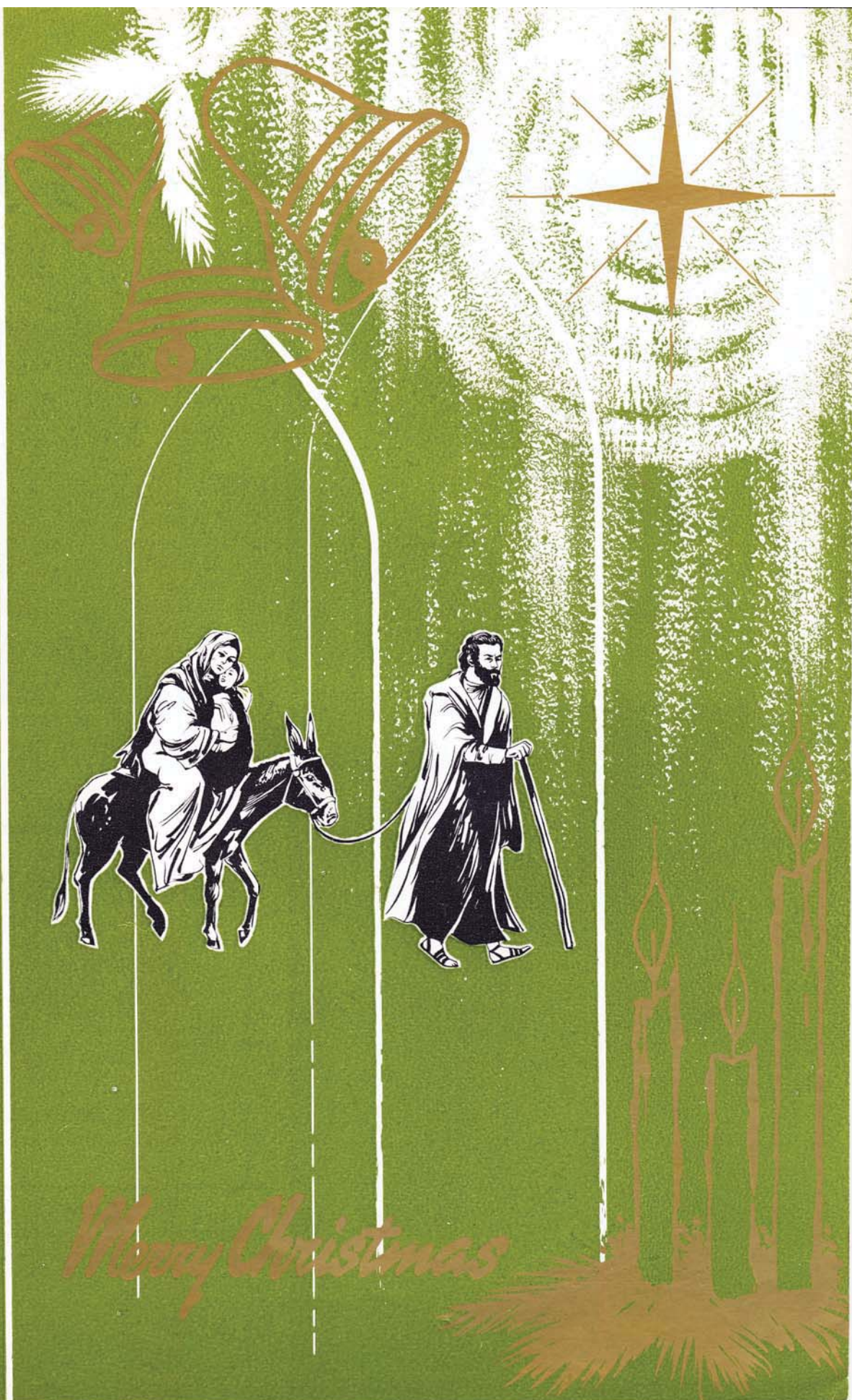


progress



THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE STATE SAVINGS
BANK OF VICTORIA

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NUMBER 12



Merry Christmas



COVER

In those days a decree was issued by the Emperor Augustus for a general registration throughout the Roman world. For this purpose everyone made his way to his own town; and so Joseph went up to Judaea from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to be registered at the city of David, called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David by descent; and with him went Mary who was betrothed to him.

Luke: Chapter 2, Verses 1-5

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To

all members of the staff

and their families

I send my best wishes for

a most enjoyable Christmas

and a New Year filled

with health and happiness.

Bill

General Manager.



Christmas Lore and Legend

The gospels do not indicate the date or even the precise year of Christ's birth, and it is probable that the Church chose December 25th, not with any certain knowledge that that was indeed the proper date, but to coincide with the day of the northern winter solstice which had been for centuries the most important festival of the year in many pagan lands.

The winter solstice which, through changes in the calendar now occurs on December 22nd, marks the depth of winter, the day when the sun is furthest from the equator and about to begin its journey back, bringing its blessings of light and renewed life.

In primitive times many people worshipped the sun because the pattern of their lives depended on its power, and feasts were held to aid its return from its distant wanderings. These feasts were accompanied by huge bonfires, and it is from this practice that the Yule log originated.

When Pope Gregory I, called Gregory the Great, (540-604) sent missionaries into pagan lands he gave them this specific instruction:

"Let the shrines of idols by no means be destroyed, but let the idols which are in them be destroyed . . . so that the people, not seeing their temples destroyed, may displace error, and recognise and adore the true God. . . . And because they were wont to sacrifice oxen to devils, some celebration should be given in exchange for this . . . they should celebrate a religious feast and worship God by their feasting, so that still keeping outward pleasures, they may more readily receive spiritual joys."

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

We owe the Christmas tree, so beloved by children and adults alike, to this instruction, the effects of which lasted long after St. Gregory's death. When the English monk St. Boniface (680-754) went to Germany to begin



It is hard to believe that the peaceful Christmas tree had its origin in the human sacrifices that were once made to the Teutonic god Wodan at the foot of his sacred oak tree.

the successful missionary work that earned him the title "the apostle of Germany," he found that human sacrifices were offered to Odin (or Wodan), the Teutonic god of the dead, at the foot of his sacred oak tree.

St. Boniface replaced the sacrifices to Odin's oak tree by a fir tree adorned in tribute to the Christ Child.

The custom of lighting the Christmas tree is attributed to Martin Luther. The German Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, brought the custom to England. German migrants took it to the new world.

STREAMERS, MISTLETOE AND HOLLY

The traditional Christmas decorations — streamers, mistletoe and holly — can be traced to ancient pagan practices. The great Roman feast of the year was the Saturnalia, held from December 17 to 24 in honor of Saturn, the god of sowing or seed. Throughout this period, streets and buildings were decorated with streamers, and presents, usually wax candles and small clay dolls, were exchanged by all.

