



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I feel honoured to be President of R.O.C.A. for the next twelve months and would like to pay tribute to the immediate past President, Ray Norton and to the long line of capable men who have brought our Association to its present place of high regard within the community. I am very conscious of the responsibilities that are mine to R.O.C.A. and trust that I can carry out my duties to the best of my ability.

The past twelve months has seen the formation of the Agricultural Technologists Association. R.O.C.A. is capably represented on the Federal Executive by John Gore and Ray Norton. John is one of the two vice-presidents of the Association.

A.T.A. could be of inestimable value in achieving a greater measure of financial security and status for Agricultural Diplomates. However, it is now up to individuals to support the new association so that it can function. R.O.C.A. is proud to be mainly responsible for the initiating of the formation of such a group and I appeal to all members who have not yet joined to give serious consideration to the matter. A.T.A. cannot function without your help.

Below are some of the possible A.T.A. functions during the coming twelve months:-

1. Promote membership
2. Operate employment register
3. Visit Colleges and discuss mutual problems
4. Organise talks by visiting agriculturalists
5. Commence preparations for Post Diplomat Academic courses
6. Publish A.T.A. Journal
7. Provide secretarial help to Old Boys' Association and Unions
8. Commence investigations into salary scales in various States, professional status, future of Diplomates, etc.

R.O.C.A. members and Agriculture in general will benefit from A.T.A. if support is sufficient to enable it to function as planned.

Any suggestions that members may have to help keep R.O.C.A. progressing in the future would be most welcome and may be forwarded to me at Bundarra Road, Marino, South Australia 5049.

Ross Ford.

The R.D.A. DOES FIT

Dear Sir,

Like many old collegians I am tired of hearing people argue about just where the R.D.A. fits in the rural community.

Some say diplomates are being trained purely as technical officers. Others say they are being trained ideally for farming.

Arguing about the R.D.A. value in public can only be damaging. People will think we are a mixed lot who do not really fit anywhere.

The truth is that Roseworthy trains men for both positions. Today's agriculture demands bright men to economically produce food, and men just as bright to pass on information to those farmers already in business but without adequate training in certain fields.

If we can make the public aware of this, students about to graduate stand a better chance of being rewarded for their work.

I predict some tough going for R.D.A. holders in the future. At the end of the year 35 agricultural Science students are expected to graduate from the Adelaide University. This means an embarrassing situation for the Department of Agriculture. At least 20 of these graduates are expected to apply for jobs in the Department (if statistics mean anything) and it is likely that a lot less than 20 positions will be open.

Although the R.D.A. and B.Ag.Sc. are not in competition, I fear this situation could cause many B.Ag.Sc. holders to apply for positions normally open to diplomates.

In New South Wales, extension work is now mainly carried out by University graduates. Let us not see the same thing happen in South Australia, and shout it out that extension positions are for Agricultural Diplomates — they are efficient at practical agriculture and have a sound scientific background.

We must also stress the importance of this work and the need to be justly rewarded.

TONY CLANCY.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It is now four years since I left Jamestown and the Department of Agriculture and have been in Melbourne all of that time. As you are probably aware I am still with May and Baker and find the work attached to the development and selling of agricultural chemicals extremely interesting. This particular industry is expanding and I can thoroughly recommend it to any diplomate looking for a career with good prospects.

Since joining May and Baker in July 1965 I have had the opportunity to visit all States except the Northern Territory. At the moment we don't have any products suitable for that part of the world but we're working on it. My most recent venture was a nine-week stay in Western Australia carrying out demonstration trials and promotional work with a new cereal herbicide. Like most people, particularly those in Agriculture, who go to the West for the first time, I fell in love with the State and its people in a very short time. I spent all of my time in the wheatbelt country, mainly in a radius of 180 miles from Perth. By the time I got back to Perth on the Friday night I felt as if I had driven far enough. However, when I looked at my map the area was dwarfed by the size of the State (and I figured 30,000 square miles of wheatbelt was large).

