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R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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

EDITOR: Ross J. Ford

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

EDITORIAL MATERIAL to:
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Agricultural College,
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R. J. Ford, Chairman
F. B. Pearson
W. S. Edge
R. S. Norton
J. Ryan

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May, 1966

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AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATIONS

Award of Merit nominations are due with the Hon. Secretary by the 31st May, 1966. This award is to any member of the Association who has made a meritorious contribution in any field of agricultural activity, including Association affairs.

Nominations must be set out and include the required information as indicated on the Statutory Form shown below.

If any member is in doubt on any of these points, contact the Hon. Secretary, R.O.C.A., at the College. He may also be able to suggest a seconder if this is any problem.

The Selection Committee has expressed a wish that it may have more candidates to consider each year. Surely many of you know an old scholar who is worthy of consideration.

Previous recipients of the Award are:-

ROWLAND HILL
DAVID RICEMAN

LEN COOK
W. J. DAWKINS

FRANK PEARSON

STATUTORY FORM

1. Name
2. Address
3. Age
4. Period at Roseworthy Agricultural College
5. Supporting data on employment, career, occupation since leaving Roseworthy Agricultural College, other organisations and committees on which nominee has served, papers published, honours other than academic bestowed on nominee.
6. Academic qualifications.

Proposed by:

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APPLICATIONS in writing should be addressed to:-

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THE "DOC" REAPPEARS

At our recent Speech Day, on March 11th, 1966, we had a most welcome guest to present the prizes. A person who was well qualified, intensely interested in the College and who so obviously enjoyed what he was doing - Dr. A. R. Callaghan.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to be students under him and were present at this day could not help but again feel the freshness and warmth of his personality.

Dr. Callaghan's prefacing remarks of how he visited the chapel for, as he put it "communion with 41 of my finest students", indicated how deeply rooted his interests are in our College. He showed obvious delight at being there to present prizes to Barry Lawes; the son of Alan Lawes, an old student of the Callaghan era; and to John Curlewis whom he advised to attend RAC while in Washington.

He expressed his sincere thanks to Mr. Philp, whom Mr. Herriot had mentioned was retiring this year, and labelled him the 'Mr. Chips' of Roseworthy.

In his address, which understandably was rather reminiscent, he spoke of his 17 year apprenticeship under the students of Roseworthy, learning student behaviour or lack of it.

To the departing year, he did not offer any advice as experience has taught him that they don't accept it.

Addressing everyone, he made an appeal from his experience as Counsellor in Washington to respond to and understand the Americans who, in his words, have accepted a "colossal responsibility. Our destinies are interdependent and we should not be over critical". Their need from other nations is embodied in the word empathy.

As Chairman of the Wheat Board he spoke of the famine in India and gifts of wheat from Australia and the United States. He pointed out that India's population of 450 million now; (600 million by the turn of the century;) is short of 15 or 16 million tons of grain, or two Australian wheat harvests.

America gives away wheat and intends to ship 900 million bushels of wheat this year, mainly to India. This is the whole USA surplus, of which there has been so much talk, leaving less than one year's consumption on hand. We face this year with the lowest carry-over of grain in the world since the 1950's.

THE "DOC" REAPPEARS - CONTINUED

In conclusion Dr. Callaghan pointed out the need for young men, technologically trained, to help feed the world, not to produce only in this country, but to see that other societies capable of helping, also give. It was then, with such apparent pleasure, that he presented the awards for 1965.

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THE GRAPEVINE

Once again another most successful Eyre Peninsula Branch A.G.M. and Reunion has been held, of which is reported in this issue. I would like to thank, on behalf of the Digest Committee all members and visitors who attended for their very generous donation of \$20-00 towards R.O.C.A. Digest funds. I am sure we will all look forward with interest to the report on how "Bill Bussell held the fort at 'Thuruna' and the result of the thrilling bathing beauty contest between members wives".

I would also like to thank Mr. Bob "Dad" Wheaton (1903-06) for his very generous donation of \$6-00 towards the digest funds. As reported in the last issue Bob was not in the best of health, but after a week in hospital it is pleasing to be able to report that he is now much better.

Quite a few of our members have been featuring in the births columns lately and those noted are:-

Melton and Christina Mowbray	-	a son
Joan and Ray Ward	-	a son
Anne and Vic Cashmere	-	a daughter
Leonie and Peter Fairbrother	-	a son
Julie and John Gursansky	-	a daughter
Gerry and Bev. Woodroffe	-	a daughter
Brian and Betty Jefferies	-	a son.

