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Next Meeting

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

7.30 pm, Commercial Club

Topic: History of SES in Albury

Speaker: Ian Leckie

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM
Survey into the
Cretaceous
Until September 19

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Charles Pettitt's Home and Dental Surgery at 465 Dean Street Albury

VICE-PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR AUGUST

As notified to members who were able to attend our July meeting, we have received positive replies in response to the Society's recent submissions. From Sussan Ley's office we have heard that the Federal Government has promised an extra \$67.7 million to the National Archives of Australia (NAA) for digitising material of historic significance. Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has indicated that they are prepared to start planning for restoration of the heritage listed Albury Signal Box and NSW State Archives have responded that Albury will be considered for inclusion in their 'Archives in Your Town' series.

Also at our July meeting, local dentist and long-time Society member Peter Harper spoke about dental practice in Albury with the focus on a practice that has survived in Albury for over 130 years. Charles Pettitt started the practice in 1888. Peter was followed by Sandra Endresz telling us about the Warton family, a local pioneering family that she has been researching as part of her family history research.

At our August meeting, guest speaker Charlie Leaney, Charter Member of Lavington Lions Club, will relate the history of the club. He has been the club historian and records keeper for over 50 years and has compiled a book to record the "life and times" of the club's 50 year history. We will also hear from Ros Walls, Albury City's Team Leader, Events.

On Friday August 6, AlburyCity held the launch of a perpetual display celebrating the contribution of AlburyCity's executive leadership since the first Town Clerk, Samuel Fry Blackmore in 1857. Society members Howard Jones and Helen Livsey provided much of the material for the display.

Members will be well aware by now that the position of Society president was not filled at June's Annual General Meeting. I will continue to represent the Society as vice-president. Greg Ryan

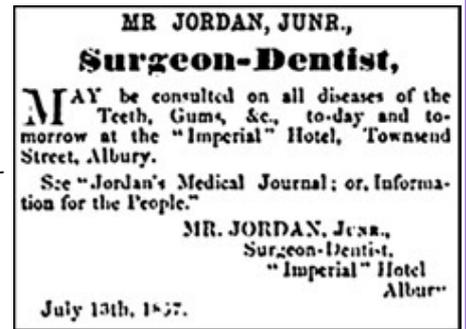
A 130+ YEAR DENTAL PRACTICE IN ALBURY

Peter Harper

Back in 1888 an Englishman, Charles Pettitt, began practice as Albury's first resident dentist. The practice was situated in a residence on the western side of Olive Street opposite Dr Andrews' Private Hospital.

Until this time Albury had been served by many dentists travelling from Melbourne or Sydney, generally on regular occasions. The earliest record of a dentist visiting was that of Mr Jordan Jnr in July 1857.

These visiting dentists would travel by coach and later by train. They would bring their own set of instruments, a collapsible chair, mobile treddle-drill, medicaments and would operate from the 'parlour rooms' in the guesthouses and hotels. Some pharmacies had dental departments from which the visiting dentists could operate. The pharmacists sometimes provided dental treatments themselves.



In 1968 when I came to Albury there were two practices in Wodonga whilst Albury had nine. Lance Stark was then the principal of the Pettitt practice.

Most practices had rooms upstairs in the large office buildings of Dean Street. By mid 1980s the trend was to move the practice into refurbished residences in the side streets. Jim Poyner moved the 'Wolmers' practice to Englehardt Street in 1986.

Interestingly, today the practices have a brand name and not just the name of the dentist. This is a subtle change but one that fits the modern multi-dentist establishments. Pettitt's for instance, after 133 years, is branded now as Smollett Street Dental.

Currently in Albury Wodonga there are 30 practices and over the years some have closed or merged and new ones started up. Langford and Harper dissolved their 21 year old partnership in 1990 resulting in two practices that remain today as Kreativ Dental (Wilson Street) and Peach Dental (Guinea Street).

Tom Moore	Temple Court (arcade)	615 Dean Street	Closed
Lance Stark	Commonwealth Bank (upstairs)	592 Dean Street	Smollett St Dental
Peter Race	Bogong Chambers (upstairs)	603 Dean Street	Closed
Nev Groves	CBC Building (upstairs)	497 Kiewa Street	Closed
Les Langford	CML Building (upstairs)	499 Dean Street	Kreativ Dental & Peach Dental
Norm Douglas	Edwards Building (upstairs)	498 Dean Street	Moloney Dental
Ted Calnan	Nth Albury (professional suite)	351 Tarakan Ave	Closed
Norm Bier	Wodonga (upstairs)	144 High Street	Closed
Peter Haddow	T&G Building (upstairs)	555 Dean Street	Closed
Herbie Wolmers	Ryan's Hotel Olive St (shop)	501 Dean Street	IM Dental
Michael Priestley	Wodonga (shop)	103 High Street	MP Dental

