



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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Roseworthy.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

R. J. Ford, Chairman
F. B. Pearson
W. S. Edge
R. S. Norton
J. Ryan

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EDITOR'S PAGE

It is with quite considerable interest that we note that at present the South Australian Department of Agriculture has three of its officers overseas. These three officers will add considerably to the technical ranks of the Department on their return. They will not only obtain new material and new information, but will also meet other people working in their own particular fields, and from these people will get new ideas and inspirations.

John Potter, Principal Livestock Officer of the Department of Agriculture left in the middle of June on a four months tour of the United Kingdom - Western European Countries - and parts of the United States.

John will study animal production - extension techniques, and progress in animal husbandry research in the countries he visits and will be particularly concerned with performance testing, meat production and marketing.

At the end of April, Eric Crawford, Plant Production Officer, went to the Mediterranean area to collect seeds of medics and other pasture plants suitable for the cereal growing districts of South Australia. Eric has already collected seeds in Spain, Israel, Cyprus and Turkey, and is travelling on to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia and it is expected that he will return with a considerable quantity of useful low rainfall material.

In May, Ted Higgs, Senior Pasture Research Officer left to visit the United Kingdom - Western Europe - Canada - the United States and New Zealand to look at new developments in pasture production and pasture research in the countries he visits.

At this new rate of overseas visits now being made, about one-third of the Department's more experienced officers will get an overseas trip each once in a lifetime.

The help that these officers, who are given the opportunity to travel overseas, will be of a tremendous benefit to Agriculture not only in this State but to the whole of Australia in general.

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO AWARD OF MERIT RULES AND CONDITIONS CLAUSE 6 (2)

At present Clause 6 (2) reads:-

"The Selection Committee shall consist of four members, one each from the fields of Agricultural research, public service, practical farming and industry, who in the opinion of the Executive, are of sufficient standing and experience in the fields of agriculture to be competent to assess the merits of candidates from any field of agricultural activity."

The proposed alteration to this Clause is:-

"The Selection Committee shall consist of five members, one each from the fields of Agricultural research, public service, practical farming and industry, who in the opinion of the Executive, are of sufficient standing and experience in the fields of agriculture to be competent to assess the merits of candidates from any field of agricultural activity, and also the President of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association.

1967 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of R.O.C.A. will be held on Saturday, September 2nd, 1967 starting at 5.00 p.m. at the Richmond Hotel, Rundle Street, Adelaide. The meeting will be held in a room of this Hotel.

The Agenda is:

- (i) President's Report,
- (ii) Treasurer's Report,
- (iii) Digest Report,
- (iv) Aust. Diplomates Association,
- (v) Cabaret,
- (vi) Award of Merit.
- (vii) Any other business,
- (viii) Election of Officers.

Nominations must be returned to the Secretary by 25th August, 1967.

PRESENT HOLDER

Immediate Past President,	W.S. Edge	J. Gore
Vice President,	H. V. Stephen	(No nomination required).....
Hon. Secretary,	J. A. Gursansky,	.....
Hon. Treasurer,	C. W. Hooper,	.....
Member graduating 1-10 yrs ago	R. G. Ryan,	.....
Member graduating last year,	)-(	.....
Five Committee Members		
(Four required)	R. Fewster,	.....
	R. Ford,	.....
	R. Norton,	.....
	G. Roe,	.....
	J. Sobels.	.....
Hon. Auditor	B. C. Philp	.....

1967 REUNION

The 1967 Reunion will be held on Saturday, September 2nd at the Richmond Hotel, Rundle Street, Adelaide. The dinner is due to start at 6.45 p.m.

The sum of three dollars (\$3.00) must be sent to the Treasurer before the 31st August to ensure a place at the Reunion. Some members have caused embarrassment by arriving without giving any

1967 REUNION (CONTINUED)

prior notice so please let us know if you are coming.

The 25 year ago group will be organised by HENRY DAY, and the 10 year ago group by RON TUCKWELL.

Accommodation is limited, so please send your money in early.

FILL IN AND RETURN TO TREASURER BEFORE 31st AUGUST, 1967.

