

Extracts from THE HIGHWAYMAN
December, 1978

GEORGE KEMLO

George Kemlo retired from the Department's service on 24th January, 1979 because of ill health.

George commenced duty on 16th November 1970, and was employed from this date until his retirement in the Voucher Examination Section. George is best known for his work on administration of contract voucher payments and the efficient and cheerful manner in which he discharged his duties.

George who was born in Dundee, Scotland, in 1914 commenced work as an Apprentice Clerk in 1934. In 1935 he was employed as a Junior Overseer in the sugar industry by the Demerara Company Limited in Guiana. When he left the company in 1969 after more than 34 years' service, George held the position of Administrative Manager.

After ceasing duty in Guiana, George and his wife came to Australia for a holiday, liked us and stayed.

A presentation of a wallet of notes was given to George on 23rd March, 1979 where Officers who had been associated with George, during his time with the Department, expressed their appreciation of his services and the value of his friendship.

As will be noted, George Kemlo was employed in Guiana, the former British colony of British Guiana on the north eastern tip of South America. This small country was the site of the mass killings and suicides by a fanatical religious sect.

We requested George to relate some of his experiences there, but as this would require a great deal of time he was unable to oblige.

Instead he has submitted a copy of his employment agreement with his original employers - Demerara Sugar Estates, which gives some idea of what was entailed in the former colony.

25th October, 1934

Sir,

The terms on which we engage Overseas for our Sugar Estates in Demerara are as follows:

- (a) The applicant must be over 19, and not more than 25 years of age, and unmarried.
- (b) He must produce' a satisfactory certificate of character, and after a personal interview with us, must pass an examination by our own Doctor.
- (c) Salary, from date of arrival on the Estate to which he may be allotted, will begin at the rate of \$350 per annum (£72 18s. 4d.), and will be paid monthly. Salary for the second year will be fixed by the Manager of the Estate.

The Overseer is liable to dismissal should his conduct prove unsatisfactory to the Manager.

(d) Board, furnished lodgings, and medical attendance free. A monthly allowance is made for servant and washing. Meals are taken at the Manager's House, and an allowance of \$378 per annum (£78. 15. 0.) is made to the Manager for boarding each Overseer.

(e) If the Overseer pays his own passage out to Demerara (cost about £ 35), it will be refunded by us should he remain on the Estate and give satisfaction for twelve months from date of arrival.

If it is preferred, we will advance the passage money, on the understanding that the amount is put to the debit of the Overseer's account, and that the Manager of the Estate may have the option of deducting \$ 10 per quarter from Salary towards the amount so advanced. After two years' satisfactory service, any amounts so deducted will be repaid, and the passage money cancelled.

(f) After five years' satisfactory service, the Overseer will be entitled to a free passage home, and provided he undertakes to return to our Estates he will also be entitled to five months' leave on full pay, and his passage back to Demerara.

ODD NEWS

Why was the countenance of Warren Bourke so ruddy earlier this year? So much so that he made the root vegetable appear to be suffering pernicious anaemia.

And all because of a baby. Nothing unusual for a married man but the suave Warren had not told us beforehand that he was married. Consequently he had some explaining to do to counter the raised eyebrows that met him wherever he went.

The story has a happy ending and the trio can continue, along with Dawn Fraser, to enjoy at first hand the paddingtonisation of Balmain where Emoh Ruo is situated.

And who else should decide to go mod - none other than Henry Mostek of Staff, who has forsaken staid Clovelly for trendy Five Dock, that suburb soon to be enveloped in the renaissance gradually spreading westward.

With Skylab plummeting to Mother Earth, folk in Special Typing branch were not taking any chances. Convinced that their days were numbered, they organised a wake. Food was consumed as though it was going out of fashion and firm promises made of a rendezvous in the Great Beyond. The "Happy?" group is pictured.

Friday 13th will not easily be forgotten by Gordon and Esme Fox. On that day in July they were run down in a pedestrian crossing. We are pleased to report they are progressing well with no lasting injuries sustained.

Cheers to attractive Marie Humphrey of Bridge Section for her diligence in unravelling the contentious furphy surrounding the Victoria Bridge over the Nepean River.

For ages past the rumour has persisted that this bridge was to be built by an English company and erected in Russia. The Crimean War interrupted proceedings and the order was cancelled. The New South Wales Government wanted the ironwork from the same company and so the bridge was given to us. It was considered that the trusses on the bridge were excellent for troops during wartime as they offered protection from bullets.

This story is entire hog-wash as the bridge was never designed for Russia but for the Government of New South Wales. The bridge was planned by Mr John Whitton. It was designed in detail by Mr (later Sir) John

Fowler, who supervised its manufacture by Messrs. Pete, Brassey and Betts of Birkenhead, England, and Mr T. R. Firth supervised its erection. Owing to floods later carrying away a lengthy timber approach at the western end of the bridge an additional span of 135 feet of iron bridge, similar in design to the existing bridge, was manufactured by the Thames Iron Company, Blackwell.

The well-articulated voice of Diane Cottell is no longer to be heard. Diane resigned recently from the Telephonist section in preparation for the 'great event'. One of her co-workers claims the diesel could no longer carry the extra weight. Good luck Diane.

A group of us had the pleasure of enjoying a barbecue at "La Maison Dibley" in early March. The delightfully serene and sylvan setting of their Loftus home lent itself admirably to the occasion. Our thanks to the attractive and gracious hostess, Leonie, for such a pleasant evening. Host Ken flaked before the finale and no amount of prodding or toe pulling could awake him from slumber. Oh, to enjoy such an easy conscience.

