

BACKFILLING CONFUSION

REIGNS SUPREME

CONFUSION reigns supreme regarding the controversial subject of backfilling.

In a circular dated August 14 1972 under the title USE OF DECLARED EQUIPMENT ON PROCLAIMED PRECIOUS STONES FIELDS, Mr. G. A. Whitten, Acting Director of Mines, refers to certain sections of the Mining Act, 1971.

In particular, Mr. Whitten refers to section 60 which deals with backfilling — "the restoration of land to a condition that is, in the opinion of the inspector, satisfactory."

It goes on to say that "the opinion of the inspectors is that, wherever possible, all spoil should be returned to the trenched area, and that it should be placed in the trench or in a mound over the trench. The Minister agrees with this opinion."

The section puts the onus of backfilling fairly and squarely on operators and claim-holders that the above stipulations are carried out as a matter of course at the conclusion of work.

Failing to do this could result in the inspector issuing a written order to this effect and the miner will then have to return to the claim and carry out this work.

Failure to do so could result in a fine of \$500 and, in addition, the Warden's Court may order that no further claim shall be pegged out by the person named in the order until he has complied with the direction.

So much for Mr. Whitten's circular.

Now to the other side of the coin.

In her report, dated November 3 1971, Mrs. M. V. Byrne, MP, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation, specifically refers to the Chief Secretary's statement as reported in Hansard dated December 1 1970, that "the Bill will not apply to the opal-mining fields; it will apply only to the metropoli-

tan area and to the quarrying industry.

The proposed subsection is both redundant and selective. Section 4 (a) deals with the amenity of an area, and the area surrounding Coober Pedy could not compare with that of Burnside. Any inspector's order on an opal field will relate only to the normal amenities at such a remote place."

It is not unusual for a government department to issue conflicting statements on the same subject. However, the citizen — in this case the opal miner — is always the meat in the sandwich and often the innocent victim of conflicting bureaucratic decisions.

MINER'S MEETING

In a recent well attended meeting at Coober Pedy, Mr. Stan Kanopka, President of the Coober Pedy Miners' Association quite rightly said that "when you start talking to people about opal mining, they think about coal and

quarry mining" and don't really know what you are talking about."

One can expect this from the uninitiated man in the street, but surely the controlling authority, the Mines Department, should know better.

At the meeting Mr. Kanopka pointed out that there should be uniformity regarding backfilling. The law, he said, should not discriminate. Either all backfill or nobody does.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Mr. Mick Lucas made a strong stand for miners owning heavy equipment. He said Messrs. Stan Kanopka, that it took a lot of guts to purchase bulldozing equipment and he could not see why these miners, who have taken considerable risks in purchasing their equipment should be penalised.

Mr. Lucas quite rightly said that if owners of bulldozers were forced to backfill they'd soon be out of business.

He also suggested this confusing issue of bringing the Minister

for Mines to Coober Pedy to see for himself what would happen to livelihoods and machinery if backfilling were enforced.

As Mr. Kanopka pointed out, a great

INSPECTORS DECLINE

deal of time and effort had been expended on this question and even questions asked in the Home by Mr. Graham Gunn MHR. Mines Inspectors were requested to attend this meeting but had to decline following directives from their superiors in Adelaide.

Mr. Kanopka called for a united stand by miners, pointing out that, as the second biggest mining industry in the State, they had a right to determine their own future.

A show of hands clearly indicated that voting was almost unanimous against backfilling.

DEPUTATION

As a result of this strong decision a deputation consisting of Messrs. Stan Kanopka, Ken Jones, Nick Macris and Jim Greening joined with the Hon Arthur Whyte MLC and called on the Acting Minister for Mines. The Acting Minister promised that some action would be taken in the near future.

Hopefully "the near future" will mean a truly early decision so that miners have clearcut directives on

PUBLISHED WEEKLY TO SERVE THE OPAL INDUSTRY

OPAL MINERS'
15c VOL. 1, NO. 4 Weekly

EDITOR'S DESK

A certain amount of criticism has been levelled at us in recent weeks. None of this criticism was malicious — on the contrary, it has been friendly, helpful and constructive.

Most complaints reaching us concerned the erratic appearance of the Opal Miners' Weekly.

As we have explained in answer to two correspondents in Mailbag, we have experienced some production difficulties which we have now overcome and we will try and bring you Opal Miners' Weekly as a prelude to a pleasant weekend every Saturday morning.

We know from letters received and from talks our staff have with you that you want Opal Miners' Weekly and that you eagerly await its arrival.

With this current issue we have tried to present a new look to your paper and this is only the beginning.

Our job is to give you hard news of the day as it affects you, to satisfy all members of your community and their tastes, no matter what age group, ethnic or religious group you belong to.

Social news in Opal Miners' Weekly must be prominent and the various forms of relaxation, be it reading, travel, fashion or the tiny tots will be highlighted.

This is our obligation.

Now, what about your obligation?

No paper can enjoy a successful existence without the co-operation of those it's aimed at — you, the Reader.

It is up to you to provide our reporters with all the activities in your communities, be it a meeting of the CWA, a Youth Group activity, social get-together or any of the many pastimes contributing to the full and pleasant life of a group of people.

Our staff in Coober Pedy, headed by Kevin Allchurch and ably supported by Christina Nowacki and Marion Dionisio, with Robina Boardman heading the Lightning Ridge team, will bend backwards to assist us in giving you the paper you want.

If you feel you have something to say and want to commit it to paper, you are welcome to do so and mail it direct to us.

We want and need your suggestions and we want as many reporters in the field as we can get.

Filling a paper with interesting news, gossip, pictures and stories does not, however, constitute the entire success of a paper.

A successful newspaper must pay for itself, whether by subscription or, alternatively, through advertising.

With a limited readership as we have with Opal Miners' Weekly, subscription, while important, is not going to pay for publication. So we have to rely on advertising.

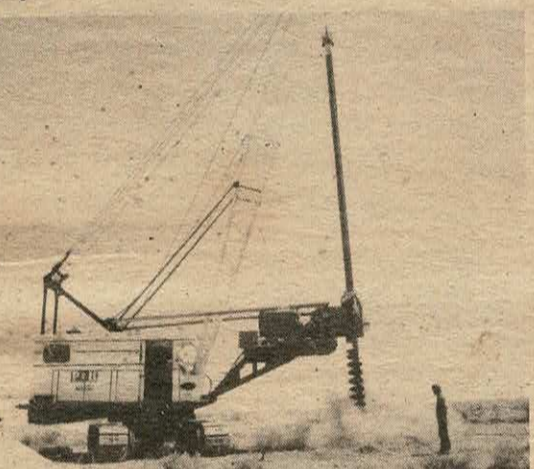
This is another one of your obligations to enable us to give you a better paper.

You must support us with advertising, whether by direct advertising or by soliciting advertising from others who would benefit by it.

It is our sincere belief that if each and every one of us plays his part in fulfilling our obligations we will have a fine newspaper which is unique in Australia.

So let's get stuck into it and do something towards it.

INSIDE
Magazine
Pages
5 - 13



Health Inspector reassures community

Action could be taken through Health Dept.

On Monday 16th October Mr. Wilson, Chief Health Inspector from the Public Health Department, and his wife attended a meeting held in the library of the Coober Pedy Area School.

Mr. Ken Jones as a representative of the Progress Association and School Council, together with Mr. Dudley Brown, representing the Department of Community Welfare, also attended the meeting.

After welcoming the large attendance of Mothers of the Welfare Club and introducing Mr. Wilson, Mr. Craig Cameron briefly outlined the reason for the high and frequently occurring rate of infection from head lice, ringworm, scabies and other infections — and any action which could be taken through the Public Health Department to relieve us from what was now developing into a serious situation.

There seemed to be a general impression, cable diseases and tuberculosis. Mr. Wilson continued, that there were limitations, one of these being that the Health Officer for this area, Mr. Doug Brown, stationed at Oodnadatta, was required to cover four fifths of the area of South Australia.

But, Mr. Cameron said, this is not so. All either of them could do was to advise immediate treatment and insist upon the parents' recognition of their responsibility to their children and to the community as a whole.

Neither Mr. Craig Cameron nor Mr. Dudley Brown had any authority to compel the offenders to correct the situation.

AWARE

Mr. Wilson addressed the mothers saying that he was fully aware of the distress caused by the repetitive outbreaks of infections, but that in a large community such as ours, where there was a constant influx of tourists from all parts of Australia and the world, the infection rate was expected to be high.

He then briefly spoke about the Government Public Health Department and the major functions of that department within the State. The department provided a visiting Health Officer to the schools for the detection of defects in children — dental care of children — control and prevention of communicable diseases.

When he first came here fifteen years ago, Mr. Wilson continued, there were none of these problems, but because of the town's expansion, even a waste water problem had developed. That could not have been foreseen a few years ago.

The Health Act regards health and hygiene as a community and personal matter which would, therefore, come under the authority of the Local

Government Council. As there is no council to deal with this problem, however, Mr. Wilson gave an assurance that he would advise the Government of the great need for a Resident Officer of Health.

This representative would then have authority to supervise food stores, sanitation and advise on treatment of head lice, scabies etc.

CONCERN

Mr. Dudley Brown advised the meeting that, as from the first of July, his title was now that of Community Welfare Officer and his concern was for all people.

Amongst those duties allotted to him were Child Probation, Community Courts and Adult Probation.

As for the former, Mr. Brown said, the youth of this community were, exceptionally good and better than many other areas.

It was also his province to provide relief and assistance to people in need which included deserted wives and neglected children.

But, reiterating Mr. Craig Cameron's previous comment, he had no authority to force action upon people and could only advise.

In the past an appeal had been made to the Health Department for help in regard to recurring outbreaks of infection, but had been referred to Local Government Authority.

Mr. Craig Cameron continued by saying that there was an obvious need for a change to be made in the present situation and suggested that the mothers might like to question Mr. Wilson on how this could be done.

A question was asked whether the Sisters at the hospital had any authority to prescribe action regarding treatment of infection.

Mr. Wilson replied that only a Public Health Officer would have such authority.

The duty of the Sisters is only to treat and advise. A Public Health Nurse would act as an educator and how long it would be an extension could expect a Resident Health Officer and Hospital Sisters, taking up residence,

It would be the duty of a Male Public Health Officer to request, Mr. Wilson stated that, should an officer be appointed, it would not be before October 1973. When questioned by a Public Health Nurse, Mr. Wilson replied that, as a public servant, he could only suggest that all mothers appeal directly to the Government in writing.

APPOINTED

He himself can see that now is the right time for a Health Officer and Public Health Nurse to be appointed to the Department.

To the question of whether a local resident would be acceptable, Mr. Wilson said that, provided the applicant had had nursing experience

and was successful in the undergoing an approximately twelve-week training period, should an officer be appointed, it would qualify as a Public Health Nurse.

In the event of a legal responsibility for source of infection and who should take action to curb the spread of infection, Mr. Wilson stated that only a person appointed under the Health Act could be obtained, Mr. Wilson replied that the authority to do so.

In the case of Coober Pedy, at present, it would be through the Local Government, would be Mr. Doug Brown from Oodnadatta. Mr. Craig Cameron stressed that his authority only extended to closing down the school or the exclusion of children from that, provided the school if, in his opinion, nursing experience

CONT. P. 15

DATES TO REMEMBER

Visit of Doctor: ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE — EVERY TUESDAY and EVERY THIRD MONDAY

Visit of Dentist: THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH — NEXT VISIT 16.11.72

PHONE FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE MEDICAL CENTRE ON MONDAY AT 9.00 a.m.

RATES PER ANNUM FOR THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE ARE \$10.00 FAMILY, \$6.00 SINGLE.

RATES PER ANNUM FOR THE AMBULANCE SERVICE (Family Rates): \$4.00 for 40 miles, \$6.00 for 100 miles, \$8.00 for 200 miles.

