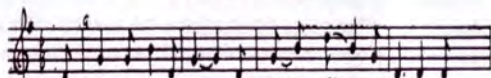


MAREEBA MEMOIRS

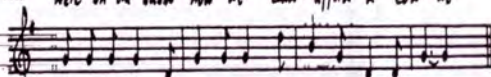
Edition No 47

August 2010

We're on the susso now,
We can't afford a cow,
We live in a tent,
We pay no rent,
We're on the susso now.



We're on the susso now we can't afford a cow we



live in a tent we pay no rent we're on the susso now

(ON THE SUSSO NOW is a fairly wide spread jingle of the depression times, and is also often collected as IN THIS ARMY NOW. Susso is short for sustenance, the dole allowance paid to the unemployed at the time, and was also used as a term to describe relief work performed by the unemployed.

Paul Tripcony presumably learned this in Queensland, and the same text appears in *Cinderella Dressed in Yella* by Ian Turner having been noted in Melbourne (item 261429). Ed.)

MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMITTEE

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President:	Janice Gourley	40925377
Vice-President:	Vacant	
Sec/Treasurer:	Helen Kindt	4092 6599
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Mareeba Historical Society

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MEETINGS

General monthly meetings held on the **FOURTH** Thursday of each month **EXCEPT** December.
Meeting dates on Page 15.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Due 1st July each year.

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FROM THE EDITOR

The Rodeo has been a roaring success, the Gray Nomads have celebrated Christmas in July in Mareeba and are on the move as people migrate North to get away from the cold.

The Gold Panning weekend is on the August market day, Helen and David have put up a great display on our gold mining for everyone to enjoy.

I was lucky enough to be asked by the Mareeba Art society to help judge the Mareeba Rodeo window displays. My camera and I camera spent a riveting day: I met lots of people and was impressed by the effort and the pride of the organizations entered in the event. Mareeba Library and Apel's Solicitors put up excellent displays, and the Peninsula Pub took me back down memory lane to the days of the "Ladies Lounge". In the early years, most pubs had a Ladies Lounge, usually a dingy little room with tables and chairs, where the ladies could partake of their favourite tippie, and men were only allowed in if invited or accompanied by a woman. I can't imagine men wanting to come into them anyway, the public bar was far more exciting. The restriction on women raised a few hackles however, and the liberationists made a stand. More on the history of this later in the Memoirs.

I have been going through the Northern Star, and found an interesting article on swagman during the depression years of the thirties, pre world war 11, and the hard times that drove men to roll their swag and wander the roads searching for work of any kind. I remember my father telling me that these men had to be seen to be actively searching for work, and there were restrictions on claiming their payment at the same place every time. I don't know whether I have remembered this correctly, and would welcome any stories or relevant information on this time in Australia's history. I will research the depression years of the 1800's for the next MM and go through the old songbooks that tell the stories through verse and music of the hardships and trials of people who went through that era in the history of Australia.

SAYINGS FROM YOUR SECRETARY.

Greetings!

Next meeting, Thursday 26th August, will be your Society's Annual General Meeting. Be great to see you all there. This is your chance to have a say on how your Society is run and in what direction you want to see it go. **YOUR CHOICE!**

Life has been busy these last few months but the Centre will soon be tidied up and with help, looking good again. Anyone who can give a few hours, please contact me.

A few members attended a Financial Workshop recently which gave us all great ideas. Also David and myself attended a 'eMail Newsletter' workshop, which will be of assistance to the Society in the near future. Different workshops/seminars come up at various times during the year and any member who is interested only has to state an interest so they can be booked in. These seminars/workshops are NOT difficult nor hard but helps us to enlarge on the history of the area.

Looking forward to seeing you all on 26th August at 7.30pm.

Helen Kindt (Secretary)

VALE.

JACK STRUBER.

29/05/1929 – 23/06/2010

Friend, colleague, helper, assistant, folder filer, shooter, miner, buyer, seller, writer, comforter, storey-teller, cooker of pigs trotters, book keeper and much more.

You will be missed!

Read "Jack's Book" you will be impressed.

TO KICK START YOUR FAMILY TREE.

Researching your family tree consists of at least five basic questions.

What do I know about my family?

What do I want to learn about my family?

What records are available?

How do I obtain a record?

What do I do next?

