



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

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College Principal, Mr Bob Herriot, who retired
in June, says a bit of . . .

'Missionary spirit'
led to College job

In 1962 a truck load of old furniture left Roseworthy Agricultural College for the Public Buildings Department in Adelaide.

As the truck pulled out of the College, the newly-appointed principal, Mr Bob Herriot, hoped no one would see the load and realise it came from the College. He was ashamed of it, but at the same time knew the wheels of change had started to move.

Students also knew that big changes were taking place, and had fresh battle scars to prove it. However, few were to realise how far these developments would go at the tradition-based College.

Bob Herriot retired in June with an 11-year record which will be remembered at Roseworthy College for many years to come.

Many could not understand him taking on the job at Roseworthy. He was 52 years of age at the time and had risen to the position of Deputy Director of Agriculture in the SA Department of Agriculture.

There wasn't even a pay incentive. Not even today does he know why he took it on—'Guess it was a bit of missionary spirit', he said recently.

There was no question of the fact that the College offered a challenge. It was under strong political manipulation and in bad need of up-dating. It is obvious that Bob Herriot laid down fairly strict conditions to his superiors when he took the job.

In his term as Principal at the College, some of the biggest changes in the institution's history have taken place. On the building side alone, more than \$1½m. has been spent on new facilities. Nearly half of the buildings have been replaced.

As well, he almost doubled student population, he increased entrance qualifications and demanded different student behaviour standards. This was coupled with an intense drive to improve the status of the College diploma and the introduction of a fourth year in the agricultural course.

Those who new Bob Herriot's unbending determination in pursuing what he believes is right would realise why not all of his moves at Roseworthy were popular.

The changes that he brought about in a short space of time came as a shock to those used to the old ways at Roseworthy.

* * *

To those on the land, Bob Herriot is the best known for his work with the Department of Agriculture. First, as head of the soils division and then as chief of the extension department, he travelled and became widely known throughout the State.

His entry into the agricultural field was more accidental than planned. The son of a Mount Pleasant Storekeeper, he wanted to be a school teacher. After leaving Adelaide High, he enrolled at the Teachers' College. He particularly wanted to be a high school teacher.

Because the Education Department was only taking in a few high school teachers, he realised that he would have to do a degree course to be one of them. He chose an agricultural degree to give him his ticket of entry.

Agricultural science also gave him his first contact with Roseworthy College, when he spent 12 months there as part of the course.

After Teachers' College, it was five years teaching at Balaklava High, followed by 12 months at Mount Gambier High. It was shortly before going to Mount Gambier in 1936 that he married Vera Burton, of Adelaide.

Even though he was halfway through an arts degree, Bob Herriot decided to branch into the soils section of the CSIRO. Doing soil survey work, he travelled widely, working in the Cobram, Waikerie and Wakool districts before they were established as irrigation areas.

In 1941 he joined the Department of Agriculture to head the new soils division. As he recalls, most of the early work centred on sand drift in the pastoral and Mallee areas. Heavy flooding in mid-northern centres in 1942 broadened the work of the section. The heavy erosion caused in these fallow-crop rotation soils saw the move into 'water absorption agriculture'.

At the same time, the value of work into sand drift erosion was starting to show its worth in the Mallee.

In 1950, Bob Herriot went overseas for nine months. While there, he looked at soil conservation, rural youth and extension services. The latter was to open up another challenge.

On his return to the department, he again headed the soils section. However, this appointment was only temporary. His overseas trip had shown the need for extension and extension training. It was a new field, with few avenues of learning, but Bob Herriot managed to glean enough information to prompt the department into starting in-service training courses for its officers at Roseworthy College. In 1956, after Sir Alan Callaghan's reorganisation of the Department of Agriculture, he was appointed chief of the division of extension services and information.

Two years later he was appointed Deputy Director of Agriculture under the late A. G. Strickland. Many thought Bob Herriot would return to the department as Director when Mr Strickland retired. But this was not to be so. His new broom still had plenty of work to do at Roseworthy.

At 63, after his retirement, Bob Herriot has no immediate plans for the future.

By immediate Past President,
Richard Fewster,
in *The Chronicle*, June 22, 1973.

COLLEGE CHATTER by Cliff Hooper

The big news is, of course, the Principal's retirement. This was announced at the last third year dinner, and came as a big surprise to many. The Herriots have a house at St Georges, and according to Bob, it has all mod cons—that is flag paths and no garden.

Reg Hutchinson has returned to the position of assistant farm manager after successfully completing fourth year. Reg finished second in the final exam. — Congratulations.

