member churches seek to serve in their various capacities, and they seek to serve the WHOLE of industrial society regardless of position – rank – politics or persuasion.

While most of the laymen of this organisation are themselves involved in industry, and as individuals are subject to the dictates of their own company or Trade Union, the chaplain is essentially independent of both management and labour but seeks to be involved with both and to serve all where he can.

The most obvious function of an Industrial Chaplain is to be available to all, and to be used by those who might need an independent counsellor or just a good ear when tense situations arise – and I must say that to be available to all in the S.E.C. Latrobe Valley is going to strain the organising ability of this particular chaplain! Nevertheless a program of visitation to all work areas is in the embryonic stages and we hope it will produce the right formula.

Not least of the duties of the Industrial Chaplain is the responsibility to convey back to the traditional Churches what is going on in industry so that the Church in its structured form is made more aware of the tensions, developments, and needs of the modern industrial society.

The Church itself is the first to recognise the need for this type of information, if it is to understand and to be relevant to a fast changing world, rather than be a spectator in the game of life whose role as some wag put it was rather like "giving out the lemons at half time".

So often is it felt that the role of the Church is marginal, not concerned with the real, complex, live issues of industry, but it is not unaware of this problem and would through such agencies as I.T.I.M. seek to be made more aware.

Today not only the Church contributes to the Industrial Chaplaincy; Companies and Trade Unions together with some industrial donors help to finance it. The role is the same – an independent factor within industry, seeking to be of service.

## How the Chaplain will work in the SEC

**By arrangement with I.T.I.M. the services of an Industrial Chaplain are now available to the Commission in the Latrobe Valley Region on two days a week – normally Thursdays and Fridays.**

The Chaplain in this area is the Reverend Bob Clayton and he has already visited most sections in recent weeks familiarising himself with the work situation and meeting personnel at all levels.

The Chaplain is employed by I.T.I.M. and in Bob Clayton's own words "he is essentially independent of both management and labour but seeks to be involved with both and to serve all where he can."

Apart from the contact the Chaplain will make through regular visits to sections throughout the Region, any person wishing to himself make contact may do so in two ways – outside working hours by telephoning the Chaplain at his home in Churchill, telephone No. 221590, or within working hours by leaving his name with his foreman or supervisor who in turn will relay the name to Personnel Division, which will arrange for the name to be passed on to the Chaplain.

The Chaplain will visit the employee on the job as soon as possible during his rounds.

Information on how the Chaplain will work in the S.E.C. has been conveyed to supervisors throughout the Region and also to the Central Gippsland Trades and Labour Council and local union officials.

# He's one in fifty who captures the third dimension!

**Stereoscopic (three-dimensional) photography is the unusual hobby of Yallourn Power Station Superintendent, Mr. Arthur Ewen, and he is the only Latrobe Valley member of a society with a mere 50 followers in Australia.**

The 50 Australians, who come from all over the Commonwealth, are members of the Australian Section of the Stereoscopic Society, which has its headquarters in the United Kingdom. The Australian members are from all walks of life, but are predominantly engineers, and their ages range from 18 to 80.

Because of its minute membership, the Society's usual method of operation is to keep its members informed by mail of any new developments. However, two National Conventions have been held in recent years the first in Canberra in 1967 and the second at Easter, this year, in Melbourne.

COMMENCING A NEW MONTHLY "CONTACT" FEATURE ON HOBBIES.

Exhibitions were staged in conjunction with these conventions and at Canberra Arthur won second prize – the Kodak trophy – for an entry of a slide of lantern grass. At the Melbourne convention, he won first prize – the Sydney International Exhibition of Photography plaque. His winning entry was the study of a small sprig of succulent in bloom.

Main reason for small membership of the Society is the dearth of readily-manufactured equipment. Stereo cameras and viewers are generally available, but in most cases the more complicated equipment has to be made by the members themselves.

Arthur has made his own stereo camera from parts of other cameras and a special stereo rig, which allows him to take close-ups which are his speciality, known technically as Macro-stereo-photography.

With the Ewens it is strictly a family affair; Arthur's father and brother are also members of the Society and at the recent Melbourne Convention, which about 100 people including wives and families attended, there were 10 members of the Ewen clan present. Arthur assures us, however, that at the moment anyhow, there is no question of any "take-over" bid!

# With Electricity Safety is No Accident

In every aspect of our daily lives we have to exercise some degree of normal, sensible care . . . crossing the street . . . going for a swim . . . it's just the same with Electricity.

It's only logical — and so simple — to flick off a switch before removing lights or power plugs from sockets, to check cords for fraying and replace if necessary . . . to pull out plugs when appliances or power tools are idle.

LIVE BETTER ELECTRICALLY

**Assistant Apprentice Training Supervisor, BRUCE McKISSACK, continues his three-part article on the Central Workshops, and this time deals with the Social Club's background and present activity.**

# Four sets of execs. in 22 years !

**Records for the first nine years of the Central Workshops Social Club are not available. However, after the abortive attempt by the Welfare Committee during 1946, which could not muster sufficient support, it appears Mr. Geo. Blackwood (Workshops Superintendent), and his then Assistant, Mr. Bill Hebb, were instrumental in convening a successful meeting during 1947.**

Well-known but unobtrusive Syd Jolliffe became the first President and he had for his Secretary, Tom Kenny, with Jim Goldsmith as Treasurer. Don Benson of Yallourn football fame, was prominent too.

