

Extracts from THE HIGHWAYMAN, 1979
February
THE FIRST OF NOVEMBER

The "Boys" from the Garage were gather'd around, In a pub in Pitt St, where all could expound.

When the "Ginger Beer Boss" decided to "Shout", They all hemmed him in, and he could not get out. The "Air Commodore" made a dive for the door,

But the "GS" stopped him with twenty three more. Then "JY" proposed to give "Sello" a go,

And they all drank a bunch of "Money-Bag's" dough.

The "Squirt" made a statement - "It's Beer I don't touch, I'll drink all the Whiskey, I don't talk very much!"

And "Mother" then said: "I don't want to complain, But I will get Hell, if I miss the last train".

"Big Daddy" as usual, laughed very loud,

As the Management bought a "Shout" for the crowd. And "Murphie the Surfie" turned up from afar,

And "Rusty" appeared to be chained to the bar.

"Boney" looked darker and darker, each minute, His body went black from the beer he put in it.

"S.O.L." was looking paler than ever, For he was, distinctly, under the weather.

And "Gubbo" and "Grease" could not count after nine, whilst the Ex-Staff-Assistant drowned in his wine.

And "Tricky" was there with his usual poise But after a few, made a "helluver" noise.

---Long John" from the "Colony" just drank white grape, The pictures he took put us all out of shape.

"Iggy" was there, full of tearful compassion,

And "O'Brien Glass" drank beer out of fashion. A "Mac" from relations did not miss a drink,

And just about then, the room started to shrink.

'Course there's a man who was named as the winner For "Grundo" was seen to pay for "Keev's" dinner. And those who aren't mentioned were lost in the fog of cigarette smoke and the good time, and grog.

Gratefully yours, I will always remember, That special night on the First of November.

- HOWARD KEYVAR

Howard decided to commit to verse his recollections of his retirement day.

W.D. (WHIT) DOWSE

"Whit", who commenced with the Department on the Sydney Harbour Bridge on 13th July, 1959, and was the Attendant at the Campbell Street entrance to Head Office from 28th September, 1970, was very well known to the members of the Accounts Branch.

Whit was well known and liked for his unfailing courtesy and assistance and his retirement on 7th November, was accepted, with regret, by all who had known him.

On the morning of his last day he was entertained at morning tea by the Assistant Secretary, the Group Accountant, the Personnel Officer and other Officers.

In the afternoon the Pay Section in conjunction with other Sections gave him a special afternoon tea.

As Whit had told us that he would be going on a few fishing trips, he was presented with a leather overnight bag as a memento of his service with the Department.

Whit, we all wish you long life, good health, good fishing and a happy and rewarding retirement.

T.A. (BERT) BOSWARD

Bert, who spent most of his career in the Department in the Pay Section, was Manager of Receiving Operations at Anthony Hordens before joining the Department on 4th November, 1968.

Bert commenced in the Records Section but was transferred to the Pay Section on 3rd September, 1969, to look after the processing and payment of urgent cheques. During his nine years service in this position he became well known to the staff of the Legal Branch, Voucher Examination and Ledgers and Statistics Sections.

Bert retired on October 19 and the Pay Section, where he had worked for so long, gave him a special afternoon tea. In view of his prowess at Bowls he was presented with a new Bowls Bag as memento of his service with the Department. Bert, good wishes from us all to you and your wife, a long life, good health and a happy and rewarding retirement.

LARRY COUTTS

Larry entered the Department's service on 12th February, 1935, at the age of sixteen. He commenced work in the Plan Room and then worked in the Country Section and Records until he was transferred to Bega on 10th May, 1937. After nearly three years in Bega he returned to Head Office to the Bookkeeping Section on 5th February, 1940.

On 22nd May, 1942, he enlisted in the R.A.A.F. and after training as a navigator in Australia and Canada was attached to Bomber Command, England and served in operations over Germany.

After the war in Europe was won he was transferred back to Australia and was demobilised on 11th September, 1945 with the rank of Flying Officer.

On his return to civilian life Larry was attached to the Bookkeeping Section until the 7th April, 1948, when owing to war caused illness he was placed on a breakdown* pension until 19th May, 1952, when his health had improved to such an extent that he was able to return to work.

On his return to work he was attached to the Maintenance Section until September, 1954. He was then transferred to the Staff Leave Section where he remained until 4th October, 1963.

Larry spent the next fifteen years as Cashier ... surely a record. While in this position Larry became well-known to everyone in the Department and when he announced that he intended retiring with last day of 18th December, 1978, but would be going on recreation leave from November 20, it heralded the loss of one of the Department's more colourful personalities and one who did his job without fear or favour.

On November 14, the Commissioner and other Senior Officers had Larry to morning tea, where the Commissioner, in view of Larry's long and meritorious service, presented him with his gold badge for 40 years service. The Pay Section, where he had worked for so long, had a special afternoon tea for him and presented him with an engraved pewter tankard as a memento of his long service with the Department.

