

M.H.R. PREDICTS BRIGHT FUTURE FOR FINGAL VALLEY

THE VALLEY AND EAST COAST VOICE

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EDITORIAL

"The Fingal Valley is far from finished," Mr. Duthie, M.H.R., said this in a press statement earlier this month. "I deprecate the stories giving this false impression. The facts indicate that the Fingal Valley, especially the Fingal segment of it is on the threshold of a new prosperity and development."

"For instance, I have made strong representations to the Minister for Housing, Hon.D.F. Clark, M.H.A. for six new Commission homes in Fingal. Recently there were nine applications in Fingal for one vacant Commission House. It is fourteen years since the last Housing Commission house was erected in Fingal."

"There are young marrieds and young couples on the threshold of marriage who want to live in Fingal", Mr. Duthie said. "I pointed out to the Minister that the Forestry Project is a permanent feature of the Fingal Valley employing nearly eighty men; that there are three timber mills in Fingal, working full time and employing about sixty men; that agriculture was a secure investment of the Valley; that there are men working at Ros-sarden and Storeys Creek who live in Fingal if housing was available and the woodchip industry in the future would give a great boost to the area and a big inflow of men and machines would be expected."

"As well as this", Mr. Duthie said, "The State Government could consider now the setting up of a thermal powerstation in the area where the coal industry is getting stabilised once more; there are over forty employed at present and such a potential industry, backed by Government expenditure would have a great future in this area rich in mining ventures as well."

At the conclusion of this statement, Mr. Duthie reiterated his opening assertion by saying "For these reasons the district of Fingal, and to a significant extent St. Marys, is facing a bright, adventurous and prosperous future, and it is quite wrong to write the Fingal Valley off as finished."

If granted an export licence by Federal Government, and this seems assured, Tasmanian Woodchip Industries and their associates, Plantation Management will go into production next year.

Most of the predictions made in the past about this very important industry should then come to fruition. However for this particular area to gain its full share of future prosperity it now seems certain that the link rail between Launceston and Bell Bay is essential. With this rail built it will mean a non stop haul of processed chips from the Fingal line right through to Bell Bay for overseas shipment.

There will be many benefits associated with this line and perhaps the most important will be the fact that the Fingal line will then become an essential and lasting part of the chip industry. It will also, along with some other branch lines hauling chipped timber, become a profitable proposition and of great benefit to a declining railway system. Out of the red again it would quash permanently any government talk about scraping our line and because of its new and increasing role it would become an added source of labour in The Fingal Valley.

It would also then become necessary to build and staff chipping plants here to feed this system. This again would increase local labour.

As an alternative of course, the timber for chipping could be taken out by road, but such an added volumn of traffic on our narrow highways would be undesirable. No doubt the Tasmanian Government can see all this but at times the vagrancies of politics can become confusing and they may consider the little enough available money could be used to more advantage elsewhere.

During the next few weeks every committee, club and interested group in this entire area should make it THEIR business to convince the Government just how important this link rail is to us.



THE EDITOR and STAFF of the EAST

COAST and VALLEY VOICE extend the

compliments of the SEASON to all their

readers. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

WINE
and
DINE

at fabulous



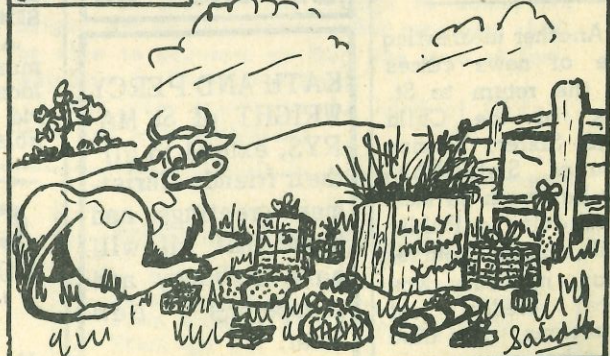
SURFSIDE MOTEL

ST MARYS
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Christmas pies &
cakes
wholesale and
retail.



CLEM AND LILY.



GUESS WHAT CLEM GAVE ME FOR CHRISTMAS!

HOLIDAY BOY - HOLIDAY GIRL COMPETITION

In aid of Girl Guide Camping Fund. Commences December 30th - Entries will be available at the PAPER CHASE AT FALMOUTH.