Mr C.W. Hooper,
Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY, S.A. 5371

*I will/will not be present at the 1967 Reunion on Saturday, 2nd September, 1967. Please find enclosed \$3.00 to cover the cost of the dinner.

*I do require a receipt.

(* Strike out as required).

.....
(PRINT NAME)

.....
.....
(ADDRESS)

COLLEGE CHATTER

I hope that by the time you read this, the seasonal prospects have improved considerably. At the third week of June the position could hardly be worse - less than four inches of rain for the year and the conserved fodder position causing many headaches. Even the soursobs were out in their calculations - they started flowering early in June.

Perhaps to brighten things - Workshop has commenced the movement in the new Farm Engineering Building but it will be a while yet before it is in full production. The students officially declared it open on 21st June.

Preparation of the foundations for the Biology and Chemistry Laboratories and Plant Breeder Section has commenced adjoining the A.P. Laboratory.

The 3 H Swimming Pool (Herriot, Hardy and Hooper will show the mosquito benefit) has been built in the garden area opposit Hooper's. It must be a swimming pool as it has a deep end and a shallow end and will be filled by the run-off from the new F.E. Building.

Once again there are a few changes on the Staff front.

Gerry Woodroffe left at the end of June and is now Assistant Manager at the Kybybolite Research Centre.

Geoff Knights has filled the position as Assistant Horticulturist. He trained at the Wisbach Horticulture College in East England and then spent two years at the East Malling Research Station in Kent. He was trainee manager on a fruit farm in Eastern England for 18 months. Geoff married just before leaving England and with his wife moved to the College shortly after their arrival in South Australia.

Rumour has it that an appointment to the Senior Position in Farm Engineering is pending, and also that there are possibilities of a Research Officer coming to the A.P. Laboratory.

OLD SCHOLARS' DAY

Because Open Day at the College has proved to be such a success it has been decided to hold Old Scholars' Day in conjunction with this day. This year the date fixed is October 14th, a Saturday. It is hoped to officially open the new Farm Engineering and Workshop Buildings on this day.

UPPER MURRAY BRANCH - R.O.C.A.

From ALLEN EMERSON

Like most of South-Eastern Australia the Murray Mallee is in the throes of a drought; our rainfall this year has been less than three inches in many cases. Despite all our up-to-the-minute farming methods we still rely entirely on the rainfall.

Within the irrigation areas the picture is a good deal brighter, as most of the blockers had a good harvest in 1966/67. Citrus growers are going to have a lean time during the next twelve months as over 40% of the coming crop fell onto the ground as a result of hot windy conditions back in November. Apart from the serious financial loss the newly appointed Citrus Organization Committee will have difficulty in meeting our important export requirements.

No doubt most Old Collegians are well aware of our problems as these seem to be the only items that hit the headlines in the daily papers these days. There is surely a need for all of us associated with primary industry to retain an optimistic outlook even if this is sometimes blurred by drought and adverse circumstances!

The Chowilla Dam and the future use of River Murray water is also causing some concern at the moment. There is no doubt that a major storage dam is required to conserve our limited allocation under the River Murray Agreement.

Loxton Old Collegian Don Woon has recently been investigating the possibility of establishing an Agricultural College at Loxton. Don points out that such a College could cater more for farmers' sons and its functions would complement those of Roseworthy.

Our annual Reunion Dinner for River Old Collegians will be held at Renmark in September this year to coincide with the students' River trip. The date set is Wednesday, 27th September. We hope to have an excellent guest speaker and a record attendance is anticipated.

Would any members who have transferred to our area during the past year please get in touch with David Price, Ross Wishart or myself.

NEW NAMES FOR PASTURE PLANTS

The Australian Herbage Plant Liaison Committee have been looking at the names that we are using for some of our plants and finding a good deal of duplication, some confusion - and a lack of definiteness about them.

Because of this they have recommended certain changes of name on an Australian wide - and world wide - basis to get meaningful names applied to a number of our plants.

We in South Australia - the Seed Growers - Seed Merchants - and the Department of Agriculture - are co-operating in the acceptance of these names and in the next few months we will be developing a programme of familiarisation with the names and trying to get them adopted.

