



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

M. J. Seeliger

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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EDITOR: Ross J. Ford

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

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

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

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August, 1965

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1965 A.G.M. & REUNION

The 1965 Annual General Meeting and Reunion will be held on Saturday, 4th September (Show Week). This will follow the same pattern of the last two years.

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association will be held in the Railways Institute No.3 Hall at 5.00 p.m. on Saturday, 4th September, 1965.

Agenda

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. President's Report | 5. 1966 Reunion |
| 2. Treasurer's Report | 6. Any other business |
| 3. Digest Report | 7. Election of Officers. |
| 4. Old Students Cup | |

Nominations are required to be with the Secretary, C/- Agricultural College, Roseworthy, by the 21st August, 1965.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Immediate Past President: G.P. Roe | (no nomination required) |
| President G.P. Roe | |
| Vice-President W.S. Edge | |
| Hon. Secretary H.V. Stephen | |
| Hon. Treasurer C.W. Hooper | |

Four Ordinary members. (Five elected in 1964 because no graduate nominated.)

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| J. Gore | |
| R. Ford | |
| R. Norton | |
| J. Sobels | |
| C. Kay | |

One ordinary member who left the College more than one (1) and less than ten (10) years ago:

| | |
|---------|-------|
| R. Ryan | |
|---------|-------|

One ordinary member who was in the graduating class of 1965:-

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Vacant | |
| Hon. Auditor, B.C. Philp | |

WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT A WILL?

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REUNION DINNER

For the last time this will be held at the Gresham Hotel on the corner of King William Street and North Terrace, following the A. G. M.

The charge is thirty shillings (30/-), payable in advance to the Treasurer not later than Saturday, August 28th. As yet we have not had to turn late arrivals away but accommodation is limited.

The 25 year ago group are those of the year graduating in 1940 and Geoff Roe is organizing this group. His address is:-

1 Greenasche Grove, Seacombe Gardens, S.A.

The 10 year ago group (1955 Graduates) is being organised by J. A. Gursansky, C/- Agricultural College, Roseworthy.

FILL IN AND RETURN BEFORE 28th AUGUST.

Mr. C.W. Hooper,
The Treasurer, R.O.C.A.,
Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY, S.A.

I will not attend the reunion on 4th September, 1965.

I will attend the reunion on 4th September, 1965 and enclose 30/- in payment for same.

NAME:
(Please print)

ADDRESS:
.....

SPORTS DAY

This is being re-introduced on Sunday, 3rd October, the day after the Adelaide Football Grand Final. Chapel service will be held at 11.00 a.m. Barbecue facilities will be available at the oval.

Mr. V. Patrick, C/- Department of Agriculture, Gawler Place, Adelaide, has volunteered to organize an R.O.C.A. football team to play the students.

Golf and tennis facilities will be available. Inspection of College welcome but not organised. Some attempt will be made to entertain children.

FILL IN AND RETURN BEFORE 1ST OCTOBER, 1965.

The Secretary,
R.O.C.A.,
Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY, S.A.

I will attend Sports Day on Saturday, 4th October, with a party of

I would like to play football
(position preferred)

Golf

Tennis

(Footballers please try & notify by 24th Sept.)

NAME

ADDRESS

OENOLOGY NEWS - BY PHIL TUMMEL

I feel I can comment for all R.D.Oe's in saying how pleased we are of the appointment of Bob Baker as Oenologist Instructor. The course will receive a much needed stimulant, and can only gain from Bob's wide experience. Good luck Bob and we are all willing to give any support and information you might desire.

About 50% of unfinancial members came good after the last Digest, so now try and make it a clean sheet, because the proposed Society of Oenologists is now pretty well a definite, so we want to start off with a full membership.

Bryan Dolan R.D.O. is 1965/6 Bacchus Club President, and has 3 R.D.O's on his committee, namely John Stanford, Norm Walker and Bob Hardy.

Tolly Scott & Tolly are looking for a trainee wine maker and after a probation period will put through the College, so if you know of any likely chaps tell them to contact me at St. Peters or Gordon Nilssen at Nuriootpa.

