



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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EDITOR'S PAGE

Since early this year there has been considerable discussion amongst old students about the Award of Merit and we hope that this will result in an increased number of nominations being received. Most of this discussion has been stimulated by recent selections of Notable Old Scholars in the Student Magazine.

It should firstly be pointed out that there are no links between the two groups of people who make the selections and because an old scholar is selected for one does not necessarily mean that he will reappear in the other. To be eligible for the Award of Merit one must first be nominated by two financial members of the Association.

Each person nominated must be a financial member, and to become a member of the Association one must have attended the course at Roseworthy for at least one academic year. (Expulsion from the College automatically bars a person from becoming a member.) More recent students may not realise that up until the 1950's University students doing Agricultural Science spent one year of their four year course at Roseworthy which entitles them to membership of our Association. Many of these University Graduates soon after completing their studies became members of ROCA.

The terms of the Award of Merit do not, and should not bar these members from being eligible for nomination and final selection, if worthy of such selection.

At a recent committee meeting, it was decided that if members have difficulty in obtaining information concerning the member they wish to nominate, this additional information will be made available by the Association. This decision was taken in an effort to obtain more nominations of members worthy of consideration.

Nominations for this year's Award of Merit are due with the Hon. Secretary, John Gursansky, at the College, by May 31st.

This is your opportunity to nominate a member for this Award, and I hope you will make use of this opportunity.

R. D. T. A. NOTES

FROM G. R. NORMAN R. D. D.

Since returning to South Australia after a stay of several years in Tasmania I feel members may be interested in some brief comparisons between the South Australian and Tasmanian Dairying Industries.

Tasmania's 143,000 dairy cows produce 87 million gallons of milk per year. A large portion of this is processed into 12,800 tons of butter and 2,700 tons of cheese by the 12 Butter Factories and three Cheese Factories. South Australia's 158,000 cows produce 102 million gallons of milk, portion of which is processed by the 28 Cheese Factories and 14 Butter Factories into 16,000 tons of Cheese and 2,000 tons of Butter.

Fourteen departmental extension officers supervise Tasmania's dairy farm and factory operations compared with South Australia's twelve.

Possibly the greatest change in Tasmanian Dairying since 1964 has been the spectacular development of bulk milk collection, both refrigerated and unrefrigerated. One cheese factory handling all of its 20,000 gallons of milk per day through five bulk milk tankers. The result is a profitable enterprise for anyone who can find a use for the thousands of unwanted milk cans.

Generally Tasmania is much more a grass land dairying state than is South Australia, with a trend in recent years for the smaller 50-60 acre dairy farms to be absorbed by the larger, more successful farmers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Casilla de Correo 2FF
San Carlos de Bariloche
Provincia de Rio Negro,
Argentina.

Dear Sir,

It is some time since I wrote to you from Tasmania telling you of an interesting and exciting work in Sheep Breeding and Grazing Management Studies. Well now I have something even more exciting to write about.

In December last I was offered and accepted a 4 year assignment with FAO of United Nations in Sheep Breeding in Argentina. The above will be our address until we obtain a home which could be difficult in this very popular tourist resort in the Lakes District of Central Patagonia about 800 SW of Buenos Aires. It is the address of INTA Centro Regional de Patagonico and INTA is the Argentine equivalent of CSIRO.

The final confirmation of appointment was dependent upon a satisfactory medical and a clearance from the Argentine Government. The Guidance to leave Tasmania was as clear as it was to go there in the first place and to buy a house in 4 days even while we owned a house in Adelaide at the time. The last 7 years have been 7 years of valuable training and rich experience in a wide gamut of the Australian Sheep Industry and valuable preparation for this Project led by Australian Dr Harry Carroll. He wants a team of five or six Australians. A Mr Monteith is Soils expert, Dr Speck a Plant Ecologist and we are hopeful Dr Ian Wardrop will go as Nutritionist Physiologist.

I applied for the job of Animal Production Officer (Sheep Breeding).

