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Editorial

Twelve months of change have come and gone and when we look back we wonder where the year went - a sign of old age creeping up they say!

New President and Committee, the same Government, and lot's of new legislation which is having a tremendous effect on clubs such as ours. The problems of ancillary licences will no doubt be one of the problems ahead requiring urgent attention and even more urgently will be the solution to maintaining our present level of activities following the introduction of the new drinking and driving law. I believe we're going to have to look very seriously at providing some form of public transport for our members, particularly at peak periods and for our functions. Something like a 4 pm pick-up and a 6.30 pm delivery and then a 7 pm pick-up and a 10.30 pm delivery service. Anyone got a bus they're not using?

CROSSFIRE Wishes all members and their wives and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and comradely New Year.

XMAS DRAW ARRANGEMENTS

We are having lots of bad luck with our Xmas Draw arrangements this year, in spite of booking twelve months in advance. (We've also booked for next year already). First of all our December 9th date was required for the Cabaret and now the Bowlers want the Pavilion for a function on the 16th.

Being big-hearted we have agreed to let the bowlers have the use of the Pavilion Lounge and we will now conduct the draw in the Bar Lounge. This room will thus be closed off from 3 p.m. on the 16th until the Draw commences at 6.30 p.m.

It will be essential for the bowlers to co-operate and use the Pavilion Lounge only from 3 p.m. onwards to allow the other members some room in the main bar.

A girl goes to the Doctor with strange symptoms she cannot understand. He examines her, sits down at his desk while she rearranges her clothes, and begins, "Now Miss Smith, I want you to tell your fiance..."

"But I don't have a fiance"

"Well then tell your boyfriend". She didn't have a boyfriend.

"All right Miss Smith" he says gently. "do you mind if I look out the window? The last time this happened there was a Star in the East."

Presidents Page

Christmas is nearly upon us again and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. During the month Nola and I, Keith and Edna were invited to ex P.O.W.'s annual dinner held at the City Hotel. It was an evening enjoyed by all present with many tales told that would have made good reading for "Crossfire". Aubrey Kenny gave a very humorous talk on his experiences as a P.O.W. of the Japanese.

It is 37 years ago last month (November) that the 2 N.Z.E.F. laid the foundation for its fame as desert fighters in its battles ranging from Fort Capuzzo to Sidi Rezegh. It was in these battles that many at the dinner, went in the "bag".

We also attended the Awatere and Flaxbourne sub branches annual dinner. This was, I think, their first combined dinner. During the evening a presentation of a silver tray was made to Keith from the Branches in appreciation of all the work he has done for them.

These branch dinners seem to be going from strength to strength. It is a grand opportunity to get together and discuss various things of R.S.A. interest. A unique aspect of this dinner was that every member present was financial.

The question of whether double burials for both husbands and wives should be permitted in Service-men's cemeteries, and also whether recognition should be permitted where wives ashes are placed in their husbands graves has been raised again. As you know the policy adopted in the past on both these matters has not permitted double burials nor recognition of wives ashes.

It is felt that the time may now be appropriate to review the matter. It was last formally discussed in 1975 but no decision was reached and the matter was allowed to drop. To assist the Department of Internal Affairs in making recommendation to the Government, they have requested our current views on the matter, whether the existing policy should continue or be subject to relaxation.

As this concerns most of us personally your views on this question would be appreciated. Why not give us your views on this matter in the January "Crossfire".

On the 23rd November, I had the honour of welcoming to our Club-rooms, Mr G. Rabiger and Mr H. Kolb. Mr Rabiger was an ex German paratrooper who served in Italy and was taken prisoner by the 26th N.Z. Battalion. Mr Kolb served with the German Infantry also in Italy.

Mr Rabiger is Vice President of the European Confederation of Ex Combatants an organisation of some six million members. Mr Rabiger presented to Mr Jim Richards, one of our members, the Confederations "Peace Cross". Jim is the first recipient of this honour outside Europe. My congratulations to you Jim. Incidentally Jim served in the 26th Battalion in Italy.

I would like to thank all members present on this occasion for the courtesy and friendliness they extended to these two visitors.

Mr Russ Matthews has offered to donate the club three pictures of local interest for the T.V. room. Thanks Russ, your generous offer is accepted with pleasure.

Mr Paul Brodie takes over as Secretary/Manager early in January. We welcome you Paul and all wish you a long and rewarding term of office.

KEN YEALANDS

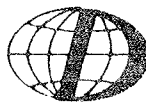
.. A total of \$17,669.64 has been donated by local R.S.A.'s and a further \$1,000 by N.Z.R.S.A. for Otago-Southland flood relief.

.. Marlborough R.S.A. has been asked to host a Pension & Welfare seminar in February 1979.

.. D.E.C. are preparing material to press for reinstatement of Air Concession travel for income tested pensioners.

.. Our new date badge for 1979 will be green.

.. D.E.C. are to submit revised Model Rules to the Licensing Committee and the Registrar of Incorporated Societies for approval, preparatory to promulgation to all Associations.



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FIRST AERIAL TOP DRESSING

During the Burma campaign the Chindit Force was kept supplied by air with bullets and boots; rifles and rations. The tactics on both sides were small scale disruption directed at the only supply route from North to South. Vantage points were any high ground overlooking road and rail which paralleled one another. Tactics were, blow up the railway and road and then wait for the Japanese repair gang and try to make life unbearable with mortar and gun-fire, from the strategic high emplacement. On one occasion a supply drop of barbed wire was requested and the column on the ground duly rigged up a barbed wire barricade, settled in to sit and shoot it out. Successful Japanese attacks, in Kamikaze style attempted to break through the wire but were unsuccessful. Dead bodies were left rotting on the wire. Neither side was willing to come out into the open to dispose of the rotting bodies and the resultant stench was noticeable even from air-drop height. Then there was a call for lime, to spread on the rotting bodies, to speed up decay and alleviate the stench. It was duly delivered by air drop.

Log Book entry shows - March 1944. Was that the first attempt at aerial topdressing.

Two friends, both prosperous businessmen, hadn't seen each other in some time and happened to meet on the beach at Miami.

"What brings you here, Jack?" asked one.

