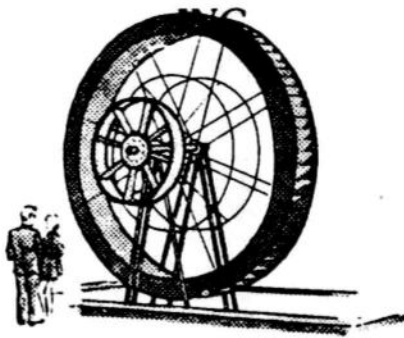


ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN



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Website: www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum
ISSN 0813 6645

NEXT MEETING

8pm **Wednesday August 11**
Commercial Club,
Dean Street, Albury.

GUEST SPEAKER - Mr Don Tynan.
will talk about "Radio Ettamogah".

SUBSCRIPTIONS

now due!

A membership form was
attached to Bulletin 437.

BULLETIN 438
AUGUST 2004



FUTURE EVENTS

1 Albury Regional Museum Exhibitions:

6 August -31 October.
-Crime Scene, Sci-
entific Investigation
Archives, 1945 - 1960

**PLANNING TO
SPEAK AT A
MEETING?** Please remem-
ber to write it down & give it
to a Committee Member for
the Bulletin Editor.
Photographs (originals or
large copies) are welcome.
Avoid Plagiarism - quote
your sources!

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Commercial radio started in Albury on 17 December 1930. What was the station: where was its studio and where was its transmitter?

REPORT ON THE JULY MEETING



The Society was addressed by **Dr Sam Goddard**, eye specialist, about the "Early History of Ophthalmology in Albury".

The hero of this story is a gentleman named **Eric Nathan Rosen**, who has led a charmed life. & no doubt his family will record it later. At present he and his wife live in Camberwell (he is 98 and she is 95).

After graduation in Sydney in 1931, **Eric Rosen** was well qualified before coming to Albury in 1938. He never went into general practice as did the majority of specialists in those days: they would then come back & do their post graduate training afterwards. **Eric** had seven years of wide hospital training including a period in an obstetric hospital

by the College of Surgeons & the College of Physicians. Finally, before he left for home in Australia (a long trip on the boat in those days) he did some Out Patients work in the Mecca of ophthalmology in those days, the legendary Moorefield Hospital. So he had crammed a lot of experience in those two years.

Most of you would have probably met **Eric** in those days. He is a very modest man & he may not like what is being said here tonight. But the fact is he was adventurous by initiating the first ophthalmology practice in our city (one of the earliest specialist practices in provincial NSW & even more so in



Melpomene,
Muse of Tragedy:
A Current A&DHS
Restoration Project.

OPHTHALMOLOGY IN ALBURY

al where he ob-
obstetrics. In 1936
he went for a "sea change" to London, spending two years at the Western Ophthalmic Hospital, finishing with his diploma of ophthalmology. That diploma was the "DOMS", which meant that it was approved

based entrenched specialists was daunting, to say the least. They had enormous power (**Ruth Barry** is here tonight to affirm this)! With amazing foresight **Eric** opened up branches practising in Wagga & Wangaratta, & even Rutherglen. This did however restrict his activity into the

OPHTHALMOLOGY IN ALBURY

field of major eye surgery. His time was fully taken up with minor surgery and medical diagnosis of ophthalmology, as well as running around the countryside visiting his surgeries. In those days prescription for spectacles was a major source of bread and butter for ophthalmologists & this naturally made him a formidable competitor with the optometrists - specialists in optics and eye testing who required state registration to do so.

The next doctor to mention here should have been put first, I suppose; it is **Dr Sam Woods**. You may recall he lived in "Valetta" (house) in the early days. **John Henwood** and a lot of other people were very much concerned with trying to keep that place going. As far as I know all that is left of "Valetta" are fragments in the Jindera Museum. I don't know whether they are still there or not, but there were bits & pieces there & certainly a few photos on the wall. Shortly before he died **Sam** said, "come over & have a look at these odd bits and pieces I have got here in my surgery".