Succeeding presidents have been Dick Gray, Stan Sandman and Russ Cannon, for the past three years. Jack Driscoll became Secretary/Treasurer during the early '50's and remained as such until 1967. He was succeeded by Bruce McKissack (one year) and now Frank O'Donnell holds that post most efficiently. Ken Lofts served one term as Treasurer and is now succeeded by Jack Mills.

Four secretaries, four presidents and the same number of treasurers over 22 years is to give service indeed.

Finance in the early days was largely dependent on that "Little Tatts" so many of us came to expect.

Today, the membership stands at approximately 300 at a fee of $1.50. All members' children under 15 years are registered and eligible for a Christmas present at least equal to the membership fee.

The committee operates 11 trading cupboards and kiosks which give an annual turnover of approximately $30,000. This operation requires and receives very strict supervision and accountancy.

The annual picnic and Christmas Tree, Christmas hampers, cabaret socials, smokos etc. are all heavily subsidised from trading profits. Selective discount trading is also available to members.

Cupboard trading has been seriously effected by temporary transfer of personnel from workshops to other sites.

The necessary re-organisation two years ago placed tremendous duties on the shoulders of Fred Johnson, George Wiltshire, (Purchasing Officer), Ken Downs, Harold Hodgins, John James, Joe Metcalf, Ross Miles and the executive officers. Today, operations are flowing smoothly and with the establishment of a Central Selling Station within workshops soon, affairs are expected to improve still further.

It is with considerable pride that Central Workshops Social Club, although not the biggest within the Latrobe Valley SEC played a leading role in the establishment of the Combined Social Clubs of the SEC.

In common with most kindred social clubs, membership of this social club is one of the best investments, from the point of value received, any employee could make.

# Bouquet for Sofia

Earlier this month Miss Sofia Kolasa, a typist in Stores, Yallourn, left the Commission after over five years' service.

She was married on Saturday May 17, to Mr. Roger Cox, Clerk, in Stores Yallourn. The couple will reside in Morwell.

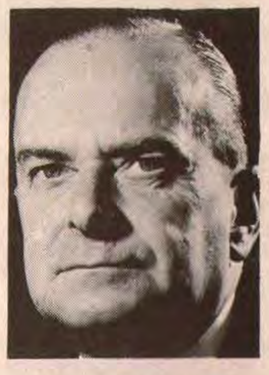
At a farewell function to Sofia - at which Roger was also present - they were presented with a radiator by the Stores Social Club, a set of saucepans by her many friends and, for Sofia, a magnificent bouquet of flowers.

Mr. Kirchner, Assistant Superintendent of Stores, Latrobe Valley, Mr. B. M. Spencer, President of the Stores Social Club, and Mr. R. A. Farrington, Stores Superintendent, Yallourn, all spoke most highly of both Sofia and Roger.

# Fleas, flies, and sly-grog!

**Many and varied, some very colorful, are the stories told by those who first arrived in the area and settled in the East and later in the West Camps of Yallourn.**

One of these, Bill Spicer, told of his arrival in February 1921, at the Eastern Camp which at that time provided tent accommodation pending the erection of the more permanent huts from Langwarrin. His first experience in living away from home, he found the going very tough, and the stay of some was indeed of very short duration.



PHOTOGRAPHER CLIFF CLEVERLEY RECALLS "CAMPING IN THE 20's"

**On reporting to the camp foreman for accommodation Bill was handed two chaff bags and told, "The stables are over there, sew the chaff bags together and fill them up with straw; you'll find a stretcher in the tent."**

The first night was usually spent in fighting a losing battle with fleas, bugs, and other insects indulging in their nocturnal habits. In the cubicles the bug position became really desperate. These little red devils hid themselves away during the daylight hours during which they developed enormous appetites for their night raids. Lights out at night was the signal for the marauders to sally forth from joints in the timber, the wire ends of the stretchers, or any hiding place, and, with military precision, advance on their victims.

### Counter-attack

One method of counter attack was to sit on the bed, switch out the light, and have a nice quiet smoke. Then, armed with a large nail, turn on the lights and scrape the nail along the T. & G. joints in the lining boards which were literally packed "bumper to bumper" with Bugs of all sizes.

By removing everything from the room and applying large quantities of hot water plus lysol or some similar concoction to the walls, floor, and beds some relief was certain, for a time, in reducing this menace; but, of course, if the man next door took no preventive measures, simultaneously, it wasn't long before the bugs in his cubicle, in search of more living space, or tastier victims, invaded surrounding rooms. Large scale fumigation gave relief for longer periods but those red devils remained in the area so long as the huts existed.

Going back, as this story does, nearly 50 years, it must be appreciated that the insulation of fly wire doors and screen had not come into general usage; nor had refrigeration advanced to the present day standards so that flies became an even bigger menace than their red "cousins".

To make matters worse, the whole camp was surrounded by bush from which the flies emerged in their millions. Sunday night's tea was a typical example. Imagine some 200 men entering the Mess and taking their seats for the usual "cold collation": each and every one of the 200 lifting the meat and inspecting the underside before commencing the meal!

### Shanty Towns

Mess living did not appeal to all and some provided their own accommodation: a few packing cases, scraps of galvanised iron, cement bags, and bush timber, all becoming integral parts of a "shack".

