



The Historical Society of South Australia Inc.



Newsletter No.87 March 1990

CONCERT BY
THE "PIERROTS."

In the Mannum Institute, on Show Night,
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4,
Commencing at 8.15 p.m., sharp.

+ PROGRAMME +

PART I.

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Opening Chorus | | THE PIERROTS |
| 2 | Concerted Item | "Every Little White" | GIRLS |
| 3 | Recitation | "When It Strikes Home" | CLAIR NEWTON |
| 4 | Soprano Solo | "Keep A Light A-Burning" | SYLVIA DAKE |
| 5 | Dance | ... | MARGARET DE ROSE |
| 6 | Mediation | "The Baby" | MURIEL TEMTEST |
| 7 | Chorus | "Chase Girl" | CHINATOWN |
| 8 | Dance | "Highland Flieg" | JACK CAMPBELL |
| 9 | Concerted Item | "Vugala" | EILEEN GOLD & LOY. |
| 10 | Song | "The Trail That Leads To Home." | IRENE NEWTON |
| 11 | Humorous Sketch | ... | MARGARET DE ROSE |
| 12 | Recitation | "Fallen Comrades" | EDWIN MURRAY |
| 13 | Duet | "Dream Boat" | SYLVIA & LOLA DAKE |
| 14 | Closing Chorus | "Breeds" | THE PIERROTS |

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES.

Humorous Parce - - - - - "Wanted a Wife."

Cavatigge!

Felix Fumblon, Nibba Sibson, Lizzy Dimplich, Miss Leantigh, Dorah Duple, Sarah Mopog, Maly Malony.

MRS EDNA ARNOLD, Manageress. MISS MATHILDE BOCH, Pianist.

MERCURY PRINT, MANNUM.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000.

OBJECTS

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

COUNCIL

PATRON: Sir Walter Crocker, K.B.E.
PRESIDENT: Dr R.P.J. Nicol
VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr B.J. Samuels
SECRETARY: Ms A. Huckel
TREASURER: Ms A. Huckel
MINUTE SECRETARY: Miss T.M. Donnellan
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mrs E. Ulbrich
JOURNAL EDITOR: Dr J.D. Playford

MEMBERS: Mr H. Angas
Mr R.M. Gibbs, A.M.
Dr P.A. Howell
Mr M. Keain
Ms S. Marsden
Mr W. Stacy
Ms P. Sumerling

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
WORD PROCESSING: Ms V.J. O'Neill
AUDITOR: Mr G. Ralph

FOUNDED IN 1974

Cover Illustration:

Undated Concert leaflet . Perhaps some of our readers can throw some light on this item.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 6 April 1990 at 7.45 p.m.

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre
(Corner Kintore Avenue and North Terrace, Adelaide)

Annual General Meeting

8.00 p.m.

**Don Dunstan: The Battle for One Vote One Value
in South Australia**

The record of the fight to achieve one of the major features of the South Australian electoral system, researched and relayed by one of the leading players in the process, Mr Don Dunstan, former leader of the Labor Party and Premier of South Australia.

-oOo-

Friday, 4 May 1990 at 8 p.m.
Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre

Jo Peoples: Miss Patricia Hackett and the Torch Theatre

Jo Peoples is the curator of the Performing Arts Collection of South Australia and has carried out much research into the history of the performing arts in South Australia. Her talk to the Historical Society will deal with the life and work of Miss Patricia Hackett. An extraordinary woman, Miss Hackett had claims to fame as a designer, a director, an actor, a socialite and hostess and as an art collector. A lawyer by profession, she came from a well to do family and set up her own salon theatre in her home. Known as the Torch Theatre, it was the venue for amazing productions, such as Chinese epics, which no one else was prepared to mount. Jo Peoples also reports that Miss Hackett was an experimenter in hallucinogens and narcotics - an extraordinary lady indeed. The talk will be accompanied by slides illustrating personalities and productions.

