

HSSA

History

Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia

Print Post approved 535806/0005

No. 118 May 1995

HSSA SHOWS ITS WORTH



Following the interest aroused by its display at the Brickworks market last October, the HSSA has staged two more – one at the Commonwealth Bank building, King William Street, in March, and another at the North Adelaide public library in March-April.

The two more recent displays were primarily photographic but further interest was added with antiques and memorabilia from members' collections. The Society was supported in the Commonwealth Bank display with prints from the Royal Geographical Society, the Mortlock Library and the State Heritage Branch.

In the pipeline are HSSA displays in the State Lending Library, Kintore Ave, Adelaide (June), the Parkholme library (August) and Brighton library (December). There are also plans to return to the Commonwealth Bank in March next year, when the display will be a joint effort of the HSSA and the Genealogical Society.

Photographed are recently appointed publicity and promotions officer (and former secretary), Marcia Dunshore, with a member of the library staff when the HSSA display was at North Adelaide.

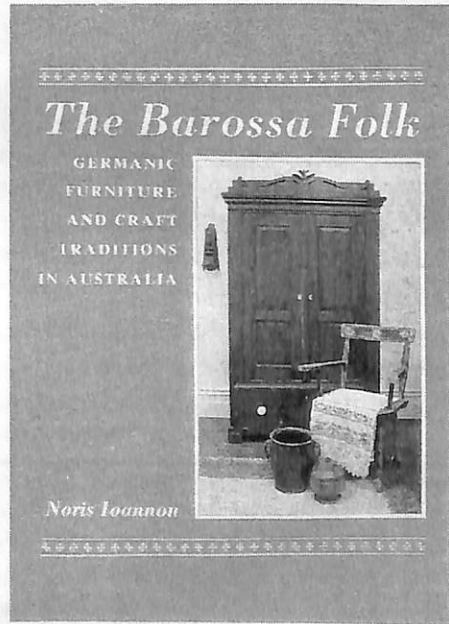
HSSA speakers

'BAROSSA – THE HEARTLAND OF GERMAN TRADITION'

Dr Noris Ioannou will draw on his recently published book on Germanic furniture and craft traditions in the Barossa Valley when he speaks at the HSSA meeting on 2 June.

SA Minister for the Arts, Diana Laidlaw, launched Dr Ioannou's book, *The Barossa Folk*, on 17 April at the historic Willows vineyard, Light Pass. The launch coincided with the celebration of the vineyard having been in the one family for 150 years.

Ms Laidlaw praised Dr Ioannou for his seven years' work on the project, calling him 'a tiger for research'.



(to page 2)

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue,
Adelaide 5000 (mailing address only)
Founded 1974.

OBJECTS

- To promote the collection, preservation and classification of source material of all kinds relating to South Australia and Australian history.
- To publish historical records and articles.
- To promote the interchange of information among members of the Society by lectures, readings, discussions, field trips and exhibitions.
- To arouse interest in and promote the study and discussion of history, especially that of South Australia and Australia.
- To co-operate with similar societies throughout Australia.
- To do such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objects.

COUNCIL

Patron: Sir Walter Crocker, K.B.E.
President: Dr R.P.J. Nicol, 297 9844 (h)
Vice-president: Mr Hamish Angas
Secretary: Ms A. Every 415 7866
Treasurer: Mrs A. Huckel 277 2953
381 7429

Journal editor: Dr J.T. Stock

Members: Mr R. Clyne
Mr S. Dawes
Mr M. Keain
Mr J. Loudon
Dr P. Payne
Ms P. Sumerling
Mrs E. Ulbrich

History SA editor: Mr J. Loudon 340 3467
Publicity/promotions officer: Ms M. Dunshore
Consultant: Mr R.M. Gibbs, A.M.
Auditor: Mr K. Banfield

HISTORY SA DEADLINE

The deadline for all material to be submitted for the July issue of *History SA* is Friday 16 June.

NEW MEMBERS

The Historical Society of South Australia is pleased to welcome the following new members: Ms L. Bartoni, Ms S. Cheney, Mrs C. Garnaut, Ms A. Morton and Dr K. Wilson.

(from page 1)

The Barossa Folk covers the decorative arts of the Barossa Valley from the early 19th century to the present day. Author, historian and *Advertiser* craft critic, Dr Ioannou says the Barossa Valley remains the undisputed heartland of Germanic and central European folk art in Australia. His cultural history details the work, personalities and lifestyles of prominent craftsmen, giving an insight into the migration experience, folk art and cultural continuity.

It also describes settlement patterns in the Barossa and various aspects of craft practice, including the bush traditions of farmer-craftsmen and the professional work of Prussian cabinet makers. It documents and analyses the Biedermeier furniture style and other vernacular forms, textiles, pottery and arts and crafts practices, such as iron work, foil art, celebratory art and poker work.

Published by Craftsman House of Sydney, *The Barossa Folk* retails at \$115 post free.

PEOPLE, MYTHS AND HARD WORK OF THE HILLS

The East Torrens area has supplied Adelaide with fresh fruit and vegetables since the 1840s, but who were the people who settled the area, what did they do and how did they influence the area we know today? Who knows what George Milver Stephen, Samuel Allen and William Wotton had in common?

These are some the questions to be answered by Dr Geoffrey Bishop in his illustrated address on 7 July. Dr Bishop is an extension officer with Landcare SA and a past-president of the East Torrens Historical Society.

