



# R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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## IF FARMERS STRIKE (BY FRANK PEARSON)

With apologies and acknowledgement to EDNA JAQUES who published a poem in the "Manitoba Co-operator" during the depression of the '30s. I have taken the liberty of altering it slightly to fit the Australian scene, rather than Canada where it was written.

" I wonder what it would be like,  
If all the farmers went on strike  
And just refused to plant a seed,  
Or prune a tree, or pull a weed.  
If staid, old steadfast Farmer Brown  
Would dress all up and go to town  
To loaf around and shoot the breeze,  
Or sleep beneath some shady trees.  
And what would tiny babies do,  
Under their coverlets of blue,  
If Mr. Grey just turned his cows  
Out in the pasture field to browse  
And went on strike for better pay  
Or shorter hours for his day  
(That really lasts from sun to sun  
And yet his work is never done)  
And what would hungry people eat,  
If all our farmers grew no wheat  
Nor barley, mutton, lamb or beef  
But just went living on relief?  
STARVATION, RUIN, AND DISGRACE  
Would stare the whole world in the face.  
I KNOW that's what it would be like  
If farmers really went on strike."

The sentiment in the poem gives food for thought at any time, but when I found my copy of Edna Jaques' poem I had only a few hours earlier been reading of strikes or threats of strike at Mt. Isa, Whyalla, General Motors Holden, the Post Master General's Department and other places.

Gives one to think, doesn't it?

## WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT A WILL?

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Two agricultural seed field officers are required by Dalgety and New Zealand Loan Limited to assist with the development of their agricultural seed business in the North-West and Riverina Districts of New South Wales.

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### THE GRAPEVINE

At the last R.O.C.A. Committee meeting, it was suggested and agreed that an Old Scholars tie be introduced. Investigations into the style of tie are still being carried out so if you have any helpful suggestions on the subject I am sure the Committee would welcome them.

Two people who have recently been associated with the College featured prominently at a recent Blues Dinner, held at the Sydney University Union Refectory. Dr. R.N. McCulloch proposed the toast to the University Blue, and Graham Mitchell, a blue in Australian National Football, responded on behalf of the new blues. Graham who finished his Roseworthy course in 1961, is doing exceptionally well in the Veterinary course at the Sydney University.

The stork has been visiting a few of our colleagues recently. Joan and Sandy MacKenzie announced the arrival of a son during mid November, and Fay and Don Rice a son at the end of November. I believe the stork is now on his way to Port Lincoln where he is due to call on Harry and Lorna Nash towards the end of February or beginning of March.

I received a letter from Harry Nash recently and he mentioned that Jon Shiphard has returned home from New Guinea, but is not sure whether he will be going back or not. Brian Wilson was married last October to Sandra Waterman and is apparently settling in at the home property, at Coomandook. According to Harry, Ian "Darby" Newland is still share farming in the Butler district. Ian and his wife have two children. Harry also mentioned running into Jeff Norman recently while shopping in Adelaide. Evidently Jeff is looking particularly well and settling in to his work quickly in Tasmania.

Cliff Hooper received a letter from Peter 'Doc' Howe who is managing a property in the Moora district of Western Australia, some 130 miles North of Perth. They deal in quite broad acres on the property, following some 1,500 acres ready for sowing this coming season. Last year's crops averaged 15-16 bushels.

Those of you who have been associated with the College during the past 10 years will be interested to note that Brian Evans has announced his engagement to AVRIOL JOAN BARTLETT HARRISON-ALLEN, only child of the late Captain and Mrs. Hugh Allen. Brian returned home to South Wales late last year, and gives his address as Casheston, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire, South Wales. Brian and Avriol are to be married in London in early February.

By the time this issue has been published several old scholars will have been recently married. Ross Solly was married to Beryl Dodd of Stansbury early in January and will be living at Cleve where Ross will be teaching and Warrick 'Dad' Hack was married at Gawler on January 16th. Warrick and his wife Shirley are to make the South-East their home.