I also believe that Doug Gordon and his wife should be added to the above list but I haven't any further details.

I have also been informed that Marlene and Peter West are expecting their first addition to the family sometime during April. Peter is working on irrigation equipment for Simpson Pope and gives his address as 115 Palmer St., Dubbo, N.S.W.

After 13 years of trying Mr. W.J.H. James has won the Sturt Bowls Club Championship for the first time, and to him we send our congratulations.

Congratulations are also extended to the following who have recently become engaged. Chris Hancock to Philippa Chapman; and Geoff Crome to Meredith Hooper. Meredith is the daughter of Cliff Hooper.

I have received a letter from David Kidd (1950-53). Dave was somehow or other reported as working at a Winery in the last 'Student' but in actual fact he is an Agricultural writer with the Weekly Times in Melbourne, and has been since leaving the A.B.C. rural department about four years ago. Any who were at R.A.C. during Dave's time and are in Melbourne and would like an ale, look Dave up as he feels he could probably wrench himself away from the desk. I have heard on the grapevine that Dave is to be married early this year. All the best to you and your wife Dave from R.O.C.A.

Mr. Gilbert Lewis' letter which appeared in the November 1965 issue of the Digest has prompted another old scholar to write in. This time Mr. W.E. Hawke who was at College during the period 1890-1892 and is now 92 years old. I must be getting close to right in saying that Mr. Hawke would be the oldest surviving old scholar. I am still holding a letter from Mr. W.J. Dawkins and as space permits I will include "Memoirs" of his time.

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REPORT - EYRE PENINSULA BRANCH R.O.C.A. A.G.M. & REUNION

Well, it's over again for another twelve months and all we can possibly hope for is that the next is as good as the last.

If the late Worsley Johnston had been with us on the night of February 26th, 1966, he would have been a very happy man to find that something he began in 1951 had reached such a satisfactory level of overall goodwill and educational value.

With 51 in attendance, Dr. C.J. Stephens to deliver the address, the President, Vice-President and the immediate past President of the parent body besides other mainland visitors (not forgetting Mr. Philp) present the reunion had to be a success.

A.G.M. & REUNION - CONTINUED

The A.G.M. and Reunion was held at the Great Northern, Port Lincoln, and visitors booked out its accommodation so that their only worry about getting to bed was the staircase. Next year's gathering will be held at the same place on 25-2-67, so once again with so much notice there is no excuse for absenteeism in the locals.

Branch President, Pat Marrie, made special mention of the effort to attend made by certain Eyre Peninsula members and particularly thanked the mainland brigade for their effort in helping to make the evening so worthwhile. Pat named the visitors and when he came to that of a certain Mr. B.C. Philp I am sure the terrific ovation accorded him could have been heard back at R.A.C.

Pat had the sad task of reading the names of the two stalwart branch members who had passed away in May, 1965 - the late Jack Ranford, our president at the time of his death, and the late Russ Rogers. A special tribute was paid to the late L.G. Cook. It was the highly esteemed and everpopular Len who addressed our previous reunion.

Ken Hayman, Toastmaster, speeded up the annual Roll Call by allowing each person a maximum of only 30 seconds to praise his year to beyond competition. One local member who has been boasting for years that it took him from 1937 to 1947 to get his diploma very ungraciously relinquished the belt to the now title holder Phil Tummel who went to R.A.C. in 1936 and finally was released in 1948.

Jack Jones' sincere toast to the Association met with an equally sincere response from President Bill Edge. Bill and Geoff Roe, who spoke later, both praised the Branch for its initiative. This in itself made any work done by individual members worth doing.

Father and son combinations were most apparent with Bruce and David Ritchie, Jim and Ian Newland, the Bartholomeaus duo from Clare and Alan and Barry Lawes. Not often a father and son feature in the same toast list, but Barry who has a brand new Diploma gave the toast to "The College" while Alan attended to the official thanking of the guest speaker. Both Pat Marrie and Ken Hayman commented on Barry's speaking ability, which says much for the R.A.C. diplomates of today. Barry mentioned recent building improvements at the College with emphasis on the Cellars and the new farrowing pens.

Mr. Philp responded and typically did not dwell in the past but talked of the future of the College stating that 700,000 dollars had been allocated for the building of a biological laboratory and a farm engineering centre. Mr. Philp who began at the College on March 7th, 1921 as assistant to the housemaster, Mr. Pritchard, served an even longer sentence than Phil Tummel. It was heart warming to see and hear the warm welcome Mr. Philp received from the boys of the "golden west". Along with Dr. Stephens, Mr. Philp would have shared the "guest of honour" title for the night.

