

Prolific Builders Leave Lasting Mark on City

Richard Lee

Alexander Charles Frew and Stuart McKenzie Logan set up a carpentry business in Young Street in 1898, then purchased premises on the north-east corner of Olive and Wilson streets, expanding into house building and undertaking.

In 1912, they shifted to Swift Street, between Macauley and Spencer Streets. Frew and Logan were prolific builders in the Upper Murray and the Riverina and left their mark in Albury, with the Union Bank (now WAW), on the corner of Dean and Olive Streets and St David's Church, Sunday school, and Manse in Olive Street.



An extensive collection of Logan house plans and carpentry tools were donated to the Albury City Museum.

Stewart Logan rode his bike to jobs around the district before the company upgraded to a motorbike and sidecar, then an early motor vehicle.

The firm imported timber from the USA, and also stocked Australian hardwoods.

The very large carpentry, joinery and plumbing departments trained many apprentices.

The partnership, Frew and Logan, dissolved in 1918 becoming Logan's, with Stuart's four children joining the firm as they left school.

Don was a carpenter, Ken a plumber and daughters Jean and Jessie ran the office.

Just after the Germans capitulated in November 1918, a fire broke out at Logan's and several thousand spectators gathered, cheering the worker who climbed onto the roof to rescue the Union Jack which had been hoisted just days before.

The premises suffered huge damage and losses were estimated at five thousand pounds. However, business was resumed within a remarkably short time.

Stuart was a mover and shaker in community affairs. A lifelong member of St David's Presbyterian Church, he also served as a councillor and was mayor for a year.

He submitted plans for the proposed war memorial, served on multiple committees and was involved with the establishment of the Albury Woollen Mills.

When Don, Ken, Jean and Jessie had all retired, Logan's closed in 1980 after 82 years of business.

Murray River County Council demolished the premises in 1986, building four storeys of offices. It is now the site of various businesses.

An extensive collection of Logan house plans and carpentry tools were donated to the Albury City Museum, many of which are on permanent display.