Many practices have branched out from Priestley's. Michael could be described as the 'grandfather' of Albury Wodonga dental practices. Here is the list of his practice progeny:

Michael Priestley (now MP Dental)

1st generation K&R Dental (Lynne Mansour),
 Central Dental Group Wodonga (Brian Hannath),
 Wodonga Family Dental (Col Seigert),
 Lawrence St Dental (Rod Paton),
 Cameron Dental (Stephen Cameron),

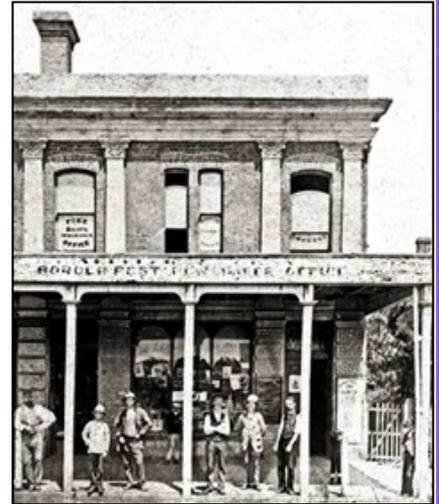
2nd generation Mate Street Dental (John Reynolds) from L Mansour,
 City Gardens Dental (Chad Phillips) from R Paton.

CHARLES PETTITT

In 1888 Charles Pettitt set up first in Olive Street. He lived and practised in Albury for 20 years. Charles would have been 25 when he came to Albury, a reasonable age to have had dental training and experience in London. He was 59 when he died in 1922 so he would have been born in 1863. A notice in the *Albury Banner* of his second marriage to Annie O'Halloran confirms he was the youngest son of Mr A Pettitt of Rock Ferry, Cheshire, England. His brother Arthur, who was in partnership during 1894 and who witnessed Charles's death certificate, perhaps was named after the father. Annie O'Halloran, his second wife, he married in 1891.

Newspaper notices mention his training as London based. In 1897 he went on six months study leave in America leaving Mr Groth in charge of the practice. On his return he called for tenders in 1898 to build a new two storey residence/surgery at 465 Dean Street (see front page photo). He relocated there in June 1899. That location is next to Zambrero in 2021.

It seems he was well established as an Albury citizen, belonging to numerous community organisations. He was involved in the Operatic Society, the Show Society, the Rifle Club, the Racing Club and honorary dentist to Albury District Hospital. His financial interests were in real estate, firstly building a fine two storey residence/surgery in Dean Street in 1899, then buying the block next door in 1906 on the corner of David Street and just prior to leaving Albury he bought the George Day Building at 603-609 Dean Street (photo right).



Articles in the newspapers show he was involved in several court cases. He divorced his first wife of six years, Adeline French, in February 1894. Hunter vs Pettitt was a personal damage case over a bite to Hunter's son by Pettitt's St Bernard dog. And some patients he chased for debt collection.

His practice grew and with the need for bigger premises, he moved in 1893 to Dean Street next to Dr Woods' surgery. Here his brother Arthur joined in partnership during 1894. Pettitt employed representatives (apprentices) too. They travelled to neighbouring towns of Gerogery, Culcairn, Brocklesby, Burrumbuttock, Walla and Henty. These representatives would provide treatments often emergency pain relief, (mostly extractions) and offered the patients the opportunity to visit Albury for continuing work. The list of treatments Pettitt offered was extensive – painless extractions

using a range of the anaesthetic modalities of chloroform, nitrous oxide gas or ether gas and cocaine injection. His dental procedures included bridge and bar work – gold, porcelain and Richmond crowns – gold, amalgam and cement fillings – artificial teeth on gold, vulcanite or platina plates (full and part cases) – scaling and regulating teeth.

One apprentice of Charles Pettitt was a local man, Percy James Nichols, son of shopkeeper Mrs Wallace. Nichols passed the Dental Board exams in 1907 and may have left Pettitt's employ

FULL
SET OF TEETH
Upper or Lower,
FROM
1 to 20 Guineas.

Mr. C. Pettitt's Patent 18-carat Combination Plate.

FULL
SET OF TEETH
Upper or Lower,
FROM
1 to 20 Guineas.