It was most apparent that Ray Alcock made all the visitors feel welcome judging by what was said by a number of responders headed by Geoff Roe whose brief, straight forward remarks were appreciated by the locals.

Although Andrew Michelmore and Roger Panser now reside elsewhere we still regard them as Branch members. Both have been able official supporters of this group, and the fact that they have travelled so far to be with us for the one night is proof enough of their loyalty and we are grateful.

Dr. Stephens whose theme for his address was "The probable history of the Eyre Peninsula landscape and its relationship to Agricultural Development" packed a million years or so into an hour's talking aided by maps and slides of the area.

In thanking Dr. Stephens, Alan Lawes commented on the undivided interest shown by the audience.

Branch officers elected were President M.K. Marrie, Vice President C.R. Alcock, Committee - J.J. Jones, J.A. Chewings, R.L.K. Horne, R.B. Stirling and B. Lawes. Secretary J.D. Habel, Assistant Secretary P.E.D. Thyer.

Banker Peter Thyer was the right man in the right place - he collected the dollars and cents and balanced the books so well that we had enough over to forward in 20 dollars as the annual contribution to "Digest".

This was easily the branch's largest and most successful gathering and many were reluctant to go to bed, with the publican finally shutting shop at 3.30 a.m. It was rumoured that "Blue" Holder and Ian Bidstrup did not bother about sleep and spent the latter part of their reunion on the water on an over seas vessel.

The President and his committee wish to express their gratitude to all who attended and assisted in making such a success of this annual event. Naturally they hope to see the same persons in the same place next year - plus a few more.

On the day following the A.G.M. and Reunion a family picnic was held on the beach at "Thuruna" but that's another story.

The next exciting episode will appear in the next edition. Read all about how Bill Bussell held the fort at "Thuruna" and the result of the thrilling bathing beauty contest between members' wives.

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER

BY PHIL TUMMEL

Congratulations to John Stanford on his appointment as South Australian Manager of the Australian Wine Bureau. The aim of the Bureau is to advertise and foster the wine industry and to educate fellow men in the art of the usage of wine.

John received his Oenology Diploma in 1948, and after a few years experience as a wine-maker became manager of 408 Wine Store, Adelaide. He is an Australian Show wine judge, and his palate is well known and respected. In all matters relating to wine, his zeal and enthusiasm belies the known proprietor of Sloppy Joe's in rehabilitation Hut No. 1 where many famous suppers were served thanks to the co-operation (unknown) of the poultry and vegetable departments.

Congratulations to Ray and Joan Ward and their new son, a future Oenologist we hope.

A thought for all R.A.C. OLD SCHOLARS. This Christmas holiday time, I am swapping homes, walk in walk out basis, with Peter Thyer of Port Lincoln. As we have old scholars in all States of Australia, this practice could be developed. By the way, Jack Jones, 1937 Diploma, Agriculture High School Teacher, Port Lincoln would also like to exchange homes with an Adelaide old scholar.

One more lot of congratulations, and this to Phil Laffer who has been appointed Lindeman's Coonawarra Manager. We are anticipating some excellent dry wines, Phil.

R. D. T. A. NOTES

BULK MILK COLLECTION

E. J. J. VAN HOFF, R. D. D.

On the 1st February last the Myponga Co-op Dairying Society Ltd. started refrigerated farm bulk milk collection.

At present after about two months operation about thirty percent of the total factory milk intake is received in the form of bulk milk. It is anticipated that by mid October, when the Company is at the peak intake of the year, the percentage may have risen to at least forty percent.

The spontaneous support to bulk milk in the Myponga area compares very favourably with similar ventures in the Eastern States where the system has been in operation for about ten years.

For the benefit of those old scholars whose daily avocation is not connected with dairying, the system consists of farmers having a stainless steel farm bulk tank connected to a direct expansion compressor which chills and maintains the milk at a temperature of preferably below forty degrees F.

The milk is then pumped from this farm tank into a road tanker which in turn delivers the milk to the dairy factory.

The system has the following advantages:-

1. The quality of the milk is greatly improved and the milk is retained at very near the same quality for longer periods. As a comparison the number of bacteria per cc. milk in refrigerated bulk milk amounted to 60,000 as compared with 540,000 in can milk when tested at Myponga.
2. Costly cans and can-washing equipment may be dispensed with.
3. Labour saving and greater flexibility of milking times for the dairy farmer.
4. A more efficient usage of dairy factory labour, because in some cases as much labour and time are necessary for the receipt of milk as are required for the actual manufacture of the product.
5. A reduction in milk transport costs.
6. The risk of city milk licence suspension due to low quality milk is practically eliminated.