Members are reminded that Ms Peoples will lead a tour of the Performing Arts Collection on Sunday May 12.

-oOo-

*** FUND RAISING TOUR ***

Sunday, 12 May at 2.00 p.m.

The Performing Arts Collection
Festival Centre, Adelaide

An opportunity for members to inspect this fascinating collection of items relating to the history of the performing arts in South Australia, under the guidance of curator, Jo Peoples.

Assemble at the main entrance of the Festival Theatre.

-oOo-

SOCIETY NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 6 April
7.45 p.m.

Members please note that the Annual General Meeting will commence at 7.45 p.m. before the normal Friday evening lecture. The Society's balance sheet for the year ended 31 December 1989 is published as the centre spread in this issue.

At its October 1989 meeting, the Council of the Society agreed to put to the AGM a motion designed to establish an endowment fund, by the insertion of a new rule in the Society's constitution:

New Rule

The Society shall establish an "Endowment and Life Members Fund" and allocate to this fund any moneys Council deems available for the purpose of investment. Interest from the fund may be used to:

1. assist with the Society's publications
2. publish, at the Council's discretion, books, monographs or pamphlets, pertaining to the aims of the Society, which it considers desirable
3. further the objects of the Society at the discretion of the Council

The money allocated to the Fund shall be invested in the name of the Fund in any investment authorised by the Commonwealth of Australia, or any of its States, for the Investment of

Trust Moneys, and Council shall have the power from time to time, to sell or get in any such investments and to transpose them for other investments of a like nature.

INCOME and profits received from the Fund's investments shall be used for the above objects or to increase the capital of the Fund.

The capital money invested in this Fund cannot be withdrawn except on recommendation of the Council to the membership and acceptance by two thirds of the full membership gauged by postal ballot of such withdrawal.

Explanation

The purpose of this proposal should be quite clear. The Society remains relatively small in membership numbers, and in difficult economic times, quite vulnerable to inflation, cost increases and possible fluctuating membership. Over the past six years, the Council of the Society has followed a policy of accumulating a reserve of funds to ensure the long term future of the Society and its work. It now seems appropriate to formalise and entrench that policy in the Society's constitution, that reserve having reached a sufficient level to generate a valuable income. The intention of the rule change is to allow ready use of that income and provide for the continued accumulation of capital. It will, of course, be up to future Councils to ensure that such accumulation continues. It is also the intention to make it difficult, but not impossible, for future Councils to expend any amounts from the capital, thus ensuring the continuation of a long term endowment.

The proposal has the full support of Council, that support having come after lengthy discussion and consideration.

Robert Nicol
President.

-oOo-

Report on the November Meeting

John Porter, the eighteenth and current Surveyor-General of South Australia, addressed about 60 members of the Society on Friday 24 November 1989. The occasion was the regular November meeting which had to be postponed by a fortnight.

Theodolites, accurate instruments for measuring angles, had been developed in the late 18th century for the London to Paris trigonometric survey. Early theodolites were very large requiring four men to carry them, so were only used when the utmost accuracy was needed. Just before South Australia was settled, small portable machine-divided theodolites became available which could be carried by only

one man yet were still accurate. The first Surveyor-General, William Light, realised that these new instruments made possible the use of trigonometry for general surveying rather than having to measure each length directly on the ground.

In trigonometric surveying, a short base line is set up on flat ground and accurately measured. Permanent markers, known as 'trig points', are established at convenient locations throughout the area to be surveyed, such that a number of adjacent trig points can be seen. The surveyor then sets his theodolite over each trig point in turn and reads the angles to the adjacent points. By constructing an imaginary series of triangles between the trig points it is possible to accurately calculate the lengths of the sides and also locate each point in terms of a set of coordinates. These trig points can then be used subsequently to locate other points such as the boundaries of a property or a natural feature of the topography.