AND AFTER THAT from Mrs. G. Dean, Mrs W. Cruse and Matron Simpson.

Boys and Girls are invited to hold functions during the holidays and if they raise the quota will be in the running for the Big Prizes. \$200 worth of prizes.

Quotas & age groups as follows:-
Boys & Girls 12 - 16 yrs Entry Quota \$20.
Boys & Girls 10 - 12 yrs Entry Quota \$10.
Boys & Girls 8 - 12 yrs Entry Quota \$5.

Prizes will be awarded at a function to be held on Saturday January 24th and all money raised must be in by January 23rd.

--- REPOTTING PLANTS ---

HINTS ON INDOOR PLANTS

Here is this weeks hint from the St. Helens Nursery. Many indoor gardeners would like to know when their plants need repotting. Turn the plant upside down and spread your fingers over the soil. Rap the pot downwards on the top of the table and the entire mass of soil complete with twisted roots will drop into your hand. If you can see a twisted mass of roots showing through the soil the plant should be replaced in a larger pot, and the free space filled with similar soil.

With proper care indoor plants will give lasting satisfaction and they make excellent gifts.

TOUCH'E

Its nice to read in one of the other papers sold locally that the Headmaster of the St. Marys District School is plugging for a High School in our district.

Another interesting piece of news comes with the return to St. Marys of the Child Health Sister, Yvonne Whittaker. Sister Whittaker has been in Melbourne doing a Public Health nursing course I hear, not only won several credits and distinctions; she also topped her course.

FLOOR SANDING & SEALING

E A (Bill)

BAILEY

Phone

Bicheno 23

KATH AND PERCY WRIGHT of St MARYS, extend to all their friends Christmas greetings and hope that all will have a happy and prosperous New Year.

SOCIAL NEWS Miss Piffle

Betty Newman is back from a wonderful holiday in Western Australia. Betty flew over to W.A. and after about 10 days returned overland on a camping trip with her sister and two friends. Margaret Newman with her friends Laurie Bell and Irene Becker will spend Xmas with her parents Mr. and Mrs. T. Newman and return to W.A. early in January. Mr. and Mrs. Newman's second daughter, Kath will be spending Xmas in New Zealand with her friend Kura Konia. They will spend Xmas with Kura's mother then tour New Zealand before returning in three weeks.

locust plague

★ *THE INCREDIBLE sex life of the adult locust is to blame for the plague that has swept the Central Western Slopes and Plains of NSW and threatens the vast agricultural riches of the Hunter River Valley.*

While the female locust lays her eggs — 60 at a time — the male fidgets impatiently nearby, waiting to mate immediately the female finishes her chore.

This habit of instant re-fertilisation enables the locust to produce a massive population explosion which, when left unchecked, has devastated whole countries.

POST witnessed the awesome habits of the plague locust on the black soil plains near Gulgambone, 330 miles west of Sydney one day recently.

Our guide, Agriculture Department Field Officer, Ron Hosie, led us to a bare patch of soil that literally writhed with brown and green locusts.

Closer examination showed an orgy of egg-laying and mating in progress.

Female locusts were busy boring into the ground with their extendable tails, each making a hole about an inch-and-a-half deep for their eggs.

A strange crackling rose from the living carpet of locusts, rather like the sound of dry twigs snapping in a camp fire.

The battle to stop the nightmarish hordes swarming into the rich Hunter Valley is expected to continue throughout the summer.

Statistics spell out the seriousness of the problem: an average swarm contains two million locusts, which can produce something like 180 million locusts in a year, thousands of millions in two years!

Agriculture Department officers, estimate that a typical dense swarm can gobble its way through TWO THOUSAND TONS OF FODDER IN A SINGLE DAY.

A soldier settler, Mr Gordon Crago, of Yarramundi station, summed up the situation: "The locusts are like the rabbits — we can never get rid of them completely, but at least we may be able to get them down to a controllable number."

CARYLE

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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FOR SALE...Scooter, pneumatic tyres, needs new tyre. \$4. Ph. St. Helens 67.

Millwood, 90% dry Will deliver locally, Scamander, Falmouth - \$9 per 3 ton load. Ph. 167, St. Marys.

King's Bus Service serving St. Marys St. Helens Winnaleah Bicheno and Swansea. Passengers. Ph. Winnaleah.

Brown's Bus Service St. Marys. Brown's distribute this paper quickly and efficiently. Why not let them work for you ??