Dr J. R. Gallagher has been appointed Lecturer in Animal Science. Jim was born at Yass, NSW, and in 1963 gained his B.Sc. with honours from the School of Wool and Pastoral Science, University of NSW. In 1967, he was awarded M.Rur.Sc. by the New England University for studies entitled 'An evaluation of pasture quality through the performance of grazing sheep'. His Ph.D. was awarded in 1970 by the Department of Livestock Production at Armidale.

For the past three years, Jim has been overseas, where he carried out reproductive research at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University and at Canada Agriculture Research Station, Lethbridge, Alberta. We take this opportunity to welcome Jim and Mrs Gallagher and their two children to Roseworthy.

On the building front, a new incinerator has been built adjacent to the new sheep and cattle yards.

This is a big, oil-fired burner which will dispose of nearly all College waste, including dead sheep. At the piggery, an experimental growing shed is almost completed. It has various types of slatted floors and various methods of feeding to allow research to be done.

After many years Ray Norton has decided to take another position—farm manager at the Waite Institute. Ray has done a great job for Roseworthy in many different ways, and his departure will leave a big gap, especially to the older staff.

Many old scholars will remember his advice and help during their courses, the trouble he took to make sure that advice and help was to the best of his ability; and maybe at other times telling you, in no uncertain terms, just what he thought of you.

I think we could say that Ray was closer to students, and more helpful than most other staff members. We all join in wishing him every success in his new position.

For the 1972 harvest (1,345 points of rain for the year), 300 acres of wheat returned 7,200 bushels; 610 acres of barley returned 14,840 bushels; and 210 acres of oats returned 4,030 bushels.

The top yields were—Swan, 24 bushels; Halberd, 24 bushels; Clipper, 29 bushels. The lowest yields were—Avon, 15 bushels; Gabo, 15 bushels; Clipper, 17 bushels.

Hay was scarce, but of good quality, and we took off 72 tonnes of baled medic and oats, 40 tonnes of rolled medic and oats, and 133 tonnes of cereal hay.

Cliff Hooper, himself, retires shortly. Cliff has been a part of the Roseworthy scene for many years, and has also played a big part in ROCA.

More of Cliff in the next issue.

EYRE PENINSULA WEEKEND

A TOAST TO THE VISITORS by Des Habel

There's no doubt about it—the success of the weekend owed a lot to those people who travelled over from east of the Gulf to be with us for the two days.

Philpy and his wife and the Michelmore clan are now regarded as regulars; and the only reason for not holding the Belle of Billy Light Point Competition this year was Elizabeth's twisted ankle. We wouldn't do that for anyone else.

John and Jenny Evans, complete with sons, brightened the scene with youthful zest. If there was anything doing, John was in it. He certainly deserved to enjoy himself after giving the branch so much radio publicity during his breakfast session—much appreciated by the West Coasters.

Once again the weekend started off on the right leg with the 'getting to know you' Saturday morning at the Lincoln Hotel—coffee, biscuits and schooners were in demand, with more young fry consuming coke than ever before. Harry and Loma Nash's attractive daughters agreed that Port Lincoln Coke is far superior to that obtained in Kadina.

Rex Butterfield, our all-important guest speaker, entered into the spirit of the show after meeting the locals, and promptly found himself a job for the afternoon.

Geoff Norman, president of the parent body, and his wife didn't waste any time getting acquainted with the Coastites; in fact Pat Marrie had a job dragging them away for lunch. With the President and an Award of Merit winner in our midst, we had all the prestige we needed.

Roger Panser, our proxy delegate, turned up on Birdseyes, and was very welcome, lending some sartorial elegance to all functions. The branch has a lot to thank him and Andy Michelmore for in their being prepared for action whenever needed.

We all enjoyed having Jack and Hazel Jones back in Port Lincoln again, giving added life to the party. Another animal health adviser in the Department of Agriculture to return to EP, complete with wife and red-headed offspring, was Red Hodge. It's a terrible thing when a grown man can't stand up and is submerged, cheque book and all. When last seen, Jan had already started the drying out operation—in more ways than one.

John Obst was a welcome addition to the Holden establishment for the weekend. It's a long way from Naracoorte, but it was worth it.

Phil Tummel promised to attend this year, but couldn't make it. But he was there in spirit, sending along some products of the vine for consumption. Reg Shipster was also remembered by a number of us.

Tell you what, I've never seen the visiting wives so smartly dressed—all in elegant gowns for their Hilton dinner. Nevertheless, the locals held their own—Marlene Shipard in her Ceduna creation, and Tina Lawes had the pick of the Wanilla Salon. My wife spent thousands on her ensemble, but no worries—I trained a winner that day (true story, I've got a photo to prove it).