Unfortunately, I have not seen a lot of Old Collegians over the last two to three years. While on holidays over the Christmas period I called on Bob McMahon at the Glencoe Cheese Factory and also Wilf Bowen at Mount Gambier. Also spent a very enjoyable evening with Bob and Gwen Banyer in Adelaide.

Neville Gilbertson.

Dear Sir,

Teaching over on K.I. (and living over here too) is really terrific. I am boarding with an old Roseworthy Scholar, Clive Halloran, who went to College in 1940. Clive is now farming on the South Coast of K.I. and came to the island 15 years ago as a soldier settler.

Any time any old Collegians (or young Collegians for that matter) are over here I hope they will drop in to the Parndana Area School so I can show them over a first rate Agricultural Science set up. I know they will be impressed. Colin Raison was here before me and he has really built up a tremendous course.

Best wishes to all Collegians, especially the 1965-67 lot.

Barry K. Mortimer, 1965-67.

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER by Phil Tummel

In reporting the death of Arthur Hanisch on 29th September wouldn't convey much to Oenologists, but in 1939 Art. commenced the wine course with Dick Heath, Henry Martin and myself. Art. did not gain his Diploma, but was quite successful in running his own winery at Tanunda. Our sympathy to his family.

On behalf of all Oenologists congratulations to Jack Reddin on his Merit Award. Jack, although on the wrong side of the fence was always a special friend of the Oenology boys.

Congratulations to Mark Babidge on being elected a member of the R.O.C.A. Committee. His zeal might help to prick the conscience of quite a few Oenology graduates who think they gained winemaking knowhow without the help of R.A.C.

Sorry I missed the dinner, I was in Kalgoorlie visiting my Geologist son.

DAIRY TECHNOLOGISTS NOTES by Dean Wilkins

"Sandy" Crace is still chemist for the Camperdown Glenormiston Dairy Co. He has been stationed at their Tru-food branch, however, this has now been closed, so he will be working elsewhere within the Company. He is still happy in his work and with his occupation generally.

Tom Bartholomew is still at Cobden as second in charge. Tom, being a former South Australian of the Mid North area doesn't seem to appreciate Victoria's sudden burst of "spring" weather of hail, snow and day temperatures of 45-50°F. However, he's keeping well, which is important.

John Arnold is still Production Manager at Drouin Co-op. in Gippsland. He's still sorting out problems of bugs in cheese and meeting Dairy Board specification for dried milks.

Bob McMahon has set himself up as a Cheese Agency at 50 Larch Cres., Lyndale, Vic. (phone 232 1480). I'm sure Bob would appreciate any assistance any member can give him as the cheese selling business – especially in Melbourne – is very competitive – and there's plenty of cheese around just at the moment.

Alan Lang of Geelong must be making a few cents from cottage cheese and table cream. He and his partner – who trade as Healthway Dairy Products – plan to enlarge their premises again to cope with increased sales. According to Alan his cheese and cream is the best on the market, so perhaps that's why sales are increasing. (His cream goes well in coffee – I know!)

Jack Hill in Canberra is always on the lookout for qualified personnel. His Company have just installed a cheddar cheese mechanised factory, using New Zealand equipment – Cheddar master and large hoops. A couple of Victorians have gone to help run it at their Bega factory. So far things are running well.

Nothing much to report on my behalf, except that I was lucky enough to tour the North Island of New Zealand earlier this year. It is certainly an eye opener to anyone who has never had this opportunity before. The dairy industry – especially the cheese side, which we saw – is highly organised and capable of handling large quantities of milk. One company at the moment is making preparatory plans for the possibility of converting up to a quarter of a million gallons daily to cheese. Some enterprises – especially for the starter propagation section.

Viv Hannaford is still in the Department of Agriculture, stationed at Launceston, Tasmania. Viv is now a keen Apexian and is getting to be well known in his dairying district.