FOR SALE...Singer sewing machine treadle, has elect. motor \$50. Also one air gun model 22, as new. \$10. Phone 71 St. Marys, evenings.

For the Bride who wants to look radiant, on her wedding day without unnecessary expense, hire or buy your own gown from, Glamour Gowns, Shaws, Arcade Launceston.

HERITAGE CORNER

From Mr. J. Strachnetter of Ulverstone comes this glimpse of the East Coast of the 19th century.

"In the mid 1890's Her Majesty's Mail was carried between Bicheno and St Marys on horseback by a colourful character named Billy Edwards, dressed in long thigh-length leggings, and in inclement weather with an oilskin coat and a souwester hat nad always with a grin on his weatherbeaten face.

He carried a horn (a very polished affair) cut from bullock's horn around his shoulders, with which he used to those alert people along his route who had private mail bags that he was in the vicinity. He would blow the horn some two hundred yards away on approaching these peoples homesteads if they had private bags so that they would have it ready to hand it to him without loosing time, and when returning, next day, he would repeat the operation in the opposite direction; his warning was two blast on the horn.

He was never known to miss a trip. Up one day and back the next; floods or bush fires had no terrors for Billy; he just took them in his stride; his paramount thought was to get Her Majesty's Mail through on time, he was never known to fail in his duty. He would never stop to swap yarns with acquaintances on his way, just a curt 'Howdy' as he passed and a clip from the switch in his hand to remind his mount that time was passing and he must be on time; you could set the clock by his punctuality.

His services were very much sought after by many of the people living along the route bring them prescribed medicines from the chemist at St Marys, as well as proprietary lines; it was so convenient for the Chemist too, to have an emissary who gave unfailing service to sender and recipient alike. He would carry these supplies in saddle-bags slung across behind him on the cantle of his saddle, as his lap was utilised for the most important article mission, and for which he always carried a small oilskin for use in keeping the mail bags dry in rainy weather."

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TAA



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AGENT

T. Haley & Son Phone St. Helens (6)

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FUN WEEK

A PROGRAMME OF FUN IN THE SUN

(AND THE MOONLIGHT)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26:

Tour of George Bay. Fishing vessels leave Town Wharf 2 pm. Arranged party at St. Helens Golf Club Rooms, 8 pm. Chicken and crayfish supper and other refreshments. Music, competitions, Prizes, Donation, \$2 each.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27:

Fishing contest George Bay, 8 am. to 4 pm., conducted by St. Helens Surf Angling Club. Entry fee 50¢. Entry forms and weigh-in near Bay View Hotel. Fishing from shore or from boats. Proceeds to Medea Park Association. Prizes all varieties of fish. Information from Secretary, Max Franks, St. Helens.

Legacy Golf, St. Helens Golf Club, 8 am.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28:

Swimming Contests, Nautilus Motel Pool, St. Helens, 2 pm. to 4 pm. Arranged by St. Helens Rural Youth Club.

Evening: Barbecue, O'Connors Beach.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29:

BP Car Treasure Hunt, starting BP Service Station, St. Helens, 11 am. Licensed drivers report 10:30 am. Duration 4 to 5 hours, distance 100 miles. Valuable and varied prizes. Entry fee. Details from BP, St. Helens, Barbecue, O'Connors Beach, 6 pm.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30:

10:30 am., C.W.A. Cake Stall, etc., Main Street, St. Helens.

Falmouth. Paper Chase begins 2 pm. at Iluka Caravan Park. Proceeds to St. Marys 1st Girl Guide Company. Entry 10¢. Barbecue 4 pm. 8:30 pm, Dance Memorial Hall, St. Helens. Rural Youth Club.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31:

Bikini Contest, Scamander Hotel-Motel Pool, 2 pm., followed by music and dancing. St. Marys District Hospital Dance, Community Hall, St. Marys, 9 pm. to 1 pm. For Hospital Amenities Fund. Music by Shizanda Extremes. Admission 70¢.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1:

St. Marys Races. Barn Dance at Pyengana, organised by the Tennis Club. Music by Echoes 4. Admission 60¢.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2:

Walkabout, organised by St. Helens Sea Scouts for boat shed and hut fund. Seven miles on Tasman Highway from St. Helens and return. Starts St. Helens Recreation Ground 2 pm. Rural Youth Club Dance, Memorial Hall, St. Helens, 9 pm. Music Shizanda Extremes. Admission 80¢ and \$1.20.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3:

