



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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LEONARD JOHN COOK BY FRANK PEARSON.

Leonard John Cook, R.D.A., formerly Chief Agricultural Adviser in the Department of Agriculture, died on November 3rd, 1965, two days before his 75th birthday.

Len Cook graduated with Honours from Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1910.

R.O.C.A. Award of Merit winner in 1963, he had during 41 years with the Department of Agriculture trained many of today's departmental staff and given them a sound grounding in agricultural experimental and extension work.

He spent a lifetime in the service of agriculture, and both Australia and South Australia benefited greatly from his work. When he left the College in 1910 he went farming at Wirrega but lack of knowledge of trace elements and the usefulness of sub-clover and lucerne meant that he, in common with most of his neighbours, tried to grow wheat. This was a failure and by the 1st January, 1915, he had joined the Department of Agriculture and was on his way to Minnipa to open and clear the Government Experimental Farm there. During this period he lived in a tent and had many interesting experiences.

In 1920 he transferred to Kybybolite Experimental Farm and soon began introducing subterranean clover and later on phalaris, together with topdressing with superphosphate. By 1928 this was established over Kybybolite Farm, and also over much of the surrounding countryside.

In 1923 he began the long term trials with sub-clover and Wimmera rye grass, which laid the foundations of modern research into pasture nutrition in Australia.

In 1936 he was transferred to Adelaide as Experimentalist, and later became Chief Agricultural Adviser. During this time he was responsible for the supervision of cereal, pasture and fertiliser experimental and demonstration work throughout the State.

He was quick to appreciate the importance of research findings, particularly in relation to pasture and lucerne sowing and top-dressing. He helped South Australia become the biggest producer of lucerne seed in the Commonwealth.

He was a member of many committees including the Pasture Improvement Committee of the Australian Dairy Board, the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee, the Barley Classification Committee and the Aborigines Protection Board. He was made a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science in recognition of his work for agriculture over a long but unobtrusive career.

His efforts as a research worker have been compared with those of William Farrer in Wheat breeding. He was a good administrator and his continuing interest in the training of young officers has had a considerable influence on Agricultural Research and extension in Southern Australia which will be felt long after his death.

He is survived by a widow, and a married daughter who is at present living in London.

But equally so he is affectionately remembered by many workers in the field of Agriculture for the help he gave them when they started out in life. Very much he was one who "passed on the torch" burning brighter and more strongly than he had received it.

AS I SAW THE COLLEGE BY F.A. WHEATON 1908-11

In company with, and on the inspiration of my elder brother, (Robert Wheaton 1903-06) an afternoon visit to the College on November 15th was a very happy occasion. The Principal gave us the V.I.P. Treatment and personally paraded us around the College properties, particularly those activities we most wished to see. We much appreciated his kindly thought.

Both of us had visited the College in comparative recent years, yet in the course of over half a century, alterations, additions and improvements are strikingly manifest. In our day, in addition to the Principal, there were three resident staff members.

The old farm, workshop and part of the old stable remain, but soon to be demolished. Field Experiments march on.

50 odd years ago, the late Pro. Perkins (Principal) was trying to demonstrate to farmers that the then current rate of phosphate dressing was inadequate, and he had experiments to prove his contention. History has proved him soundly correct.

We noticed that the Wheat Breeding Programme still goes on; a very necessary part of agricultural progress. Experimental work still a valuable and distinct part of College work - what is proved to be good or bad, is valuable for the advancement of Agriculture.

In common with other fields of Education and subsequent life's work, College outlook has changed; formerly it was to be a Training Centre for young farmers, today many graduates go on to Scientific and Research Stations in various avenues of the Country's Welfare. The old common round and daily task, e.g. stoking hay and grain crops, all of the latter going through the stationary thresher, cleaning stables, etc. etc., is being superseded by the latest labour saving devices. You present students, be thankful. We rejoiced to learn that efforts are being made where Societies of People can make the College their Picnic & Social Day, and see a little of College activities.