It is to the Druids, the religious officials of the Celtic races before their conversion to Christianity, that we owe the association of mistletoe with Christmas. The Druids used the juice of the mistletoe as a love potion. Under the refining influence of Christian precepts, this led to the pleasant custom of kissing under the mistletoe.

The Saxons used to hang holly in their homes to provide a place of refuge for the spirits of the forest against the chill of the winter snows.



For little children Santa Claus represents the wonder of Christmas. The origin of the Father Christmas story goes back to St. Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 3rd Century.

SANTA CLAUS

There is no association between the beloved, patriarchal figure of Santa Claus and pagan customs. "Santa Claus" is an anglicised version of the Dutch "Sinterklaas" or St. Nicholas, who was bishop of Myra, a town in Lycia, Asia Minor, at the close of the 3rd century. For a man who has become so famous, surprisingly little is known about St. Nicholas, and his elevation to one of the most loved figures of history is based on a simple legend which may or may not be true.

The story is told that St. Nicholas dropped dowries secretly into the shoes of three pretty sisters, whose father, unable to arrange suitable marriages for them, was prepared to submit them to a life of shame.

From this anecdote has spread the practice of giving presents secretly to children — presents allegedly brought by good Santa Claus himself. This practice has been transferred to Christmas

Eve in many countries, but in the Netherlands the children still put out their shoes for presents on December 5th, the eve of St. Nicholas' feast day.

The idea that Santa Claus comes down the chimney also derives from the Dutch celebrations of St. Nicholas Eve. In the Middle Ages, the idea was popular that on the eve of his feast day, St. Nicholas rode his white horse over the roof tops, the devil (or Black Peter, as the Dutch called him) chained behind him. At each house St. Nicholas forced Black Peter to drop sweets and presents down the chimney into the children's waiting shoes.

The Dutch still enact the ceremony of Sinterklaas and Black Peter, but in other countries Santa comes without Black Peter, and instead of riding a white horse he journeys over the roof tops in a sleigh drawn by reindeers.

CAROLS

Music has been associated with the celebration of Christmas from the early centuries of Christianity. But until the 13th century, the chants, litanies and hymns were in Latin and too difficult for popular use.

In A.D. 1223, St. Francis of Assisi built the first tableau or crib depicting the birth of Christ in humble



A section of the ladies' choir at 3KZ Carols By Candlelight which has been held in Melbourne's Alexandra Gardens since 1937.

surroundings at Bethlehem. This he erected in an Italian church, and around it he and his fellow friars gathered to sing simple, tuneful hymns in the language of the people.

This type of joyous song with a religious theme, spread from Italy to Spain, France, Germany and England where it became particularly popular. The 15th century has been called the great age of the English carol. Henry VII and his court used to join in carols between the many courses of their Christmas dinner.

The Puritans looked with disfavor on carol singing as they did on all gay forms of Christmas celebrations. With the restoration of the monarchy, England found Christmas again, and carol singing became one of the most popular aspects of the festive season in churches and homes, and by strolling bands of minstrels and waifs.

That beloved English carol, **Hark The Herald Angels Sing** was written by Charles Wesley in 1730. Wesley, "the great hymn-writer of all ages" wrote about 6500 hymns.

Perhaps the most universally loved and sung of all carols is **Silent Night**, written in a hurry and almost in desperation on Christmas Eve, 1818. On the day before, Father Joseph Mohr, parish priest of the little Austrian village of Salzburg, had learned to his dismay that his church organ was broken, and that there would be no music for the Christmas Midnight Mass.

That night, returning late from a visit to a distant parishioner, Father Mohr paused on top of a rise looking down on his village swathed in snow. This, he thought, was how the town of Bethlehem must have looked on

the Holy Night. Greatly moved, he returned to his church and hastily scribbled the words of his beloved carol. The next day, his organist, Franz Gruber, set the words to music, and before the Midnight Mass, Father Mohr sang the carol to his congregation, accompanied by Gruber on his guitar.

The popular **Adeste Fidelis** was written in 1221 by St. Bonaventura a Franciscan friar, and translated into English as **Oh Come All Ye Faithful**, by an Anglican minister, Frederick Oakeley, in 1841. The joyful strains of **Good King Wenceslaus** were set to a 16th century melody by Englishman John Neal in 1866. The appealing little hymn, **Away In A Manger**, was written by Martin Luther in the 16th century.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This Christmas, Australians will exchange some 15 million Christmas cards, according to an estimate made by the makers of Hallmark cards.

Popular though this practice has become, it was one of the last of the Christmas customs to develop. Research suggests that the first Christmas card was designed and etched by a 16-year-old English lad named William Maw Egley in 1842. His card measured 5¼" deep by 3½", and showed four scenes: a group of young people dancing; a family at Christmas dinner; a lady distributing gifts to poor people; and a skating scene. The message read, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you."

The first commercial card was produced in 1846 by the noted London artist, John Horsley. It sold for one shilling, a sum expensive enough in those days to restrict its sales to 1000. As can be seen from the reproduction, the main scene in Horsley's card was of a convivial family gathering. Temperance adherents in England protested against this display of wine drinking, maintaining that the card encouraged drunkenness.

The commercial production of Christmas cards was restricted until development of cheaper processes for color printing brought the price within the reach of most people.

It is a rather curious acknowledgment that Christmas has become a secular as well as a religious festival, that the motif of a Christmas card is at least as likely — and probably more likely — to be a landscape or some humorous subject than a religious theme; and it is a reflection of the ties that still bind both new and old Australians to the lands of their forbears that many of the cards they send show snow scenes and blazing fires in ancestral halls.

Despite all the practices, religious and secular, which have grown around Christmas, the heart of the Festival is still the birth of a child in humble surroundings at Bethlehem—the most momentous event in the history of mankind.



The first commercial Christmas card, painted by the London artist, John Horsley in 1846.

The HAPPY People



Grouped around accountant Colin Dodd are Bob Stark, Graeme Vendy and Bill Elliott.

We recently spent four of the most pleasant hours we have ever enjoyed at a branch. Our visit was to Ballarat where the whole staff is obviously convinced that the world looks brighter from behind a smile.

The lead to this happy outlook comes from manager Mr. Ern Nette, renowned throughout the service as a good companion over a yarn or a glass. Ern's approach to life was underlined by his answer to our query: how had he adjusted to Ballarat's cold after the sunshine of Mildura? "I long ago realised that all the talk in the world doesn't have any effect on the weather. What the weather man sends, I enjoy."