St. Helens Football Clun Unregistered Sports Carnival, St. Helens Recreation Ground, 10:30 am. Cycling - Half mile, one mile and foot-miles handicaps. Chopping - 9 in., 10 in. handicaps, open chainsaw race. Running - 100 yds., 440 yds., 1 mile and footballers' mile. Entry fee, \$1 each event. Novelties for children. Miss Teenager and Tiny Tot. Refreshments. Admission 50¢. Afternoon tea, St. Helens Mothers' Club. Grand Final Dance, Memorial Hall, 9 pm. Rural Youth Club.

IN THE EYE OF THE LAW

The festive season has once again arrived, and we take pleasure, through the medium of this column, to wish all readers the compliments of the season.

This period of the year exemplifies the well known phrase, 'Goodwill to all' and your contribution to such goodwill should well include your actions as a road user, whether you be driver, passenger, cyclist or pedestrian.

Those who were privileged to hear the address given by Mr. L. H. Bessell M.H.A., Minister for Transport, at the St. Marys High School Speech night, must have been impressed by the remarks he made with regard to safety on the roads, during the holiday season and throughout 1970. This was a clear indication that the Government is genuinely concerned for your safety, and this makes it incumbent for all concerned to make their contribution towards reducing the ever increasing toll of the roads - something of which we are not proud.

For the children, some will no doubt receive a bicycle, tricycle or scooter for Christmas, and in their excitement, ride them on the streets. We strongly urge all parents to impress upon their children the necessity for extreme care. The slightest distraction or lack of concentration, could put them in danger. It should be remembered that a car traveling at only 40 miles per hour, is travelling 60 feet per second, thus allowing little time in which to extract a child from a dangerous situation, should it arise.

For those who will be enjoying their holidays near the sea or river, we urge you to take all reasonable precautions to avoid the possibility of a tragedy. Too often do we find that water fatalities are the result of carelessness and in many instances, could have been avoided.

We express appreciation to all those persons who have co-operated during the year, and by their example, have endeavoured to induce others to do likewise. It is our sincere wish that happenings such as accidents, be kept to a minimum. The policy of prevention will be strongly enforced, in all possibility with the use of modern aids, such as Amphometers and Breathalysers.

STAN GRAHAM

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QUICK DESSERT

QUICK DESSERT: Mix thoroughly 2 cups of sweet biscuit crumbs with 2/3 cup softened butter. Press firmly into a greased 8 inch pie plate. Place in refrigerator and pie will set in a few minutes. Any filling can be used, depending on time. If in a hurry, use jam and top with nuts, whipped cream or ice-cream.

MISPRINT

MISPRINT: And when policewomen with the raiding party searched the woman who rented the house they found \$32 in notes hidden in her brassiere. The money, said Mr. John Culpin, prosecuting at Bedford, was part of a treasure chest the woman and her sister had built up.

THE FROCK SHOPPE

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ST. MARYS HIGH SCHOOL.

At St. Marys High School speech night on Dec. 12th the Headmaster, Mr. Barnfield said it is gratifying to note that Mr. R. F. Scott a previous headmaster of this school has been named as chairman of a committee set up to look in to the needs of rural education. Mr. Barnfield said country children should attend a country High School. Here is something tangible that the Government can do for this part of the island. Not only will a hostel provide a High School of a size capable of providing an education comparable to any in the state, but it will also provide some work and trade for the area. He added if this is to come about there must be no parochial feeling against St. Marys. The decision to establish a High School at St. Marys was taken many years ago and if the whole area wished to have the best of the educational world for their secondary children, they will support wholeheartedly this High School and its aim for a children's hostel.

Mr. Barnfield concluded by saying 'As you know I am leaving to take up the headmastership of New Norfolk High School. I thank you for your wonderful support and I am sure you will equally support my successor, Mr. Denzil Williams of Brooks High School.'

CABEAN SAYS

Christmas is here once more and we have not only reached the end of a year, but the end of a decade. What ever we remember about the nineteen sixties, they have not been a time particularly of peace, although undoubtedly, our prosperity has increased as a nation.

During this decade we have become increasing familiar with such terms as drug problem, abortion reform, sexual permissiveness and the Pill, the revolt of youth, the decline of the churches, Vietnam and atrocities, pollution and conservation, Flower Power and the Hippy cult of Love, to say nothing of the Apollo Moon landing.