These sprang up in various places around the area, some in the vicinity of the East Camp, others along the river flats between the Power Station site and the Brown Coal Mine Bridge over the Latrobe River – these latter often being inundated with water after heavy rains.

The South Camp, near the Brick-Works, became predominantly a "shanty" town, whilst others appeared in close proximity to the West Camp. There were many on the rising ground where the present road leads off to Moe, and the first of the few in the Haunted Hills Area, now Bourke Street, Herne's Oak.

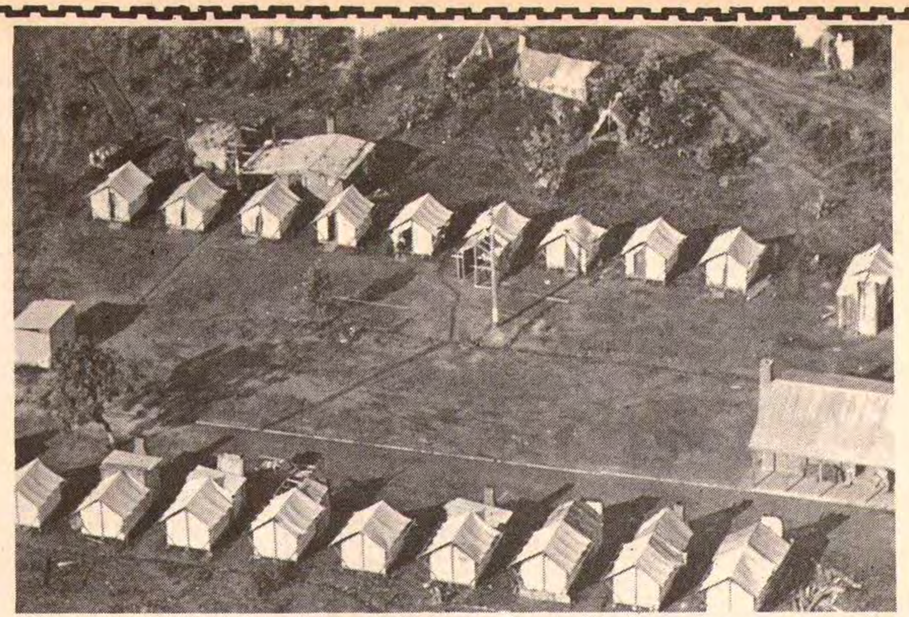
With the establishment of the West Camp the population expanded rapidly. The West Camp Store, with its billiard room, came into being under one Tom Dempsey, and some 2,000 men were on the field. Like most construction jobs, men were coming and going by the hundreds and naturally many undesirables were included, resulting in various rackets yielding easy money for some.

* At extreme right, Jim Middlemiss. Address on the pinewood "entrance" reads: Construction Engineer, Electricity Commission, Brown Coal Works, Morwell, Via Moe, Vic"

### Beer Dear

There being no hotel, sly-grog was probably the quickest way to make money and bottled beer brought from Morwell at about 1/- per bottle was openly disposed of at prices ranging from 3/6 to 4/-. A man disposing of 20 dozen (and this is no exaggeration) in an evening was making good "wages". The main form of gambling appeared to be the "national" game of Two-Up and many hundreds of pounds changed hands, particularly on pay-night, at a huge two-up school watched over by the local constable to see that there were no shenanagans!

In the world of two-up, one Paddy Sands reigned supreme whilst Tommy Charles was "King" in the sly-grog sphere. At times, the activities of these two and another, McSweeney, seemed to overlap slightly and the problems were usually ironed out with bare fists, temporarily anyway! Both Sands and Charles came from Melbourne where they had had ring experience and were described as "rough" fighters. An occasional pistol shot was heard at night but presumably nobody was hurt.



* Tents of South Camp.

The well-known Australian "swaggie" was a common sight in those days. They drifted in, worked a few days if necessary, and then with their beards bobbing corks and many dogs, went on their way once again.

### Wine Explosions

A well-known identity in Alec King, described the activities of these drifters who frequently found shelter for the night against the walls of his shack in the West Camp, and of the Italians employed in exploratory shaft sinking in the Coal Bed. They spent their leisure hours during the summer time making blackberry wine which during the heat of the day, and being of rather high "octane value", exploded with great force. Tents stained the characteristic "blue-black" colour indicated the presence of these wine lovers.

The West Camp consisted on Nos. 1 and 2 Messes and a Staff Mess. Camp Foreman was Bill Falkingham whilst Bill Stack acted as Secretary and collected "dues". These two, together with Ted Blanche Tom Fitzgerald, and "Jay-Bee" Murdoch spent many of their evenings in Falkingham's residence (?) with well-worn decks of cards and a little something to keep them warm. A Saturday evening game might well last until lunch time on Sunday when it was considered time to get some rest before facing up to Monday morning!

The Staff Mess consisted of the main building – Kitchen, Dining Room, lounge and Billiard Room. There was one block of cubicles on the south side (now a car park), and the famous "Toorak" section known as Gun Alley. One had to be a resident of long standing, or a personal friend of the secretary, to be allotted a shack in Gun Alley when a vacancy occurred.

### Scrap Annexe

Gun Alley comprised something like 12 tents each with a timber floor, sides boarded up to about four feet from the ground, over which was a tent and tent-fly. On the front of each was built, by the occupant or his predecessor, an annexe of scrap timber in which was housed a wash bowl, towel rack etc. and often a lock-up door. Ways and means of gaining access were not hard to find if one wished to borrow something during the owners absence; or to raid the shack as was so often done.

