



HERITAGE

LINKING THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT— FOR THE FUTURE

No. 10

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER, 1978

A large, stylized graphic of red flames with yellow and orange highlights, filling the central portion of the cover. The flames are jagged and pointed upwards, creating a sense of movement and heat.

Victoria's Unique Country
Fire Authority

Vickers Vimy 1919

How did they build those Cathedrals?

THE AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Society was formally launched at a National League of Rights Seminar in Melbourne on Saturday, September 18, 1971, by the Hon. Sir Reginald Sholl, former Justice of the Victorian Supreme Court and former Australian Consul-General in New York. Sir Reginald said that "One of the least understood of our inherited blessings is the standard of personal freedom under the Common Law."

Seminar papers were presented by the Victorian Attorney-General, the Hon. (now Sir) George Reid, Q.C., Sir Raphael Cilento, Sir Stanton Hicks and Mr. Eric D. Butler. Sir Raphael Cilento is the first Patron of the Heritage Society.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

\$10 per year entitles associate members to the "Heritage" journal as well as any other literature issued by The Society.

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The Australian Heritage Society

"HERITAGE"

Box 16,

INGLEWOOD W.A. 6052.

STATE ADDRESSES

BOX 1052J, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3001.

BOX 179, PLYMPTON, SOUTH AUST. 5038.

BOX 2957, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001.

BOX 172, CHERMSIDE, QUEENSLAND 4032

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No. 10

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1978

Tampering with our Constitution

The Constitutional Convention held in Perth last July ended on a flat note as have previous conventions. A great deal of taxpayers' money was wasted on sending representatives from each State only to be told by advocates of a Republican Australia that our Constitution should be kept under review and brought up to date.

The Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowan was of the opinion that a certain amount of "remaking" of the Constitution was necessary. But in order to remake anything you must first disassemble or pull-down the original structure and this is where Australians should be on guard.

HIDDEN AIMS

Three main aims were foremost in the minds of those republicans attending the conference. How to gradually abolish the Senate. Stripping the Governor-General of his power to dissolve parliament, and how to skirt around our Constitutional safeguards without consulting Australians through a referendum. We must never be hoodwinked into believing that changing the Constitution is for the good of the people when it is enthusiastically advocated by power-hungry governments of any shade.

OUR FOREFATHERS

The constitution was drafted by men of far greater wisdom and vision than those occupying Canberra today. Principles of human association, i.e. government, don't change like the wind. Our forefathers were well aware of their intentions when they included checks and counter-checks on men in power.



RENEWING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our Secretary wishes to draw attention to **LATE PAYERS** of subscriptions. As the Heritage Society is unable to bear the enormous costs of reminder notices please ensure that your subscription is renewed when the **FIRST REMINDER** is posted. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

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20 copies \$15.00 (posted)

50 copies \$25.00 (posted)

Groups and organisations may care to take advantage of these reduced rates.

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Views on "HERITAGE"

Sir,
Thank you for the June/August copy of "Heritage" which I have read with more than usual interest. The variety of subjects covered and the even tempered expression of views by your contributors who had a message to convey are most impressive. I would like to think that "A Father's Prayer" could find a place in every home.

All issues were relevant to the Australian way of life and deserve a wider audience in the interests of developing a cohesive society. They bore a definite Australian viewpoint whilst acknowledging sound social values and traditions derived from the United Kingdom as part of our heritage.

I feel however, you have a problem in persuading many new Australians to accept the cultural pattern and social values which your Society expounds. Until common ground can be established with them there may be a disposition for this minority to support movements towards a Republic and other diverse issues. There is an urgent need to integrate these citizens into our Australian society if we are to overcome subversive elements in the community.

In summary, this issue of the journal strikes me as a good exercise in constructive thought and nation building.

SIR VALSTON E. HANCOCK, Perth.

Call to scrap metrics

Sir,

I read with much interest the articles on metrication and decimals, in the June issue of "Heritage".

I have never ceased to wonder why the metric system was foisted, unnecessarily, and at great expense, on an unsuspecting public. A case of take it and like it! An outstanding example of political arrogance.

Citizens were quite happy with the old system of weights and measures. There were no complaints. Everything worked satisfactorily with the heavy construction industry engaged in railroad and mine installations, mining for gold and other minerals, and industries generally.

Now, people are bewildered, confused, irritated and frustrated by the many odd and strange symbols confronting them in their daily lives. They refuse to be bulldozed into the metric system, and cling tenaciously to the old British system that has served them, and their forefathers, so well. And politicians should remember 'that a bad law - is no law.'

We are a free, independent and democratic people, living in a country developed by our forebears, and taught by them that Jack is as good as his master. We are sick and tired of "Big Brother" telling us what is good for us, having unwanted legislation rammed down our throats.

Even at this late hour the government should either scrap the metric system or, at least, introduce a dual system. By doing so, politicians may, to some extent, engender respect for their office as servants, not masters, of a sadly disillusioned and cynical people.

S.M. KELLOW, W.A.

FIGHTING LIKE AN ARMY

Victoria's Unique Country Fire Authority

By John Clifford

The retiring Chairman of the Victorian Country Fire Authority, Brigadier R.T. Eason, becomes almost lyrical when he expounds on the virtues of what he described as the most unique fire-fighting organisation in the world. Well-known authority on military defence, Brigadier Eason sees the CFA as the most effective type of organisation with tremendous emphasis on the volunteer and self-discipline.

Authorities on fire hazards list the State of Victoria as being equal in risk with two other danger areas, Southern France and California. Some maintain that Victoria is, during many summer periods, the most potentially volatile area in the whole world. Given the right conditions, the State can literally explode, as it did on "Black Friday", January 13, 1939, when 71 lives were lost, 69 mills were burned, millions of acres of valuable forests were gutted and towns were wiped out in a few minutes.

The Royal Commission report of the 1939 disaster started its report as follows:

"The month of January came towards the end of a long drought which had been aggravated by a severe hot, dry summer season creeks and springs had ceased to run water storages were depleted provincial towns were facing the probability of cessation of water supply. In Melbourne inhabitants were subjected to restrictions upon the use of water. Throughout the countryside, the farmers were carting water for their stock and themselves. The rich plains lay bare and baking and the forests, from the foothills to the alpine heights, were tinder. The soft carpet of the forest floor was gone. The bone-dry litter crackled underfoot. Dry heat and hot dry winds worked upon a land already dry to suck from it the last, least drop of moisture"

An Annual Hazard

Fortunately the situation does not develop every summer to that reached in 1939. But every summer brings the risk of another major conflagration, while few summers pass without a number of serious fires. The expansion and greater sophistication of the Victorian-Country Fire Authority have ensured that the 1939 tragedy is not repeated. But the terrible threat is always there. The State's relatively low average rainfall of 27 inches, forests of highly inflammable eucalypts, and a species of undergrowth



Brigadier R.T. Eason. Believes that emphasis on volunteers and self-discipline gets results.

which dries quickly, combined with a weather pattern which results often in the hot north winds being followed by a passage of south-westerly cyclonic and anti-cyclonic fronts, constantly threatens to produce fires which are extremely difficult, if not impossible, to control.

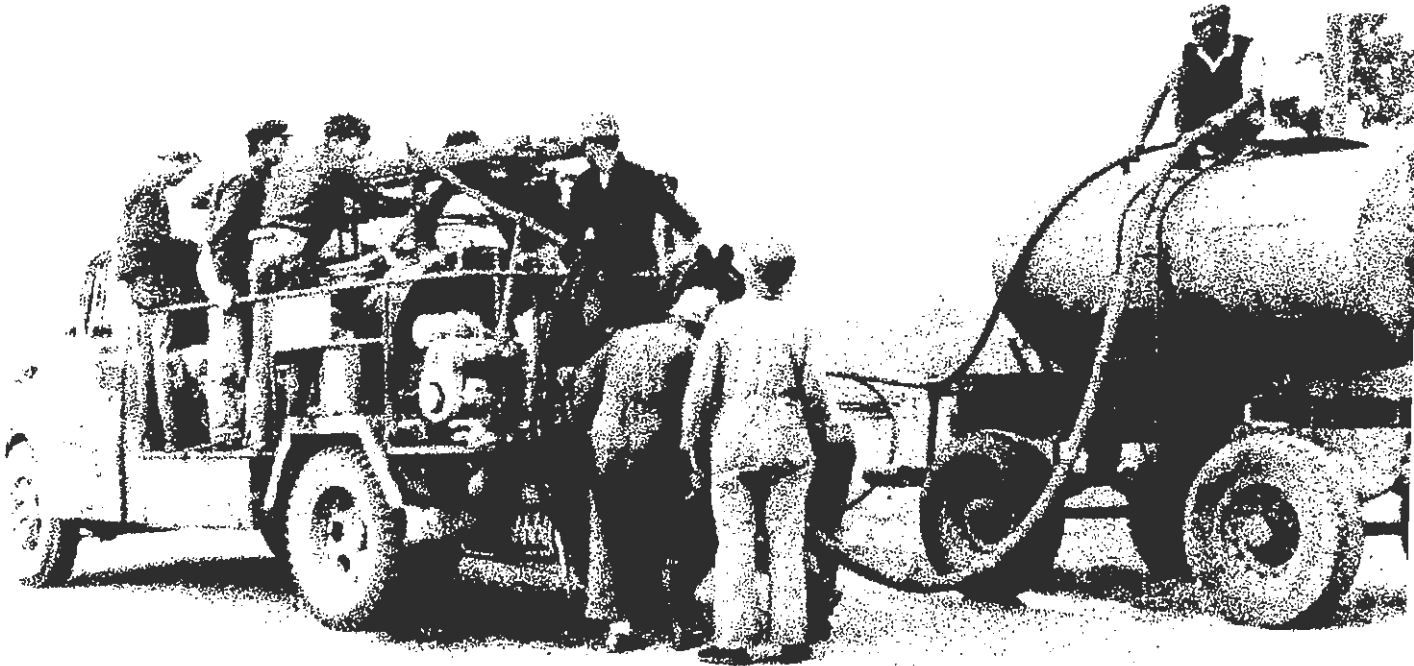
The Victorian Country Fire Authority's fire-fighting methods have come a long way since the pioneering days described by Henry Lawson:

"The stockmen

..... bared each brawn arm.