To Tasmanians, a lot of these terms are merely words, conjured up by the press, and have no relation to the peaceful lives most of us live. We are far more concerned with the change of Government, the breaking of the East Coast drought, kangaroo shoots, margarine versus butter and our children leaving school.

Whether we like it or not, the increased tempo of living and with it, the problems and tensions we merely read of or hear about on television, are there and will effect the lives of our children dramatically in the next decade.

In the meantime, whether we are wholeheartedly Christian, or simply write Christmas on official forms, we will continue to decorate Christmas trees with tinsel and the Star of Bethlehem, eat Christmas puddings and poultry and partake of too much Christmas Cheer.

We will send hundreds of tons of Christmas cards and spend hundreds of dollars on many presents which cannot be used and which we don't want particularly to give. We will also doubt, make all kinds of New Year resolutions and hardly keep any of them, or shall we be expected to live up to them.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE.

Something for EVERYONE

THE FINEST FOOD ---
THE FINEST WINE ---
THE FINEST MUSIC ---

Lamplighter Cabaret - Restaurant

THE HELENS HOTEL MOTEL

NIGHTLY from DECEMBER 26 DANCE to the music of THE PRELUDES, most versatile trio on the COAST. FEATURING the mighty Conn Organ.

SCAMANDER RIVER MOTEL HOTEL

Bikini Contest at poolside 2 p.m.
Wednesday, 31st December, FOLLOWING by
DANCING to THE PHANTOMS
Phone SCAMANDER 55 and 70

INDOOR AND HOUSE PLANTS

GARDEN NOTES

Flowers give a room character and interest, something for the eye to be attracted to and rest upon. Keeping a room supplied with cut flowers is our way of bringing the garden indoors. Another and most interesting way is the cultivation of indoor plants.

Most indoor plants are easily grown if their two main requirements are fulfilled. These are, careful watering and a naturally well lit room. A bright sunny room where the light rays are strong is best, although the sunshine should not fall directly on the plants. If these requirements can be met, nearly all varieties of house plants will thrive. Care should also be taken to ensure that sudden temperature changes and strong draughts be avoided.

The range of plants available is too large to include details here, but a visit to your local nursery should prove interesting and informative as well as a pleasant afternoon out.

Correct watering is a most important requirement in the care of indoor plants. Watering should be done as needed and not at fixed intervals. Certainly a good routine of inspection should be developed but there is no necessity to water each plant every time. It is only necessary to see that the soil remains moist; they will not do well if the soil is soggy or dry. Remember too that at times a plant is resting, it becomes dormant and so at these times it requires very little water.

To test the watering requirements check the soil below the surface - do not judge by simply looking at the surface soil.

If the plant is not doing well or shows signs of deterioration do not hesitate to move it to a new position.

Teenagers play a chicken game—they ask a policeman for a light for their reefers

peculiar social problems, Canberra could become a hard drug centre like Washington in America.

The argument for and against drugs, particularly the right of the individual to destroy himself if he wishes, would fill a dozen issues of this magazine.

But a report of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs is worth noting when it says: "Some people think that a person is free to poison himself if he wishes to and that any effort by society to prevent the addict from taking his drugs is an infringement on individual liberty."

"This, of course, is an indefensible concept in a modern society, in which an addict not only destroys himself but is likely to harm others in the process."

And this brings us back to the kid we mentioned at the beginning. He is now 16 and will probably die of drug addiction. He will, like at least 10 other junkies in Sydney in the last year, take the fatal hot shot that will, at least, release him from his fearful bondage.

But the harm he has done others is already spreading like ripples on a pond. His father has had a nervous breakdown. His mother tried to kill herself.

All because of that purple heart offered so freely and taken so thoughtlessly at a pop concert.

STAR-PROBE by Pegasus

This week here is a character profile based on the stars.

ARIES: The Ram; Planet - Mars: Birthstone - Diamond.
Fiery and impetuous with little thought for tomorrow.
An enthusiast, tough, reckless and falls in love with a bang! Aggressive and has a pronounced taste in fashion.

TAURUS: The Bull; Planet - Venus: Birthstone - Emerald.
Slow to anger - then watch out! Likes money because it makes life easier. Loves food. Very down to earth person.