MR. CHAS. PETTITT,
Surgeon Dentist, Dean-street, Albury,

Begs to inform his patients and the public generally that he will SEND HIS REPRESENTATIVE regularly once a month to the following districts, and the public may rely that all orders for Artificial Teeth entrusted to him will be executed solely by Mr. PETTITT, at his premises, Dean-street, Albury, which will be a sufficient guarantee that the work will be as of old, thoroughly up to date, and at MODERATE CHARGES.

FIRST VISIT.					
GEROGERY— Harper's Hotel, October 3.	CULCAIRN— Schultz's Hotel, October 3 and 6.	BROCKLESBY— Smithburnet's Hotel, October 4.	BURRUMBUTTOCK— M'Comack's Hotel, October 4 & 5.	WALLA— Winkelman's Hotel, October 5 and 6.	HENTY— Spence's Hotel, October 7 and 8.

Albury Banner, September 30, 1898

before then as his address at registration was given as Blayney, NSW. After some eleven years working there, he returned to Albury in 1919 to set up a practice at 486 Swift Street, the premises of John Birnie Funeral Service.

There have been other local people who have become dentists.

- 1900-1950 Wood Bros, Alfred, Walter and John, sons of James Holbrook Wood, surveyor
- 1900-1911 Fred J Gordon, son of one of brothers Gordon and Gordon, a firm of architects
- 1900-1907 Alban Maloney, son of a Dean Street shop proprietor
- 1900-1905 Percy J Nichols, son of shop keeper, Mrs Wallace
- 1930-War-1954 Tainton Edwards, son of George Edwards dentist
- 1957-1958 Bill Lees, son of William Lees, manager Younghusbands
- 1975 Phillip Roxburgh, son of John and Mary Roxburgh. Practiced in SA
- 1973-2017 Rod Paton, son of Tallangatta/Mitta Paton family
- 1983-1991 Maureen Lewis, daughter of Gooramadda Salmon family
- 1978-current John Reynolds, son of North Albury resident

- 1973-1974 Ross Jarvis, son of an Upper Murray family
- 1989-current Nick Magelakis, son of Albury family
- 2016-current Sarah Cameron, daughter of Wodonga dentist Stephen Cameron
- 2016-current Shaun Day, son of Albury resident
- 2017-current Adib Golsham, son of Albury Doctor
- 2018-current Naseem Golsham, daughter of Albury Doctor

And other family connections:

Les Langford was son-in law of Dr Edgar Meldrum, dentist of Corowa.

Ted Calnan and Peter Harper are brothers-in-law marrying Ratcliffe sisters of Albury, June and Catherine.

Phillip Roxburgh is cousin-in-law of Peter Haddow.

Pettitt advertised his denture treatments from 1-20 Guineas. Such a price range might seem odd when 20 Guineas represented about four times the average weekly wage. The price range did cover a single tooth part denture to a full arch set. Also, artificial teeth can be constructed by various methods using different materials that have different properties of appearance, taste and maintenance.



Vulcanite

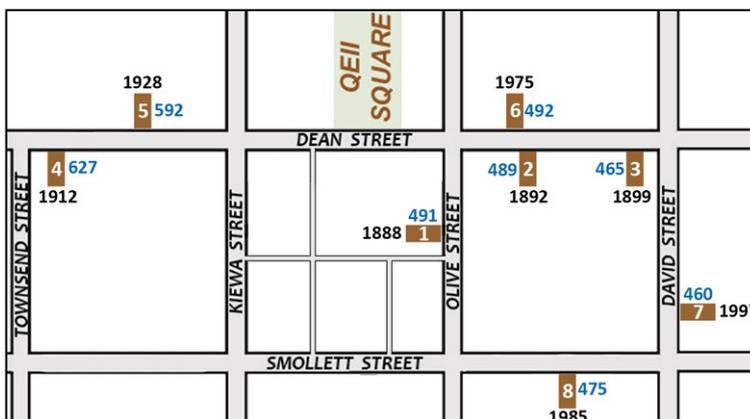
Gold

Pettitt advertised boldly in the newspapers in the early 1900s as two rival practices began down the street. Situated next to each other, were the dentists George Edwards and the Wood brothers. Edwards had a fine residence/surgery building whilst the Wood Bros was a shop style premises.

Pettitt left a remarkable dental legacy, a practice he began in 1888 and through a succession of dentists and relocations, continues today as Smollett Street Dental with Eric Mokgweetsi as principal dentist. There have been eight locations, mostly along Dean Street, and during the 133 years the practice has been guided by eleven dentists.