"Actually, Fred, a tragedy. My business was burned to the ground, and I'm taking a vacation on part of the \$240,000 insurance money"

"What a coincidence", responded Fred. "My business was destroyed by a flood and I got almost a million in insurance." After a moment of thoughtful silence, Jack leaned close to his friend and whispered, "Tell me, Fred - how do you start a flood?"

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SECRET MISSION

During the build-up towards the Burma Campaign, aircrew in England were invited to volunteer for a secret mission - out East. And that was all they were told. On arrival in India they were introduced to a mule carrying a portable transmitter and posted to a Chindit unit as Supply-drop Liaison Officer. Only snag was that they were all Fighter boys who had little idea of the manoeuvrability of a Dakota and the dropping zones they sometimes selected were akin to a blind alley on a dark night. But they soon learned after some straight talking over the radio during supply-drops.

GONE WEST

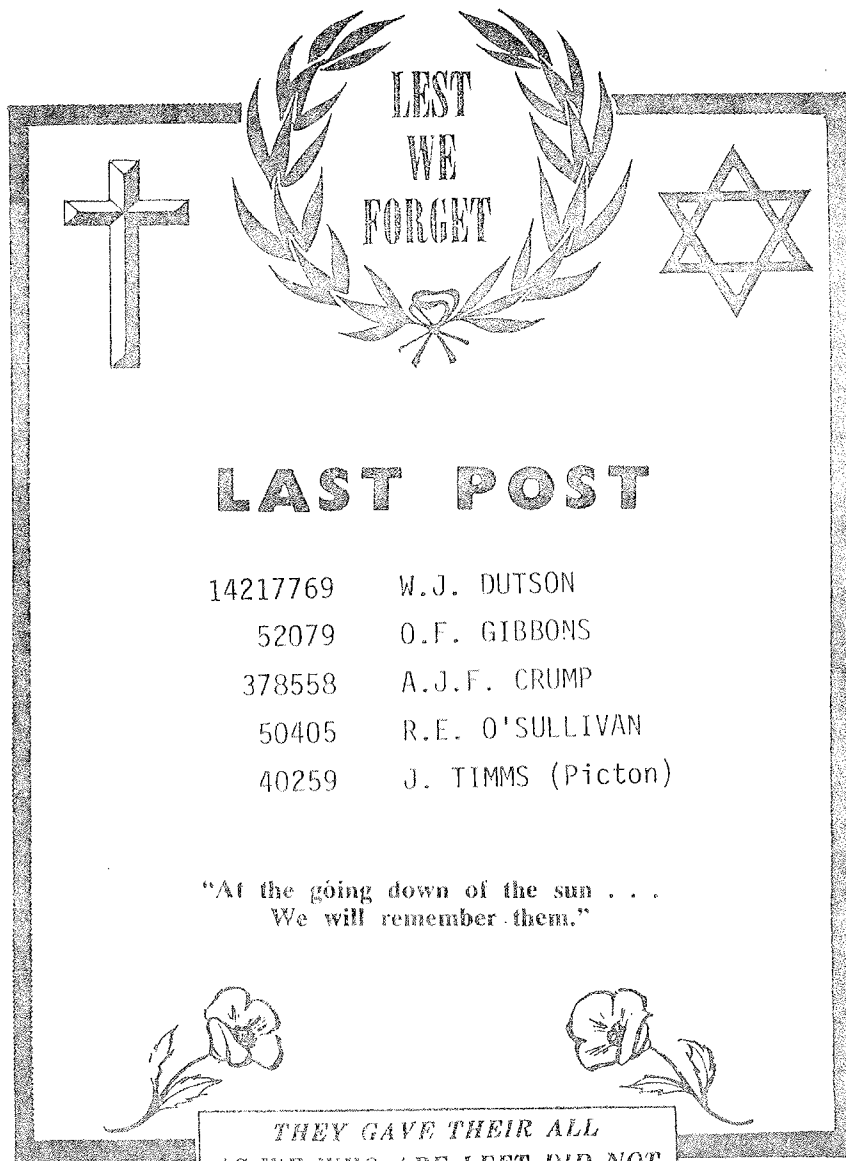
When Tiny Freyberg and his Division were carrying out their famous 'left hook' round Mareth, a R.A.F. Squadron were detailed to take supplies to an obscure air strip and at the same time provide navigational aid to a squadron of fighters who were going to provide air cover. One fighter pilot failed to arrive but he did make it back to his home base on the coast.

When questioned about his lack of navigational skill he reported that his compass was unserviceable. He said he had drunk the alcohol out of it long ago.

A girl tells her father that her rich beau has made her pregnant. The father rushes to the man's address and threatens to kill him.

"Now don't get excited," says the man. "I intend to do the right thing by your daughter. If it's a boy I'll settle \$50,000 on him. If it's a girl I'll settle \$35,000 on her. Is that fair?"

"And if it's a miscarriage," says the father, "will you give her another chance?"



LAST POST

14217769 W.J. DUTSON
52079 O.F. GIBBONS
378558 A.J.F. CRUMP
50405 R.E. O'SULLIVAN
40259 J. TIMMS (Picton)

"At the going down of the sun . . .
We will remember them."

*THEY GAVE THEIR ALL
AS WE WHO ARE LEFT DID NOT
FORGET THEM NEVER OR BE
YOURSELVES FORGOT.*

DIE FTAHLERNEN FAHRE

There were three volumes of the above German W.W.1 History in the Library. Two volumes of coloured photographs are missing. All that is left is the Index.

Can anyone advise where they can be located ?

To All Persons 65years And Over Did You Know ? ? ?

That on any internal air flight within New Zealand with Air New Zealand on producing proof of the above age, for instance your birth certificate, you qualify for the golden age fare that entitles you to a 30% reduction of normal fare. The only restriction is that the Golden Age Fare is not valid for travel on Sunday, Monday and Friday. While talking to many club members, I have found that the facts stated are not widely known and many people could be missing out on a worthwhile saving. As an example on a recent trip to Rarotonga my wife and I as part of our journey flew from Blenheim to Auckland return, and the saving on our total fare flying Golden Age fare, was \$60.

