

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Founded 1974

P.O. Box 203, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006

President: Dr. P. Howell

Newsletter Editor: Ms. S.E. Marsden

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NEWSLETTER No. 25

MAY, 1979

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1. NEXT MEETINGS

JUNE

Date and time: Friday, June 1 at 8 p.m.

Place: State Library Lecture Theatre

Speaker: Mr. J.L. Moss

Subject: South Australia's Colonial Labour Movement

Jim Moss has been an activist and writer in the labour movement for more than thirty years. He will speak on the embryo labour movement at the colony's inception and of its subsequent development and influence.

JULY

Date and time: Friday, July 6 at 8 p.m.

Place: State Library Lecture Theatre

Speaker: Mr. David Dolan

Subject: Alfred Sells 1823-1908: An English artist in South Australia.

Mr. Dolan will be well-known, particularly as art critic in the Advertiser. He will try to obtain a painting by Sells for display at the meeting.

JULY - SPECIAL MEETING, CELEBRATING THE SOCIETY'S FIFTH YEAR

Mr. Ron Gibbs, who has just retired as President has proposed that the H.S.S.A. hold a special meeting (in addition to the usual meeting) to celebrate the Society's fifth birthday by inviting several speakers to give short talks on lesser known South Australians.

This will be held at the State Library Lecture Theatre on Wednesday, July 18th at 8.00p.m. The speakers and their subjects will be:

Mr. R. Ellis: An aboriginal man and an aboriginal woman
Ms. A. Marsden: Adelaide Miethke
Prof. E. Richards: The fall and rise of the Solomon brothers
Mrs. E. Warburton: Mrs. Ellen Debney

2. FIELD TRIP - HALF DAY, WITH OPTIONAL LUNCH PORT ADELAIDE - SATURDAY JUNE 30th, 1979

The afternoon of Saturday June 30th is the time for an exploration of some selected highlights of the Port District. Council member, Brian Samuels, who is the Honorary Historian to the Port Adelaide Historical Society, will lead this trip. There will be no charge, but participants will be invited to spend up big at the Society's rooms, where a large number of books and Portonians are available for purchase!

Travel will be by private car, and any members needing transport are invited to contact the Secretary on 268 5486. The trip will begin with an optional counter lunch at 12.30 at the Largs Pier Hotel, corner of Esplanade and Jetty Road, Largs Bay.

Bookings are essential if you wish to partake. We have asked the Hotel to simply provide its standard counter meals with no frills (\$1.50 to \$3.00) so the whole family can attend without making it an expensive day. A tour of the Hotel will follow at 2pm and non-diners should join the trip then. Built in 1882 as part of an outer harbour scheme, the hotel is a very attractive arcaded building in a classical Italian style.

Next on the agenda will be a visit to the Historical Society's rooms at 119 Semaphore Road, where a photographic display traces the growth of both Semaphore and nineteenth century Port Adelaide. The trip will conclude with a walking tour of the historic precinct of the Port Centre, which is a treasure trove of nineteenth century buildings and contains many significant sites related to the first decades of settlement.

There is of course much more to see in the District - Fort Glanville, Glanville Hall, Fort Largs, the nautical museums and the pockets of workers' houses and middle class villas scattered throughout the area and all repay close study.

However, the aim of this field trip is to provide a leisurely introduction to the district and whet the appetite for more. (The real enthusiasts can submit themselves to more Portonian propaganda by enrolling for the night classes mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter).

PORT ADELAIDE 1886

"Large mills, timberyards covering several acres of ground, great blocks of warehouses, bonded stores and merchants' offices, a fine pile of government buildings, an imposing town hall, stately churches, long lines of shops with plate glass windows and deep verandahs, busy hotels and bustling streets, all indicate that the Port is a place of life and activity."

- A. Garran, Picturesque Atlas of Australasia (Sydney 1886)

FIELD TRIP - SOUTH-EAST - OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND

The Society would like to hold a field trip in the South-East this year, but, as travel there by road would use up too much time it may be necessary to fly. This would push up the cost (for plane, bus travel and accommodation) to about \$120 to \$150 per person. Please let the secretary know if, despite the cost, you would be interested in going on this trip, or if you have any other suggestions (or your own private jet).

3. HISTORICAL SOCIETY AFFAIRS

NEW COUNCIL

At the A.G.M. held in April the following people were elected (or re-elected) as H.S.S.A. Council members for the year 1979-80:

President:	Dr. Peter Howell
Vice President:	Mr. Ian Harmstorf
Secretary:	Ms. Stephanie Moss
Treasurer:	Mr. Elmer Zalums
Councillors:	Mr. Peter Crush
	Mr. Robert Fisher
	Mr. Ron Gibbs
	Mr. Dick Kearns
	Mr. Dan Manning
	Ms. Alexandra Marsden
	Ms. Susan Marsden (Newsletter Editor)
	Mr. Brian Samuels
Ex-Officio Council	Dr. John Playford (Journal Editor - on study leave)
Members:	Mr. Chris Nance (Acting Journal Editor)

JOURNALS

Material for Journal No. 5 is presently being typeset and should be available to 1978 financial members no later than June. Copies of Journals Nos. 2, 3 and 4 are still available for \$6.00 (\$7.50 non-members).

PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

At the April meeting of the H.S.S.A. Council the above sub-committee was formed, to consider books for publication by the Society and for re-publication as facsimiles (as requested) by the Government Printer. If other members have any suggestions for facsimiles or Society publications, please contact the Secretary. Sub-committee members are at present: Sue Marsden, Chris Nance and Brian Samuels.

4. BOOKS

1. Brian Condon, S.A.S.S. (South Australian Social Science; a bibliography and index) (Reviewed by Susan Marsden)

S.A.S.S. is a bibliography and index on computer, compiled by Society member, Brian Condon at Hartley (formerly Murray Park) C.A.E.

There are about 1,500 items, mainly relating to S.A. history, drawn from the major published bibliographies (including Crowley and Zalums), private card indexes and theses (history, politics, geography, social science aspects of architecture etc.). Brian Condon hopes to add other bibliographies and indexes to S.A.S.S. (this is one of the advantages of the computer) including the holdings of the Archives and South Australian Collection, but this, of course takes up much clerical time. If members have compiled card indexes and so on they could also contact Mr. Condon.