Each of the other dentists in the practice has a story:

- ◆ W Clark Chambers (RDS) came with the CV stating that he worked at the Sydney Dental School but his tenure of the practice was only three years.
- ◆ Harold Noble (BDS Syd), one of the early Sydney University graduates, came from a well-known Sydney family. His brother Montague captained the Australian Cricket Team in 1907/08. He relocates buying out John Starkey. John Starkey and E A Mactaggart (whom Starkey succeeds in 1908) were members of the original Sydney Graduation Class of 1906.
- ◆ John Ellis Richards (BDS Melb) owns the practice for only four years and joins the Navy on returning to Melbourne.
- ◆ Francis Herbert Jackson (BDS Melb) also known as 'Peter Jackson' is another Melbourne graduate. As honorary dentist to the Albury Base Hospital he completed the dental forensics on Linda Agostini, the Pyjama Girl murder case. His forensic report failed to prove the identity.
- ◆ Lance Stark (LDS Syd), one of the last Dental Board examinees, settles the practice location for a duration of 30 years. He has the synonym of Len Stern in the book 'Precious Bodily Fluids.'
- ◆ Edward Grosse (BDS Syd) from a family of dentists in Sydney is principal who relocates the



1888	Charles Pettitt	1	Olive St – opposite private hosp
1894	Relocates	2	Dean St – next to Dr Woods
1899	Relocates	3	465 Dean St
1908	W Clarke Chambers	4	465 Dean St, surgery/residence
1911	H E Noble	4	465 Dean St
1912	Relocates (J Starkey)	4	625 Dean St – Beehive Building
1916	Buys JF Gordon	4	625 Dean St – Beehive Building
1921	John Ellis Richards	4	625 Dean St – Beehive Building
1925	F H Jackson	4	625 Dean St – Beehive Building
1929	Relocates	5	592 Dean St – C'wealth Bank
1941	Lance Stark	5	592 Dean St – C'wealth Bank
1970	Ted Grosse	5	592 Dean St – C'wealth Bank
1972	Relocates	6	492 Dean St 1974 – Just Jeans
1975	Relocates	7	464 David St, surgery/residence
1983	Peter Lewis	7	464 David St
1985	Relocates	8	471 Smollett St
1991	David Manton	8	471 Smollett St
2004	Michael Wilkinson	8	471 Smollett St
2014	Eric Mokgweetsi	8	471 Smollett St

practice twice during his 13 year tenure and on retirement sells to Peter Lewis.

- ◆ Peter Lewis (BDS Syd) refurbishes a residence around the corner in Smollett Street and moves but after eight years returns to Sydney to complete his Masters in Orthodontics.
- ◆ David Manton (BDSc Melb) also has an eight year tenure after which he moves back to Melbourne to the Dental School as Associate Professor in Pedodontics and now at the University of Groningen, Netherlands.
- ◆ Michael Wilkinson (BDS Adel) was practicing in Thurgoona Street merges the two practices and relocates to Smollett Street.
- ◆ Eric Mokgweetsi (BDS Hons Ireland) is the current principal. His wife Uno Mokocha works part time and Chris Evans, prosthodontist, visits regularly.

Tracking the Pettitt practice through advertisement notices and the NSW Dental Register was a rewarding task. My research produced one other remarkable story of a practice that had just two principals, John Taverney and Peter Haddow. Taverney first started with Lillyman's Pharmacy in 1904, moved into Pettitt's Building and then to his newly built Bogong Chambers in 1927. Peter Haddow took over in 1950 but then relocated to the T&G building on the death of Curtis Cohen in 1955. Peter closed the practice on his retirement in 1996 – a remarkable 90 year span.



Current Location—471 Smollett Street

This presentation is only one part of the story of the Albury dentists. A database of nearly 300 dentists' names and some 70 practices has been compiled through which the detail of each dentist has been linked to a practice. It is a work-in-progress.

THE WARTON FAMILY AT BLACK RANGE (1850s-1870s)

Sandra Endresz

Gold mining, cattle farming and a calamitous cattle rustling case

The story of the Warton family in Albury began with Joseph Thomas Warton and his wife Harriet Elizabeth Campbell, both first generation native-born Australians—a generation known colloquially as currency lads and lasses. They married in Campbelltown in 1838 and had twelve children during their forty-one years of marriage. For a while, Joseph operated *The Currency Lad* inn at Mullengandra, but the family had moved to Albury by 1852, possibly lured by the discovery of gold at Black Range (now Lavington) in 1851.