SINGLE PERSONS AND PENSIONERS — HALF PRICE STUDENTS EXEMPT

ENQUIRIES TO MEDICAL CENTRE AND TO THE CHEMIST

C.W.A. MEETING SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 8.00 PM

NEXT WELFARE MEETING OF THE COOBER PEDY AREA SCHOOL 21st November 1.30 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING COOBER PEDY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION 2nd November

COOBER PEDY POST OFFICE MAILING TIMES:

INWARD ROAD
11.00 am TUESDAY
11.00 am WEDNESDAY
5.30 pm FRIDAY

INWARD AIR MAIL
1.00 pm MONDAY
1.00 pm WEDNESDAY
1.00 pm FRIDAY

OUTWARD ROAD
ADELAIDE 4.45 pm TUESDAY
ADELAIDE 4.40 pm WEDNESDAY
ADELAIDE 11.00 am SATURDAY

OUTWARD AIR MAIL
ADELAIDE 12 noon MONDAY
ADELAIDE 2.30 pm THURSDAY
ADELAIDE 12 noon FRIDAY

Crime will be more comfortable in Coober Pedy

SOMETIMES the price of progress puts us into a potentially embarrassing position.

To admit or not admit that the price Coober Pedy has to pay for galloping progress is a new police station, the present one having outgrown its usefulness.

But we must face facts and admit that this is true.



Having made this admission, we are now proud to announce that the Public Buildings Department has commissioned WOWIC Industries to erect new Officers' Quarters, cell blocks, garage and store to replace the existing police building.

The increase in the town's population as well as a growing tourist industry, adding considerably to police duties have made existing police buildings inadequate.

PLANS

Mr. D. W. Hanisch, representative for WOWIC Industries, explained the plans already in operation for the Officers' Quarters.

These will be transportable air-conditioned units which will come on site complete even to fitted carpets, requiring only services to be fitted on site.

A block of 13 new cells will be provided for both male and female detainees. They will be equipped with full shower and toilet facilities and will replace the two existing cells.

SYSTEM

A septic tank system for the entire complex will facilitate toilets and drainage.

The on site Supervisor for WOWIC Industries is Mr. Frank Fisher and periodical visits are made by Mr. K. Parry, Inspector for the Public Buildings Department.

Existing police buildings are also undergoing alterations. According to Mr. Parry, it is envisaged that the complex will be completed in time for the coming Holiday Season.

CREDITS

IN the last issue of Opal Miners' Weekly we neglected to give credit where credit is due — our contributors of valuable material.

But, they say, it is never too late to make amends.

The Thought for the Week was again by the Rev. Barry Rainsford, Church of England Minister.

The story of the bell and its tower was provided by Lawrie Collier.

The last Credit for the week goes to the excellent writing team of Pat Watts, BCA Nursing Sister and, again to Barry Rainsford for their graphic description of the Youth Camp at Copper Hills.

Please accept our apologies for neglecting the obvious and our thanks for your contributions. We always look forward to these items which, but for your co-operation, we would not get.

GRAND FIESTA

THE next major function to raise funds for the Coober Pedy Area School Swimming Pool Project will be the School Fiesta, to be held on November 11 1972.

A magnificent program has been planned for the day and there will be something to interest even the most fastidious.

Opening the festivities will be a Grand Parade down the main street of Coober Pedy.

This is timed to move off at 1.30 p.m. and will be followed by parades to select Mini Miss Fiesta and Junior Miss Fiesta. Judging for these will commence at 2 p.m.

The cent vote system will be used to judge the most photogenic baby.

Being a swimming pool project, the accent is, of course, on water.

So, what better way of raising funds than to be able to "duck" selected people by throwing a ball at a target which will trigger off an ingenious device dropping the "personality" on the "hot seat" — or should it be "wet seat" — into a tank of water.

A major theatrical event is timed for 2.45 when the kind and talented ladies of the Country Women's Association will present a Pantomime. It is rumoured that this is their last appearance in Australia before taking it on tour overseas.

The dramatic inter-lude will be followed by a Mini Walkathon, due to start at 3 p.m. and this will be followed by a parade of old-fashioned bathing costumes at 3.30.

A "smashing" afternoon success is expected at 4 p.m. when the Coober Pedy Egg Catching Championship will be held.

A slow pushbike race will be the final event of daytime activities and this will be followed by the presentation of prizes by Mr. Dudley Brown. One of the potentially profitable "Side Events" will be to find out who the champion Noodler of Coober Pedy is.

ENTRANCE

Upon payment of a suitable entrance fee Noodlers will be allowed to enter a specially fenced off Sandstone dump in which valuable opals have been placed.

Noodlers will be able to search for rough cut stones. It will, indeed, be a magnificent sight to behold all those heads down and busy with their old-fashioned bathing costumes.

Other stalls which will be operating all afternoon will include hoopa, bottle knockdown, afternoon tea, darts, sweets, drinks and hot dogs.

Various competitions will also be held.

The Fiesta will draw to a fitting conclusion when an outdoor cabaret will be presented at night.

A special floor show has been arranged and many feats of great skill and daring will be performed.

AUCTION

Later in the night a charity auction will be held and some "valuable items" will be brought under the hammer.

Both these high-lights, the floorshow and the auction are still on the classified list and no further information can be divulged.

For those wishing to remain at the school after the days entertainment until the cabaret commences at 8 p.m. a barbecue tea will be provided from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Apart from the grand entertainment the Fiesta promises to provide, the proceeds will, of course, be used to bolster the funds for the much needed swimming pool for the school.

What better way than coming for a day's wonderful entertainment and at the same time aiding a vital project?



ON SITE CONSTRUCTION TEAM

CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Church Service held 11.30 a.m. each Sunday morning in Dugout Church.

Sunday School 10.00 a.m. at Rectory and Hospital.

Youth Club 14th October, and each alternate Saturday, 7.30 p.m. Senior Group Grade 7 and Over at G. McCormack's Dugout.

Junior Group Grade 2 to Grade 6 at Rectory, 7.30 p.m.

Bible Study 7.30 p.m. Sunday evening at Rectory.

Ladies' Discussion Group 1.45 p.m. enquire at Rectory.

CATHOLIC INLAND MISSION

Sunday, November 5 Coober Pedy 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, November 12 Oodnadatta 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, November 19 Coober Pedy 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, November 26 Coober Pedy 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, December 3 Andamooka 6.00 p.m.

Sunday, December 10 Coober Pedy 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, December 17 Coober Pedy 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, December 24 Coober Pedy 9.30 a.m.

Christmas Day Coober Pedy Midnight and 9.30 a.m.

LUTHERAN

Services at Lutheran Church every Sunday at 10.00 a.m.

Health Inspector ready

On Monday 16th October Mr. Wilson, Chief Health Inspector from the Public Health Department, and his wife attended a meeting held in the library of the Coober Pedy Area School.

Mr. Ken Jones as a representative of the Progress Association and School Council, together with Mr. Dudley Brown, representing the Department of Community Welfare, also attended the meeting.

After welcoming the large attendance of the Welfare Club and introducing Mr. Wilson briefly outlined the reason for the occurring rate of infection from bacteria and other infections — and any through the Public Health Department was now developing into a

There seemed to be a general impression, he continued, both Mr. Dudley Brown and Mr. Jones could not get upon who

liever nursing since been doing this for years.

Without any extra training one is suddenly confronted with a situation which would normally call for a doctor. What else can one do but attend to it the way a doctor would?

A few years ago the health of the newly born and the very young Aboriginal babies was very poor. This was due to the fact that their parents, having no one to help them, neglected their children.

and demonstration of washing down babies, thus stopping them from being dehydrated, to Aboriginal mothers.

ENORMOUS

This is of enormous help to the hospital and its staff.

On the subject of Coober Pedy Ann Dau is quite effusive. She really likes the town, thinks it an unusual place to live in owing to its cosmopolitan engage in is veter-

the town wonders when synthetic opal, which recently became available, will harm the town's industry in any way.

She is convinced, however, that any setback in this regard will only be of a temporary nature.

One of the extra-curricular duties the sisters at the hospital engage in is veter-

The Coober Hospital has an arrangement with the Department of Agriculture in Adelaide for issuing hepatitis and distemper vaccines for dogs and feline enteritis vaccines for cats.

In their time the sisters have done everything from splinting a kangaroo's tail to giving a carpet snake injections for pneumonia.

The sisters admit not having diagnosed the snake's disability, but the owner of the reptile was so concerned with the snake's illness that he contacted the museum who diagnosed pneumonia.

One of the more exciting episodes in Ann's nursing career happened in November 1969 when she was called to an accident. Someone had fallen down a 50 feet bore, it was 9 p.m. and Ann

As a result of this act of bravery Ann was awarded a Certificate of Merit and received it at Government House on the recommendation of the Progress Association.

Being a nature lover, Ann can see natural beauty in the surroundings of Coober Pedy when many people see nothing but dry desert country. She thinks that the Breakaways is a particularly enchanting beauty spot and, pursuing her hobby of writing, she hopes that her stories of Coober Pedy and its surroundings

will be published in papers and magazines. One of Ann's ambitions is to write a book on her life as an out-back nursing sister. She has many beautiful color slides of scenery and Aboriginal and white patients at the hospital which she hopes will illustrate her book in the form of color plates.

Ann's plans for the future are to spend a six months camping holiday around Australia with Shirley and, of course, their two dogs. Their itinerary for this trip is to go north to Onabella, then down to Oodnadatta, Maree, Leigh Creek, Renmark then through the Snowy Mountains to Canberra and Sydney for Christmas.

The second stage of the holiday will be the other half of the Snowy Mountains, along the Victorian coastlines and the Eyre Highway to Perth.

No further plans have been made to continue the journey. They would, however, like to work at Ernabella, an Aboriginal Reserve run by the Presbyterian Church.

They hope the hospital, which caters for 450 Aborigines will have vacancies for them when they apply next year.

Asked about the changes she had seen since she came here, Ann thinks that the greatest innovation was the lighting of the air-strip. Nevertheless they had great fun in the days when the air-strip had to be lit by headlights from the hospital car.

And, of course, the new ambulance, taking the work off the hospital car which was used to carry live patients with intravenous hanging out of the window, as well as through carrying coffins of those who didn't quite make it.

According to Ann a little sceptical about the advent of the ambulance, saying that it would not be used enough.

We are sorry to see Ann Dau leaving our community and hope that she has a well deserved holiday and that all her future plans work out.

We also look forward to her book on her life among us.



Page 4 — OPAL MINERS' WEEKLY

BUSH NURSE—

The story of Ann Dau

ALWAYS interested in Bush Nursing, Ann Dau applied to the Bush Church Aid Society with this in mind and was appointed to Coober Pedy as a Nursing Sister in the hospital in May 1969.

At the time of her appointment no Maternity Section existed and the hospital only had the general section.

Nevertheless, Ann firmly believes that the Coober Pedy Hospital is extremely well equipped and is far superior in standard than any other outback hospital in South Australia.

Ann gives previous staff of the hospital a great deal of credit for its efficiency and well cared for appearance. Although the residents of Coober Pedy have a fine outback hospital, many of the residents fail to realise this, since they readily compare it to a city hospital. This is, of course, is wrong since the basic functions of the two differ widely.

A Nursing Sister in an outback hospital has far greater responsibilities than her city counterpart, since her work ranges from the usual nursing duties to almost being a general practitioner.

According to a newspaper report Ann read recently, the time may be approaching fast when, owing to the shortage of general practitioners, sisters will be trained more along the lines of doctors and thus alleviate the shortage.

While in the outside world this may be an innovation, Ann believes that the outback nursing sister has been doing this for years.