AN EPIC TRIP

After an epic trip by estancia van down through the mountains for 500 miles I thought we'd had our share of misfortune. We had six punctures, including two blowouts in the front tyre (while I was driving). The mechanics had removed ALL tools from the vehicle while it was in dock. I hitched a ride in a truck which ran into a bridge and the lights went out (the chap's wife said, Oh my husband has diabetes!) Then I hitched a ride only to find it was a taxi. He was in a Torino and said he was driving carefully as he had just had a puncture. He drove at 60 m.p.h. around curves through the ruts, at night, often going around the outside of the curve. I asked if he knew the road. Si (yes) Señor! The record between Bariloche and Esquel winding through the ruts has just been set at two hours 25 minutes for 200 miles (average of 75 miles per hour!) We arrived safely though I must admit I pushed the floor a bit.

AN EPIC TRIP — continued

Next week we flew down to Tierra del Fuego in the F.A.O. 2 engine Piper Aztec C. The first leg was absolutely perfect down over a whole chain of lakes flying half way up the tree clad ruts in autumn tints. Then we got tossed about like a cork and had to slow to stalling speed, let wheels down and then head away twice. It cleared for us to land. Then in the following days we made four or five flights and almost each time we were flying blind but as we neared the airstrip the clouds opened and we could land. Once we were face cover scoring and weighing 700 sheep on the Atlantic coast near the Magellan Straits and the plane was to collect us at 3.00 p.m. The sky was completely covered in with heavy fog. We hadn't finished weight at 3.30 when the pilot rang from the homestead "Hurry, it's closing in fast and we must return to Rio Gallegos tonight". I said, "Can you give us an hour, half to finish, and half to drive 25 miles?" It took us an hour to finish and I was anxious to do so as some sheets of scores were lost at this place the previous year. My assistant became very worried until it was given to me to say "If it is necessary for us to fly out of Condor tonight the sky will clear. If not we can stay at the homestead." There were only 40 minutes to sunset when we set off with the mechanic. However 10 miles out the sky cleared and we arrived with 10 minutes before sunset in sunshine. We took off and landed at Rio Gallegos in the last light. Our Lord is the Lord of all life. He is concerned over every detail of it and will attend to all of our needs if we trust Him, not our wants.

Brian C. Jefferies.

WHEAT GROWING IN CANADA From an A.B.C. Talk given by Frank Pearson.

You know, it doesn't seem to matter how much you are told about a country and its agriculture before you go there — you've got to actually see it before some of the information really sinks in.

Or at least that's the way it is with me.

I'd heard a good deal about Canada's town-dwelling wheatfarmers before I went there — but I wasn't prepared to travel — as I did — hundreds of miles and not see a fence — nor past dozens of houses of which half, and sometimes even less than half, appeared to be occupied.

The two things go together, of course. Because there were no livestock on most of Canada's cereal farms, there were no fences — and because there were no livestock there was nothing to require the wheatgrower to be on his farm every day — and so his family won in the tug-of-war about where they should live — and they moved in close to the schools, the shops and the "bright lights" — and dad drove out to the farm when there was work to do.

This gave the farms a very neglected look, with machinery scattered around — some bulk grain holding sheds and bins — and an empty house sitting up near the road with a "vacant-eyed" expression.

I wasn't quite prepared for this — and so I found some of their wheatgrowing districts rather desolate — although I saw many good crops.

Yields were good — and "swathing" was in full swing.

Very few crops are direct headed — most of them are cut and let be in the "swathe" until they dry out then picked up and threshed.

But I saw many 30- and 40- and 50 bushel crops and this could have been Canada's second or third best — or even perhaps her best — wheat production year on record.

But they had problems. It was wet in patches — with cold rainy winds — and work was being carried out under difficulties.

But harvest will be finished, or nearly so over there now, and they will be preparing for the winter freeze.