His surgery was at the front of "Valetta", alongside what is called "Woods Lane" now (I don't know what it was called then). I just remember going in a side door, & **Sam** said "have a seat"; so I sat down and he said "have a look at this". He pulled out of the cupboard an old box of lenses.

The story is that **Sam's** father built Valetta in about 1898 & the whole family of ten children lived there, as well as **Dr Sam Woods**. When with his father, they practiced together in that building. **Sam** deserves a story of his own. **Sam** was very interested in eyes. He went to England and did some work but he didn't do the specialist thing & he came back. His father was interested in radiology. **Sam Woods** was a marvellous character who was really the first doctor to actually have a bit of training & knowledge in eye work.

In those days there was **Gibb & Beeman** down the end of Dean St. **Bran & Klooster** in Kiewa St, was in the initial years on his own, then took on **Doreen Rutledge** as a partner. **Doreen Rutledge** was soon working with **Eric Rosen** in Albury & helping him out as a partner and also visiting up to Wagga. **Doreen** ultimately bought that practice, so **Eric's** activities were confined to Albury, Rutherglen & Wangaratta.

an Englishman. He was a year or so ahead of me when I was doing my training. He came over to Australia & negotiated with **Eric Rosen** & bought the Wangaratta practice. So that left the Albury & Rutherglen practice to **Eric**. The time arrived when **Eric** wanted to take his family down to Melbourne because they were growing up & he wanted them to have tertiary education down there. So he put his practice on the market. At the same time I was preparing to leave Adelaide after two years in a four-specialists eye practice - rather on the American style with plenty of space & plenty of assistance people running in and out of rooms; this was at North Terrace Bank of New South Wales, on the 4th floor. In the end I couldn't afford to buy into that practice. With my recently arrived son, **David**, we soon had to take roots. I was fortunate to buy the Albury practice at an affordable deal, & this deal took place on a Friday night at Jeffries

busy city specialist practice. equally busy Camberwell specialist practice. He created a new vogue for specialists to move to the suburbs. The old established boys in Collins street didn't like this one bit, but **Eric** stirred it up & he got it moving.

I also had a happy and rewarding time here, but needing a like-minded partner, I was led to approach **Geoffrey Howsam** in his Collins St rooms in 1966. I shared a meal with him and **Bette** at their home in Eltham. I appreciated their very discriminating knowledge of the arts of cuisine and wine. As it is Bastille day today I am quite sure that at the **Howsam's** tonight they would have had a French casserole followed by a glass of nice red chateau something or other. (**Geoffrey Howsam** sent his apology, regards & best wishes, because **Bette** hasn't been too good of health & she can't come out on cold nights, & **Geoff** must stay with **Bette**. **Geoff** has helped me a lot with this story.

So **Geoffrey** opened up a new era for us in Albury as he had the latest know how from the Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital where his brother **Ken** was the Medical Superintendent. This gave us a lot of new ideas & thoughts, & furthermore contacts in Melbourne. The local community soon liked **Geoff** & appreciated his specialist and outside skills - particularly as a wine grower. His most famous branch is what he called the Chateau La Trine. He also had great knowledge of events relevant to the country scene. We became good friends. We still meet every Thursday for lunch with **Sydney Young**, our retired optometrical colleague, with whom we always worked in harmony once he came down from Narrandera.

My family of three boys were growing up at this stage & were booked for education in Melbourne. So we were advised by our economic expert to buy a suitable residence in Albury. To employ my wife **Marion** on the staff meant dissolving our partnership, as two wives in the one practice in medicine has never worked out. Fortunately the two practices worked well in co-operation. But late one afternoon **Geoffrey** called over to see how I would feel if he took on board a partner. After a minute's consideration I concurred

Doctors associated with EYE WORK IN ALBURY,



by **Dr G Howsam & Dr S Goddard**.