*They tore green branches from the trees
and fought for Ross's farm."*

Only in recent years has come the water tank and mobile pump, a feature of the equipment of every



Country Fire Brigade. For well over a hundred years resourceful men — and their women — used the green branch, the wet bag and firebreaks to meet the “Red Devil”. They did not see themselves as “volunteers”, but as men challenged by a crisis which they had to meet. Tremendous feats were performed saving lives and properties with little more than the resourcefulness of the Australian countryman. When a community was threatened, every able-bodied man rallied. But with comparatively primitive means for dealing with fires, even large bodies of men could only on occasions hold limited fronts. As Lawson wrote in his “Fire at Ross’s Farm”:

“One Christmas time, when months of drought had parched the Western creeks;
The bushfires started in the north
And travelled south for weeks.”

A farm could be saved, but nothing could be done to halt the main fire from rearing onwards. It is surprising that more major fires were not experienced in the earlier days of developing Victoria. The situation had always been better in the towns, where there was usually an adequate water supply and enough men to man the bucket brigades. The former Chief Officer of the Victorian Country Fire Brigades Board, Lieut.-Col. T. Marshall, has provided in his memoirs a graphic account of how the bucket-brigade worked: “When fire occurred long lines of men, stretching from the nearest tank, dam or waterhole to the fire, passed buckets hand to hand....” Later developments, including the introduction of the Hose and Reel, followed as reticulated water supplies were introduced.

The Anzac Spirit

The Country Fire Brigades Board was formed in 1891 for the purpose of administering the volunteer

urban fire brigades. But these were town brigades and relatively much better equipped and organised than the bush brigades. The first major step to properly organise the bush brigades came after the disastrous 1926 Victorian fires. They consisted entirely of volunteers. Private donations provided most of the funds. Here was the authentic spirit of traditional rural Australia. The Royal Commission established following the 1939 fires commented:

“The matter needs no further argument than the statement of fact that one duly-constituted bush fire-fighting body, which, by voluntary effort, has yearly protected public and private property of great value, has (in the past ten years) received State assistance at the rate of less than — one pound ten shillings per week.”

The Commissioner observed that in a crisis the Australian volunteer firefighter is prepared to forget regulations which may be hindering required immediate action. This was the spirit of the Anzacs. The Fire Brigades Act restricted Country Fire Brigades to specific areas, but, as the Commissioner said, “..... being like the bush brigades largely manned by volunteers they have done good service outside the restricted areas defined by their statutes.”

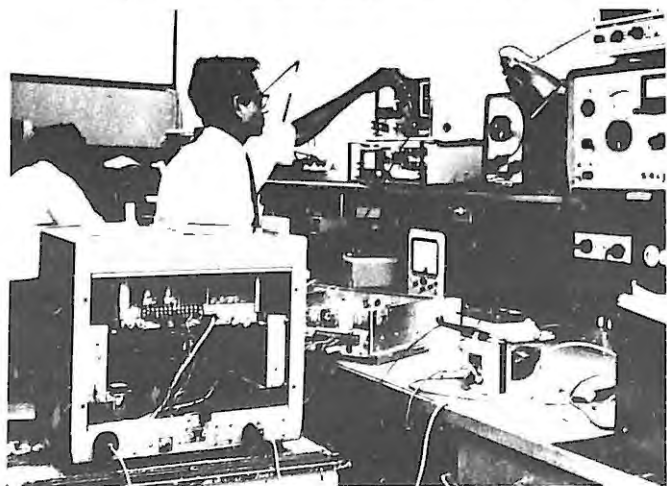
It was in 1944 that the new Fire Authority took over all the machinery of the old Country Fire Brigades Board, including staff, machinery, brigades and volunteers. There were also 727 Bush Fire Brigades. It was confidently anticipated that with the States providing funds and permanent officers for administration, there would be greater efficiency in achieving the stated purpose of the establishment of the Country Fire Authority. “For the more effective control of the prevention and suppression of fires in the country areas of Victoria.” But there were initial problems, the major one being the very



Private unit at fire breaking from forest — Elmore 1972.



A senior C.F.A. officer said: "Women have been the mainstay of many brigades. If you want to strengthen a weak fire brigade, set up a women's auxiliary. Take the auxiliary away, and many a brigade will collapse. It's a variation of the old story: 'Behind every good fireman is a good fire-woman', but quite often today, the women are up front."



1970: V.H.F. installations in aircraft refined to make more convenient. Today the C.F.A. is one of the world's major users of mobile radio.

spirit which had sustained the bush fire brigades: the proud volunteers feared that they would lose both their identity and the equipment they had financed through their own efforts. They did not enthuse about the new title of "Rural" brigades, arguing that "bush fires were fought by Bush Fire Brigades". But eventually even the most diehard members of the brigades were won over as it became clear that their equipment was not going to be requisitioned by the CFA and that they no longer would have to devote valuable time raising funds to buy equipment. The latest fire-fighting equipment has been progressively made available.

The organisation of the CFA has been increasingly perfected in the same way that new fire-fighting equipment has been evolved. It is a fascinating story, one of which all Australians should be proud, of how the volunteers pressured for the adoption of a type of structure which had been in unofficial use for 20 years. Very early the volunteers had seen the necessity for Group organisation, a Group being formed by a number of brigades in a common risk area. This structure, under the control of one Officer, results in a much more effective fire-fighting force.

A Defence Example for Australia

Following the 1962 fires, which destroyed much of the Dandenongs and other areas, there were demands amongst the firefighters for improved tactics and better organisation. Rural brigades called for a full-time director of fire-fighting. It was said that the man needed for the task should be a type of general with overall command of the big army of volunteer fire-fighters. Three years later, when the 1965 fires in Gippsland had brought the question of an overall commander to a head, the State Government created the position of full-time Chairman of the CFA. The man chosen, Brigadier T.R. Eason, was beyond doubt an ideal man for the job. A strong believer in the volunteer principle, Brigadier Eason had served with great distinction in the Second World War. By profession he was a senior technical officer with the Communications Branch of the Post Office.

Brigadier Eason brought to bear the principles which he has elaborated for the military defence of Australia. He believes in a relatively small number of full-time professionals whose task is to direct broadly the activities of an army of volunteers. Decisions on tactics, deployment, aims and methods are left to those at the scene of the emergency. This approach has certainly improved the record of fire-fighting in Victoria. Modern equipment, including spotter planes have also been a major factor. Summer fires are still occurring in Victoria. They will occur in the future. But as Brigadier Eason says, if the same type of volunteer spirit and organisation being used to defend Victoria against bushfires could be used for the defence of Australia, the future of Australia as a free nation would be assured.



It's not all roses down on the farm

The continuing verbal conflict between urban dwellers and farmers continues remorselessly. Despite fire, flood, famine and low prices our backbone industry battles on to give us our cornflakes for breakfast and roast lamb on Sundays. Any other businessman would have packed it in and opted for a 5-day week job.

In Western Australia recently the government assisted some hard-hit rural producers with 5 million dollars in grants. Incensed by this seemingly free hand-out many city folk expressed their opposition. Doreen Bode of Boyup Brook replied with the following letter to the "West Australian" March 1978.

What's the betting that, after reading the headline "\$5 million paid to WA farmers" (March 11), 90 per cent of your readers — amidst gnashing of teeth — will believe that the \$5 million was a gift?

Let me assure all non-farmers that every last cent must be repaid with interest.

And while I am about it, please let me point out to the "forty hours a week" brigade that, without our land, we cannot be farmers, we cannot earn our living — just as wage and salary earners could not earn a living if there were no employers.

On paper a farmer may be "worth" a quarter of a million dollars, but other than by the seasonal "sweat of his brow" there is no way that he can "cash in" on this pot of gold without becoming "unemployed".

Suppose that, 20 years after taking on the family farm, a 45 year old farmer decides to "cash in" on that mythical quarter of a million.

Going, going — sold — at \$250,000, walk-in-walk-out, on half deposit with the balance on terms to be arranged — Monte Carlo, here I come.

Hang on mate, Rural Reconstruction wants the cool \$60,000 remainder of that loan, and don't forget grandpa's old Development Bank Loan — there's still \$2,500 to go on that. Then there's the small item of \$50,000 still owing on that flash new autoheader, plus \$10,000 hire purchase on the tractor.

Yes, yes I know. The stock firm is jumping up and down for its cut too. Bang goes another \$6,000.

Let me see, that's \$128,500 gone.

But the deposit is only \$125,000.

Did you say the buyer will take over the hire-purchase commitment on the header? Phew what a relief. That's only \$78,500 to pay out then, so I've still got \$46,500 of the deposit.

Now, comfortable city retirement, here we come. I've always had a yen for good old Cottesloe, nothing flashy like Dalkeith.

How's this: "High position, views, new two-storey — \$110,000." My hat. Four bedrooms though. Try again.

What about this one. "Three bedrooms, \$65,000.

