

**Extracts from THE HIGHWAYMAN,
February, 1974**

**WHO NEEDS EXAMINERS?
(A CONTINUING STORY)**

Since the last edition of "The Highwayman" was released, Bill "Slim" Muskett (our P.R. man) has received no less than a thousand or so inquiries from members of the D.M.R. staff who wish to transfer into our Section! Ray MacFarlane and Ian Lindeman are seriously considering relieving Slim of his examining duties. Rather hard to believe, isn't it!

Back to those charming typists - Helen, Trisha and Lynn, who never seem run down; they have now become regular blood donors. Although Trisha says that when she goes, the blood bank GIVES her two pints of blood!

John "J.B." (and it's not "Jelly Belly" either) Ballantine continually annoys George Durrington at Central Store. George claims he takes so long to answer J.B.'s queries because J.B. writes so small that anything from J.B. has to be examined under a magnifying glass to enable it to be read!

Alongside J.B. sits Robert "B" Dunlop. Bob says the "B" stands for "Bridge" and that he inherited this name because he was the first baby to be born on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He says he has the newspaper clippings to prove it. C'mon Bob, who are you trying to kid!

Close at hand and straight from the land of the Vikings comes Graeme Johnsen, God's gift to women! Every time a female walks past, Graeme asks around to find out her name. One of these days, he says that he may even speak to a girl! Next to Graeme sits Greg "Hurricane Higgins" Innes, who will give Eddie Charlton fifty points start plus the break and still win.

A newcomer from Weight of Loads is Peter Hughes who still can't believe he ever made it to the Section as he only applied for a transfer eight years ago!

Unfortunately, Ray "Sly One" Fox was forced to transfer to Supply. Ray came to Examining when it was known "by another name" and helped to bring the Section to what it is now. We wonder why Ray had to go!

Temporarily occupying Ray's job is John "L" London who answers the phone "510 London". This will make things very interesting should John Ireland ever ring him up, i.e. one end "510 London": other "Ireland here".

Arend Oets, George Kemlo and Tony Wyniatt make up the quietest trio in the Section. Especially George, who likes his little nap from one till two each day. Anyone who thinks they can rouse George in that hour is welcome to try.

Barry "Vince" Martin heads 'C' section and would be the biggest punter in Sydney; he's also well-travelled. Under Barry (figure of speech) is Peter Ashcroft, who decided to grow a beard - or really can't fix his electric shaver. He says it helps to control the women, anyway.

Behind Peter is Garry "Bullit" Heggie, Australia's famous baseball player. Yes, "Bullit" can whip the ball quite well to the catcher - well over his head!

Not far away you may find Warwick "Rick" Chant and Ian Chantler who write up the Creditors Ledgers in their spare time!

Kevin Knox's dream finally came true, he made it to Voucher Examining! Now we know why Peter Hughes was so surprised at his quick transfer. Poor Kev had been waiting for seventeen years. Never mind, Kev, the wait was worthwhile. Kev now leads 'D' section.

Aiding Kevin is Barry "Bonus" McTaggart, one of the section's better dressers or . . . Anyway, if an examiner can pass a voucher prepared by Barry, he receives 10 bonus points and at the end of the year the one who has tallied the most points will get Barry's job!

Jenny Smit and Beverley Foster, two of the Department's most gorgeous office assistants, have two things in common - cops, never mind! John "Sleepy" Byrnes (not everyone can say that they have slept in Belmore Park) is so polite that he will apologise to you for your mistake.

Ken "Bucketmouth" Dashwood, well there's nothing much to tell you about Ken as you've probably heard it from him anyway. Greg Wade and Greg Ruthven make up the rest of the staff. These last three may be seen in action between the hours of one and two each day!

Several familiar faces have disappeared from the Section recently - Brian Weinert now works for Pye - an Accountant, no less! Why did you go Brian, could it be the extra \$40 a week? Best of luck, anyway. And to Geoff Cooper who, left to star "on the buses." Head typist Helen has departed to be replaced by Tina Dowling, and it is rumoured that one of our other personalities will soon be leaving for parts unknown.