Light was the first surveyor in the world to use a trigonometrical survey for cadastral purposes (i.e. to fix property boundaries). To set out the country sections on the Adelaide Plains he measured a base line from Glenelg to the south west parklands near Keswick, then established a network of trig points. Having also fixed the topography by trigonometrical surveying, Light then drew up a plan of the sections to be sold, knowing that they would fit on the ground. He defined each section in terms of the coordinates of its boundaries, a system known as a coordinated cadastre. This greatly speeded up the task of setting out property boundaries, an important consideration with land starved settlers waiting to take up their land.

The Commissioners back in London did not understand this new system of surveying and ordered 5 per cent to be added to the area calculated for each section! Light was subjected to constant criticism and resigned in 1838 when he received order to suspend the trigonometric surveys and coordinated cadastre and instead adopt a much less accurate running survey. His immediate successor, Kingston, did this, and two sections were found ten years later to be 51 acres too small, thus demonstrating the errors possible. Within a year however, a new Surveyor-General, Frome, re-commenced the trigonometrical surveys and by 1846 they were completed over the settled portion of the colony. However the re-adoption of a coordinated cadastre had to wait until 1986.

With its trigonometrical survey, coordinated cadastre and registration of title to land ownership, South Australia has the best land definition system in the world and is now selling his expertise to other parts of the world. Indeed the lecture had to be postponed because the Surveyor-General was in Cyprus setting up just such a system.

John Porter has long had an interest in the history of

surveying. For the sesquicentenary he organised and led six trips to re-establish historic surveys right across the state. He has published many articles on the subject and during his term has set up the Survey Museum in the Old Treasury Building. Yet for all this attention to the past he has been as quick as his eminent predecessor, Light, to adopt new technology to improve the surveys. Surveyors in South Australia now use the latest satellites and measuring equipment to determine coordinates quickly and accurately. It is pleasing to see both the spirit and heritage of Light and the other Surveyors-General being valued and used for the benefit of others. Perhaps it is this, rather than the city he founded which will be Light's greatest monument.

Bill Stacy

DOCUMENTS

EYRE'S PENINSULA AND WEST COAST

[Extracted from the Tourists' Road Guide for South Australia, 14th edition, published by W.K. Thomas & Co in 1924.]

From Port Augusta to Port Lincoln - Port Lincoln to Streaky Bay.

The advent of motor-driven vehicles has revolutionised the old style of travelling, and bridged over long stages in the back country which even rail facilities did not accomplish. Until recently very few motor travellers ventured overland via Port Augusta to the West Coast, but nowadays the trip is negotiated without much trouble. It would, however, be good policy to motor to Wallaroo and then ship the car or cycle to Cowell or one of the other ports, thus saving much time and inconvenience. There are very fair tracks from Cowell to Cleve or Arno Bay, and thence down south to Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln, which latter is the headquarters and general distributing centre for nearly all West Coast towns. There are many sources of recreation and interest in this lovely harbour, which is celebrated as a summer resort.

For the West Coast the route leads through agricultural districts over good roads to Lake Wangary, and thence choice of several new farming settlements can be made. The main road continues north-westerly through Coultas, Mt. Hope, past Lake Hamilton to Sheringa, Elliston, Colton, Talia, Port Kenny, Mt. Cooper, Maryvale, to Streaky Bay (206 miles from Port Lincoln).

Thence onwards the country is more sparsely populated, and
(Continued on Page 8)

(From Page 5)

agricultural operations more uncertain. To Smoky Bay, and beyond, the track becomes heavy and rough; but many motorists regularly travel over this route as far as Fowler's Bay (160 miles west from Streaky Bay).