Without any extra training one is suddenly confronted with a situation which would normally call for a doctor. What else can one do but attend to it the way a doctor would?

A few years ago the health of the newly born and the very young Aboriginal babies was very poor. This was due to the fact that their parents, having no one to help them, neglected their children.

While they are marvellous with their children in their own surroundings and environment, Ann believes that, unfortunately, they have been brought to a certain level by the while people and then just left there. No matter what anyone says, these people cannot cope and need assistance.

FORTUNATE

It is indeed fortunate, says Ann, that they have Mrs. Brown on the reserve to help them by keeping the standard up, distributing tablets and medicine to those not as reliable as they should be and, in the summer, demonstrates the art of washing down their babies, thus stopping them from being dehydrated, to Aboriginal mothers.

ENORMOUS

This is of enormous help to the hospital and its staff.

On the subject of Coober Pedy Ann Dau is quite effusive. She really likes the town, thinks it an unusual place to live in owing to its cosmopolitan engage in is veter-

atmosphere and unique character.

The many different nationalities in Coober Pedy make it so very much different from other places, but Ann feels that the great majority of residents are very pleasant people and easy to get on with.

The hospital experiences no trouble with the residents, who are very good with the staff.

Arriving in Coober Pedy three years ago, the population was a mere 800 odd and in that comparatively short time it has grown to approximately 3,000.

FUTURE

Ann finds it hard to predict the future of the town and she often wonders whether the synthetic opal, which recently became available, will harm the town's industry in any way.

She is convinced, however, that any setback in this regard will only be of a temporary nature.

One of the extra-curricular duties the sisters at the hospital engage in is veter-

inary work. This is, of course, not a specified duty but one they like to engage in because of their love for animals.

DISTRESS

Both Ann and Shirley are members of the RSPCA and they will go a long way to help an animal in distress.

The animals, not being allowed in the hospital, have their own "surgery" in the garage.

Ann's love for animals and their care goes to the days when she wanted to become a veterinary surgeon. However, she had to leave school before matriculating and thus could not embark on the six year university course need for veterinary surgeons.

HOSPITAL

The Coober Pedy Hospital has an arrangement with the Department of Agriculture in Adelaide for issuing hepatitis and distemper vaccines for dogs and feline enteritis vaccines for cats.

In their time the sisters have done everything from splinting a kangaroo's tail to giving a carpet snake injections for pneumonia.

The sisters admit not having diagnosed the snake's disability, but the owner of the reptile was so concerned with the snake's illness that he contacted the museum who diagnosed pneumonia.

One of the more exciting episodes in Ann's nursing career happened in November 1969 when she was called to an accident. Someone had fallen down a 50 feet bore, it was 9 p.m. and Ann and its surroundings

As a result of this act of bravery Ann was awarded a Certificate of Merit and received it at Government House on the recommendation of the Progress Association.

Being a nature lover, Ann can see natural beauty in the surroundings of Coober Pedy when many people see nothing but dry desert country.

She thinks that the Breakaways is a particularly enchanting beauty spot and, pursuing her hobby of writing, she hopes that her stories of Coober Pedy and its surroundings



hadn't been in Coober Pedy very long and certainly never down a shaft.

No winch was available, there was no light, so a temporary windlass was put over the hole and two men stood on it while Ann, equipped with a torch and some medical aids disappeared down the shaft.

At the time, Ann says, she was not frightened. Her only thoughts were for the person below, so she had no time to think about herself. After the ordeal however, thinking back, she says: "Good Heavens Above, how ever did I do it?"

BRAVERY

will be published in papers and magazines. One of Ann's ambitions is to write a book on her life as an outback nursing sister. She has many beautiful color slides of scenery and Aboriginal and white patients at the hospital which she hopes will illustrate her book in the form of color plates.

Ann's plans for the future are to spend a six months camping holiday around Australia with Shirley and, of course, their two new dogs. Their itinerary for this trip is to go north to Onabella, then down to Oodnadatta, Maree, Leigh Creek, Renmark then through the Snowy Mountains to Canberra and Sydney for Christmas.

According to Ann a lot of people were a little sceptical about the advent of the Snowy Mountains ambulance, saying that it would not be used enough. Time has proved them wrong however, as the ambulance has been used 14 times in two weeks, making it an average of once a day.

We are sorry to see Ann Dau leaving our community and hope that she has a well deserved holiday and that all her future plans work out. We also look forward to her book on her life among us.

JOURNEY

No further plans have been made to continue the journey. They would, however, like to work at Ernabella, an Aboriginal Reserve run by the Presbyterian Church.

They hope the hospital, which caters for 450 Aboriginals

have vacancies for them when they apply next year.

Asked about the changes she had seen in Coober Pedy since she came here, Ann thinks that the greatest innovation was the strip. Nevertheless they had great fun in the days when the air-strip had to be lit by headlights from the hospital car.

AMBULANCE

And, of course, the new ambulance, taking the work off the hospital car which was used to carry live patients with intravenous hanging out of the window, as well as carrying coffins of those who didn't quite make it.



WITH this issue Opal Miners' Weekly brings you the first Holiday and Travel Feature.

The fascinating story of Arkaroola has been submitted by Griselda Sprigg and the photographs are by courtesy of the South Australian Government Tourist Bureau.

In an effort to make selection for your holidays or overseas travel easier, we will bring you a weekly feature about interesting places.

Of course, we would prefer it if you sent us your account of an interesting place you have spent a holiday at, together with your snapshots.

Whether you spent a holiday in Australia or overseas, tell us about it and let all readers benefit from your experiences.

ARKAROOOLA

Land of The Dreamtime

FROM a sheep station to a gazetted Wildlife Sanctuary — that is the story of Arkaroola in the north of South Australia.

As a Historic Reserve and Aboriginal Relics Reserve it has now become the premier tourist resort of the area in the beautiful Flinders Ranges.



FLINDERS RANGE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WATER HOLE, ARKAROOOLA

Nestling in the southern part of this 230 square mile reserve is Arkaroola village, headquarters for tourists, containing two ultra-modern motels, Greenwood Lodge and Mawson Lodge.

Both motels are fully air-conditioned and each suite has its own private facilities. Radio and taped music and tea or coffee making facilities are added comforts in each suite.

The restaurant is fully licensed and open to the public. Among other facilities the village also boasts a large 60 ft filtered swimming pool equipped with a diving board and heated in winter.

A recent innovation in Arkaroola Village is a real Finnish Sauna. The Fauna Park in the village is a delight to every age group.

The park contains emus, kangaroos, euros, wallabies, wombats and echidnas.

However, the sheep population having been considerably reduced in favor of wildlife, indigenous animals are now also very tame.

To remind tourists of bygone days when camels and bullock wagons were the only means of transport in these parts, a few camels can still be found on the property.

The history of Arkaroola goes back to the Dreamtime when Arkaroo, the Great Snake who lived in the Gammon Ranges, slithered down to the plains and drank Lake Frome dry in an effort to slake his thirst.

Returning to his mountain lair he carved the 2,000 feet deep Arkaroola Gorge and made seven waterholes as he went.

These waterholes are now permanent even after long drought periods.

To this day Arkaroo sleeps uneasily and, as his water laden body writhes and turns, rumbling noises pass through Arkaroola.

This and many other legends are told by the Andjamutana tribesmen, whose ancestors lived at the Paralana Hot Springs in Arkaroola.

These Hot Springs are the only radio-active helium hot springs on the continent.

In 1861 white men came to the area of Arkaroola. These were the first miners and preceded the pastoralists.

The Greenwood brothers, whose father had been the first S.A. Government prospector, were the first pastoralists in Arkaroola.

In 1910 W. B. Greenwood, the father, found an unusual mineral at Mount Painter.

This was identified by the late Sir Douglas, then Dr. Mawson, as radio-active mineral. Mining was conducted for a short time, but, owing to the small demand for radio-active mineral (its only use in those days was for medical purposes), the mine was closed.

The advent of the Second World War regenerated interest and the mine was reopened by the South Australian Mines Department.

Late last century there were many gold and copper mines on Arkaroola, but, due to the rugged nature of the country and slow methods of transportation by camel to the railhead at Ferina, the mines were not very profitable.

Only the very hardiest of the miners persisted for a while and

now these mines and other evidence of their existence are viewed with great interest by tourists to the area.

Ground tours are run to all the waterholes along good graded roads put in by the present owners.

Four-by-four wheel drive vehicles, driven by experienced Sanctuary Guides, take guests on the Ridge Top and other precipitous tracks unsuitable for conventional drive vehicles.

Located 400 miles north of Adelaide, many tourists from Adelaide and interstate drive to Arkaroola.

There is also an express coach service and an air service twice a week.

Visitors who love rugged mountain scenery will find a unique arid range environment.

The tall red granite peaks drop steeply from narrow razor-backs down to gum-lined creeks.

Birds and wildlife abound in the area. Arkaroola is the Mecca for historians, students of natural history and the Rockhound. All would be in their element in this country.

Being a conservation project allied to controlled tourism, many scientific studies on ecology, biology, regeneration and unique in what they so on are being carried out continuously.

A large caravan park with 60 powered sites and an even larger camping area are available.

Facilities include a modern ablutions block, a fully equipped service station and a general store.

Camping on Arkaroola is restricted to the camping area so as to avoid pollution problems and any disturbance of native wildlife.

The Arkaroola Air Services run tourists by charter from Arkaroola to the opal fields of Andamooka and Coober Pedy, to Ayers Rock, Alice Springs, Birdsville and Innamincka and even on an overnight safari to the Simpson Desert.

These air tours are becoming increasingly popular and recently parties of American tourists visiting Arkaroola have extended their outback tours by air to Coober Pedy, Ayers Rock and Alice Springs.

International airlines bringing tourists from the northern hemisphere are becoming more aware of the interest of these people in outback Australia. Many of them prefer the outback to the cities.

It is the privilege of places like Coober Pedy and Arkaroola to promote their areas as ogy, regeneration and unique in what they so on are being carried out continuously.



FLINDERS RANGE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA — A WATERING PLACE, ARKAROOOLA

SUBSCRIBE TO OPAL MINERS' WEEKLY

by forwarding cheque, money order or postal note to the value of \$10.60 to

7 Cato St., Hawthorn, Vic. 3122

Copies will be posted direct to your home.

NO EXTRA FOR POSTAGE

BOOKS

BOOKS

BOOKS

BOOKS AND POLITICS

With the Federal Elections approaching fast, the Australian electorate is more up in the air than it ever has been. Neither of the major political parties presents credibility to the degree one would reasonably expect.

Perhaps we can look at a few books recently published which give us the nearest thing available nowadays to a crystal ball.

Two of these books deal with the past, written by two of the grand old men of Australian politics, both of them now retired. They give us an insight of what Australian politics is all about, an indication that a federal politicians lot is not all beer and skittles but, as everywhere else in the world, a mixture of glamour, hard work and a certain amount of plain dirt.

The final book on politics in this issue is one where the author employs extra-sensory perception and a crystal ball.

All three books are well written, interesting and, possibly, valuable to those readers who will be going to the polls on December 2.

The first one we look at is Sir Robert Menzies' *The Measure of the Years*. Sir Robert deals with many vital political issues he was confronted with as Chief Executive of the Liberal Party, was Prime Minister of Australia for seventeen years, first serving a term at the outbreak of war from 1939 to 1941 and then a record term of seventeen years from 1949 to 1966.

The *Measure of the Years* is not an entirely political book. It makes a statesman — Sir Robert deals with who is more than a politician — tick. Published by Coronet Books, this paperback is recommended to our back as to sell at \$1.40. On the other side of the fence we have the recently published autobiography of that grand old man of the Australian Labor Party, Arthur Augustus Calwell.

Rather than that, it is He aptly called it *Be Just and Fear Not*.