S.A.S.S. is the most comprehensive and flexible current S.A. bibliography and index as it subsumes the previous works, presents the material under a greatly increased number of headings, and is capable of continual updating and expansion. For instance, for a thesis by J. Smith on land exploration in Australia 1800 to 1880 the full entry would appear under each of: aborigines, exploration, Giles, land, pastoralism, Smith, Stuart, Sturt, 1800-1880.

There is a printout (at present being catalogued) which will be available for use (all 5 large volumes of it) in the bibliography hall in the Reference section of the State Library. Printouts are also at the Universities and these and literature searches may be purchased soon from Hartley C.A.E.

2. P.F. Donovan, Port Wakefield and district. A history
(Port Wakefield District Council, 1978)
Reviewed by Susan Marsden.

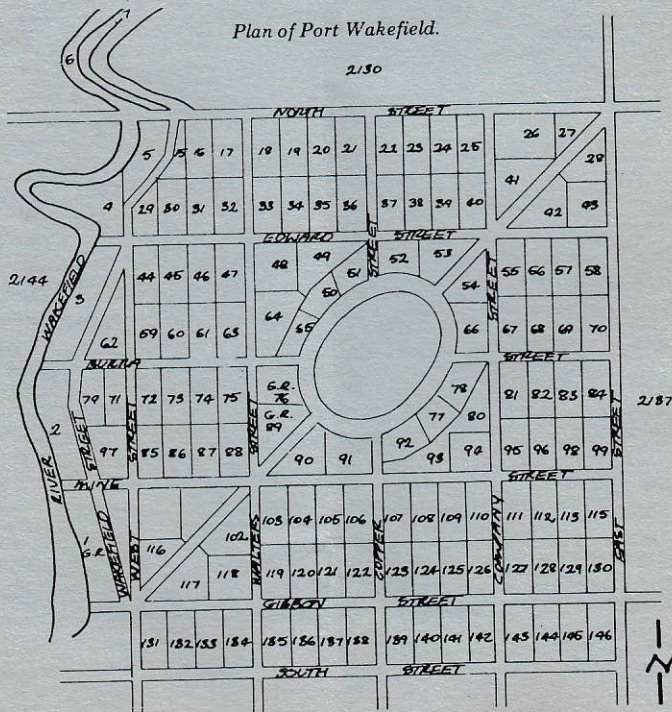
As Peter Donovan writes in his introduction, "Despite the proliferation of local histories in recent years, this book makes no apologies for its existence. It is calculated to make a worthwhile contribution to both the local community of Port Wakefield and to the body of published work devoted to the history of South Australia. It seeks no other justification." Nor need it. This short book is sensibly planned and clearly written. It outlines the development of Port Wakefield through time, both in terms of its own unique history as well as in its South Australian context. For example, the town plan (see illustration) reflects the fact that the plans of early government towns such as Port Wakefield differed from the large number surveyed from about 1865 to 1895 which were usually closely modelled on Adelaide. The plans of the early towns were generally unique, and perhaps Wakefield most of all, with an oval reserve at the centre and the main road running north-east to south-west.

Similarly, Port Wakefield's very existence was a result of the discovery of copper at Burra and - despite being government-planned - the initiatives taken by the Patent Copper Company to create an outpost for the export of the copper ore. Port Wakefield survived the decline of Burra by becoming a major port for its rich rural hinterland, firstly for wool and then wheat. In fact, "Port Wakefield has only ever been an entrepot and a service centre," and

continues in this role. "The revolution in transport technology, which undermined the existence of the town during the interwar period, now provides the main economic stimulus to the town and enables the inhabitants to do more than eke out an existence." In fact, he challenges other historians, who seem to dwell on the rise and decline of country towns (Robe is another example), whilst ignoring the fact that frequently these very towns are still solid and reasonably prosperous and, as in Port Wakefield's case, with a population "not a great deal less than at its peak ... (which) does not require a great level of economic activity to maintain..." Peter Donovan is one of the new breed of South Australian historians who does not relegate history to the past (or to somewhere else in the world) rather, he sees the historical processes continuing about him, and in a minor way this is apparent in his reference to the "gaggle of service stations set aside National Highway One" which is all that most people know of the town. "But these are now a major feature of the town's economy: they provide employment for a great many Port Wakefield citizens."

His account of the social evolution of the town is, I think, not as successful. He has had to deal with the enormous problem faced by most writers of regional histories (myself included) of organizing a disparate mass of information: deeds, dates, personalities and public institutions and placing this within a broader social history of (in this case) country towns and to do justice to the legitimate interests of the town's residents as well as satisfy the general reader.

The book is soft-cover, with black and white illustrations, and index, and is certainly worth purchasing at \$5.00. It is available from the Port Wakefield District Council, or through Peter Donovan, who is a member of the H.S.S.A. and presently works for the Heritage Unit, c/- Department for the Environment, 150 North Terrace, Adelaide, 5000.



3. Janet Callen, Churches of the Southern Hills (Janet Callen 1979)
Reviewed by Susan Marsden.

This booklet gives a brief history of each of the denominations in the southern hills area and of the churches they built, with some reference to the religious and social background of the time. Its main use will be to historians in this region and as a source for broader histories. A useful chronology is provided, lists of preachers and pastors, a short bibliography and black and white photographs which, unfortunately, have not reproduced well.

The booklet costs only \$2.00 and is available from Janet Callen, 42 Wilpena St., Eden Hills 5050.

4. Paul Thompson, The voice of the past. Oral history (O.U.P. 1978)
(Reviewed by Susan Marsden - again)

This book should be read by anyone who is interested in oral history - or who wonders at the recent fuss about oral history. Besides discussing the techniques and uses of oral history Paul Thompson emphasizes that it is not a new branch of history rather it is a method, which, once its full potential is realized will result "in an underlying change in the way that history is written and learnt".

"In the most general sense, once the life experience of people of all kinds can be used as its raw material, a new dimension is given to history ... witnesses can now also be called from the under-classes, the unprivileged, and the defeated. It provides a more realistic and fair reconstruction of the past, a challenge to the established account. In so doing, oral history has radical implications for the social message of history as a whole."

This was also emphasized by speakers at the Oral History Seminar held by the S.A. Oral History Association on May 5th. Ray Broomhill, for instance, referred to the usefulness of oral history in labour history, and Bob Ellis to the vital role it can play in re-discovering aborigines' history; their defeats and their strengths, neither of which has been given a place in most histories of Australia since European settlement.