GEMINI: The Twins; Planet - Mercury: Birthstone - Agate.
Argumentative, intellectual and fickle. Has the ability to lead a double life. Nervous energy. Inclined to be emotionally cold at will.

CANCER: The Crab; Planet - The Moon: Birthstone - Ruby.
Over-emotional and sensitive. Patience, tenacity of purpose and vivid memory especially of childhood. Shy and retiring but an understanding person.

LEO: The Lion; Planet - The Sun: Birthstone - Sapphire.
Independent, power-seeking and ambitious. Great sense of the 'right thing to do' - meticulous. Passionate. Great worker.

VIRGO: The Virgin; Planet - Mercury: Birthstone - Sardonyx.
Has common sense but is a worrier. Meticulous. Tendency to hoard things. Exact and conscientious - a perfectionist.

LIBRA: The Scales; Planet - Venus: Birthstone - Opal.
Harmonious, diplomatic, gentle and tolerant. Sociable, cultured and non-aggressive. Finds it difficult to say no.

SCORPIO: The Scorpion; Planet - Mars: Birthstone - Topaz.
Wonderful stamina. Aggressive and passionate. Does not like taking advice. Excels in their own field.

SAGITTARIUS: The Archer; Planet - Jupiter: Birthstone - Turquoise.
Always wanting to go further. Explorer, adventurer - loving open spaces. Does things in a big way. Eccentric. Strong.

CAPRICORN: The Goat; Planet - Saturn: Birthstone - Garnet.
Self-control. Inclined to be pessimistic. Ambitious. Conventional. Disciplinarian and diplomats. Tend to be slow but sure.

AQUARIUS: The Water-Carriers; Planet - Saturn and Uranus: Birthstone - Amethyst.
Full of ideas. Inventive. Efficient. Very human. Obstinate. Popular but sometimes the 'loner'. Artistic.

PISCES: The Fishes; Planet - Jupiter and Neptune: Birthstone - Bloodstone.
Adaptable. Either idealistic or a drifter. Gentle, shy, sensitive and prone to melancholy. Changeable. Lovable.

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Quick cure

ON THE long train journey into the city the woman had bored us all to death with vivid descriptions of her aches and pains from a recent bout of flu. "And as for this throat of mine," she moaned as the train pulled into a station, "I really don't know what to do about it." An elderly gentleman sitting next to her got up to leave, leaned towards her and said; "Cut it." Mrs E.L.

**NORMIES
NOOK**---

ST MARYS PHONE
107

TAKE
AWAY
FOODS

N.R.&I.R. MORRISON

FINGAL COUNCIL NOTES.

At the December meeting of the Portland Council, the Council Clerk, Mr. Press, reported that he had made an approach to the Minister for Tourists, Mr. K.O. Lyons, for a visit and survey of the tourist potential in the Portland area. Mr. Lyons replied in a letter to council that owing to commitments he had not been able to visit the East Coast yet, but hoped to spend a whole week in the area in the New Year.

Council envisaged chartering a boat to take Mr. Lyons on a trip to St. Helens Point and later also, to visit St. Columba Falls. Other Ministers will also be visiting the area on January 17th, for the Athletic Carnival and later for the official opening of the Medea Park Homes.

Because of the high cost of quarterly plumbing charges to the water supply, which cost in the vicinity of \$600, council may find it necessary to restrict water supplied from January to the end of February each year. This would reduce overall costs considerably.

The Hobart Marine Board have been approached with a view to clearing up some of the unsightly wrecks near the entrance to St. Georges' Bay. Mr. Plumstead of Scamander has made an offer to council to purchase two Pomona pumps (capacity 10,000 gallons per hour), which were purchased in 1961 and have been in obedience since other pumps replaced them with the inception of the new water scheme in 1967. Mr. Plumstead intends to use the pumps in his newly built swimming pool. Council will consider the offer further.

Council have decided to purchase two blocks of land and an old building, opposite the St. Helens District Nursing Centre, for use as a Civil Defence centre. The blocks and buildings cost \$1,850.

The road sealing plant was now in the St. Helens area and a start would be made shortly on three sections of roads in the district, namely a section of the Binnalong Bay Road, St. Helens Point road and the Priory Road.