"Always a Bridesmaid, never a Bride", silence, referred to Arthur Calwell, who gave us the Immigration Policy in 1947 as one of his pet subjects, peace in Vietnam.

While Arthur Calwell's greatest single achievement, got to top post in this within cooee of country, he, no doubt, being Australia's eleventh Prime Minister in mental in making many of the important decisions our government has faced, whether in office or in opposition.

Be Just and Fear Not is the requiem of a political life spanning over more than three decades.

Once again, it gives us an insight in the inner sanctum of party rooms, the influences outside politics which contribute to the running of the country and the formation of the DLP.

Mr. Calwell has now retired from the political scene, his final question in the House, called the Twelfth Man?

Why twelve when we have only had twelve Prime Ministers? (Edmund Barton is not included). Well, the last biography and character assessment is the man whom Whittington calls *The Enigma* — Gough Whitlam.

The author, Don Whittington, is a red blooded Australian.

Before he went into successful journalism at the age of 23, Robert — whom he, hand, Bill McMahon, he spent some years wandering around Aus-

tralia as a shearing shed hand, cattle hand and general rouseabout.

He became active in political reporting since the beginning of the last war and is now head of Australian Press Services, who publish the long established newsletter *Inside Canberra*.

There can be no doubt whatsoever that Whittington's writing, in the main, is authoritative, though Sir Robert Menzies' brother recently contested the accuracy of his treatise on Sir Robert — whom he, hand, Bill McMahon, he spent some years wandering around Aus-

in a letter to the Editor of the Melbourne Age. The Twelfth Man? gives us an insight into the makings of the people who have led our nation.

The book is not simply a book about politics, but a profile of human beings who have led this nation.

A humorous touch is provided by the scoreboard of Prime Ministers and their habits and background.

John Gorton, The Brumby, is described as an enthusiastic drinker. On the other hand, Bill McMahon, the Trier, as "a cautious one".

Semantics?

A HUMOROUS little book has recently been published by Gold Star Publications.

Entitled the Aussie Swearers Guide, it was written by Arthur Chipper and cleverly illustrated by Peter Leuver.

Chipper dedicated the book to the Australian who first wrote: "Shut the bloody gate" and, in his credits, he says:

"My thanks to the friends who have schooled me in bad language throughout my life, and a special word of recognition to Sidney J. Baker's book 'The Australian Language', to which I

am transparently indebted."

The author categorises his collection of harmless ribaldry into

Basic Bad Language
Basic Name Calling
Handy Derisory Phrases
Race, Religion, Origins etc.
Make your own Inveective Cocktails.

While the study of this certain area of Strine is quite exhaustive, the book could be sub-titled "A Beginner's Guide to Basic Down-Under Semantics".

As so many of this Australian publisher's books, the Aussie Swearers Guide is a First World Release and for the recommended retail price of only \$1 it makes a light-hearted little gift.

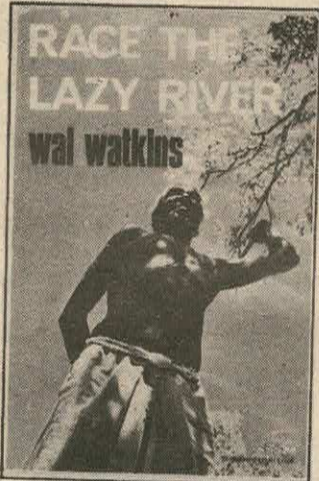
GSP

GOLD STAR PUBLICATIONS

Best - sellers by Australians
for Australians

Presents

Two more of WAL WATKINS' great range



RACE THE LAZY RIVER

The dry creek-bed known as the Cooper is in flood, and over-night the dry expanses of Central Australia are hidden by the surging of a new inland sea. But what of those Centralians caught by the majestic new waterway? Can they race the lazy river?



ANDAMOOKA

Situated in the dead heart of South Australia, Andamooka has built for itself the reputation of violence, graft and hard-living. In this outback novel by Australia's Wal Watkins, the lives of Andamooka's men and women are laid bare in a forthright and truthful manner.

Tear along here

SEND THIS COUPON NOW TO :-

G.S.P. DIRECT SALES

7 Cato Street Hawthorn, Vic. 3123.

PLEASE FORWARD BY RETURN MAIL

☐ Copies of "RACE THE LAZY RIVER" @ \$1.85* per copy

☐ Copies of "ANDAMOOKA" @ \$1.85* per copy

*Prices include postage.

I enclose \$.....in cheque/money order/postal note

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

GSP/A11

CITY.....

POST CODE.....

PROFILES & PERSONALITIES

A MAN OF MANY PARTS

-BOB AMOROSI

BOB Amorosi arrived in Australia 20 years ago, and his first job was with the Railways.

He later ran the Railways Canteen, and, eventually, went into the trucking business, which he managed a stream of about 70 trucks on interstate runs.

Bob, however, decided that he would like to have a try at the elusive opal, and so, together with friends, he formed a company of 16 men.

Together they bought a trench digger, which they took to White Cliffs.

Although the trench digger was good for mining opal in virgin areas, it was not so effective in areas where there were previous diggings.

A bulldozer was needed to flatten the ground, before the digger could move in.

As things didn't work out as planned, Bob and one of the 16 partners decided to try Coober Pedy. This was in 1965.

After a year the partner left and Bob Amorosi was left by himself.

He sold the Digger and he and his partner from Adelaide, Mick Marinelli, bought a large but old bulldozer.

Bob also decided to try and sell opal, and carpentry or building eventually decided to fields, but he built his

build a house for his family.

Before he had completed his home, townspeople were asking if they could buy the timber in his yard.



Bob's steel tree

He sold them what they wanted and decided that when he re-ordered his materials he would order more than he actually required.

In this way his timber yard started.

Mr. Amorosi had no experience in the go into partnership with Ted Regan who had a good bulldozer.

house himself. Inside he faced the walls with local stone, which is very effective. As a result, many people face the whole of the outside of their homes with such stones.

During this time Bob drove the bulldozer and truck in his yard, which his wife looked after the timber yard. In this way they were always able to rake up a few dollars to keep them going.

A few months later Bob and his partner were offered four claims in a field called the Jeweller Shop. This had previously been the soccer pitch for the Italian Club, but the Italian Club had moved its location and a few men started mining on the old location and obtained traces.

Amorosi paid \$400 for the claims, but Bob's bulldozer was so old that it didn't have ripers. So he decided to go into partnership with Ted Regan who had a good bulldozer.

They started a cut at the Jeweller Shop and truck in his yard, which was only one foot from the surface they found opal.

This was one of the biggest finds and much good opal was dug out.

Amorosi also has a ready mix concrete truck in his yard, which was originally bought to clean opal, but they discovered that there was more to this than met the eye, and a front end loader, semi trailer needed to do the job efficiently, this would have involved quite a large amount of money.

People started to inquire about ready mix concrete, and now its a full time job, supplying the concrete.

Sand and metal for mixing the concrete are obtained from the creek beds in the area.

Being a man of many parts, Bob is also the Caltex Agent for Coober Pedy, and has been for the last two years. He sells diesel, petrol oil,



Bob Amorosi

and grease, and these are sold in 44 gallon drums or 500 gallon tanks.

The Amorosi's have a rather unusual tourist attraction in their timber yard.

This is a steel tree, and came into being when Mr. Amorosi ordered a load of steel to be brought up by truck. The truck caught fire, and was burnt out. The steel was badly war-

ped, and useless for building material.

The Amorosi children always loved climbing, so a tree was built for them out of the steel. It is, however, more of an attraction now than a plaything.

Bob doesn't know whether he will build extensions to his yard or not. His comment was "it is like a river going towards the sea."

The Company that Bob is a partner in, have also built rather a large tractor shed, which they hire out for functions. This was recently used for the Race Meeting Weekend Cocktail Party, put on by the Women's Hospital Auxiliary.

Bob has seen changes in the years that he has been in Coober Pedy, many people are building homes above ground instead of dug-outs, but he feels the reason for this is that there isn't room for dug-outs any more. Many people now build a room under their house, where they can escape the hot weather.

Mr. Amorosi and his wife Alda have three children, all born in Australia, two boys and a little girl. Eugenio is 12, Anthony is 10, and Lucy is 4.

The two older boys attend the local school, and the little girl attends pre-school.

Mine Host -Anna Coro

AT the tender age of eight, Anna Coro arrived in Coober Pedy in August, 1963.

Luckier than most new arrivals, she had her uncles Bepi and Tilio to welcome her.

Anna arrived with her family when her father, a builder, came to help Bepi rebuild his burnt out store.

Attending the local school from Grade 4 to her knowledge, Anna Grade 7, Anna helped behind the counter in Uncle Bepi's store after school and in her spare time.

Anna did not, however, neglect her studies. She did her first, second and third year of high school education by correspondence in the school.

During this time the Motel was built and, once again, Anna got herself a spare time job. Although only 12 years old at the time, Anna worked as a receptionist and also kept the motel's books in order.

In pursuit of further knowledge, Anna went to Cabra College in Adelaide where she studied for her Leaving Certificate. Her formal education completed, Anna returned to Coober Pedy.

She then decided that the hotel business was for her. Anna became a fully-fledged receptionist in the hotel owned by her father and still looked after the book work.

In the full knowledge that the hotel business is an all-embracing one, Anna gained experience by working behind the bar mixing drinks and serving customers.

She also took an interest in the staff, discovering their philosophies and attitudes towards their jobs.

This interest gained Anna a great insight into dealing and coping with many different personalities.

And now, at only 17 years of age, Anna is manageress of the hotel while her father is away.

ated with the hotel business and runs her establishment with great tact.

As can be imagined, Anna Coro is a very sophisticated young lady. This, she believes, is due to the fact that, even during her childhood, she has mostly associated with adults.

Her impeccable grooming — a task not quite as simple in Coober Pedy as it can be in Melbourne or Sydney — her efficiency and her graceful poise have earned her not only her parent's and employees' respect,

but also that of the entire town.

Many people regard Anna as being a very reserved person. In her own words Anna says: "Being a girl of only 17 and running a hotel, one has to have a certain amount of reserve to make sure one acts in the proper manner and to make sure that one retains the respect gained in the past."

Asked what changes she has seen in the town during the time she has been there, Anna said that the residents are now looking for more comfort and civilisation than they

did four or five years ago. Nowadays they quite capable of making the vital decision of choosing a husband in the past, they didn't really care how they were dressed.

Anna feels that a Boutique would go very well in the town and, in general, she believes that the needs of women should be better catered for.

Although Anna has already been to Italy and Switzerland, she would like to travel further afield and plans to visit Europe again next year.

On the subject of marriage, Anna says proud of their lady that her parents are "Mine Host".

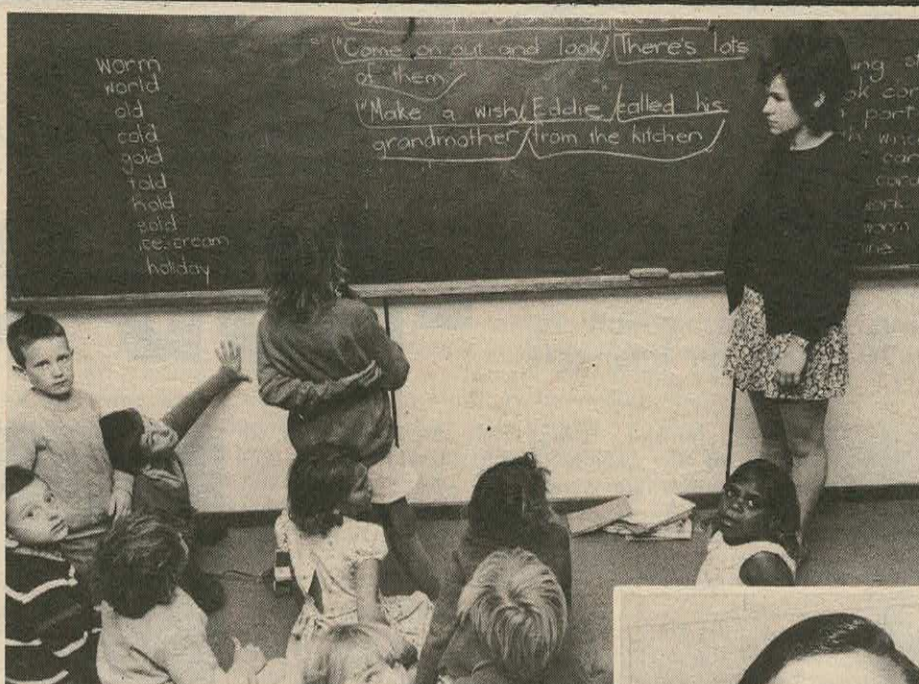


L. to R.: Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Atkinson, Trevor Weatherall, Father Hackett and Mrs. Weatherall enjoying a drink at the hotel.