While there are not many rules to follow in researching your family tree one of them is

Fill out a pedigree chart. This will assist you and anyone else who may be helping you in this quest. This holds the bare minimum.

Fill out a Family Group Record form. This holds more information than a Pedigree Chart as it also contains any children.

Another form is called a Drop Sheet form. This can become unwieldy depending on how large a family you come from. I personally like to use all three as each gives you different information.

Most of these forms can be found now on computer programmes of which there are many and will be spoken of at a later date.

It is important that as much information is recorded as you can possibly find. Again decide what you want regarding your family tree.

Some want as many names and dates as possible, others only want to research the immediate family, others are not happy until they have returned to the beginning of the world.

It is best to keep in mind that you may not be able to research further than a given date, not because your family started at this time, but because maybe the records have been destroyed and nothing concrete about your family can be found. Wars, natural disasters, insects etc can wreak havoc on records. Even with today's technology, not all records will be safe. As you have many numbers of family to research, if you happen to come across a 'Brick Wall', find another member to research.

Personally, I did a 'One Name' search on my maiden name until I had gone as far as I could with accuracy till I hit that 'Brick Wall' so then branched out on the Ladies line; Mother, Grandmothers. Great Grandmothers etc. **To be continued**

The Historical Society had a visit from Alice Kelly, whose aunt Thelma Peeble is the granddaughter of the NETZ family who came to Australia 100 years ago. Mrs Peeble is a long term resident of Mareeba. Alice Kelly's mother-in-law was a Wittack of Whittacks Casket Agency in Cairns, and Mrs Wittacks father was A.J.Draper of Cairns. Draper was Managing Director of the Cairns Post, and a shareholder in Mulgrave Sugar Mill

A.J.Draper was known as the "father of Cairns" and was involved in all aspects of the community and business. Alec Martin wrote in Passages of Time of the series of events that brought A.J.Draper to the north. His working life began as a trainee clerk at the Bank of Australasia in Buckworth, Victoria in 1879. He served in the bank at Jerilderie where he met his wife to be, and eventually moved to Queensland and worked in branches in Townsville and Charters Towers. In 1884 at age 21 he arrived in Cairns. After resigning from the bank in the same year, he opened his first business in partnership with William Doyle Hobson. At this time, the sugar industry was expanding, the railway from Cairns to Herberton was started, and there were prospects aplenty for an ambitious and astute young man. He became a member of the Australian National Party formed when a branch was formed in Cairns in 1888. He was a member of the Yarrabah Mission Committee, president of the Cairns Stock Exchange, president of the Cairns Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Cairns Hydro-electric Power Investigation Board - forerunner to the Barron Falls Hydro-electric Board (est 1930).

His over-riding interest was the sugar industry, and he became chairman of directors to the Mulgrave Central Mill.

The city of Cairns owes a lot to this entrepreneurial young man who saw the potential in the North. Draper was a powerful leader and an astute businessman who also supported many small organizations in Cairns and has justly earned his title of one of the founding fathers of Cairns.

Back to the Netz family in Germany. Phillip Netz and his wife came to Sydney by ship in 1910, a journey sponsored by the Apostolic Church. They went on to Brisbane and then to Mt Cotton and were given land near Mundubbera . They were also given 10 sheets of iron and a roll of wire netting. The strength and determination of those families is a lesson to us all. They settled in the Pumpkin Hut area between Mundubbera and Gayndah. Thanks Alice for this insight our past.

On the subject of Queenslanders, I received this joke email a few days ago and thought it was rather funny particularly in light of the election promises..

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, Melbourne scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Victorians, in the weeks that followed, a Sydney archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, a story published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* read: **"New South Wales archaeologists, finding traces of 130-year-old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network 30 years earlier than the Victorians"**.

One week later, the *Courier Mail* in Brisbane, Queensland, reported the following:

"After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Beenleigh, Queensland, John Brown, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely bugger all. John has therefore concluded that 130 years ago, Queensland had already gone wireless."

Just makes you proud to be a Queenslander!

Truths from Will Rogers. Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that experience comes from bad judgement.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAREEBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THURSDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 2010
COMMENCING 7.30 PM

AGENDA

Welcome by President, Janice Gourley.

Apologies; further apologies from the floor.

Confirmation of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.

Business arising.

President's Report.