Round about August/September we will endeavour to have a meeting of as many R.D.O's as possible, probably in the Barossa; more about this later on.

THE GRAPEVINE

Congratulations are extended to one of our members, Sir Norman Jude, who was knighted early in June. Now living at Main North-East Road, Walkerville, Sir Norman is a successful breeder of fat lambs and vealers in the South-East.

Congratulations are also in order for Colleen and John Woodward who announced the arrival of a baby daughter, and also to Garnet "Charlie" Banks and his wife who announced the arrival of their first child.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the R.O.C.A. Association, Alf Benzie, who graduated in 1933, for his very generous donation of £10 towards our funds. Alf has been living in Western Australia since graduating and has therefore had little contact with his associates of his period at College, but from time to time he has noticed such names as Bob Horne and Hamish Patterson in our notes, and to whom he extends greetings. Alf recently received a letter from Harvey Hooper who is now living at Ballarat, Victoria, and only several weeks ago Alf was visited by Jim Newland (1932-34) who has

THE GRAPEVINE (CONTINUED)

sold his property at Naracoorte and is touring Australia in a caravan, accompanied by his wife. Jim's son Clive, also a former R.A.C. student is now employed in Perth as an agronomist with the Westralian Farmers Co-op. Ltd. Alf writes that these recent contacts have been greatly appreciated and would be pleased to renew acquaintance with any others who remember him. The address being "Springhill", Aldersyde, W.A. Thanks once again Alf for your generous donation and letter.

Harry Stephen has landed me a letter from Geoff Paltridge (1961-63) who is now running crossbred ewes on a semi-developed block at Tarpeena in the lower South-East of the state. Geoff has received a letter from Dick Clayton whose address is now "Wheatleigh", via Charleville, Queensland. Geoff also mentions that Peter Andrews is off to Western Australia in the near future.

At a recent Committee Meeting, Win Gilchrist was saying that Lindsay Brandon's wife Barbara was doing particularly well at golf and looks as though she could be a starter in the State team.

John Hayes has shifted from Alice Springs and is now officer-in-charge of the Beatrice Hill Research Station and gives his address C/- Animal Industry Branch, C.S.I.R.O., Darwin.

Keith "Blue" Holder has joined the Department of Agriculture and is on the West Coast with their soil conservation branch. Another of last year's graduates, Geoff Crome, has also gone in the westerly direction and is living at Kimba. Geoff is a farm management consultant.

I have also heard on the grapevine that Bill and Elizabeth McGown have decided that South Australia is a better place to live and will soon be returning from Tasmania.

Jim Hughes is working with the McGregor interests and gives his address as "Glenalpine", Bordertown.

In a recent F.A.O. Press Release the name of J. Breakwell appeared among a team of experts who have gone to Buenos Aires to study a new project of pasture livestock development in Argentine.

Since the last issue of the Digest the deaths have occurred of four of our members and also members of old scholars families. It is with deepest regret that we note the following deaths:-

Mr. Lex H. Wright, of the Arcadia Guest House.

Mr. & Mrs. L. Opity of Mount Gambier.

Mr. Jack Ranford of Port Lincoln (until his death Jack was President of the West Coast Branch).

Mr. Rus Rogers of Lipson Cove.

Mrs. R. Hurn, wife of Ross Hurn, an Old Collegian, and mother of a present student.

May we extend to the families of the above our deepest sympathy.

I believe there is talk of a new branch of R.O.C.A. being formed by the Tasmanian members. There are quite a few old scholars in Tasmania, so here's hoping those who are working towards the new branch are successful, and may we wish them all the best.

Don't miss the Sports Day on Sunday, October 3rd, which is to be held at the College. If you feel you are getting a little too old then still come up and support the Old Scholars team and make it an enjoyable and relaxing day. Vic Patrick is arranging the football team and I believe the services of Bill "Tex" Magarey as trainer have been acquired, so players will be in good! hands. Hope to see Dav. Purser out there again this year to add a bit of experience to the team.