COOBER PEDY PICTORIAL ROUNDABOUT



Dee Atkinson
enjoying a night out.



Who wants to learn to read when the photographer is around?
Teacher doesn't look too pleased at this lack of attention!

**DO YOU REQUIRE
PETROL, DIESEL,
KEROSENE
OR OIL ?**

RING 3 6003

or contact
Bob Amorosi
at

CALTEX DEPOT

**IT WILL BE
DELIVERED AT YOUR
DOORSTEP THE
SAME DAY**
(WITHIN 5-MILE RADIUS)

**COOBER PEDY
TRADING CO.
PTY. LTD.**

Box 164 Coober Pedy,
South Australia
Phone 3 6003

8 MILE DEN

On Main North Road

BUYER

Of Small Parcels.

SUPPLIER

Of Opal Buttons.

ROBIN WILLIAMS

Box 372, Coober Pedy



Pat Watts, Matron of the Hospital, left, with Sister Ann Dau.



Trevor Weatherall, newly elected
Vice President of the Progress
Association in a happy mood.

Responsibility for electoral com-
ment in this issue is accepted by
William S. Parsons of 6 Montrose St.,
Hawthorn.

SUBSCRIBE TO OPAL MINERS' WEEKLY

by forwarding cheque, money order or postal note to the
value of \$10.60 to

7 Cato St., Hawthorn, Vic 3122

Copies will be posted direct to your home for one year
NO EXTRA FOR POSTAGE

Name

Address

JUNIOR OPAL MINERS'

Dear Boys and Girls,

From now on you are to have a page of the Opal Miner's Weekly all to yourselves.

We will call this page the Junior Opal Miner's Page and I want you all to make it as interesting and colourful as you know how.

To help me make this a page which is interesting to all of you, I want you to write to me and tell me of your interests, your hobbies and all your other activities which, I am sure, must be many in interesting places like Andamooka, Coober Pedy and Lightning Ridge.

Perhaps there are some of you who are lucky enough to have a camera. Send me your favourite shots and I'll make sure that the best ones will be in the paper.

Of course it's not only hard work and no play or pay.

We'll have weekly competitions for which the prizes will be books.

The competition could be for the best story, the best photograph or drawing or even the best suggestion of how to make your page better.

Some of you in Lightning Ridge may wish to have a pen-pal in one of the other places so that you can exchange ideas and experiences.

So, Junior Opal Miners, hop into it and do your thing.

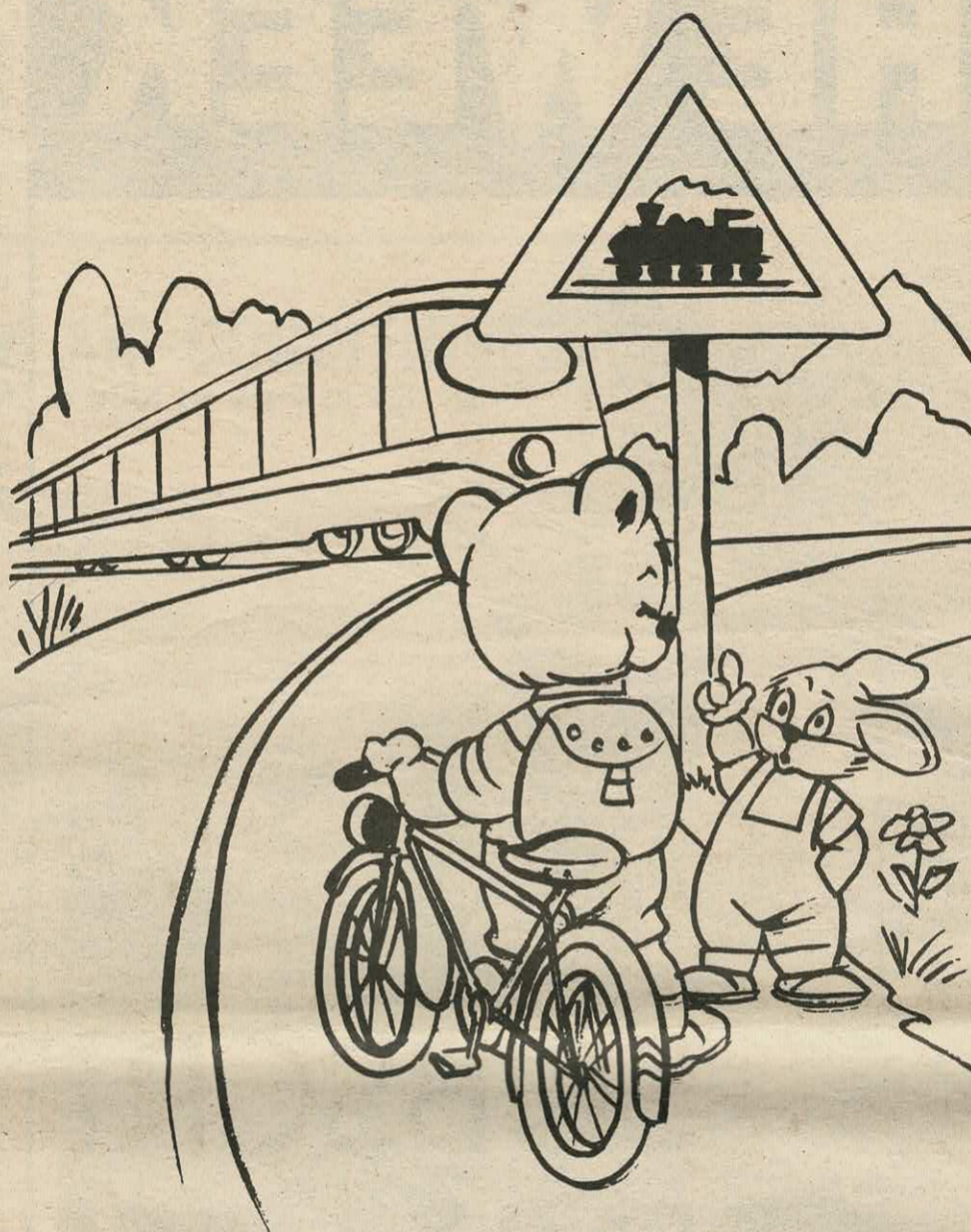
I'll do my thing by opening the competition side with a picture which I would like you to colour for me.

I look forward to receiving your results!

See you next week.

Your

Uncle Bell



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM

10 cents			
20 cents			
30 cents			
40 cents			
50 cents			
60 cents			
70 cents			
80 cents			
90 cents			
\$1.00			

WHAT better way is there than to advertise your needs in your own newspaper, The Opal Miners Weekly?

No matter what you wish to advertise, the classified advertisements in the Opal Miners Weekly are read by the people you wish to reach.

All you have to do is to fill in the classified Advertisement Form on the left and either take it to the Coober Pedy Office or send it direct to

The Advertising Manager
Opal Miners Weekly
7 Cato Street
Hawthorn, Victoria. 3122.

We'll do the rest!

BABY OF THE WEEK



This is our Baby of the Week, Michelle Zander, 8 months. Michelle is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernd Zander.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Barry Rainsford — Church of England Minister
CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

Collecting empty drink cans for the school pool fund has not only raised money but also helped to keep Coober clean.

Keeping our homes and ourselves clean is important, although it is a constant battle with so much rubbish and dust about. Added to this there is the scarcity and high cost of water.

However, a pure heart is even more important than an attractive appearance.

Jesus said, "From a man's heart, come the evil ideas which lead him to do immoral things, to rob, kill, commit adultery, covet, and do all sorts of evil things; deceit, indecency, jealousy, slander, pride, and folly — all these evil things come from inside a man and make him unclean."

The sad result of this is described by St. Paul in these words, "You may be sure of this: no man who is immoral, indecent or greedy (for greediness is a form of idol worship) will ever receive a share in the Kingdom of Christ and of God."

Fortunately, St. John has the solution to the problem of our dark and dirty deeds. "If we live in the light — just as God is in the light — then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, makes us clean from every sin."

Just as we need to use soap and water to clean our hands so we must allow the Son of God to purify our hearts by handing over our lives to him.

KNOW YOUR STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): Beware of financial commitments. Some past obligations likely to catch up with you this week.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 21): Your love cycle is in the ascendant. Try to be less exacting and more indulgent.

GEMINI (May 22 to June 21): Steer clear of domestic differences. Resolve to be more sociable, as new friendships are awaiting.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22): This is a creative week for you, make the best of it. Beware of accidents.

LEO (July 23 to August 23): Much activity continues all this month. Enjoy social life as friends can be very responsive at present.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 22): There is added vigour and energy this week. Seek to express yourself in more definite terms.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23): If you wish to enlarge your social position attend group meetings and entertainment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 22): The main trend continues on a rather low level. Beware of over-exertion as this often exacts a heavy price later on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 to Dec. 22): Try to collect any money owed to you. A current financial problem may be centred to the time of the new moon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 to Jan. 20): At the full moon a current business project could give signs of coming to a closing point. Try and finalize them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Pursue partnership projects on 15th, 20th and 26th. Your earning power is subject to increase.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to March 20): Steer clear of conflicts with co-workers and guard against accidents. Keep to sidelines in business matters.

OPAL MINER CROSSWORD

SOLUTION
PAGE 14

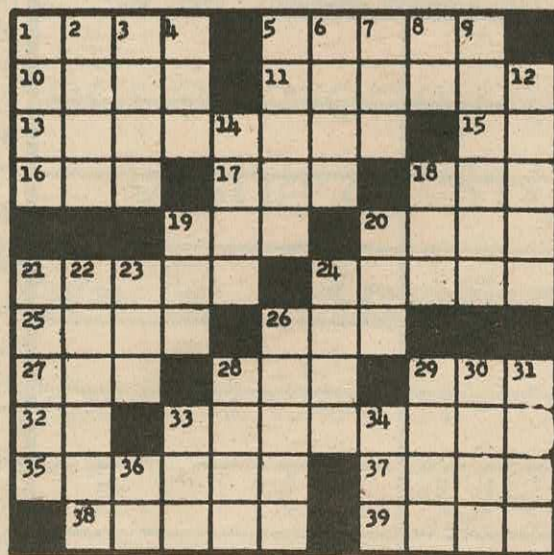
29 Musical duet
32 Average (abbr.)
33 Arm badge
35 Gracious
37 Constellation
38 Water plant
39 Equal

ACROSS

1 Occasion
5 Above (L.)
10 Seed coat
11 Each
13 Candy on a stick
15 Roman 150
16 Conclusion
17 2,000 pounds
18 Female deer
19 Through
20 Town (colloq.)
21 Visible vapor
24 Father
25 Baby carriage
26 Source of light
27 Kind of rodent
28 Fixed charge

DOWN

1 Story
2 Press clothes
3 Soft
4 Building wing
5 Flavor
6 Preposition
7 Apple seed
8 Music note
9 Agree
12 Lyrical poem
14 Article
18 Defective bomb
19 Girl's name
20 Prohibit
21 Young codfish
22 Journey



23 Consume
24 Taxes
26 Aquatic mammals
28 Wife (Ger.)
29 Challenge

30 Force onward
31 Fragrance
33 Bridle part
34 Plant juices
36 Not any

BIRTHDAY FORECASTS

SATURDAY. You may have to make sacrifices for others on the 5th. This will, however, prove rewarding.

