

Michael Costello opal buyer 1960's

Michael Costello former opal buyer rang to talk about the newspaper and how he subscribes to it. He noticed what he called sad news in paper written by John Dunstan concerning challenges for the opal miners.

John's story caused him recall the days when he was here and so rang up to talk about it.

Michael Costello was the biggest in Australia. His three sons are Braham, Johnathon, Jamie Costello.

Michael first came to Coober Pedy in 1960, when opal was sixpence an ounce

Michael would often go 6 weeks flying with father in law pilot on opal buying trips. (Robert ?)

Michael's father in law was a Veteran Ansett ANA pilot. They would fly in overnight from Broken Hill to Andamokka...buying buying buying..

His Father in law would say "Michael stop buying." One time they were 100kg overweight when they took off

Johnny opal cutter... took off. raining drizzle... They were at the Claypan, lift, lift and then took off. It was late in afternoon and they needed to get back to Sydney

Johnny was a Veteran commercial pilot.

They were circling Mt. St. John where there were 8 landing strips. All grass air-strips. (I'm not sure what this bit has got to do with South Australian opal fields. Mount St. John is in Qld)

They taxied to front door (someone they knew). stayed the night and then left.

The Catholic church bell in Coober Pedy came from Sydney Chinese Presbt. Church in Campbell St Sydney. Michael saw one similar and asked the "pastor"? if he had another one.

Paster said yes and got it for him. Ansett flew it to Coober Pedy free of charge.

The boys at workshop next to Amorosi Caltex dealer in Post Office Hill Road cleaned up the bell and found a date engraved on it - 15 August 1887

The bell still hangs in the Catholic Church. (hope nobody reads this and pinches it)

John Dunstan's father Spencer Dunstan was Greg Sherman's number one buyer. Spencer Dunstan and Michael Costello were friends.

John Dunstan remembers Michael quite well and says he drove a hard bargain when buying opal.

Message for Opal Miners "Tomorrow is the best day for the big one".

Message for Margaret: "The joy of life is the promise of tomorrow" (private)

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Costello Group - OUR HISTORY

<http://www.costellos.com.au/>

The Costello group is an Australian-owned operation that has specialised in Australia's unique gemstones for three generations. The group was first established as the Koala Opal Centre in 1955, with the founder John Costello pioneering the export of Australian rough opal to Japan. The next generation of the Costello family, under the leadership of Michael Costello, was responsible for the establishment of retail outlets in the major gateways of Sydney and Perth.

The third generation of the Costello family has continued the tradition, expanding the group's operation to include further retail outlets in Perth and Sydney. In 1994, Braham Costello assumed responsibility and ownership of the Perth arm of the operation while brother Jamie Costello took over the Sydney operation. It is Braham and Jamie's aim to continue to honour the family tradition of offering clients high quality Australian gems and jewellery complimented by premium customer service.



John S. Costello



Michael J. Costello



M. Braham Costello, James A. Costello & Jonathan E. Costello