

Extracts from THE HIGHWAYMAN
June, 1968

RETIREMENTS

MR. E. J. MOLLET

Mr. T. Coulter, Engineer-in-Chief, presided when a farewell was tendered to Ern Mollet in the Staff Club Room, Head Office, on Thursday, February 23.

Mr. Coulter, revealing that Mr. Mollet was one of our "oldest inhabitants" having served for 42 and a half years with the D.M.R., handed him a long list of names of people throughout the State who, unable to be present, wished to make known to Ern their good wishes for his retirement.

Mr. Fawkner congratulated Ern on reaching (and sympathised with him too), the "ripe old age" of 65. He seems to have thrived on hard work and looks fit enough to go another 65 years, was Mr. Fawkner's opinion. The Department was losing a stalwart and he extended thanks to Ern for his efforts, in particular while acting as Supply Officer over the last several years. Mr. Fawkner also recalled Ern's skill at handball in earlier years, when he was a keen and competent exponent.

Mr. Gittoes, speaking on behalf of Mr. Mansfield who was unable to attend, said Ern must be the officer with the widest and most varied clerical experience. He'd always found him honest and straightforward, and one who had taken an active part in the D.M.R.'s social activities, as well as being always willing to help others. He recalled a time when he and Ern spent some time playing the "machines" with never a draw until he withdrew, leaving Ern to collect the loot!

Mr. Barton said that he had always found it a pleasure wherever he had worked with Ern.

Mr. McCaffrey remarked that while the Irish played with a HARD ball, Ern had played SOFTball! He said he was privileged to have been his friend and hoped that this friendship would continue.

Mr. Endean said that Ern's retirement resulted in his becoming the "oldest inhabitant" of the D.M.R. He had usually found that Ern never got flustered and when asked if he was excited about his impending retirement, seemed quite composed. But Sam was a little doubtful when he saw Ern at lunch that day putting CHUTNEY on his ice cream!

Mr. Sexton said he had appreciated Ern's friendship, and expressed good wishes on behalf of staff in the field. He mentioned that this year Ern's name appeared on the Honour Board at Pratten Park in every class of bowls.

Mr. Lloyd mentioned that he had always found Ern affable and expressed appreciation of the help and advice given to him, and other members of the staff, over the years.

Mr. King expressed the appreciation of the Newcastle Expressway staff for the help given in providing supplies.

Jack Connell made known that staff of the Supply Section had given Ern a very fine send-off a week earlier, while Ted Turner said he would miss the funny stories.

Finally, Mr. Coulter added his thanks for the assistance given him by Ern-he was an example for younger officers to follow. He extended to Ern and his wife best wishes for a happy life in retirement, on behalf of the

Commissioner who was unable to be present, and joined with the previous speakers in adding his own. Mr. Coulter mentioned that the chutney earlier mentioned was actually strawberry jam-but he did see Ern put his cigarette in the butterdish!

The Engineer-in-Chief then presented Ern with a number of fine gifts, which came with the best wishes of his fellow officers, comprising a standard lamp, silver teapot, smokers' stand, dinner set, and a wallet of "fives".

Mr. Mollet, in reply, expressed thanks to those whose generosity had provided such fine gifts for his wife and himself. He had appreciated the friendship of the staff, present and past, over the years. He said his career with the D.M.R. had nearly been abruptly terminated when as a junior clerk he had accidentally "got off" with £40-fortunately, his explanation had saved his job! He said he had appreciated the loyalty and support of all officers with whom he had been associated.

Of several telegrams conveying good wishes that he had received, one in particular he felt might require some checking up. It read:

Mr. P. Bruce, c/o D.M.R., Sydney.

Hunter Valley expresses gratitude for constant assistance and co-operation. Best wishes to you and Mrs. Mollet for happy and healthy future."

Mr. Mollet joined the then Main Roads Board on 25/9/25 in the Accounts Branch, and became Paymaster in July, 1927, which position he held till June '38 when he was appointed Senior Examiner of Accounts. In August, 1947, he became Senior Inspector of Accounts, then in January, '57 Purchasing Officer and five years later Personnel Officer. At the time of his retirement he was Supply Officer which post he had held since March, 1963.