SUNDAY. A bright year is ahead of you. However, about June watch your finances carefully.

MONDAY. The year ahead is not all plain sailing. Finances will be satisfactory, but watch your health.

TUESDAY. Do not be intimidated by unscrupulous business associates. Stay on your own to save you from unpleasantness and financial difficulties.

WEDNESDAY. This year favours love, marriage and other partnerships. Make hay while the sun shines and give yourself every opportunity.

THURSDAY. Health will be your biggest problem this year. Don't over-exert yourself and plan a prolonged holiday.

FRIDAY. An unexpected offer regarding partnership is to be taken seriously. This could be marriage or business, but looks good.



School and Community

Recently, references have been made in the press to teachers and their support of the institution of Local Government for Coober Pedy.

The issue stems from the meeting held in the Progress Association Hall on 24th August to decide whether Coober Pedy should have Local Government or not.

A report of the meeting stated that "bank staff and teachers" were amongst those who supported the move.

I attended the meeting and I can assure you that — (1) only a small percentage of the staff of this school attended and (2) those who voted (and this was an even smaller percentage) did so as they saw fit.

The school must have the support of the community as a whole and if we support for example, the group who want Local Govern-

ment, we immediately lose the support of the group against it. Obviously we cannot afford to do this.

More recently we have been asked to "become residents" before involving ourselves in issues such as this. I would like to think that teachers are members of this community. I maintain that teachers do as much as any other group of citizens for the community and far more than many. Surely this must give us the right to residency.

I do not wish to join in a duel of literary expertise, but feel that these points warrant mentioning. We have in many ways, excellent support from parents and the community as a whole and we wish to retain this support.

CRAIG CAMERON,
Headmaster.

Opal Miners' Camel Shot

Is our WEEKLY really a weekly?

When I first heard of Coober Pedy having its own newspaper it seemed an excellent idea, just what was needed here. Everyone I spoke to about it was enthusiastic and impatient for the first copy.

I, personally, was not disappointed and the paper did, what the State papers had failed to do — that is, reporting factually the events and happenings without sensationalism giving a realistic view of life in the town.

But, after only the second Edition our faith in the stability of the paper has been badly shaken because of the erratic delivery.

We do look forward so much to our paper so could we please have our Weekly!

Avid Reader

As a resident of Coober Pedy I eagerly look forward to the Opal Miners' Weekly so that I can keep up to date with the local news, but, alas, the Weekly is fast becoming a bi-weekly.

I have almost worn a track to the shop since last Friday, only to be told that the paper has not yet arrived. Can it be that the camel train has got lost in a dust storm? Or are we such a small community that we don't rate priority by the normal freight routes.

— Unidentified.

Editor's Reply to Avid Reader and Unidentified:

We realise that Opal Miners' Weekly is eagerly looked forward to in Coober Pedy, Andamooka and Lightning Ridge.

Some production difficulties delayed issue No. 3 and to speed delivery we shot the camel and airfreighted 500 copies by Opal Air last week.

From now on Opal Miners' Weekly should be available for leisurely weekend reading.

Improvement needed for Electricity

Is it not time that something was done about the town power situation?

It is most inconvenient and annoying when you pay for electricity but are not supplied just when you need it most around tea time.

Many women have come to depend on electrical appliances for cooking. What is the use of air-conditioning, which is an essential appliance, if you are to live comfortably in the heat, if you are unable to use it for the greater portion of the hot day.

Surely a very big improvement is needed.

— Unsatisfied Customer

SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL LIBRARY

AS Coober Pedy has no Library facilities the school is investigating the possibility of opening its library to the public one or two nights per week.

It may be possible, if permission is granted and if interest is great enough, to gain assistance from the State Library.

If you are interested in using the school library please contact any staff member or ring 36 077 as soon as possible.

Welcome to New Teacher

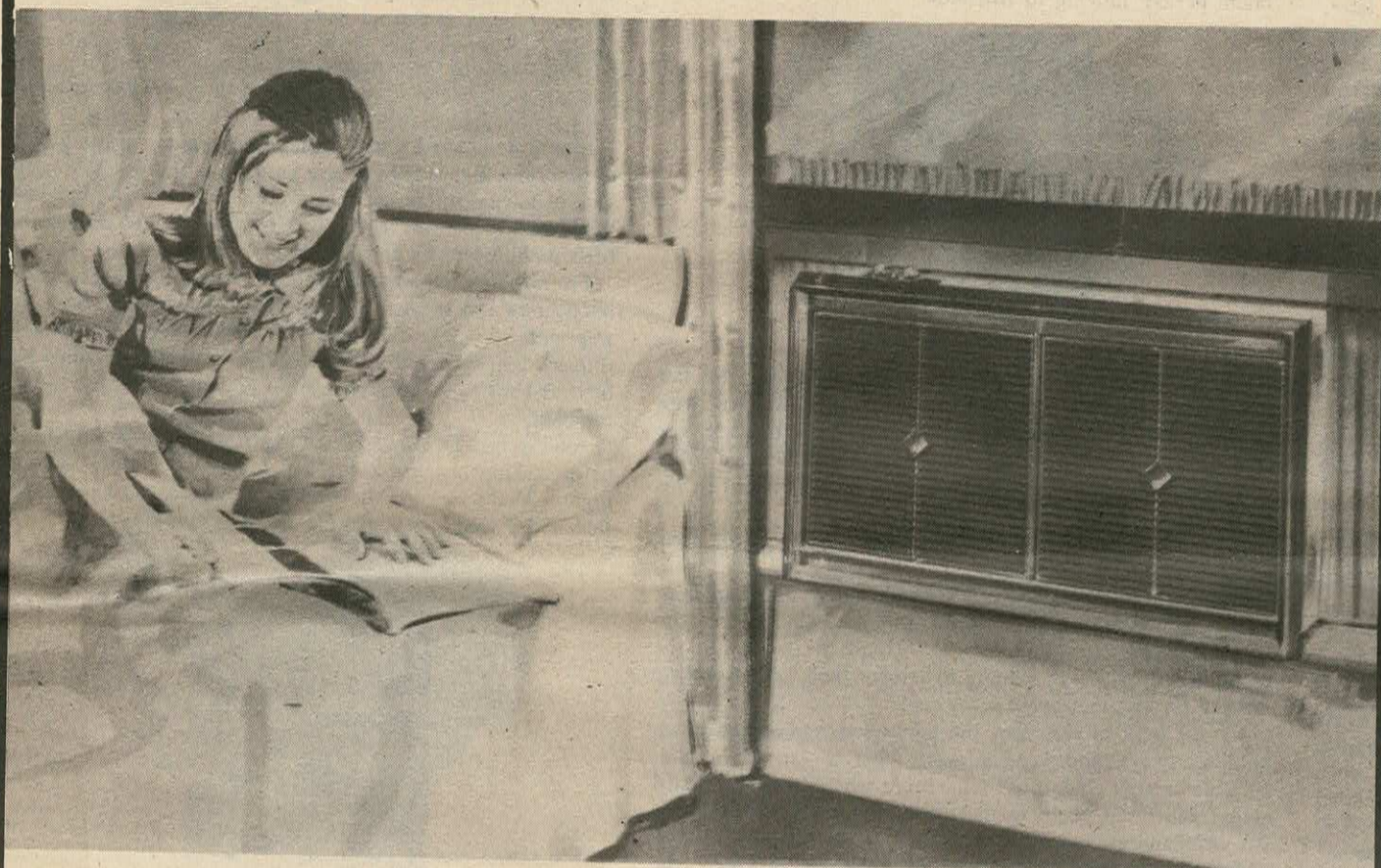
WELCOME to Miss Claire Vindis who has joined the staff of the Coober Pedy Area School, from Willsden, Port Augusta.

Miss Vindis has had experience in teaching in Open Teaching Areas and is proving a valuable member of our teaching staff.



POPE 'FINCH' ROOM AIR CONDITIONER

Compact, yet powerful enough to cool an area of 250 sq. ft.



Fresh air is drawn from outside your home, cooled quietly, then filtered efficiently to surround you with comfort through the summer's sleeping hours.



Solve your air-conditioning problems by consulting Bepi Coro at ...

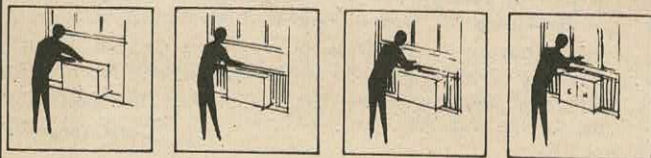
THE MINERS' STORE PTY. LTD.

COOBER PEDY'S CENTRE to meet all your needs.

Booking Agents for Opal Air and Accommodation

Telephone 3 6051 Bepi and Tilly Coro
Telephone 3 6177 Proprietors

INSTALLATION IN MINUTES. A HOME HANDYMAN CAN DO THE JOB!



- 1 Raise the window — locate safety brackets on window sill, place "Finch" in position on brackets.
- 2 Extend accordion-type side panels to width of window and secure to sides of frame.
- 3 Tighten mounting to lock "Finch" in place. Lower window sash.
- 4 Fit decorative timber front, insert three-pin plug into a power outlet and switch on.

THE COOPER PEDY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1971-72

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my second Annual Report as President of the Association. The past year has seen a continued expansion of Coober Pedy and much has been achieved by your Committee. Perhaps not as much as had been hoped but, nevertheless, the base on which future work may be undertaken has been considerably strengthened.

The majority of the Committee have served together for more than eighteen months, its major aim being to secure the source of its income from which future Community projects could be financed.

This has been achieved.

The Drive-In Canteen is something to be proud of in such a small Community. The results of this enterprise may be seen in the financial statement.

All Committeemen have worked tremendously hard to make it a success often in the face of severe criticism.

The Drive-in and the Canteen are complimentary businesses, one supporting the other. A good Canteen attracts business to the Drive-in and a good Drive-in attracts custom to the Canteen.

I would like to express here my personal appreciation to the Canteen Staff for the excellent standard they have maintained in the preparation of the food sold. I don't know of another Drive-in which can equal the sustained quality.

I think it is important to realise that the Drive-in and Canteen besides being a considerable source of income provides a service to the Community and belongs to the Community. That is, it belongs to all of you. It is sometimes very easy to criticise service and the organisation so I would like to take this opportunity of asking you to remember the Committee is a voluntary one. They are not experts, they make mistakes, you elected them as your representatives, therefore they are entitled to your support. The staff is employed by the Committee and is the best available in Coober Pedy, one and all I wish to thank them for their services on your behalf.

Notwithstanding the financial achievements in the last year the Committee is conscious, and has been for some time, of the need for beside paid Drive-in staff, a paid Secretary/Manager. Someone who is prepared to be employed full time attending to the business affairs of the Association.

I would like to draw your attention to certain facts. The Association's assets have doubled each year over the past two years. That is they are more than four times what they were in 1970. Canteen sales have risen from approximately \$13,000 in 1970 to \$19,700 in 1971 and to \$39,000 in the past financial year. It is pointed out however that in the last four months, that is since the new canteen was opened, \$19,600 worth of goods were sold which is equal to the sales for the whole of 1971. It is also equal to the first eight months trading last financial year. Canteen sales are still expanding. It is estimated that sales for the coming financial year will be in excess of \$60,000.