It must make more people realise that the College is not just an Institution somewhere about Roseworthy, but that it belongs to us all, and like everything else, the more interest we put in, the more we can take out.

FARM CLUB ADVERTISER

A newly-formed Farm Advisory Club requires an Adviser. Applicants should have a background in agriculture and a knowledge of agricultural economics.

The area is centred on Meningie in South Australia and concerned mainly with sheep, dairy and beef cattle and some cereals.

A generous salary according to qualification will be paid and the adviser will be required to provide his own car for which mileage will be paid.

Applications in writing should include details of academic qualifications, practical experience, age, and should be accompanied by references.

Applications will close on March 16th, 1966, and should be addressed to:-

Simpson and Brookman, Brookman Buildings,
35 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, S.A.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

245 Payneham Road,
 JOSLIN.
PAYNEHAM. S.A.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for the November issue of our paper, it is always welcome. It was interesting to read the letter from Gilbert Lewis who went through College a year before I attended; he is older than I am. Gilbert's younger brother Lance (Major) Lewis, 3rd L.H. was my best man when I married Ruth Killicoat, of Alberton Park, Burra, in St. Mary's Church, Burra in 1907. Many years later I married her younger sister Edna, who still survives.

The last time I saw Gilbert was very many years ago; I think he was in the British Army then in India. He called in at our station, The Gums, midway between Burra and Morgan, on a motor bike. I have heard of him since through my old room mate Roy H. Hayward, (recently deceased) in Perth. They used to have an R.A.C. old students gathering in a small way over there. Others of my time in the West who were alive then, were Alf B. Caw, (now in Adelaide), Toby England, and Harold Cargeeg. Others who deceased some time ago were J.G. Grant (Jarrah) and "Bunbury" Rose who was killed in a train accident.

I knew by repute those names given in "My Origin and Growth". Colebatch of course later became Principal, Mr. R.F. (Dick) Martin, I think came from Clare, and held the College high jump record for some years; Sandford, Landseer and Pritchard were well-known business men.

J. Haslam (Joey) was house-master in my time; he lived in the cottage over the vineyard towards the Wasleys road. Later Professor Perkins married Haslam's sister and lived there. We "tin-kettled" the newly-weds, and "Perks" took us in and shouted drinks. Haslam came to R.A.C. as a master from P.A.C.

I served two years under Professor Lowrie, a fine man, and the last year under Perkins. Many years later a son of Perkins, Horace, was a School of Mines student (wool) on our station.

Well, Well! What happy old days, and what happy memories our Digest revives.

I meet my dear old friend Roy Richardson at all the important cricket matches at the oval. He told me at our Annual Dinner that he had been to the College recently with Bill Aldridge.

With kindest regards,

N. Hiles Pearse - "Copper".
 1899-1902.

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER BY PHIL TUMMEL

There is little to report on the proposed new Society of Oenologists, but Ian Hickenbotham has drafted a letter which he will submit to the Food Technologists and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute for correction and possible additions.

The draft will then be sent to 32 holders of the R.D.Oe. who have indicated their agreement to affiliate with the Food Technologists as set out in the original circular. To agree with Ian this response was quite remarkable and gratifying.

The Advertiser had an interesting advert in the "Situations Vacant", requiring a copy edition of John Stanford of 40's fame, but unfortunately there is still a shortage of R.D.Oe's so another position slips from our ranks, leaving the way open for another import or University degree.

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER CONTINUED

The stork column has produced that dramatic announcement. Gordon Nilssen gave Ray Ward a case of Brandy, and Ray is now looking for a suitable God father, and from now on will only drink President.

On behalf of all the Oenologists who had the privilege of being associated with Philpie, I wish him all the best of health and happiness in his retirement. The College won't seem the same place without Mr. Philp. If he intends to write a book on the College, I will be one who will gladly pay a lot of money for him to keep quiet. Not too much escaped Philpie; I bet he even knew where the champagne was hidden for the 1937 famous Champagne College Ball. We all sure loved that guy.