C.M.J. (Reg) Watson

Our Fair Ladies

.. Members spent a most enjoyable evening at the Renwick Women's Section, Christmas Party. A bright programme was presented and a luscious supper was partaken of.

Mrs Nola Yealands President of Renwick Section wished all those present the Compliments of the Season.

.. Mrs Betty Topp, President of Picton Women's Section welcomed Section Members from Blenheim and Renwick to their Christmas Party. The entertainment according to one of our members, was hilarious, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

The usual sumptuous supper was enjoyed.

.. A large number of members and friends attended a very successful tupperware evening at the monthly meeting of the Women's Section RSA Blenheim Branch. Mrs Jo Allan presided.

.. A Shop Day was held by the Women's Section at Centre Point on December 1st. Mrs Jo Allan, President would like to thank all members and friends who contributed in any way to make the day so successful.

.. A N.Z.R.A. Resolution:- That local associations be urged to approach headmasters of all schools, primary, intermediate and secondary in their areas to offer assistance, involvement, guidance or instruction in any community projects or acceptable undertakings which schools might be considering.

Cue Points

By Jigger

A very successful Cabaret was held on October 21st thanks to an energetic band of Pool Club members. The Pavilion Lounge was artistically decorated and a lot of work had gone into this effort. Let's hope we have more of these functions to brighten up the Saturday nights.

Tried to regain the Junction Trophy on 1st November, but this time they proved too good for us on the small tables. Gwen and Frank's faces were as red as the seven ball, after this first game, as there were that number left on the table after the opposition had potted all theirs (more members for the 'down trou club'. Heard one of our top potters has gone off his game. Gone to pot really. About 7 miles away too.

Welcome back to Blenheim and our Club to Jack Clark ex Borough Council, away for several years who has now retired to his former home in Grovetown.

A visit from the "Crow" and a return trip to them virtually concluded a very successful season. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Pool Club a Bright and Happy Festive Season and continued good potting.

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THE MONTH

ANNUAL



Mr. John Gault, born in
Chicago 1897. Left school at
the age of fourteen and went to
work in Chicago. In 1917 he
joined the army, serving in
the 138th Infantry.

He was in action at the
battle of Meuse-Argonne
and was wounded. He was
in the hospital for several
months. He was discharged
in 1919. He was in the
army for two years. He was
in the 138th Infantry.

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battle of Meuse-Argonne
and was wounded. He was
in the hospital for several
months. He was discharged
in 1919. He was in the
army for two years. He was
in the 138th Infantry.

was discharged from hospital in March 1917 and went to convalescence
at Meuse-Argonne. Returning to France in the following November and
joined the Division in the field.

Wounded in action on September 26, 1917 he was returned to hospital in
the U.S. He was discharged from hospital in March 1918 and returned to his unit on 17 September 1918 somewhere near Tiers
where the Division had been in action two years before. The Division was
starting to move back at this time. The Division had been in the

line for 80 days in the vicinity of Le Quesnoy. Le Quesnoy was a walled city which had not been shelled. The city was taken by the New Zealanders who had made scaling ladders to surmount the walls 3rd Brigade finished near Foret de Normal.

Mr Coutts has vivid memories of his mate using his (Coutts') back as a support for a Lewis gun being used as a A.A. in this area.

After the Armistice Mr Coutts went on to Germany marching through Belgium and Northern France taking most of December, arriving at Cologne in the midst of a snow storm. During this march was the only time he remembers the N.Z. Division singing on the march. Silent Division? Or was it the wine and cider and cake the local population bestowed on them as they marched through the country-side.

He stayed in Germany until February. At this time there were 52 men of the original Battalion still with the units. He returned to New Zealand in May 1919 and was discharged the following month. He married on December 30th 1924, his bride was Miss Ethel Walsh and they lived in Spotswood for three years then moved to Blenheim for a couple of years before buying a small farm at Seddon. Mr Coutts joined the Air Force in 1940 serving at Woodbourne and Lake Grassmere bombing range, being discharged in 1944. During this time Mrs Coutts worked the farm, hard but enjoyable work she claims.

Retired to Blenheim in 1955 and still lives an active life, rides a bike, does his own garden etc. He enjoys the monthly get-together at the R.S.A. where he often entertains with his button accordion.

R.S.A GOLF KAIKOURA

Sixty seven returned servicemen and visitors took part in the Kaikoura R.S.A. Annual Tournament which was played on the Kowhai Links at Kaikoura last Saturday. The President of the Kaikoura Branch of the R.S.A., Mr T.P. Brown, welcomed all the visitors and thanked them for their support.

This year, for the first time on record, a player in the R.S.A. section won both the Hume Cup and the Lee Memorial Trophy for the best gross and net scores over 18 holes. He was C. Green who carded a 79, net 68 for his morning round. The best score in the visitor's section came from P.D. Harvey who turned in a one over 73.

RESULTS:

R.S.A. SECTION:- 18 holes gross (Hume Cup) C. Green 79
18 holes net (Lee Memorial) C. Green 68
LOCAL:- 18 holes gross (J.A. Gray Memorial) G. Scott 80
18 holes net (W.A. Ford Memorial) C.A. McGregor 70
VETERANS:- 18 holes net (Macfarlane Cup) G. Gardiner 70
Senior Gross T. Eade 81, Runner-up R. Carrington 89
Senior Net K. Edgington 72 " " G. Bennington 74
Junior gross M.K. Lee 90 " " J. Roberts 95

Junior net W. Crosbie 71 " " R. Crawford 76
 Senior Stableford (Gold Cup) I. Souter 21
 Runner-up I. Comrie 20
 Best Local Stableford (W.A. Gregory Memorial) G.Scott 19
 Junior Stableford (Sid Chaney Trophy) M.K. Lee 22
 Runner-up G. Gardiner 20

VISITORS SECTION:-

Senior Gross P. Harvey 73 Runner-up E.Hill 79
 Senior net M. Jackson 66 " " M.Sullivan 69
 Junior Gross M. Henderson 82 " " R.Reinke 89
 Junior Net P. Nicholl 70 " " J.Snushall 73
 Senior Stableford J.Ingram 20 " " R.MacKinnon 20
 Junior Stableford S.Smith 24 " " Des Lee 19
 Teams: G. Scott, J. Ingram, A. Ticehurst, P.Eaton 290
 Nearest the Pin - No 4, S. Smith
 No 8 R. Woodhill
 No 15 T. Cumpstone
 No 18 R. Smith.