Ladies and Gentlemen, your Association is now a business enterprise with receipts from all sources of about \$130,000 per annum and still growing. It is not reasonable or indeed advisable that this be administered on a voluntary basis.

The retiring Committee is unanimous in recommending to the Association the appointment of a full time paid Secretary/Manager directly responsible to the Committee whose specific duties will be laid down by the Committee.

It is my personal view that the paid Secretary/Manager should not be a member of the Committee. For obvious reasons members of the Committee must be above reproach when dealing with the Communities money and persons having a financial interest in its business activities leave themselves open to criticism. The Secretary/Manager must, of course, attend Committee meetings to report, advise and receive instructions.

The office of Secretary of the Association under such a set-up would not become redundant but take on a more general aspect dealing with policy aspects of the Association.

I would now like to briefly summarise the other activities of the Association.

GRADER

I think you are all aware that at last the Association has its own grader. We were able to secure this Grader on very favorable terms, they being, acquisition in May, payments of \$5,000 being deferred interest free for two years. As directed by a previous general meeting 5% of gate takings are paid into a special grader fund to meet the operating costs. To 30th September, 1972, \$1,600 has been paid into the fund. The general improvement to roads is obvious.

WATER STORAGE TANK

Two water storage tanks have been erected, one at the Drive-in and one at the Community hall site, connected by pipeline to the Solar Still waste system at a cost of \$7,727. Unfortunately the pump originally installed at the Still was inadequate to pump to the higher levels. It will be necessary to purchase a second stage pump and install it at the Drive-in Tank in order to service the higher tank. This task will be left to the new committee.

YOUTH CLUB

The Association has supported the Youth Club by making the Community hall available to them and has subsidised a Juke Box to provide entertainment. To date this has amounted to \$454. I would like to express my admiration to the young people of the town for the way in which they conduct themselves and their willingness to take responsibility for improving their own amenities. Assistance to the youth of Coober Pedy in the future should be high on the priority list of this Association.

SCHOOL

Donations have been made to the school during the year amounting to \$400. As the school have their own very active bodies and I speak of the School Council and Welfare Club who have raised considerable funds this year, the Committee has intimated that the Association will concentrate on developing the Library. To this end it has committed \$1,000 per year from its funds. The Association has also assisted the school in minor ways with loans and gifts of equipment. The Committee however wishes to acknowledge the excellent reciprocal co-operation it received from the Headmaster and Staff. This willing help has been much appreciated.

HOSPITAL AND AUXILIARY SERVICES

Mr. McDougall will present a separate report on these activities. This Association's major commitment to the community is through the Hospital and Medical facilities provided. As Coober Pedy grows so does the demands on the Association grow. The Committee wishes to express its sincere thanks and gratitude to the Hospital Auxiliary and its supporters for their magnificent fund raising efforts. Sincere thanks must also go to the St. Johns Ambulance Section and the Mines Rescue Squad who supplement the services of the Bush Church Aid Society and their Sisters continue to give unreservedly of their services which is greatly appreciated by the Association.

Donations made by the Hospital Auxiliary has meant that the Associations costs have been kept down. However with major extensions to buildings and facilities now being required probably costing in excess of \$75,000 (final figures are not to hand) we will have to raise at least \$25,000 within six months. The extra work involved with the hospital will require an increased Committee. Later you will be asked to approve this with the change of the Constitution.

FLYING MEDICAL FUND

This fund is administered by the Progress Association and will be commented upon by Mr. McDougall. While it is slightly more financial than last year it is far from healthy. Through this fund the Association makes donations to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and this year has increased its contributions from \$600 to \$1,200. This is your medical lifeline and needs your every support. If you are not a member of the Flying Medical Fund I urge you to become one. An increased Dental Service could be possibly made available if the Association supported R.F.D.S. more generously.

RACE CLUB

The Race Club continues to be supported. This year the Speaker System was donated. The Progress Association also donated a Perpetual Trophy, to be known as the Association Cup for local bred horses as recognition of the support given to the Club by the local stations without which no meeting could be held. The Association has also offered an interest free loan of \$1,500 to the Club to concrete the area in front of the stand.

NATURALISATION CEREMONIES

Two Naturalisation Ceremonies were held during the year and it was my great pleasure to administer the oath of allegiance to 21 new citizens. In this multinational community I hope some of them will offer themselves as candidates for election tonight as there is a great need of the widest representation possible on the Committee. Many thanks are extended to the Italo-Australian Miners Club for the use of their premises for these occasions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Committee was disappointed that its recommendation for Local Government was not accepted by the Community.

The Committee is being asked more and more to accept the functions of a Local Government Authority without the resources or the expertise to administer them. Throughout the year numerous complaints have been received such as, why doesn't the Association do something about the rubbish; The Association should do something about the health and hygiene standards of the Community; why doesn't the Association get the holes filled in on the roads; The Association should provide street lighting; The Association should provide a Fire Service; the Association should do something about foul smelling effluent.

If the Committee has to concern itself with all these aspects it would need authority to deal with them. It has not nor has it the ability to finance them.

There have been two misconceptions spread about by detractors of Local Government. One is that the Progress Association would be taken over by the Council and secondly that Rates would be high and individual freedom severely curtailed.

The Coober Pedy Progress Association is an independent incorporated body and possibly the most financial Progress Association in the State, who could assist considerably a Local Council financially. The Council would not need to set high rates if it was so assisted. The rates in fact could be nominal but the Council could attract extra money in the form of grants and subsidies not available to the Community through the Progress Association. As regards individual freedom being curtailed, all communities have need to abide by certain rules which are for the benefit of the Community as a whole and not for the favored few. The Council would be members of the Community answerable for their actions to the local people alone.

CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION

Later tonight a notice of Motion will be given to amend the present constitution. Basically it will unite residents who up until now have seen themselves as members of two distinct groups. I speak of the Miners Association and the Progress Association. In truth miners can be members of the Progress Association but members of the Progress Association could not necessarily belong to the Miners Association. The rational behind the amalgamation is that as Coober Pedy is a Mining town the interests and problems of miners affect the town as a whole. To more effectively promote the objects of the Association this amalgamation is recommended to you providing there is an increase in the size of the Committee.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who have contributed to the growth of the Association during my term of office. I have enjoyed working in the Committee notwithstanding the heated exchanges that have occasionally taken place. I believe all contentious matters have had a thorough airing which I believe is essential for good administration. The Committeemen have served you well and I personally appreciate each one's efforts.

The proposed expanded new Committee has a great deal of work in front of them. With a new awareness of the functions of the Committee I am sure you will give them every support. As I shall not be standing for re-election, I wish them well.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dudley Brown, President.

Snippets from Lightning Ridge

One of the most popular fields in the world which produces gem quality black opal is now being open cut.

The Three Mile, at LIGHTNING RIDGE has been worked for over fifty years using only a windlass and then recent years saw the introduction of easier ways of bringing the opal clay to the surface by using machinery. The hoists did not actually change the basic way of mining but made the job quicker as well as easier.

Mining by open cutting is of course completely different and there are many miners who feel the thrill and the romance of discovery of a gem is completely lost this way.

One only has to experience the thrill and excitement of chipping the side of a gem with a pick and seeing the magnificent colours leaping out. Perhaps it is the surroundings and the miner's own exuberance which seems to make the opal even brighter than when it is cut and polished.

To open cut to most miners is just to work in a quarry and all resemblance to the original way of opal mining is lost until it gets to the final stages of sorting.

Of course this impersonal way of mining for opals had to eventuate particularly in the Three Mile area where it is known for its huge ballrooms and also lack of pillars. In many cases more loads of sandstone were taken out which fell from the roof than opal clay. When the inevitable happened, a claim fell in from the surface which was the famous Scotts Mine, it was just as if the starter's gun had been fired and the first open cuts began.

The first level of opal-bearing clay in this area is down 30' to 45' and the thickness may be up to 20 ft. It will cost thousands of dollars to get down that far. To get to the second level which could be down at least 80' the price would be astronomical. It would be necessary to have several claims so that the machinery can get down to the second level as it would be impossible to work with just one claim as it is necessary to batter or bench the sides.

As most miners only hold one claim 100 ft. x 100 ft., one can envisage the necessity of adjoining claim holders going into partnerships.

As the Opal Miner is usually a person with a strong streak of independence wishing to work alone or just with a mate, he will find he just has to change with the times and co-operate with one another.

Of course there will be those who will not change and will perhaps sell out and move to new areas or go prospecting.

Drama occurred last week at the nine mile when a miner was buried from a fall-in.

Fortunately for him he had a partner working with him as he was able to give the alarm for rescue. Only the miner's hand was visible and the top of his head.

It took Constable McEvoy and other workers two hours to free the injured man and bring him to the surface in the rescue stretcher.

The Bush Nursing Sister, Sister Fuller, treated the man, down the hole, and then he was sent onto the Walgett Hospital for X-rays.

Nothing is wasted here at Lightning Ridge particularly when it comes to motor vehicles. Every part of the engine and bodywork is used and when a car is stripped at Lightning Ridge little is left.

And so it was of great interest when a local grazier saw a vehicle with which was gradually being stripped. Each day as he passed some part would be missing until after a week or so only one tyre was left. No effort was made it seemed to take this tyre.

Days passed and the grazier became intrigued as to why the tyre remained. It eventually became too much of a mystery and he decided to investigate.

After a very quick look the reason proved to be quite simple; there was a huge wasp nest in the tyre!

A popular tourist attraction at Lightning Ridge is the pottery of Allan Watts and his wife, Bonnie.

They have been in the town for nearly 10 years, and had thought for some years that the tons of worthless clay at the puddling tanks could be put to some use.

A friend, proficient in the pottery field, experimented until the right formula was found with the clay from The Ridge.

Allan was persuaded to try his hand at "throwing" and now after two years, displays fine workmanship.

With orders pouring in, it is becoming a full-time job.

Not only the tourist is interested in the pottery; residents are also keen buyers.

Puddling the tailings from a rumbler is extremely tedious.

There is so much iron stone mixed with the opal clay that the puddler has to be emptied many times, otherwise the iron stone will break the opal.

It takes a full day, starting and stopping to puddle a full load of tailings, instead of the normal hour or so.

In the past two months, a couple of miners have been doing this day after day, with little result.

Each day the aborigines, who are the professional speckers of Lightning Ridge, have been quietly arriving just before the two miners, and taking up positions in a semi-circle at the end of the sorting tray.

When the miners have finished with the tailings, they dump them in the centre to show the aborigines. The speckers, armed with snips, examine each piece closely.

The miners and the speckers got on well and there was a mutual feeling of sympathy.

But imagine how the miners felt when the speckers arrived on the job two hours late last Friday — driving a new car!

The Soccer Club at Lightning Ridge now boasts of having well over 100 members. There is a lot of interest in this sport and the games are well attended.

Last Saturday saw a victory for Lightning Ridge of 6-1 followed by a barbecue consisting of a sheep donated by an Opal buyer and there was also a pig on the spit.

Teams think nothing of travelling all over the state to play soccer.

Perhaps a match against other Opal Fields could be arranged. What a game that would be.

The Lightning Ridge boys are really good and if any other Club is interested why not write to the Secretary of the Lightning Ridge Soccer Club, Mr. Herman Schleensky, Care Post Office, Lightning Ridge, NSW.

The visitor to Lightning Ridge who may be intending to stay for a month or two would be well advised to bring his own groceries, owing to the high prices of a lot of commodities.

There are three stores at Lightning Ridge which have a good range of groceries but "specials" are seldom seen. In some cases as much as 50% again will be paid for the same thing in Brisbane.

Most residents when going to the cities buy big quantities of items they regularly use and save quite a lot of money.

There are two butchers and the prices are most reasonable and the meat is of high quality.

The fruit and vegetable position has improved this year and fresh supplies are usually available.