The Voice of the Past is an English publication in paperback and should be available in bookshops soon.

5. Heritage Studies (by Brian Samuels)

In recent years a number of Heritage Studies have appeared, many of them funded by the Australian Heritage Commission. South Australian ones include works on Unley, Burra, Kapunda, the Barossa Valley (see "History in the News"), the Northern Metropolitan Area, Port Adelaide and Mount Gambier. Others are in preparation, for instance at Noarlunga and Robe. Two works of particular interest are A.H. Spry's The Cleaning, Restoring and Preserving of Stone in Historic Buildings and Monuments (AMDEL, Adelaide 1977) and D.W. Berry and S.H. Gilbert Regional Pioneer Building Techniques (National Trust of S.A. 1976). All of these can be consulted in the Dept. for the Environment Library, which can be used by anyone and is situated on the 7th floor, Ansett Building, 150 North Terrace, Adelaide.

6. Railway Books (By Brian Samuels)

Dr. Reece Jennings' lively and hard-hitting address at the May meeting has surely stimulated members' interests in aspects of the State's railways; (for a summary of this talk see the next Newsletter, in July).

The book to start with is obviously Dr. Jennings' own, W.A. Webb (North Plympton 1973), which is now sadly out of print. His book is usefully supplemented by O.S. Nock Railways of Australia (Black, London 1971) ch's. 14-17. Other than these two, the field is largely left to publications of the S.A. Division of the Australian Railways Historical Society (A.R.H.S.). Two of their most interesting works in terms of the early history of railway development are K. Bird's South Coast Limited and J. Wilson's Rails to the Burra (both out of print). A list of their publications is available from A.R.H.'s Sales, P.O. Box 327, Port Adelaide 5015 or by phoning 495181 Monday to Wednesday between 7 and 8 p.m. The railway fanatic will doubtless already know that second editions of their books on the 500 and 700 class locos introduced by Webb in the 1920's have recently appeared.

It is also timely to remind members that the steam season has just begun and booking forms are available from the S.A. Tourist Bureau.

7. Regional histories which are still available for sale.

Society member, Mrs. Rhoda Heinrich recently wrote to the Secretary concerning the sale of regional histories: "Some of us have spent countless hours, large amounts of money and a certain amount of nervous energy in producing 'centenary histories'. One can be lucky to have the project financed by a local council or centenary committee. But when a large quantity of these books remain unsold, probably due to over confidence on its saleability, where does one turn?

Would the Society be prepared to publish a list of these books for the benefit of those collectors who may not have obtained copies?"

The Society is very willing to publish a list of all regional and other South Australian histories, but in order to do so must be provided with the titles, their authors, place of purchase and cost. Please send these details to the Newsletter Editor, and they will be printed in succeeding Newsletters.

8. Publications by the Libraries Board of S.A.

C.J. Dennis: a comprehensive bibliography based on the collection of the compiler (Adelaide 1979)
(Reviewed by staff at State Library)

This is much more than a "comprehensive" bibliography of C.J. Dennis, one of Australia's most prolific poets and writers. It could well be described as a "cornucopia" containing every known aspect of Dennis' writings, as well as describing in minute detail manuscripts, volumes and variants. It contains publishing details, extracts of correspondence and contemporary reviews. It lists Dennis works performed in films, musicals, records, etc. commemorations, memorials and memorabilia. The bibliography is preceded by a revised and enlarged version of the compiler's pamphlet C.J. Dennis: His life and work originally published by Hall's Book Store, Melbourne in 1961, which has long been out of print.

Ian F. McLaren, an accountant by profession and the member for Bennettswood in the Victorian Legislative Assembly 1967-1978, has been an avid book collector for over three decades. He has used his extensive collection of Dennis material for this publication in conjunction with the holdings of institutional and private libraries in Australia and overseas. The recommended retail price is: paper cover \$27, cased in vinyl laminate \$36. Both include colour plates as illustrations.

In 1976 the Libraries Board of South Australia published C.J. Dennis: a chronological checklist of contributions to journals compiled by Ian F. McLaren as part of the 1976 Dennis centenary celebrations. This Checklist is a list of verse and some prose contributions made by Dennis to selected journals, newspapers and literary magazines which was prepared as a preliminary list of Dennis journal contributions. It is essentially a complementary publication. The recommended retail price is \$3.30.

It is unlikely that the works of any other Australian writer have been described in such detail before. (See also "History in the news" in this Newsletter).

Available from: The State Librarian, or at the Sales Office,
State Library of South Australia,
G.P.O. Box 419,
ADELAIDE,
South Australia, 5001

5. SOCIETIES AND EVENTS

Additions and corrections to list of Historical Societies (in March Newsletter)

Australasian, NOT Australian, Maritime Historical Society

Booreroo Steam & Tractor Preservation Society Inc: Mr. B.A. Koch, Box 118, Booreroo Centre 5482.

Charles Sturt Memorial Museum Trust

Fire Brigade's Historical Association, c/- Mr. R. Barrett, 12 Cushen Street, Smithfield Plains 5114.

Glenside Hospital Historical Society, Glenside Hospital, 226 Fullarton Road, Eastwood, 5063

Immanuel College Historical Society, c/- The Secretary, Immanuel College, 32 Morphet Road, Novar Gardens, 5040

Pioneers Association of S.A., 80 King William Street, Adelaide 5000

THE CONSERVATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT - HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL

Public Seminar arranged by the Department of Architecture and the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Adelaide.

Napier Theatre, University of Adelaide - Tuesday, 22nd May, 1979 - 7.30p.m.

FEE: \$3.00 (including refreshments)

Pensioners, full time students and unemployed \$1.50

SPEAKERS: DR. DAVID LINSTRUM

Director of Conservation Studies
Institute of Advanced Architectural
Studies, University of York, England
Department of Architecture
The University of Adelaide

PROFESSOR DAVID SAUNDERS

The care, conservation, preservation and restoration - or demolition - of architecturally interesting or historic buildings, or built areas in our cities and countryside are increasingly matters of public concern these days. This was apparent in Adelaide, for example, with the successful fight to preserve what is now Edmund Wright House, or the general dismay at the demolition of the South Australia Hotel. Despite growing pressures for development or renewal, there seems to be a greater awareness among authorities and among the public at large, of the importance of architectural conservation. However, few would believe that we can afford to be complacent on this. The broad situation on the conservation of the built environment will be discussed at this seminar:

Dr. Linstrum will speak on the British scene
Professor Saunders on the Australian.*

Our visiting speaker, Dr. Linstrum, is an outstanding authority in this field. As an architect he worked on the restoration of 19th century Bretton Hall, and as an academic he has lectured on architectural history and conservation at the Universities of Leeds and York. A member of the executive committee of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain and of several other relevant societies, such as the Leeds Civic Trust and the York Georgian Society, Dr. Linstrum has served on the RIBA Committee on the Training of Architects for Conservation. He has made lecture tours of many countries and in 1978 was co-director of the first pan African conference/workshop on the conservation of historic towns and buildings in tropical countries. He has written or edited several publications on architectural conservation.