Tasmanian Aero Club

The Tasmanian Aero Club will once again be strongly represented at the Bridport holiday resort this year. On Boxing Day a fleet of light aircraft will be flown into Bridport Airfield and remain there for approximately two weeks. These aircraft will be available for joyrides over any part of Tasmania including Cape Barren and Flinders islands. Thousands of people on holiday in recent years have had their first flight in modern light aircraft during the Christmas holidays, and for the first time they realise the valuable service these aircraft can provide. Landowners, in a fifteen minute flight for a few dollars can see their next five years work from the air, which would be impossible to assess from the ground.

Make this your year - just telephone George Smith at Bridport airfield on 56 1155 and you will make this year's holiday different.

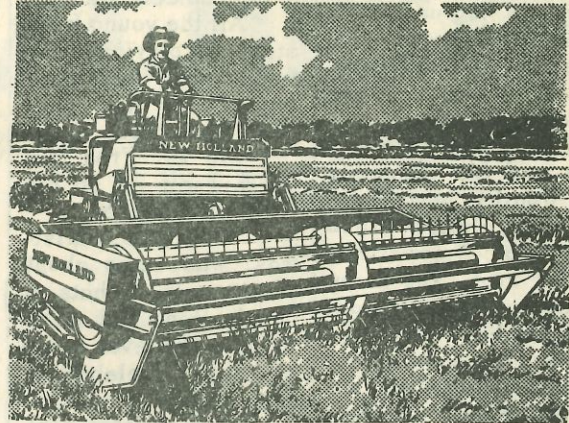
Remember Dad and Dave

★ THE NAME Arthur Hoey Davis might mean nothing to the average Australian, but at Drayton, a suburb of Toowoomba (Q), it means a lot — enough to erect a memorial to him.

In his day Davis was famous as a writer, but the Australian public didn't know him as Davis, they applauded him as "Steele Rudd," creator of Dad and Dave. Davis was born at Drayton, and the surrounding Darling Downs is suggested as authentic Dad and Dave country. Here on the outlying farms and selections of the early days were found the originals of the Steele Rudd characters.

Writes a contributor: "They were not the fools people often made them out to be. They had unorthodox ways, to match their environment, and a sense of humor which enabled them to laugh when the joke was on them. Surely these were the true pioneers of the Darling Downs."

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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT TASMANIA

FROM THE PULPIT

Here we are standing on the threshold of a new year. Perhaps many of us are wondering what the new year will hold; whether it will hold prosperity or poverty, sickness or health.

It is here that the Christian, with his faith in God, can face the future with calmness, knowing that God will hold him steady under all circumstances.

Paul, the great apostle, proved this when he wrote to the Romans. This is what he said: 'For I am persuaded, that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ our Lord.'

Put your hand into the hand of God, in faith and with confidence.

Good on you, Biggs!

I THINK it's high time the police stopped chasing the Great Train Robbers. It all happened years ago



MR FROGS XMAS

There once was a very old frog named Al-oyious Frog, who lived in rather a slimy pond. When he was a young frog, he had been called Al, but now he was old and full of puffed up, frog-like importance, he was always called Mr. Frog; sometimes Mr. A. Frog. The young frogs laughed at him and called him 'Old Al', when they were safely out of his hearing, but in Mr. Frog's presence they were always most polite and said 'yes Mr. Frog' or 'no Mr. Frog' as the case demanded. At any rate, there was never time to say more as Mr. Frog was a great talker.

He always talked of the hard times when he was a tadpole and food was scarce.

'You young frogs don't know anything about going hungry,' he often said, as he sat on his favorite rock and puffed out his wrinkled, old frog skin. 'All you do is play leap frog all day and sing and croak all night. In my young day, it was different.' Mr. Frog hardly ever explained how it was different and no one ever asked.

All the young frogs thought Mr. Frog rather a boring old frog, but they never said so. When they were quite small tadpoles, their mothers had told them always to be polite and listen carefully to old So they always frogs did.

One day, as the young frogs were playing leap frogs, a skinny frog named Tad (a name his mother had given him as a tadpole and had never changed) said, 'Its nearly Christ-

mas time; what are we to do as a celebration?'

All the young frogs stopped playing leap frog and scratched their heads with their long, back toes.

Old Mr. Frog puffed himself up on his rock and croaked,

'Christmas, Christmas, who cares about Christmas? Thats a people thing and we're frogs. Who ever heard of frogs celebrating Christmas?'

