

M. J. Seeliger



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

EDITOR: Ross J. Ford

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

EDITORIAL MATERIAL to:
Editor, "Roca Digest"
Agricultural College,
Roseworthy

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

Volume 2, No. 2

February, 1964.

L. J. COOK - WINNER OF 1963 R. O. C. A. AWARD OF MERIT

Leonard James Cook, R. D. A., formerly Chief Agricultural Adviser in the Department of Agriculture of South Australia, was awarded the 1963 R. O. C. A. Award of Merit.

This was a well earned honour, which gave recognition to one of Australia's greatest authorities on pasture improvement. Len Cook has spent a lifetime in the service of agriculture, and when he retired in 1955 he left the State and the Commonwealth much better developed as a result of his work.

Len Cook graduated with Honours from Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1910, and for the next four years went farming at Wirrega in the Upper South East. Knowledge of the handling of difficult soils was then in its infancy and the attempts to grow cereals at Wirrega were not very successful, so Mr. Cook left the farm and, towards the end of 1914, joined the Department of Agriculture.

During the next 41 years he kept always in his mind the practical requirements of farming learned at Wirrega; and all the work he subsequently did was done with a view to its suitability for farm use.

Mr. Cook's first job with the Department was to develop an Experimental Farm out of several thousand acres of mallee scrub at Minnipa on Eyre Peninsula. When he left after seven years the Farm was a going concern and was providing useful information to the settlers who were opening up the surrounding scrublands.

From Minnipa Mr. Cook went to the Kybybolite Experimental Farm in the Lower South East. During his 16 years as Manager there he implemented the changeover from cereal growing to pastures. From the first small plots of subterranean clover sown in 1921, the mating of sub-clover with superphosphate was so successful that by 1928 it had become established over most of the property - and over much of the surrounding countryside.

Mr. Cook's classical long term fertiliser trials on sown pastures of sub-clover and Wimmera ryegrass begun in 1923 laid the foundations for modern research in pasture nutrition in Australia. He was also one of the first to appreciate the value of Phalaris tuberosa as a perennial grass suitable for a wide range of soils and climate.

Mr. Cook was actively associated with the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in the first long term grazing management trials carried out at Kybybolite and at the Waite Institute on Phalaris subterranean clover pastures.

Changes in botanical composition and soil fertility were carefully recorded and correlated with stock carrying capacity, grazing management and manurial treatments. The results of his work were published in the South Australian "Journal of Agriculture" and have been a valuable source of reference to subsequent workers.

After an initial hesitation period, the Kybybolite findings were quickly and freely used by landholders in similar soil and rainfall conditions. The success they have achieved has shown that Mr. Cook's experimental work has been one of the outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture in southern Australia.

In 1936 Mr. Cook was transferred to Adelaide as Experimentalist in the Department of Agriculture, and from then until 1950 he was responsible for supervising cereal, pasture and fertiliser trials and demonstration work throughout the State.

Quick to appreciate the importance of research findings and to adapt these to other environments, he did much to encourage farmers to sow and topdress pastures; and his efforts to extend dryland lucerne resulted in South Australia becoming the biggest producer of lucerne seed in the Commonwealth.

The ready acceptance of trace elements by farmers in South Australia was stimulated by the results of widespread field trials established by Mr. Cook throughout the farming areas.

In 1950 Mr. Cook was appointed Chief Agricultural Adviser, and until his retirement in 1955 he was active in the reorganisation and development of the Department under Dr. Callaghan, who

had come from Roseworthy to become Director of Agriculture a few years earlier.

Mr. Cook was a member of many committees - including the Pasture Improvement Committee of the Australian Dairy Board, the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee, and the Barley Classification Committee. He was a member of the Aborigines Protection Board and was Departmental representative on the Advisory Council of Roseworthy College.

The 1939-45 war period greatly increased the administrative load and Mr. Cook came in for much additional work and worry.

Throughout the more than 40 years of his official career Mr. Cook was an unobtrusive but good administrator. His continuing interest in the training and development of young officers has had a considerable influence on agricultural research and extension not only in South Australia but throughout the Commonwealth.

During a lifetime of service to agriculture Mr. Cook published over 130 research and extension articles. As a pioneer of pasture research in Australia his contribution has been compared with that of William Farrer in the field of wheat breeding. But by many of today's agriculturists "Cookie" is affectionately remembered for the help and constructive criticism he gave them when they started off as new diplomates or raw graduates.