R.D.T.A. NOTES - BY MALCOLM TIMBERLAKE

In the past the R.D.T.A. Annual Dinner and Meeting has been held during the week of the Dairy Factory Managers' Conference. However, due to such a small number of fellows able to attend, it was decided to hold the Dinner at a later date. A circular will be sent to all members prior to the dinner.

This year's factory Managers' Conference was well up to the standard of previous years and several interesting and controversial subjects were discussed. It is good to hear that Tom Bartholomew has been elected as State President for the coming year.

I recently received a very welcome letter from Dean Wilkins, who was able to give some latest information about some of the fellows he had recently seen. Dean apparently spends a fair proportion of his time visiting cheese factories and stores in Victoria, and said he was amazed at

R.D.T.A. NOTES (CONTINUED)

the quantities of dairy produce manufactured in that State, compared to his home State - What about quality Dean?

Apparently Viv Hannaford is very happy and doing a good job at Werribee. He takes an active part supervising students in the practical side of the work. I understand Viv still prefers to sacrifice the fairer sex for the Valiant.

Bob McMahon still appears to spend a fair amount of time promoting his Company's cheese, his ultimate desire - to turn the majority into a Kamaruka cheese eating society.

I hear that John Arnold is kept busy as Production Manager at Drouin Co-op. His company is planning to introduce the only lactose plant in Australia, making it from casein and cheese whey. 50-60 thousand gallons will be converted to lactose in the spring.

Alan Lang is still in partnership at Healthway Dairy Products, involved in the manufacture of cottage cheese and table cream.

I haven't heard how Ken Buckley is progressing in his new post at Mt. Schank. Congratulations on the recent expansion in the family, Ken.

Gordon Pallant is kept very busy with United Co-op. Dairymen in the organisation of Milk Distribution.

Whilst in Canberra recently, I called on Jack Hill who is managing the Canberra branch of Bega Co-op. Although stricken with the "wog", Jack was still able to show me through the factory. Competition is keen especially with "big brother" next door (Dairy Farmers), but Jack's Company still sees fit to embark on a major expansion scheme which includes an extension of building and the installation of bottle washing and filling equipment.

In conclusion, I would like material from more fellows to publish in future R.O.C.A. Digests.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ron Martin's letter which appeared in the February issue of the "Digest", has spurred Brian Jefferies into writing of his whereabouts and doings, and I hope your letter Brian will cause a few others to write in as did Ron's letter. Many thanks for this most interesting letter.

"It is over five years now since we came to Tassie from the "croweater" state. We have come here to show the world that the main industry on the "apple isle" is sheep and wool!! (Actually, with all by-products, timber earns over £30 million but sheep, wool and wool products earn about £18 million compared with £10 million for zinc and £8 million for apples).

This is a very beautiful island and we would be glad to see any R.O.C.A. people coming over here. If we can't show you around we may be able to help you plan an interesting itinerary. Perhaps it's not such a small place when you consider that I used to do 10,000 miles per year in the S.A. Department of Agriculture and 12,000 miles here.

Work is extremely interesting and varied. Only recently we ran a Congress for Farmers and one day was devoted to higher stocking rates and there were 360 very keen farmers present.

Three very interesting sheep breeding experiments are in progress. One is to try and save the superfine Merino from extinction. It is the most beautiful wool you could ever wish to see. The first selected rams were mated to selected ewes this year and the selection differential in the ewes is over 1/5 lb. despite removing off types and all wool stronger than 70^s.

The second experiment is to try and make more progress with a comeback type than the Polworth stud breeders. There are 38% Polworths in Tasmania but there is plenty of room for improvement. These comebacks are Corriedale x superfine Merino and we first compared this cross with Polworth x Corriedale x Merino as the owner of the flock had begun to use Polworths against his will. Now we shall use the best of both types which meet our standards of 60^s and 64^s wool suitable for cold wet country in the mountains.

We have a closed flock of 3000 ewes and have selected a ram breeding nucleus of 400 ewes on greasy fleece weight and bin class. Ram replacements only come from the nucleus and ewes from the total drop. This gives us a selection of the top 5% in ewes and rams. The selection differential this year for our first lot of 14 rams was 1.44 lbs. above the average of all the 228 rams kept and

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED)

.085 lbs. clean wool while we obtained a gain of 1.2 lbs. in the 180 ewe hogget replacements over the average of 1,200 dropped.