Congratulations to Phil Laffer who announced his engagement during the Christmas - New Year period. Phil is still working in the wine industry in N. S. W.

It was with deepest regret hearing of the death of Mr. S. A. Rudduck who has been living in Western Australia. Mr. Rudduck, who died on October 13th, graduated from College in the 1920's.

Malcolm Seppelt is working on the family property, "Grassmere" at Keppock, where they have 50 acres of vines growing primarily for claret making at their Great Western winery. Besides vineyards Malcolm is running 900 breeding ewes and 1,000 wethers and hoggets, plus cropping 125 acres of Pinnacle wheat and 35 acres of Avon oats. 110 acres of dry land lucerne has been established plus 110 acres under irrigation.

Ian Hickinbotham has changed jobs and is now with Penfolds in Victoria. Ian previously worked for the S. A. Grape Growers Co-op.

Campbell Philips has recently joined the staff of the Agriculture Department and is working in the Weeds Branch. Peter Gratton has transferred from the Lands Department at Berri and is now working for the Aboriginal Welfare Department, stationed at Musgrave Park, near the South Australian - Northern Territory border.

Kay Gibbs hit the headlines of the 'Sunday Mail' on November 29th when his privately owned aircraft crashed while taking off for a trip to Kangaroo Island. Fortunately no one was seriously injured.

Michael Sexton has just completed third year medicine, while David Sexton is managing a 6,000 acre property in the Wimmera.

Bruce Cree, who has travelled about quite a bit since graduating from College, is now running a milk bar on Norfolk Island. Kevin Tuckwell, whom Cliff Hooper tells me was recently engaged, is working for a meat firm in Canberra. Cliff also reports that Mick Frost is working with Dalgetys in Sydney mainly on the export of livestock.

Bill Heath called in to College just before Christmas while he was on leave from New Guinea.

Don Moyle was unfortunate in breaking an ankle just before Christmas while doing stock work on his own property at Keith. This will force Don into a three months spell from any physical work.

Congratulations to Ian Mosel who announced his engagement to Marilyn Witt on January 21st.

I have recently received a very interesting letter from Ron Mertin who has left private enterprise and has joined the ranks of the public service. Since just before the war, Ron has been engaged in work connected with dairy factory production, and in 1959 he left S. A. to take on the job of establishing a new milk plant in Canberra for the Bega Co-operative Society, Bega, N.S.W. This work included the breaking of a milk trade monopoly for the supply of milk to the Capital City, and establishing retail and wholesale outlets. After five years in this job Ron feels as though he has achieved his aim in this direction and has decided to seek a quieter job with the Department of Primary Industry as Senior Agricultural Officer (Dairy) and is responsible for assisting in the administration of the special assistance schemes for the dairy industry. The work involves mainly Commonwealth matters in connection with a host of subjects.

Whilst Ron finds the work much easier physically he has found it necessary to pull out the textbooks once again, for which he has no regrets.

Ron finds Canberra a very enjoyable place to live and invites any R.O.C.A. members heading in his direction to call in and see him at 23 Ryan St., Curtin, Canberra, A.C.T. You will be made very welcome and points of interest worth seeing will be pointed out to you by one who really knows his way around the Capital City and surrounds.

Thanks very much for your letter Ron. Let's hope other members will follow your example and let us know what they are doing as it is this news which helps to make our association's publication more interesting.

Many Old Collegians will be grieved to learn of the death of Mr. J.L. (Jock) Williams.

Jock was a member of the College Staff from 1922-1946; first as Horticulturist and in 1936, in conjunction with Mr. A.R. Hickinbotham, he assisted in setting up the course in Oenology. As a student and a staff member he was a very keen member of the College football and cricket teams.

He left the College in 1946 to take the position of Manager of the Modbury Vineyards, of S. Wynn & Co.

On behalf of Old Collegians, I express our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Williams and family.