He has as his assistant manager Mr. Charlie Fricker, and everybody who has ever met Charlie will agree that the smile which spreads right across his elfin-like face is something to behold.

These two affable managers we knew of old, but we met the rest of the staff for the first time; and yet we immediately felt as though we were among old friends.

Accountant Colin Dodd, father of seven children, was a star of the Ballarat football league for several seasons during which he played more than 190 games with Ballarat East and won his club's best and fairest award three times.

Bill Elliott, the senior Grade H, belongs to a family as well known in the City as the Town Hall. His great grandfather and grandfather both worked on the gold fields in the pioneer days. Bill will talk golf to you for as long as you'll stand still.

The other Grade H, Bob Stark, was recently transferred from Melbourne, and last winter made a trip every week-

end to lend vocal support to the Balwyn football team with which he played for many seasons.

Graeme Vendy, since our visit promoted to Grade H at Ballarat East, is a talented pianist and leader of a popular group called *The Vibratones* which appears regularly on the local TV station. Graeme is better looking than any man has a right to be.

Brian Wright, recently transferred from Elizabeth Street, has a great love of the land and is patiently teaching his border collie pup to muster sheep on a friend's property.

Like his manager, Mr. Nette, teller John Cheesman was formerly on the staff at Mildura. Before his marriage, John was a keen flyer and had four hours solo to his credit. Another of the tellers, Barry Stickland, is an accomplished violinist, and leader of Light Opera Company's orchestra.

Graeme Barnes, third teller, is an all-round sportsman, a keen shooter, and a skilled yachtsman on Lake Wendouree. In fact our Ballarat staff plays a prominent part in all sections of Ballarat's sporting life. Neil Stevens has represented the City four times in country week tennis, and has won the singles championship of his Church Association five times. Tennis is also the favourite recreation of Ian Davies.

The more unusual recreation of bush-walking claims a lot of Barry Thompson's spare time. Barry, incidentally, looks after the ledger work for the 27 agencies attached to the branch.

The junior lads are also good at sport. Frank Kennedy was second best and fairest with the Springbank football team this year; John Hyatt has a golf handicap in low double figures and won the Ballarat Under 18 championship this year; and John Salter, son of our Ballarat West agent, is showing a lot of promise as a footballer.



The distaff section: Noreen Woodruff, Anne Seymour, Dianne Miller, Judith Riley, Maureen McConville, Carmel Williams, Brenda Duggan, Joan Cornell and Helen Ryan.

THE GIRLS

As the accompanying picture shows, the girls at Ballarat are both bright and beautiful. There seemed to be more engagements rings in the office than in a jeweller's window.

Noreen Woodruff, senior of the distaff officers, has been at Ballarat for 19 years of her bank service, which began in 1928. Her comment on the girls at Ballarat: "They are lovely, and such happy girls. They make me think of 'myself when young' in the old Service Department where we had so much fun."

The engaged girls on the staff are Joan Cornell, Maureen McConville, Judith Riley and Brenda Duggan. Brenda is engaged to Michael Ryan of our Wendouree staff. The sparkle in the eyes of this quartette out-shone the diamonds they wore on their fingers.

Unless we miss our guess, the rest of the girls at Ballarat will not be single for long either. Carmel Williams shares an interest in music with fellow workers Graeme Vendy and Barry Stickland, and she has appeared in one of the Light Opera Company's productions. Helen Ryan is as keen a supporter as the North Ballarat football team has ever had; in the summer she spends a lot of time at water sports on Lake Learmonth. Dianne Miller is one of the best basketball players in Ballarat, and is captain of her Church team. Newest recruit to the staff is Anne Seymour, who has settled in like an old hand.

We had a farewell drink with managers Ern Nette and Charlie Fricker, who both expressed the same thought—the office worked like a clock. Ern Nette expressed it this way: "This is a remarkable office. Since I've been here I've never seen or heard of the slightest friction between any members of the staff."

The youthful section of the staff: Barry Stickland, John Salter, Brian Wright, Barry Thompson, Ian Davies, Frank Kennedy, John Hyatt, John Cheesman and Graeme Barnes.



Manager Mr. E. Nette and assistant manager Mr. C. Fricker discuss a tricky point in a circular.

GOLD ERA

Ern asked us to take back to Head Office the first minute book of the trustees who controlled the Ballarat office when it was established in 1856.

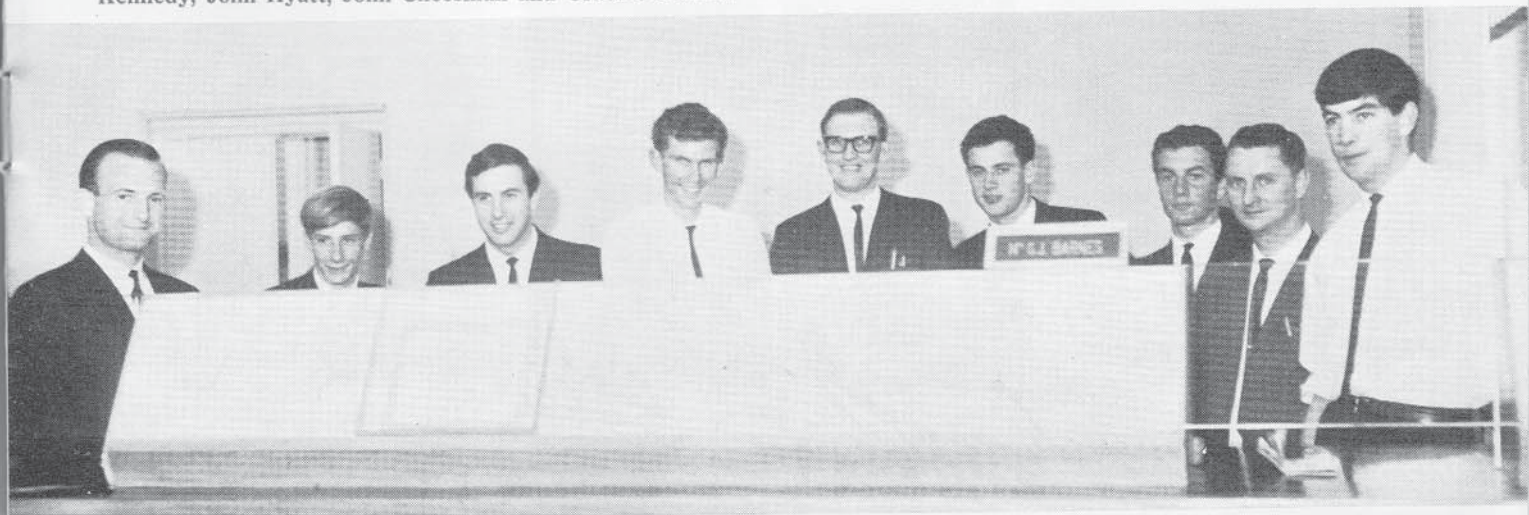
From this, and some other researches, we were able to piece together a picture of Ballarat in the turbulent days when the decision was made to open a savings bank for the convenience of gold miners.