The third project is to try and breed carpet wool sheep in Australia for the first time by using a mutation of the Romney Marsh which grows mainly hair instead of wool. It is only progressing slowly but we have high hopes for this year's lambs. I was sent to New Zealand for five weeks last year to study carpet wool breeding with Dr. Dry, and see the factory there. While over there I visited sheep Research stations and attended Ruakura and Massey University Farmers' weeks. It was most stimulating. I liked New Zealand and the friendly people so much that my wife and I flew there for one month during my long service leave in March, leaving our two small boys with my sister. While there on holidays I was asked to judge a fleece show at Lake Hayes and another at Lake Wanaka in the beautiful mountain country."

Brian sends his regards to all R.O.C.A. members, and anyone who may wish to contact him while in Tasmania, Brian's address is:-

1 Oakband Road,
GLENORCHY, Tas.

or

Senior Sheep & Wool Officer,
Department of Agriculture,
Box 192B, G.P.O.,
HOBART, Tas.

COLLEGE CHATTER - BY CLIFF HOOPER

Like many parts of Australia the College is feeling the effect of the dry season, and at the time of writing (2nd July) we are only half way through seeding and still waiting for that soaking rain to give the season some hope of being successful. With 2,200 sheep, 87 beef cattle and 120 dairy cattle, pastures have been struggling to get ahead. Probably this is the largest number of stock held at the College in its history.

On the Building Front - the Wine Cellar alterations, the Toilet block at the oval and the Shearing Shed are nearing completion. The three new houses on the Wasleys Road are ready for occupation and the Bathrooms at the corridor are being re-modelled. Sheepyards and shearing plant will be installed shortly and plans are being discussed for the new Farm Engineering and Workshop Building. So, when you visit the College on October 3rd, there will be something extra to see.

Once again Teams are being prepared for the Royal Show - Beef Cattle and Pigs have large entries, a few Dairy cows and probably a couple of Poll Dorset lambs. We think that there are a couple of animals which could give solid competition, so I might be seeing you in the usual place at the Show.

~~Our football teams are finding competition rather solid with the A grade in 5th position and the B grade 4th.~~ The importing of ex-league players by clubs has strengthened several teams, but despite this we had four players in the Association Team, and our captain, Keith Pattinson, leads the Bunyip voting at the present time.

Of interest to certain Old Collegians will be the news that Mr. & Mrs. Altmann are leaving their residence at Wasleys.

"Pop" Inglis has reached that important age of 65 years, but we will not be losing him as he returns to carry on duties. When you call he will be around to tell a couple of yarns.

Staff Notes

Well, rumour was correct. John Gursansky has accepted the position as Horticulturist and we welcome to the College community John and Mrs. Gursansky with their three children. John graduated in 1954, spent two years on the College staff and the following two years with the Barossa Cannery. Following a short period with Riverland at Berri, he returned to the Barossa District as Horticulture Adviser, which position he has held for the past six years.

Our Oenologist is Bob Baker (1940-43 Graduate). Bob has moved around the industry since leaving College and should bring the knowledge of experience to the Course. He started as a Chemist with Renmark Growers Co-op. and then transferred to Seppelts, Nuriootpa.

Staff Notes - Continued.

After two years in California he returned to Renmark Growers as Senior Chemist and was Technical Manager with Loxton Co-op. Distillery Ltd. when appointed to the College staff. A keen rifle shot, Bob is helping the Intercollegiate team in their preparation. We look forward to the arrival of Mrs. Baker and their family of four to the College.

Nick Hutchins has departed from the College, accepting a position with the Commonwealth Development Bank and we wish him success in his new position.

R.O.C.A. DINNER AT COWELL

Guest Speaker Mr. L.J. COOK, R.D.A. (Hons.)