Later on that day a party of over fifty of Larry's friends and fellow officers entertained him at a smorgasbord dinner at the City of Sydney R.S.L. Club. As an added compliment to Larry, several retired officers were present. After the Secretary, Chief Accountant, Paymaster and other officers spoke on his behalf, Larry was presented with a pewter teapot (selected by his wife and himself) as a further memento of his Departmental service. Larry responded in his usual breezy manner and even entertained the gathering with an old R.A.A.F. song and the lighthearted evening continued to the late hours.

Larry, we all wish you and your wife long life, good health and a happy and rewarding retirement . . . (and may you one day learn to be a top euchre player).

December, 1979

Alan Moorcroft is now Chairman of the Public Service Association of New South Wales - Department of Main Roads Sub-Division. Alan's untiring work in the interests of his fellow worker have deservedly earned him high praise from several quarters and have made him an invaluable asset to the Association. Small wonder he has been seconded to the Head Office of the Association on occasions. Well does Alan fill the motto of this year's Annual Report on Public Service Association activities:

"A union man you cannot be, no matter how you try,

Unless you think in terms of we, and not in terms of I."

Young artist Phil Eldridge is responsible for the new logo on letterheads.

Now attached to the Agriculture Department, Phil has the satisfaction of knowing that his logo has official approval. An earlier one showing the letters D.M.R. inserted in a map of New South Wales has not the same legitimacy. **Though approved on letterheads for some time, efforts to track down the official sanction for the use of this logo elsewhere, were to no avail so that the swollen version of it, boldly adorning the wall of the main building is colourful but illicit graffiti.**

Reg Hales sends his best wishes to his many friends. Now a resident of Townsville, Reg thoroughly recommends "going troopo" as an occupation.

Welcome to Sister Maree Kay, who has succeeded Sister Jones in Occupational Health duties.

Our well wishes to Neil Drumgold and Peter O'Neill who were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively at the Annual General meeting of the Recreation Club on September 25, 1979. Neil, who was recently appointed Principal Correspondence Officer, will combine his noted talents with the highly

personable and go-mod Peter, who is chief of the new Policy and Economics Unit. We look forward to an animated club with these two at the head.

Our thanks to the boys whose expertise is responsible for many of the photographs in the magazine. These boys work under "Marshall" law which is benevolent rather than malevolent. Working in perfect unison, the trio consist of the skipper, Nino Marshall, Michael Pratt and Stephen Foote and we all agree that they do a first class job even though conditions are arduous at times.

No-one in E.D.P. will admit to being author of the final sentence concerning Geoff McLaughlin's farewell - September issue refers. Suspicions fall on a certain debonair young man but he stoutly but blushinglly denies it, tho' truth is usually the Norm with him.

Our thanks to past Club Chairman, Max Anderson, who performed most capably during s term of office.

Congratulations to John Lee, who is a storeman at Central Store. John, a comparatively unknown midfield player from Bankstown, was the surprise winner of the 1979 Rothmans' Gold Medal for Soccer. Hailing from Scotland, he played four years with the famous Celtic but could not make the grade. John had a year in South African Soccer and a year with Lancaster City in English-non-League Soccer before venturing to Australia.

Who says Bondi is blessed with the world's leading surf? Consult Charlie Latimer of Central Records and his map will put you straight. The famous seaside suburb is transformed into an outer western one while present inland ones are situated where turf meets surf. No doubt it will be a collector's item and Charlie steadfastly refuses to surrender it.

Pleased to hear from Frank Fowler who put us right on the whereabouts of Miss Peggy Dewar; whom we mentioned in the September edition. We are happy to advise that Miss Dewar is still alive and well and lives in the Warringah area.

Recently-appointed Public Relations Officer, John Andrew and Designer, Phil Verner, had the pleasure of meeting Sir William McKell at the Exhibition to mark the centenary of the Garden Palace Exhibition. Sir William now nearly a nonagenarian is in remarkable spirits. He will be remembered as a former Govenor-General and earlier as the Premier of NSW. He spoke with pride of the work carried out by the Department in the war years.

We have been told about the Irishman who was hired as a linemarker out in the divisions. Apparently he impressed the DE the first day when he painted 20 miles of lines down the centre of the road, but the second day his tally was limited to a mere 15 miles. By the end of the week when he managed only 3 miles, he was called into the office to explain. "It's further back to the pot now," he reasoned.

We received advice that our late esteemed member Bob Willis was remembered in perpetuity on August 26 when the 14 ft. boat he bequeathed to the North Sydney Anzac Memorial Club was named in his honour. We trust that all who sail in the "Bob Willis" will be attended by good fortune.

Those charming Cafeteria girls went crazy over the Rugby League Grand Final in September . . . our photo tells it all. Sign 'em up, Peter Moore!

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