HOWARD KEYVAR

All Saints Day was chosen by Howard Keyvar as his first retirement. Imitating Madame Melba he intends coming back on the eve of St. Patricks Day to retire once again.

Despite the sanctity attached to 1 November, Lucifer and his fallen angels must have won the day for Howard and his work mates celebrated at the Red Lion Hotel. They were honoured to have the top floor at their disposal.

A liberal distribution of drinks intermingled with an equally liberal clicking of the flashlight. The necessity to meet Publisher's deadline prevents us including the results of various stages of inebriation but we plan to display the photos early in the New Year.

Howard came to us in 1968 and was attached to the Garage section in the capable hands of Bill McGennissen. He quickly became noted for his calm and friendly nature and we trust he derives considerable enjoyment from his trip to the United States.

Looking forward to seeing you in March, Howard. Good luck and best wishes.

FAREWELL FUNCTIONS

Heino Jonnes Rebase who commenced with us in 1949 retired recently

He was originally engaged as an Engineer Draftsman and saw service in Metropolitan and Parramatta Divisions and also the Road Design Section.

In December 1970 he was appointed a Road Design Draftsman and completed his service from the Inner Freeway Division.

Les Walker an Inspector with the Weight of Loads Section retired on 10 October after a period of 13 1/2 years.

Geoffrey Michael Lloyd-Smith who commenced in the Legal Section in July 1968 retired on 21 August. He had been a Senior Legal Officer since January 1976.

Michael O'Halloran, a Storekeeper with Supply from February 1975 retired on 12 October.

To these four gentlemen we extend our best wishes for years of enjoyable retirement.

IN MEMORIUM

As a token of their esteem and so that he will be remembered, the mates of Bob Willis have combined to purchase a trophy which is inscribed.

RUSSELL CLARKE

One of our most amiable Group Accountants, Russell Clarke, retired on December 6, 1979.

Russell commenced as a junior in April 1935 and achieved high rank by dint of his application and capability.

An accountant by profession, Russell saw service in Norfolk Island and the Northern Territory during the war years, prior to joining the RAAF in 1944.

With the war over, he was engaged in the costing, audit, financial control and the O & M Sections, reaching the status of Assistant Secretary from February 1974 until September 1975 when he became a Group Accountant.

Exceptionally debonair and impeccably dressed, Russell Clarke was an outstanding advertisement for the Department.

A luncheon at the Masonic Club was provided by Russell's fellow Officers followed later by a well attended dinner at the Mandarin Club. A presentation officiated by Mr. Cooper concluded the farewell ceremony. The presentation consisted of two paintings.

There are rumours that the Clarkes will make another overseas trip but, meantime, they are content to spend as much time as possible with their daughter in Dunedoo.

Russell certainly gave the lie to those who think Accountants are a dull breed. His breezy good humour and youthful appearance made him one of our most popular members and all who know him regret his departure but wish he and Roma many years of health and prosperity.

MORRIS LINDSAY

After over 43 years' service Morris Lindsay decided that was enough and settled for retirement on 31st January, 1980.

"Morrie", as he is known to his many friends, commenced duty with the Department as a Junior Clerk in June, 1936.

Subsequently, realising his talents lay in other directions, he transferred to Survey Drafting in 1938 and has spent the balance of his service in that field with the Survey and Property Section, except for a period of three years with the R.A.A.F. between October, 1942 and October, 1945.

Spending so many years in the Survey and Property Section, Morrie is able to recall much of the early history of the Section, including many stories of the exploits of former Survey and Property employees.

Morris Lindsay.

His retirement virtually ends an era as his name is added to the list of such retired identities as J. C. (Cliff) Boulton, Albert Leisner, Jim Ball and Bill Stark.

Morrie intends to use his new found spare time to take up painting seriously and intends to challenge a well known S. & P. surveyor artist for the right to exhibit his work in the Principal Surveyor and Property Officer's office.

August

RECORDS ROUND UP WITH SLIM AND CHAS

Poor old Thommo, couldn't even find a Two-up game on April 25. Rumour has it the other LT. was tied down by the Missus. The Red Rooster has once more saddled up to referee soccer, have a blow Charlie! Reference was made in a previous issue to Father dear father regarding the AJAX episode, now we know that he is Foreman material, lemon charged.

Steve Martin has a new love, an ASTON MARTIN, the trouble is the photo never gets past Bill Prior's table. Congratulations Brett Buckley on your selection in the Sydney Under 18 Rugby team.

Our old mate Slim has been suffering from a rash problem, that's no rash joke, he reckons. Of Interest - We have just been notified that the Long range weather forecasters' Annual Picnic to have been held on March 2, 1979 has been postponed because of the likelihood of rain.

Our long distance runner John Torpey loves to keep running, recently he jogged in from Curl Curl to Head Office and followed it up early in June in a Giant Jog from Palm Beach to Manly.

Thursday, June 22 saw Records farewell Martin Blue one of its popular sons, Martin has given up flying around the Head Office with a file barrow to fly an F-111 (rumour)! Martin joined the R.A.A.F. and was given a farewell by his friends in Records after hours on June 22. Our best wishes go with him.

Photograph with this newsletter shows him in flying goggles (we believe they were owned by ORVILLE WRIGHT).

We noted that the singing group (?) MEATLOAF visited Australia mid June, well we have our own group FRUIT CAKE to take them on, it's even got a few nuts in it ... See photo.

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