A favourite prank was to wait until the intended victim had gone to a dance or some social engagement and, after having gained entry, push a nice young gum sapling through the door butt first. In those days there were many such saplings practically on the door-step. The said sapling having been pushed into the shack butt first during which its branches had been squeezed inwards became a permanent fixture until such time as its branches, now nicely spread out, were removed. The sounds of an axe, accompanied by words much more suited to a bullock driver, were frequently heard at 2.00 a.m.!

### Hospitality

From the West Staff Mess and the East Mess as that camp was closed came a large proportion of Yallourn's leading citizens of later years; Engineers, Accountants, Chemists, and others. As, one by one, they married and settled in the new town of Yallourn they remembered their days in the Mess and opened their homes to the younger Mess members following in their footsteps.

These included R. A. Hunt, and Willis Connolly (both to become Chairmen of the SEC), C. H. Kernot, G. D. Jones, "Johnnie" McMahon, Cec. Smith, Johnny Russell, Hec. Ashley, Wilf Johnson, Med. Cox, Bruce Banks, Len Savige Bill Dowd, Clive Watson, Bob Philip, and a host of others equally worthy of mention. Their names appear one by one as the history of the various organisations are unfolded.

In return for the hospitality shown by former Mess Members the newcomers organised an "At Home" each year which gave them an opportunity to play host to these folk who did so much for them throughout the year. Despite the fact that they had no feminine help, they excelled themselves on these occasions over a period of more than 40 years.

# Thanks for your help....!

* Over 100 friends gathered at the Morwell Workshops Area Canteen to farewell MR.G.B. "BILL" McCONACHIE, Overseer, Coal Division on his retirement after 18½ years' service. Mr. Graham Black, presenting Bill with a fishing rod and reel, a suitcase, a soldering iron and an electric frypan, thanked him for a job well done, making mention of the conditions that existed down the Open Cut in the early days of the Morwell Project. Bill hopes to spend his retirement at Loch Sport, sitting in the sun and doing a bit of fishing.

— * * * —

On Tuesday, May 6, MR. W. B. (BILL) HOLLIBONE retired from the Commission, after in all, 39 years of service – 36 of them continuous.

In the course of his service Bill proved himself to be very versatile. He has driven a dray, pushed a wheelbarrow and is one of the few remaining members of the original Construction Gang.

Bill confesses that he does not like the idea of retirement but has no definite plans for the future.

Mr. Roy Norden, General Services Superintendent, Yallourn, made a presentation of a smokers' table for Bill, and a bouquet of flowers and a brooch for Mrs. Hollibone.

When W. R. (Bill) Firth retired on May 1, there was a bumper gathering at the Transport Workshops Canteen (Yallourn). Bill, who commenced with the Commission in May, 1949, was firstly employed as a Coach Painter and was a Leading Hand Painter at the time of his retirement. Bill's work in the trade was varied from spray painting to sign writing, and he was also something of a cartoonist. In the painting line – you name it and Bill would do it and his aim was always "perfection".

The Canteen Committee and Social Club were particular interests of Bill's on the job and off the job. He was a keen pennant bowler

— * * * —

After serving with the Commission for 46 years MR. C. R. (ARCHIE) TOSELAND, Leading Hand Fireman at Yallourn Power Station, retired on Monday May 19.

At a function in "C" Station Canteen Archie was farewelled by his workmates and some of his friends who had retired in earlier years.

The Station Operations Engineer, Mr. Frank Tomlinson, was Chairman and the presentation of an electric blanket and fishing gear was made by Mr. Arthur Ewen, Power Station Superintendent.

LES ( SWAMPY) DAVEY was presented with a fishing rod, reel and net, on the occasion of his recent retirement after 23 years with the Commission.

Swampy – he got his nickname because of his fondness for duck shooting and the time he spent in swamps because of it – spent most of his time in the transport section.

— * * * —

MR. E. V. (DINTY) WILLIAMS, Electrical Plant Operator, Power Station, Yallourn retired on Tuesday, May 20.

Dinty joined the Commission in 1923 and served intermittently until 1932, when posted to Yallourn Power Station as an Operator. He has been there ever since and has served continuously for almost 39 years.

A function was held in "C" Station Canteen on Wednesday, May 21 and many of Dinty's colleagues were present to bid him farewell. He was presented with an electric razor, a set of bowls and bowling equipment and a carrying bag.

A keen traveller, Dinty will shortly be making a trip to Central Australia. He is also a great sportsman and is keenly interested in youth training.

After 18½ years service with the Commission, Mrs. Alice Taylor Canteen Attendant at Yallourn Power Station, retired on Friday May 23.

At a function in "C" Station Canteen she was presented with a banana lounge, an electric clock, a cake and a bouquet of flowers.

Over 100 were present to bid her farewell.