On August 26, 1851, gold was discovered on the present site of the Ballarat Town Hall. Soon after, the famous field at Golden Point was opened up, and it was this field that gave the future city its name. The natives called the pleasant retreat on the river bank at Golden Point, Ballarat, meaning "resting place."

From the start, gold could be won within a foot or two of the surface, but when a miner named Cavanagh dug through the pipe clay strata, he unlocked one of the treasures of the earth. In four hours, Cavanagh filled a dish with nuggets worth £1,800.

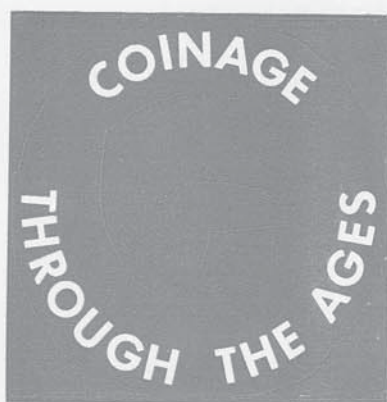
It is not hard to imagine the excitement created by newspaper accounts of such discoveries. By the middle of October, 1851, there were 10,000 diggers on the fields at Ballarat—one out of every three male adult residents of Victoria. Three years later, there were 27,500 people mining the richest gold discovery the world had ever known.

The need for a savings bank was urgent. It was not until late 1856, however, that the Commissioners of Savings Banks had the resources to open a branch in the golden city.





The obverse side of a coin issued during the reign of Alexander the Great (356-323 BC).



BY **R. Poynter** DIP. COM.

Australia is about to join the overwhelming majority of the world's nations which use a decimal system of currency. It was a mere 170 years ago that the United States of America became the first Government to adopt such a currency. In 1792, George Washington announced to Congress that the United States mint was ready to issue half-dimes, the first coins of a decimal currency based on a silver dollar equal in weight to the Spanish piece-of-eight, at that time the most respected coin in the world.

The American dollar was divisible into units of tenths (the dime), hundredths (cent) and thousandths (mills).

ORIGIN OF DOLLAR

The word dollar comes from Czecho-Slovakia. About A.D. 1500 a certain Count Schlick, who lorded over the little spa village of Joachimsthal — or Joachim's Valley — in Bohemia, issued some large silver coins bearing on the obverse side a portrait of St. Joachim. These coins were prized for their pure silver content and true weight, and were eagerly sought by traders in all parts of Austria and Germany.

At first people called them Joachimsthalers, later shortened to thalers. This word was corrupted by the Dutch to dalers, and further mis-pronounced by the English-speaking people of New Amsterdam as dollar.

So, in this involved fashion, the name of Australia's new decimal unit can be traced to an honest man who once lived in a remote valley in Bohemia.

FIRST COINS

Before the world discovered the usefulness of coins, the value of money in use had to be tested for fineness and measured by weight every time a money transaction took place. A price might be, say, 30 shekels weight of silver.

The beginnings of coined money are believed, on the statement of Herodotus, to have been in Lydia in the 7th Century B.C. The kings of that adventurous country struck coins bearing their imprimatur as a certificate of value and fineness. This was more than an act of ostentation. The kings of Lydia had a smelting problem, as their local mines produced a natural alloy called "electrum" which was about 75% gold and 25% silver. The coins made from this alloy were more acceptable if they were struck with the official die certifying their value.

It was not until 561 B.C. that the fabled Lydian king, Croesus, was able to mint his coins entirely of silver or gold. These were called **staters** meaning standards, and they weighed approximately one pound.

ROMAN INFLUENCE

The Roman influence on coins was almost all to the good. Their far reaching conquests brought standardisation of units and better modelling to all of Europe. How often when we write £ s d do we remember that these abbreviations originally represented the coins of Rome—*libra*, *solidus* and *denarius*?

Their good influence notwithstanding, the Roman State was, I think, the first to depreciate the intrinsic worth of a currency at the expense of the public. To finance

the Second Punic War, the Romans reduced the metal content of certain coins.

After the fall of Rome, the mantle of arbiter of merchant standards fell on Charlemagne (Charles The Great) who established as his unit of money, silver to the weight of one pound, divisible into 240 small pieces to enable accounting by tale (number) as well as by weight. His standard was probably based on the weight of the Roman bronze coin—"aes grave"—which weighed one Roman pound.

MONEY IN ENGLAND

Following Charlemagne's lead, his contemporary, Offa the King of Mercia (Middlesex) also established a standard Saxon pound of sterling silver as his unit. Coiners in each duchy of the Kingdom were empowered to divide pound units brought to them by merchants into 240 pieces, but they were allowed to keep a small amount for their trouble. As a result, when debts were settled by weight, it was necessary for the debtor to throw in extra clippings, known as "scillings" to make the correct measure.

The small pieces struck from the silver pound, known to modern scholars as "sceattas," varied greatly in design according to the fancy of the moneyer. They were first referred to as "pennies" about A.D. 750, a word derived from the name of King Penda of Mercia. Within 100 years, their use had spread to all the Saxon kingdoms.

William the Conqueror set a slightly lighter pound as his standard, and his statutes, drafted in Latin, introduced the Roman words *libra*, *solidus* and *denarius* for silver pounds which consisted of 12 Saxon schillings each divided into 20 silver pennies. The Domesday Book distinguished between the pound ad numerum (or by tale) and the pound per sum (or by weight) and allowed for six pennies extra to be added to the 240 to make up for loss of weight in coining.

A statute of A.D. 1266 enacted that the penny should weigh "32 wheat corns from the middle of the ear," but this was altered in 1280 to be officially 24 grains of wheat. Thus we see how our system of weights includes 24 grains to the pennyweight, and the pound troy contains 5,760 grains, which is 24 multiplied by 240.

Into the reverse side of many early pennies a cross was indented so that the coin could be broken evenly into half-pennies or fourthings (farthings).

GOLD COINS

The first English sovereign to mint gold coins was Edward III (1327-1377) who introduced a gold coin, valued at six shillings and eight pence, known as a noble. The use of gold brought all the troubles of a bimetallic currency, for the relative value of one type of coin to the other varied according to the fluctuations in the price of gold and silver.