The ultimate long range benefits of refrigerated bulk milk when considering all the effects of savings to factories, a strong possibility of increased consumption of fluid milk and all dairy products due to quality improvements are incalculable.

In summing up, my opinion is that in a country like Australia, where climate and weather conditions in most dairying areas are far from favourable for the production of top quality milk, the introduction of refrigerated bulk milk collection is about twenty years late.

AUSTRALIA WIDE ASSOCIATION OF DIPLOMATES

At a recent R.O.C.A. Committee meeting, a letter received by the Secretary was discussed concerning the formation of an association for Diplomates from all Australian Agricultural Colleges. The letter was from the combined committees of the two Victorian Colleges, Dookie and Longerenong.

A group of diplomates in New Guinea are also interested in the formation of such an association. Apparently, many of the diploma holders in New Guinea belong to a newly formed association there, and their members represent almost all the Australian Agricultural Colleges.

This matter is worthy of the consideration of all members, whose feelings on the matter would be greatly appreciated by your committee.

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C/- C.S.I.R.O.,
Box 738,
DARWIN. N.T.

7/2/66

The Editor,

Dear Sir,

The President's message in the last 'Digest' has prompted me to write and let you know of my experiences. Since June 1961 I have been working with C.S.I.R.O. as a Technical Assistant. I am living at Humpty Doo, which is approximately 30 miles S.E. of Darwin, where a staff of 15 is conducting research into the problems associated with rice growing on the sub-coastal plains. All told there are approx. 1 million acres of these sub-coastal plains, which are treeless and consist of a heavy (Estuarine Plain) clay soil.

It was in this area that Territory Rice Ltd. commenced growing rice in 1955/56. The last commercial crop of rice was grown in 1963. During this period the total area under rice in one particular year was 5,000 acres divided into 10 farms of 500 acres each. This large area under rice created many problems some of which I will mention later. In 1964 three pilot farms were established at Tortilla Flats approx. 60 miles South of Darwin. Each farm adjoins the Adelaide River, two of which are expected to grow 300 acres of rice plus cattle and pastures while the third one is concentrating on cattle and pastures only. The area of each farm is approx. 10,000 acres. Several test farms were to be established in the Humpty Doo area last year but these were deferred pending further investigation.

The main problems associated with commercial rice growing were lack of water at the beginning of the growing season, unsuitable varieties, which matured at the same time and were not suited to mechanised agriculture, and low yields averaging $\frac{1}{2}$ ton per acre. We can only grow rice during the wet season and this means growing long grain rice. This long grain rice (commonly referred to as the Indica type) is a superior type to the short rice grain (or Japonica type) grown in the M.I.A., where yields average $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre. The rice is sown in late November - early December, before the wet season proper commences and it is possible to carry out cultural operations without difficulty. Unfortunately sufficient water is not available at this time of the year to flood the rice after it has germinated. The rice plants suffer water stress while the weeds continue to move ahead and suppress the growth of the rice.

All the rice varieties available were photoperiod - sensitive and matured in late May. To obtain a reasonable milling output of whole grain (approx. 51%) the rice must be harvested when the grain has a moisture content ranging from about 18 - 30%. Usually this allows a two to three week period to harvest the grain, depending on the season. Yields are typically low with long grain rice in the tropics, but by breeding new varieties we hope to improve yields. Another problem associated with the available varieties was that as soon as fertilizer was applied the crop grew as high as six feet and by the time it was ready for harvest had fallen flat on the ground, making harvest operations extremely difficult.

We have already released one new variety and have imported several improved ones. Some new varieties, which we hope will be a marked improvement on existing ones, will be available shortly. These will be strong strawed, growing to a height of two to three feet, and with fertilizer, yields would exceed two tons. They will be non-photoperiod sensitive so that by staggering the sowing period we will be able to stagger the harvest period thus ensuring that the grain is harvested within the moisture range mentioned. The standard fertilizer application is one to two cwt. per acre of Sulphate of Ammonia and one cwt. of Superphosphate. Sulphate of Ammonia landed in Darwin costs about £60 per ton while Superphosphate is about £30 per ton.