In an article published by the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* in 1917, local historian Harry Turnbull wrote that the “Wartons and the Wealands families did a good deal to develop the mines at the range, but others came afterwards, who probably reaped the benefit of the old pioneers' work.” In another article in 1923, he recalled spending a weekend at Black Range with the Warton family (perhaps in the 1860s or 1870s), noting that: “Mr Warton kept a dairy and brought milk into town. The ‘Range’ then was quite out in the bush, although it was only five miles from Albury.” He remembered eating fresh damper and drinking billy tea, remarking that the fireplace at the Warton's house was so large it “was like a room with a chimney in the roof,” yet “on a cold winter's night when the fire burned bright, it was very homely and comfortable.” But things weren't always so idyllic for the Warton family.



Thomas Warton on discharge from Darlinghurst Gaol, 1873

In July 1870, Joseph and Harriet's daughter Matilda married Arthur Norris and the following month her brother Thomas married Mary Pembroke, but disaster was right around the corner. Just one week after Thomas' wedding, Joseph Warton asked his newly wed son and son-in-law Arthur Norris to kill one of the heifers kept in the Albury common, but the heifer they killed belonged to John Schubach and his brother Henry. A short while later, on August 16, the police arrested and charged Joseph and Thomas Warton and Arthur Norris with cattle stealing. But was it a deliberate attempt to steal a heifer or a mistake?

At the time, the Albury common had about a hundred head of cattle depastured, belonging to twenty or so farmers, including those of the Wartons (who had sixteen head plus calves) and Schubachs (who had nine head). During the trial in October 1870, John and Henry Schubach, and the town herdsman William Williams, all testified that they had regularly seen Schubach's cows

grazing with Warton's, but despite some similarities with one of Joseph Warton's cows, they claimed that Schubach's cow could not have been mistaken for it. Henry Schubach also said that he visited the Warton's after he received a message from Joseph telling him that "he had killed a beast and he thought it was one of ours," and had offered to replace it. Henry expressed a willingness to resolve things amicably, replying that "if there was any mistake, I wouldn't mind settling the matter in that way." But after examining the hide and informally questioning Joseph and Thomas Warton, Arthur Norris and others, Albury police Constable Casson arrested and charged all three men.

On October 13, 1870, the jury returned guilty verdicts for Joseph and Thomas, and a verdict of not guilty for Arthur Norris. Joseph and Thomas, who also received a very bad character statement from the police, were sentenced to five years in jail with hard labour. You can read about the trial in the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* at: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article196415694>.

However, there is evidence suggesting that the Albury community rallied in support of Joseph and Thomas after the trial. In February 1871, Rev David Jones, Rector of St Matthew's Church of England in Albury, wrote to the chaplain of Berrima Gaol, Rev James Hassall, on behalf of the wives of the two men. He outlined the facts of the case and seemed unconvinced of the Wartons' guilt, writing that "there had been no attempt at concealment, the hide having been pegged out to dry on the floor of a shed where the Police found it." He also wrote that a petition was to be presented to the Governor of New South Wales signed by "most of the inhabitants of the district." I have not been able to find this petition and do not know if the outcome was successful, but both men had their sentences reduced to three years and were released on October 11, 1873—which undoubtedly came as a great relief to Harriet and the family.

By 1880, most of the Wartons seem to have left Albury for towns such as Orange, Young, Forbes and Grenfell, continuing to work in gold mining and other pursuits. Arthur Norris also moved to Grenfell where he worked in mining with his Warton brothers-in-law.

FIFTY YEARS AGO, JULY 1971

Richard Lee

This month I will talk on the period from the 1st to the 12th of July. Well, this is the first '50 years ago' segment that I should have some knowledge about, as I arrived in Albury in August 1970.

An editorial was headed "Seat belts at last, Seat belts to become compulsory August 1." The editor thought that the car with the most convenient and efficient seat belt will steal the march on the competition. Nationally the leading news was about the Vietnam War and the controversial Springbok's rugby tour.

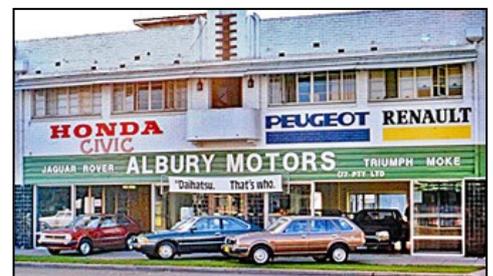
Lloyds Butcher's, Olive Street, had pork mince for 20¢/pound (450 grams), saveloy's 30¢/pound and lard 20¢/pound. In the ladies' columns 'Virginia' was the *Border Mail's* 'lady about town,' giving the low down on places to shop. Summerfields and Star C&C Stores, were very busy, Helen's Wig shop Olive Street, Paul Wallace's Pharmacy Dean St, the Card Shop and Albury Pet Shop David St all got a mention. Shell Super petrol was selling for 41.6¢/gallon (or 11¢/litre), standard petrol at 36.6¢/gallon (or 10¢/litre) and a copy of *The Border Morning Mail* cost 7 cents. The number one selling record was *Eagle Rock* by Daddy Cool available at Mid States Radio for \$1.10. Albury and District Co-operative Building Society was now in a position to finance 35-40 houses.