Writing in 1892, E.H. Hallack termed the people of the Adelaide Hills 'the toilers of the hills'. Dr Bishop suggests this was an apt title for the gardening men and women who worked hard to make a living in one of the State's most inaccessible areas and says researching the history of the area is almost equally difficult.

Note: The meetings to be addressed by Dr Ioannou and Dr Bishop will both be held at the usual venue, the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, beginning at 8pm.

HISTORY TRUST MUSEUMS SHOW RISE IN NUMBERS

The Chairman of the History Trust of SA, Mr John Steinle, has reported 'some heartening signs of an improvement in the Trust's operating position after several hard years'.

Writing in the Trust's annual report for 1993-94, Mr Steinle said all four of the Trust's museums had registered increases in attendance and the Trust had developed expertise in successfully managing special events.

The issues that had dominated the deliberations of the Trust's Board of Trustees during the year were the repositioning of the Maritime Museum at Port Adelaide and the redevelopment of the National Motor Museum at Birdwood.

The Maritime Museum had been forced both to relocate its collection of large items from Wharf Shed One and to prepare for the relocation of its collections housed in the Koch Building adjacent to the Museum itself.

The Trust argued strongly that the Wharf Shed One exhibits should be rehoused in a strategic location near the hub of the Port's tourist activity - Black Diamond Square and the Museum's lighthouse. However, both collections were eventually stored in a remote wharf shed where, as Mr Steinle said, they are 'awaiting the day when they can once again form an important part of the Museum's appeal to visitors'.

Turning to the Motor Museum, Mr Steinle said it had long been clear that its *ad hoc* assemblage of buildings was insufficient to house a truly national museum. However, he reported that the museum's redevelopment fund totalled more than \$2 million at the end of the financial year, mainly as a result of a \$1 million grant from the State Government.

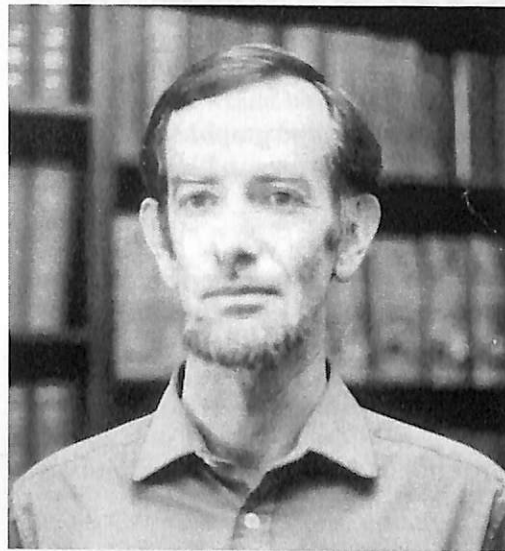
He said the overall cost of redeveloping the Birdwood museum was estimated at \$8.5 million, of which \$1 million would be used to create interpretive exhibitions on the great themes of Australian motoring history. The History Trust has engaged award-winning architect Carlo Gnezda to design the new complex.

Council changes LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR BRIAN SAMUELS

Brian Samuels has stepped down as a member of Council and as vice-president of the Society, bringing to an end an association with the decision-making processes of the Society that began with its inception in 1974.

The March meeting of Council expressed its sincere appreciation and gratitude for Mr Samuels' valuable contribution to the Society over those 21 years and resolved to grant him an honorary life membership, a move which was warmly supported by members at the annual meeting in April.

Mr Samuels (pictured below) is the third honorary life member of the Society, joining Mr R. M. Gibbs and Dr J. Playford. All three have received framed certificates indicating their life membership.

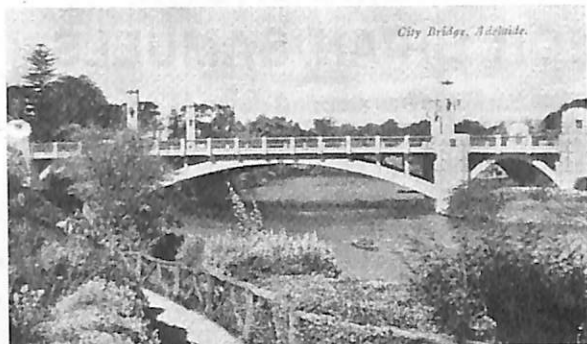


Other changes to Council include the resignation of Marcia Dunshore as secretary, a position now filled by Anne Every. However, Ms Dunshore has agreed to continue working for the Society as its publicity officer.

The March meeting of Council supported the president in his expression of thanks to Ms Dunshore for the valuable contributions she made during her time as secretary.

Pat Sumerling and Robert Clyne accepted nomination as members of Council. Ms Sumerling, a freelance historian, is a former member of council, while Mr Clyne is a long-time member of the SA Police Force Historical Society and author of a history of the force.

'A lovely town'



Mrs Helen Harbeck, of Capel, WA, has sent the Society a folder of Adelaide views dating from the 1930s, 40s or 50s. The folder was published by C.A. Pitt & Co., Payeham, and was found among the effects of her late father-in-law. An unsigned, undated note on the folder describes Adelaide as 'a lovely town'.

HISTORY AS A FAMILY AFFAIR

The Society has received graphic evidence of how an interest in history can become a family affair.