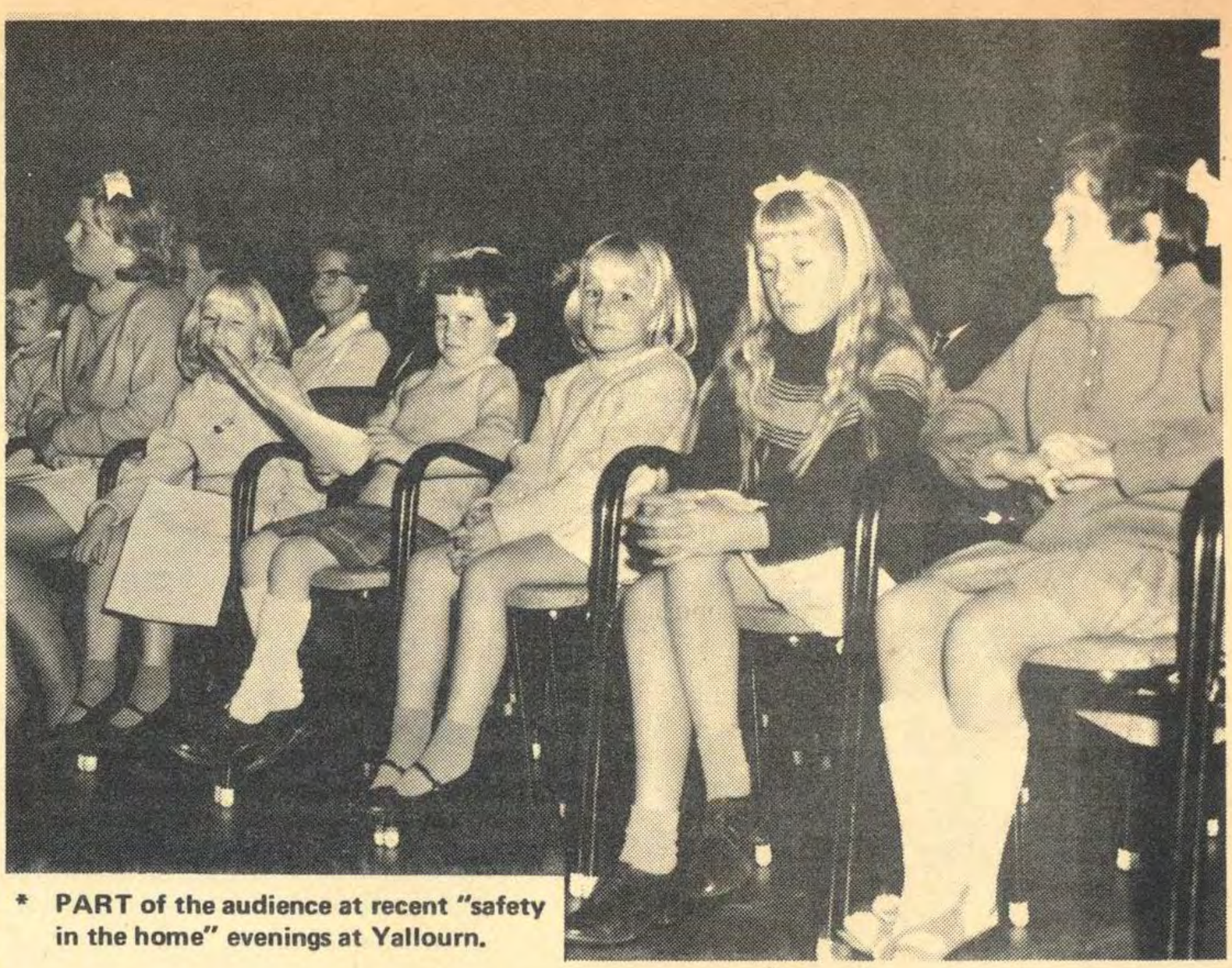
Alice has been an indefatigable worker for the Power Station Social Club and whilst working in the Canteen has served some 500,000 meals.

— * * * —

Mr. Les Gilpin, Overseer in Coal Division retired after 43 years service on May 2. He started as a labourer in Yallourn Power Station in 1926, was promoted to a foreman linesman in 1949, and to overseer in 1965.

Les, who has been in ill health, was the guest of honour at a presentation made at his home. Mr. I. Wilson, Coal Production Superintendent, Morwell, presented Les with a coffee table, fishing rod and reel, travelling rug and a foot stool on behalf of his many workmates.

# Home Hazards Highlighted



* PART of the audience at recent "safety in the home" evenings at Yallourn.

**Elementary perhaps, but all could save a nasty accident.....these were the safety hints handed out to about 200 members and their families at a General Services, Yallourn, domestic safety evening early this month.**

The film and lecture evening in Kernot Hall was arranged by Mr. Dave Taylor, Foreman Civil Services and a Part Time Safety Officer, and was followed by supper.

Films were interspersed with speakers on a variety of subjects.

# *Service Register*

**Did you know that of our total workforce of 7,500 in the Region, over 950 have served the Commission for twenty years or more, and their total length of service amounts to more than 27,000 years?**

In most cases we never learn of the length of service someone has given to the Commission until he retires.

Contact has decided to do something about this! Hence our Services Register.

Every month we will publish the names of people who have given 20 years service or more by the end of that month. Because of the numbers involved we will do it by five year periods, i.e. 20 yr., 25 yr., 30 yr., 35 yr. etc.

So here goes with our SERVICE REGISTER!