For the car buffs, the adverts for car sales included Arnold Motors, Baker Motors, Convoir Motors, Preston Motors, Stradford Motors, Frank Ross Motors, Albury Cars, Ray's Prestige Cars, Ray Kernaghan Car Sales, Blacklocks, Discount Car Sales, Crown Car Sales, Bill Stroud Used Vehicles and Rupe Smith Car Sales. Wodonga had Hartwig McLean & Co.

An Albury Rotarian became the 'New Governor.' Mr Bill Purtell (architect) took over as District Governor of a District that covered most of Victoria and Melbourne. The handover ceremony has held at Benalla. He had spent time in the US at the Rotary International headquarters. Another item was Mr Barry Wills, Albury West Rotary president, and Hospital Service Station owner welcomed Angelita (Angie) Banjaro from the Philippines as an exchange student. Also, Albury Rotary Club had elected Mr John Baker as president, he ran Albury Motors and owned Air Charter Services.

Headline: "University is needed now. A Symposium to start July 8." At the event Mr Wal Fife Minister for Mines & Construction "predicted the University for the Riverina would be planned for the years following 1976."

Albury Mayor, Alderman Cleaver Bunton, was overseas on a trade mission to Europe and was visiting Albury's sister city, Merced, California. A surprise for Bunton was a 2am radio call from Albury. Alderman Bunton was



Baker Motors had purchased Albury Motors and moved them to their Olive St site

awakened from a deep sleep in America to speak to his home city. Ham radio enthusiast Don Haberecht organised the call between Mr Bunton, Town Clerk Mr Carter, and the *Border Morning Mail*. The call lasted an hour. Bunton, through the 'ham' radio of Merced councillor, Fred Silvira in the home of Dr Kells, spoke about having afternoon tea with Margaret Court and her husband at Wimbledon. The overall message was the trade mission was very successful.

Upon Cleaver's return he had a number of ideas for the future. America had many large shopping malls like our own undersized 'Village Shopping Centre.' He insisted that tourism was the way of the future for Albury.

Tennis: Albury's Margaret Court was beaten by Evonne Goolagong at Wimbledon 4-6, 1-6 and Ken Rosewell, aged 36, was still playing in a seemingly never-ending career. John Newcombe won the men's final. Later the world tennis organisers, decided to boycott Newcombe's employers 'The World Tennis Professional Group.'

The census had just been completed and papers were starting to be picked up, but the collectors were noticing a number of errors and omissions that had been found on the census papers.

The sheep industry was in decline with the wool clip the lowest since the 1949-50 season. Albury had just sold 50 sheep for 50¢ a head. Not to despair, the Albury Sheep Show had just commenced. The *Border Morning Mail* had a special 14-page feature on all matters regarding the Sheep Show – hardly a page without a sheep or a pretty lady wearing some fashionable sheep product.

Footy and Stan Sergeant kicked 8 goals for North Albury to take his career tally to 807 goals.

Lastly just a reminder of days gone by, the 'Albury Dogs Form Guide' was in the paper, the track located at the present site of the Harvey Norman Complex in Borella Road.

ALBURY PIONEER CEMETERY WALK, APRIL 2021

Continuing our series of articles to publish the presentations at 'Distinguished, ordinary and forgotten women' on April 18, 2021 at Albury's Pioneer Cemetery.

IVY HELENA KOSCHITZKE (née TOMKINS)

Graeme Schulz

Ivy Helena Tomkins was born the third child of Jessie and James Tomkins on the October 15, 1892 at Campbelltown NSW.

James Henry Hunter Tomkins was born on April 14, 1866 in County Dublin, Ireland. He had been a carpenter and joiner, a dairy farmer at Albion Park and a storekeeper at Lakes Entrance. Jessie Frances (Janet) Muirhead was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on December 18, 1866. James and Jessie had ten children. James died on June 14, 1932, Jessie on November 27, 1959.

Ivy's name appears in the *Daily Telegraph* obtaining Honours in dressmaking from Illawarra District Technical in January 1907. She is mentioned as a prize winner at the Dapto Show in 1915 and 1921, winning cooking prizes, from sun-dried fruits to gingerbread, jam tarts and others. She also won prizes in the flower show with flowers ranging from ice plants to ranunculi.



