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Message from the President

Beverley Isdale

The Society has had some excellent publicity in the last two months. The local community is gradually becoming aware of our existence as we have participated in local activities – displays at St Pascal's School at Wavell Heights, the Zillmere Library and the Zillmere Multicultural Festival. The *Bayside Star's* front page article, prior to the naming ceremony at Joseph Lee Park, ensured that we had a successful function.

Many of us are now more aware of the value of our "treasures" after the Society's morning tea with Rick Milne at Kedron Wavell Services Club. He did valuations of the items we brought along and he also gave us clues to evaluating antiques and memorabilia. It was a very enjoyable morning.

Our guest speakers gave us insights into the future and the past. Councilor Terry Hampson outlined the Brisbane City Council's plans for Brisbane until 2010. Manfred Cross spoke about Matthew Flinders' life and the charting of the Australian coastline.

Management Committee meetings are held in the School at 7pm on the third Monday of the month and all members are welcome to attend and contribute.

Workers from the Community Jobs Program have nearly finished work at the Chermshire Historical Precinct. Our school building now has display cases, some very solid shelving, fan lights and picture rails.

The Sandgate Drill Hall looks wonderful – painted inside and out, new walls, glass-fronted display room and lights. The official opening of the Milne Bay Memorial Library and Research Centre on 25 August will be a very special occasion and I urge all members to attend. Our Society will run stalls in the School on this day.

The School Paper

By Pat O'shea

The School Paper was a small magazine issued by the Queensland Department of Public Instruction, and later, the Department of Education, for the use of pupils in Primary Schools. It measured 14 cm wide by 21 ½ cm long and consisted of between 16 and 40 pages of stories, history, poetry, pictures, puzzles and sketches. The early copies were in plain white paper but by the 1950s the covers were printed in colour.

The paper was sold to pupils in the 1930's for a penny. For other issues before and after that date no price is printed on the copies. It may have been free in the later years. Different editions were published for the different grades in the Primary schools, with one edition being suitable for two or three nominated grades.

The earliest copy we have seen belongs to Daphne Postle and was issued in 1917, but in later issues of the 1950s an item called "Half a Century Ago in Qld's School Paper", showed excerpts from much earlier copies. One was of the May 1st 1905 and featured a story called Progress of the Period.

Starting in the reign of Victoria it traced some of the discoveries in the fields of Medical Science; Railways, including a photo of a train "running one mile a minute", which was the fastest any vehicle had ever travelled; And finally Telegraphs, Cables and Telephones.

This issue also records the latest wonder of the age - "A still more marvellous invention is that of Marconi's wireless telegraphy, by which messages are sent through the air. Ships passing in the Atlantic Ocean can hold communication with each other and events happening on land are recorded in mid-ocean." At the time probably no child or adult in Chermside would have had any experience of the 'wireless'!

Another issue recorded the San Francisco earthquake of 1903 complete with illustrations of the city and the Golden Gate before the bridge was built.

From time to time special issues of the paper were printed. One such is the April 1917 issue mentioned above, which gives an account of the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. It was complete with a special cover printed in colour showing a commemorative picture of the soldiers at Gallipoli. It included men from all the allied countries. This issue would have been in time for the second Anzac Day commemoration and was the second issue devoted to Anzac. The tradition was well under way and the children were being instructed, so the legend was born.

Jean Tune still has the copies for the years 1934 to 1937 that she read as a pupil at Chermside School. The copy of 15th May 1936 is typical of the genre. At a penny a copy it was very good value, containing a wealth of entertaining information as well as giving the pupils practice in reading.

The front cover shows a Spanish gentleman watering his horses at a trough. The pupils would have all been familiar with that scene. On the back cover is a puzzle quiz showing four sketches and each one contains the name of a famous man.

Several poems in the romantic, heroic mould are featured such as The Canadian Boat Song and Empire Day, which finished up "Mother England, our Mother, speak, and thy children come!" Finally from the classical mould, Bucephalus commemorating the

great horse that Alexander rode in his world conquests.

The stories are likewise in the heroic mould, led by H. Rider Haggard's story of a titanic struggle between many enemies and the mighty Zulu warrior who held them off. (Shades of Horatius defending the bridge over the Tiber two thousand years before.) In similar vein the story of Beowulf is told and how he slew the monster Grendel a thousand years ago. (Very much in the vein of Theseus slaying the Minotaur in Greek legend three thousand years ago.) A third story, "The Volunteers", is the tale of how medical science overcame Yellow Fever or "Yellow Jack " as it was called. All are inspiring stories which would capture the imagination of the young readers.

Finally in the heroic mould, is a photo of the fourth musketeer D'Artagnan. (Can you name the other three?) It looks suspiciously like Errol Flynn and it probably is, as that was a role in which he thrilled young people of the '30s. .

Sprinkled throughout are small items such as "Why A Man Tips His Hat" and "Why we cover a yawn and bless a sneeze." A regular section, "What is Happening in the World", featured news items such as "Dr Donald Thomson, a noted anthropologist, is leaving for a second stay among the uncivilised blacks of Arnhem Land". (This item is in strong contrast with the editions of the 1950s, which reflected a much more understanding view of the Aboriginal people.)

These little publications are extremely interesting from an historical viewpoint. They show the changing attitudes of Australians to such things as the British Empire, from mono culturalism to multi culturalism, from a rural society to a more complex urban one, from the horse and buggy era to the motor car era, etc.

One final item that must have puzzled the children until the teacher explained it. The front cover of the 15th July 1936 issue shows the classical picture of Psyche, the daughter of Zeus going on her visit to Proserpine. Why on earth would a mythical Greek princess want to go to Proserpine?