Anyhow, over here we're all very grateful to the old scholars who came over for the weekend. Come again, and bring a few extra mates next time.

Remember, it's the last weekend in February when the next balloon goes up.

EP BRANCH DINNER by Pat Marrie

The annual dinner was held at the Great Northern Hotel, with an excellent meal prepared by mine host, John Marmion and his wife. The dinner was suitably treated, and eased on its way by some very acceptable and delightful liquids, the taste of which was wide and varied—from sparkling wines to the good old ale.

There were 50 people present, including our famous guest speaker, Prof. Rex Butterfield, and their places of residence ranged from Sydney to Naracoorte to Penong.

There were 34 local yokels, 10 mainlanders, two present students and 14 invited guests, mainly

consisting of Peninsula people connected with the beef industry who were invited to hear Rex speak.

David Hill represented Adelaide and Wallaroo Fertilizers Ltd, who kindly donated our menus.

Peter Dunne was our toastmaster and, as usual, did an exceedingly capable job.

We were naturally pleased to have Rex Butterfield, the 1971 Award of Merit winner, with us, and we very much appreciated his flying in from Sydney on Friday afternoon to attend. The president of the parent body, Geoff Norman, was also with us, as were our two delegates to the association, Roger Panser and Andy Michelmore.

Alan Lawes, in a good, pithy little talk, handled the toast to the College; with Andy Michelmore replying, updating us with the various activities there. Ian Holman and Geoff Norman proposed and replied to the toast to the Association.

After a delightful talk from Rex, it was a general mix-up, with everyone meeting everyone, and the wives and girl friends (who had a show of their own) joined us to finish off the evening.

A most enjoyable time was had by all; and once more, thanks to all those, particularly the mainlanders, who travelled a long distance to attend.

We must have something to keep them coming back every year; so come on some of you others, just see what our hospitality can be like. Believe me (although I shouldn't say it), it's good.

* * *

THE 25 YEAR GROUP 1973 by Harry Stephen

During March of 1945, 38 new students arrived at RAC from throughout SA, WA, Tasmania, Victoria and NSW to keep the College supplied with workers and to earn themselves 5/- a day (6/- for early mornings) until the term started.

We were joined for lectures by three who had decided they preferred first year to second year; and started a course through College that saw many leave to go home, others fail and some do the Oenology course. Four joined our ranks—V. Cashmore, R. S. Coleman and G. M. Martin from the Services, and B. A. Ninnes from the University.

Of that group, the following are still members of ROCA, and are expected to turn up at the 1973 reunion on September 1.

N. C. Armytage, Casteron	D. J. Pocock, Lameroo
B. J. Barry, Berri	D. J. Robinson, Murray Bridge
J. L. Davidson, Mt Barker	P. M. Sellars, Adelaide
L. J. Day, Duranill, WA	B. W. Stacey, Mypolonga
V. Cashmore, Adelaide	R. C. Stanton, Keith
R. S. Coleman, Perth	H. V. Stephen, Murray Bridge
R. W. Fawcett, Narrabri, NSW	R. Shipton, Rooty Hill, NSW
M. W. Ford, Latrobe, Tas.	F. J. Vickery, Clarendon
K. J. Mack, Waikerie	P. O. Weste, Great Western, Vic.
G. A. Martin, Farrell Flat	D. B. Wilson, Oaklands, Tas.
G. M. Martin, Sheoak Log	R. L. Wishart, Adelaide
D. W. Moyle, Keith	D. L. Wollaston, Adelaide
D. A. Ninnes, Parndana	

Very few of these have been to our ROCA reunions regularly over the years, but they will be very welcome this year. We urge anyone who knows of these chaps to twist their arm and do all possible to get them along. If any of the non-members of ROCA can be contacted, talk them into becoming members and joining the party.

The job of organising the group has been given to H. V. Stephen, 52A Verdun Road, Murray Bridge, who would like to hear from all concerned.

Others in the original group who are not members are—C. C. Baillie, J. T. L. Barclay, T. B. Conway, A. B. Dolan, M. L. Gramp, D. A. Haddy, A. M. Hardie, N. E. Marston, P. D. Millis, D. J. Murphy, R. J. Rankine, I. E. Ross, R. M. Smith, J. C. Snoswell, J. W. Whyte and B. P. Williams.

The dairying graduates were—G. F. Chapman, J. M. Arnold, M. G. Kellett (dec'd) and G. B. Pallant.

The oenology graduates were P. LeH. Tummel, B. J. Barry, J. O. Basedow, A. A. Corban and J. Stanford.