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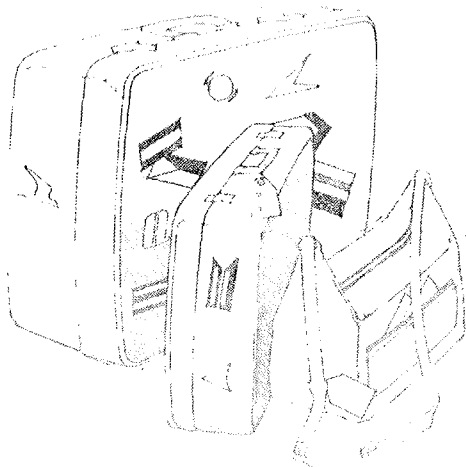
BATTLE OF BRITIAN

Because we had so much material for the September issue we withheld this story which we received from England on the Anniversary of the Battle of Britain:-

The cherished British memory of the 1940 Battle of Britain as one of the nation's and the Empire's finest hours has taken a knock this week.

As newspapers and television remind Britons that the battle ended mid-September 38 years ago, one of the fighter pilots involved, Wing Commander "Dizzy" Allen, has written there never was a Battle of Britain.

Continued
on Page 14



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"The importance of the battle in the air has been exaggerated and, perhaps worse, has become an emotive issue," he wrote in the Times.

Wing Commander Allen said there would have been a Battle of Britain if the Wehrmacht had mounted an airborne and amphibious assault on Kent.. "The Battle of Britain, as a title, was simply conjured up by Churchill". It could only have done that, he said, if the Royal Navy's supremacy had been overcome and if Fighter Command of the Royal Air Force had been eliminated.

Wing Commander Allen wrote that the figures of German aircraft destroyed, which swelled to 185 by September 15 1940 - the date generally regarded as the end of the battle - gave shaken British morale a tremendous boost. "The fact that about one third of that number was actually destroyed was unimportant in those hectic days. The British public believed the claims to be accurate and so did Churchill. It was good propaganda."

Wing Commander Allen said that the battle paled into insignificance when compared with the ferocious air battles fought between the Russians and the Luftwaffe at the time of Stalingrad and afterwards, and the air battles over Malta quite outclassed the efforts of Fighter Command over southern England during the 1940 summer.

"One must keep a sense of perspective if one is making an historic appraisal" he said. "Emotiveness and history make bad bedfellows."

He added that "the few" were in fact fewer in number than the 3500 pilots and aircrew entitled to wear the Battle of Britain clasp on the 1939-45 War Medal.

"In fact," he said, "the total of effective pilots amounted to 500."

Less than 15% of them could claim to have personally destroyed one enemy aircraft, and a mere 7% were credited with four or more aircraft destroyed. And Wing Commander Allen gave another knock to British Pride when he wrote that the leading ace of the battle was not a dashing RAF pilot but in fact, a Czech, Sergeant Pilot J. Frantisek.

Serving in 303 (Polish) Squadron, he had 17 confirmed victories. Only 17 pilots were each credited with a score of 10 or more enemy aircraft destroyed.

Wing Commander Allen's view that it wasn't so much after all that so many owe to so few was attacked, also in The Times, by a former bomber pilot, Sir Robin Hooper. He agreed it is natural that those who have become a legend in their lifetime - Wing Commander Allen commanded more fighter squadrons than anyone else in the RAF's history - should feel deeply embarrassed about some of the things that have been said about the Battle of Britain.

But it was one of the decisive conflicts of the Second World War, he wrote "It is perfectly true that the battle is as much a legend as history, and that it was as much a propaganda as a military success (none the worse for that). But history is full of battles which had a long-term and moral effect out of all proportion to the forces involved and the actual damage inflicted on the defeated party.

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Letters to the Editor

This is Your CLUB HAVE YOUR SAY

Dear Sir,

At the last revision of rules, only a year ago, we passed one giving the Executive power to invest our surplus funds, but only in investments authorised by the Trustee Act 1956.

This gives a wide and also recognised safe choice. It is amazing then to find the Executive investing our money in a 4% Second Mortgage, quite contrary to the up-dated, recently revised rule. Sure, it may have been loaned to one of the 'family' - Picton Branch, but it concerns me that it comes second in both interest rate and security to an addition amount from some commercial money lender or Brewery Company. If Picton are re-arranging their finances, I suggest they should gather all their eggs into the one basket. Or is it a case of borrowing beyond their means and also the willingness of an astute money lender or Brewery Company to fork out the full amount required. The commercial lender is out to make a profit, to us, in a 4% second mortgage and little security after a commercial firm has stepped in ahead of us. With Picton's 'open' Charter, one third of their members are now non-R.S.A. and I suggest that we do not now owe them the continued helping hand that we have given for years past.

Here may I add, that I, first convinced the Executive that we should finance Picton's charter move, way back in 1974, three years before it became a reality. According to the report in Crossfire, only 38 attended the meeting at which they discussed building additions. This is only just a little more than one tenth of their number. That is Picton's business. They are grown up boys now, with their own charger, able to make their own decisions. It is time Picton applied for Association status, direct with N.Z.R.S.A. In fact, by not doing so, they continually hold up our chance of ever getting the same type of 'open' charter.

A non-R.S.A. Picton member, his wife and his son may all have full membership of the Picton Club. If it is good enough for Picton, a Branch, it should be considered here, for Blenheim, but we waffle and break the law and at the same time foot the bill for Picton non-members. If Picton don't make a move in the direction indicated, right now, it cant be considered till 1980.

And in the meantime, the Executive have broken Rule 4 (j).

J.R. NAYSMITH

Continued on Page 20

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What's On This Mon

- DECEMBER 16th The R.S.A. Bowling Club Turkey Stakes
The Christmas Draw, which this year will be held in the Bar.
- DECEMBER 23rd Real Musical Treat in the Club - Community Sing and we have
a late permit.
- DECEMBER 30th New Year Social - late permit.