Following the death last year of Mrs Gwen Ellis, long-time country member, her daughter Mrs Carolyn Cutten, of Keith, has written to the Society in order to perpetuate her mother's interest in the Society. Mrs Cutten has taken out family membership to cover not only herself but her children, who are also showing an interest in history – an interest stimulated by trips they had made with their grandmother.

In a note to HSSA Mrs Cutten said, 'Now that we do not have mother to answer the questions we could have asked when she was here, we are starting to appreciate her trail of historical jottings – on old envelopes and on the backs of paintings – her photos and files of family history. and the lovely collection of various historical newsletters she collected on her window sills, etc.!!

'She was a help to the local Keith community with her cutting collection, housed at the old manse in Keith. Lots of school children have come and used them via the National Trust. She also helped with information for history and historical fiction books, etc.'

TO THE EDITOR

Sandy Pugsley, of Tourabout Adelaide, has dropped a line to say she likes the new format of *History SA* and Trevor Miller's letter in the March issue prompted this response from Alison Dolling:

To suit or not to suit?

Trevor Miller finds the format of HSSA unsuitable;

Others no doubt will think his view disputable.

Of course we know that nothing is immutable
And that history is at times inscrutable.

Now as it is, the new HSSA is a goodly packet,

But I, with Trev, prefer its old familiar well-worn jacket.

– Alison Dolling

Carolyn Cutten, of Keith, also prefers the previous format. She says, 'The new look newsletters do not fit on the window sill as well as the old style!' (See story this page)

Sorry, we slipped!

As the author of articles in *Viceroy*, used recently in *History SA*, may I point out that *Viceroy* is produced by the Friends of Old Government House, Belair, and not as quoted in issue No. 117, March 1995, by the Friends of Old Parliament House.

Our organisation is committed to the ongoing conservation and presentation to the public of the former vice-regal residence at Belair, and the articles in *Viceroy* have been written to give our members and thereby the public, information about the early history of the house and its connections.

I personally enjoy reading *History SA*, as do many other Friends of Old Government House. With thanks for your continued interest in and support for our organisation.

– Pam Tamblyn
Co-editor, *Viceroy*

WATCH OUT FOR MUSEUM GRANTS

The 1995-96 round of Museums Accreditation and Grants Program grants will be advertised in *The Advertiser* on 1 July. Closing date for applications is 1 September.

Book reviews

Moving portraits in 100 years of Waikerie history

Jean M. Nunn, History of Waikerie, Gateway to the Riverland, available from Waikerie District Council or from Jean Nunn, 13 Coreega Ave, Springfield. \$30 plus p.p.

This is another fine addition to the growing list of local histories of South Australian rural centres. Publication was planned to coincide with the centenary year of Waikerie in 1994. The work is particularly interesting because of its examination of the village settlements and the circumstances surrounding their establishment, and because of the author's determination to personalise the story by looking at the roles of individuals and families in what was a harsh environment.

Here is a fine background look at the area prior to the foundation of the Waikerie Village Settlement in 1894. There are some moving portraits of pioneer life, like Mary Holden who accompanied her husband to isolated Berri-Berri Bend on Cobdogla station and set up house in a hut he had built:

'Major' Holden worked hard but before long he became ill and presently died in a coughing spasm, leaving Mary alone with her baby, desolate, in the idyllic but isolated place. With no help at hand, Mary launched the small rowing boat, set the baby's cradle on a seat, wrapped her dead husband in blankets and managed somehow to get him aboard. After rowing for two days, by which time she was too tired to think, Mary reached Overland Corner and 'kindly hearts and hands reached out to help her'.

The story of Waikerie itself is dealt with comprehensively from first settlement in 1894 right up to the present. In the process the author introduces us to its people and its institutions and to their underlying ethos. Out of this emerges an identifiable sense of community which has survived the numerous boom/bust cycles which the region has faced.

— Rob Nicol

Note: There will a detailed review of Jean Nunn's history of Waikerie in the 1995 issue of the Historical Society of SA Journal.

Two views of the one voyage

Jean Main, The Barque John: a voyage to the land of hope, Gravesend to Adelaide 1839-40, (J. Main, Aranda, ACT, 1994) \$16 plus \$3.50 p.p.

Canberra-based genealogist and research agent Jean Main has merged two diaries kept by two very different people during the voyage of the vessel 'John' from Gravesend to South Australia in 1839-40. The resulting book, which will be of particular interest to South Australians, would assist anyone preparing a family history that involves that voyage – or a voyage of about that time. On the one hand we are given the weather and position of the ship (very often historians are asked about the course taken in that era) and on the other, the day-to-day events as seen through the eyes of a very observant, if somewhat 'dedicated' female passenger.

There is nothing startling in either diary, the interest arising from the fact that they were written on the same voyage – not an everyday event. The book would be useful to anyone interested in and/or writing of travel in that era, and also offers a small insight into life at the time in Cape Province, where few vessels called on their way to Australia.

— Ron Parsons

Coming events

Following are items that have come to the attention of the editor of *History SA* or have been selected from material compiled for *Community History*, a publication of the State History Centre. Corrections, updated information and new entries welcome.

12-15 May: Kernewek Lowender (Cornish Festival) in Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo. Enquiries to PO Box 230, Kadina, 5554, or call (088) 212 096.

15 May: Burnside Historical Society meeting. Dr Geoffrey Bishop on the Tolley family and its involvement in wine and brandy making since 1862. Burnside Community Centre, 8pm.