Much of Canada has a six month or more period of below freezing temperature weather on average each year — perhaps because I was brought up in the sun, that's something I don't envy them — and although I came home to some cold mid September weather — I was glad to be home.

1969 A.G.M. & DINNER by John Gursansky

Approximately 60 members attended this year's A.G.M. at the Earl of Zetland Hotel on 6th September.

The President's report outlined the main activities of the Committee and office bearers for the past year, these included the encouragement of Education for Aborigines which had received considerable support from three Government Departments involved.

John Gore reported on the inaugural meeting of Agricultural Technologists of Australasia and urged everyone to support this association to help it achieve its aims. Ray Norton is recruiting officer for South Australia.

A lengthy discussion on recognition of diplomates in their field of employment resulted in the appointment of a sub-committee comprising Bruce Wigney, John Obst, Tony Clancy and Ray Norton, to prepare a case to be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and the Public Service Board with the aim of improving the status of diplomates in the fields for which they are trained.

The dinner followed the A.G.M. and 114 members were present, somewhat less than recent years. Those who attended appeared pleased with the new venue, even though the gas strike limited the choice of menu.

The highlight of the dinner was the presentation of the 1969 Award of Merit to Jack Reddin, an energetic worker for both the Association and Agriculture.

Neville Gilbertson introduced the 10 year group and the 25 year group introduced themselves.

For those who do not attend dinners because of long drawn out speeches, this year's formal dinner was over by 9.00 p.m.

Hope to see you all there next year.

PHILPY'S MEMOIRS by Ray Norton

We were discussing some of the odd happenings in the "Birks Era" in the previous episode. One of them was an instruction by the Principal to the mailman to stop and hoe out all the noxious weeds on the roadside between the College and Roseworthy. The fact that the driver didn't know a noxious weed from a hole in the ground and had neither the tools nor the time to carry out the instructions was of little relevance. The carrying of passengers on the mail run was a bone of contention also. Mr Birks felt he should be made aware of every passenger's identity including visitors to staff houses who travelled on the mail run and in one instance when not informed of a visitor's identity, felt that she could be a woman of ill-repute a-visiting. He expressed this view, probably in a voice charged with envy, but he did somewhat darken the fair lady's name and cast aspersions on the staff member's character as well. Naturally enough this took a lot of diplomacy to "smooth over" and didn't lead to unrestrained admiration by the people concerned.

Consumption of alcohol was one of Mr Birk's pet aversions and he went to great lengths to keep it from rearing its ugly head. Knowing young men and Roseworthy as we do this must have been a fairly difficult task and he probably kept its head parallel in the long grass or at least was peering north when it reared in the south.

College dances were a nightmare for the staff as those who were "on patrol" were not allowed to enter the dance hall and kept a continuous and vigilant look out for "anything untoward". One night Philpy was in a "posse" when low!, he came upon a scene; no, not that sort! just a few couples having a quiet glass. According to instruction they were ordered off the College by our friend, who duly reported to Mr Birks. What a dilemma! It seems one of the young ladies was a friend of the Principal and on his list of those "never to be dismissed", perhaps particularly when they were female, single and in that "state of health". That's only my surmise and not fact, but a bachelor of 40 odd couldn't go around missing great opportunities that often. However, it was too late, the damage was done and I would guess it took young Snow many moons to get on speaking terms with his boss again.

Philpy remembered an incident at this stage from the Colebatch era in student-principal relations. It concerned a student named Gawler King, who was Gold Medalist of his year, who went back to work on his father's farm after his exams instead of completing his working year at College. He was supposed to make up the time after Graduation Day, but work was pressing at home and he didn't return. For this an attempt was made to withhold his Diploma, but a lawyer arranged his entitlement. However, it appears that his name was left off the Diploma board although he had his Diploma and Gold Medal to prove he had earned them. On a visit to College many years later he brought this fact to Philpy's notice and on looking into the injustice the board for the year was duly altered.