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## OPPORTUNITY FOR ROSEWORTHY OLD SCHOLAR

### INDIA: CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

1. Farm Manager or advisor urgently required on a volunteer basis to advise on crops, supervise the maintenance of agricultural machinery and generally plan a scheme for mechanised farming at Bylakuppe Camp for Tibetan refugees, Mysore, India.
2. At Bylakuppe 3,500 acres of jungle are being cleared prior to cultivation and the re-settlement of three thousand refugees by the Central Relief Committee, A Government sponsored group of voluntary agencies.

3. Applicants should have practical experience in modern farming, with a good knowledge of machinery crops and the use of fertilisers. In addition to advising the Camp Development Committee on planning, the volunteer will be required to co-operate with Tibetans already working their own land.
4. Appointment is desired for two years. The post would be more suitable for a single person, since Bylankuppe Camp is isolated and there is not at present suitable housing for a family. There are three Swiss (English speaking) single men working at the camp.
5. Applications to the Overseas Service Bureau, Majorca Building, 260 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, C.1, Victoria.

### R. D. D. NOTES BY MALCOLM TIMBERLAKE

It may be of interest to many Old Collegians to know how and where R.D.D. holders are now serving in the dairy industry. Below is a list, which will not be quite complete, through lack of information available.

J.M. Arnold	- Co-op Dairy Co., Drouin, Victoria.
Tom Bartholomew	- Manager S.A.F.U., Murray Bridge, S.A.
Russell Bowden	- Dairy Advisor, Department of Agriculture, Naracoorte, S.A.
Ken Buckley	- Manager, Burbank Cheese Pty. Ltd., Mt. Schank, S.A.
Allan Chartier	- Instructor in Dairying, Agricultural College, Roseworthy, S.A.
Brian Hannaford	- Milk Products Advisor, Department of Agriculture, Adelaide, S.A.
Viv Hannaford	- Unknown.
Jack Hill	- Bega Co-op Soc., Canberra, A.C.T.
Eddie van Hoof	- Assistant Manager, Myponga Co-op Dairying Soc., Myponga, S.A.
Allan Lang	- Healthway Dairy Product, Geelong, Victoria.
Keith Lawson	- Fertiliser Sales, Bordertown, S.A.
Michael Lucey	- Manager, Metro Milk Co-op, Edwardstown, S.A.
Bob McMahan	- Manager, Kameruka Estates, Bega, N.S.W.
Ron Merton	- Senior Research Officer, Dept. of Primary Industry, Canberra, A.C.T.
Geoff Norman	- Dairy Advisor, Department of Agriculture, Wynyard, Tasmania.
Gordon Pallant	- Manager, Paringa Park City Milk Depot and Company Liaison Officer, United Co-op Dairymen, S.A.
Bill Sands	- Elder Smith, Perth, W.A.
Robin Steed	- Manager, Treatment and Bottling Plant, United Co-op Dairymen, Parkside, S.A.
Malcolm Timberlake	- Supervisor, Metropolitan Milk Board, Adelaide, S.A.
Ian Waugh	- Dairy Factory Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Adelaide, S.A.
Peter Whittington	- Edwardstown, S.A.
Dean Wilkins	- Cheese Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Melbourne, Victoria.
Dave Wilson	- Department of Agriculture, Oaklands, Tasmania.
Paul Percy	- Dairy Farming, Littlehampton, S.A.
G. Chapman	- Heronville, Tasmania.
J. Crace	- Terang, Victoria.
P. Goswami	- Assam, India.
A. Subhi	- Nicosia, Cyprus.

I have received a letter from Geoff Norman who recently left Roseworthy College to take up a position in Tasmania, as a dairy advisor with the Department of Agriculture. He finds the work very interesting and varied, with 2 cheese factories, 1 butter, 1 whole milk - bottling and 1 condensed milk factory within his jurisdiction. One of these cheese factories intends to install a Bell Sire 1, 2 and 3 cheese-making machine in the near future. Geoff apparently has a problem, shared by many in the cheese industry - that of endeavouring to produce coliform-free cheese for the Japanese market.

I would like to hear more from our members in the near future to ensure material for future publications of the Digest. It's up to you chaps to help keep our section going.