Professor Saunders has had long association with National Trusts in Australia and contributed to their publications Historic Buildings of Victoria, Historic Places of Australia and Historic Public Buildings of Australia. He is National Chairman of ICOMOS, an association of people professionally involved in the conservation of the built environment.

There will be ample time for questions and discussions at this seminar. Slides will be shown. Architects, planners, historians and all interested persons are warmly invited to attend.

ENROLMENTS CLOSE: Friday 18th May.

PARKING: 40¢ at gate

*FOR PROGRAMME DETAILS - SEE NEXT PAGE

ENROLMENT FORM - THE CONSERVATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
Tuesday, 22nd May, 1979

NAME Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms

ADDRESSP/C.....

TEL.NO.....(day) I enclose fee \$3.00. Cheques payable to Uni.
of Adelaide. Send to: Dept. of Continuing Education, Uni. of Adelaide, G.P.O.
Box 498, Adelaide. 5001

For further information please telephone Dr.Derek Whitelock, 2234333 Ext. 2238

PROGRAMME*

Sherry Reception 7.30 to 7.45p.m.

The Conservation of the Environment - Historical & Architectural

In Australia: Professor David Saunders 7.45-8.30 p.m.

Break for coffee: 8.30-9.00 p.m.

In Britain: Dr. David Linstrum 9.00-10.00 p.m.

Questions and Discussion: 10.00-10.45 p.m.

HISTORY OF PORT ADELAIDE - NIGHT CLASS IN JUNE

Mr. Brian Samuels will be running a 4-week course for the Port Adelaide Community College on this subject. Tentative dates are Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th June. Probable venue - Port Adelaide High School.

Contact the College on 49 5144 for details.

THE ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
(HOSTED BY THE ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA HISTORY DEPARTMENT

TIME: August 18/19, 1979. (Note this is the weekend in the middle of the International Conference on Indian Ocean Studies. Section 6 of I.C.I.O.S. will include discussion on oral traditions).

VENUE: The University of Western Australia, Perth, W.A.

PROGRAMME:

1. An Australian theme, connected to oral history studies for the Bi-centenary.
2. Several overseas Oral Historians may speak and lead discussions.
Plans are in progress to bring to Australia Professor John Saville, President of the British Oral History Society.
3. O.H.A.A. Annual General Meeting.
4. Workshop Sessions will centre around four areas
 - i Libraries & Archives
 - ii Museums and Local History Societies
 - iii Teaching Oral History
 - iv Interpretation and Writing in Oral History

ACCOMMODATION: Motel - family type
University Colleges
1st Class Hotel

Friday, 18th May
8 p.m.

SOIREE and presentations of prizes at
KERNEWEK LOWENDER ART PRIZE at the
Kadina Memorial High School.
Y.P. Trotting Club Special Kernewek Meeting at
Kadina.

Monday, 21st May
10 a.m.

PROCESSION of traditional and humorous
floats, bands, Kernewek May Queen through the
main streets of Moonta to the oval.
FER KERNEWEK. The Cornish Fair, featuring
traditional sports and foods of the Cornish
community, brass bands, races, dancing, tug-o-war,
pasty making competition. A wonderful finale
to another memorable Lowender, a day for the
whole family to enjoy. Cornish mead, Y.P.
Miner's SWANKY and wines on sale. Pasties
galore.

11 a.m.

11.30 a.m.

THE FURRY DANCE through the streets and
lanes of Kadina, leading to Victoria Square.

Displays and exhibitions throughout the Festival.
Kernewek Lowender Art Prize, Memorial High
School from 15th - 20th May.

12 noon

OFFICIAL OPENING of KERNEWEK
LOWENDER by the Hon. A.J. Grassby, from
the bandstand, Victoria Square.

2 p.m.

Australian Rules Football at Kadina.

7.30 p.m.

BOSTY. Join the merry-makers at an Old Tyme
Music Hall and Dinner in Wallaroo Town Hall.

8 p.m.

KERNEWEK PLAYERS will present a light
hearted drama production.

8 p.m.

Old Tyme Ball, Moonta Town Hall. Come dressed
for the occasion.

Sunday, 20th May

Heritage Sunday - Ertach de Sul.

Kadina Musuem Complex; Miner's Cottage, Moonta
Mines; Wallaroo Museum in the Old Post Office;
and Moonta Mines Museum in the old school, will
be open throughout the festival, but you are
especially invited to visit on Heritage Sunday.

9.30 a.m.

Lions Picnic Race Meeting at Kadina & Wallaroo
Racecourse, situated by the main road.

Gymkhana and novelty events.

10 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE CELTS, at Wallaroo Oval.
Pipe band competition featuring Scottish & Irish
bands. Scottish and Irish dancing, Welsh music and
food and souvenirs from Scotland, Ireland, Wales
and Cornwall. Fully licensed.

2 p.m.

Community Hymn singing in Queen Square, Moonta.

2.30 p.m.

OFEREN - Ecumenical Service in the Square.
Salvation Army Band and songster brigade. The
address is to be given by Commissioner Gladys
Callis.

8 p.m.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC CONCERT. Featuring
the Hills Choral Society and instrumentalists, at
Kadina, Town Hall.

Transport

Premier Road Lines, 111 Franklin Street,
Adelaide. Phone 51 8266 to Kadina, Wallaroo,
Moonta, Port Hughes and Moonta Bay.

The "Cousin Jack Flyer", will run from Adelaide
Railway Station Sunday, 20th May only.
Enquiries P.O. Box 69, Para Hills, 5096.

Accommodation and other enquiries regarding
the Festival to -
Secretary/Co-Ordinator, P.O. Box 230, Kadina,
5554. Phone (088) 211595.