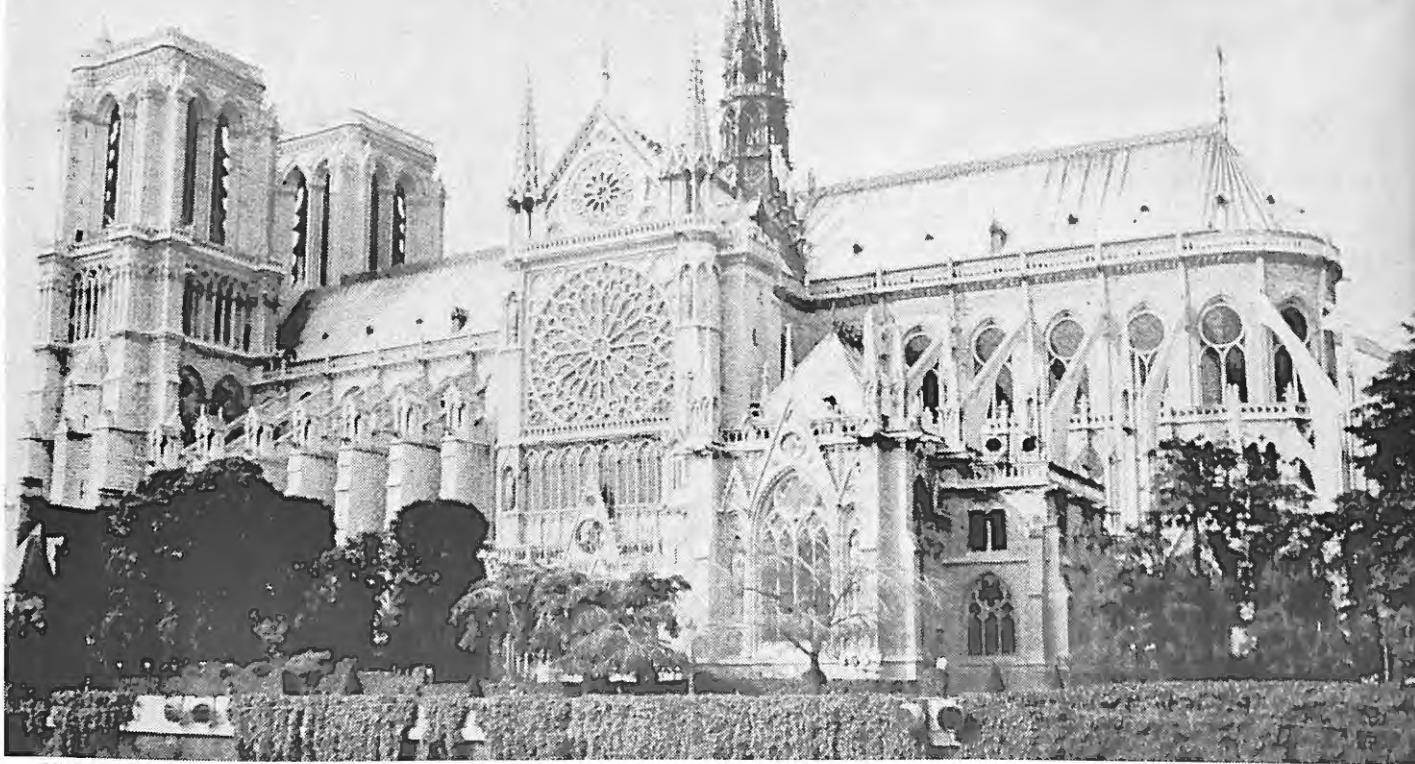
Well, after the 60 per cent deposit that the building society needs (that's \$39,000), we'll still have \$7,500 to keep the wolf from the door, until the annual instalments on the remaining \$125,000 start to come in — providing the poor blighter doesn't strike a drought or a flood of course.

That will be \$6,250 (plus low interest) a year for the next 20 years.

We've got 10 years to pay off the building society (principal \$26,000). That will be \$2,600 a year (plus interest). With a bit of luck we should net around \$3,500 a year, and I can get the pension in 20 years' time.

What luxury: Retired at 45, with nothing to do, two boys still at school, with sights set on city jobs — and \$2,825 a year to "live it up" on.

How did they build those gothic cathedrals?



NOTRE DAME — Paris

Dotted throughout Britain, France, Germany and the Low Countries, the great cathedrals stand today as they've stood for 700 or 800 years. Of Europe's 180 odd Gothic Cathedrals, 80 are in France and 35 in England — although two of those were destroyed, St. Pauls in the Great Fire of 1666, and Coventry in the 2nd World War. St. Pauls was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, and Coventry in modern style, in the post-war period.

Including the two re-built, only five of Britain's Cathedrals were erected after the 300 years linking the Middle Ages with the Elizabethan period.

There they stand — giant Churches of amazing beauty and symmetry, filled with exquisite carving and the most delicate fluted arches. With all the technical knowledge and mechanisation of our period, there is no 'know how' in the 20th Century capable of achieving what our ancestors accomplished with the hand tools of their period.

WORK OR LEISURE?

Even more astounding, they were built without pay, as a form of consecrated leisure activity. There were no tenders, contracts, mortgages, over-time, strikes or union confrontations.

How did they do it? One would suppose that far more effort was required to provide food clothing and shelter than today. What time would such communities have for the intricacies and detail involved in building such beautiful cathedrals?

Many will be amazed to learn that there was, contrary to general belief, a great deal of leisure time. Professor Thorold Rogers wrote: "At that time (the middle ages) a labourer could provide all the necessities for his family for a year by working 14 weeks."

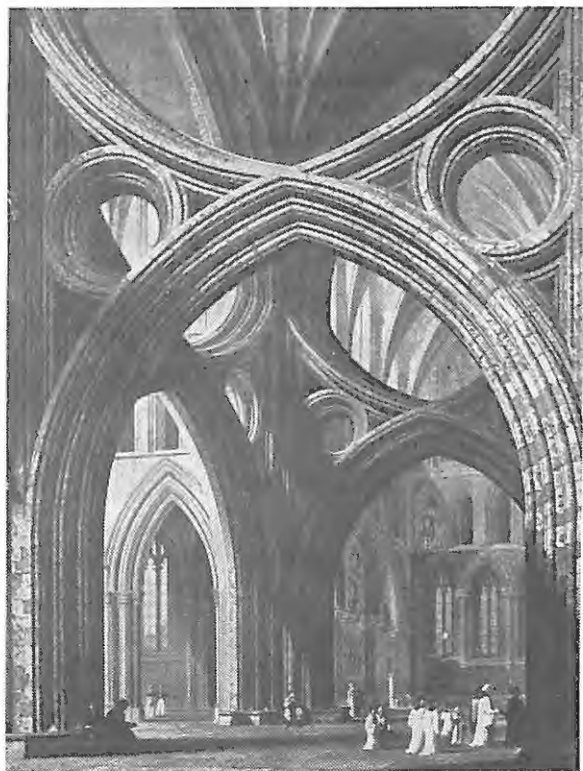
Lord Leverhume, a prominent figure in the "Industrial Partnership Movement" of the 18th Century, wrote: "The men of the 15th Century were very well paid."

Sombart, in his study of agricultural conditions

in Central Europe in the 14th Century, "Found hundreds of communities which averaged from 160 to 180 holidays a year."

THE LAWS OF ENGLAND

Fortescue, appointed Lord High Chancellor by Henry VI, in his book "Le Laudibus Legum Anglicaë" (Praise the Laws of England) said: "The King cannot alter the laws, or make new ones, without the express consent of the whole people in parliament assembled. Every inhabitant is at his liberty fully to use and enjoy whatever his farm produceth, the fruits of the earth, the increase of his flocks and the like. All the improvements he makes, whether by his own proper industry, or of those he retains in his service, are his own, to use and enjoy without the let, interruption or denial of any. If he be in any wise injured, or oppressed, he shall have his amends and satisfaction against the party offending. Hence it is the inhabitants are rich in gold, unless at certain times upon a religious score, and by way of doing penance. They are fed in great abundance with all sorts of flesh and fish, of which they have plenty everywhere; they are clothed throughout with good woollens; their bedding and other furniture in their houses are of wool, and that in great score. They are also well provided with all sorts of household goods and necessary implements for husbandry. Everyone, according to his rank, hath all things which conduce to make life easy and happy."



Wells Cathedral with its massive arches supporting the tower. (from old print)

MONASTIC LIFE

The Monasteries were the focal point of a deep spiritual ethos that pervaded the land. Cobbett, in his "History of the Reformation", records that often 100,000 pilgrims at a time journeyed to Canterbury. Beside the great Cathedrals, there was a parish Church to every four square miles throughout the Kingdom. Turner, in the 2nd volume of his "History of England", claimed: "No tyranny was ever established that was more unequivocally the creature of popular will, nor longer maintained by popular support; in no point did personal interest and public welfare more cordially unite than in the encouragement of the monasteries."

The Precosium of Bishop Fleetwood gave an idea of current prices at the time:

| | <u>L</u> | <u>s</u> | <u>d</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| A pair of shoes | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Russet broadcloth — the yard | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| A stall-fed ox | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| A grass-fed ox | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| A fat sheep unshorn | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| A fat sheep shorn | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| A fat hog 2 years old | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| A fat goose | 0 | 0 | 2½ |
| Ale the gallon, by Proclamation | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| What the Quarter | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| White wine the gallon | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Red wine | 0 | 0 | 4 |



Canterbury: The Nave

Thus it was that the fiery 19th century historian William Cobbett, after visiting Winchester Cathedral and marvelling at its beauty, told his son: "That building was made when there were no poor wretches in England called paupers; when there were no poor rates; when every labouring man in England was clothed in good woollen cloth; and when all had plenty of meat and bread and beer." (Recorded in Cobbett's "Rural Rides").

CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Thus we have a picture of a well-fed, prosperous community, working commercially or for gain about one-third of each year, and with, as Sombart says, "160 – 180 holidays a year."

It was a period which produced an explosion of cultural advancement. It was in this period that our parliamentary system was born; that we received the great Magna Carta; trial by jury; the independent judiciary; the offices of sheriff and justices of the peace; and, of course, the great Cathedrals.

It was a period where the function and value of private property was well understood and protected. Once again, in Cobbett's words, "You may trust the word freedom as long as you please; but at last it comes to quiet enjoyment of your property, or it comes to nothing.