REMINDER

The following reunions will be held

26TH N.Z. BATTALION - 10/11 March 1979

6TH N.Z. FIELD REGIMENT - Labour Weekend 1979

N.Z. KOREAN VETERANS - Tour of Korea in 1979
Watch the Notice Board for further details.

R.N.Z.A.S.C. - 27/28/29 April 1979

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Month In Your Club

TROTTING NEWS



Horses to follow this month

BY "ARAPAHO"

We seem to be doing all right still, so here's hoping we can give you a few winners for the holiday period.

CROWBAR	This horse is extra good and has been kept in Mothballs so watch it from now on.
GREG ROBINSON	Is starting to come right and is worth following from now on.
HANOVER STAR	George Noble generally tears a few off when he does the northern circuit. This one is worth following.

Another to watch over the holidays is WEE WIN. He will pay more than his expenses.

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TIMES THINK

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THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

I think it is fair to say that the club-house building has served us well, but perhaps it is now time to stand off, think, and plan again for the future. I suggest that it is not unfair, or too soon to say that the T.V. room is not getting the use hoped for it. We all have a set, and a newspaper at home and visit the Club for sporting and social contact. So where do we go from here? Not much option or land space - UP!

There is much airy-fairy talk that the foundations were not designed for a second storey. Perhaps. But has any one ever checked it out? Meantime we have spent \$30,000 on an un-used T.V. room and are now in the gun for another \$15,000 part of which is for roof alterations. Has this modification, in the pavilion lounge, really achieved all that was claimed for it. I suggest not. From my observations I have more than a hunch that the smoke nuisance, in the bar lounge, is less than it was. Quite a few have kicked the habit. Make your own observations, assessment over the next few days. At the same time think positively of what might be done for our comfort and enjoyment.

Perhaps we should ask for the formation of a planning committee to consider the changed patterns that have evolved over the past twenty years and plan for a major internal alteration of lay-out to cope with present day use, and our increased time to enjoy it. In the meantime we are only tinkering.

J.R. NAYSMITH

Sir,

Foreign Raffles - three in one night. All being peddled by non-members. Our own raffles are on the basis of come and get it - if you are interested. Not poked under one's nose.

What about By-Law No 8? That too seems to be side-stepped. Most likely not under Police Regulations either, so another danger to Charter. Seems we need a house detective, with power to act.

BAFFLED AND RAFFLED

Dear Sir,

I had not, at time of writing (a wet Sunday), read the Editorial in latest "Crossfire". My most sincere congratulations.

You have a solid core of opinion behind you. All that has been lacking in the past has been leadership - but there I go again. I am told the axe has already fallen in Nelson. Meant to get the 'dinkum oil' from an Executive member when there on Labour Day, but forgot.

However I want to disagree over the use of the visitors book. I do shudder a little over admission, in cold print, that things ain't the way they ought to be. While the topic is "hot" perhaps a quarterly general meeting could be held to lay it on the line.

JIM

Dear Sir,

In answer to what I consider to be the crucial part of your Editorial in the November issue of Crossfire, you stated and I quote :

" We still see non-member visitors walking into the Club as large as life and not signed in by a member and 'member' in this sense means a full member of the R.S.A. - not an associate member or affiliate of one of our off-shoot clubs".

Let me say that I agree with you that there are far too many non-members blatantly walking into the Club unescorted or signed in by a member and who proceed to make full use of the Clubs charter facilities and other amenities in direct contravention of the Clubs charter rules and thereby placing our valuable and irreplaceable charter in jeopardy and I say that this unlawful use of club premises should not be allowed to continue unchecked. I would like to say now that I am in no way against non-member friends of members enjoying the club amenities provided they are accompanied by and signed in by members as required by charter rules and from observation the majority of members adhere to the rules in this respect. However, it cannot be denied that there is and has been for some time, a hard core of non-members who enter our club unescorted or signed in by a member who unlawfully make full use of our charter facilities. These people are deliberately flouting our rules and could not care less if we lost our charter and let's face it, the profits from our charter are the financial life blood of our club. Some members may be at fault in this matter but the majority not, so it is my opinion that the onus and decision to put a stop to this dangerous situation affecting all members lies directly on the table of our elected representatives namely the executive.

To be constructive in my criticism, I would suggest that a series of un-announced door checks be made until the culprits are found and dismissed from our club. As an executive member for many years, I am well aware that we have had such checks before which have helped to stem this dangerous situation for a time. However on reflection of past checks I would like to suggest to Executive that the president make an announcement to members regarding the reasons for so doing and request them to carry their membership cards in an effort to eradicate this very real danger to their charter without revealing the date of such door checks. To be completely effective such door checks should be manned by an executive member and only the main entrance be unlocked on such occasions.

From a concerned member who has been privileged to serve our club of which I am sure we are all justly proud.

C.M.J. (Reg) Watson

Dear Sir,

I'd like to commend Quo Vadis for his letters regarding the abuse of the Charter by non-members and for his persistence in keeping this matter to the fore in two issues of Crossfire. The Regulations imposed on us by the Licensing Control Commission (L.C.C.) were clearly set out in the very first issue of Crossfire, (repeat) imposed on us by the L.C.C. just like opening and closing hours; sanitary requirements; staff amenities; lock-up bars; etc etc. All laid down by the L.C.C. We don't make these rules. So if the visitors rule is not observed, we, and our visitors, are all guilty of a breach of the Licensing Laws. Of course that is considered to be a "white-collar" crime, of no consequence, till the axe falls. An announcement has now been made that if your 'visitor' has not signed the visitors' book, he may be asked to leave.