THE GRAPEVINE

With examination results coming out in the past few months, I have noticed several Old Collegians doing well. Special congratulations must go to Graham Mitchell who is doing the Veterinary course in Sydney. Graham has just completed his Third Year with a Distinction in all subjects. Ian 'Tiger' Mosel also did well and has now completed his University Degree which he did through the Teachers College. Ian has been appointed to teach at the Elizabeth High School.

"Strawb" Freund visited the College in January. After four and a half years in New Guinea he has earned nearly 12 months leave. "Strawb" is still keenly interested in his Lutheran Mission Work, which we hope to hear more about in a later issue of the Digest.

Dr. Callaghan spent Christmas in Adelaide with his family. He is on leave, but will be returning to Washington early this year.

Ian Hay was over from Esperence, W.A, at Christmas and announced his engagement to Jan Hooper of Naracoorte. Ian and Jack Woodhouse seem to be prospering in W.A, as I hear that

they are developing a property each.

Dr. McCulloch and his wife called in at the College during the Christmas period. They both appear to be enjoying the life in NSW. Dr. McCulloch was looking remarkably fit.

Rosemary and Barry Sumner who were living at Lameroo have now shifted to Williamstown where Barry is managing a property. They have two children, a son aged about 3 and a daughter 9 months. Barry has decided to play tennis again this year and is playing for Wasleys.

Bruce Cree is still in New Zealand and gives his address as 125 Pembroke Street, Hamilton. Bruce is with the Veterinary Section of Nicholas Products Ltd. and covers the Waikato District (the centre of which is Hamilton). It is a very rich agricultural area and within a radius of 50 miles of his headquarters there are three quarters of a million dairy cows and six million sheep running on permanent pasture of ryegrass and white clover. Bruce says that the Romney Marsh represents 71% of the sheep population with only 2½% Merinos. Last year the average lambing percentage was 100.1 with the Waimairi County in Canterbury having a figure of 119%.

John Obst returns to South Australia from Armidale University with Dennis Maddern. Both John and Dennis will spend several weeks in the Department of Agriculture's Adelaide offices before being stationed at Struan Research Centre under Ron McNeil.

Roseworthy Old Collegians were out in force at the wedding of Joan Conaty and Sandy MacKenzie on Saturday, 11th January. The wedding was at Salisbury and the reception afterwards in the Hotel Elizabeth. Bob Jeffery helped to get the groom to the church on time. Kev. Tuckwell, in proposing the toast to the bride and groom, showed that he hasn't changed much over the past few years and created quite a bit of laughter amongst the guests.

Peter "Tubby" Lock came down from Loxton for the wedding. "Tubby" set off on a five weeks holiday in Hong Kong at the end of January. Leith "Toughy" Wallace who works with Sandy at International Harvesters was there with his wife Betty, and also the newly weds, Colleen and John Woodward, who had just returned from their honeymoon in NSW.

Don and Dianna Moyle from Keith also attended the wedding. Don and Dianna were holidaying at Hallet's Cove at the time with their three sons and hoped to "get amongst" the fish.

Other old Collegians at the wedding were Leith Yelland who has

just returned from Overseas, Grant Paech, Brian "Dick" Merrigan, Jerry Taylor, Reg Radford, Ian Mosel and Mick Gillman.

Frank Pearson tells me that Lynn and Ian Fry are now the proud parents of a baby son. Congratulations to you both and we hope that you are settling down in your new home at 1, Keon Court, North Balwyn, in Victoria.

Sandy MacKirdy called in at College for a short time one afternoon early in January. Sandy is leaving Emu Springs at Tintinara and transferring to Haddon Rig in N.S.W.

Ron Foulds also called into College during January. It was Ron's first visit back here for some time. Ron has recently changed his address and is now at Kars Station, Broken Hill.

INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE?

In letters to the Principal, Old Scholars are enquiring for diploma holders to fill the following positions:-

- . Two jackeroos are required by two separate northern pastoral companies.
- . A pastoral consultant is required for the upper south-east of the State. A minimum of three or four years' experience after graduating from the College would be necessary to fill this position.
- . Two diploma holders interested in cattle are required for the cattle country.