There is quite a long list of recommended names prepared and these will be published in various papers until people get accustomed to them - but only a few of the new names are likely to affect our discussions very much.

The most important as far as South Australia is concerned are Wimmera Annual rye grass instead of Wimmera rye grass as at present. Australian phalaris instead of Commercial phalaris - Harbinger straw medic instead of Harbinger medic - Paragosa Gama Medic instead of Paragosa, Cyprus barrel medic instead of Early Cyprus Barrel Medic - Hannaford instead of Commercial Barrel medic - to perpetrate the importance of Alf Hannaford's part in the development of Barrel in South Australia - Jemalong Barrel medic instead of Barrel 173, Siro Peruvian instead of Hairy Peruvian lucerne - and Irrigation White instead of Victorian Irrigation White Clover.

These new names have all been suggested to make sure that people know which plant is being talked about - previously Barrel Clover for instance - meant any of several kinds - and it is hoped that by using specific names this confusion will be avoided.

PHILPY'S MEMOIRS - PART III

For many of us the name "Freddy" Gilbert conjures up memories of a black swan called Joe (subsequently renamed Josephine), various exotic breeds of poultry, a myriad of both black and white black duck, "the beetle green sheen" on the feathers of the Australorp, tubs of pickled eggs and a great hanging box of "fresh" eggs in the cellar. Above all there is the ever friendly jovial personality of the man himself, who really made crawling around through fowl droppings to hunt for eggs almost bearable. It may come as a surprise to many, however, that when young Snow Philp signed on at Roseworthy, Mr Gilbert was already in employment.

He had first commenced duties in the garden and later assumed the responsibilities of the poultry unit which of course was then situated on a site south of the present Butter Factory.

Cooper's Dam was one of Freddy's pet projects, and it was here that he developed quite a beauty spot, stocking it with these black ducks which had a peculiar gene mixture, producing some white ducklings in each hatch. Some of this variety are still to be seen at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

At this stage of poultry development at College there was a turkey run east of the Principal's house, a pair of reluctant geese and also Muscovy ducks. As I said before, variety was the keynote in those days.

The lecturer in Chemistry at the time was a Mr Phillips and the winery was run by Doug Quinn, the fanatical motorist, and son of the Chief Horticulturalist in the Department of Agriculture, well known for his handbook on Pruning.

Questioning Philpy about sport in those days, I find that he used to play football, and to think that only last year they were hunting for a rover in the College 'A' team. He started at full forward and apparently didn't last long. Probably was just a bit too "Full". It seems that from the outset they tried to instill confidence into the young office boy, because after a bounce at centre, the rucks got it, Philpy called for it, marked and kicked a goal.

Dolph Baker, the captain at the time, wanting to help this hesitant young player to become "one of the team", spoke these encouraging words "You were bloody lucky to get that!!"

LADIES NIGHT OUT - PORT LINCOLN

Contributed by WIVES ANONYMOUS

"Where the girls are" the boys weren't on the night of February 26th, 1967.

It was Old Scholars night with all the local ex Roseworthians having a high time talking, eating, and generally celebrating their Annual event. What was good enough for the braves suited the squaws.

It was decided after much discussion between Port Lincoln wives that a dinner at the Tasman Hotel was the answer to even up on the male gathering. Mr John Lee, guest speaker for the men, was accompanied by Mrs Lee on the visit. The ladies would have much pleasure in entertaining Mrs Lee - at the Tasman, the most lavish pub in town - at husband's expense.

The big night arrived with sixteen beautifully gowned, coiffured, and bejewelled wives including guest Mrs Lee, sitting down to dinner with the first problem being one of finance. The extra 75¢ for those having oysters presented quite a problem, especially as all the husbands seemed to have tried to out do each other by tendering \$20 notes for the night out (reckless, impetuous devils those R.O.C.A. boys).

Money matters were soon forgotten with the music, excellent cuisine, choice of wines and convivial small talk and then came the highlight of the evening - a visit from the debonair secretary of the E.P. Branch of R.O.C.A. wearing a maroon tie, neat grey suit and white betting ticket showing jauntily from his top pocket. He was closely followed by President Pat Marrie, who called in to see that everything was progressing satisfactorily.