17 May: Coromandel Valley National Trust meeting – Rob Linn, 'Early Adelaide'. St John's Grammar School, Sheoak Rd, Belair, 8pm.

21 May: Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society walk/drive around historic Mount Barker led by local historian Dick Mills. Meet

(to page 6)

(from page 5)

at Dunn Memorial Uniting Church, Mann St, Mount Barker, 1.45pm.

2 June: Historical Society of SA meeting – talk by Dr Noris Ioannou, 'The Barossa Folk: Germanic furniture and craft traditions in Australia'. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8pm.

3 June: Practical oral history workshop conducted by Beth Robertson, oral history officer with the State Library. Enquiries to Beth, 207 7349.

4 June: Beaumont House Open Day, 631 Glynburn Rd, Beaumont, 2pm-4.30pm.

19 June: Burnside Historical Society meeting, poet Graham Jenkin on the poet as historian. Burnside Community Centre, 8pm.

23 June: Queen Adelaide Society bus tour to historic Glenbarr homestead. Departs Burnside Town Hall 9.30am. Bookings to Valerie, 255 7593.

28 June: National Trust Mt Lofty branch annual meeting – Sally Collins on the Mount Lofty catchment scheme. Stangate House, Edgeware Rd, Aldgate, 8pm.

1-3 July: 'Exploring Family History' at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. Enquiries to Dorothy Lucardie in the University's Department of Continuing Education.

7 July: Historical Society of SA meeting. Dr Geoffrey Bishop (East Torrens Historical Society), *Toilers in the Hills: the people, myths and hard work that made East Torrens*. Prince Philip Lecture Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8pm.

2-9 July: International conference on the history of medicine and health, Norfolk Island. Enquiries to John Thearle, Department of Child Health, Mater Childrens Hospital, South Brisbane, (07) 844 9069, fax 844 9069.

3-7 July: International conference of historical geographers, Perth. Enquiries to organisers, School of Social Sciences, Curtin University of Technology, GPO Box U1987, Perth, 6001. Tel. (08) 201 3749, fax (08) 201 2566.

17 July: Burnside Historical Society meeting. Hamish Angus (State Heritage Branch). *Early Adelaide Theatres: an architectural history perspective*. Burnside Community Centre, 8pm.

26 July: Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society. Rev. T. Ronald Hayward on the history of the Ashton Memorial Methodist Church and early Methodism in the Adelaide Hills. Stangate House, Aldgate, 8pm.

29 July: National Trust 40th anniversary dinner and fund-raising auction. Stoneyfell Winery, 7.30pm. Enquiries and bookings ????

4 August: Simon Royal (ABC radio), *History and the Media*. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8pm.

ONGOING EVENTS

DAILY

Kapunda Museum: Agricultural machinery and historic vehicles. Hill St, Kapunda, 1-4pm.

Migration Museum: *Wherever There's a Mine*, a display celebrating the contribution Cornish people have made to South Australia since the 1840s (to 28 May). *Finding my History*, artist Alan Tucker's portrayal of the settlement/invasion of SA (to July). 82 Kintore Ave, Adelaide. Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm, weekends and public holidays, 1-5pm.

Port Dock Station Railway Museum: Locomotives and carriages, historic goods shed, dining car and model trains. Steam train rides at weekends. Diesel train rides during the week. Lipson St, Port Adelaide, Sunday to Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 12 noon-5pm. Enquiries 341 1654/1690.

SA Museum: *Science on a Camel's Back*, a centenary survey of the Horn expedition to the MacDonnell Ranges of Central Australia, 10am-5pm (to 23 July). Enquiries 207 7500.

Sheep's Back Museum: Housed in 1870 flour mill. Award-winning displays of the wool industry and its people. Craft shop. MacDonnell St, Naracoorte. 10am-4pm.

Signal Point: See the Murray-Darling River story, animated stories of the Dreamtime; take a video trip with the explorers; use the touch screen to discover birds, animals and fish of the river system; explore the restored *Oscar W* paddle steamer, One the banks of the River Murray, Goolwa, 11am-5pm.

State History Centre, Old Parliament House: A national heritage building. See the vivid audio-visual presentation, *The South Australia Story*, photographic panorama of the city in 1865, Speakers Corner (*50 Years of Freedom*, the Baltic struggle for freedom and settlement in SA 1945-95) and special exhibition *For Better and Worse? A century of change for SA women*. Also Australiana book and souvenir shop, courtyard restaurant. 10am-5pm Monday to Friday, 12 noon-5pm weekends and public holidays. Enquiries 207 1077.

Tandanya: Aboriginal Arts centre with guided tours and talks about aspects of Aboriginal

(to page 7)

(from page 6)

heritage and culture, including the telling of Dreamtime stories. 253 Grenfell St, Adelaide. 10.30am-5pm Monday to Friday, 12 noon-5pm weekends and public holidays.

Wadlata Outback Centre: Discover the origins of the Outback; relive the Aboriginal Dreamtime and tales of the pioneer settlers; learn what the vast and varied land means to the people who live and work there. 41 Flinders Tce, Port Augusta. Weekdays 9am-5.30pm. weekends 10am-4pm.