Well, that's it. Now you know why we are the top Section - otherwise we would not be known as the ACE Section!

TEA BREAK

Figures released by the Commonwealth Statistician last week show that where Australians were consuming 5.1 lb. of tea a head five years ago the figure dropped to 4.7 in 1971-72. Coffee consumption meanwhile has risen from 2.6 lb. to 3.2 lb. per head.

But there's some consolation in the fact that Australia's own drink, the frosty one, is more popular than ever, with consumption rising from 26.5 gallons per head in 1968-69 to 28 gallons a head last financial year.

GOSSIP FROM THE GARAGE

All things are in God's hands except two - love and laughter are in yours.

Our "Garage globe trotter" is at it again. On Christmas Eve, Jess Robinson and his wife, Jean, sailed on another exotic trip to Singapore, Bali, and neighbouring places. It must be a case of neverending love of travel with neverending loads of cash. Anyone considering an overseas holiday, is well advised to consult Jess, who must know the most interesting parts of the world to visit. This last trip he travelled on a Russian ship, so he probably will tell you if canian is better than beefsteak pudding.

A special welcome is extended to two new H/O drivers - firstly, Sid Oliver who has been with the Department since he started to smoke, and (more recently) Ken Glover who joined the Department in November. To all the officers using the driver-driven vehicles, we feel sure you will be as contented with Sid and Ken as you have been with all the drivers.

When David Sturgess goes swimming, he makes it a marathon performance. Whilst staying overnight at a country motel, he decided on a quick dip in the pool, and on his first plunge he lost his swim-trunks. Being a male, he didn't attract much attention, but some of the guests were watching from their windows, and David

had to stay in the pool until they retired for breakfast. He finally recovered his trunks, and emerged one hour later, a little cold, a little embarrassed, and no time for breakfast. It happens to David!

By the time this issue is published, Bill McGennissen (the boss), will be preparing for a nice long vacation. Up to this point he has kept his destination a secret, but we know he's been making plans, with several appointments at his tailor and mercer. He didn't forget to get his "BRUT" either, which would suggest a romantic holiday?

Things have been very quiet in the McIntosh household, and this would probably indicate that 2 and a half year-old Patrick has been locked up since he put his finger in a live power-socket, and received a minor shock. The shock Tom got was greater.

Our booking officer Barry Marks who lives at Auburn, likes to travel for a drink. Matraville R.S.L. was his venue for a night out, but of course, he couldn't have gone to a better club. (The writer is a member of that club). Unfortunately, he wasn't "in the mood" to appreciate the decor.

Ted Grundy had a letter from his sister in England and she outlined the "big Freeze" over there, together with the lack of fuel and power. Ted read the letter in sunlight at 7.30 p.m., whilst rubbing cream on his sunburn. We don't think he'd ever go back, anyway in North Hemisphere winter.

Lately, Bob Shaw is looking down in the dumps. Two of the cub mistresses were married in December, and they were the two best sorts. Meanwhile, it's back to teaching the boys how to light fires and "be prepared."

If you don't believe the story about Ian Craig's big dog, ask Ken Darke, the electrician, who visited the Craig home recently. During his life, Ken has received a few shocks from "live" wires, but the sight of the Craig "mustang" was the biggest "shock" he ever received.

John Young and wifefie should be back in the groove by now, with the New Zealand holiday a pleasant memory. John will no doubt be able to tell some stories of his trip to interested peasants like "you and me."

Last Christmas Day, Cec and Grace Price only had eighteen people for dinner. This is less than the previous year, but it can't be Grace's cooking which is diminishing the visitors. The reason must be that Cec is cutting down on the "grog."

Ever since Peter Manson had his Mazda car, he has given away punting. It's marvellous the number of winners he would have backed since. Keep it up, Peter, you never see a finance office situated near a T.A.B.

After his Port Macquarie caper, Col Selwin should be an experienced boatman. He took enough literature away on the subject, but we will have to wait for this publication to find out how the practical side went "marined or marooned?"