Mr. Jack O'Connell, formerly O.I.C Voucher Examining Section, succeeds Mr. Mollet as Supply Officer. Congratulations, Jack.

[Frenchmen are suave lovers, but slow. A Frenchman kisses the fingers, wrist, arm and shoulder. By the time he reaches her lips, the American is handing out cigars!]

BILL KEMP

Retiring from the D.M.R. when Assistant Chief Engineer (R), "Bill" Kemp was farewelled at a gathering of his friends in the Staff Club Room, Head Office, on March 29, when the Engineer-in-Chief presided.

Expressions of good wishes for many happy and healthful years were extended to Bill by the various speakers, which included Messrs. Fawkner, Mansfield, McCaffery, Marlin, Orr, Flack, McGennissen, Harrison and Miss Boag.

It was learned that Bill intended to leave in May for an overseas trip of eight months' duration, which the speakers, some of whom were envious, hoped he would greatly enjoy.

Mr. Coulter added his thanks for Bill's help and co-operation and presented him with a fine 35mm camera on behalf of his many departmental friends. He hoped that it would capture for him many colourful photos to refresh his memory of the places visited, on his return home.

Mr. Kemp, in reply, expressed his thanks for the kind words and the most useful gift, which he said he would put to good use while touring overseas.

While many of our staff have "been around" in various offices throughout the State, as well as Sections in Head Office, it is felt that Bill Kemp must be a near record-holder as he has spent periods in offices at Narooma, Milton, Parkes, Cobar, Grafton, Wagga, Chatswood, Broken Hill and Parramatta-at which latter office he was Divisional Engineer. His "stints" in Head Office sections included Bridge Design, Construction, Engineer-in-Chief's, Maintenance, Highways (appointed Highways Engineer, May, 1963) and as from December, 1967, Assistant Chief Engineer (Roadworks). In addition, part of 1943 was spent in the Northern Territory on behalf of the D.M.R.

Mr. W. Orr has now become Assistant Chief Engineer (R), having vacated the post of Highways Engineer to which Mr. G. Cranna has succeeded. Congratulations Bill and Geoff

MR. J. A. McCAFFERY

The Commissioner presided when Jack McCaffery retired on April 16, when a large number gathered in the Stall Club Room at Head Office to say farewell. Mr. Themes said he felt a little sadness at losing Mr. McCaffery but said that he went with his own good wishes for a happy future, as well as those of Messrs. Glazier, Clews, Newton, Dearden, Pollard (of various outer offices), also the staff at the D/O, Newcastle.

Mr. Cook, quoting from Shakespeare, *The law is a bottomless pit*, and *Let us hang all the lawyers*, said he was inclined to agree but would not go so, far as to kill! The Bridge Engineer said he had had a lot to do with Jack over the past twelve months, and had always received generous (if not too much!) advice in a most willing manner. He recalled being subjected to twenty minutes cross-questioning then finally Jack's statement: "Your story is no good, Frank, you'll have to change it!" And he found that despite various interruptions, Jack never lost his grasp of the situation.

But Mr. Cook couldn't resist telling of the client who was awarded \$500 damages but only received a cheque for \$100 from his solicitor! Client rather bitterly asked if it was he or the solicitor who was run over!

However, he had found Jack always had a sense of humour, respected people's opinions and had maintained friendly co-operation with the Bridge Section.

Mr. Barton said he had found that Jack always saw what point was being considered and had been most co-operative, especially in connection with property matters and contractors' claims. This assistance had been greatly appreciated by the Accounts Section.

Mr. Coulter, having known Jack for many years, had always found him helpful and prepared to see an engineer's point of view. He had enjoyed his company at lunch when Jack was always the "life of the party".

Mr. Fawkner claimed Jack's outstanding characteristics were wit and wisdom, and was a person to be admired-and enjoyed. One of his friends had told him that Jack, when queried re Mr. Fawkner had said, "He's an engineer with the D.M.R. and not a bad fellow-he has a son a lawyer!" Mr. Fawkner said he'd been trying to live this down ever since.

Mr. Harrison, in the absence of Mr. Endean on leave, expressed thanks for co-operation given S. & P. in property matters.