Woods-MacKillop Schoolhouse: Where Mother Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods established the first Josephite school. Cnr Petticoat Lane and Portland St, Penola, 10am-4pm.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, FRIDAY AND WEEKENDS

Gladstone Gaol (1881-1975): Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 1pm-4pm; Saturday, Sunday, SA school holidays and all public holidays, 10am-12noon and 1pm-4pm. Accommodation available. Enquiries (086) 62 2200 or (086) 62 2232.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY

Ayers House: Home of seven times Premier Sir Henry Ayers. North Tce, Adelaide. Tuesday to Friday 10am-4pm. Weekends and public holidays 1pm-4pm.

SA Maritime Museum: Full size replica of a sailing ketch, computerised ancestor tracing, penny arcade, lighthouse, steam tug and coastal trader. 126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide, 10am-5pm. Enquiries 240 0200.

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Axel Stenross Maritime Museum: Boat-building workshop, relives of windjammer days, working slipway and blacksmith's shop. 97 Lincoln Highway, Port Lincoln (086) 82 2093/1162.

THURSDAY

Adelaide Oval: Guided tours include the Bradman Stand, Bradman photographs, dressing room, and secrets of the scoreboard. 10am from the South Gate. Enquiries 231 3759.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Aviation Museum: Piston engine and jet plane displays. 11 Mundy St, Port Adelaide. 10am-5pm.

Market Square Museum: Burra, Saturdays 2pm-4pm, Sundays, 12 noon-2.30pm.

Old Police Station, Clare: Furniture and clothing from Victorian era, early records and photographs of district, agricultural machinery, horse-drawn vehicles. Cnr Victoria Rd and West Tce. Saturdays and public holidays, 10am-12 noon; Sundays 2pm-4pm.

Strathalbyn Museum: Police Station (1858) with sitting room, bedrooms and kitchen containing domestic objects of the 19th century, and Courthouse (1866). Weekends, public and school holidays, 2-5pm.

SUNDAY to FRIDAY

Clayton Farm Historic Site and Agricultural Museum: One of the finest groups of rural buildings in SA plus original farm machinery. On State Heritage Register. 3km south of Bordertown. 2pm-5pm.

SUNDAY

Adelaide Gaol (1841-1988): Guided tours of cell blocks, exercise yards, hanging tower and graves. Port Rd, Adelaide. First tour 11am then frequently until 3.30pm Bookings essential. Call State Heritage Branch on 297 2383 or gaol manager, 231 4062.

The Brocas: Colonial house, blacksmith's shop, joinery and stables. 111 Woodville Rd, Woodville. 2pm-5pm.

Cummins: Historic home of the Morphet family. Sheoak Ave, Novar Gardens. 2pm-4.30pm.

Historic Military Vehicles Museum: 50 military vehicles, dioramas, uniforms. Cnr Baynes Place and Commercial Rd, Port Adelaide. 9.30am-4.30pm.

Old Customs House and Station Master's House: Victor Harbor, 11am-4pm.

Old Government House: Vice-regal summer residence 1860-80, with servants quarters and Victorian garden. National Park, Belair, 12.30-4pm.

Railway Signal/Telegraph and Aviation Museum: Information and photographs of early SA aviators Ross and Keith Smith and history of Albert Park and Parafield airports, railway memorabilia, working and static displays or signalling equipment. 112 Marion Rd, Brooklyn Park, 1pm-4.30pm. Enquiries 373 3554.

JOURNAL AVAILABLE

The 1994 edition of *HSSA Journal*, edited by Dr Jenny Stock, is now available.

The 152-page *Journal* is the 22nd in the series and contains eight papers, as well as several review articles and six reviews.

The topics covered include the formation of the National Trust in SA (Kerrie Round), the early years of the Jewish community in SA (Bernard Hyams), Julian Tenison Woods in Asia (Roderick O'Brien), the Workers' Educational Association in SA from 1917-27 (John Truran), holidays and health in 19th century and early 20th century SA (Lesley Abell), SA and the Nuremberg trials (Paul R. Bartrop), Nursing pioneers of the 1890s (Joan Durdin), and Carnegie benefactions (V.A. Edgeloe).

The books reviewed are: *The Australian Nation: its British and Irish roots* by Geoffrey Partington, *A Case to Answer* by David Bevan, *At the End of the Road: government, society and the disposal of human remains in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries* by Robert Nicol, *Doc Evatt: patriot, internationalist, fighter and scholar* by Ken Buckley, *With Casual Efficiency: the story of the Sporting Car Club of South Australia 1934-1994* by Dennis Harrison, and *In Her Own Name: a history of women in South Australia from 1836* by Helen Jones.

Copies of the *Journal* may be obtained from Anne Every, Secretary, Historical Society of South Australia, Institute Building, Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000.

Back issues of all numbers except 1, 4, 9 and 10 are also available at \$12 each, postage included.

NEW EDITION FOR MT LOFTY BOOK

Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society is excited at the news that Stirling District Council, with assistance from the State Government's Community History Fund, will fund a second edition of Robert Martin's *Under Mount Lofty: a history of the Stirling district in South Australia*. The new edition will be revised and enlarged with a chapter on the period 1983-95.

DATE CHANGE FOR ANNUAL DINNER

The Society has had to change the date for this year's annual dinner from Saturday 2 September to Saturday 9 September. The setting will be the Public Schools Club, 207 East Terrace, and the cost of the dinner, with a choice of several dishes for each of the three courses, will be \$28 per head. Bar facilities will be available. Bookings are being taken by Anne on (pager) 415 7886. Why not mark the date in your diary and call Anne now?

Did your forbears hail from Port Macquarie?