If there are any Old Students interested in any of these positions I would suggest that you write to the Principal for further details.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Slogan?

Dear Sir,

Most of us must be well aware of the stock saying of one of our past Principals!

"All other things being equal, preference goes to the man with a diploma."

If this was countered with a slogan which has true merit, it would be more appropriate. Perhaps suggestions can be invited for a slogan.

Just as a lead,

"even if unequal at the start, given the right opportunity the man with the Diploma will prove superior."

Yours faithfully,

H. R. PATTERSON.

Thank you very much, your letter was much appreciated.

Let us hear your suggestions as to an appropriate slogan for a man with the Diploma.

FROM GEORGIA, USA.

Chris Fletcher sent an interesting letter from USA, where his address is c/- Palmer Chemical Co., King Drive, R. R. 4, Douglasville, Georgia. He left Kenya in June 1963, when his father sold their ranch.

Quoting from his letter, "The company for which I work makes "Cap-Cheer" equipment which consists of a CO₂ gun or pistol which fires syringes, which automatically inject their contents on impact with an animal. Any drug which can be injected subcutaneously or intra-muscularly can be used in quantities of from 1-10 CC^S. The most spectacular use of the equipment has been the temporary immobilisation of wild animals, including elephants and whales, but it is also used fairly extensively in the cattle business in the States. Over here it has been found of great benefit in feed-lots where cattle are concentrated or on the open range where cattle are well spread out. Police Departments are investigating the use of the equipment in controlling criminals by putting them to sleep for a few hours, instead of using a .45".

Chris's Boss visited Australia early this year and Chris hopes for a similar trip at a future date. He says that his R. A. C. training has been very useful with one exception where the talents are wasted; Georgia is a dry county!!

The above letter was inspired by the arrival of a R. O. C. A. Digest; perhaps it may inspire a few other members to write of their doings.

Remember, too, that this section, "Letters to the Editor" is open as a forum for discussion or expression of ideas on any subject that comes under the broad heading of "agriculture".

COLLEGE CHATTER

On the Staff front we cannot report any progress. Alan Chartier returns to the College as Instructor in Dairying after several

years in Tasmania. I take this opportunity of welcoming back Mr. & Mrs. Chartier and family.

George French decided to join the commercial world and left to take up a position in Melbourne. We wish him all the best in his venture. Mrs. French has also left a gap, as she has been organist at Chapel Services since her arrival and will be greatly missed.

On the 1st of February the College property was increased by 230 acres, when we took possession of an area on our western boundary. This property would be known to older graduates as Dahlitz's and to recent graduates as Hentschkes.

Congratulations to Ken and Doris Leske who announced the arrival of a baby son late in January. They now have three daughters and 2 sons.

The "farm hand" section of the College was further depleted during January with Jeff. Brooks leaving to take up a job with the local council.

At the time of writing everything seems to be on the quiet side - with some staff on leave and students very busy with exam preparation.

* * * *

THE WATER CURE

Sometime when you're feeling important
Sometime when your ego's in bloom
Sometime when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room

Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole
Just follow this simple instruction
And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water
Put your hand in, up to your wrist
Take it out, and the hole that's remaining
Is the measure of how you'll be missed.

You can splash all you please as you enter
You can stir up the water galore
But STOP, and you'll find in a minute
That it looks quite the same as before.

There's a moral in this quaint example
Just do the best that you can
Be proud of yourself but remember
There is no indispensable man.

Reprinted from "American Water Works Journal".

MILKY WHEY

(Notes from Dairy Technology Association)

Since the last report, the only new developments have been the finalising of the course for Factory operatives. It will be held from February 17th to March 20th. Eleven students have so far been accepted from a wide section of the state. Lecturers will be obtained from the Department of Agriculture and Roseworthy College. A pass in the theory will be accepted as a pre-requisite for theoretical Buttermaking, Cheesemaking, Grading or Testing.

R.O.C.A. DIGEST

Mr. M. Seeliger,
104 Jeffcott St.,
NORTH ADELAIDE.



Registered at G.P.O., Adelaide, for transmission by post as a periodical

REMINDER - R. O. C. A. AWARD OF MERIT.

Nominations for the 1964 Award are due with the Secretary (Mr. H. V. Stephens) by 31st May.

* * *