THE GRAPEVINE

Our President's Message in the last issue of the Digest, along with Gilbert Lewis's letter have brought a most encouraging response, and it may be necessary to hold some letters until next issue of the Digest.

The Eyre Peninsula Branch members are really determined to make this year's dinner their biggest and best. Des Habel and his committee have put a lot of effort into the organisation of this function which will be a memorable occasion for all those who attend.

At last it's happened! They tell me that Bill "Tex" Magarey has announced his engagement. Congratulations Tex and also to the lucky young lady. Congratulations also to Dav. Ritchie who was engaged to Cynthia Mitchell, Bob Jeffery engaged to Jeneth Lancaster and Malcolm Seppelt who announced his engagement to Joylene Sherriff.

Old Scholars who have taken the big step into married life recently are Ian Young who, with his wife Enis, managed a photograph on the front page of the Advertiser; Ian Mosel and Jasper Bowering. Our best wishes to these members and their wives.

Congratulations to Frank Pearson on his recent promotion to the position of Chief Agronomist. It is good to be able to report that Frank is back at work following a successful series of operations.

I received a letter from Mick Tandy recently, and he gives his address as C/- Agriculture Department, Smithton, Tasmania. Mick spent 18 months on a farm in the North Midlands of Tasmania before joining the Department of Agriculture and holds the position of Agricultural Officer of the Extension Division. Mick, who was married in January this year, will be in Adelaide with his wife in May for about 10 days and will be able to be contacted through John "Abos" Williams.

Congratulations to Richard Harvey of Nerung who has been awarded a Nuffield Scholarship which will entitle him to further his studies overseas.

Those of you who were at Roseworthy during Mr. A.P. Bailey's period on the staff will be interested to note that he has been appointed to the position of Director of Commonwealth Loans, Canberra.

Lorry and Anne Gill, who recently announced the arrival of their second child, a daughter, are shifting further north to the home property. Other old students and their wives who have featured in the Birth Columns since our last issue are Ken and Rosemary Holden - a daughter, Peter and Valda Gratton - a son, and Des and Mim Warner - a daughter.

We hope that by the time this issue is published that Mr. Robert Wheaton (1903-06) has picked up in health. Late in 1965 Mr. Wheaton spent a period in the Kingscote Hospital from which we hope he benefited.

Trevor Joyce is now with the Shell Company after spending two years in New Guinea.

Angas Mair on a trip through Victoria and South Australia last year visited many of his Roseworthy colleagues, and old collegians before and after his period at College. Angas mentions that Les Orchard at 75 is wearing well though he had been seriously ill in 1964. The only familiar faces at the College were "Snowy" Philp and Keith Fairlie. In the Barossa Valley he met Ray Beckwith at Penfolds, Colin Kay at the Grape Growers Co-op and Reg Shipster at Chateau Leonay. At Normanville, on the way home, Angas visited Keith "Tusker" Will, who has now retired in the area after having spent many years in the Far North. At Encounter Bay he visited Tarlelin Jefferies who Angas said had failed a lot in the last twelve months and it was with deepest regrets reading of Tarlelin's death in September last year. Colin Preece,

THE GRAPEVINE CONTINUED

at Ararat, has now retired as manager of Great Western, although he is still acting in an advisory capacity. Murray Bested has his own winery at Griffiths. Angas visited George Fairbrother while in Adelaide. George was then about to leave on an overseas trip visiting many of the well-known wineries.

I received a note from Geoff "Jungle" Fromm who is with the CSIRO in Darwin and will be apparently visiting Adelaide in the near future.

While on holidays at Port Lincoln recently, Athalie and myself spent a most enjoyable evening with Harry and Loma Nash, who as mentioned in the last issue of the Digest, have a daughter. There is no doubt about the West Coast-ites, they really make you feel welcome.

Our congratulations to Graham Mitchell who has recently completed the veterinary course with four high distinctions and one distinction, which gave him the top position of the graduating year. Graham is to continue with his studies in Melbourne where he will complete a doctor of philosophy course.