**20 Years**

| | |
|---|---|
| J. Ascolese | Briquetting Division |
| A. J. Bourke | Briquetting Division |
| W. H. Brew | Services Division |
| P. Carabot | Coal Division |
| C. R. Cleverley | Services Division |
| T. Grant | Briquetting Division |
| W. E. Horn | Coal Division |
| J. R. Insley | Coal Division |
| I. Kowal | Power Division |
| J. Lawson | Power Division |
| C. S. McIntyre | Electrical Division |
| R. Mackie | Services Division |
| W. T. Maddicks | Power Division |
| W. Meinyk | Power Division |
| L. A. Mills | Services Division |
| D. Tatlow | Services Division |

**25 Years**

| | |
|---|---|
| M. A. Cooper | Coal Division |
| E. H. Rawiller | Services Division |

**30 Years**

| | |
|---|---|
| J. Cox | Coal Division |

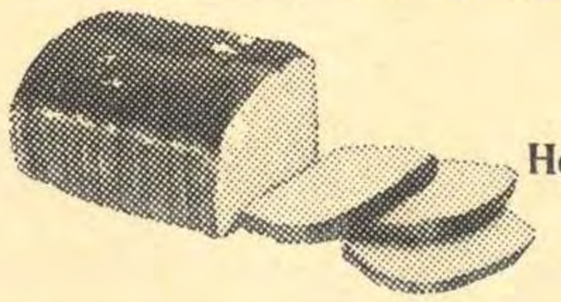
**35 Years**

| | |
|---|---|
| J. Vivian | Power Division |

**40 Years**

| | |
|---|---|
| W. J. Fleming | Briquetting Division |

# "FUN WITH FOOD"



Presented by

Home Advisory Service expert

Trina Williams

**There is nothing quite so good and sustaining in cold weather as a bowl of piping hot soup to begin a dinner. Serve the soup with slices of crusty french bread, rolls or hot, thin toast.**

A bowl of hot soup makes a good luncheon or supper dish in winter too.
Below is a recipe for Old-fashioned Mulligatawny Soup which is a meal in itself.

OLD-FASHIONED MULLIGATAWNY SOUP.

2 lb. gravy beef,
several beef bones,
2 tblspns. oil
2 onions,
2 carrots
1 turnip,
1 tblspn. flour
salt, pepper
1 tblspn. curry powder,
2 quarts water or stock
6 whole pepper corns
1 bay leaf
8 sprigs fresh parsley
thyme
1 tblspn. lemon juice.

Roughly chop onions, carrots and turnip. Cut the fat from beef, cut beef into small cubes. Meat oil or dripping in heavy pot, cook chopped vegetables in this gently, stirring frequently, until vegetables are almost tender. Sprinkle beef liberally with salt, pepper and curry powder. Sprinkle the flour over gently cooking vegetables, blend well. Stir in beef, add bones pour boiling stock or water over meat and vegetables, stirring well, add crushed peppercorns, bay leaf and parsley tied together and some thyme. Bring to boil, skim off all scum as it rises then cover and simmer 3 hours.

When cooked, select best pieces of meat to serve in the soup, strain remainder of soup through sieve, rubbing as much as possible of meat and vegetables through sieve into a fresh pot, add reserved meat and the strained lemon juice, taste for seasoning. Serve hot boiled rice separately.

# A "Swingin'" time all round!

* TOP SHELF refreshments for (from left) Dorothy and Bill Drover, Dick Donchi, and Lois Schuitmaker at staff social, Kernot Hall.

* HAPPY GUY with the pretty gal is Jimmy Bechaz. He and partner Anna Mesaric were pictured at staff social, Kernot Hall.

* SYLVIA WHITE of Traralgon and Robert Eastman, Moe, pictured at Central Workshops social.

* BON VOYAGE toast to Derek Chalmers and Rod Hawken, both of whom were scheduled to sail overseas soon after Central Workshops social. Girls they'll leave behind are (left) Lyn Oke of Newborough and Penny Stitson of Yallourn!

* GREAT night out at staff social for (from left) Wally Grinpukel, Yolanda Hall, Kay and Frank Jakob, and Graham Coburn.

* ALL SMILES is Renee Wiltshire, dancing with husband George who is a leading hand electrical fitter. Both from Yallourn North they were enjoying Central Workships social.

# HOW WE DO TALK! from page 4

areas, including the direct PMG services for commission officers and contractors, is carried out by SEC technicians, the Postmaster General's Department prefers that their technicians do not work in areas which may involve them in unfamiliar hazards, however, close liaison is maintained between PMG and SEC technicians and engineering staff.

The radio systems provide links between the telephone system and fire fighting, maintenance and operations vehicles, coal production machines and locomotives and isolated operating points.

Again, as for the telephone system, the Postmaster General's Department sets out the technical requirements and the operating conditions for the radio systems.

Maintenance and operating calls are manually connected to the radio systems serving the area services (VHO2), Morwell open cut (VL30Z) and the Yallourn open cut (VL30Y) at the trunk switchboards. however, the train control radio system (VL3NN) can be operated only from the control centres and from machines in the Morwell and Yallourn open cuts.

Increasing use is being made of communications facilities for the direct transmission of information and instructions between machines to achieve the most efficient use of coal dredgers and conveyors, electrical generators and power lines and to automatically disconnect equipment when uncontrollable conditions arise.

It ca n be argued, that in a production activity, the ratio of such machine to machine communications to the number of telephone calls required, is a measure of th e systems efficiency, and that the need to make a telephone call is an indication of a design, administrative or operational failure.

However, as machines do sometimes fail it is unlikely that we will even reach the stage of all action and no talk.