It was a period which men were pleased to call "Merrye Englande".

THE GOTHIC STYLE

It was in France that the first examples of Gothic architecture could be seen. In Paris the magnificent Notre Dame was commenced in 1163, and through out France the creative explosion followed – with names like Beauvais, Laon, Amiens, Reims, Chartres, Bourges. Each was different to the other – even to the stone used. Notre-Dame is white, Strasbourg pink, Reims bright yellow, Chartres a bluish-grey.

In each there is an awe-inspiring impression of space and light when entering. Delicate arches leap to meet the carved vaults high above. The problems encountered in Saxon times regarding narrow roof spans, which had caused much trouble, were overcome by the development of the "ribbed vault" – a discovery which showed that a pointed arch will support far greater loads than the round arches used by the Romans, or the limited wooden beams of the Saxons.

Crossed arches became ribs able to support roofing structures of greater width, and with their flowering sections brought symmetry and lightness as a further enhancement. The first of all Gothic cathedrals, Saint-Denis, in Paris set the example which others enthusiastically followed. As the choir of Saint-Denis was completed in 1144, the Abbe Suger exclaimed that "a wondrous and unbroken light pervaded the



Lincoln Cathedral

sanctuary!"

And this was the whole revelation of the Gothic period – light. Was not the Christ the Light of the World? And did not men pray "Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee O Lord"? The fervour which this new style attracted was surely a light indeed.

VOLUNTARY EFFORT

Historians of the period tell us how the whole community joined in the task of building. Thousands worked to erect Chartres, often harnessing themselves to carts that carried blocks of stone to the construc-

tion site, singing hymns as they toiled. Others donated gold and jewels. Thus, Chartres was built in less than 40 years, with an average of 250 workmen right through that period. Others took longer, requiring generations of fund-raising and labour.

The architects, rather than the primitive yokels often depicted today, were master craftsmen and men of great learning. Their techniques for calculating the stresses and strains, the loads to be carried and the geometrical form of their new style is unknown. These techniques, placing the colossal weight on the uniquely shaped pillars, allowed the use of light as never before.

COLOURS

This in turn allowed another set of craftsmen a scope they had never had previously – the makers of coloured glass windows. A riot of beautiful colours filled the naves and choirs, and illuminated the intricately carved alters. The glaziers set up their kilns at the Cathedral sites, and plied their craft – mixing mineral pigments into the hot liquid mass before it hardened. Thousands of pieces of glass, seldom larger than a hand, were joined by thin strips of lead into designs and pictures, capturing in colour the gospels, the acts and the miracles of Scripture.

And in fact, since many were unable to read, the Cathedrals became “living scriptures”, the Bible story being captured in the radiant colours of the stained glass windows, and the beautifully carved gargoyles and stone figures still seen today.

ENGLAND FOLLOWS

Hardly had the Gothic style developed in France, before it was taken up by the “Ecclesiastic Anglicans”. With the same craft and diligence, the same voluntary effort, the great English Cathedrals were commenced, and the spires and towers pierced towards the heavens. The great names are well known – Canterbury, of course, and York; Durham and Exeter; Lincoln and Wells, Winchester and Ely; Oxford and St. Albans; and so the names roll off the tongue; each magnificent and unique. A variety of original design was captured in the disciplined dignity of those great buildings, and then spilled over into the whole range of architecture – Corn Exchanges, Guildhalls and even the cottages and mansions of the time.

The faith of the period did not confine itself to building churches and cathedrals. This was the period when the first of the Public Schools were founded, and in each the notion of “Christian education” was the first priority. Both Winchester College and Westminster School make claim to being the first – but whichever is right, they were quickly followed by others – Eton, Harrow, Malborough, Rugby. Winchester was founded by a Parish Priest – William of Wykeham, who also endowed a College at Oxford, and coined Winchester’s famous motto “Man-

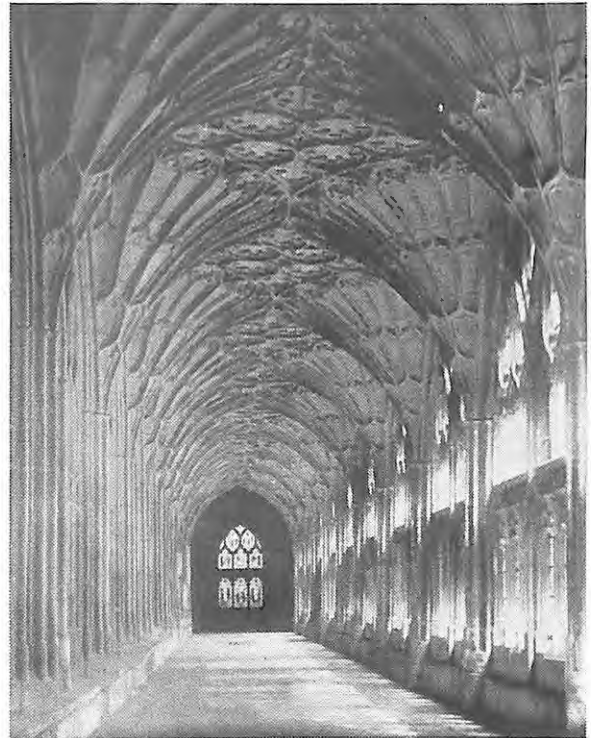
ners Makyth Man”.

And all without debt or usury, which was banned in the great Magna Carta.

WHAT OF TODAY?

What would they think of the British people in the 20th Century, those fervent builders of the Gothic period? How would they view the concrete petrol stations and the Coca-Cola signs? What would they think of the enormous crowds worshipping the gods of football, or the pop idols? Their crowds in those days went a different way –

*“And specially from every shires ende
Of Engelonde to Canterbury they wende
The holy blisful martyr for to seeke
That them hath holpen whan that they were
seeke.”*



Gloucester: the Cloisters

But the great Cathedrals still stand. Perhaps in Britain’s hour of need they will once again become the focal point of spiritual fervour. Perhaps the story of how they were built, and the economic climate which freed men to “labour for love” will challenge the modern preoccupation with the “balance of payments” and progressive taxation.

For there is a glory about those Cathedrals which transcends time.

Contributed by JEREMY LEE



Sgt. W.H. Shiers
A.F.M.



Lt. K.M. Smith
R.A.F.



Capt. Ross Smith
M.C. D.F.C. A.F.C.



Sgt. J.M. Bennett
M.S.M. A.F.M.

“God ’Elp All of Us!

VICKERS VIMY 1919

by Group Captain R.M. Rechner CBE DFC (RET.)

One of the original exhibits in the aircraft section of the National War Museum in Canberra was the Vickers Vimy aircraft used by Ross Smith and his crew for the epic flight from England to Australia in 1919. The story of this flight follows:

This aircraft should never have been housed in the National War Museum because the Vickers Vimy was never used in War. For this reason the Vimy was removed to a RAAF hangar in Canberra after World War II to make way for aircraft types used in that War.

It did not take many years before the fragile Vimy began to deteriorate. It was fortunate indeed that the late Senator K.A. Laught started a campaign to preserve the Vimy and the Custodian of the Aircraft, R.G. Menzies, who was then Prime Minister, agreed to release the aircraft to South Australia where Ross and Keith Smith were born, on the condition that it be suitably and adequately housed.

Senator Laught, a South Australian himself, generated considerable enthusiasm amongst members of the Royal Aero Club of S.A. and that Club agreed to investigate the feasibility of establishing a “suitable and adequate House” for the Vimy. The Aero Club decided that the project was beyond their resources, and that a Committee should be formed comprising a wide cross section of the Adelaide community from which those resources would be available. As a result of this decision I was invited to form a Committee and became Chairman of “The Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith War Memorial Committee” which invitation I readily accepted.

The Committee was formed, land at Adelaide Airport allocated for the proposed building, plans for the building prepared and a Public Appeal for 30,000 pounds was launched in 1956.

Due to the generosity of the Aviation Industry, Commercial organisations and the General Public, the money was raised, and on Sunday 27th April 1958 the Memorial Building, with the Vickers Vimy aircraft within was unveiled.

The Unveiling Ceremony was performed by Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. who was introduced by the President of the Committee, the Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. L.M.S. Hargrave M.C., V.R.D. in the presence of the Prime Minister’s representative, Sir Philip McBride, Minister of Defence, and many distinguished guests and members of the general public.

ENGLAND TO AUSTRALIA

On December 10, 1919, after a gruelling and hazardous 27-day flight from Hounslow, near London, a Vickers Vimy biplane flew in from the Timor Sea and landed at Darwin's Fanny Bay aerodrome—the first aeroplane to fly from England to Australia.

The crew of the Vimy were Captain Ross Smith, M.C., D.F.C., who was the pilot and leader, Lieutenant Keith Smith, the navigator and co-pilot; and Sergeants J. M. Bennett, M.S.M. and W. H. Shiers, who were air mechanics.

With the most primitive navigational aids, no wireless, and only the sketchiest meteorological information to help them with their flight plans, the crew of the Vimy had brought their big plane half-way around the world through extreme hazards to win a £10,000 prize offered by the Australian Government for the first Australians to fly from England to Australia in less than 30 days.

The Vimy, which Vickers had entered in the competition after some initial misgivings, was an ordinary Standard Vickers bomber similar to the one in which Alcock and Brown had already flown the Atlantic. It was modified only to the extent that it was fitted with an extra fuel tank to give it an endurance of 13 hours in the air at a cruising speed of 80 m.p.h.

It was powered by two Rolls Royce Eagle VIII engines each of 360 horsepower. The wing span was a little over 67 feet and the total loaded weight was six and a half tons.

The flight began on the snowy morning of November 12, 1919, when the Smith brothers and their crew climbed into the big bomber's open cockpit at Hounslow aerodrome and took off for Lyons on the first stage of their long journey.

The route chosen would take them through France, Italy, Crete, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Persia, India, Burma, Siam, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies to Darwin.