- 1938-62 **Sam Woods** (general practice)
- 1938 **Eric Rosen** (Albury, Rutherglen, Wagga & Wangaratta)
- 1940 **Doreen Rutledge** (Albury and Wagga)
- 1956 **Brian Harley** (Wangaratta only)
- 1957 **Sam Goddard** (Albury only)
- 1959 **Bruce Brown** (Wagga only)
- 1967 **Geoffrey Howsam** (Albury only)
- 1981 **James La Nauze** (Albury only)
- 1991 **Stephen Heery** (Albury only)
- 1998 **Shishir Lal** (Albury only)
- 1999 **Christopher Buckley** (Albury only)
- 1999 **Nicholas Karunaratne** (Albury only)
- 2000 **Paul Giles** (Albury only)
- 2002 **Robin Meusemann** (Albury only)

fish and chip shop in Olive Street.

My wife **Marion** - she was a hard Scot to her dying day - she liked the rolling hills, the fresh air, & the mountains. She said we could like it here, so that was good. This was the end of 1956, so **Eric Rosen** had 19 years of his life here and then opened an equally

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A. Then there was **Brian Harley**,

with him. It would be a good idea not only for us but for Albury.

So it was not long before we saw a new face - **James La Nauze**, who had done five years at the Eye & Ear Hospital & was full of fresh ideas. Also, he was used to dealing with the bureaucracy as his father had been a professor of history in Canberra. **James** really got moving. By the time **James** graduated this is what had happened. In 1975 the National Health Service was functioning and for the first time the **optometrists** were admitted into the scheme. All new specialists now had to have an Australian degree - no overseas degrees. Consequently this new breed were no longer interested in eye testing at all. They didn't want anything to do with it. They were interested in doing the best things they were trained for; advanced surgery with a microscope, treatment of diabetes with laser, & the most advanced investigation possible requiring highly expensive (fully tax deductible) equipment.

James did an enormous amount for the hospital situation; in the 20 years he was in Albury the standards, the introduction of registrars from Sydney & Melbourne, the attraction of whole teams of surgeons & physicians, anaesthetists, radiologists, & the enthusiasm generated to all the other practitioners. He was missed by all of us, but he left behind a new team equally competent within their speciality: **Dr Heery, Dr Giles, Dr Karunaratne, & Dr Luckie**.

This is how things work today: The primary eye care goes to the optometrists or the GP. In accordance with tradition my mother took me first to an optometrist when I was sort sighted at school. I got a pair of spectacles & I was so delighted. Now if it's an injury, if it is a runny eye or a red eye or something like that, then they go to the GP & it is only then that you can get to see the specialist. Either of these gentlemen now can refer you to a specialist. The GP will write out a referral, & you then can see the specialist, optometrist, or the GP equally so.

Now I would say that most people still go to an optometrist if they think glasses are needed. They are well screened now because their diagnostic skills have improved tremendously. They have to be, so we have no trouble with optometrists any more. It was always a bit of an open fight in the early days, but now we are at peace

with them, thank goodness. These **optometrists** sometimes are called **ophthalmic opticians** or **dispensing opticians**.

In the old days you only ever heard the word "opticians". Now it is all "optometrists". I think it really started from Sydney where they were in the habit of following the Americans, & over in America they have always been called optometrists. Now if they are referred to the eye specialists, he is then in the position to organise the surgery, & some of them are specialists in particular areas. We have a **retinal surgeon** here now, **Dr Luckie**. The others are general surgeons & they tend to specialise in little areas. They are also known as **ophthalmologists** - it's from a Greek word "**ophthalmos**" which means, "eye".

So those are the alternative expressions or words for this eye specialist. From that the eye specialist may have occasion to frequently send people to the radiologist, general surgeon, neuro-surgeon, plastic pathologists, diabetics experts, & genetic experts. The ones you can't see, at the bottom, are what I call auxiliary specialists. We had these **orthoptists** around for a long time. Their initial training was about 12 months. They had to work in hospital & so on, but they taught to muscle exercises. Basically we used them a lot for children with squints that needed exercises or needed covering of an eye & so on, & that type of thing that was a specialised field.