After a period of training, Ivy qualified in midwifery at the Royal Hospital for Women in 1928 as a Registered Nurse and worked as a midwife at Canley Vale.

Even though the inland was well populated, transport was still by horse, many roads in a very poor condition. Medical assistance became difficult to obtain if illness or an accident occurred. Bush nurses were required to attend to the small and emergency ills of an area and to visit convalescing patients at home.

In 1928 Ivy Tomkins arrived at Brocklesby on a Saturday. Mrs Welsh, her hostess, insisted that she attend a local football match to meet the locals. Ivy was not very interested in football, but she immediately proved her worth as she attended an injured player.

The Bush Nursing Association in Brocklesby was funded by a half-yearly subscription of 10/6d. After the arrival of Sister Tomkins, within six months they had a membership of 101, which they believed was a record for the State.

To raise additional funds for the Brocklesby Bush Nursing Association, a bazaar and 'Ugly Man' competition was held. The event was opened by the president of Hume Shire, Mr F Howard, who commented that "he had heard on all sides of the good work that was being done by Sister Tomkins and congratulated the association on being able to get such a clever and competent nurse and all through the district her praise was being sung." For the record, the 'Ugly Man' competition raised £91/16/4 and the bazaar raised £116/18/7.

In one year, Sister Tomkins attended 196 patients, made 246 visits, travelled 1,362 miles and attended the

school ten times giving hygiene classes to the local children. There were three obstetric cases, and nine patients were taken to Corowa Hospital. Those stitching skills learned earlier became useful for suturing. During her time at Brocklesby, Ivy delivered her future niece and nephew.

Early in 1931, after 2½ years, Sister Tomkins left Brocklesby, about 125 attending her farewell. Ivy was presented with a crocodile skin handbag containing a roll of notes. A suede writing case was also presented on behalf of the golf association.

Sister Tomkins took up duties at Uralla and the local newspaper in July 1931 reported that during current year, Sister Tomkins had attended nine hospital patients, with 67 visits, 66 consultations, travelled 387 miles and did 81 days of continuous nursing. Three schools had been visited six times, 170 children had health supervision and lectures on hygiene. There was a similar pattern in 1932.

With the regret of the community, Ivy left Uralla in January 1933 to be married. On June 24, 1933 Ivy married Edward Ernest Koschitzke of Brocklesby at All Saints Church of England Albion Park. Both Ivy and Edward were 40 years old. An Illawarra newspaper described the wedding: “The church was daintily decorated in pink and white, with a huge wedding bell above the altar rails.”

Ivy was given away by her elder brother Harry. The couple left the church to the tune of Mendelssohn’s *Wedding March*. The newspaper went on: “The bride was gowned in an exquisite frock of beige angel skin lace over satin, with picture hat and shoes to tone and carried a sheaf of apricot gladioli and golden roses” and concluded “the wedding gifts where numerous and costly, and included many cheques.”

Ted & Ivy took up residence on the farm at *Allawah* in Brocklesby. After the previous house burnt down, Ted had been living in a tin hut. So a new house was built with besser blocks, the sand for the blocks coming from the Billabong Creek. Ivy went to work establishing a home and extensive garden. They were blessed with one child – a daughter, Dorothy Jessie, on July 7, 1934, born at the Royal Hospital Paddington.

Ivy immersed herself in the local community, winning prizes for cooking and flowers at the Brocklesby Flower Show and Fair, involving herself in community organisations such as the Brocklesby Red Cross, Brocklesby-Moorwatha Presbyterian Ladies Guild, Brocklesby Womenfolk and Comforts Fund and during World War II, she provided first-aid training as part of the war effort.

Due to Ted’s ill health, they moved from *Allawah* to live in Dight Street Albury. Ted died on October 8, 1955 aged 64, Ivy on July 4, 1970 at the age of 78.



BRUCE’S SNIPPETS

TROVE now makes it possible to quickly track Dudley Gordon's sketches of ‘Border Personalities’ in September-October 1949.

Gordon drew 25 character sketches of the town's movers and shakers. This involved him in drawing a selection of key politicians, local government and business leaders. Here were the decision-makers who made the town tick.

Only one woman was included in the portfolio as having made a significant contribution to town life, Mrs A Waugh, who had been Mayoress for 19 years ending in 1941.

Mrs Waugh was praised for her efforts in philanthropic work for worthy causes. She was pictured writing an entry for a raffle at a fund-raising street stall to support hospital or ambulance services [her sketch at right].

Women were admired for the supportive role they played in making Albury a caring place. It was, nevertheless, men who shaped the town's fortunes and future – they were the ‘Border Personalities.’