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### COLLEGE CHATTER BY CLIFF HOOPER

Like all other cereal growers the College had rather an extended harvest; conditions were not improved by 155 points of rain on Christmas Eve when our northern paddocks probably received nearly 300 points.

From Plant Breeding Section came reports of a promising oat variety - O X B 48 (Orient x Victoria x Richland x Boppy x Avon) - which is now in its second year of test. In 1963 it topped the ungrazed trials with 62 Bushels and the once grazed with a yield of 37 Bushels. This year it was fourth in the ungrazed with 75 bushels (Top yield 76 bushels) and returned 57 bushels after one grazing. At Turretfield it yielded 104 bushels - filling second position in the oat trials.

On the farm, paddock yields vary considerably as Hay-die affected several paddocks.

Gamenya was top of the wheat varieties with 46.4 bushel average. Avon was top oat with 41.4 bushels and barley returned up to 36.7 bushels.

The Poll Dorset Flock is now established with 83 Dorset Horn ewes and 4 Poll Dorset Ram lambs. (2 cw loans from Newbold Ltd., and 2 from Balmoral). I would like to express my personal thanks to Jack Reddin for his valuable assistance in making the necessary purchases and the arrangements he made with other breeders to make available to the College three or four older ewes of good type. With the loan rams of very good quality the College must soon reap the benefit of this sound foundation of a Poll Dorset Stud.

For a change on the staff front there is very little to report. Brian Evans took his long service leave and decided to visit his home. England has features lacking in Australia, as the first news was his resignation and this was followed by the announcement of his approaching marriage. Congratulations Brian.

Mr. and Mrs. Col. Bungey moved into residence early in the New Year and we welcome Mrs. Bungey and family to the College community.

Another three houses are in the course of construction on the Wasleys Road between Harry Stephen and Bill Fairlie.

## INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS OF

### NEW GUINEA (CONTINUED)

BY ROLAND FRUENDT

Pyrethrum is a crop which is now being planted as quickly as planting material can be made available. A British firm is planning to set up an extraction plant when there is a large enough area planted to pyrethrum, and the crop is being grown at above 6,000 feet above sea level where coffee does not grow successfully. The people there are very keen to plant a cash crop and are responding well to the encouragement being given them. Strict control is being kept on the planting of nurseries and the planting material being distributed so that the quality of the plants can be maintained. The pyrethrum being planted is a hybrid, and it has been demonstrated that the pyrethrum content of the flowers decreases with succeeding generations of the plants. Seed is only being collected from the first-cross F.1, and F.2 plants. It is hoped that when there are sufficient plantings, all seed collecting and nursery planting will be discontinued and new plantings will then be established only by splitting healthy mature plants.

In the Mount Hagen areas some tea plantings are being established by planters who are planning to assist Natives to establish their blocks of tea on small blocks adjoining the large plantation. These blocks will be supervised by the planter who will take in all the tea produced and process it in his factory. There is a possibility that blocks could be established further afield and still make use of the factory, but the distance is limited because the plucked tea leaves must be at the factory within six hours of plucking. It is claimed that the simplest factory setup would cost around £30,000 and requires several hundred acres of tea gardens to be a sound proposition. Because of the wide range in altitude in the Western Highlands, the climatic conditions vary from semi-tropical below 3,000 feet to alpine with occasional falls of snow at above 12,000 feet. It will therefore be appreciated that it is possible to grow almost any type of

vegetable that you care to mention somewhere in the district. There is quite a good though limited market for these fresh vegetables in the coastal towns, and quite a few of the people, particularly in the Wabag and Lagaip areas are earning a steady income from the growing of such vegetables as Irish potatoes, carrots, turnips, beats, parsnips, celery, lettuce, tomatoes, peas, beans and some cauliflower. The chief problem is transportation as we are 150 miles from Madang, 150 miles from Wewak, almost 500 miles from Moresby and 250 miles from Lae by the normal air routes.