I certainly had an orthoptist come up from Melbourne in those days. Now there are at least two; I think they are getting a third one of these at the clinic. They now do not one year training, but three years training. All these things are taking longer to get. They are no longer at the Lincoln Institute. They are attached to the university down there, & they are trained in eye testing. They can check pressures; they can do a lot of the routine stuff before they get to see the specialist. So they are an important part of the team medically anyway. They put drops in, they use the microscopes; they do a lot of the stuff that the doctors had to do

on their own in the past.

This is all screened before they get to see the doctor. Now I bet you no one has ever come across that word "**inocularism**", or "**Inocularist**" - it's an American coined word for "artificial eye maker". In the old days they use to have glass eyes and they become plastic ones. They are very important people of course when you come to plastic surgery or removing an eye, & you want something to look attractive or nearly as attractive as the other eye. The surgeons can give them more movement now by anchoring the implant to the muscles of the eye.

So that is the relationship between the eye surgeons and the optometrists, & in fact when I was in Adelaide the harmony between them was very good. That practice I worked in was traditional. They got on well with a lot of the **ocularists** as they were called then. When my first son **David** was born in Adelaide & was baptised, he had as his godfather **Charles Wright**, who was the doyen of optometrists. He got the AO and various other recognitions for his work, &

was a very cultured gentleman. The other godfather was **Max Moore**, who was the second senior eye surgeon in that clinic, so I had a natural relationship to get on with them. When I came to Albury I tried to continue that with the help of **Sydney Young**.

We also mentioned **James La Nauze & Stephen Heery**. **James** was Melbourne trained. The thing that amazes about such young fellows is how relaxed they are. They don't necessarily dress as we used to & they don't necessarily give you the courtesy that we used to give. They know their work thoroughly & they are competent in every way. They are the new generation & they are good.

Stephen Heery is the boss there now and is doing a very good job. The other ones only stayed a while - **Shishir Lal & Christopher Buckley** (who came up from Melbourne). Now **Nicholas Karunaratne** is there. **Paul Giles** is another one of the general surgeons in that group and of course the "super guy", the "Rolls Royce" is the

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retinal surgeon and physician. Dr *Alan Luckie*. We were lucky to get *Alan Luckie* - he is a very capable man in a specialised field.

The considerable progress of ophthalmology in Albury along with the rapid growth that is taking place is amazing. You will see how we have gained prestige by all these contacts. This new sphere of influence, see, we always had that Sydney and Melbourne connection. We have had a heap of these registrars: I have a long list of registrars that have attended the clinics, from Sydney initially, & later from Melbourne. They are really highly qualified, good people.

What you notice though is that the names are changing. These guys are very bright, but they spend more of their time studying, not even thinking of playing sport or watching television. They are real grinders. They work very hard & do well & they are bright. So we are getting more & more people of Asian background, & they are very good indeed. Chinese doctors in Sydney are very popular. I believe they are very thorough & reliable with their work.

I closed up the Rutherglen practice because I couldn't handle that when I first came here. I have stayed in Albury along with a lot of the others. They sort of concentrated on that as we didn't have time for travelling around.

So really, Mr President, this talk has been a tribute to Dr *Eric Rosen*, who I call a hero. He is the most anti-war person you could possibly imagine. He is a professional devoted to his work, & above all to his family: a man of imagination and foresight with considerable mental courage. He was a true specialist in our city & indeed the Riverina & the North East of Victoria; leaving as his legacy to our speciality the now highly reputed eye clinics in Albury and Camberwell. His son *Paul* is a very distinguished eye specialist in Melbourne who works from the clinic that *Eric* originally started. We hope that *Eric* & his wife *Dulcie* live to make a double century!

I thank you all for inviting me here this evening & thanks to my friends and former colleagues, *Geoffrey Howsam*, & *Sydney Young* who advised & helped me with this talk.