For one who liked to be obeyed "at the double", Colebatch must have been shocked when he sent Bill Haydon for Bert Nourse, only to receive Bert's reply - "I'm not coming!" That apparently took quite a bit of straightening out. For those who knew Bert Nourse when he reigned supreme in the old workshop for many years, showing his independence to anyone and everyone, this story doesn't seem at all unusual. I think there must have been many moments in Bert's life when he wasn't b..... well coming until he was good and ready.

PHILPY'S MEMOIRS — continued

Well, this story has jumped from the Birks era back to the reign of Colebatch, but considering who's relating the tale and who is writing it, you're lucky we're still on the same subject. We could just as easily have wandered of onto Sturts and their obvious supremacy over all comers; and this is being written before the finals.

THE GRAPEVINE

The old bush grapevine doesn't seem to function as well down in the big smoke as it does in the Roseworthy area, hence there is less than usual to report.

Cliff Hooper must have quite an influence on the sheep cadets he has working with him. Ross Dawkins, who was with Cliff earlier this year, recently got engaged to Sue Bagshaw, and I see Wally Elsdon, who is still working for Cliff, was engaged to Sandra Perry. Sandra works at the College on the office staff.

The following ROCA members have recently featured in the various sections on the back page of "The Advertiser".

Engagements	—	Ross Dawkins to Sue Bagshaw	
		Wally Elsdon to Sandra Perry	
Marriages	—	Bruce Wigney to Judy Carling	
		Bob Osborne to Robin Waterson	
		Gavin Eckersley to Josie Betterman	
Births	—	Trevor and Helen Hemer	— a son
		John and Kate Obst	— a son

Malcolm Woods has decided that life in New Guinea is for him and will be leaving Naracoorte some time during December. All the best, Mal.

I still have quite a few members' replies to the list of enquiries and personal details that were sought through the Digest last year. Any further replies to this would be greatly appreciated as it is providing a valuable source of interesting material for all members.

COLLEGE CHATTER

This seems to have been rather a quiet period.

On the sporting field there have been successes and failures. Our intercollegiate teams returned with both shields — Tennis and Rifles. Champion Tennis Player, winning all his singles matches, was a member of the Roseworthy team.

Both football teams made the Grand Final and Souths were the opposition in the matches. Sad to relate, we lost both matches.

The season still shows great promise and Ray Norton has started to work out where all the surplus wheat will be stored. At present they are talking of 13–14 bag wheat crops, but there is still a long way to go.

At the Adelaide Show our beef cattle could only manage a second and two thirds. All agreed that it was the best showing of Poll Shorthorns ever at the Royal Show and the fact that our cattle were in the prize money gave me some satisfaction.

Destruction of the wine cellars has almost been completed and construction should commence at a fairly early date. At present it looks strange with the office block standing on one corner and the still on the other.

GRAPEVINE — Ex-College

Edgar Pike (1944-46) gives his address as Glenloth Wines Ltd, Padthaway, where he has recently begun the development of a 400 acre vineyard for that winery.

Another visitor was Chris Hancock while over from Griffith, where he is with Penfolds Wines.

Noal Myers (1960-63) from Brankholme, Victoria, called in, mainly to discuss Beef Cattle. He runs a herd of Herefords plus multiple suckling and hand rearing of calves. Must be keeping right up to date as he is trying a double muscled bull on commercial cows.

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R.O.C.A. MEMBERS

HARVEY HOOPER (1930-32) Staff 1937-40 Brown Hill, Ballarat, Vic. 3350

Occupation: Lecturer in Chemistry and Biology, Ballarat Institute of Advanced Education. Part time farmer and orchardist.

Family: Wife and four daughters, ages 11 - 22.

Community interests: Generally interested in all aspects of Agriculture in this part of Victoria.

Outside community: Try to keep up with things.