NSW STATE ARCHIVES has completed a series of webinars which explain the records it holds for a number of towns, including, for example Wagga Wagga. The recorded sessions highlight the people and buildings of a town and tell how school records reflect the changing social geography of a town and how probate records reveal some things about a district’s economic life. They can be viewed by following the link:

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/magazine/your-town>

The Society has asked that Albury might be included in any future webinars – we have received an encouraging response.

HOWARD'S JOTTINGS

THREE FUTURE PRIME MINISTERS stood on the Albury station platform on Sunday night, October 20 1929, days after the Labor Party defeated the Bruce-Page Government. A train from Melbourne brought 27 members of Parliament to Albury, where they had to change to catch a train to Canberra. A jubilant crowd of Labor supporters greeted them. The Labor Leader, James Scullin, mounted a luggage trolley with local Labor member Parker Moloney, to "say a few words". John Curtin and Frank Forde, who were to become prime ministers in war time, also made speeches. Scullin was sworn in as PM two days later (just before the Wall Street Crash) but lost office in late 1931.



James Scullin John Curtin Frank Forde Ben Chifley

Ben Chifley wasn't on the Victorian train as he lived in Bathurst. When he was Treasurer in 1943, he once changed trains in Albury but couldn't find a porter. Being an old railwayman, he grabbed a hand truck, placed his and his secretary's bags on it and trundled it along the platform. Little wonder he was known as a humble man.

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ALBURY'S FIRST TRAFFIC LIGHTS were switched-on on March 13 1967, followed by a lunch at the New Albury Hotel for 50 men (no women!) headed by State Transport Minister Milton Morris, Mayor Cleaver Bunton and Gordon Mackie MP. The Transport Commission presented each of the three with a souvenir, a paperweight with a metal arm showing the colours red, amber and green and a plate bearing their name.



PERCY GRAINGER was just 21 years old when he first appeared in concert at the Albury Mechanics Institute in 1903 merely as an "assistant pianist" to the great Australian contralto, Ada Crossley. They revisited Albury together in 1908, by which time Grainger had become internationally famous, having toured Britain with Crossley in 1907. He had also become friends with the composers Grieg and Delius. By 1908 Grainger was already admired as the greatest living exponent of Grieg's music. His later fame eclipsed that of Crossley, but arose more from his 50-year career as a conductor and composer, notably in the US, where he died in 1961.

A SAFE TAKEN FROM THE TERMINUS HOTEL in Albury in April 1938 was found a few days later about 5 km away in a creek off the Howlong road. Police somehow found it in several metres of water, its door blown off. However, the only articles of value the thieves found were one pound's worth of two-penny stamps and some small change of similar value. The hotel licence and other private papers belonging to the licensee, John McLennan, were found floating in the water.



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In April 1910, Albury Municipal Council received word from the NSW Minister of Public Works that the NSW government would bear half the cost of a footbridge at the north end of the Albury Railway Station platform, to be built at an estimated total cost of £575. After several holdups relating to availability of materials, the *Albury Banner* announced on February 24, 1911 that “the railway footbridge at the Albury Station has been finished.”

At the time, East Albury was thinly populated, but it was not long before the footbridge became the principal thoroughfare for school children walking to schools in Smollett Street. Bill Kaitler lived in Parkinson Street (now the route of the Hume Freeway) and used the bridge each day in the late 1930s and early 1940s walking to school. He recalls an incident that caused extensive damage to the bridge in 1942. A crane was being transported north for delivery to a site involved in construction of a military facility. At Albury it would not fit under this same footbridge. On March 9, after efforts were made to lift the bridge, an impatient military man ordered the train to proceed anyway – with serious consequences.

Because of secrecy considerations during World War II, the incident was not reported in newspapers. A *Border Morning Mail* article of July 25 made a belated reference to the incident “the bridge was struck by a crane loaded in a Victorian truck on March 9 last. The foundations on the upside of the line were displaced and the superstructure damaged, and as a result the footbridge was placed out of commission.”

In early July, the *BMM* had reported that rail authorities proposed demolishing the damaged structure. The paper reported that “East Albury Progress Association put the matter before Mr A Mair, MLA urging him to do what he could to have the bridge retained” stating that “the bridge is most important, particularly from the point of safety to school children.”

On October 30, the *BMM* reported that “restoration of the damaged portion of the railway foot traffic bridge connecting East Albury with the town is proceeding satisfactorily ... in the process the bridge has been raised by 14 inches [about 36 cm], so as to give rail traffic a greater clearance.”

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gmjryan@bigpond.com

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