The navigation aids consisted of an Admiralty compass, a ground speed and drift indicator and, to quote Ross Smith's own account for the flight, "their own flying experience".

The weather forecast as they set out on that November morning could scarcely have been more ominous: Class V or totally unfit for flying.

Small wonder that Ross Smith wryly interpreted the Vimy's identification letters (G-EAOU) to mean "God 'Elp All of Us".

But confidence and high spirits abounded as the Vimy swept over the coast of England at 90 m.p.h. The early morning murk over Hounslow had cleared and the weather over the channel was glorious with no hint in the blue sky and the sparkling sea of the Class V flying conditions they had been warned about.

Over the coast of France the weather suddenly deteriorated and Ross Smith was dismayed to see that unbroken cloud stretched to the horizon. Soon the Vimy was flying through sleet and snow.

As the cold penetrated to the fliers' very bones until Ross Smith's limbs were so numb that he could hardly control the machine he recorded miserably—"This sort of flying is a rotten game. The cold is hell. I am a silly ass for ever having embarked on the flight".

But when, with their situation becoming desperate, they let down through a hole in the snow clouds, they found themselves dead on track—a wonderful tribute to Keith Smith's dead reckoning navigation—only 40 miles from Lyons.

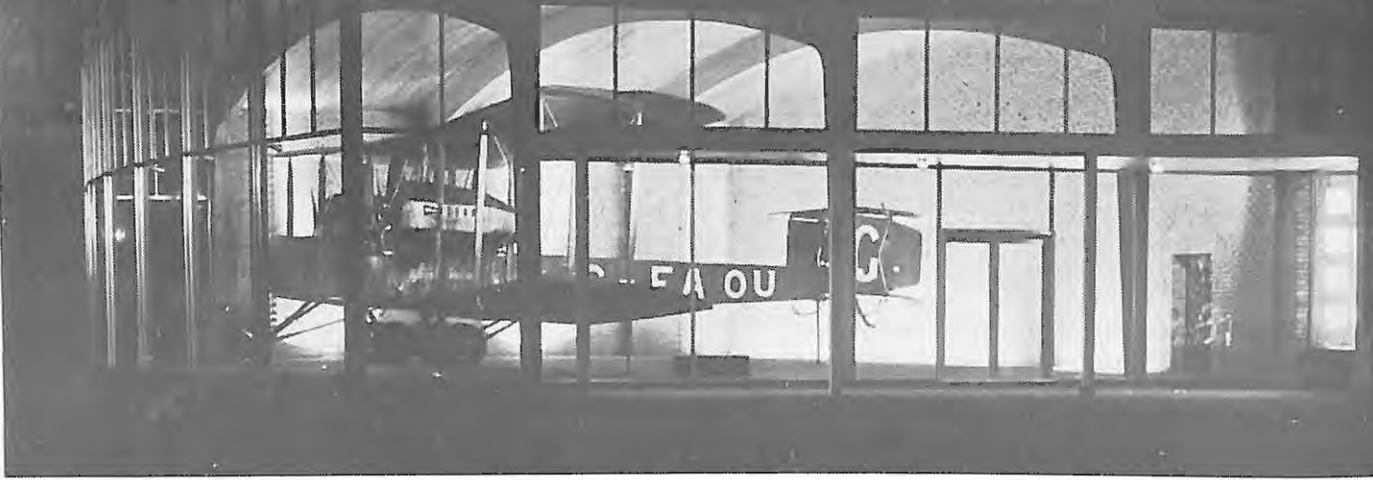
"We forgot the snow, the cold, the gloom; everything grew bright and warm with the flame of hope and success", Ross Smith wrote.

Soon they reached Lyons and landed.

The Hounslow-Lyons stage was the hardest of the whole flight. They had flown 510 miles on a day officially reported unfit for all flying.

The worst was behind them—but the rest of the flight was packed with incident and drama.

At Pisa they lost a day when the Vimy was bogged. Finally they got into the air with



Italian mechanics pulling the machine along by the wing tips and Sergeant Bennett hanging on the tailplane to prevent her from nosing over. Somehow Bennett scrambled back into the cockpit as the Vimy gained speed and took off like a seaplane for Rome.

Off the coast of Greece, still in bad weather, they had a hair-raising escape when, after passing through a low bank of cloud, they almost flew straight into a rocky island. It was only by turning violently at right angles that Ross Smith averted a crash.

At Calcutta they had another narrow escape. Just after take off, when the Vimy was about 10 feet off the ground, two kite hawks flew straight into the machine, one striking the wing and the other the port propeller. "We were at the time flying straight for the high trees and, had the propeller broken, nothing could have saved us from a terrible crash", Ross Smith's record says.

But with all the daily excitement and strain, it was sheer exhaustion that took the heaviest toll of the fliers.

Refuelling was the hardest part of the whole flight. While Bennett and Shiers worked on the engines Ross and Keith Smith personally refuelled the Vimy from four gallon tins, lifting and filtering through a chamois anything from half a ton to a ton of petrol at every stop. They trusted no-one else to do it.

Throughout the flight the crew never averaged more than five hours sleep a night and usually it was nearer four.

They had the greatest difficulty in keeping awake in the air and came to welcome rough weather which kept them alert and awake.

Fighting always against time they pushed on day after day—to Rangoon, Bangkok, Singora, Singapore, Kalidjati in Java, Sourabaya, Bima and Timor.

Then came the last thrilling stage across the Timor Sea to Darwin—and home.

At 2.06 p.m. on December 10 the four weary men in the Vimy caught their first sight of Australia, the Bathurst Island lighthouse. By 3 p.m. they were on the ground at Darwin, just 27 days and 20 hours after taking off from Hounslow.

They had won the race against time and the £10,000 prize with 52 hours to spare.

For this performance both Officers were knighted and the Sergeants received the Air Force Medal and the commissioned rank of Lieutenant.

"The hardships and perils of the past month were forgotten in the excitement of the present", Ross Smith records. "We shook hands with one another, our hearts swelling with those emotions invoked by achievement and the glamour of the moment. It was, and will be, perhaps the supreme moment of our lives".

(see back cover for route map)

Readers wishing to submit short, historical articles are asked to contact the editor.



“...We can be a united people.”

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 1977

The Queen said in her 1977 Christmas message that jubilee year had shown that her wish for reconciliation was not “an impossible dream”.

In the shortest Christmas message ever broadcast, only four minutes and 50 seconds long, she told millions listening to radio and watching television in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth:

“Last Christmas I said my wish for 1977 was that it should be a year of reconciliation. You have shown by the way in which you have celebrated the jubilee that this was not an impossible dream. Thank you all for your response.”

The Queen delivered her message from the ground floor Regency room at Buckingham Palace, and for the first time Christmas cards from well-wishers at home and abroad surrounded her. The text of her speech was as follows:

I shall never forget the scene outside Buckingham Palace on Jubilee Day. The cheerful crowd was symbolic of the hundreds of thousands of people who greeted us wherever we went in this jubilee year, in 12 Commonwealth countries and 36 counties in the United Kingdom.

But I believe it also revealed to the world that we can be a united people. It showed that all the artificial barriers which divide man from man and family from family can be broken down. The street parties and village fetes, the presents, the flowers from the children, the mile upon mile of decorated streets and houses; these things suggest that the real value and pleasure of the celebration was that we all shared in it together.

Last Christmas I said that my wish for 1977 was that it should be a year of reconciliation. You have shown by the way in which you have celebrated the jubilee that this was not an impossible dream. Thank you all for your response.

Many people in all parts of the world have demonstrated this good will in a practical way by giving to the Silver Jubilee Appeal. The results of their kindness will be appreciated by young people, and by those they are able to help, for many years to come.

The great resurgence of community spirit which has marked the celebrations has shown the value of the Christian ideal of loving our neighbours. If we can keep this spirit alive, life will become better for all of us.

Nowhere is reconciliation more desperately needed than in Northern Ireland. That is why I was particularly pleased to go there. No one dared to promise an early end to the troubles, but there is no doubt that people of good will in Northern Ireland were greatly heartened with the rest of the nation and Commonwealth.

The jubilee celebrations in London started with a service of thanksgiving in St. Paul's Cathedral. To me this was a thanksgiving for all the good things for which our Commonwealth stands, the comradeship and cooperation it inspires and the friendship and tolerance it encourages. These are the qualities needed by all mankind.

The evening before the service I lit one small flame at Windsor and a chain of bonfires spread throughout Britain and on across the world to New Zealand and Australia. My hope this Christmas is that the Christian spirit of reconciliation may burn as strongly in our hearts during the coming year.

God bless you and a very happy Christmas to you all.

... instead of dispensing with the Monarchy, why not make it work for us?



The Importance of the Third Tier

How many people endorsed the words of Adelaide journalist Stewart Cockburn, when he said, "when a politician feels himself powerful enough to sack a police commissioner as decent as Harold Salisbury, I start to feel a bit scared." (The Advertiser 20/1/78).

Large numbers of South Australians demonstrated this fear as they gave support on an unprecedented scale, to Mr. Salisbury.

Is such fear justified? For the answer to this question we can only turn to our East European migrants. People who have lived under totalitarian governments say, "Be vigilant. Don't trust Big Brother."

Instinctively we do distrust an all-powerful government, but an all-powerful chief-of-police would be equally dangerous. In totalitarian countries, the head of state and the police chief usually present a united front, and there is no opportunity for appeal to a higher authority.

SAFE POWER

It has been truly said that power in many hands is power in safe hands. Our parliamentary system was designed to divide power so that it is not concentrated in the hands of a few. Unfortunately, highly disciplined political parties make it impossible for us to take full advantage of the checks and balances with which the founding fathers sought to protect us. The upper house is increasingly controlled by the party machine and will eventually lose its value as a house of review. Is there nowhere that we can turn for help in the event of unfair or unwise laws? Sometimes it seems that the ordinary citizen is at the mercy of Big Government.