From Saxon times to 1816, England was officially on a silver standard, and few gold coins ever intruded into day to day dealings. Shakespeare speaks of "gaudy gold, hard food for Midas" as the symbol of great wealth, the money of the merchant or usurer, but silver was "the pale and common drudge 'twixt man and man."

In Victorian days, England was wealthy enough to change the pound of sterling silver for a defined weight of gold. This gold standard, which we were once taught was sacred as the natural denominator of currencies, had a life of less than a century, and died during the world depression. Its life and death are a study in themselves. Today our coins are tokens only, whose intrinsic worth is nowhere near as great as their face value.

Coin collecting is one of the world's most popular hobbies and deservedly so, for the genius of a civilisation is often shown more vividly in the heraldic devices on its coins than in its written history. Coins through the ages give us eloquent testimony, in cameo so to speak, of the power, pride and resources of peoples, the state of their arts, and the symbols they cherish.

Alexander the Great depicted on his first coins the Macedonian eagle clutching a thunderbolt. England chose St. George slaying a dragon. Maybe posterity will forgive us for depicting a flying mouse on one of our first decimal coins.



A coin issued in the reign of the Macedonian King Lysimachus (355-281 BC).



The Spanish dollar, or piece of eight reales, which for many years was one of the most respected coins in the world.



Until recent times, coins had an intrinsic value equal to their metal content. This Adelaide sovereign issued in 1852 had a gold content of five pennyweights and 15 grains, then worth one pound.



This Roman denarius was hand-wrought during the reign of the Emperor Severus Alexander, AD 222-235. The denarius was the principal coin of the Roman empire.



This distinctive twopenny piece, issued during the reign of George III, was one of the first copper coins used in Australia. Minted in solid copper it weighed a full two ounces and was also used as a measure of weight.



Grapevine

ABERFELDIE BLAZES THE TRAIL

Over the week-end Friday, October 29, to Sunday, October 31, the staff of Aberfeldie branch blazed the trail for the rest of us towards decimal currency. They completed a "dummy" conversion of all ledger accounts in an operation that was a complete success.

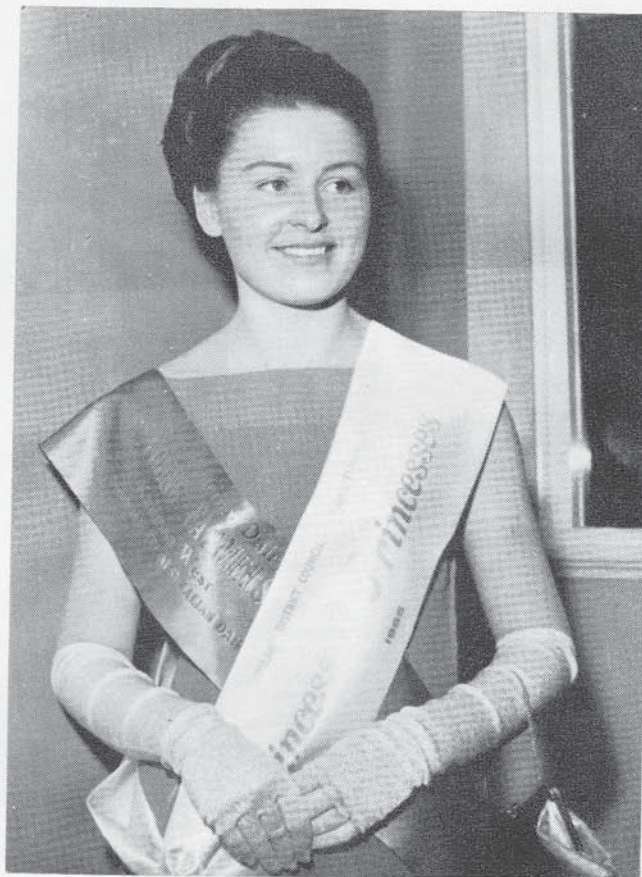
Stage One of the exercise was the normal balancing of the ledgers. When this was accomplished, the total of the balance column of each audit sheet was converted to dollars and cents.

Stage Two was the conversion (in pencil) of the ledger balances, and their extraction and addition. In no case did the dollars and cents total of an audit sheet differ by more than five cents (the acceptable margin) from the £ s. d. total of its companion sheet.

It had been expected that the dummy run plus the normal completion of monthly returns, would not be finished before Sunday evening. In fact the whole job was over by mid-day, and the branch was deserted when Assistant General Manager, Mr. D. Ross, and Staff Superintendent, Mr. K. W. Elder, called on the Sunday afternoon to check progress.

The acting Assistant Chief Inspector, Mr. N. J. Trace, and the Research Officer, Mr. M. Souter, were on hand throughout the exercise at Aberfeldie to give any advice that might be needed. In fact, their help was not required at any stage. The staff knew exactly what they had to do, and they went about it with smooth efficiency. Both Mr. Trace and Mr. Souter said they were extremely pleased with every phase of the exercise, and they were most impressed by the keenness of the whole staff from the junior to manager, Mr. R. E. McEwan.

In his summary of the operation, Bob McEwan said: "The whole thing was a fine piece of teamwork. The juniors worked like old hands and everyone on the staff co-operated excellently. As regards the actual conversion of balances we averaged only two mistakes per ledger. The crux of the operation was the screed prepared at Head Office which charted the way and set out very clearly what had to be done. This enabled me to give the staff a thorough briefing in advance of the exercise, and that was a vital factor. My advice to other managers is to adhere faithfully to the screed, and they will not have any trouble."



PRINCESS

This lovely girl is Margaret Hennessy, a member of our Bairnsdale staff. Margaret was recently crowned "Princess of Princesses" at the East Gippsland district Young Farmers' ball, where she represented the Wy Yung club of which she is a member.

GRATITUDE

It is not a pleasant experience for a branch manager to have to tell a depositor that he does not meet the bank's requirements for the granting of a housing loan, and sometimes a disappointed applicant complains bitterly; but then it is the way of humanity to express discontent loudly.

It is much rarer for a grateful person to convey appreciation of a favour received. On those occasions when a manager is trying to placate a disappointed applicant, it might help to show him this pleasant letter received from a Parkdale depositor:

"Both the wife and myself wish to thank you for your tolerance and patience during our run of bad luck and it only goes to prove that your policy has not changed over the years. I have never forgotten the way your bank stood by my father during the depression years and even gave him painting jobs to help pay a little off his arrears, and to keep the roof over our heads, and I know if he was alive he would also convey his thanks to you."