HISTORY IN THE NEWS

"Launching" of the Barossa Survey

The Barossa Survey, which was funded by the Australian Heritage Commission was completed last year and was given an official "launching" at Bethany (core of the report) by the present Minister for the Environment, Dr. Cornwall, as described in the Advertiser 20/4/79. The three volume survey was researched and written by members of the School of Architecture at the S.A. Institute of Technology and the Adelaide College of Advanced Education history department, organized by Gordon Young, Donald Langmead and Ian Harmstorf.

The survey emphasizes the significance of the valley's historic German character, in particular the farm village (hufendorf) of Bethany, and the dangers of encroaching urban and tourist development. It recommends the preservation of three precincts - Bethany Village, Goat Square in Tanunda and Kaiserstuhl Sanctuary, as well as several farmhouses and farmbuildings and the Church school at Gomersal.

Thirty-year study of C.J. Dennis

The Advertiser 20/4/79 also reported the launching of another book, by Mr. Ian McLaren on C.J. Dennis (see review). The book, an exhaustive bibliography of material relating to C.J. Dennis was started by Mr McLaren firstly due to his interest in collecting Australian books and secondly because of his admiration for Dennis himself. Max Fatchen launched the book by describing it as a "bringing together of all the works, the criticism, the praise, the eccentricities, the pieces of interest that surround Dennis in his life."

ABC History

Professor K.S. Inglis has been asked by the ABC to write its history for its 50th Anniversary in 1982. He wrote to the Advertiser about his wish to hear from former staff as well as listeners and viewers and also to find out if any readers have old sound recordings of ABC programmes.

If so he can be contacted at the History Department, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, P.O. Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600, or to Miss Patricia Kelly, Senior Archivist, ABC, Box 487, Sydney, 2001.

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

Since March, 1979 the following Newsletters have been received:

- a. Royal Australian Historical Society Newsletter No. 180, April 1979
- b. Royal Western Australian Historical Society's Newsletter Vol.18 No.3, April, 1979.
- c. South Australian Horse Driving Society Newsletter April 1979.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

"The transliteration of aboriginal names" into English - degree of accuracy or inaccuracy, with reference to variations in the names collected on Sturt's expedition of 1844-6" by E. Beale (a).

"Sydney's Garden Palace", referring to Sydney's Great International Exhibition of 1879, by W. Hudson Shaw (a).

Notice of the Australian Society of Archivists, which will hold its second biennial conference 18-22nd May in Sydney (contact the Convenor for the conference, P.O. Box 83 O'Connor, A.C.T. 2601) (a).

6. LETTERS AND RESEARCH

12th March, 1979

Dear Sirs,

The Paul Hamlyn Group is this week announcing the launch of its new quality magazine.

GEO. AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

This full-colour magazine will be published quarterly and will be sold by all newsagent outlets throughout Australia and New Zealand.

GEO will feature a wide range of articles and photographs pertaining to many aspects of natural history, flora and fauna, wildlife research, anthropology, geographic exploration and photographic expeditions of the Australasian/Pacific region. The selection of content for GEO will be made by an Editorial Advisory Board, members of which are being selected at present. Prospective Board members must have an expertise in one or several of the areas outlined above so that they would be in an excellent position to debate on the validity and interest value of articles submitted for publication.

If you are working on a geographic project or have a special area of expertise which would be of interest to readers of GEO, we may be able to publish your article. We would be pleased to receive a typed synopsis of your project or research expedition at the following address:

Editorial Advisory Board,
GEO, Australia's National Geographic,
176 South Creek Road,
Dee Why West. NSW 2099
Australia

If you have any queries regarding this new publication please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or letter. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

CHERYL BARNIER
MANAGING EDITOR

WANTED

Information about the HISTORY OF WOMEN'S CRICKET IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Request made by: MRS. B. BUTCHER,
140 THE BOULEVARD,
ESSENDON 3040

who is writing a book on the History of Women's Cricket in Australia.

Information about the HISTORIC GARDENS of the following properties:
THORPE (Crafers) - once owned by the Ayers Family (now by Mr. Seymour
Matthews) - and

BEACHWOOD (Stirling) - first owned by the Snow Family (recently sold by Tom
Barr Smith to Dr. Graham Welch)

Request made by: MR. R. BEAMS (Landscape Architect)
Telephone 267 4166

who is doing research on Historic Gardens in South Australia for the Australian
Heritage Commission.

Any information about the designer/architect of the MOONTA RAILWAY
STATION.

Reply directly to: MR. J.R. HARBISON,
47 GEORGE STREET,
MOONTA 5558

Information about the KINGOONYA DISTRICT, especially concerning coach
mails, station and mining development 1900-1915. Would people who are able to
assist or suggest someone who might please write directly to:

M.J. MUNRO,
144 KINGSTON AVENUE,
EDWARDSTOWN 5039

Mr. Glen Ralph has been appointed to write a history of THEBARTON PRIMARY
SCHOOL, which will be celebrating its centenary this year.

He appeals for any information which members or their friends may have for
publication in October. His address is: 19 Anthony Street, Henley Beach 5022
or messages can be left at the school c/- the Principal, Mr. K. Bull.

Mr. Cedric Wells is looking for someone to write a history of SOUTH
AUSTRALIA'S LIGHT HORSE from 1840, and in particular to interview a former
light horseman with stories to tell. Anyone interested could contact Mr. Wells
at 219 Stanley Street, North Adelaide, Phone 267 4926.

Dear Madam,

During a recent conversation, Mr. Brian Samuels of your Society suggested that
the Society's Newsletter would like a statement on the Munno Para Local History
Collection, and I am therefore enclosing an item concerning the development and
current progress of the Library's Local History material, which I hope may be
of interest to your readers.

Yours faithfully,

G.M. PEARSON (MRS.)
LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCHER

The description of the library follows below. I would welcome similar descriptions of other collections for printing in this Newsletter.

7. ARTICLES

THE MUNNO PARA LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The District Council of Munno Para which covers a large and diverse area of 350 square km. consists of a number of townships and localities. It was one of the earliest District Councils in South Australia having been proclaimed on 10th November, 1853, celebrating its 125th Birthday during November 1978.