PRINT ROOM PRATTLE

Hope everyone had a beaut New Year and Christmas break.

And what better way to start 1974 than by a game of golf - The Print Room should be starting their own golf club by the amount of professional golfers we have now!

Even the Old Buzzard Fran has now taken it seriously -she plays every Saturday (golf, that is) rain or shine. Maybe she's trying to catch up to Willy Bill who seems to be our top line international professional wizard. Well, he'd have to be with a handicap of 15. It's no wonder the Globus Golf Club are going broke, they are

giving him too many trophies. But he's not really complaining, because he did win a beaut electric fan, etc. on the 16th December at Fox Hills for an excellent game played. Just remember Willy, please stand clear of the other bloke's drive - you wouldn't want to get knocked out cold again, would you?

Anyway, Mr. Columbine Col reckons with a bit more time he should be coming up to your standard, Willy, because at Christmas he got a baggy from Santa.

Anyway, apart from the golfing scene, dear old Col has just been appointed as a friendly fireman and so has Bruce to control anything that looks hot on the ground floor - sounds very interesting, huh!!!

Really, though Mr. Columbine has been leading an interesting subdued life except for amputating the occasional wattle tree with a lot of help from Seanne and Karen, with Mrs. Vealle supervising - chop chop. Anyway, Col went off to Lake Tabourie for a trip (with the family of course) don't forget the moustache, mate. You must visit the nudist colony there.

In the old Composing Section (commonly called the Decomposing Section) things are always nice and bright at work - and at play! Poor Gail was posing again doing big wheelstands at her home on a friend's bike and in doing so did a Mickey Finn and busted her knee cap - she tried it with her Varsity when she returned but it happened to be the wrong "type". -That was a joke, Joyce. But apart from her famous bike trick she managed to get herself looking pretty as usual in time for Lyn and Bruce Fogerty's wedding, where she was bridesmaid and was escorted by the groomsman who thought she was a pretty gas chick -just your age too - Pure Geil.

Mr. Fione thank you very much - Bob Rob went off for a long trip to Adelaide with wife and nippers to the big Scout Jamboree driving all the way via Broken Hill. He reckons he did a pretty good job proof-reading the Barrier Highway but couldn't find any signposts anywhere on the road which said quad left return. If he had, he may not have made it to Adelaide.

Well at long last white shirts seem a thing of the past -thanks to Bruce (you're welcome) he has been at Bob for a long time trying to get him into something bright and swinging - Oh boy, you should see Bob now, you've got to shade your eyes first thing in the morning. But he likes them now, and also likes being a proud father. Wouldn't anyone, after his son "Struan" won the best drummer award cup for the year in the "Tartoola District Scout Band" -congratulations Struan. His other son, Keith, has taken to the waves in the big surf - a bit hard to win cups out there, but a lot of fun. They should call him "Murph the Surf."

Our sweet old tulip Gai reckons that her photons light source for the film should be a laser beam. It's true you know - you ask the other one "Arthur" (her better half) he knows more about Laser Beams than anyone Gai knows. But there was none of that technical junk at the Opera House when Gai and Arthur went and saw "Sleeping Beauty"

WAS it good!!

G.S.S. Keith has left Kogarah Oval temporarily to become a second "Francis Chichester." Not a bad achievement eh? All the way up the N.S.W. coast to Queensland on a motorised red and white surfboard. (Actually it was really a sloop). Anyone for fishing?

Down in the Offset Printing area Mick

(Chuck) Hurley was very indignant to find nasty brown things on his desk one morning. He actually accused Dave (Mr. JO) at first but after a short time Mr. Jo convinced Chuck that it was the elusive Print Room cat.

He took some convincing didn't he, Dave? That's why George puts a peg on his nose when he's putting his overalls on. What's going to eventuate from that cat, George? So much for cats.

Mean Merv's got water problems too

"Distilled Water" problems. Why does that water distiller give you no end of trouble. Have you tried using Whisky?