VERSATILE

Some day, if somebody can find the time and energy to organise it, our staff will stage a first-class revue. There is a lot of musical and acting talent among the 3600 of us. We thought of this again as we read in the local paper an account of the roles John Lidgerwood has played in productions staged by the Benalla Light Opera Company. John, now 25, has been on the staff at Benalla since 1956. Recently he sang the role of Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers*. He played the title role in the world premiere of *Ned Kelly*; that of Sutton the bombastic solicitor in *White Horse Inn*; the sergeant of police in *Pirates Of Penzance* and the vicar in *The Sorcerer*. To quote from the Benalla Ensign: "Lovers of light opera have come to recognise him as a versatile artist of great talent." John is also an accomplished drummer and a member of a combination called the Broken River Jazz Group. He combines athletic ability with musical talent. In 1960 he won a heat of the Stawell Gift, and he plays a useful game of golf.



This Christmas, mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Keep promises. Deserve confidence. Write a letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Appreciate. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in word or deed. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Listen. Apologise if you were wrong. Think first of someone else. Flout envy. Try to understand. Be kind; be gentle. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Examine your demands on others. Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency.

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Mr. Noel Goss, editor of the publishing department of F. W. Cheshire Pty. Ltd., has given us the following recommendation for Christmas book buying.

FOR MUM AND DAD: Newsmakers, none average yet each typical of Australia today: *Uncommon Men* (36/-), 24 fine John Hetherington profiles from The Age series; *If I Die* (35/-), by Malcolm Wright, coastwatching and guerrilla warfare behind the Japanese lines in New Guinea; an Aboriginal who found God in a Collingwood slum: *Pastor Doug* (39/6), biography of the Rev. D. Nichols; Hiroshima orphan who became an Australian housewife: *Alien Blossom* (32/6), by I. R. Carter, story of Cherry Parker, first Japanese war bride Australia admitted.

FOR BANKERS: *The Highest Bidder* (45/- and 27/6), Fitzpatrick's and Wheelwright's just-published guide to foreign investment in Australia; *The Australian Trading Banks* (35/-), Professor Arndt's 1957 classic, revised and up-dated by the author and C. P. Harris; *The National Income And Social Welfare* (37/6), papers edited by Professor Keith Hancock on signs of obsolescence in our social welfare policies.

FOR THE CHILDREN: Happy, lively bush holiday adventures of city kids: *Four Winds And A Family* (22/6), by Dymphna Cusack and Florence James; an Argonauts' Club special about, by and for children: *The Gravity Stealers* (22/6), edited by John Gunn.

FOR THE LITTLES: Three books simply and amusingly written and brilliantly illustrated: *Story Time* (30/-), by various Kindergarten Of The Air writers; *Ringtail The Possum* (13/6), Joyce Nicholson and Gordon De Lisle; *Sebastian And the Sausages* (13/6), by Tim Burstall.



ACTIVE

We had a yarn with Mr. Alan Hodge, manager at Minyip, who came to Melbourne for the recent combined Communion breakfast. Alan gave us an insight to the extraordinary range of activities in which a country manager can be involved.

He is a member of the Wimmera Legacy Club; an adviser to the Young Farmers Club; a committee member of the Music and Arts' Club and an active player in that club's productions; treasurer of the Aborigines' Advancement League; treasurer of the Scouts' Group Committee; organist of his Lodge; auditor of 20 local societies. These activities, multiple though they are, occupy less time than his family and Church ties. He is the father of five children and very conscious of the amount of parental time to which growing children are entitled. Alan is a devout churchman, a member of Synod, a lay reader conducting three services a month up to 40 miles from Minyip, and secretary and vestryman of his local church.

To add to the Hodges' contribution to the community life of Minyip, Alan's wife Kathleen is church organist, cub mistress, and an active worker in Church affairs.



"Would you mind going to the next window? I'm new here and I don't know the procedure for hold-ups"

Report ON HOME SAVINGS GRANT

On August 31 this year, the Secretary of the Department of Housing presented his first report on the Home Savings Grant Act. The report makes extremely interesting reading and it has the added merit of being expressed in good, plain English.

It covers the period from July 20, 1964, when operations commenced, up to June 30, 1965. In that time, 27,095 applications for the grant had been processed. Of these 25,079 were approved, and 2016 failed to meet the requirements of the Act. The grants approved were for a total amount of £5,755,180, an average of £229 per grant, in the following categories:

New South Wales	£4,933
Victoria	£5,063
Queensland	£4,108
South Australia (including N.T.)	£4,808
Western Australia	£4,568
Tasmania	£4,447
A.C.T.	£6,110

Amount of Grant	Number	%
£250	18,499	73.8
£200 - £249	2,607	10.4
£150 - £199	1,900	7.6
£100 - £149	1,183	4.7
£50 - £99	654	2.6
Under £50	236	0.9
	25,079	100.0

Victorians received 7621 grants for a total of £1,791,276, at an average of £235 per grant.

The report states that an applicant who is eligible and submits a correctly completed and fully documented application may expect to receive a grant within 10 days of lodging an application.

COST OF HOMES

An interesting sidelight of the report is the information it provides about the average cost of homes purchased by successful applicants for the grant. Because these people were under 36 years of age, and the homes were the first they owned and cost no more than £7000, the figures quoted are not necessarily applicable to housing costs in general.

Of the 25,079 homes in respect of which the grant was paid, approximately half were acquired under contracts of purchase, and half were being built by the owner or on his behalf. The total cost of the homes was £120,892,499, an average of £4820 each. This includes the cost of both land and dwelling. The average cost of the homes in each State was:

2nd MORTGAGE

Of the 25,079 successful applicants, 19,482 (78%) bought their homes with the help of a first mortgage loan; 4372 (17%) gave both a first and second mortgage; the remaining 1225 bought their homes either from their own resources, or with personal or unsecured loans, or under a terms contract of sale. Including those who obtained both first and second mortgage loans, the average first mortgage was £3232 and the average second mortgage £680. The Victorian figures were: first mortgage £3367, second, £546.

The grant is payable only in respect of the first home owned after marriage. About 21% of those who received grants entered into commitments to buy or build their homes before marriage; a further 19% did so within one year of marriage and 15% within two years; 13% within three years; 9% within four years; 6% within five years, and the remaining 17% after five years.

The report acknowledges with gratitude the ready co-operation and assistance the Department received from the banks in the successful introduction and operation of the scheme.

After reading the report, we had a discussion with Mr. A. R. Broberg, assistant director of the Home Savings Grant branch of the Department of Housing. He told us that a great many New Australians were still not getting the message that to be eligible for the grant, it was necessary to accumulate savings in an account styled "Home Savings."