The West Coast and Northern portion of Eyre Peninsula from Streaky to Fowler's Bay and Cowell to Port Augusta is no place for tourists. The hardy enterprising commercial traveller or local resident will only adopt these routes when absolutely imperative.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Sister Marie Therese Foale RSJ

The Josephite Story

The Josephite Story is the first published account of the foundation years of the well-known Australian Religious Congregation, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. It has been published by the St Josephs Generalate, 9 Mount Street, North Sydney, (PO Box 1508, North Sydney 2059), and printed in South Australia by Gillingham Printers, 153 Holbrooks Road, Underdale SA 5032 (PO Box 334, Cowandilla SA 5033)

It is an excellent piece of original research and comes with all the trappings of a scholarly work. However, those who choose to bypass the footnotes and other fine print will find it a gripping story which they will read with pleasure and profit.

"In her clear style, Sister Marie Foale has presented the story of one of the most important religious and educational enterprises of the nineteenth century with understanding and compassion. The result is a picture of the religious past which is real and is true to its period and its principles." (Patrick O'Farrell, examiner's report on thesis).

The book has an attractive gloss cover and sewn binding and comes with 40 photos, appendices, an extensive bibliography and index. pp. xi + 244. Recommended retail price: \$20. Available from Sisters of St Joseph, c/- Sr M. Foale, GPO Box 1364, Adelaide 5001, or Gillingham Printers or St Paul Bookshop, 27 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide 5000.

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP LIST

The Society has been asked several times to publish the list of members' names. A revised database list has recently been prepared and the names of financial members, as at 31 Dec 1989, are reproduced below, directly from the database. If you, or any one you know, has been omitted, please let the secretary know by writing to the Society's address:-

Institute Building
122 Kintore Avenue
ADELAIDE SA 5000.

The total number of financial members is 491, including ordinary, family, country, pensioner & student, corporate (institutions), schools & educational, affiliated societies, life and term members as well as a few free categories for statutory deposit requirements, societies with whom we exchange publications and several media personalities.

INDIVIDUALS

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
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| Mrs CA Agnew | Mrs PA Bland | Mr GV Coonan |
| Miss E Ahrens | Mrs E Bleby | Mr R Corney |
| Ms C Alcock | Mrs HJ Blieschke | Mrs BP Cornish |
| Mr JV Allan | Mrs BM Bode | Mr GC Cornwall |
| Ms M Allen | Miss P Bolingbroke | Mr RB Craven |
| Mr J Althorp | Mr ES Booth | Sir W Crocker |
| Ms L Andersen | Mrs EG Bowden | Mrs MG Crompton |
| Mr R Andre | Miss SF Boxall | Mr PJ Crush |
| Mr H Angas | Mrs JM Bramley | Mrs LM Curnow |
| Mr R Appleyard | Dr C Bridge | Mrs JP Dall |
| Ms J Apps | Ms A Brown | Dr JA Daly |
| Mr A Arbon | Dr AS Brown | Mr JW Daly |
| Ms P Archer | JR Brown | Mr HW Davies |
| Mr I Auhl | Mr N Brown | Mrs R Davies |
| Mr J Babbage | Dr PE Brummitt | Mr L Davis MLC |
| Mr AW Baird | Dr R Brummitt | Mr SC Dawes |
| Mrs VA Baker | Dr C Bunn | Ms A Day |
| Mr BS Baldwin | Mr RG Butler | Mr S Day |
| Dr JC Bampton | Mrs SB Butterworth | Ms M De Crespigny |
| Mr K Banfield | Mr A Buxton | Dr HM Dean |
| Mr AG Bannister | Dr P Cahalan | Miss B Deverson |
| Mr JC Bannon | Mr D Cameron | Dr B Dickey |
| Mr M Barnett | Mr CB Campbell | Mr L Dodd |
| Miss WA Barnfield | Mrs EJ Campbell | Ms A Dolling |
| Ms J Baskerville | Mr RT Clarke | Mr DL Dolling |
| Mr EL Beck | Mr WL Cleland | Mr RJ Donley |
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| Mrs JA Bennets | Mr R Clyne | Mr PF Donovan |
| Mr M Beresford | Mr S Cockburn | Mr P Dorling |
| Mr KL Berndt | Mrs BV Colbert | Mr DW Drake |
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Mrs HK Everingham
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Rev SG Forth
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Mr J Freebairn
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Mr N Klaassen
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Mr PA Kloeden
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Mr RJ Lakin
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Mrs BC Laughton
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Miss S Laurence
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Mr D Leane
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Mr RSG Roberts
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Mr&Mrs J Rogers
Miss M Rooney
Bishop S Rosier
Ms Y Routledge
Mr RG Rowland
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Mr AH Watson
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ORGANISATIONS