The Port Macquarie Historical Society, NSW, is compiling a biographical register of people who lived in the district before 1 January 1901, a project that is expected to take another three years to complete. It has already been under way for five years and has resulted in some 17,000 individuals and 3,500 families being recorded to date.

In order to make its records as complete as possible, the Society is seeking information from anyone whose forbears lived in that area of NSW drained by the Hastings and Camden Haven Rivers and their tributaries.

Applications for inclusion on the register must be made on the official entry form (designed for ease of storage on computer). Each form must be signed by the contributor, allowing the Port Macquarie Historical Society to use the information supplied for publication at its discretion.

An index of names and addresses of persons supplying information will be included in the published register.

Entry forms and copies of a map of the geographical area to be covered by the register may be obtained from the Secretary of the HSSA, Anne Every (tel. pager 415 7866). The closing date for entries is 1 November 1995.

The Society's Records and Research Officer, Mr I.W. Symonds, says, 'As the records will contain a large number of convicts who not only served their sentences at Port Macquarie but are buried in our historic cemetery, it is anticipated that the information we gather will generate a high degree of interest.'

SHY AND ILL, LADY FEGUSSON DEVOTED HERSELF TO PHILANTHROPY

This is the last of our portraits of vice-regal ladies of the 19th century and again we are indebted to the Viceroy, the journal of the friends of Old Government House, Belair, – not Old Parliament House as wrongly stated in the March issue of the History SA (see Letters to the Editor).

Born in 1839, Edith Christian Ramsay was the younger daughter of the Marquis of Dalhousie, Governor-General of India. She went to school in England and, at the age of 20, married Sir James Fergusson. Shy and reserved by nature, and constantly plagued with ill health, Edith had a strong sense of public duty.

The Fergussons had two daughters and a son born in England before Sir James was given the post of Governor of South Australia. Lady Fergusson died at the age of 32, only two and half years after arriving in the colony. Her short time here was marked by frequent bouts of illness but she was possessed of a strong sense of public duty and devoted herself to philanthropic and charitable works.

She was a devout Anglican and attended St Paul's Church, Pulteney Street, when it was in the throes of a ritualistic revival, with a strong emphasis on choral music. Lady Fergusson contributed to this by setting up, equipping and training the choir, selecting music and playing the harmonium. She took the choristers under her vice-regal wing, even to the extent of giving them a picnic at the Government Farm.

While she did not tour the colony to any extent, or take part in many official duties (Anglican Church openings excepted), she did enjoy concerts and the theatre. The Fergussons were a wealthy, well-connected family and the functions they hosted at Government House were more lavish than previously – a precedent established with the grand banquet they gave for the second visit of the Duke of Edinburgh, whose arrival coincided with their own.

Like many wealthy mid-Victorians, Lady Fergusson felt it her duty to relieve 'the sufferings of the outcasts of society'. She was a member of the Association for Women's Work at St Paul's, visiting the sick and poor and

benevolent fund and organised a soup kitchen for the winter of 1870. She was also patroness of the Female Refuge, the Orphans' Home and the Servants' Home.

Because of her prevailing ill health, Lady Fergusson spent both her South Australian summers by the seaside, on the vice-regal yacht, *Edith*, at Port Elliot and Robe, where she continued her charitable works by teaching singing and 'other accomplishments' in the local Anglican school.

In March 1870 she took seriously ill and through the latter half of the year was carrying her fourth child, a son born in April 1871. The sea air was again recommended but she died at Glanville House, Semaphore, on 28 October 1871. Her funeral was the largest seen in Adelaide up to that time, with a huge number of mourners lining the route of the funeral procession to North Road cemetery.

Edith River in the Northern Territory was named in honour of Lady Fergusson, as was the town of Edithburgh, with two of the town streets being named after her daughters, Edith and Blanche.

Postscript: Before finally leaving SA, Sir James Fergusson married again, this time to Olive, daughter of John Richman, a pastoralist. The second Lady Fergusson died of cholera when Sir James was Governor of Bombay. He chose his third wife from among the vice-regal retinue in Bombay.

100 Aspros a week to fight back pain

Mrs D. Page of Hawthorn has sent the Society a copy of the life story of her uncle, Clive Benger, from 1915 to 1950. While too long to publish in full, Mr Benger's story included details of the treatment he received for spondylitis (inflammation of the vertebrae) in 1940. More extracts from Mr Benger's story will be published in future issues of History SA.

A slightly edited account of Clive Benger's treatment follows:

All this time (the late 1930s) my back was playing up but it wasn't until about 1940 they found out I had spondylitis of the spine. I was taking about 100 Aspros a week to kill the pain. I had been to doctors and a specialist and

(to page 10)

(from page 9)

a couple of quacks but none of them did me any good. My wife told Dr Goode about my back and how I was shrinking down and bending over, so he examined me again. (I'd been to him before and he'd been giving me medicine for it. He said he thought I had spondylitis of the spine and told me to go to his partner the next night and let him have a look at me. I did, and when he'd had a look he said he also thought it was spondylitis. So they sent me to a Dr Wood, a bone specialist who sent me to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, where they gave me gold injections. These didn't do me any good and someone recommended that I go to another specialist who was said to be very good. I told Dr Goode that Dr Wood wasn't helping me and asked if he would send me to see this new doctor. Betts was his name. His response was that Dr Betts had taught Dr Woods and Dr Woods was as good as Dr Betts. Anyway I rang Dr Betts and made an appointment.