Now, Mr President, will you please show me, in either the L.C.C. Regulations, or in our own by-laws, where there is any reference to a visitors' book, or that the signing of such, in any way legalises the presence of a visitor. No Sir, you cannot. So this announcement has only added more confusion to the (mis)-understanding of the Charter Laws. In fact, the use of the visitors' book now provides written evidence to a L.C.C. Inspector, or the Police, of the extent to which we ourselves are condoning the abuse of the Club, and Regulations, by non-members, and attempting to carve a loop-hole in the L.C.C. Regulations and add

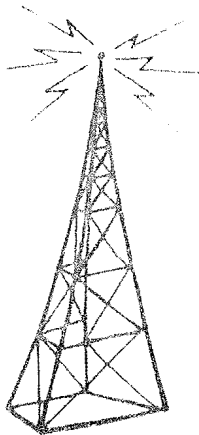
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something not approved by the L.C.C. But now the persistent offenders will latch on to this recent announcement and so we are still further back in the attempt to obey the Regulations laid down by the L.C.C. for the operation of our Charter. There is a hard core of persistent offenders who would not attempt to gain entry to the Working Men's Club or the Marlborough Club. The time has come to single them out and explain the L.C.C. Regulations to them, either verbally, or by letter. They are not difficult to understand or explain - Regulation No 4 (quote) "one day in each week - but subject to any individual person not becoming a regular or frequent visitor". There are offenders on both these counts. We all know them, but whose job is it to give them the message?

Perhaps the time has come to designate a "visitors' day" as is done by many Clubs. One day in each week, noticeably displayed in the Club House. Every other day - members only. This should end the confusion, but of course it would have to be policed and would also depend on the understanding of the L.C.C. Charter Regulations and co-operation of the members who should have the safety of the Charter uppermost in mind.

Continued on Page 25

NUNC DITTIMUS

"We are newlyweds and we'd like a suite", said the groom to the hotel clerk.

"Bridal?" inquired the clerk.

"Oh no!" blurted out the bride. "I'll just hang on to his ears until I get used to it."

D. J. JOHNSTON

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Dear Sir,

One day last week, while waiting for a traveller in a busy showroom, I overheard two successful looking men greeting one another after, it would seem, many years of separation. Both were wearing the R.S.A. badge. The conversation went something like this.

First Speaker: Well, well, fancy meeting up with you again after all this time. You're looking just fine too. What are doing up here in Blenheim?

Second Speaker: We have purchased a retirement home here. We fell for all the propoganda put across by you Mariburians.

First Speaker: That's great. You and the wife will have no regrets. We have a good R.S.A. Club here - Lion and Dominion on tap - both 70 cents, so I'll be seeing a fair bit of you eh! Just like old times.

Second Speaker: Yes I'll enjoy blowing the froth off a couple with you, however, I'm joining another Club. From what I gathered after inquiring around and making a couple of visits, the R.S.A. as a Club doesn't appear to offer much. Disappointed, I moved out of earshot.

QUO VADIS

A crowd had gathered around a small boy who had swallowed a 10 cent piece. No one knew quite what to do and the situation looked desperate.

Suddenly a man stepped forward, picked the lad up, turned him upside down and shook him vigorously.

Out popped the coin. Sighs of relief all round. "Are you a doctor?" asked one bystander.

"No" said the man. "I work for the Inland Revenue Department."

GOLF For the benefit of members who are bitten by the "Golf Bug; and may be fortunate enough to have the opportunity to enjoy a golfing holiday in Germany, the following terminology may be found useful.

GOLF COURSE: Hittenhuntenfield

GOLF CLUBS: Hittenhuntenfielderschwipensticks

GOLFER: Hittenhuntenfielderschwipenstickswinger

GOLF CLUB-HOUSE: Hittenhuntenfielderschwipenstickswinger-startenstopenplayendrinkspot

GOLF WIDOW: Hittenhuntenfielderfrau

GOLF BAG: Hittenhuntenfielderschwipenstickenholden

GOLF BALL: Hittenlusenhuntenfindenhittenpill whew!!!

OBITUARY

I know that a large number of members and a host of non R.S.A. friends will deeply regret the recent sudden death of Stan Kidd. Stan was a valued R.S.A. member who served his Club over a number of years. As President for many years of the local Air Force Association, Stan did a sterling job rallying and bringing together members and in so doing keep alive the spirit of this justly proud service.

Stan also served for many years as a Committee member of Marlborough R.S.A. Mens Indoor Bowling Club and its Vice-President for three years. His ever bright and cheerful personality that drew people to him like bees to a honey pot - will long be remembered. Genuinely modest, honest and generous to a fault Stan had a real concern for people especially older and infirm friends. I am proud to have been a friend of the late Stan Kidd for many years and feel a richer personality for having known him and I feel sure his host of friends will echo my thoughts and feelings in this attempt to pay tribute to one of nature's gentlemen. Finally to his daughter Cynthia, and his loved friend Joy Gibbons, may I offer our heartfelt sympathy in their very real loss.

C.M.J. (Reg) Watson

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Sub-Branch News

CONTINUATION OF HISTORY OF PICTON BRANCH

A HISTORY OF PICTON BRANCH M.R.S.A. FROM 1945 CONTINUED FROM VOLUME 1 - NO 2.

My thanks to President Jim Taylor who has put many hours into research for this article.

The period from 1945 to 48 was dedicated to setting up the clubroom from a boarding house state to an acceptable state as a clubroom, with many bedroom partitions etc being removed.

1948 to 52 much fund raising was required for the maintenance of the club and activities included dances and special efforts on the foreshore i.e. sideshows, skittles, quickfire raffles etc.

1950 to 51 entered Queen Carnival contest to raise funds for War Memorial Park. This outstanding effort resulted in the R.S.A. Princess being crowned Carnival Queen. The lovely lady in question was Mary Gettings (now Mrs Allan Baird) daughter of the then proprietor of Oxleys Hotel, Mr Bill Getting.

1951 - 52 renovations upstairs necessitated the removal of more walls and the end result left a sizeable social and indoor bowls room.

1954 in conjunction with the ladies section, a Gala afternoon was held on 15th January. The profit of \$61.20 was a considerable help in clearing the cost of extensions. During the period from 1948 - 56 the locker room (bar) was removed 3 or 4 times.

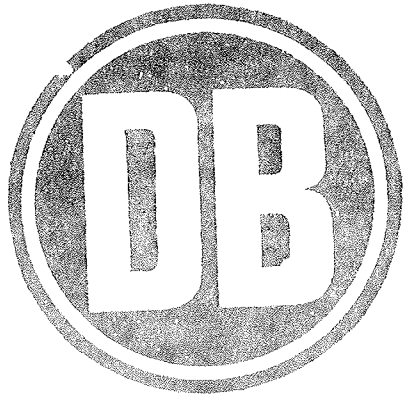
1956 - 57 Billiard room renovated and painted. 1958 exterior of clubhouse painted for \$300 Custodians living quarters relined and painted.