Receiving ~~and~~ Adoption of Society's Financial Statement and
Audit Report.

Appointment of Millar and Teitzel as the Society's Auditor.

Election of Office Bearers.

Annual General Meeting concludes, followed by the August
general meeting.

After which, a light supper will be served.

RSVP Tuesday 24th August. 4092 3599 between 8am and 4 pm.

In 1965 Four Corners covered a story in Brisbane on the legal restrictions that prevented women ordering alcohol in the Public Bar of a hotel. The public bar issue wasn't considered the most important issue on the feminist agenda, but was chosen to highlight the social attitudes of the day.

The Regatta Hotel hit the headlines in March, 1965 as one of the first sites of feminist insurgency, protesting against the law of the day denying women entry to the public bar area. On a Wednesday afternoon in March, two women, Merle Thornton and Rosalie Bognor entered the public bar of the Regatta Hotel and ordered two beers. When they were refused their beers and asked to leave, they chained themselves to the footrail of the bar. The police were called, the women's husbands handed out pamphlets, bolt cutters were used to cut the chains.

The bar room suffragettes returned however to take another step towards freedom, armed this time not with dog chains and padlocks, but with half-bottles of beer wrapped up in brown paper. Women had found a loophole in the liquor laws of Queensland. It all began with orders for "lemonade for the ladies" and this was strictly legal.

They had the right to be here and the right to buy soft drinks but testing the law came into question when the brown paper wrappings were lifted. The Equal Opportunities For Women Association had found the way, if not the right, to drink in public bars. The licensing squad police were rung but didn't arrive to challenge their right to drink in a public bar.

Four Corners first went to air on 19 August, 1961.

Quiz king Barry Jones had just won £1000 in retaining his 'Pick-a-Box' crown.

Cost estimate for the Sydney Opera House had blown out to £5 million.

A credit squeeze was on,

Aborigines again had been denied full voting rights.

Tulloch had just run his last race,

Richie Benaud's side had kept the Ashes.

(From The Northerner February 1983) 1890-1900). The land boom bubble burst when people borrowed to invest in land, banks foreclosed and withdrew funds from the economy which left people penniless. It was a boom and bust era Many people on the land were forced to take to the roads. This era is reflected in the bush poetry and songs that were sang and recited around the campfire, with words written to reflect the circumstances of the times in Australia. More on this time in the next MM.

What type of man carried the swag, humped the bluey and pushed the knot during the pre WW11 Depression? All types, because when economic disaster hits, all classes feel the blow.

The first tobacco boom ended in disaster at Mareeba in 1934, and all levels of people, from stationers, bank managers and other professional men joined the exodus because the depression knew no boundaries. Mareeba had a society of men and women with the same delineation of status and rank as you normally saw in a country town. There were rich and poor, the petty thief who would steal from his fellow travelers, the loud mouth who would have normally been seen fronting the bar and boasting of his skills. The men who had been well off, were liable to be a better class of swaggie than most because they started life on the roads with good quality trousers, good leather shoes and at least the appearance of being in control of their destiny. Many of these men, the harmless, the toff, the roustabout ended up going to war and are remembered on Anzac Day. Others entered politics, or went back to work in the outback, one ended up as Lord Mayor of a capital city and another who in 1934 organised a demonstration and led a protest march of unemployed workers to Parliament House, eventually entered politics and was representative of a northern electorate.

Phil Schaffert from Gregory Downs, 80 miles from Bourketown recalled that at the height of the depression in the early 30's, as many as 5 swaggies a day would call at the station hoping for a handout, and the station priced themselves on never sending anyone away without rations. Interestingly, not a lot of people who went through those times talked about those days, men who had hit the road preferred that those times were kept undercover because it was cause for shame to have been out of unable to support your family.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Assistance: A research officer may assist by searching Society records.

NON-MEMBERS: A minimum fee of \$22 for a 2 hour search then \$11 per hour or part thereof afterwards for researcher to search. \$10 per day for D.I.Y researchers.

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES: If a visit to a cemetery or other library is deemed necessary, traveling expenses will also apply.

ENQUIRIES All enquiries should be in writing and include a stamped self-addressed envelope. If via Email, no research will be undertaken until the fee is paid.

A REMINDER OF MEETING DATES FOR 2010

August	26 th
September	23 rd
October	28 th
November	25 th
December	No Meeting

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)