To overcome the water shortage problem we are concentrating on a new technique for sowing rice - this is the "wet sowing" method. Pre-germinated rice seed is sown into flooded fields and the

seedlings emerge through the water in 7 to 10 days. This method can be used during the January - March period when plenty of water is available. We have achieved reasonable success on a small field scale using a fertilizer broadcaster mounted on a tractor. This season we have tried this method on a somewhat larger scale using an aircraft. Aerial sowing of rice is quite common in the U.S.A. and may eventually become the accepted method in the Northern Territory. One problem associated with this method is weed control. Some weeds can be controlled by flooding the fields when sufficient water is available. However, between December and mid-January some other means of weed control must be used. We "puddle" the weeds into the mud using tractors and various implements, but on a commercial scale this would be too costly with the present equipment available. New equipment recently developed at the International Rice Research Institute at Manila may alter this aspect. It is possible that chemical weed control may be the answer.

The only major pest of rice is the insect known as the "Stemborer". The larvae bore into the rice stem where they later pupate. Each stem so affected produces an empty head. Control has been achieved by aerial spraying with Endrin; this year we are using B.H.C. applied with the irrigation water.

The pilot farms, mentioned earlier, commenced operations in 1964. November 1964 was very wet and in early December 1964 a rain depression passed through Humpty Doo and Tortilla Flats, bringing approx. 4½ inches of rain. The pilot farms were flooded, severely damaging earthworks of the rice areas. One farmer eventually managed to sow 200 acres of rice. Last December cyclone "Amanda" passed through Humpty Doo. In 24 hours we recorded 957 points of rain and in a further 24 hours recorded another 357 points. In the pilot farm area rainfall was lighter but still sufficiently heavy to once again upset sowing operations. So much for rice.

John Hayes, who is O.I.C. at Beatrice Hill Research Station, is approx. 6 miles S.E. from where I live and we come across one another quite often. Rod Hodder, who spent some time in W.A. as farm manager at one of the research stations there, is now back in the Alice Springs district. He is now manager of Bond Springs Station approx. 14 miles north of Alice Springs.

Although Darwin is only 40 miles away via a good sealed road, social activities are somewhat limited. We have ample supplies of excellent quality underground water and most of the houses on the stations have good gardens. Fishing is a favourite sport in the wet season, the most popular fish for sporting and eating purposes being the Barramundi. Fish up to 40 lb. have been caught in an irrigation storage dam about one mile from our housing site. The Barramundi is an excellent fighting fish as our O.I.C. can testify - he was pulled into the water by one. Standard work dress up here is a pair of shorts with or without shirt. Footwear of any description, is seldom worn.

Just to finish off the letter, a tall story from Humpty Doo. This is one concerning our O.I.C's bantam rooster. It was a particularly vicious rooster with spurs on it long enough to disembowel a buffalo. I don't suppose you have similar roosters at the College these days.

With kind regards,

GEOFF FROMM.

DINNER-DANCE

A Roseworthy Old Collegian's Association dinner-dance will be held on a Saturday night in November (date to be fixed) PROVIDING the response to same indicates a general interest by many members. This is a chance when your wives, girl friends, etc., may join in and enjoy an association function. It's up to you. If you are interested, fill in the reply form below and forward it to the Hon. Secretary as soon as convenient. Don't leave it to others to reply as many of us are so apt to do. If the response is satisfactory, further details will appear in the next issue of the 'Digest'.

FILL IN AND RETURN BEFORE JUNE 11th.

Mr. H.V. Stephen,
 Hon. Secretary, R.O.C.A.,
 Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY. S.A.

Dear Sir,

*I am (am not) interested in attending the Dinner Dance to be held by the Roseworthy Old Collegian's Association in November, and would prefer it to be held on a *Friday/Saturday night.

*Please cross out that which is not applicable.

NAME: (Please Print)

ADDRESS:

COL. FULTON MEMORIAL

In order to perpetuate the memory of one of the Association's most prominent Old Collegians, Mrs. Fulton has generously donated a pair of the late Colonel's swords.

These swords, suitably mounted and inscribed, will be installed in the College Library.

No doubt, some of David Fulton's many friends and admirers would like to make some small contribution towards the cost of mounting and installing this Memorial.

An invitation is extended to members of the Association to forward contributions to either

Mr. W.S. Edge,
President, R.O.C.A.,
83 Valley Road,
ALDGATE. S.A.
Phone 39 1722

or

Mr. H.V. Stephen,
Hon. Secretary,
R.O.C.A.,
Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY. S.A.

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R.O.C.A. DIGEST

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