* I'LL TRY THAT ONE, says pretty Meryn Lofts of Yallourn as Bill Hutchins an electrical fitter, proffers plate of savories at Central Workshops Social.

# "Skiddy" is No.1 at Morwell!

**This month's personality is not a senior member of our staff. He's a leading hand in the Morwell Workshops stores, but to many of us, especially at Morwell, he is "No. 1" – a distinction he gained by being No. 1 on the Morwell payroll.**

* "Skiddy" Somerville, right, discussion matters with Herb Hill.

Roy, "Skiddy" Somerville was a horse-breaker in his younger days and by all accounts a horseman of no mean ability. In those days, Harold Skidmore was one of Australia's better-known jockeys – hence the nickname.

"Skiddy" was born in Balaclava, but at an early age came to Boolarra where his father took up share-farming.

He joined the Commission in 1940 at Yallourn. Prior to this he had worked for four years with Latta Bros., a road-making and bridge-building firm, which built the first road into the A.P.M. property. When the firm left the district, he went to A.P.M. but he got so sick of the smell he "gave them away" and came to us.

It seems that in those days the smell from our neighbour's place was even worse than it is today.

In 1941, at the request of the Government beset by war-time fuel shortages, the Commission decided to carry out drilling tests in the Morwell district. Mr. J. M. Bridge, a former Yallourn General Superintendent was engaged as a consultant and Mr. Herb Hill, now the Region's Principal Surveyor and in those days a surveyor with E.S.D. in Melbourne, was sent here as his surveyor. Mr. Hill, in turn, needed an assistant and asked Mr. Ted Hassett, former Overseer Open Cut Operations to find him someone "bright and intelligent". That's how Skiddy got the job and came to Morwell.

The first bore was sunk at the corner of Holmes and Latrobe Roads. There was only one house on the corner in those days and Holmes road was a bush track.

In 1948 the first office was built in Wallace Street, Morwell, a timeroll was established and Skiddy became No. 1 on the payroll.

Prior to the establishment of a depot, his place in Avondale Crescent was used as a storeyard and in those hectic days it was nothing for him, especially during Christmas breaks to have trucks, drilling machines, a car, utility and various other items of equipment cluttering up his garden.

"Skiddy" was a fair sportsman in his younger days. He played football for Boolarra, Yinnar and Morwell in the Mid-Gippsland Football League, was a good tennis player and bowler until a back injury forced him out of the game.

Married with one daughter and two grandsons, he is a very keen gardener.

As befits a man who has seen the Morwell/Hazelwood project grow from a trial bore at the corner of Holmes and Latrobe Roads to a 300 million dollar complex employing over 4000 people, our personality of the month is a very philosophical man.

When he retires in ten years time, he'll be a 40-year man and his main regr[illegible] seems to be that he did not come to the Commission ten years earlier.

# Watch out...Red Backs about

THIS ARTICLE BY SAFETY OFFICER MR. GEORGE TROKE.

**You may say to yourself, where does this Safety Business end? May I repeat that Safety and Accident Prevention never ends; it must be carried on 24 hours a day, every day of our lives, both on and off the job.**

This brings me to the point in question: poisonous insects and in particular the "RED BACK SPIDER".

This menace is being discovered in ever-increasing numbers around our Regional Works Area. in quite a number of situations. It spins an irregular web in dark corners, e.g. inside buildings, machinery and plant in storage and even in plant and machinery in service, so there are no limits to its possible whereabouts.

At home it may be found in sheds, ceilings, old tins, flower pots, watering cans and in particular under seats in the old box type toilets.

The spider may be identified as follows: It has a black body and legs and a scarlet stripe extending down the centre of the abdomen. A fully grown specimen has an abdomen about the same size as a pea.

A bite from this spider has been known to cause death to human beings, but the majority of its victims have been known to suffer long periods on pain and drenching sweats, along with localised swelling.

My advice to all is stop and think what you are doing; don't expose your bare skin in places that can't be visually inspected; treat all webs and spiders as dangerous and exterminate them.

Report any cases that are doubtful on the job to your Supervisor and the local Safety Officer will advise on how to handle the problem.

Remember on the job we have protective clothing to cover all situations, and methods of exterminating these pests.

# Electrical appliances are great gift ideas

**The housewife works all day and often long past the regular working hours of the toiler "on the payroll", and to make her job easier and cut down her working time is a subject which has kept home economists busy for years. They have planned kitchen layouts, bathroom and laundry equipment, home cleaning devices and plotted day-to-day routines to help make the load easier.**

In all their planning electrical appliances play a major role. The vacuum cleaner which has become an important part of the cleaning equipment for the home – the mixer and food blender which speeds up the preparations of meals – the floor polisher which keeps the house sparkling – the pop-up toaster which eliminates the breakfast time panic of burnt toast – are among the many modern electrical aids which help to make life easier.

Father should consider the value of the electric cooker to the housewife. Is it the latest automatic model which frees her from the kitchen while the meal is cooking?

What better present for his wife than the glamorous modern electric cooker?

An electric jug or kettle is the quickest and cheapest way to make a pot of tea – it's a gift mother will appreciate every time she enjoys a "cuppa". For coffee drinkers, an electric percolator is an ideal gift.

And there are many other wonderful electrical gifts that will make mother's dream kitchen come true – food blender deep fryer, drink heater, dishwasher and so on.