Imagine the shock on December 23rd when I'd resigned and sold the house to receive a cable from Rome saying "Do not resign, do not sell house - No clearance arrived yet". Then on December

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED)

31st a letter from Dr Carroll saying the Argentine Government regarded me as unacceptable as I had no higher degree or basic genetics research experience although the terms of employment were for an applied Research job. I have to manage the day to day operations of a Research Farm with 5000 ewes (probably Corriedale - I hope to try and introduce some of our new Cornos), to develop a sheep selection, classing and breeding programme for flock improvement locally and on sheep estancias. To introduce Australian methods to all aspects of the Sheep Industry; to plan buildings and fencing in consultation with local men, and finally to introduce Australian methods of sheep and wool research to the Sheep Industry.

We were temporarily flattened, but a ball must be flattened before it can bounce. Our reaction was merely this:- If God wants us to go to Argentine, He will remove all obstacles. This He has proceeded to do and the clearance came 2 weeks ago and final confirmation. Now we leave on 22/2/67 via Tahiti and Mexico City.

Cheers to all,

(signed) Brian C. Jefferies.

PHILPY'S MEMOIRS - PART II

COMPILER OF NOTES - RAY NORTON

We left the Roseworthy scene in 1921, the year they signed on young Philpy and as most of us know, it's the year they should have signed him off again. However "spilled milk" and all that.

It was the era of the horse, although not quite. There was a tractor in that year; the Steel Mule. It was more like a steam roller really, and was just as cumbersome. Being second-hand, coming to Roseworthy from Turretfield, it soon fell into disrepair and was scrapped.

As we said previously, Mutty Plaice was the vet. He used to come to the college from the Department of Agriculture each week to lecture. On one of these trips to the station he was injured by a frightened horse and thereafter was assigned a student each day to help him on his rounds, driving him around in an open four-wheeled "Phaeton" as it was known then. An excellent horse vet, trained with the Indian Army Cavalry, he persisted with his siesta each day. He had some amusing ideas apparently, one of them being his use of safety pins in surgery instead of sutures and another his "Magic Mixture", a cure-all which had to be stirred clockwise in its mixing. Any reverse stirring would unwind it. That's what Philpy says!!

I guess housemasters deserve a chapter all to themselves, because, let's face it, they are a breed apart. Carrying this thankless lot in 1921 was Mr Pritchard. He must have been well paid though, for he owned one of the few motorised transport units on the College. It was a Harley-Davidson motor bike with a twin-side car to carry his wife and family. Mr Colebatch owned the other vehicle, a glorious Buick. Later apparently, not to be outdone, Mr Quinn, the Horticulturalist, bought a German Hurtu of which there were only three or four in Australia. He purchased the engine and chassis only, designing his own body and having it custom built by Richards of Adelaide. Before the body was built however, this machine could have been seen in regular use.

Each weekend Mr Quinn and our boy Philp, mounted on a fruit case a piece wired to the chassis, would tie them to the big smoke at a great rate of knots. "Have you noticed" they would say, "that young Snow never stands with his back to the fire!" If he had the splinters would have caught and he would have gone down in flames.

The Adelaide road then was not bitumen, just metal, but when it was eventually bitumenised,

PHILPY'S MEMOIRS - PART II (CONTINUED)

Quinn was heard to remark that "they had taken all the interest out of the drive". He was a fanatical motorist apparently.

At the "Old Spot" they would stop, coming and going, not for what one would imagine, but to dip a thermometer in the radiator to check that the old dear was not overheating. He swears it is true!

Another character, Freddy Gilbert, the poultry man; but the many who know him realise there are many tales of this friendly staff member. Perhaps next time.

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PUBLIC SERVICE MOVEMENTS

The April edition of the "Public Service" magazine noted quite a few changes for Roseworthy Diplomates within the Service.

John Skull has been promoted to Information Officer. Reg Radford has been appointed a field officer in the soils branch stationed at Nuriootpa. Reg replaces Neville Gilbertson who resigned. Bert Ninnes is now Officer-in-Charge of Parndana Research Centre, taking over from Henry Day who is now O.C. of Turretfield Research Centre. Bert was at Kybybolite.