In fact, in the current financial year, as many as 30% of applicants do not have a home savings account, and this percentage is rising.

In a sample examination of 15 applicants received while we were talking with Mr. Broberg, 12 of whom were S.S.B. depositors, we noticed that eight failed to receive a full grant for this reason. This is quite a problem. We have used press (foreign press included), television and radio announcements to inform our depositors of the need to accumulate their savings in a specially designated account, but obviously we are not getting the message to many foreign born depositors. It would require the expenditure of a tremendous amount of money to convey this information in several languages. The best means of communication seems to be on a person-to-person basis at branch level.



CAMERA newsreel

Of all the interesting displays that have been held in the Elizabeth Street banking chamber, none has been more attractive or popular than the display of roses staged in conjunction with the National Rose Society of Victoria. On each day of the two weeks' show, members of the Society, directed by our own great rosarian, Lionel Lawrence, arranged 100 individual blooms in specimen vases, and a further 400 in massed arrangements. Some 20,000 pamphlets on growing roses were eagerly accepted by visitors to the display. "Sun" columnist Keith Dunstan brought lovely French model, Christine Borge, to see the show. Our picture shows Christine holding a recently developed rose, **Blue Moon**, in the spray from the waterfall that was the centre-piece of the display.



At a ceremony in Government House last month, the Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe, invested 17-year-old John Thomas with the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society. Last year John, who is on our staff at Apollo Bay, rescued two fellow members of the Apollo Bay Surf Life Saving Club. (See "The Lure of the Breakers" on page 15 of this issue.)



The combined Communion Breakfast held in the Myer Mural Hall was attended by 350 members of the staff from all over Victoria. Shown here at a section of the head table are (from left) Rt. Rev. A. M. Dickie, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria; Mr. D. Ross, Assistant General Manager; Monsignor L. M. Clarke, Vicar General of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne; guest speaker Sir Edmund Herring, Lieut. Governor of Victoria; Mr. Brian Kincaide, President of the S.S.B. division of the A.B.O.A.; Rev. L. M. Styles, Director of the Inter-Church Trade and Industries Mission; Mr. R. G. Hoban, Commissioner of the State Savings Bank; and Rt. Rev. Felix Arnott, Co-adjutor Bishop of Melbourne.



Farewell to a popular lady! Assistant Chief Inspector Mr. Tom Paige, Assistant Staff Supervisor Mr. Ron Wade, First Supervising Officer, Correspondence Department, Miss Dora Kent, and Inspectors' Clerk Colin McFarlane toast the good health of Miss Kath Walton at her retirement party.

Wedding Belles



Avon Colour Studio.

Happy smiles from Mr. and Mrs. Michael McMahon following their wedding. Both the bride and groom are members of the staff—Elaine (nee Burns) is on the Canterbury staff and Michael's a Reliever.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adams at the reception following their wedding at South Melbourne Lutheran Church. Mrs. Adams is the former Reet Sark, of Mechanization Department.



Abbey Studios.

Mr. Brian Gray and his wife, the former Maureen Holbery, sign the register following their marriage at St. Finbar's, Brighton. Brian, a well known Collingwood footballer, is on the Premises Section staff.



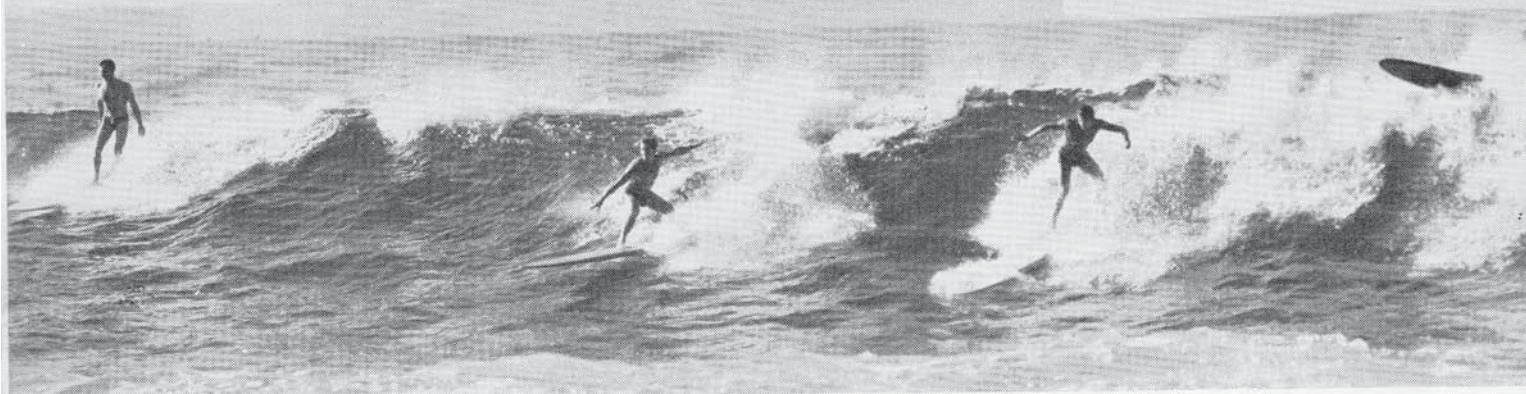
Oakleigh Studio.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bruce about to sign the register after their wedding at Oakleigh Methodist Church. Mrs. Bruce was formerly Glenice Shaw and is on the staff at Monash.



Newly married Mr. and Mrs. Ray Porteous drive away from St. Stephen's, Surrey Hills. The bride was the former Margaret Fraser, of the Relieving staff.

THE LURE OF THE BREAKERS



No sport has grown as fast in popularity in recent years as surfing, the sport that had its origin on the famed beaches of Honolulu and Waikiki. From the Hawaiian Islands, surfing has spread around the world to most countries endowed with facilities for this exciting pastime.

From an individual recreation, surfing has developed into a competitive sport, and there is now an annual international championship. Last year the venue of the championship was Manly, New South Wales.

As an organised activity, surfing in Australia began in 1907. In 1902, a Mr. Henry Gocher of Manly had defied existing laws on bathing in the open, and entered the surf in broad daylight. He was considered a very daring man. The popularity of surf bathing that followed Mr. Gocher's temerity, gave rise to the need for some organised protection against the danger of drowning in the surf. The result was the formation in 1907 of The Surf Life Saving Association of Australia.