When I went to see him I didn't tell him about Dr Wood or that I had spondylitis. He examined me and confirmed that I had spondylitis and that I would have to lie on a hard flat bed for six months until my spine set, because it was like wet cement growing between the vertebrae of my spine, pushing it over on the nerves and causing the pain. If I could lie flat on my back the spine would set and I wouldn't have any more pain. He couldn't straighten my back but the treatment would stop me from bending over more. I told the doctor I couldn't lie down for that length of time because I had a wife and four children to keep and was buying my house. He asked me how much I was earning a week and how much I was paying in interest on the house. When I told him, he said he would treat me at the Royal Adelaide Hospital Outpatients Department at two shillings a visit. So he made a time and booked me in.

Hung like a sheep

The day I went to the hospital I had to wait about two hours before I saw the doctor. Then I had to strip off all my clothes and hang on to a steel hook, like they hang sheep on. The tips of my toes were only just touching the floor and, with nothing on, I felt about one inch tall. They had bandages soaking in water and they wrapped them around my body, from my hips right up under my arms. They were plaster bandages and as they wrapped them around my body, they rubbed them with their hands so that when they finished the bandages

formed like a big corset all over my body. Then I had to lie down on a flat hard bench with a pillow in the middle of my back for two and a half hours until the corset had set hard.

They said the nurses would dress me when I was finished, so I looked at my watch and when the time was up I called out and said, 'The two and a half hours are up, can I get dressed?' They said they'd come and dress me when they'd finished the job they were on. I thought, 'You're not going to dress me. I'll dress myself.' Well, I was standing up and trying to get my legs into my long underpants when the nurses looked around and laughed at me - I couldn't get them on. So I ended up letting the nurses dress me in my underpants, trousers and socks. All this for two shillings!

I had to walk up Pulteney Street to the corner of North Terrace and then it started to rain. I had to catch a taxi because I wasn't to get the cast wet. It was about five miles to my home and it only cost me four shillings and threepence. It was still raining when I arrived home. We had a wood stove so I took the top off the stove and put more wood on the fire and stood there trying to dry out the plaster cast before I went to bed. Next morning I had to get up early and go to the market and do my fruit and vegetable round the same as usual. After a while the plaster would get loose and I'd have to have it cut off and a new one put on, but after they put the plaster cast on me I never had any more pain.

Two years in cast

I think I had the cast one for about two years. I used to have to go back to the hospital every now and then so they could see how I was getting on. Sometimes after work I'd get home that sore. The plaster would get stuck and there would be great fun as Mum poured methylated spirits down my back from the top to ease it. I was working all day and sweating but I couldn't wash, so she used to put talcum powder down me and 'whoosh', the smell would knock you down.

When they took the corset off I'd lie down and a bloke would come with a great pair of cutters.. The case came right down to the groin and right up under the arms. Well, he was cutting away and I said, 'Ouch, you've got my skin. Pull it out, you're cutting me.' And he said, 'You blighters, you're always grizzling about nothing.' I said, 'You're b....y well cutting me.' But he wouldn't pull the cutters out. He went on cutting the plaster right

(to page 11)

(from page 10)

through and when he opened it out I was bleeding. He said, 'Oh, I did cut you,' and I said, 'Yes, I wasn't singing out for nothing.' All the hairs on my chest had come off and my chest was like fish scales with the perspiration and dried skin and so on.

Then one day they sent me to man named Jones who made corset jackets out of some hard material that was laced up down the front. Jones made one for me and I could take it off and have a bath. After about 12 months, when I came home from the market and unloaded the van when the weather was hot, I would take the jacket off. The doctor had told me to do this because my spine had set and I wasn't getting any more pain. Eventually I could go without it altogether and I never had any more trouble with my back again.

20 YEARS AGO

The fledgling Historical Society of SA and the Department of Adult Education in the University of Adelaide were planning a seminar on 'Rescuing History' for 6-7 June 1975. Emphasis was to be on the conservation of the national heritage and the State Governor had consented to perform the official opening.

Members made a field trip to Goolwa on 5 April with Dr Michael Williams to explain the town's history, the agricultural expansion after 1869 and the Kapunda copper field.

Delegates from SA attended a Melbourne seminar on the role of historical societies in the National Estate. It was decided to form a federal body of the state and territory historical societies.

A Society member, Dr Eric Richards, was appointed to a second Chair of History in the School of Social Sciences at Flinders University. Dr Richards gave the address at the Society's very first meeting in July 1974.

Woodville Council announced its intention to publish an official history to mark the city's centenary. Sue Marsden, who had recently completed an honours degree in history at the University of Adelaide, was appointed author. Another of Woodville's centenary initiatives was to establish a museum at 'The Brocas', an historic home on Woodville Rd.

GEOGRAPHERS OFFER SPRING TOUR OF THE FLINDERS

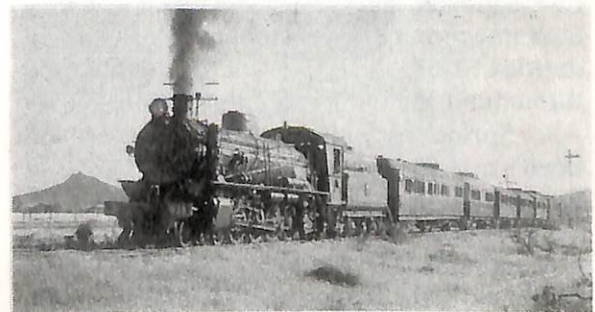
The Royal Geographical Society is planning another popular tour that offers much that could interest anyone with an interest in history as much as geography. The tour – scheduled for 10-17 September 1995 – is to the dramatic and ancient landscape of the Flinders Ranges.