David Spurling has been promoted to Advisory Officer, and Des Habel to Field Investigation Officer. Tony Morris is Officer in Charge of Wanbi, taking over from Paul Guerin, now in Head Office, Adelaide. Ian Bond has been appointed a field officer.

COLLEGE CHATTER

Of interest on the Farm has been the effect of planting Barrel 173 on a number of paddocks in 1966. Clover Burr and residue, despite damage from December rain has carried sheep for longer into the autumn than has been the case in previous years. From a paddock planted in 1966 one hundred and fifty-six bags of seed were harvested. This has given Ray Norton the chance to sow many paddocks with heavy rates of medic with oats, and we look forward to increased carrying capacity.

John Gursansky says that it has been a good season for fruit with record yields in apricots and pears. He has installed a Dragline Irrigation System in V & O South.

Bob Baker reports a good vintage with grapes of excellent quality and wines of superior quality. He is very pleased to have with him the Indian student, Nath Khurana, who will be doing the Oenology course.

Rex Krause on the Plant Breeding section has released a new wheat variety, Glaive, which has yielded well when sown early in the low to medium rainfall areas (approx. 12-17 inch rainfall). It is not designed to replace any existing recommended variety in the state, but to add a good baking quality variety to the lower rainfall areas.

The new Agricultural Engineering Centre Workshop and vehicle sheds are nearing completion and are well worth a visit if you are ever at the College or driving past. Work is expected to commence on the new Chemistry, Biology and Cereal Laboratories within the next month.

Forty-five first year students commenced at the end of March and their qualifications are again higher than in previous years.

COLLEGE CHATTER (CONTINUED)

There is movement on the Staff front. Graeme Quick has gained a Scholarship to the Ohio University, U.S.A., and will be leaving in June. So after assisting with the planning of the Agricultural Engineering building, he will not have the chance to use it.

The mulga wireless also reports that an Assistant Horticulturist will be appointed at an early date. Phillip Shuff has commenced work in the AP Lab as a technician. He has been in Australia for about six months coming from the U.K. where he completed Part I of the Royal Institute of Chemistry course.

David Taplin will be assisting with the lectures in Animal Husbandry and after the completion of his Ph.D. in July, he will join the staff as Senior Lecturer in Animal Husbandry.

REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND RE-UNION DINNER HELD AT THE GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, PORT LINCOLN, ON FEBRUARY 25TH, 1967

Well, the 1967 Annual General Meeting and Re-Union lived up to last year's efforts. In fact most of us think that it was a bit better, but let us not be complacent - we can still improve and intend to.

At the meeting twenty-five members attended with twelve apologies being received. A number arrived too late to take an active part and were therefore not listed. The holding of the meeting before the dinner is definitely a step in the right direction. The President, Pat Marrie, pushed the meeting along aided and abetted by the members, but never the less it took one and a half hours to complete. It is hoped to prune this time considerably next year if possible. In the election of office holders the previous years' officers and committee were reinstated together with two new committee members, Graham Wishart and Tom Green.

In his report before re-election Pat commented on the year's work and praised his committee when thanking them for the tremendous amount of work done to make these functions so successful. He also commented on the interest shown by the younger generation of the Branch who were extremely well represented. Pat extended a special welcome to our President John Gore who in replying said that this was his second visit to this Branch and commended its activity and the support it gave not only to its own executive but to the parent body. He industriously took notes of the whole proceedings for a report to his own Committee.

The Dinner and Re-Union attended by forty-four visitors and members followed the closure of the Meeting with Ken Hayman as Toast-Master capably handling the evening's proceedings. After the traditional Grace had been said our newest member Bob Sampson called on us to honour the Loyal Toast. Our president then welcomed members and visitors with a special word of mention to the Guest Speaker, John Lee, B.Sc., M.Sc., of C.S.I.R.O. The visitors headed by President John Gore and past-President Bill Edge were Bill Bussell, "Snow" Philp (who like a bad penny turned up again and we hope he does an 'Oliver' and comes back for more) Wesley West, Ian Williams, Keith Bicknell, Alick Alcock (Ray's brother), Andy Michelmore, Nick Hutchens and Allan Hinks. Ken kept proceedings moving, the Toasts were honoured through the meal with the Roll Call short and succinct. Graham Wishart capably proposed "The Association" - except for one small lapse. President John Gore replied with a brief outline of Association activities through the year and also told us of the activities of our sister branches.