Mr. Frog didn't really know much about Christmas, but he wasn't going to admit it. Anyhow, he didn't like change or the young frogs suggesting anything different.

The young frogs listened politely, then one said, 'People have Christmas trees and give presents.'

They all thought about this for a while, till Tad said,

'We don't really need anything. We've got a lovely, big pond and plenty to eat. All the young tadpoles are swimming and growing nicely. No one disturbs us and we're quite happy, so I think presents are a bit useless. Also, we're not really tree animals. No, we'll have to think of something else.'

They all thought for a while and Mr. Frog blew himself up bigger than ever and blinked his pop eyes and said,

'Young frogs are not what they used to be.'

'I know,' said Tad suddenly, his voice going squeaky with the excitement of his idea.

'Last week, I met a very pretty lady frog, who came from the town. Her name was Phyllis

and she told me all about a Christmas celebration called Carols. Everyone gathers together on a night close to Christmas and they all sing beautifully and hold tiny, flickering lights, which make lovely patterns among the trees and grass. Now,



Mr. A. Frog.

we are all very good at singing and if we practised hard, we could hold our own Christmas carols in this pond.'

In spite of himself, Mr. A. Frog was interested, he felt he was the best frog singer for miles around.

'But the lights, how will we get the little, flickering lights?' a young girl frog called Millicent wanted to know.

'The fire flies,' Mr. Frog said, proud to have thought of something as ingenious as this.

'What an excellent idea', said Tad, 'You two, pointing to two, young frogs who were pushing each other into the pond, 'Go and find some fire flies and tell them we need their help for our Christmas celebrations.'

The two young frogs started off immediately while Tad raised his hand for silence.

'Mr. Frog and all young frogs,' he began, 'We will have to plan this carefully, Mr. Frog will train us each day. We will have to listen carefully to his instructions and practise hard, as some of us have never really tried to sing in tune, but have been content to croak any old how. At the end of the week, which is Christmas Eve, we will invite all the young tadpoles and our mothers and fathers and any friends and relatives who would like to come, to hear us perform. Is that clear?'

'Yes', all the young frogs shouted, while, Mr. Frog looked more important than ever and said to himself, 'Tad will be a good enough

greatly excited as never before had any frog seen or heard Christmas Carols.

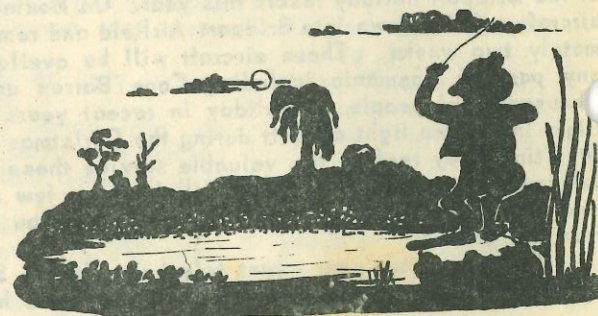
The fire flies flew to the pond in hundreds and on the head of each young, singing frog, a bright little fly perched. There were quite a few over, so they sat on the heads of the quests.

When everyone was comfortable, Mr. Frog held up his hand and blowing himself up until Tad was frightened he would burst, he said,

'Ladies and gentlemen, the Frog Choir will now sing their first Carol!'

Such a chorus of melodious frog voices was never heard before. They sang and sang and gently moved their heads so the fire fly lights flickered prettily across the pond. The people in the town, five miles away, said, 'How beautifully the frogs are singing tonight.'

Mr. Frog didn't sing but conducted the choir with a long greer bullrush.



frog when he grows up, if he listens carefully to me.'

Each day for a week, Mr. Frog sat on his rock, while all the young frogs gathered around in the pond and listened carefully to his instructions. They practised hard and each day improved more and more.

On Christmas Eve, old frogs and young frogs, large and small tadpoles and tadpoles who were nearly frogs, came from far and wide. They travelled from every pond and creek and water hole for many miles. They were all

When the final song had been sung and the applause had died down, Mr. Frog dropped his bullrush and said,

'Ladies and gentlemen, these young frogs have given a splendid performance tonight and I wish to tell you all, I will be training any young frog who is interested in Christmas, each year, from now on. I hope the fire flies will continue to supply their lights and you will all continue to come to the pond each Christmas. Tad will be helping me.'

And that is how Mr. Frog stopped talking of his young days and became interested in Christmas Carols.

E.A.D.

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