Highlights include Quorn town and its history, the Pichi Richi railway, Yarrah Dale and Warren Gorges, Proby's grave, the Aboriginal site at Yourambilla Caves, Hawker, John Teagues Museum, Wilpena Pound, Parachilna, Blinman mine site, Beltana, an observatory tour, Leigh Creek open cut coal mine, gallery of Aboriginal etchings, Stubbs waterhole, Arkaroola ridge top tour, Balcanoona shearing shed, Wearing Gorge, Wirrealpa and Erogunda Valley.

Accommodation will be in hotels and motels at Quorn, Hawker, Parachilna, Arkaroola, and Blinman. Terry Kreig will lead the tour, using local experts and members of the tour party as resource people.

The Society is seeking registrations of interest in the tour by Friday 19 May. The inclusive price will be \$875 twin share or \$980 single, but this may be reduced by opting out of any or all of the following: Pichi Richi railway trip (\$17), Wilpena scenic flight (\$40), ridge top tour (\$48) or observatory visit (\$15).

Address expressions of interest or any enquiries to Paul Hewton, Executive Officer, Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (SA) Inc, GPO Box 419, Adelaide, 5001, by Friday 19 May, or telephone 207 7265.



The Pichi Richi railway

VICE-REGAL PATRONS FOR PIONEER TOUR FROM ALICE SPRINGS

We are thankful to Kath Crilley of Glenelg North for this article which she found in the Port Pirie Recorder of 26 July 1930 when she was researching the history of opal mining at Coober Pedy.

Central Australia – Tours to the interior

Envious eyes have always cast a longing glance at Central Australia, the glorious thrill of a tour into the relatively unknown being every and anon a fascination well worth waiting for. Until the advent of the motor car, very little was learned about the beauties of the Australian interior in its natural setting, camel and bullock team being the chief modes of travel for prospectors and other adventurers. By this means stories at long intervals began to dribble through to the possibilities of developing Central Australia into a tourist resort.

In 1926, following a successful tour of Barrow Creek, Mr A.G. Bond, of Bond's Motor Services Ltd, Adelaide, ... extended the tour to Darwin, being assisted in his efforts by the Shell Company of Australia Ltd, which made available supplies of motor spirit and oil along the entire route.

The important steps which led to the establishment of a tourist base in Alice Springs were the opening of a depot by the Shell Company of Australia Ltd and the extension of the railway from Oodnadatta. The former made possible the penetration of the interior by service car, and the latter gave facilities for would-be tourists to travel to Alice Springs to link up with Bond's motor tours.

Consequently, with the co-operation of the Betterment and Publicity Board, Mr Bond decided to arrange a series of fortnightly tours throughout the winter months. On arrival at Alice Springs by rail, the tourists link up with Bond's motor services for a tour of 500 miles. Included in the itinerary are Palm Valley, Glen of Palms, Hermannsburg Mission Station and Simpson's Gap, in addition to many other places of interest. The comfort of the tourists has received every consideration, for after leaving the train at Alice Springs the party is

accommodated under first class camping conditions, the equipment including sleeping tents, blanket-lined sleeping bags, mess tent, lounge and portable baths, while the six-valve wireless set and a portable gramophone provide plenty of entertainment. A trained chef accompanies each tour for the purpose of preparing and serving meals *en route* and in camp. At night the camp is illuminated by electricity.

Before the tours could be put into operation, a considerable amount of preparatory work had to be carried out, Mr Bond personally supervising this work.

The preliminary journey to Alice Springs was full of thrilling incidents, the heavily laden Studebaker cars ploughing through fords and rivers with difficulty. The Algebuckina crossing presented a difficult obstacle, a crossing being effected after a driver had waded across and marked out a track. Heavy rain held the party up at Oodnadatta, tracks and creeks being impassable. When eventually a start was made it was found that the main track across the Hugh River had been entirely washed away, necessitating the cars crossing the much-dreaded track over the sand hills.

Although it took nine hours to negotiate 27 miles of sand, the party was able to get each car through without unloading – a feat which the drivers at Alice Springs could scarcely credit. During this test of endurance Shell motor oil and Shell motor spirit functioned perfectly, mile after mile the cars being driven flat out in bottom gear. It was a tired but proud party which reached Alice Springs and after spending a few days there erecting a depot and tents, Mr Bond commenced a tour of beauty spots to be visited by tourists, in order to select suitable tracks and acquaint himself with the conditions. Mr Bond found it necessary to make a track from Hermannsburg Mission Station to Palm Valley. To do this work he engaged 180 Aborigines to cut a road around the side of hills and across sandy river beds. With his usual thoroughness, Mr Bond saw the task completed and returned to Alice Springs to meet the first party of tourists.

The inaugural tour from Melbourne on June 7 was an auspicious start, the tourists including Lord and Lady Somers. After spending 14 days in the interior, the vice-regal party returned to Melbourne, greatly impressed with the tour and the efficiency of Bond's Motor Services. This was confirmed in a personal letter of appreciation sent to Mr Bond through the aide-de-camp, Capt R.E. Speir.