However we do have what could be a great asset. If used in the correct way. That is the Monarch or her representative.

Unless we require her presence at important social functions, we completely ignore the Queen. Supporters of a republican form of government claim that the monarchy is useless and out of date. True, the Queen and her representatives, merely sign the bills which are passed in parliament. By custom, though not by law, they cannot refuse to sign bills with which they disagree. This gives the impression that the crown is an expensive luxury which we can ill afford.

QUEEN'S ASSENT

Is this correct? Instead of dispensing with the Monarchy, why not make it work for us?

Section 58 of the Australian Constitution reads, "When a proposed law passed by both Houses of Parliament is presented to the Governor-General for the Queen's assent, he shall declare, according to his discretion, but subject to this Constitution, that he assents in the Queen's name, or that he withholds assent, or that he reserves the law for the Queen's pleasure.

The Governor-General may return to the House in which it originated any proposed law so presented to him, and may transmit therewith any amendments which he may recommend, and the Houses may deal with the recommendation."

Why not encourage the Queen (or her representative) to use this option, and refuse to sign bills which she considers to be against the best interests of her people. This would not make her a dictator. It would mean that controversial bills were given the utmost consideration. People would have time to state their objections and those who felt strongly on an issue could petition the Queen.

It may be thought that the exercising of this power, by the monarch, would result in the delay of necessary legislation, but it is possible that we already have too many laws. During each session of Parliament, much new legislation is added to the Statute books, and laws are seldom repealed. Anything which holds up the passage of suspect bills could be an advantage, and should be encouraged.

THE THIRD TIER

The divine right of kings has been replaced by the divine right of governments. Once elected, it is assumed that they have a mandate to do as they please for the next three years. Supposing that at

some stage, due to an emergency such as a war, the government of the day found an excuse to continue in office for a further term, and then indefinitely. In these circumstances we would need to have an effective third tier of government with the right to withhold assent.

The greatest argument in favour of the monarchy is a negative one. While the Queen occupies the position of head-of-State, no would-be dictator can elevate himself to either throne or presidency. While the Queen, through the Governor-General, is the head of the army, there is no room for anyone else at the top.

At the age of twenty-one, the Queen dedicated her life to the service of her people. Instead of having her days filled with empty public relations exercises, she might find it more rewarding to use her undoubted abilities to participate more fully in government.

AUDREY McMURTIE, Adelaide

A good fourpence worth

It was recently disclosed that the monarchy costs the British fourpence a head of the population per year. And you won't buy much with fourpence these days: less than two cigarettes, or a box of the cheaper sort of matches, or marginally more than one-quarter of the Times newspaper.

In a narrow British sense the Queen's Jubilee has served once again to show just how attached the vast majority of them are to their monarchy, and to this particular monarch. In her extensive Jubilee tours within the United Kingdom, which took her to many parts of England, to Wales, Scotland, (and she even insisted on going to Belfast despite the risk), she has brought a people through a difficult time much more than fourpence worth of hope and cheer.

And in the wider Commonwealth sense she has continued to play her unique personal role as its Head, meeting Commonwealth leaders during their summit in June and by her extensive tours. This year she has been out of the U.K. a total of 71 days on tours which have taken her to Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Canada, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Antigua, and Barbados.

"COMMONWEALTH" — Published by Royal Commonwealth Society in London.



MESSAGE

The Queen said in her 1978 Commonwealth Day message that she was "deeply moved" by the liveliness and enthusiasm of the young people she met during her jubilee travels. She wishes the young "courage, happiness and fulfilment". The message continues:

During all our visits to many parts of the Commonwealth in the course of my very happy jubilee year I was greatly impressed and deeply moved by the liveliness and the spontaneous enthusiasm of the young people who greeted us.

The Commonwealth takes its young people seriously, and rightly so, because they make up about half its population of nearly 900 million. I am glad that the Heads of Government, who gathered in London in June, have decided to continue the Commonwealth youth programme which encourages the participation by young people in all aspects of the development of their societies. Those who contributed so generously to the Jubilee Appeal also had in mind the young people of the Commonwealth. The establishment of the Silver Jubilee Trust, under the Chairmanship of the Prince of Wales will benefit the young people of all Commonwealth countries. It will help them to carry out community projects in other countries and to broaden their understanding of their fellow citizens of the Commonwealth and their ways of life. On this Commonwealth Day, the second to be observed simultaneously in all member-countries, and in a year when our young athletes will later be gathering at the Games at Edmonton in Canada, it is natural that my thoughts should be with the millions of young people in the Commonwealth. I wish them courage, happiness and fulfilment as they meet the challenge of fashioning a better society for themselves and for future generations.

A Queen Speaks to her People

A collection of Queen Elizabeth's Christmas Messages and Silver Jubilee address. Available from all Heritage Society addresses.

1 copy \$1.20 posted
10 copies 10.50 posted
20 copies 17.50 posted

Macquarie Place Sydney

Macquarie Place, Sydney, bounded by Bridge and Loftus Streets at the Quay end of the city is not only a delightful spot for many of Sydney's office workers to have their lunch or weekend strollers to rest their weary feet, but is in fact, probably the city's most historic oasis in an evergrowing forest of giant skyscrapers towering around it.

During the mid 1970's the Council of the City of Sydney closed off Macquarie Place to traffic for a trial period which allowed pedestrian traffic to use the park without having to cross the busy road. Following the success of the road closure the Council permanently closed Macquarie Place to traffic and during 1976/1977 paved an extensive forecourt and podium (used for band recitals etc.), planted trees, installed a drinking fountain, new park seating, and constructed in sandstone blocks, in keeping with the setting, garden beds planted with ferns, tree ferns, ivy, annuals and miniature palms of various varieties. There is also a small garden fountain along with other historic monuments all being set off with a row of authentic cast iron gas lights provided by the Australian Gaslight Company.



The anchor of H.M.S. Sirius now rests as a monument.

THE BEGINNING

Back in the reign of George III (1760 – 1820) a fleet of ships arrived in Sydney Cove (named after the then Secretary of Colonies, Viscount Sydney) within Port Jackson and the Union flag was raised to three cheers for the far distant King.

One of the Men-of-Wars within that fleet was the HMS Sirius which was to be in constant use for bringing supplies of food to the colony, which, on more than one occasion had to be placed on restricted food rations due to the uncertainty of supply. The Sirius was lost off Norfolk Island on 19 March 1790 by being battered on the rocky shoreline.

Years later one of the Sirius anchors was raised and set up at a spot very near to where the foundation proclamation was read in 1788, that site now forms part of Macquarie Place and the huge anchor, for such a small ship, is there for all to ponder the feats and hardships of ship and men who worked aboard her.

GOVERNOR MACQUARIE

Adjacent to the 'Anchor' is a cannon which was part of the HMS Sirius armament and was raised off Point Ross, Norfolk Island after the Ship was wrecked, on arrival in Sydney it was used for a number of years as a signal gun at South Head before coming to Macquarie Place. By the early 1800's Sydney was beginning to flourish and public buildings and roads were desperately needed for the well being of the people and for the expansion of the town and settled areas.

The man to do this job proved to be Governor Macquarie (1810-1821) who built hospital, churches, courthouses, barracks and also formulated a road building programme.

The point from which Macquarie's roads were measured was a sandstone obelisk, erected in 1818, in

Macquarie Place from which we are told the distance to Bathurst, Parramatta, and South Head Lighthouse is 137, 15½ and 7 miles respectively to mention just a few.

THOMAS MORT

By mid 1870 the Park was enclosed with an iron fence set on a sandstone plinth with an entrance gate from Bridge Street. The gates and iron fence are long gone, the plinth remaining along with the two sandstone gate posts which record the fact that Walter Renny Esq., was Mayor in 1869 and no doubt responsible for having the Park enclosed. An extremely imposing larger than life statue of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort stands on the south-western corner of the Park, Mort was very prominent in early Australian Commerce and Industry. He arrived in Australia from England in 1837 and was a leading force in establishing the wool market, he was a founder of the AMP Society, constructed Morts dock in Sydney Harbour for repair and building of ships and was one of the group who pioneered the refrigerating of ships holds and thus establish a meat export trade with Europe.

To balance Morts statue at the south-west corner the northern corner of Macquarie Place is adorned with a dome surmounted by an elegant lamp post which proclaims MEN. The domed glass roof in fact permits light to a Victorian period Gentlemen's underground convenience which is entered down one of two winding stairways.



T.S. Mort Statue

LT. JOHN WRIGHT A.I.F.

In the Park proper is a quiet corner with a small fountain trickling water, partly surrounded by seating where one can come and think or watch the birds as they come down to splash. The corner is a memorial



Obelisk showing mileages, Macquarie Place.

to Lieutenant John Wright of the 20th Battalion AIF who was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. He was a Sculptor and was to die at an early age on the battlefield of Bellecourt, France on 3rd May, 1917.

In the garden on the south-eastern corner are two beautiful shade trees — both planted on the 5th February 1954 to mark the commencement of Remembrance Driveway to Canberra — the trees have not looked back during the 23 years which has elapsed since their planting by HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip during the first visit to our shores by a reigning monarch.

1788 SPOT MARKED

About 100 yards to the north of Macquarie Place in Loftus Street, a flag pole has been erected on the spot where Philip originally raised the flag on 26th January, 1788 — the location was at the head of Sydney Cove but with reclamation of land around the Cove for roads, ferry terminals, and the overhead railway station of Circular Quay the water is now quite some distance away. The flag, which continually flies from the masthead, is not the present Union flag but a replica of the flag of 1788.

RICH IN HISTORY

I am sure there is no other Park in Australia which contains the history of a continent so completely as does tiny Macquarie Place, from the anchor of the first ship to ply the harbour to the planting of trees by the present Queen and Prince Philip in Remembrance of Australia's fallen and our achievement of nationhood.