Adelaide Review
Australian Archives
Australian National Library
Australian National Library
Australian Society of Archivists
Barr Smith Library, Univ of Adelaide
Barr Smith Library, Uni. of Adelaide
Brighton Historical Society
Broken Hill Historical Society
Burnside Historical Society
Dept of Environment & Planning
Dixon Library
Earth Science History Group
Enfield & District Historical Society
Flinders University Library
Friends of the Old Government House
Genealogical Society of Victoria
Glenside Hospital Historical Soc. Inc
Henley & Grange Historical Society
Historical Society, Woodville
History Dept, Kapunda High School
History Trust of SA
Institution of Surveyors
Kensington & Norwood Historical Soc.
Kildare College
Lyndoch Historical Society
Marion Historical Society
Mary MacKillop College
Moore Theological College
Mount Lofty Districts Historical Soc
National Trust of SA, Moonta Branch
National Trust of South Australia
Noarlunga Library
Norwood High School
Oakbank Area School
Parliamentary Library, Parl. House
Parliamentary Library, Parl. House

- Port Adelaide Historical Society
Public Records Office of S.A.
Royal Australian Historical Society
Royal Geographical Society of Aust.
Royal Historical Society of Vic
Royal W.A. Historical Society
SA Genealogy & Heraldry Society
SA Liquor Label Museum
SA Maritime Museum
Sacred Heart College
School of Tourism & Hospitality
Society of Australian Genealogists
Sovereign Hill Gold Mining Town
Sovereign Hill Goldmining Town
State Library of South Australian
State Library of Victoria
Strathalbyn Community Library
Strathmont High School Library
St. Dominics Priory College
St. Peters Collegiate Girls School
S.A.C.A.E. Magill Campus
Tea Tree Gully Library
Texas State History Association
The Corp of City of Adelaide
Underdale S.A.C.A.E. Campus
Uniting Church Historical Society
Uniting Church in South Australia
Victor Harbor High School
Victoriana Society of Sth Aust Inc
Walford Anglican School
West Torrens Historical Society
Westminster School
Wilderness School
Willunga Public Library
Windsor Gardens High School
Woodville Historical Society

CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING HISTORY EVENTS

Sunday, March 4th:

State Library of South Australia: An exhibition of 250 titles on biography, to be opened by Michael Holroyd, in Reader Services area.

Tuesday, March 6th

2.15 - 6.30. Centre for British Studies: Half-day symposium on Modern British Biography in Edgeloe Room, Mitchell Building, University of Adelaide. Speakers include Michael Holroyd, Barbara Caine, John Harwood.

Wednesday, March 21st

8.00 p.m. Joint meeting of the Friends of the SA Maritime Museum and the Port Adelaide Historical Society in the Uniting Church Hall, Commercial Road, Port Adelaide. Speaker: Don Thorpe (SMM Volunteers Co-ordinator and former Commodore of the Glenelg Sailing Club), on 'Sailing Lake Eyre'.

Saturday, March 24th

Birdwood Mill: Vintage Motor Cycle Rally. Phone (085) 685 006 for details.

Wednesday, March 28th

7.45 p.m. SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society meeting: "Burra - the Mining Years, 1845-1877. Speaker: Ian Auhl. At library, 201 Unley Road.

Saturday, March 31st

Oral History Association of Australia (SA branch): Oral History workshops at Burra given by Beth Robertson. Contact K. Frearson, Burra Community School. Phone (088) 922 007.

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