Peter Thyer proposed the toast to the College and this was responded to by Bill Edge in the absence of direct College representation this year. He was ably supported by "Snow" Philp.

"The Visitors" was in the capable hands of Ian Holman, and the responders Andy Michelmore, Wesley West, Alick Alcock and Ian Williams were led most efficiently by Bill Bussell.

REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND RE-UNION DINNER (CONTINUED)

Persistent efforts by Ken kept us right up to time so that at 9 p. m. Bob Horne was waiting to call on the gathering for Remembrance Ceremony with the reciting of the "Ode".

A short break was allowed then the floor was handed over to John Lee who certainly made good use of it. It really was a pleasure to listen to such an interesting and entertaining address given so fluently with such subtle touches of humour that only an accomplished speaker can impart. His only stumble was in referring to "Bush Sick Sheep". Maybe the Reds had caught up with him. His address "Mineral Supplements for Sheep - Historical, Philosophical and Practical Considerations" started with one of man's earliest observations in that sheep liked and looked for salt though not necessarily needing it. He continued with the further observations experimentations and applications through the ages of supplying minerals right to the present with the recognition of the very vital part played in animal health by trace elements. His story of the development and manufacture of the Cobalt Bullet had the audience rolling with laughter. A great ovation was accorded him at the conclusion of the address and the writer for one hopes that this will not be the last time the Branch has the pleasure of his company.

Des Habel in his appreciation thanked John for an outstanding talk and said how fortunate this Branch was in having as our guest a speaker of world repute especially a person who had so greatly contributed to, and influenced stock raising on Eyre Peninsula.

The President backed up Des' remarks before Ken brought the formal part of proceedings to a close at 10.45 p. m.

Those present were then able to mix, re-unite in friendship, form new ones, meet the Guest Speaker and other guests and in general carry out one of the functions of this Annual re-union made possible by having the Annual General Meeting before the Dinner.

The catering for all our needs at the "Great Northern" was excellent and we will be back there again next year on February 24th.

"Les Girls" arranged to have a dinner at the "Tasman" and entertain Mrs Lee while the menfolk were otherwise engaged. The President and Secretary paid short visits to see that they were behaving themselves. The "female" dinner was a great success and our thanks are extended to the three wives of local members who so capably arranged the function, and we trust it will become part of future weekend proceedings.

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GRAPEVINE

Thanks are due once again to the Eyre Peninsula members of our Association who have generously sent in a donation of \$20-00 towards the running costs of the Digest. This donation is greatly appreciated by the members of the Digest committee and myself. A report of the A.G.M. and Reunion appears in this issue and it is hoped to include a report on the family day held at Billy Light Point and also the "female" dinner, in the next issue. These reports from Des Habel, Pat Marrie and their committee are always of interest and make most entertaining reading.

Activities on the matrimonial front have been rather quiet unless the old bush grapevine hasn't been functioning too well. Keith "Blue" Holder is to be married sometime during April, as is Roger Evans. Meridith Hooper and Geoff Crome were married in February and are now living at Kimba where Geoff has a Farm Advisory Group. Roger Inglis who has just completed his course in Rural Economics at the Armidale University is to marry Miss Moya Hindmarsh during April. Ian Bidstrup is reported to have left Minnipa Research Centre but is still working in the area share-farming.

GRAPEVINE (CONTINUED)

Mr R.H. Sedgely, who was with the Regional Pastoral Company at Denillequin, N.S.W., now gives his address as the Soils Department, Oregon State University, Corvallas, Oregon, U.S.A.

Harry and Loma Nash shifted from Port Lincoln late in April and give their address as 22 Forster St., Kadina. Harry, who will still be working with the Department of Agriculture, has mixed feelings about leaving the E.P., but we wish him and his wife all the best in their new area.