Macquarie Place, is well worth the time taken by a visitor to Sydney or just a 'local' to rest their 'bones' in this delightful little Park, and try to soak in a little of the heritage, peaceful and violent which surrounds them.

FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

by Jeanette Wallis

Today perhaps as never before, people equate freedom with licence. An ever-expanding element in our society, disenchanted with the state of the world, is opting out to search for a better alternative, or make one.

But this is simply chasing illusions, for we can never be free of constraints. Indeed, not all constraints inhibit freedom.

Clearly, there is a great need for that world to be defined. Until we know what it is, and what it is not, it is impossible to either value freedom or preserve it.

When we function in a truly free manner, we exercise our intellect and our integrity to choose the right course of action. And the right action is that which will not undermine or violate the freedom of others, or damage our own well-being.

INDIVIDUAL LICENCE

Licence on the other hand, is an unenlightened condition in which the individual or the group seeks to gain momentary gratification regardless of the consequences of their actions, both for themselves and for others.

Embodied in the concept of freedom is intelligence.

We must be able to discern when others are trying to control us, and decide if that control (influence) will be in the best interests of all. So, while we should accept healthy discipline, and abide by laws which uphold divine principles, we should oppose actions which violate individuality and seek to impose repressive restrictions on society as a whole. Compulsion is a very poor second to enlightenment, and when governments and pressure groups resort to

devious methods to control the population, in the long term they damage themselves. Where there are even a few dedicated individuals who cherish freedom, and make it their business to know what is really going on, no government mistake or deceit will escape their scrutiny, and they will make it known.

PROTECTING FREEDOM

This is perhaps the crux of the issue. Once we have an understanding of what freedom is, and if we truly value it, we will regard it as our responsibility to protect and possibly extend it.

Where there is a threat to freedom, we should not surrender, but vigilantly uphold what we know is right.

Where there has been a denial of freedom, we should complain, until the situation is satisfactorily resolved.

Democracy cannot function unless we become intelligently informed, and notify our law makers of our expectations. They are duty bound to fulfill their responsibilities as our representatives, and if they fail we should democratically remove them. That is our moral and civic responsibility.

When we look to others to protect our freedom, we have already lost it. Our obligation is to know the truth, and that knowledge and understanding will make us free.

Australians be vigilant!

Rouse yourselves Australians, before it is too late, prepare to fight by word and deed, lest serfdom be your fate, without the power to move at will from job, from place to place.

Remove the blinkers from your eyes, beware the propaganda lies.

Freedom has been dearly bought, by men who by their courage sought truth and knowledge, liberty, for us, for free Australia.

FRANCES ALLEN, Victoria

N.S.W. BRANCH TAKES THE INITIATIVE

The Annual General Meeting of the N.S.W. Branch of the Australian Heritage Society held on 10th February, saw the unanimous re-election of its President Mr. Roy Stuckey, O.B.E. and Secretary, Mr. Colin Smith. Although Mr. Stuckey was absent due to hospitalisation, the Acting Chairman, Mr. Roy Gustard spoke highly of the activities of the Branch during the year. The Silver Jubilee Year was fruitful with the active participation of executive and members in distributing loyalty pledges, and encouraging others to subscribe to the Society and "Heritage" magazine. Mr. Roy Stuckey has been prominent in addressing organisations such as Rotary, Apex, and other service groups which has given good publicity to the Society and added numbers to the membership list.

Since the annual meeting there has been a steady increase in membership. The Branch having taken several initiatives in obtaining subscribers to the Journal. Copies of "Heritage" have been addressed to Doctors and Dentists suggesting the journal be left in their reception rooms. A careful eye has been kept on "Letter to the Editor" columns of newspapers and correspondents forwarded a journal. Although the "republicans" have been quiet on the issue of attacking the Crown and our institutions, the time is appropriate to do some "spade" work in reminding the public that their freedom is subject to the preservation of these institutions. One executive member found a rewarding response to his offer of Heritage magazines to the public during the recent Anzac Day procession. In short time his supply of brochures and journals was exhausted. On these national days an opportunity exists for us to promote our heritage and careful thought is being given to conducting a seminar on the subject to correspond with either the Queen's birthday or Australia Day.

Well done N.S.W. By the number of new subscriptions to our office your work is definitely paying dividends. - EDITOR.

Unsung

CANBERRA: Australia's national song is not to be sung - by order of the Government.

The Administrative Services Minister, Senator Withers, issued the curious edict yesterday.

He said that though "Advance Australia Fair" was called the national song it was really only a national tune.

"It is a tune to be played and not a song to be sung," Senator Withers said.

He made the announcement in a press statement headed "national song."

Senator Withers also laid down guidelines for the use of the national anthem, "God Save The Queen."

They allow the anthem to be sung.

Senator Withers said the Government believed that the anthem should be played at royal salutes for regal and vice-regal personages, during defence force service occasions, for loyal toasts and on occasions where singing was appropriate.

"On all other occasions it would be left to the organisers of the function to choose either 'God Save The Queen' or 'Advance Australia Fair'," Senator Withers said.

Voters chose "Advance Australia Fair" as the national song in a referendum on May 21 last year.

Senator Withers said that there were no official words for the song.

The Government will record cassettes of the national anthem and the national song, and these will be issued through Federal politicians.

Schools and those eligible for the free issue of the Australian flag can apply.

"WEST AUSTRALIAN" 11/4/78.

Mr. Fraser's government has outdone even Mr. Whitlam's wildest dreams. Not only has today's government succeeded in totally confusing the public (not to mention the world) but we now have a National Song without words. Why then call it a song if it is in reality only a tune?

Mr. Whitlam couldn't have done better. But Mr. Fraser isn't about to correct this ludicrous situation.

Almost every public gathering in Australia chooses to play our traditional anthem "God Save The Queen", for to play otherwise would mean a silent and befuddled audience.

For sanity's sake let's get this matter cleared up. The Heritage Society had a 90% vote in favour of "God Save The Queen" several years ago. That percentage will have changed very little.

So, Mr. Fraser, what is it to be? A choice of a tune without words - the words with no tune or the people's traditional and symbolic choice of "God Save The Queen"?

"Heritage" readers should write immediately to Mr. Fraser and their local Federal M.P. and ask for a clear decision on this outrageous battle of National Anthem versus National Tune.

THOUGHTS ON LEAVING SCHOOL

“Accept the challenge”

The following address was delivered on Speech Night by the Principal of Penrhos College, Perth, Dr. V. Horner, on December 5th, 1977.

It has been frequently observed that we are living in an age in which vast technological changes have wrought widespread transformations in social and cultural conditions. The upsets following in the wake of such changes have eroded some cherished values of the past and brought about conflicts and uncertainties in others.

The effects of all this have generated feelings of apprehension and instability. Some have sought a sense of security by immersion in the group in an attempt to regain their identity: others have rushed headlong toward any doctrine or ideology that offered certitude and relief from the afflictions of the world.

This state of confusion has not left education unscathed, yet all too frequently the uncertainties and conflicts in the larger society are reflected in its educational institutions and in their students.

GREAT VISIONS GONE

We no longer live in a day of heroes, but in a day of the normal man. No longer is education concerned with teaching students to emulate the great people of the past. Gone are the days when the vision of greatness was the incentive for learning, the days when you hitched your wagon to a star.

Less than fifty years ago, pressure was placed upon people to strive to achieve the ideal, unattainable though it may be. People fell short of the ideal but they knew it was there.

Today, things have changed. What a million people think cannot be wrong! The norm has become the statistical average and the pressures are upon each one of us to conform — to conform to our group. Then we'll be accepted. We must not be the odd one out. And so the “hero” or ideal has gone, to be replaced by an idol — a singer, a pop group, a musician an extremist. Such an idol belongs to a phantasy dream world requiring nothing but limp identification. And so we get the worship of the average and the denigration of excellence. And standards fall. No one must stand out above his fellows. In the long run this is the way of dreary mediocrity. It is the cult of the normal where excellence is despised and certainty not encouraged.

PERFECTION

I want the ideal restored; the hero to replace the idol. I hope that those of you who leave Penrhos tonight will see beyond current fashion, lest ideals are sapped and what could be is lost. Strive for perfection, the attitude which has been lost and which should be restored to ordinary living. This is my challenge to you.

It has been said that if man's wisdom had been as great as his knowledge he would today be in the midst of a “Golden Age”. Life is an adventure as rich in discovery as a voyage to a new land or a flight to the moon. There are hazards — and problems — but your challenge is to be a part of the answer to the problems of our community instead of a part of the problem. Make thoughtfulness and helpfulness to others a guide to more meaningful living.

Today we live in a world where nothing is had for nothing. You have been fortunate to have had the opportunity for a sound education, often given to you through your parents' sacrifice. This was their wish for you — a good education to equip you for a lifetime in society, using the skills you have learned and the knowledge you have gained.

DIRECTING SERVICE

I would pass on to you the words of President John F. Kennedy of the United States:

“My fellow countrymen, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world; ask not what Australia can do for you, but what together we can do for the ‘freedom of man’”.

This is a positive approach, an aggressive approach to living.

And so as you leave school to make your journey through life an “adventure in service”; use the education you have received, the skills you have learned and the wise counsel you have been given by your parents and by your teachers, to make a better world, not merely to earn a living.

Accept this challenge and this responsibility. Make it a personal thing. As you take up the task;

May the wind be at your back; may the road rise up to meet you; and may God keep you in the palm of his hand.