1961 The cone or spiral on the front south corner of the building was removed and the building was squared off by T.H. Barnes & Co for \$1600 This work was requested in the early 50's when a quote of \$600 was obtained, but the executive of the time considered the work to be too expensive and vetoed the request. A programme was set to raise funds for the repairs, made up as follows:-

Profit from Merry-Go-Round	\$421.50	Donations	\$377.70
Debentures and Vouchers	\$230.00	Raffles	\$216.30
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$1345.50</u>		

1962 - 63 The club again ran the foreshore merry-go-round collecting a total of 202.4.6d.

Continued on Page 29



TODAY'S GREAT DRINK

1963 At a social function on 9th July, Mr Roy Mears received a presentation for achieving 25 years service to the club as secretary.

Over the next few years, interest in the club declined and with the advent of 10 oclock closing hours in 1967, President of the time, Jim Taylor, appealed to members for better attendances and expressed his desire for considerable changes to rules and the operation of the Club rooms.

1968 - 69 Mrs Mears and Mrs Townsend awarded Hon Life Membership of M.R.S.A.

1969 - 70 an approach was made by "Queen Charlotte Club" who had been set up to form a working mans club in Picton. Their hope was that Picton R.S.A. would join forces and allow the clubrooms to become the nucleus of the Queen Charlotte Club. They were certainly given a sympathetic hearing, but the idea was finally dropped when the R.S.A. executive realized that they would lose their identity of R.S.A. This they felt, would be a derogatory step in the light of the effort put into establishing the club by so many R.S.A. personnel.

From 1970 - 73 the decline in membership reached an alarmingly low ebb, and Jim Taylor made an all out effort to boost the membership by visiting homes of prospective members, assisting them to fill out their forms and returning the form with the annual sub of \$4. His efforts were rewarded by membership increasing from 135 to 236 by 1974, (present membership 241) and the Picton R.S.A. were awarded the national cup for the greatest increase in any one year, 57% in 1972/73.

In 1971 - 72 a Wellington solicitor, known for his ability in similar cases, was employed to obtain a charter for the club. Unfortunately the solicitor's health deteriorated and eventually after having done nothing the solicitor was dropped in favour of the local firm, Wisheart, Macnab & Partners in 1975.

In 1971 - 74 period Mr Jim Taylor acquired all necessary information plans etc, and forwarded them to the Wellington solicitor. During this period plans were put to an extra-ordinary meeting for a new building, estimated cost about \$100,000. These plans were vetoed, as the feeling of the committee was that membership patronage was inadequate to warrant the expense. Plans were then prepared for renovations of the clubrooms with extensions, but by the time these plans had been put out for tender, the tenders received were also in the region of \$85,000 and the plan was rejected in favour of an all out effort to bring the existing clubrooms up to charter standard.

1974 - 75 Mr Clive Taylor was elected President, and with the assistance of our most capable secretary Gordon Mattingley, and a strong and willing committee, a positive approach was made towards obtaining a charter.

The first step in the lengthy job was to remove the three in one chimney from the centre of the building. This job was started in mid October 1975, and renovations were finally completed shortly over twelve months later. Mr Noel Howie was engaged to supervise the work, all of which

was on a voluntary basis, but mention should be made especially of Gordon Mattingly and Valder MacDonald for the many hours they dedicated to helping Noel to Kai Jenson and Norm Henderson and the team who built the tank room and toilets, and to those who hung the wallpaper. Those are but a few of the names of members who put so much effort into spending the \$29,000 required for the renovation project.

With the numerous inspections passed by 'Police', 'Fire Dept', 'Health Dept' and 'Licencing Control Commission', the charter was finally granted on 22nd December 1976, and the first draught beer poured at 3 p.m. 23rd December 1976. The official opening was held on 29th January 1977.

1977 - 78 as we all know, these years have seen membership actively renewed and all now look forward to seeing the extensions.

A fair comment perhaps? "JIM'S DREAM COME TRUE".

R.S.A. LADIES PICTON

Twenty eight members attended the final meeting of the year for the Picton Women's Section held on November 14th. Meetings now go into recess until February, to cope with the busy season of bowls, preserving, and the coming and going of visitors to stay (both expected and all too often unexpected), which somehow the "Gateway to the South" womenfolk manage to fit into their busy schedules.

Those present at the meeting were treated to travel talks by two fellow members who had visited opposite ends of the globe. June Ireland

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Tom Reeves & Bert Croft (Props)

spoke of her trip to the Continent followed by an extensive tour of the United Kingdom, during which she stayed with daughter Wendy in Wales. The subject of the second talk was a camping tour all through the Australian outback. This was undertaken by Phyll Wilkes and her husband Eric. Those of us who marvelled at their stamina were assured by Phyll that the unusual experiences far outweighed any inconvenience during travel.

Viv Owen won the monthly raffle. Two new members were welcomed to the meeting, Mrs Audrey Whitcombe, and Mrs Margaret Elsmore. A large contingent from Picton drove through for the Renwick W.S. Christmas Party. Each year their entertainment is thoroughly enjoyed, as also the wonderful country supper where diets go wild.

Picton's Shorty Wilkins proved wonderfully agile for her 80 plus years in donning the most garments in the allotted time (with a little help from her friends), to win the prize from three others. Picton's June Ireland was also the lucky winner of the raffle.

Thanks for another happy evening, Nola and the girls.

Our own Christmas entertainment was held as usual in the Anglican Church Hall, which was again stretched to capacity to accommodate our own members and visitors, who included W.S. Members from Blenheim and Renwick, also Picton Women's Institute Members. Judging by the hilarious laughter, the efforts of those of us in the entertainment group succeeded in our endeavours to amuse our guests. The exchange of Christmas gifts continues to be a popular feature of Picton's party. At the conclusion of the excellent supper, President Mrs Betty Topp thanked all the members who had contributed in any way to making the evening the undoubted success that it was. A special thanks to our Pianist Joyce Weetman from all the entertainment girls for putting aside her personal bereavement to see us through rehearsals. Our appreciation also to Joyce Baxter and Margaret Charters.