In recent years, the originally rural nature of the Council's operations, has expanded and diversified to serve the needs of a rapidly growing mixed rural and urban population. During this urban growth period, the Munno Para Public Library built by the South Australian Housing Trust during the extension of its building programme in Elizabeth, was opened in 1966 in the Elizabeth Field Shopping Centre. Recognising the need to record and preserve Munno Para's local history before significant areas were irretrievably altered either due to deterioration or the establishment of new housing areas, the then Chief Librarian, Mr. Ron Butler, began collecting local history material and the collection has grown steadily since then.

Today it is housed in the Library's Reading Room and consists of:- published reference material in the form of standard reference works on South Australian history, including some facsimile copies from the State Library collection and bound reports and journals from relevant organisations such as the South Australian Housing Trust; maps and plans; donated paintings and artifacts which are on display; a collection of over 1,700 photographs consisting of donated older material and photographs taken since 1970 recording both historic items and new developments as "history in the making" for future reference; reference files containing researched material, documents, transcripts of interviews, biographies, letters, newspaper cuttings etc. relating to each locality.

In 1976, the Council appointed a part time Local History Researcher, to collate, photograph, research and keep the collection under a workable system. Since then, the volume of material has grown considerably and is at present being catalogued under a system devised to suit the format of the material held and with a view to future computerisation.

The collection, which is available for use on request during Library hours, is now being increasingly used by the public. The material is of benefit to both students and those simply interested in the history of the area. Throughout the year, requests are received for information on family history and queries come from any sources including various Government departments, Church organisations etc. Sometimes both the Library and the researcher benefit, when information is exchanged with the enquirer who often has other "gems" to add to Munno Para's collection.

The Library constantly seeks to add to its collection and is always glad to hear from anyone who has had family or business connections in the area, with any material of historical interest which can be photocopied for the records, and returned promptly to the owner. Any donated matter, including photographs etc. is always welcome and gratefully received.

To mark the Council's 125th Birthday, and to help students, local history buffs and others gain an instant knowledge of the district, the Munno Para Public Library in conjunction with the South Australian Education Department's Education Technology Centre, has produced a "Pic-a-Pak" package of colour slides (in 2 parts of 30 slides each, one part depicting a number of buildings and places of historical interest in the district and the other depicting aspects of modern Munno Para for comparison); 2 overhead transparencies; printed notes; maps; and a booklet on the history of the area covered by the District Council of Munno Para.

The material in the package is based on the Library's Local History Collection and the packages will be distributed to both schools and tertiary colleges, and will also be available to anyone interested in the history of the area, from the Munno Para Public Library, 130 Peachey Road, Elizabeth Field S.A. 5113. The cost of the package is to be determined,* and enquiries may be directed to Mr. Laks Pathi, Chief Librarian, Munno Para Library, Telephone 254 6184.

* The cost is expected to be between \$2 and \$4.

EXCERPT FROM B SMITH, "ON PERCEIVING THE AUSTRALIAN SUBURB"

(in G. Seddon and M. Davis, editors, Man and Landscape in Australia)

Also reprinted in B. Smith, The Antipodean Manifesto, O.U.P., Melbourne, 1976

The new awareness of local history at a popular level that is now emerging in many suburban communities in inner-city areas has come about as a response to the challenge of those who wish to demolish the material environment and disrupt the social environment for various reasons, the best-known of which are industrial development, high-rise apartments, and freeways. The response has met with some measure of success; and is now strong enough to be recognized as a continuing issue in local, State and national politics. But it requires a much broader base if it is to survive and develop. In particular it must direct its attention to the acquisition of exact knowledge and the involvement of wider sections of the community.

A broader concept of history must be developed in the public mind so that there is a wider recognition that all environments whether urban, suburban or rural are in some measure historic environments. Each area should possess an active historical society, and that society should be concerned with collecting verbal and written documents from old residents. It should develop an inventory of the material fabric of the area. A local photographic society, if one exists, should be encouraged to undertake a visual inventory of the area. Local art groups should be encouraged to make topographical drawings and paintings of buildings and precincts. As Ruskin pointed out many years ago, drawing is one of the best ways of seeing. Sketching in the open air, a practice which has been discouraged by the passionate devotees of abstract art, should be encouraged again. The artist should be seen in the streets again. Some communities may possess a potential archaeological site, an old pottery, a glass factory, which may provide grounds for an archaeological study. The recent creation of a Society for Historical Archaeology in Australia is a highly important indication of the new awareness. So, too, is the growth and spread of local historical journals. In the area in which I live, the Leichhardt Historical Journal, while maintaining a good professional standard, seeks out information from all sections of the local community. The provision of a museum of local antiquities, even if

it begins with only a room in the local library, should be encouraged. We desperately need exact knowledge about local building techniques so that conservation and restoration may proceed intelligently. Such knowledge is directly connected with the quality of the perception which we bring to an environment. Psychologists tell us that we do not see that which we do not know. It follows therefore that in order to perceive our own environment as an historical and contemporary reality, we need much more exact knowledge about it. And since we are in part moulded by our environments, a knowledge of one's environment is an aspect of self-knowledge; and conversely an incapacity to perceive one's environment becomes an incapacity to perceive an aspect of personal being. So that these matters should not be thought of merely as pleasant ways of filling in leisure time, for those who possess leisure time. No matter how active people are, how wide their obligations to their businesses, their professions, their trades and callings, they should be encouraged to give a tithe of their personal time towards improving the quality of life in their own communities. This is a question of no small importance. For the daily activities of many highly important and very busy people frequently involve them in the spoliation and destruction of communities wherein they themselves do not live. This may help to explain their relative lack of interest in their own communities. But we all have to live somewhere. A better understanding of our own neighbourhoods may possibly help us to respect or at least not destroy those of others.

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is a research note which you might care to publish in the Newsletter. I believe the archive situation I have reported is both complex and promising, and that some quite substantial research remains to be done. Publicity for the resources in the Newsletter might assist by attracting attention to the material.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN DICKEY (Senior Lecturer in History, Flinders University)

A RESEARCH NOTE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF RELIEF TO THE
UNEMPLOYED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION
by Brian Dickey

While Ray Broomhill has written Unemployed Workers (UQP, 1978) as a study of what happened to the unemployed in Adelaide during the great depression of the 1930s, he has concentrated on the experience of the unemployed rather than on the administrative structures set up to assist the unemployed. In 1964 Wayne Zweck wrote a useful descriptive BA thesis "Unemployment in S.A. during the Depression" (history, University of Adelaide) in which he briefly outlined the efforts of both government and community to relieve the poverty of the unemployed in South Australia during the early 1930s. He identified the main benchmarks of rising unemployment and parliamentary debate, and then turned to the typed minutes of the Unemployment Relief Council, (URC) which was established in 1930 to conduct the government's efforts of relief for the unemployed. As Zweck made clear, this Council of senior public servants took over an existing set of procedures and administrators in the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Dept. They saw little reason to challenge these arrangements. They sought to stretch the available resources as far as possible. They became the channel for federal money and the coordinating body for work done by municipal councils.