It was with regret reading recently of the death of Mr. John William Crompton (1905-07) who lived at Stonyfell. Mr. Crompton was known throughout South Australian agriculture as being one of the first to use trace elements in soil at his property at Black Valley.

At the time of going to the press, Cliff Hooper was recovering well from an operation and hopes to be away from work for only about two to three weeks.

COLLEGE CHATTER

With 1965 harvest behind us, perhaps the harvest return will be of interest to many old students.

Wheat on fallow, after cutting for hay 41 acres which failed;

200 acres averaged 19.7 bushels with RAC 414 top at 25.0 bushels.

Wheat on leyland - 91 acres averaged 12.5 bushels.

Oats on fallow - 33 acres averaged 14.2 bushels.

Oats on leyland - (35 acres cut for hay) 46 acres averaged 11.6 bushels.

Barley on leyland - 221 acres averaged 10.5 bushels.

Barley on stubble - 64 acres averaged 3.2 bushels.

---oo0oo---

We were able to gather a total of 200 tons of hay and 150 tons silage.

The above leaves us facing 1966 with a certain amount of trepidation as to whether we will be able to get through without running into trouble. Sheep numbers have been considerably reduced, pigs are being sold as porkers and any boarders in the other stock have been sold.

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February saw the departure from the College of Ted Lehmann, that well known figure in the Sheep Section. Despite his disabilities, Ted had that dedication to the job which is lacking amongst too many of the present generation. Always willing to do more than his share and always willing to help anybody, he has set an example which we could all emulate. On behalf of Old Scholars, I wish him well in his retirement.

Perc. Trenowden of Piggery fame will also retire about the same time.

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R.D.T.A. NOTES

BY ROBIN STEED

The Seventh Annual meeting of our Association was held on October 6th, 1965 at the offices of the Metropolitan Milk Board, Adelaide. Brian Hannaford was elected President and Robin Steed Secretary.

On the seventh of November a most enjoyable Social Picnic was held in the South Parklands, Adelaide.

Beer and "Metro" Chocolate milk being the favourite on the menu. (Husbands naturally received an ear bashing from their wives for sneaking away to a quiet corner with a few bottles and leaving them to look after the children).

It is anticipated to arrange a "cheese and wine" evening in the near future with some of our "Plonkie" associates.

Congratulations to Malcolm Timberlake on his recent appointment as Inspector with the Metropolitan Milk Board. Malcolm has been working mainly in the city with the Board, but now he will be concentrating on the Adelaide Hills supervising licenced dairies.

Congratulations also to Lou Bartholomeaus; Lou, for the past few years has been Manager at the S.A.F.U. Factory, Murray Bridge, recently however he accepted the position of Assistant Manager at Cobden, Victoria. The South Australian industry has suffered the loss of an exceptionally capable man in Lou, and our Association members offer him our best wishes on his new appointment and also our appreciation for the valuable efforts he contributed to R.D.T.A. particularly during his term as President of our Association.

Jack Hill was in Adelaide recently on a hort holiday from Canberra. Pressure of work and new plant installation has dropped his weight back to about 18 stone. He still claims to be "fighting fit" though.

Eddy van Hoof at Myponga Co-op is busy organising bulk milk pick-up for their suppliers. Bulk milk pick-up is the main topic of conversation amongst milk suppliers in the State at the present time. I hope Eddy will be able to give us an article on his experience with it in our next newsletter.

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SOUTH-EAST BRANCH - R.O.C.A.

The S.E. Branch of "R.O.C.A." held its Annual General Meeting and Reunion in the Kincaig Hotel, Naracoorte on Wednesday, December 1st, 1965.

Thirty-six members attended, which was well up on last year, and from all quarters it was judged a most successful "ding".

Members met before the dinner to elect a committee for the next year, and this comprises:-

Peter Fisher - President
 David Scales - Secretary
 Malcolm Seppelt
 Austin Ninnes

The dinner this year was arranged so that staff members from the College who were on the South-East could attend. Although this happened to be a Wednesday night, all members present agreed with this arrangement.