The Hopper Family

(continuing on from previous issue)

By Adrian Turner

Of the three Hopper brothers whose names appear on the Chermside State School Honour Board the next to enlist in the AIF was Thomas Henry, eldest of the three. His service record indicates that he was a windower aged twenty-eight years and eleven months at the date of enlistment on the 8th January 1916. The date of embarkation, 6th June 1916, indicates that Thomas was assigned to C Company of the 3rd Pioneer Battalion. On disembarkation in England he was transferred to the 4th Pioneers and sailed for France on 2nd December 1916 where he was in action for two years.

Apart from a brief reference to two occasions when he was AWL (absent without leave) for short periods, the next entry refers to hospitalisation in Boulogne on 12th February 1918, and transference to Norfolk War Hospital, England, with "trench fever" on 8th March. Not until 12th October did he rejoin the battalion, only to be hospitalised again by 22nd March 1919.

In poor health he was granted convalescent leave from 29th April 1919 to 30th October. In Thomas' chequered service career, two events stand out in importance. During his convalescence he was assigned to the Wear Shipyard, Sunderland, Yorkshire where he undertook specialised training to fit him for peaceful occupation, (the armistice had been signed on 11th November 1918).

The other important event was his marriage to Miss Margaret Annie Harrison of Monkwearmouth, Yorkshire, on 16th April 1919. Thomas officially rejoined his unit on 8th September 1919 with instructions to return to Australia (with his new bride).

By 13th August 1916 when John Victor William Hopper took the oath of Allegiance to king and country he would have known his brother Bertie had been wounded in France, and like everyone else would have known things were not going well for the Allies. At 23, married with two children and a secure position in the Fire Brigade, enlisting must have been a difficult decision.

Leaving Australia on the troopship "Demosthenes" on 2nd December 1916 as a transport driver with 26th

Battalion he landed at Plymouth, England on 3rd March 1917 and by 9th July the Battalion was at the front line. The trenches were probably a mixture of mud, dust and sickness. John succumbed to influenza and was hospitalised briefly, returning to the trenches on 15th October. A mustard gas shell exploded close to him, simultaneously wounding and affecting him with the typical skin blisters of mustard gas. That episode landed him in hospital in Cardiff, Wales, until 9th August 1918 when he returned to his unit. Few men really recovered from the terrible effects of gas, and John was repatriated to Australia with 7th Brigade on the "Persic" on 16th January 1919.

All three Hopper brothers received the 1914-1915 Star, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Past students of Chermside State School and members of the Chermside & Districts Historical Society are proud of their association with these "diggers" of the AIF.

Copies of their service records and photographs will be available for inspection when our archives department is able to organise the growing memorabilia. Our appreciation is expressed to Mr. Tony Hopper, grandson of Bertie Hopper, AIR, for his generous contribution.

Funeral Notice for Joseph Walsh Lee, 1904

By Marian Eaton

The funeral of Mr J W Lee took place yesterday afternoon at Lutwyche. The deceased gentleman was father-in-law to Thomas Bridges M.L.A. for Nundah, and one of the original settlers in the district, throughout which he was so well known.

He was born in Lancashire 75 years ago and first came to the State as foreman in connection with a cotton scheme at Beenleigh some 40 years ago. The scheme failed, and Mr Lee took up land at Zillmere Waterholes where he resided (with a short period at Albion) till his death, being successfully engaged in fruit growing and farming.

He was a member of the Nundah Board when it extended from Brisbane to the Pines and held office also on the Kedron Board. He was made a Justice of the Peace twelve years ago. He continued to take an active part in local life, holding positions of trustees to the School of Arts and president to the Horticultural Society.

Nearly two years ago he was seized with a sudden illness while at Mr Early's store at Chermside and had been ailing off and on ever since. Yesterday's cortege was a long one and included over 40 vehicles. Besides the relatives and principal residents, there were present:

Councillor R Fleming (Chairman Kedron Council), Cr T Cock, W Westacott, J M Gallagher, J Krimmer, Messrs J J Verney (representing the Queensland Baptist Association), W Handford, A Adzett, J P Leitch, J Marquis and Mr Jacklin (the President Zillmere Horticultural Association which sent a lovely wreath, Sammells and Hamilton of Chermside.

The Rev J Bowes of Sandgate officiated at the grave; the Rev C M Fischer was also present.

Thomas Andrew Hamilton Diary Notes, March 1947

By Joan Hamilton

Tuesday 25

The tram line workers have been very busy today getting things ready for the opening of the service next Saturday. I watched them putting some of the poles up which appeared quite easy, many men were fixing the wire at the top of the poles and appeared quite at home on their job.

Thursday 27

A rail cleaning, or trial tram car came out this morning under its own electric power, it is not a passenger tram.

Friday 28

One of the latest type of tram cars came to the Hamilton Road terminus for a trial trip at 1.25 pm. The Chermside tram line is to be opened tomorrow at 3.00 pm.

Saturday 29

Mr Reid (of Chermside Post Office) called about 11.00 am and asked if I would hold one end of the ribbon when the first tram from Chermside broke through about 3.00 pm. I consented as I am the longest resident alive in Chermside. Mrs Quinn and Mrs Rainbird were asked to hold the other end, they consented also. The function took place as arranged and was a huge success, hundreds of people attended and after the speeches there were free rides to the old terminus and back. I received a length of the ribbon and had a ride.

Tram line opened.

A lovely bright sunshine day.

Sunday 30

The trams have been well patronised today. Very dark cloudy day, one or two light showers.

One Liners

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.

What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway).

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted. It taint yours and it taint mine.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.