Digest Comments: It's quite an interesting little publication now. If it were bigger it would cost more and that might be a problem. Perhaps you might be able to persuade the Old Collegians who run their own farms, vineyards, orchards, ranches or plantations to write about their efforts. In my own small group (received Diplomas in 1932) there are several farmers, Bob Pownall in northern N.S.W., Alf Benzie in W.A., Cal Pollitt near Waikerie (I think), Bob Horne, Bill Eardley, Bob Emery, Harry Honey, Hamish Patterson. There must be a hundred or more who have now had 20-30 years on the land. How have they fared? I think that the Editor would have to work pretty hard to get a short article from many, but even a dozen from each hundred would give some very interesting information.

C. M. GREENFIELD 1959-62 R.M.B. 202 Broke Road, SINGLETON, N.S.W. 2330

Occupation: Farm Manager. Looking after 2,400 Merino wethers on 3,000 acres unimproved country. 25" rainfall, however this is very erratic.

Family: Wife and one child.

Community interests: Apex and Church.

JAMES JENKINS (1950-54) Box 260 Post Office, Yenda, N.S.W. 2681

Occupation: Oenologist, Champagne Production Manager, McWilliams Wines Pty Ltd.

Family: Wife and four children. Two boys, 8 and 7 years old, and two girls, 4 and 2 years old.

Community interest: Vine growing. I have my own vineyard besides the above position.

Outside community: Griffith Wine and Food Club.

Other Old students in area: Warren Ward - Yenda; Mick Salter - Ardlethan; Harold Daveren - Griffith; Ron Potter - Griffith; Tige Turnell - Leeton; Doug Ireland - Griffith; Roger Blake - Yenda.

G. R. MAYFIELD (1952-57) Box 42, Yankalilla, South Australia.

Occupation: Grazier and Station Manager.
Manager of 10,000 acre property 65 miles South of Adelaide, shearing 30,000 sheep. Cattle - 300 Herefords and 2 Friesian Dairy cows.
Own property at Parawa - fat lambs and beef.

Family: Wife and three daughters.

R.O.C.A. MEMBERS — continued

Community interest: Local show society, Stock Owners Association, Agricultural Bureau and School Committee.

Old Students in district: Lester James and Ian Williams.

NEVILLE GILBERTSON (1956-59) 48 Buckley Street, Essendon, Vic.

Occupation: Technical Officer, May and Baker (Aust.) Pty Ltd.
Technical service on product enquiries as well as sales promotion.
Products include herbicides and insecticides.

Family: Married with three children.

Community interests: Active in Jaycee and support organisations of this type which help the individual to help himself.

K. J. (JOE) MACK (1945-47) 10 Peake Terrace, Waikerie, South Australia.

Occupation: District Officer, Department of Lands.
Administration of Waikerie and Cadell Irrigation areas — over 5,000 notable (planted) acres, with about 40 employees under my control.

Family: Wife, two boys and two girls (ages 14, 13, 8 and 6).

Community interests: Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Tennis, Bowls, Choral Society, National Trust of S.A. School Committee.

Outside Community: C.S.I.R.O. Bird Banding Scheme. Amateur botanist, ornithologist, grow Australian plants, visit Pastoral areas extensively studying and recording.

Agree regarding swimming pool at College. We used to swim in mud pool — better than nothing — but I'd like to see improvement and donate towards same.

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Dick Riedel (1954-57) gives his address as 22 Hilltop Avenue, Wollongong, N.S.W. where he has recently joined a veterinary practice.

Ian Mosel (1956-59) is still teaching at the Adelaide Teachers College as lecturer in Methodology of biology teaching. With his wife and daughter he recently spent a few days with Mr & Mrs Bob Jeffery and daughter at Mundalla. He considers that Bob is still playing good football as ruckman for Mundalla.

Other Old Collegians to call in — "Strawb" Freundt while on leave from New Guinea, Denis Slee from the Chronicle, John Evans who has recently joined the A.B.C., Guy Kirkwood and Jim Cooper during vacation from Teachers College.

David Purser, wife and family from Bordertown, Max Clark during a wet weather break in his woolclassing.