Jasper Bowering (1959-62) has shifted from the home property at Keith and is now overseer at "Spring Plains", Buffalo, in the South Gippsland area of Victoria. The property adjoins the Tarwin River, and has approximately 250 acres of river flats in a total of 1600 acres. At the moment the property is running 750 head of cattle, and it is hoped to stock about 4000 sheep during the spring. Jasper would be interested in hearing from any Old Collegians in the area.

Cliff Hooper has handed on a letter to me from Dick Riedel who graduated from the Sydney University with B.V.Sc. in 1965 with Graham Mitchell, and is now in private practice in Bega, N.S.W. Dick gives his address as C/- S.D. & D.H. Royle, Veterinary Surgeons, Bega, N.S.W. Graham Mitchell graduated with First Class Honours and was awarded a University medal for his academic performances. Graham is now at Walter & Eliza Hall, Parkville, Victoria, doing a Ph.D. in immunology. Dick also mentioned in his letter that Kev Tuckwell and Sandy MacKenzie are in an I.H.C. dealership as partners at Nambour, Queensland.

A letter has been received from Mr Robert Wheaton (1903-06) for which we would like to thank him. It is pleasing to see that he is keeping well now after his illness some twelve months ago. The contents of the letter are printed below:

"I noticed in the paper the death of H.G. Lloyd of Clare and thought perhaps I should bring this to your notice. I do not know if H.G. Lloyd was a member of the ROCA. I have not seen him at any dinners. He was present at a meeting held at the College many years ago.

H.G. Lloyd finished at Roseworthy in 1903. That year the Third Years staged a celebration at the College with the result that the then Principal Prof. J.D. Towar (commonly known as the Yank) imposed a penalty of 3 weeks work on the class before they could get their diplomas. They were serving this time when I first went to the College for the Scholarship exam in Feb 1903. W.J. Dawkins is the only other one of that year that I know is still living. By the way, he was exempt from the work as he did not join in the party.

I am writing this note in case any record is kept. Of my year H.C. Wilson is the only one left that might be still alive. He went to Victoria.

I would not be surprised if H.G. Lloyd did not join the O.S. association as I think he went away a bit fed up. He was working on stables and I talked to him and asked how long he had been here. He said "Three B..... Years" in a very disgusted way. This somewhat rocked me about the College as all the other students working there over the holidays, some first years and some second years, had been most jovial and helped me in any way they could.

I am doing very well and am still hoping I will be able to visit the College sometime."

AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 1967 ROCA Award of Merit are due with the Hon. Secretary by May 31st.

Should you require further information on the member you wish to nominate this can be supplied by the Association by applying to the Hon. Secretary. A seconder for your nomination can also be found if required.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

The following Old Collegians are not receiving any ROCA correspondence because the addresses that we have are incorrect. If you know their where-abouts we would appreciate it if you let us know or get the member concerned to let us know his correct address.

The address that is given for each member below is the last address that we have been notified of:

R.O.C.A. DIGEST

Postage Paid
at Roseworthy
S.A., Aust.



Mr. B.C. Eastick,
Bright St.,
WILLASTON.

R. J. BLAKE	1944-46	C/- S. Wynn & Co., Griffith, N.S.W.
R. M. BROWN	1962-65	Ravensthorpe P. O., West Aust.
W. O. COLEMAN	1932-34	P. B. Edenhope, via NARACOORTE
J. D. CUNNINGHAM	1954-57	6/25A Foam St., ELWOOD, VIC.
R. O. KNAPPSTEIN	1943-47	127 Allinga Ave., GLENUNGA, S.A.
D. H. PRESTON	1916-19	782 Harborne St., WEMBLEY, W.A.
F. RIGGS	1914-17	3 Cavan Tce., CLOVELLY PARK, S.A.
D. J. M. SMITH	1943-46	"New Grove", FINLEY, N.S.W.
J. A. W. STAIN	1958-62	19 Edward St., NORWOOD, S.A.