-Dr Sam Goddard 14/7/04

THE PRESIDENT'S FIVE MINUTES: Some defining moments in Albury's history are:-

c1859 Albury's hospitals.
1873 the arrival of rail (Wodonga).
1896/1916 electricity, substation was in railway shed. Installed by 1916, electricity taken from Yallourn Vic., substation was on corner of Kiewa & Hovell Sts, Albury.
1903-06 R Horsefield 1st Engineer in Albury. (1911-38 George Reid engineer).
1919 introduction of sewerage.
1924 the building of the monument.
1936 completion of Hume Dam.
c1945 Bonegilla Migrant Camp.
1946 Albury declared a city.
1962 standard gauge railway.
1964 first regular air passenger flights (in a Fokker).
1973 Arrival of Albury Wodonga Development Corporation.

■ Bayley, W.A. "Border City", 1976.

GENERAL NOTICES

- 1 Bulletin 438 was transcribed by June Shanahan.
- 2 Does anyone remember a large clock at Noreuil Park? The present owner of the clock wants to know where it was located & in what time frame. Please phone Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671.
- 3 On 15/4/1917, near the village of Noreuil, the 13th (Albury) Battery became involved in desperate fighting to halt a German counter-attack. The Battery commanded by Major J Ray moved its guns out into the open and fired over open sights at the waves of German infantry which had broken through the front line. They succeeded in halting the German advance long enough for Australian infantry to come up from reserve positions and drive the attackers back to their starting point. -D Hunter

ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH (JULY)

(When were spectacles invented?)

Geoff Hamilton -Eyeglasses or Spectacles. Instrument or device for aiding and correcting defective sight. Eyeglasses usually consists of a pair of lenses mounted in a frame to hold them in position before the eyes. The first device of this kind was probably invented by *Roger Bacon* in the 13th century: Although similar devices are believed to have existed in ancient times in China and in the Mediter-

anean civilizations.

Roger Bacon, 1214-1294- English scholastic. Philosopher, Scientist, Inventor & Teacher.

■ Reference: "The Columbia Encyclopedia".

Doug Hunter -Spectacles were invented around the end of the thirteenth century.

In 1676 a professor of medicine at the University of Pisa, *Fraciscus Redi* wrote to a friend and said he had read a manuscript dated 1299 which mentioned "recently invented glasses"; a sermon given in 1305 which said, "it is not yet 20 years that the art of making glasses was invented"; &, an obituary which said, "Brother *Alexander da Spina*... made glasses and freely taught the art to others".

"Thus while *Alexander da Spina*, a Dominican monk, is generally accepted as the re-inventor of glasses, the original inventor is lost to history. It is in fact doubtful whether there was such as one; it is just as likely that the value of glasses was found empirically towards the end of a 13th century owing to the accidental use of the somewhat plano-convex glass of some forms of window-pane. [*Roger*] *Bacon*, who had the requisite theoretical knowledge, did not apparently get as far as glasses, whilst the claims for *Salvino Armato* of Florence are largely based on the excessive zeal of a Florentine historian, *Domenico Manni*.

■ Reference: www.mrcophth.com/Histroyofophthalmology/spectacles

Dr Sam Goddard -The Franciscan monk *Bacon* who wrote major works on optics, did not foresee the use of lenses for both eyes. With the advent of the printing press, came the need for spectacles. *Galileo* wrote about optics. *Benjamin Franklin* may have invented the bifocal. (Also refer to Google Web-search "Inventor Spectacles").

Max Barry -Q- are monacles was used these days? SG - you can still buy them.

Howard Jones -Contact lenses came into fashion after WWII. Plastic lenses were available in the 1930's & 1940's, & they became widespread in the 1950's & 1960's. Plastic was favoured because plastic fragments in pilots eyes were found to be tolerated.*

NEXT COMMITTEE

MEETING: 5.15pm Tuesday

Aug. 24, 2004, at Albury City Library.

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