The growing of any of the cash crops took some time to catch on. The people were interested enough to want to grow something, but when they saw how much work was involved, many of them gave up half way through or only planted a very small area. But some energetic types did work hard and as a result have cleared quite a bit of money from their projects. In some cases, this has amounted to several hundred pounds per annum. Some Native Local Government Councils have been and more are to be established soon in the Western Highlands. The councils levy taxes on the people so the need to find money to pay the tax has been quite a stimulus for the people's economic development.

One of the main hindrances that the Western Highlanders have to their economic development is the "Moka" or "Te" festival. This is very involved, but the main features are the exchange of goods and the repayment of debts. It is so important in the life of the people that almost any thing they do or any transaction they may have are all tied up with the "Te". When it is time for the repayment of debts or other ceremonies everyone in it spends virtually all his time and energy on trying to make a bigger name for himself in the "Te". So absorbed do the people become in it that they will neglect to pick their ripe coffee, forget to attend to their gardens and they will often even refuse to take their sick and dying for medical attention. The main item used for the payment of debts is the pig which has therefore become the chief sign of a man's wealth.

There is always a big turnover of pigs making selective breeding impossible even if it had been heard of.

Very little or no feed is given to the pigs, they starve for animal protein, and pick up many intestinal parasites while they are digging for earthworms. So it generally takes 3 or 4 years for a pig to reach maturity at a size which we would probably describe as baconer weight. They therefore are quite impressed when we can raise a purebred pig to 220 lbs in six months in a simple cement floored piggery.

Some cattle projects have been started in the Western Highlands, and more and more of the people are becoming interested in obtaining cattle. Where there is sufficient good open grassland beef cattle could have quite a big future. However, in the more heavily populated areas dairy cattle should become important in small mixed farms. The main breed of beef run at Baiyer River stock station was Beef Shorthorn, and for the past three years these have been crossed with Africander bulls giving a smooth-coated, more efficient animal for hot conditions. A. I. S. is the main dairy breed and they have demonstrated their ability to do well over a wide range of conditions.

The native grasses consist chiefly of Kangaroo grass and some millet grass species which tend to get rank and stemmy providing very little palatable feed. Pasture improvement is necessary if large herds are to be maintained in good health.

At present there are moves afoot to set up some pilot projects for native farmers on small mixed farms. These men are to be given legal title to their land, and this in turn will enable them to obtain a loan to develop their property. If the pilot projects are successful it is hoped that many Western Highlanders will go for this kind of enterprise. Successful graduates of farmer training schools will be among the first to go in for it. But they will all need a lot of help and advice as will all those who are at present trying to raise their economic status through agriculture. There is sufficient work for many times the number of agricultural officers at present working among the New Guineans, and many more will have to go there if we ever hope they will be able to raise the £15 million which Australia annually pours into the country at present, or some larger amount which they will need to successfully govern their own country.

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IF YOU ARE A ROSEWORTHY OLD SCHOLAR  
 YOU SHOULD SEE THAT YOU SUPPORT **R.O.C.A.**  
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 YOU SHOULD SEE A PSYCHIATRIST  
 UNLESS YOU MILK **JERSEYS**

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**EYRE PENINSULA BRANCH A.G.M. AND REUNION**

The Eyre Peninsula Branch of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association will hold their Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner at the Georges' Franklin Harbour Hotel, Cowell, on February 27th, commencing at 6:00 p.m. The Guest Speaker will be Mr. L.J. Cook, R.D.A. (Hons.) who attended the College from 1907 to 1910. Len is well known to all Old Collegians and his experiences on Eyre Peninsula and elsewhere will be worth listening to.

If you are able to attend please let Des Habel know as soon as possible by addressing your reply to:-

The Secretary, R.O.C.A., Box 5, PORT LINCOLN, S.A.

The deadline for replies is February 15th, however if you are a few days late I do not think that Des will mind.

Visiting Old Scholars would be most welcome at the Reunion so if any of you are able to make it to Cowell on February 27th, it would help to create added interest at the function, and you would undoubtedly have an enjoyable night.