A bakery now exists which produces really excellent cakes etc. This was something which was really needed in Lightning Ridge. Bread deliveries came only three times a week and if the road was closed because of heavy rain it was just too bad for the consumer. All this has now changed and fresh bread is available six days a week.

Health Inspector reassures community

FROM P. 2

ion, there was a grave health risk.

Mr. Wilson assured the meeting that he would make every endeavour, because of the limited availability of Mr. Doug Brown, to rearrange existing staff at the department.

If this was feasible then more frequent visits could be made by Health Officers until such time as a Resident Officer was appointed.

On the question of delegating authority on a temporary basis, Mr. Wilson stated emphatically that this was not possible.

The fears of the mothers regarding the purity of the water in the swimming pool were somewhat allayed when Mr. Wilson told them that the salt water used would eliminate some impurities. Some murmurings of dissent were, however, clearly heard.

Otherwise the frequency of his visits would be ruled by prevailing circumstances in other areas and visits, therefore, would be in conjunction with other work.

In response to questions regarding sewerage and unhygienic sanitary conditions prevailing in the town business area Mr. Wilson said that the standards had improved but were still bad.

Plans had already been drawn up for sewerage and drainage in the town's business area.

At the Opal Motel levels have been taken of sewerage and drainage preparatory to sewerage treatment and, provided sufficient money is raised, this could be accomplished by December.

FINANCE

The directors of the Opal Motel are prepared to finance the greater proportion of the money required for the drainage and sewerage of the business area. In this event those people connected to the system would either purchase or rent a portion of the pipe-line. This then would alleviate the offensive

effluent smell, strongly prevailing in summer, that the residents complain of.

If there was Local Government it would be their responsibility, and the responsibility of the people in the business area, to raise the money for the drainage system.

As there is no Local Government, it was suggested, as an alternative, that the Health Department should effect some means of relieving the town of this risk to health.

ADVISED

On the final question of how to accomplish acquiring a Resident Health Officer, Mr. Dudley Brown responded and advised the mothers to act as a group by writing to the Government pointing out the high priority need. This may urge action to be speeded up.

Mr. Craig Cameron suggested that, meanwhile, we may be able to help ourselves in the form of voluntary help, by one of the mothers, as a medical aid. In this way we would commence a campaign to undertake more preventive measures.

LIGHTNING RIDGE BUSINESS FOR SALE

Ladies' and Gents' Hairdressing Salon

Details contact
Diane Brown, P.O. Box 7,
L.R. or Tel. 7

THIS WEEK'S

TIME	SUPRA
ARIL	APIECE
LOLLIPOP	CL
END	TON DOE
	PER BURG
STEAM	DADDY
PRAM	SUN
RAT	FEE DUO
AV	BRASSARD
GENIAL	ARGO
LOTUS	PEER

STAY RIGHT ON THE OPAL FIELD AT

"Lorne"

STATION HOMESTEAD
LIGHTNING RIDGE

Riding, Swimming, Barbecuing, Mining, Shearing and Relaxing
Telephone: 6 LIGHTNING RIDGE

Robin Williams Association's

COOBER PEDY MEDICAL CENTRE COMMITTEE INC.

Annual Report 1971/72

Over the year, medical work at the hospital increased in comparison to the previous 12 months. This has been the trend since the hospital opened on January 4 1965.

Figures for the first year show 1,601 outpatients treated, and 48 inpatients admitted. Figures for the 12 months to the end of September this year are Outpatients — 7,769, Inpatients — 126.

NEW EQUIPMENT

New equipment costing \$1639.31 was purchased during the year. This includes cots and furniture for the children's ward, an air-conditioner for the treatment room, a new typewriter and an electric pumping and pipe layout from the septic tank overflow pit, for watering the trees and gardens. A coin-operated telephone is being installed for the use of patients, in the waiting room.

MAINTENANCE : REPAIRS

These costs amounted to \$531.12. Electrical repairs, replacement of batteries and washing machine motors were some of the main items. Voluntary work by tradesmen and others has kept maintenance cost at a minimum. Worthy of mention are the duties carried out by the Department for Community Welfare. They attend to the disposal of garbage, the carting of water, and the watering of the trees and gardens, free of charge. This saves the hospital Committee approximately \$1,000 a year.

MEDICAL BENEFITS

The Hospital Committee is endeavouring to have medical benefits made payable for outpatient-casualty treatment at the hospital. Representations have been made on our behalf in Federal Parliament by the Member for Grey, Mr. Wallis, and we are continuing to press the matter with the Commonwealth Minister for Health.

INCREASE IN STAFF

The Bush Church Aid Society has agreed that more nursing sisters are required to staff the hospital because of the increased work involved. They intend to maintain a staff of four nursing sisters at the hospital in the new year.

ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS

The medical block is now inadequate because of the greatly increased demands for medical services at the hospital. Facilities in every department are overloaded. To bring the hospital up to the standard necessary to meet present and future requirements, additions and alterations are being planned. These will include a new outpatient block and staff quarters, and increased ward, kitchen, laundry and storage space.

The outpatient block will include doctor's consulting and examination room, casualty and treatment rooms, portable X-ray; general office and waiting room. The improvements will have air-conditioning and heating throughout and will be built to Commonwealth and State Health Department standards.

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The Hospital Auxiliary handed the Hospital Committee a cheque for \$1,000 on December 16 1971. During this year they organised and ran a Mardi Gras which gave Coober Pedy its first ambulance. The Hospital Auxiliary have established themselves as an organisation which will continue to do a great deal to help the hospital in the future. Our congratulations to them on their efforts to date.

FLYING MEDICAL FUND

This fund is run by the community, and all citizens are encouraged to join. Members receive free emergency medical flights, and contributions from the fund help the Royal Flying Doctor Service and B.C.A. to provide medical services to this area. The number of members in the fund is disappointing. The total at the end of September was only 273. The membership fee has not been increased in 15 years, and with more members we can keep the cost as it is at present.

AMBULANCE FUND

This provides free ambulance travel up to 200 miles. Here again your support is needed in order to help maintain the ambulance and promote first aid training. The St. John Section at Coober Pedy does its work on a voluntary basis, but running and replacement costs must be met.

RESCUE SQUAD

The rescue squad is proceeding with an equipment and training program and intends to establish rescue depots at the 15 mile and in town. It will work with the ambulance service, particularly in mine rescue work.

The Department of Mines donation tin realised \$131.18 towards the hospital.

EXPANSION OF COMMITTEE

A letter has been forwarded to the Chief Secretary requesting permission to expand the number of committee members from five to nine to cater for the increased work that has to be done by the committee.

In conclusion, our thanks go to all who have helped us maintain and improve the hospital throughout the year. Our special thanks go to the hospital staff for the outstanding way in which they have carried out their duties and cared for the hospital. Our appreciation also goes to the Bush Church Aid Society and the Royal Flying Doctor Service for their continued help and support.

ON BEHALF OF THE MEDICAL CENTRE COMMITTEE.

President

The Annual General Meeting of the Coober Pedy Progress Association was held at 8 p.m. on October 26th, 1972, at the Coober Pedy Area School.

The attendance numbered between 110 and 130.

Opening the meeting the Secretary, Mr. K. Jones reported the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting which was held on October 21st, 1971.

The retiring President, Mr. Dudley Brown, thanked the Committeemen who had worked tremendously hard to make a success of the work they had undertaken during their term of office.

The retiring committee was unanimous in recommending the appointment of a full-time Secretary/Manager to the Association. The Secretary/Manager would be directly responsible to the Committee, who would lay down his specific duties.

It was moved by Mr. G. Paspaliaris and seconded by Mr. Nick Macris that the Association engage a paid Secretary/Manager.

A motion was then moved by Mr. Trevor Weatherall that the appointment of the Manager be left in the hands of the incoming Committee. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lucas.

The minutes of the Medical Centre Committee Inc. were read by Mr. Bill McDougall (see Annual Report).

He reported that extensions were planned for the Coober Pedy Hospital. Plans were being prepared at the present time for these additions.

Mr. McDougall said that when these extensions were completed, the community would have first class hospital facilities of State standard.

A new outpatients' block was to be built in front of the present main hospital building.

1,601 outpatients and 48 inpatients were treated at the hospital in 1965; the number of patients treated from the first year to the present had risen sharply.

In 1972 7,769 outpatients and 126 inpatients were treated.

Mr. McDougall felt that it was becoming increasingly more difficult to provide efficient service considering the present size of the hospital. Staff quarters were inadequate, so that a caravan had to be hired to accommodate two members of the staff.

Completion of hospital extensions, Mr. McDougall felt, would provide Coober Pedy with excellent hospital facilities for years to come.

Four Nursing Sisters will be staffing the hospital in the new year.

The Medical Committee would seek authority to proceed with the building as soon as plans had been accepted and returned.

It was proposed to give notice of Motion to change the Constitution as follows:

(1) The name of the Coober Pedy Progress Association be changed to the Coober Pedy Progress and Miners Association.

(2) Section 3 of the Constitution be amended to read:

Membership of the Association shall be open to any resident over the age of 18 years who is a permanent resident of the said fields and who submits an application for membership to the Secretary of the Association on the form provided in Schedule "A" of the rules. The Annual Membership fee shall be \$1.00 and will be due on 1st November each year.

(3) Section 4 amended to read:

The Association shall be governed by a Committee of Management hereafter called the Committee, consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and nine (previously five) other members. In 1972 eight members of Committee were elected for a term of two years and one for a term of one year. In succeeding years seven and eight Committeemen shall retire alternatively annually.

(4) Section 8 (1) be amended to read:

Only financial members are eligible to vote and must have been registered for one month or at a previous General Meeting, whichever is the shorter.

This motion will have to be voted upon at the succeeding General Meeting and be supported by a two-thirds majority. (The second meeting can be held seven days after the Annual Meeting.)

On behalf of the residents, Mr. Eric Smith, a past President of the Progress Association, thanked Mr. Dudley Brown for his work and effort during his term of office.

Nominations were then called for the new Committee of the Progress Association, the three non-retiring members being Messrs. A. Noyes, S. Longen and J. Seric.

Twenty nominees were called, two of whom were women. Of these, twelve committeemen were to be elected.

Voting was by ballot and the twelve members elected were:

D. Wake, J. Telleria, K. Jones, R. Williams, R. Ledgard, A. McCormack, E. Amorosi, T. Weatherall, Miss Halfpenny, L. Lucas, G. Paspaliaris and R. Quick.

The last four committeemen named will serve a one year term, while the rest of the Committee will serve for two years.

Mr. Craig Cameron was asked to conduct the elections and the school teachers acted as scrutineers.

Mr. Robin Williams was elected as President of the Progress Association.

Nominations were then called for two Vice-Presidents and those elected were Messrs. T. Weatherall and A. Noyes.

Mr. Ken Jones was re-elected as Secretary.

Mr. J. Seric was elected as Treasurer.

The Meeting was then adjourned to Thursday November 2nd. It will be held at 8 p.m. at the Drive-In Canteen.

COOBER PEDY AREA SCHOOL

PROGRESSIVE HOUSE COMPETITION

School points for the Progressive House Competition for the week ending Friday, October 27, are:

EYRE — 400.
GILES — 364.
STUART — 317.
FORREST — 313.

Each classroom runs own competitions for sport, academic performance and individual effort in their own time. These include manning stalls on race days etc. Points are awarded for money raised.

PUBLISHED BY GOLD STAR (S.A.) PTY. LTD.
6 Montrose Street, Hawthorn, 3122
Telephones: Melbourne 82 6333, 82 1326,
82 1327

Telex: GSP AA32487

Managing Editor: William S. Parsons
Coober Pedy: Kevin Allchurch
Christina Nowacki
Marion Dionisio
Lightning Ridge: Robina Boardman