Zweck however was restricted by available time and accessibility of records. The resources available - or in some cases, soon to be available - make it clear that a much larger investigation is possible, one which might usefully complement Broomhill's study.

First, the URC minutes. They are typed single space on brief sized sheets. Volume one, from 10 Dec. 1930 to 3 May 1933, contains 500 pages. There is in these minutes a full and running record of deputations received by the Board, decisions on specific cases of need, and references to reports submitted by the 'Relief Officer' and police. There are reports of negotiations with the premier or responsible minister. There is a great deal about the involvement of the URC in the establishment of the country settlements at Mt. Compass, Kuitpo Forest, and Mt. Crawford, which Steve Dyer studied in his MA thesis "Farmers and the Depression, Government Farm Relief in S.A. 1929-1939" (University of Adelaide), and reported in Labour History 31 (1976), the Journal of Australian Studies, 2 (1977) and Journal of the Historical Society of SA, 2 (1976). It should be emphasised, in passing, that despite the fascinating detail of Dyer's account, he fails to show that the URC, once it was established, was the point of control for these village settlements.

In addition to the Minutes, there are the quarterly reports of the URC, presented to Parliament. Only the first was published. Broomhill tells us the unpublished reports are available in the SA Parliamentary Library. It is clear that the opportunity exists for a careful analysis of the various phases of the URC which would go well beyond Zweck's introductory study.

One important initial question is: within what administrative system was the URC operating? The answer seems to be that it was linked with the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department (CW & PRD), the direct successor since 1927 of the previously separate State Children's Board and the Destitute Board. The references in the URC minutes to the 'Relieving Officer', for example, are to the officers of the Relief Dept. That is, the Public Relief Department provided the administrative base for the operations of the URC.

Now, the State Archives holds a large and rich set of materials from the CW & PRD (later to become the Social Welfare Dept. and currently the Dept. of Community Welfare). While all of the records of this department are restricted for 50 years and some for 60 years, some files are already clear by the elapse of time and others have been made available by the appropriate authorities. The Archives holding descriptions at GRG 27 - 28 - 29 list and describe this large and complex series. Annual reports, correspondence files, letters sent, financial and other records are available, or should soon be available, depending partly on the effect of the 50 and 60 year restrictions imposed on access. The Minute Books of the Destitute Board exist from 1849 to 1927 and for the CW & PRD including those of the State Children's Board, from 1886 to 1955. The administrative files supporting the proceedings of the URC can be identified within GRG 29. As yet (1979) they are not open, though it should not be long (1981-1984?) There are also the files and papers of the indoor institutions, notably the Magill Boys Reformatory or home and the proceedings of the boarding out or foster care activities of the Child Welfare Department.

Specifically, it is clear that while the established procedures of the CW & PRD provided for cash assistance to destitute mothers in various categories, it was the absence of a specific pattern of administrative procedures designed to cope

with destitution deriving from unemployment which produced the URC. But the important point to note is that the CW & PRD kept on assisting destitute females - the minute books prove it. Moreover, the URC might best be regarded as another statutory component of the CW & PRD, at least at the administrative level. So there were two concurrent relief programs being conducted^d by the state government in SA during the depression, the one growing out of and largely accepting the philosophy and procedures of the other.

Their practices and procedures taken together need examining:

- (a) as evidence of what the organising, possessing, administering components of SA society did to or for the destitute: who? with what? under what constraints? by whom? There is clear evidence of a desire to assist, to provide cash or rations to those who were destitute. But the Weberian commitment to rule bound procedures clearly programmed the administrators. Regulation clearly became control: minor peccadilloes were sufficient excuse for exclusion. Conformity, acceptance of dominant moral values, a preference for the virtues of country life all informed the value system the Department and the URC operated in.
- (b) as evidence of what the destitute wanted, or wanted to do (e.g. anger over ration quality, fundraising, settlement schemes, ...) proposals for income earning schemes, explanations of circumstances, behaviour producing denial of aid ... and so on.

These are but a few suggestions to promote yet further research into the depression in Adelaide in the 1930s. These government files will by no means tell all. There are also the files of relief action undertaken by the municipal councils, notably, those of the Adelaide City Council are only now being uncovered and sorted. One hopes the Council's Archivist will soon be able to assist historians to work on these files. And of course the memories of the people affected have by no means been exhausted by Ray Broomhill's work, as I am sure he will be the first to admit.

E.F. MONK'S ACCOUNT OF THE LAST TWO PASSAGES AND LOSS OF THE SHIP "CARNARVON BAY" IN 1910 (Part 3) by Hazel Henning

The port boat was launched first, with four or five men only aboard to keep her clear of the ship's side and from damage whilst dropping astern to await the clearing and lowering of the starboard, a much more difficult job because of the list to port. This boat was, however, quickly cleared also and left the ship carrying the remainder of the crew and the ship's cat, the latter having entered the boat entirely on its own according to stories related afterwards. The two boats made fast to each other a little way astern of the ship and still under her lee when watches were transferred into their respective boats, the starboard carrying the Master, 2nd and 3rd Mates, four apprentices, the sailmaker, seven ABs and the boy, making sixteen in all. In the port boat were the Mate, the passenger, three apprentices, the Bo'sun, carpenter, cook and seven ABs, making fifteen in all.

By this time it was dark and on casting off, the Master informed the Mate that he intended to make for the Tasmanian coast and suggested that the latter do likewise. The starboard boat set sail and was almost immediately lost sight of although the ship was still visible to windward, with the masts still standing; the land also could still be seen and the Mate decided to make for this rather

than follow the Master on his passage downwind to the Tasmanian coast. The rudder had been broken against the ship's side but oars were manned by double-banking the rowers and an oar was fitted aft for steering. We were down wind from King Island and some miles from the land so it was a long hard pull to windward but we were close in by about midnight and after two or three attempts effected a landing on a sandy stretch of beach between two large rocks which just permitted the boat to pass unharmed on an incoming sea. We were carried so far up the beach that the receding wave allowed us to step out of the boat literally dryfooted.