With all these happenings around the place we are all eventually found out by P.R.S. Butch who really doesn't miss much, even cats. But don't get your ego up 'cause your desk may be next "Here, puss-puss-puss-puss!"

If you have any trouble with anyone Ron, try putting them in your attache case. Ahten-shun!

Heard poor John went to hospital to have something removed. I wish you would tell people what you had removed. John, everyone's been talking.

Well Larry has left us now - hope you can come back someday to see us from the U.K.

That's the way it goes - one leaves and one comes back.

The old Ruff Red Rex Doug Thomas has rejoined the Print Room again after a long break. Anyway, it's good to see a happy chappy backy.

"STOP PRESS" Talking of Rex and stop press he did just that - stopped that poor machine. It's for feeding paper - NOT hands - Poor chap got his hand caught in the machine and had to have seven stitches in it. I wonder who'll be next. I think the machine is OK now. !

Heard Mad Madge bought four wheels with a cabin on top. Good for you - all you have to do now is learn to drive. Another woman driver!

And talking of driving, Marja drove some beautiful shots in table tennis in October '73 to win herself a championship at South Sydney Leagues Club. Congratulations Madge.

Maybe Terry should take up table tennis to cure that dreaded arthritis. Hope it goes, soon Terrence.

Well, they certainly "go" at an early age these days, some of these girls, don't they? Our one time Wendy Lock is now Wendy Lawrence. We heard it was a lovely wedding and you looked pretty smashing. Lucky Mr.Lawrence. - Congratulations anyhow.

I wonder who has been telling Charles all those corny jokes. They never seem to run out, one after the other. Where do you get them from Greeny? Well here is another to add to your list: Two seaeagles flew over Cronulla beach on one hot scorching bank holiday. There wasn't a spare inch of sand to be seen anywhere. One seagull turned to the other and said dejectedly "It takes all the skill out of it, doesn't it"!!!

It looks as though Sylvie has been having a good time on her holidays. She came back to work with a pretty good tan. Don't know where she went for (according to the Weather Bureau) there wasn't much sun. Oh well, there must have been some.

Talking of Ted, how was the scout Jamboree in Adelaide? Did you run into Bob a Job?

He was there too.

It was a shame ducksy doo, dad Sianna that your cruise was cancelled on the "Fairstar" earlier this month. I was hoping I would get all the run down of the fun. Ship for my cruise on March 25th - wow.

Heard Lance and Ken are going to wear steel suits and gas masks to work from now on. Just a safety precaution for the new chemical room - watch them Keith, anything can happen.

Gwen and Joyce certainly have been looking after those damn cats lately. So has Sianna. Apart from the slight mishaps with the boys' desks that day, they are the healthiest cats in the Print Room. I know about we start our own Print Room Zoo - and no ideas, either, for animals, I mean.

Gail has volunteered to be the vivacious venomous vet, we could have animals like kinky kangaroos, Black panthers, Sutton sheepdogs, Letonendeur lizards, Mathis mules, Buchanan beavers, Jones jaguars, Randall rabbits, Hurley hippos, Gray ganders, Holmes horses, Howell Hyeenas, Molloy Mongeese, Oswald oxes, Thomas turtles, Spillane serpents, Rich rhinos, Clack cats, etc. Long live the Print Room. Mooooooo.

It's good to see Jeff Randall back again with us after recovering from a nasty bike fall in which he fractured his vertebrae. Just remember once bitten twice shy.

Well, Amanda don't let it go to your head just because they have put out a record about you now. By the way, your new hair style has been given the "seal of approval." And talking of hair, Miss (nearly) Waratah Princess," how about a little change with yours - you never know, you may be the Waratah Princess one day.

The chop chop boys Ray and Ted haven't had much to say lately, so unfortunately we couldn't say much either except - Hi fellas.

Who was the pretty maid who has gone to Port Macquarie to get a sun tan (Poor Margy) . Sorry we had no control over that weather. Hope you enjoyed yourself, anyway.

Have a happy 1974 - Bye.