It was reassuring to all the girls to know that the men were so interested in our welfare .. or didn't they trust us?!

Hazel, as well as performing on the percussion, took to the floor with Elsa. Helen made a conquest which proved "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and Emily, who was having such a good time, just didn't want to leave.

All good things must come to an end, so Joyce worked out how much per head, with or without oysters, and the men were rejoined at the Great Northern Hotel. It was one way of making sure of getting them home at a reasonable hour.

Seriously, it was a most enjoyable function with all present agreeing that it was well worthwhile and should be repeated annually. It gave local wives and visiting wives an opportunity to meet, so that right from the beginning on the following day at the family picnic everyone knew each other. We know

LADIES NIGHT OUT - PORT LINCOLN (CONTINUED)

Mrs Lee enjoyed and appreciated the company simply because she told us so, and as her entertainment was one of the main aims of the Night we feel sure the Dinner achieved its purpose.

By the way, those in attendance were:- Emily Lawes, Anne Horne, Lorna Stirling, Helen West, Beryl Hayman, Elsa Alcock, Gwen Alcock, Hazel Jones, Elizabeth Michelmore, Jill Wishart, Margaret Richie, Cynthia Ritchie, Rosemary Hutchins, Jan Hodge, Joyce Habel and Guest Ella Lee.

FAMILY DAY - 1967 EYRE PENINSULA WAY

by PETER THYER

Once again the weather turned up trumps providing bright sunshine and ideal conditions at Billy Light Point.

With 34 present, good food, beer and "Ruff red" all in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Of interest to many was a well conducted tour, by Ken Clothier, of the B.H.P. Lime and loading facilities recently completed, although a few of the more thirsty members guarded the "booze bunker" from marauding kangaroos.

The "Belle of Billy Light Point" contest has taken a new turn with Des Habel offering a cup for first prize only if won 10 years in succession! Elizabeth Michelmore has been elected this season's winner after a heated debate by the judges, one judge was heard to say "She fills the part admirably". We wish her well for the next nine years.

Wesley West, the Resident Agronomist for Fert. Sales, kindly supplied his power boat for tours of the Bay and spirited away many delightful "Dolls" probably to the deserted shores of Boston Island!, half his luck.

John Lee and his family made their mark on a flagon of "Saltram" and obviously enjoyed the "Cobalt deficient" chops and company; we certainly enjoyed theirs and hope they will make an effort to return to the land of "milk and honey" sometime in the future.

The Committee deserve thanks for their effort and organisation, the only minor "Blue" was discovered when the President and Past President rolled up in a taxi. Our apologies, John and Bill, these things happen occasionally but if you like to apply to the Secretary he may even supply the name of that delightful doll appearing on the screen at the dinner!

Bill Bussel and the "Adelaide Gang" once again provide news of the "Mainland", many thanks for making the effort to join us and we certainly hope to see you all again next year, including Phil Tummel.

The children were well supplied with "goodies", even if Des is facing a charge for "breaking and entering" to get the ice-cream on time.

At the end of the day John McFarlane and John Shipard were "too ill to move so camped at Billy Light Point". I think Mac's classic comment sums up the day "if next year's do is any better, it will kill me".

It seems impossible to mention and thank all who were present, although Pat Marrie's stomach, as usual, was as noticeable as his rollicking laugh.

I am sure those who didn't "make it" had a very sound reason but we are expecting an even bigger roll up next year, so if you want a recommendation, ask someone who attended this one. In the meantime the R.O.C.A. Digest will keep you posted on the date and place. Thanks, and see you all and more next year.

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER BY PHIL TUMMEL

No news of vitality to report on the Society of Oenologists, as the constitution still has to be legalised. A lengthy frustrating affair forming a constitution. We request all oenologists to be patient for a few more months.

Our congratulations to John Stanford on being appointed Federal Wine Bureau Manager. John will be taking up domicile in Sydney

Peter Weste has joined Great Western as Assistant Manager to Les Francis; Good Luck Peter, we were sorry to lose you from this sunny state.