SOUTH-EAST BRANCH - R.O.C.A. CONTINUED

Staff members present were Max Burton and Dav. Woodruff. Max responded to the toast to the College in a most entertaining way, giving us the comings and goings of staff members and the new educational policy being adopted, which requires that all students entering Roseworthy are required to have their Leaving Certificate with Chemistry a must.

Steve Ward proposed the toast to the College in typical Steve fashion, and it was seconded by Farrel Haynes in an equal manner.

The longest toast this year belonged to Doug Quinn. Perce Bailey, unfortunately, was unable to attend.

A mention must be made of E.S. Alcock, who, although unable to make it, sent along a quid - thanks a lot Ern.

The boys came from as far as Mt. Gambier and Tintinara and perhaps I would add here that if anyone wants the dinner anywhere but Naracoorte, they can come along next year - we'd love to see them and we could take a vote on it.

If we could fill that dining room instead of half filling it, well, who knows, perhaps we could even give those Eyre Peninsula boys a bit of a nudge.

---oo0oo---

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE ESPERANCE DISTRICT BY NICK BROOKS

I stayed with Ian Hay, recently married, who is managing "Aroona" station for the McBride interests. This is situated 68 miles east of Esperance in an 18 inch rainfall area and is the eastern-most limit of development in the area.

Ian's own block is about 30 miles north of Esperance with a 20 inch rainfall. He has 150 acres down to pasture which at present is not fenced and is expected to be a popular venue for local kangaroos.

Jack Woodhouse, who owns quite an impressive plant, is contract super spreading and seeding, spending his off time attending to his own block in the Salmon Gurns area, 65 miles north of Esperance with a 14 inch rainfall. (This rainfall is notably more reliable than the Eastern States). Jack has 450 acres down to wheat on a 3,000 acre block.

At the present, land availability in the Esperance area is limited mainly to private sales. However, American interests now operating 100 miles west of Esperance are offering blocks of approximately 2,500 acres, of which one third is taken through development to the first ploughing, at a price of £6,000. It is a wheat/sheep area with an 18 inch rainfall. On back ploughing and sowing the developed area a freehold title is available.

Old Collegians are reminded that to offset apparent isolation and distance 11.00 p.m. closing is "time gentlemen please" for this area.

Also seen in the area was Santa Gertrudis cattle, as apparently a start has been made by some in non Gertrudis areas in W.A. farming studs and crossing with British breeds, claiming faster growth rates than the more conventional types for beef production.

I contacted John Barrett-Lennard, who is now on the home property 20 miles from Perth in the Swan Valley. He intends to start a winery on the home block. Also Dorum Mann who is well entrenched in the Department of Agriculture's Viticulture Section.

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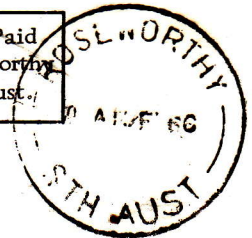
IF YOU ARE A ROSEWORTHY OLD SCHOLAR
 YOU SHOULD SEE THAT YOU SUPPORT R.O.C.A.
 IF YOU MILK COWS
 YOU SHOULD SEE A PSYCHIATRIST
 UNLESS YOU MILK JERSEYS

Then you really should see Gngangwea Jerseys at Inman Valley

JOHN AND MRS. GORE WOULD WELCOME YOU

R.O.C.A. DIGEST

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Mr. B.C. Eastick,
 Bright St.,
 WILLASTON

BADGE, BLAZER AND TIE

Many Old Scholars probably do not realise that there is an official badge and blazer for members of the Old Scholars Association. If you are interested in purchasing either or both of these please contact the Secretary. The blazer is a very presentable piece of clothing that could be worn at many functions. It is plain black with a monogram very similar to the Blues badge, worked in silver on the pocket.

There is available from the College canteen a tie with small College badges imprinted over it in gold on a black background. While these ties are not an official old scholars tie they have been bought by several of our members.

The price of these ties is 25/- on top of which would have to be added postage if you wanted one sent through the post.