Some driftwood was gathered and a fire soon made, thanks to the practice of the Mate of carrying his tobacco and matches wrapped in oilskin, and we gathered round this, using the boat's sail as a shelter to windward, spending the remainder of the night dozing and talking - and very cold. At daybreak a party ascended some high land nearby to search the sea for the ship but there was no sign of her and we concluded that she must be foundered shortly after being abandoned. There was no wreckage about but this had probably drifted down wind to the East and there was no record afterwards of anything being picked up. We were hungry and thirsty as our last meal had been midday the day before so we decided to strike inland immediately in search of food and water. We were dressed as we had been when on watch, in heavy clothes, oilskins, seaboots and sou'westers, so walking was not easy and we found the country difficult as a bush fire had been through some little time before and although clearing the undergrowth had left a lot of debris and half-burnt wood.

Fortunately we soon found water, in a swamp we were obliged to cross, but it was not until late in the afternoon that we came across a fence, which was the first sign of human habitation and which led us to a small farmhouse owned by a Mr. Collier who was busy milking a cow when we came upon him. One can imagine his surprise at seeing a party of fifteen oilskinned and seabooted men descending on his quiet homestead! He and his wife quickly made us welcome, with tea, bread and butter, and they then led us to the nearby home of a Mr. & Mrs. H. Bowling who made us welcome and comfortable for the night by providing sleeping accommodation in a barn. A sheep was killed and dressed and the cook who, fortunately, was in our party, soon had a first-class stew cooking in two four-gallon tins.

Replete, and reasonably rested, we settled down for the night, using old newspapers and straw for coverings against the penetrating cold as it was still overcast and blowing hard and September, in those latitudes, can be a chilly month. Next morning, Saturday, 17th September, Mr. Bowling yoked up his eight bullocks to a wagon and accompanied by him as a guide we set out for the small port of Currie, which was the only settlement on the island and was distant some fifteen miles, as we had walked away from it the previous day in our search for help.

On arrival at the little town we were received with great kindness and provided with accommodation and such other necessities as we required, pending the next visit of a small steamer that called at irregular intervals from Burnie, in Tasmania, to pick up fat cattle and other farm produce. This vessel, the "Wauchope", came in on the Thursday and we landed at Burnie on Friday, 23rd September and left that night for Melbourne in the Union Company's "Oonah", arriving at 2.30 p.m. the following day, to be greeted by our shipmates who had left the wreck in the starboard boat. It turned out that they had had a

much more trying and eventful time than had we as on arriving off the Tasmanian coast they had been unable to effect a landing and had been obliged to cross Bass Strait on a course set approximately for Wilson's Promontory. They had had a very bad crossing in the small and crowded 22ft. lifeboat, with only the small food and drink supplies mentioned earlier.

They were sighted by the "Tarcoola" (Capt. Irvine) of the Adelaide Steamship Co., on passage Sydney to Melbourne, late on Saturday evening, 17th September, when off Cape Liptrap and were taken aboard in an exhausted condition, together with their boat. They were landed at Melbourne the following day and had been anxiously awaiting news of us as an extensive search had been undertaken following their report of the loss of the ship. The Government vessel "Lady Loch" and a sea-going tug had been sent out to scour the Strait and to make contact with King Island but both vessels had returned after a fruitless search. All hands were accommodated in Melbourne pending arrangements for their return to the United Kingdom or the obtaining of berths in other ships.

The Court of Marine Enquiry into the loss of the ship was held in Melbourne and the finding will be of interest to present day mariners, inconclusive as it was. Extracts from the full transcript received by the writer, by courtesy of the Secretary of the Marine Board of Victoria, read:-

"The following questions are submitted by the Marine Board for the Court's opinion, and it answers them as follows:-

(1) Was the "Carnarvon Bay" when she left Liverpool provided with proper and sufficient charts for the voyage?

Answer: Yes.

(2) When the Master verified his position 9 miles west of Currie Harbor at 3.45 p.m. on the 15th September 1910, and concluded that his ship could not clear Cape Wickham, was he justified in proceeding by way of the South end of King Island under the weather conditions existing at the time, namely: a moderate unsteady N.W. gale with a high westerly sea lifting his vessel towards a lee shore, the barometer at 29.85.

Answer: The Board considers that the Master was justified in so proceeding under the weather conditions existing at the time but extreme watchfulness and care were required of him when taking that course.

(3) In the opinion of the Court when the vessel's position was fixed 9 miles West of Currie Harbor, were the weather conditions favorable for beating her round Cape Wickham?

Answer: Yes. Though the wind was not favorable at that very time he might have reasonably expected the wind to change towards West and South, and have stood off, as it had varied all the day from W. by S. to N.W. and that the barometer had risen from 29.50 at 8 a.m. to 29.85 at 2 p.m., indicating a likely change to the S.W. and better weather, and in fact the wind did change at about 6 p.m. to W.N.W. and at midnight to S.W.

(4) Was the "Carnarvon Bay" navigated in a careful and seamanlike manner from the time King Island was sighted until Stokes Point was abeam?

Answer: The Court must answer this question in the negative for the following reasons:- (1) that there was a variation of from 5 to 6 points between the standard compass, by which the master was directing the ship's course, and the steering compass, by which the helmsman was steering the vessel. The helmsman, till the ship was abreast of Stokes Point, was steering, according to the master's directions, by the land; after passing this point his compass was useless, and though the master was directing the helmsman from the standard compass he was absent at times and especially at the momentous time when he was in the chart house and just before the vessel struck, (2) that there was no efficient lookout kept, which is contrary to the Regulations for the prevention of collisions at sea, but apart from these regulations, was most necessary at this time for the safe navigation of the ship.

(5) In the opinion of the Court, from the evidence before them, did the vessel pass a safe and proper distance off Stokes Point?

Answer: The evidence on this point is unreliable as the distances estimated by the witnesses according to their evidence is merely an approximation. The Court, therefore, expresses no opinion respecting this question...

(10) In the opinion of the Court, from the evidence before them, was the vessel of necessity abandoned or prematurely abandoned?

Answer: Yes and No. The vessel, in the opinion of the Court, was of necessity abandoned, and not prematurely."

Acknowledgments: E. F. Monk M. F. Tompsett Nautical Magazine