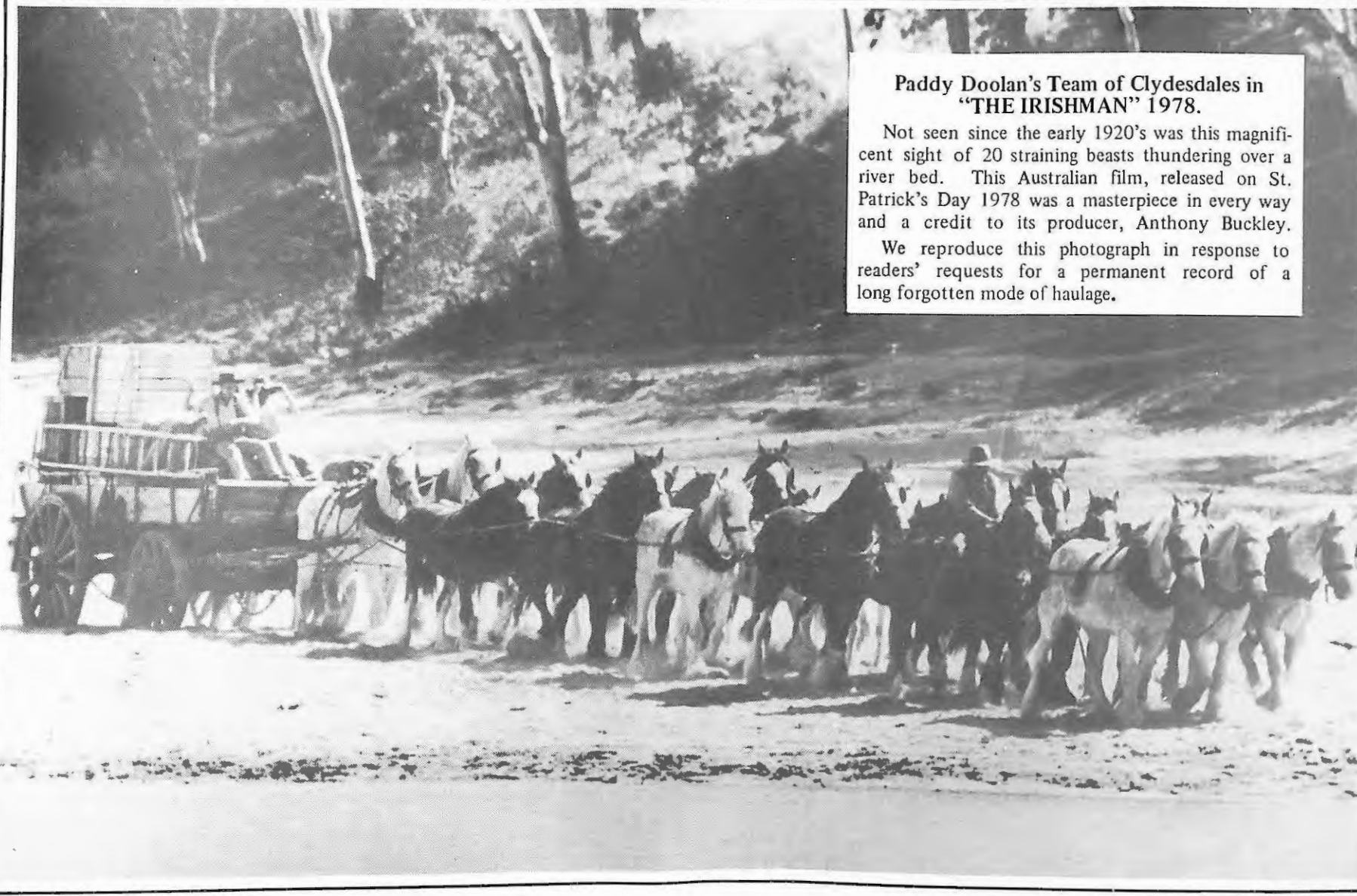


This is a code for parents as drawn up by young law-breakers at a Correctional Centre; related to the specific area where their own parents had failed.

CODE FOR PARENTS

1. **Keep cool.** Don't lose your temper in the crunch. Keep the lid on when things go wrong. Kids need the reassurance that comes from controlled responses.
2. **Don't get strung out from too much booze or too many pills.** When we see our parents reaching for those crutches we get the idea that nobody goes out there alone, that it's perfectly O.K. to go for a bottle or a capsule when things get heavy. Remember your children are great imitators. We lose respect for parents who tell us to behave one way while they are behaving another way.
3. **Bug us a little.** Be strict and consistent in dishing out discipline. It gives us a feeling of security to know we've got some strong support under us.
4. **Don't blow your class.** Keep the dignity of parenthood. Stay on the pedestal. Your children need someone to look up to. Don't try to dress, dance or talk like your kids. You embarrass us and you look ridiculous.
5. **Light a candle.** Show us the way. Tell us God is not dead, or sleeping, or on vacation. We need to believe in something bigger and stronger than ourselves.
6. **Be strong.** Don't be afraid of us. If you catch us lying, stealing or being cruel, get tough. Let us know WHY what we did was wrong. Impress on us the importance of not repeating such behaviour. When we need punishment, dish it out. But let us know you still love us, even though we have let you down. It'll make us think twice before we make the same move again.
7. **Call our Bluff.** Make it clear that you mean what you say. Don't be wishy washy. Don't compromise and don't be intimidated by our threats to drop out of school or leave home. Stand firm. If you collapse we will know we beat you down and we will not be happy about the "victory". Kids don't want everything they ask for.
8. **Be honest with us.** Tell the truth no matter what. Be straight about it. Lukewarm answers make us uneasy. We can smell uncertainty a mile away. This means being generous with praise. If you give us kids a few compliments once in a while we will be able to accept criticism more readily. We want you to tell it like it is.

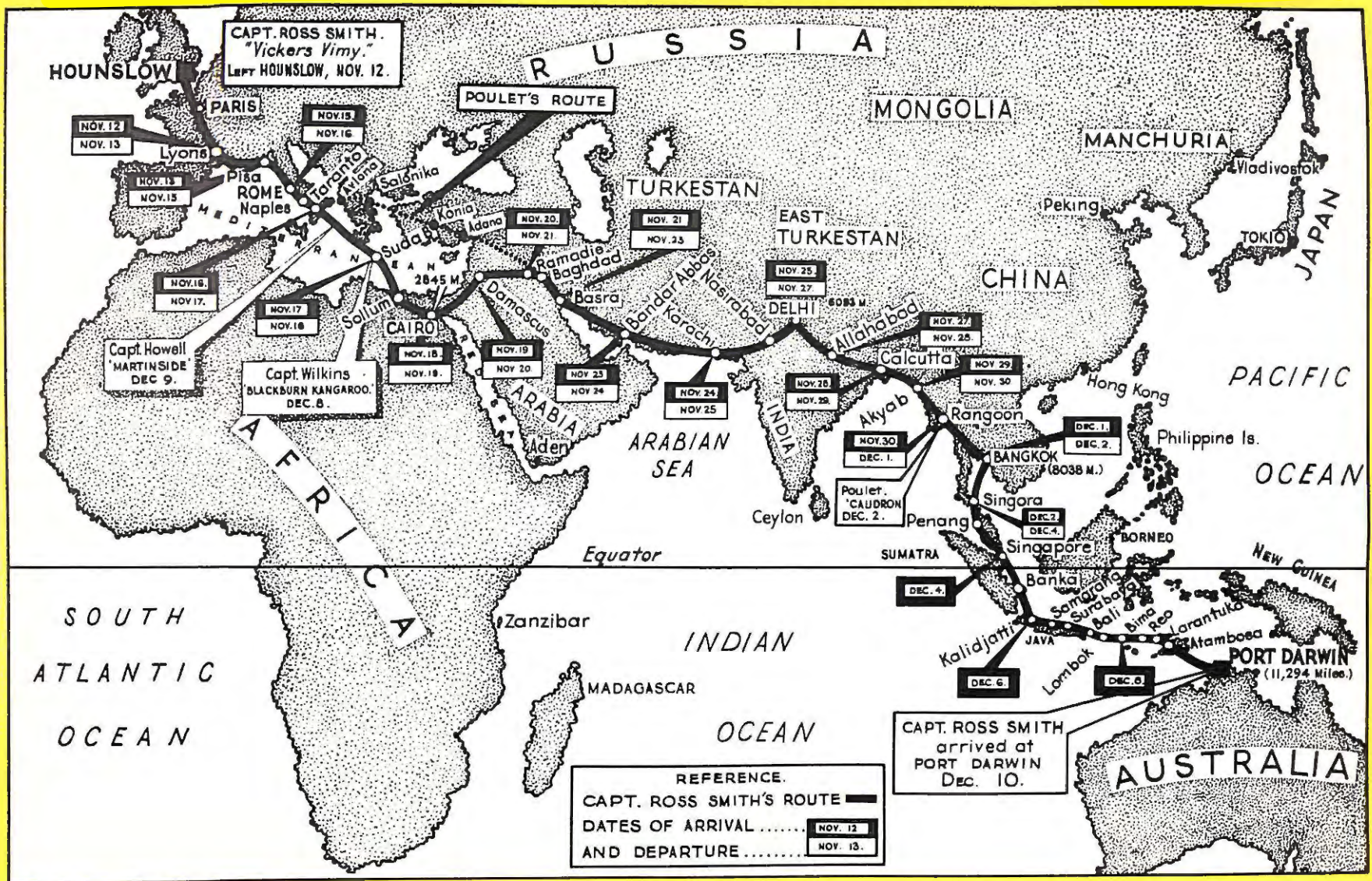
— From Concord Times, Magazine of the Concord Baptist Church.



**Paddy Doolan's Team of Clydesdales in
"THE IRISHMAN" 1978.**

Not seen since the early 1920's was this magnificent sight of 20 straining beasts thundering over a river bed. This Australian film, released on St. Patrick's Day 1978 was a masterpiece in every way and a credit to its producer, Anthony Buckley.

We reproduce this photograph in response to readers' requests for a permanent record of a long forgotten mode of haulage.



CAPT. ROSS SMITHS' ROUTE-HOUNSLOW TO PORT DARWIN.