### Quick Dishes

There are so many electrical aids to running a home. The extra help which an electric frypan can give to the housewife when visitors arrive unexpectedly, only she can appreciate. And added to this she will probably enjoy its convenience in preparing quick dishes upon arriving home after weekend outings.

Our climate is subject to sudden change of temperature and the modern electric room heater provides instant warmth at the flick of a switch. And talking of warmth, how about an electric blanket for each member of the family?

More recently there has become a growing trend towards the installation in the home of room air-conditioning units, the advantages of which are so striking when temperatures soar. These can be installed at various price levels and their operational costs are most economical. There is a bedroom air-conditioner now on the market for less than $200.

For the teenager what could be better than the latest electric hair dryer?

Father is often the one who poses the biggest gift problem. Ties, cuff links, lighters – he gets so many he couldn't possibly make use of them all. But give him an electric shaver, soldering iron, or power tool and see the bright satisfied smile on his face.

### Handyman Too

For the handyman, there is a wide range of power tools to satisfy all his hobby inclinations and help with maintenance of the home.

Electrical gifts will contribute much to increased leisure time of modern living. They help make life easier, and there is much a variety available you will be able to find the gift you want at the price you can afford.

Any office of the SEC can help you with free advice. Call or write for the free folder full of ideas on ideal gifts.

* **You name it ..... if its electrical Andy Ringin will sell you one! Local ESD sales officer Andy is pictured with a stack of those winter warmth necessities – electric blankets!**

# carter's column

**Honey sandwiches, thick custard, egg flips and, as a drink, honey and water, is the stable diet of cyclist Bob Whitford during long distance road races. The 53 year-old racing cyclist, pictured here with his twenty-three year son Ray, as they test the new track being prepared at the John Field Reserve, Newborough.**

This is the diet that has given Bob the endurance to ride in twenty-two Melbourne to Warrnambool road races since he commenced racing at Maryborough (Vic) back in 1934. He was placed third in the race in 1953 and third in 1959. He considers his greatest win to be the 110 mile Ballarat race in 1967. Among his numerous wins has been Maryborough club champion - 1938 and 39. Wonthaggi in 1946 and Yallourn 1947, 61, 62 and 66. Gippsland champion in 1950 and second in the Sale to Melbourne in 1962.

And club events, guess he's stopped counting the wins. Here is, indeed, an example that 23 year old son Ray, (Hazelwood Power Station), is proud to follow. Ray is, in his own right, a top class cyclist, winning the Victorian junior road championship (50 miles) in 1963 and in 1964 won six races in three days at the Bendigo Easter carnival including the richly endowed golden wheel race of one mile. He was Yallourn champion in 1963.

His racing career was interrupted by two years national military service, and Ray is, as Bob puts it, beginning to race back into form now. Will Bob make it twenty-five "Warrnambools"? says Bob - "Maybe". Bob is one of the pioneers of the new cycle track at Newborough for which raised over $1000 for the work to date.

In a world where "What's in for me" often prevails, it is refreshing to meet someone who does things for the love of it. Such a person is Ray "Rusty" Wright of Coal Production. Rusty acts as central umpire, each Saturday morn, in the local under 13 years aussie rules matches without fee.

Rusty, who won best and fairest, with Newborough in 1959 was, for a few years, with the Central Umpires panel, but of late acts for the young lads. Rusty says he gets pleasure out of helping the lads and his explanations on the field of penalties inflicted are of great assistance to the "coming champs".

* * * * *

What in the heck is "Pishing"? What ever sport it is apparently the chaps near the riggers "hideout" do not do it, because they had a sign which said - no Pishing". Or maybe it is a sport say like fishing, or somebody just can't spell!

* * * * * * * * * * *

Don't know if it was the delightful royal blue knitted cap or the peanuts which intrigued me most. Table tennis match one lunch break at Morwell Workshops. There he played and well he did it. After each rally, out would come the packet of peanuts and essential vitamins consumed as he waits for his opponent to serve.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Of the 17 players selected by the LV Baseball Association to represent them at the provincial championships on Queen's Birthday weekend, I feel that the SEC contingent of the team would have an electrifying effect on their chances with such appropriate occupations - field captain is Tom Richardson, formsetter at Morwell Briquette factory; he will be aided and abetted by Chemist Lloyd Lewis of Yallourn, who should keep the team full of "herbs"; equipment problems - no trouble with Instrument maker Ray Beaton (Hazelwood) and Tester Frank Rushton (Yallourn). Unit controller Alan Wilson (Hazelwood) will be a steadying element. And getting full value out of the team will be Coach Keith Hall (Pay, Yallourn).

* * * * * * * * * * *

Gilbert Julin of Morwell Stores is a footballer who will not be discouraged. Serious and complicated break in the wrist has not stopped him. A good back and ruckman for Yallourn North, and sadly missed, Gil says he'll be back playing before the season finished. To this end, he acts as runner for each match and sticks rigidly to training each week. The fans will cheer that day he's back. Here's hoping.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Cartoon to hand from Umpires' Associate following par last issue on central umpires:
Don't thump the 'Ump!
Knight of the whistle.

Yes - I believe that players should call Umpires, Sir - Sir Maxwell Maddern Sir Kevin Laity; Sir Denis McMillan; Sir Danny Bryce; Sir Raymond Sleeth ..... .....Wouldn't it "barras" yer.

* * * * * * * * * * *

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