Miss Hodson, speaking as the "Old Girl of the D.M.R.", said she had known Mr. McCaffery ever since the early days when they both were active in the M.R. Musical and Dramatic Society, which had put on some very successful entertainments in past years.

Mr. Mansfield expressed his pleasure at having known Jack throughout his career. His principal recollection was of Jack's "Say that again"-which always disconcerted his "client" as no one ever remembers what he has said! But Jack always came up with an answer, and invariably treated people with kindness and consideration.

Miss Peden, who worked with him in Legal Section for some years, said she enjoyed his backing and education in legal affairs.

Mr. Sheldon said that having worked closely with Jack for 14 years, he realised that Jack was a true public servant, never losing sight of the interests of the public while serving the D.M.R. He always saw that justice was administered to both the public and his staff. He had a tremendous admiration for D.M.R. engineers and did his best to assist them whenever called upon.

"Mac" treated his staff courteously-like an extension of his family-and thus gained their respect. Geoff added his thanks for the support, assistance and guidance given all the legal staff.

Mr. Lloyd tendered thanks on behalf of the Social and Recreation Club for the help and support given its activities.

Mr. Mollet, visiting as an "ex-officer", expressed thanks for help given over many years. He'd known "Mac" as a fine sportsman-and recalled a game of golf when "Mac" was behind a bunker and he counted 12 "blasts" of sand. When queried 'Mac" said he'd only taken three strokes, the others were practice!

Mr. Sams had seen the Legal Section blossom from a small beginning to its present eminence, largely during Jack's "reign" as Principal Legal Officer.

Before making a presentation to Mr. McCaffery, Mr. Thomas said that with his impeccable appearance Jack was sure to land a job at D.J.'s. He had always been a good teacher and friend and the Commissioner said no man had a better record of public service. A bookcase and reading lamp were tangible evidence of the regard in which Jack was held by his departmental friends, on whose behalf he expressed good wishes for those present, or otherwise.

Obviously moved by the warmth of his farewell, Mr. McCaffery spoke at, rather less length than customarily. However, he said that he had spoken a lot over the last 40 years. He thanked the Commissioner for his attendance and his kindness to himself and his staff, also the others present for giving their time. He had appreciated the co-operation given by other sections and although leaving was a break he hoped to find a niche where he'd meet people as fine as those in the D.M.R.

Mr. Geoff Sheldon, formerly assistant to Mr. McCaffery, succeeds him as Principal Legal Officer. Congratulations, Geoff.

Editor's Note: I also express to these gentlemen (a word used with sincerity) my thanks for their co-operation and unfailing courtesy shown to me both as a member of the staff, and as Honorary Administrative Secretary of our Club.

KEEP THE RED FLAG FLYING OR, IS THERE A REVOLUTIONARY IN YOUR SECTION ?

The fall of the D.M.R.-could it be possible? Are there sinister forces at work amidst the organisation? Your special "Highwayman" reporter now brings you into focus with the "Underground" within the D.M.R.

There are it seems a group of individuals who are bent on a revolution within the Department. They wish to break the administration controlling the decentralised bureaucracy; break the stringent examination grading and do away with seniority lists; in fact, bring in a new order.

Although-in keeping with most revolutionaries-they are a secret society, there are, in this case, distinguishing features: All the revolutionaries are young and have whiskers - Revolutionary beards, side levers and above all, moustaches! The moustaches especially, come in all shapes and forms. Big black bushy ones, monster drooping affairs, fair ones with curls at the edges, or light ones so light that they can hardly be seen. But regardless of shape or form these moustaches, and the people sporting them, are potentially dangerous.

So, Bosses BEWARE! If the junior in your Section is in charge of (a) tea making, (b) filing or (c) message running and suddenly turns up with a faint sign of a beard or moustache it could mean he's defected to the new order. At a predetermined signal a well-organised plan could spring into action. Juniors, moustaches twitching violently, could systematically drug the tea, throw the files into chaos, and rewrite or misdirect messages-the Department would grind to a halt in a few hours! The new order would step in and take over. Hairy-faced juniors would now sit at the top of the Administrative Pyramid!

So, Head Office people, if you see groups of be-whiskered young men chatting in the corridor, or giving a sly wink at morning tea, pay attention-it may have some sinister meaning!#