Reported By:- A. MICHELMORE

The work of Mr. Len Cook has been written in the 'Student' of 1962 and the 'R.O.C.A. Digest' of Feb. 1964 and again mentioned in the issue of May 1965, but those who attended the Dinner of the Eyre Peninsula branch of the Association at Cowell on 27th February were fortunate to hear, direct from Mr. Cook, some further interesting comments on the early development of agriculture on Eyre Peninsula.

We were told that he had his future decided in 1907 when he won a scholarship to Roseworthy College, but it is noted that Mr. Cook also helped to decide his future by graduating with Honours in five subjects before he tried wheat growing at Wirrega. During the four years at Wirrega, many lessons were learned, to be put into use in later work. One of these lessons - the thoroughness of clearing methods - can still be seen at Minnipa today; the paddocks cleared by Mr. Cook are free of stumps, while some other paddocks yield a good supply of firewood every time they are worked! It was at Minnipa that he started his Departmental career in 1915 as first Manager of the newly established Experimental Farm. While they were all living under canvas, the farm was honoured by a visit from the Minister and Director of Agriculture. An extra tent had to be erected to provide accommodation for the visitors!

In the first year at Minnipa, homestead buildings were erected, a half-million gallon tank constructed on the rock (only water available) and 168 acres of crop was sown for hay and seed purposes. All this at a time when modern aids - power-transport - and communications were not available. The communications were emphasised by the story of the visiting Botanist who arrived on the train when the weekly paper had been left in Port Lincoln - he had the only copy of the paper in the district, and it contained the results of the Melbourne Cup, plus his plant collection! You don't hear of Botanists like that now?

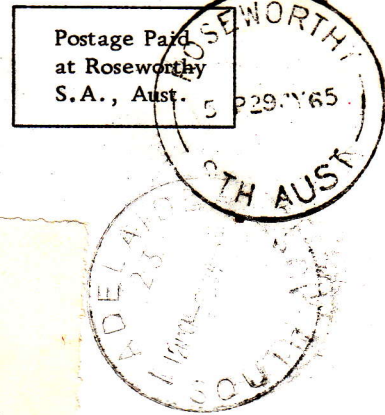
It would be interesting to get some figures comparing costs of clearing nowadays, but 50 years ago it was slightly cheaper to clear with the aid of Brown's Great Tree Puller which multiplied the strength of man 200 times, than to use the two stroke tractor which started on petrol, then worked on Kerosene but had to be turned back onto petrol to stop if you wanted a day's work rather than starting practice next day. The work done on the farm during these first five years is well written in the Journals of Agriculture of the time. Clearing methods, preparation for crops, seed and fertiliser trials, variety trials, pasture plots are all reported in detail. In spare time, an orchard of some 1,000 fruit trees was established and breakwinds of Olives and Swamp Oaks were planted, the idea being to have permanent breakwinds along the main fencelines. Mr. Cook gave credit to Prof. Perkins (Director) for the guidance, and to Mr. Spafford, the Supervisor of Experimental work, for the general planning, but it is obvious Mr. Cook is happy to be associated with the early development of Eyre Peninsula, and reminded us that Minnipa farm has been in the hands of Old Collegians for all but two years, and has been responsible for the discovery and spread of considerable knowledge to farmers of Eyre Peninsula in its 50 years since he arrived to make a farm in the scrub.

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 Gnangwea Jerseys at Inman Valley

JOHN AND MRS. GORE WOULD WELCOME YOU

R.O.C.A. DIGEST



Mr. M.T. Seeliger,
~~104 Joffcott St.,~~
~~NORTH ADELAIDE~~
 Eden Valley

EYRE PENINSULA BRANCH A.G.M. & REUNION

The Annual General Meeting & Reunion of the Eyre Peninsula Branch will be held at Port Lincoln on the 26th February, 1966. The guest speaker will be Dr. Stephens of the Soils Division, C.S.I.R.O. His subjects will deal with the soils and geological set-up of the Eyre Peninsula, a topic which would be just as interesting to visitors as it would be to local Eyre Peninsula residents.

A good time is guaranteed for all, so start planning to make the trip to Port Lincoln and help to make this function the big success that it has been in the past.