Many will remember Vin Ryan (1936-1947), well, his lovely daughter Ann was engaged on June 24th.

THE GRAPE VINE

I would like to thank those members who responded to the Addresses Unknown section in the last issue of the Digest, and helped to locate all those whose addresses were unknown to the Association.

John Gursansky tells me that there has been a considerable increase in the number of nominations for the Award of Merit, and will be selected from a strong list of our members.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs J.W. Aldridge of the Esplanade, Brighton, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 28th.

I have received a letter from George A. Black (1900-1903). In the last issue of the Digest it was stated that W.J. Dawkins was the only one of the 1900-1903 group still alive, but George has kindly corrected me on this one as he was in this year, and gives his present address as 2 Broadway, South Brighton. Before shifting to Brighton he was farming at Gladstone.

The following members of our association have featured in the births column of the Advertiser recently:- Jack Fass, Noel Myers and his wife Lynette - a son, and also Blair "Perc" Cowan. Our congratulations to these members.

Bob Guy was seen back at College recently. Bob is still working in a winery in India and had just returned to the homeland for a holiday.

Hans "Dutchy" Sliuter has also returned to South Australia after several years of travel abroad. He has recently been married, and I believe he is working in the Department of Agriculture as a Stock Inspector.

It was most interesting receiving an article from the wives of the West Coastites for this issue. Sounds like there will be an annual R.O.C.A. Wives Reunion over that way each year. They really cater for everyone.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Below is a section of the letter which I received from Neil Stanley, who gives his address as Pilot Farm No. 2, Batchelor, N. T.)

"The pilot farm began as a rice project but has since been changed over to a grazing proposition whereby the lessee, using long term, low interest loans from the Government, is trying to develop 10,000 acres of fenced country, by sowing Townsville lucerne and other pastures fairly rapidly, and stocking with Brahman cross cattle. There are two such farms now in existence here to give the government some idea of the economic feasibility of subdividing this area of the top end into blocks suitable for pasture improvement and grazing.

It is too early yet to evaluate the results, but the government trend now is to allow large interests to improve and split up the country at their discretion, which seems to indicate their lack of confidence in a ballot system of land allotment.

The covenants required to be met by the battlers on small blocks now are too steep and do not return a dividend soon enough for these blokes to be able to afford to carry them out.

However there is a tremendous amount of capital being spent now in the top end towards improving the carrying capacity and general agricultural production, and a large proportion of this is from the United States.

The fact that the country is being developed is good but the general feeling is that the Americans are gaining a monopoly over too much of the northern Australian cattle country and it would be a good thing if a few southern interests would wake up and invest some capital in the north as the Americans are obviously not losing on their dealings."

DEATHS

The deaths of two old students have been noted since our last issue:

Percy John BAILEY, 1898-1901, a notable Old Scholar who did a great deal for agriculture. A successful grazier and stud breeder, Percy had been a member of the Advisory Board of Agriculture for a number of years. He served our Association as Secretary of the S.E. Branch for many years.

Alan Richard McTAGGART, 1952-1955. Alan in recent years had been managing Mundabullangana Station, Pt. Hedland, W.A. His sudden death is a shock to most who know him. Alan left a widow and young daughter.

R.O.C.A. DIGEST

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Bright St.,
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R.D.T.A. NOTES

by BRIAN D. HANNAFORD

The annual barbecue and picnic will be held on Sunday, December 3rd, 1967, in the South Parklands, Glen Osmond Road (usual spot) at 11.30 a.m. - until the Eskys run dry. All R.D.T.A. members and associates and H.D.D. graduates are invited along with their families. Last year the function attracted thirty-one people, and the chocolate milk manufacturers are catering for double this number this year. Cool drinks and ice cream will be provided by the Association, families are requested to bring their own chops, etc.

We are looking forward to seeing Geoff Norman and his family at the function this year. Geoff recently returned from Tasmania to take up an appointment with the Department of Agriculture.

The Association would like to thank the Adelaide City Council for taking heed of our complaints re the location of the nearest convenience to our picnic spot. I am pleased to advise members that a brand new structure has been completed which should serve all of our needs.