It was not until 1947 that a Victorian branch, or State Centre, of the Association was formed. Initially there were three member clubs of the Victorian State Centre. As a result of the recent upsurge in the popularity of surfing, there are now 24 member clubs whose motto of "Vigilance and Service" is justified by their proud record of 2,251 lives saved in Victorian waters, and not one life lost on a patrolled beach, a record unequalled in any other State of Australia.

Of the many successful rescues made last year, one has particular interest for our staff. It was effected by John Thomas of our Apollo Bay branch. John, a member of the Apollo Bay Surf Life Saving Club, saw two fellow members washed from their surf boards about 200 yards off shore in rough seas at Skenes Creek. He recovered one of the surf boards and battled his way to his distressed mates.

He pulled one lad on to the board and sustained him until a fishing boat picked them and the other lad from the sea. For his bravery, John received the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society. (See Camera Newsreel this issue.)

John used a board of the "Malibu" type which can vary from four to six feet in length and might cost from £30 to £60. On such a board, a surfer can reach the heavy swells and catch a long, fast ride inshore. Some devotees of the sport prefer body surfing, relying on their swimming ability to reach the waves where they "peak up" and begin to break.

In heavy surf, a ski is sometimes preferred. This is a hollowed out board up to 12 feet long, with a stabilizing fin at the rear. The ski is paddled by two riders who can attain great speeds by cutting diagonally across the waves.

We asked two keen surfing members of the staff, Geoff. McCoppin and Chris. Fennel, to give us their opinion of the "surfies" who have attached themselves to the fringe of the sport and brought it some undesirable publicity.

Geoff. and Chris., who work side by side in the Chief Accountant's Department, often compete against each other as opposing oarsmen for their respective clubs, Torquay and Pt. Leo. Geoff. is a former patrol captain and treasurer at Torquay. Chris. is the present treasurer of Pt. Leo.

They spoke caustically of the "surfies," calling them hangers-on who lacked the fibre to submit to the rigid discipline and exacting standards demanded by Life Saving Clubs.

Geoff. and Chris. asked us to emphasise one rule which, if followed by all who swim in the surf this summer, will make the days of the surf club members less worrying:

Always swim between the flags.

"Men against the waves". The five-man crew of a surf life saving club surf boat hold fast as their boat is caught on the crest of a breaker. Besides adding to the excitement and spectacle of surf carnival events, the boats are constantly kept in readiness to assist in mass rescues, or to ward off menacing sharks.





A. J. GOYEN,
Darebin.

Tennis is the great sporting love of Arthur's life. He is still playing pennant for Auburn Heights, a club he has represented for 20 years. He has coached many youngsters at the game, including his son and his daughter, who play for Deodene. His chief problem — coping with the children's homework.



R. G. GRAF,
Relieving Manager.

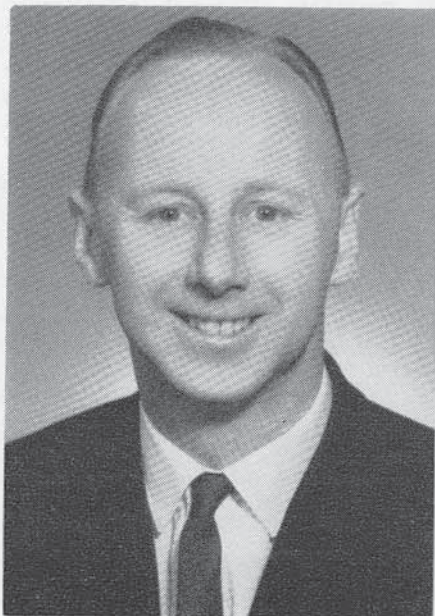
Amateur Athletics have claimed Ray's affections for many years and he has an outstanding record in track and field events. He represented Australia at the Empire Games in 1938 and has won several Victorian titles in the long jump and javelin events. An enviable collection of Australian coins is another interest.



R. J. THOMPSON,
Industrial Officer.

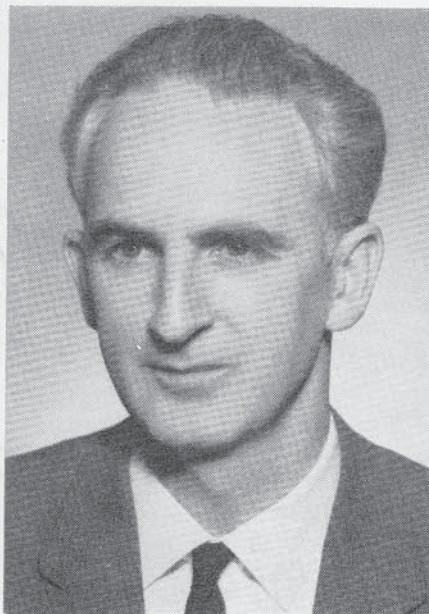
A brilliant academic career as well as varied experience in branches, as an inspector's clerk and a member of the General Manager's Department have made Ron a good choice for his new post. He is an A.A.S.A. and a B.Com. and is at present working on his thesis for his M.Com. degree.

OUR NEWLY APPOINTED MANAGERS



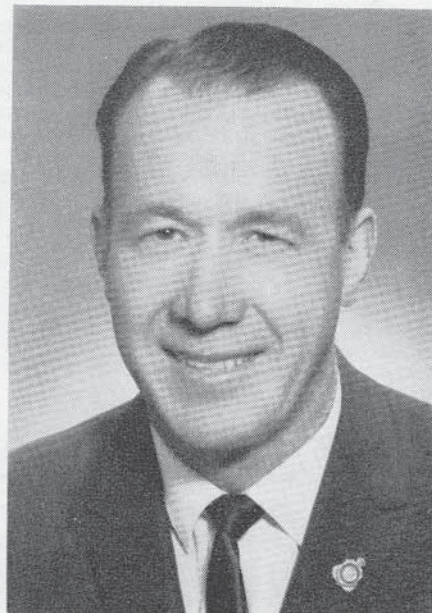
J. T. HORSLEY,
Secretary to General Manager.

Well known for his work as secretary of the O.W.D.S., Jack, entitled to the letters B.Com., A.A.S.A. is also auditor of the Champion Co-op., treasurer of his Church, on the local school committee and a Licensed Companies Auditor. Spare time? He has none.



J. T. MCPHEE,
Frankston East.

The father of seven children, Jack naturally finds that much of his spare time is occupied with family interests, but he still contributes a great deal of work and time to Church activities. Jack thinks that summer is the ideal season to take up his Frankston appointment.



R. R. BENNETT,
Burwood East.

A stalwart of the Bank's football team in the days when we played "A" grade, Bob nowadays confines his sporting activities to an occasional game of golf. His main football interest these days lies in following Melbourne's fortunes, an interest shared by his son and daughter.