The eligible members of these groups are expected to turn up; but try to let me know—so I can arrange for a table to be reserved.

SOCIETY OF SPONSORS

The Society of Sponsors was founded in 1960 by the late Mr W. A. Scales, a Magistrate in the Adelaide Juvenile Court.

One clause from the Constitution of the Society outlines its chief aims:- 'The objects for which the Society is formed are (a) to sponsor by means of personal and individual friendship and guidance, the welfare of those deprived, destitute and delinquent children who are inmates of State and private Institutions and Homes'.

The desire to belong to a family is a natural one which needs no emphasis. Many children deprived of family life never become adapted to an institutional one—they are children who have never known parental love. On visiting days they are the lonely ones who are never visited by a personal friend or relative.

SOS believes that it can provide a remedy for this by undertaking the following—

- (1) Seeing the child who is sponsored at regular intervals.
- (2) Having him at the Sponsor's home, and on occasional outings with the family.
- (3) Taking an active interest in his progress and helping him with his problems; and, in particular, advising him in his career and employment.

Another facet of the Society's activities is the arranging of holiday homes for children, particularly in country areas where sponsoring on a regular basis is not possible.

Membership of the Society of Sponsors is open to all persons interested in furthering the objects of the Society, and may be granted upon application to the Secretary—

Mrs L. Ferguson,
Melton Street,

Blackwood, SA 5051

Phone: 78 4481

At the moment, there are quite a number of children in the 12 to 16-year-old age group in need of sponsors, for it is at this stage that they are looking for assistance and help to guide them into careers which will be the foundation of a better life for them.

The ROCA Committee is of the opinion that members of the Association could help the Society of Sponsors in providing opportunities for children with the background as described above and who have an interest in agriculture as a possible career.

The Committee has endeavoured to provide assistance to Aboriginal children to follow an agricultural pursuit; however, due to the ready availability of Government assistance and a lack of potential Aboriginal applicants for Roseworthy, we have met with no success for our efforts.

Perhaps we can achieve more in working with the Society of Sponsors in fostering children's interest in agriculture.

We therefore thoroughly recommend the Society and its objectives to all ROCA members.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1973 GRADUATION DAY ADDRESS
BY THE PRINCIPAL (Mr R. I. HERRIOT)

Before next Graduation Day, it is confidently expected that what has been known as Roseworthy Agricultural College, operating as a Department of Government in South Australia, will become 'The Roseworthy Agricultural College of Advanced Education'.

It will be an autonomous institution, managed by a Governing Council, within the framework now being set up for tertiary technological education throughout Australia.

There will, no doubt, be a few who wonder why we need to change, but the simple fact is that we have for the past 90 years operated in an educational backwater. Our curriculum has been our own; our methods have been of our choosing; our standards have also been home-made; and we have had to battle in the market place for recognition of those standards. We have also had to operate within the confines of a Public Service structure designed to keep the Public Service running smoothly, but not necessarily to get the best results from a virile educational institution.

Under the new system, we will be working within a structure designed specifically for tertiary education. Those things that we can manage that way, including staff appointments and promotions, and subject to a general surveillance of budgets from higher up, the new Council will control its own expenditure. The curriculum and educational standards will still be our own, but there will be a National accreditation authority to grade the diplomas, and perhaps degrees, that we might confer.

Under these circumstances, our awards will be appropriately recognised alongside those of all other Colleges of Advanced Education, and we believe that this will be a good thing for Roseworthy and its future students. Roseworthy's standards will then be recognised wherever Roseworthy people are.

Throughout the last 10 years, we have greatly and progressively increased our recruitment from farms and rural areas, and we have not as yet experienced any difficulty in placing our Diploma holders in appropriate and satisfactory employment.

This record is almost unique during recent years for tertiary agricultural education in Australia. Some Colleges and University Faculties of Agricultural Science have had very serious recruiting problems, but this has certainly not been our experience.

It would be easy to rationalise about this matter and take credit where none was due, but it can hardly be denied that in the face of pessimistic forebodings about the future of agriculture and an expected reduction in job opportunities for new diplomates and graduates, students have entered Roseworthy in increasing numbers and enthusiastic about their chances in later years.

So far, at least, they have not been disappointed, and as far as I can see, there is no cause for apprehension.

Would any member having spare copies of the following back issues of the R.O.C.A. Digest please forward them to the Secretary:- Volume 1, No. 1; Volume 2, Nos. 3, 6, 7, 11.

The copies are required to complete a set of the Digest in the National Library, Canberra. Two copies of each issue are required.