Shorty Wilkins won a raffle prize.

During the month, Clive and I accompanied Myles and Joyce Gardner on a weekend visit to Westport and Granity, where we paid a visit to Rex and Hetty Gibb at their Tavern. Our entry made it twelve from Picton that day, so it seems they are certainly not forgotten.

Jim Rathbun and his boys at Westport R.S.A. told us they were having a special Naffi night on the Saturday, so we were happy to join them. Actually it seemed to Joyce Gardner and I more like a mini 20th Reunion for Clive and Myles but we were all made very welcome.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.

Joan M. Taylor

Vic Keenan has arrived back at work (with a squeaky shoe) after a fortnight in Singapore. Too much stomping in the old stomping grounds perhaps?

Then there was the occasion that our President got one over our fair ladies. Looking in dismay at the small amount of supper for a large crowd, one eagle eye spotted 'a pot of soup'. After sampling same, and suggestions of more salt etc, Jim was finally contacted and advised by some very red faced girls that it was a pot of curry that hadn't been washed, so he had filled it with hot water in the afternoon and left it to soak.

JOE TIMMS



In memory of 40250 -
Joe Timms whose death in the
Sinton Hospital on November
12th ended 40 years of a well
filled life.

Joe is survived by his
13 children, 32 grandchildren
and 40 great grandchildren.

With copies in written in
the name of our Times, I am
hoping Joe's loved ones are
kindly supplied for Christmas
by our old story. In a fitting
tribute to this grand old
gentle Joe.

Written by Frank W. W. W. -
1947

History in Arms - The only
to name was 1947 and
was a 100 per cent
of the house. Some
100 miles to the South East
of New Zealand in the lovely
Campbell Islands, whose total
population of 15 last year
numbered seven men, five of

which were brothers. Their occupation was sheep farming. During their
annual visit to their homes at Te Awara, Queen Charlotte Sound, last
year, six of them, Jack, Richard, Timothy, Harry, and Manuel Norton and
Joseph Timms enlisted. Jack was reported on the grounds that he was too
heavy, he weighed just on nineteen stone. He returned to the Island
with some other men to carry on in the absence of his brothers who went
into camp with the 23rd Reinforcement. It is not every reinforcement
that can boast of having four members of one family in its ranks, but

'C' company of the Corinthians has the distinction probably unique in the New Zealand Expeditionary force of having in one platoon, the four brothers Dick, Harry, Tim and Manuel and their chum Joe Timms. The Norton family is well known in Queen Charlotte Sound where the brothers were formerly engaged in whaling. "On she follows" the whalers shout of triumph as they tow their capture home - is now the war cry of 'C' company.

SOCIAL SCENE

JOHN FRISKEN

The social for November had been set down over 12 months ago, for November 25th. Unfortunately Rob Muldoon intervened and it was anticipated that our patrons would be more inclined to stay glued to the idiot box to watch his show, so the committee wisely cancelled the social. However, a large crowd enjoyed a light hearted evening on November 11th, a 'sing-along' in the lounge bar, which coincided with Christchurch Anniversary Weekend. As anticipated a good representation from the Garden City turned up and the reports I've heard have been all favourable.

This month's social is set down for Saturday 23rd December. As it is Des Yorks band debut, it would be nice to see all the old faces and some new ones. Des's band will be having a dress rehearsal on Saturday 16th December, when they play for the Ex Malayan Servicemen's Christmas Social. Tickets for the evening are available from Dave Porteous, at \$2.00 each.

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G. Gardiner (prop.)

I am led to believe that Des didn't get a very good response from my request last month of acquiring old sheet music suitable for dance work. If you know of anybody with some, could you arrange for it to be lent to Des?

Pool It's rather difficult for me to get accurate reports on these evenings, and all I can be certain of is that everyone has had a 'merry' evening. However, it seems that the games v's Terminus resulted in a win at the Terminus and a loss at the R.S.A., and the Junction Hotel game was a fantastic evening and I think it was a draw (quoted).

Hurray at Last After months of frustration, the pool table is covered. Well at the time of writing this article it wasn't but should be covered on Tuesday 5th December. I hope all members who enjoy this facility will join me in thanking Gordon Mattingly who has had a heck of a job in locating a person to do the job. On top of that, he's going to a Christmas function on Monday 4th in Nelson, and has to be at Woodbourne at 7.30 Tuesday morning to meet the person who is doing the job. I wonder if he will get home first.

On behalf of the Executive of the Picton R.S.A. and Clubhouse Committee we wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

PICTON GOSSIP

No names, no pack drill, but a rather rotund retired wharfie has been extending his lunch hour sessions lately, and I've just discovered that his wife has taken up bowls this year!

Noel Howie surprised me the other day when he conceded to having his 60th Birthday on December 1st. By my calculations he'll be 100 before he looks 60. The frustrating part is that he won't give up his recipe or the make of his hair dye.

Congratulations Noel, and may there be many more.

As promised is our October issue, we'll see a bit of Rex and Hetty and it was nice to see Hetty on Friday and Saturday 1st & 2nd. Unfortunately Rex couldn't make it, but then who needs Rex when Hetty has a chaperone like Mary?

RENWICK BRANCH LADIES SECTION

Our last meeting for 1978 has come and gone. There was a good attendance of members and we begin our meetings again on the 2nd Monday of February 1979.

The Christmas concert went with a swing, visitors from Picton R.S.A., Blenheim R.S.A., Overseas Wives Club and C.W.I all helped to make it an enjoyable evening. Wee Shorty did a great job as mannequin and I'm sure she did a lot to boost the laughs. You were marvellous Shorty.

We were able to give the Foundation for the Blind \$28.26 from the donations at the door.

Twenty of our members attended Picton's concert on Tuesday 28th in the Anglican Hall and I know there were a lot of sore sides from laughter. You put on an excellent concert ladies, from beginning to end had us rolling in our seats and we congratulate Picton ladies for their fine effort and their beautiful supper. What a beautiful baby you made Margaret.

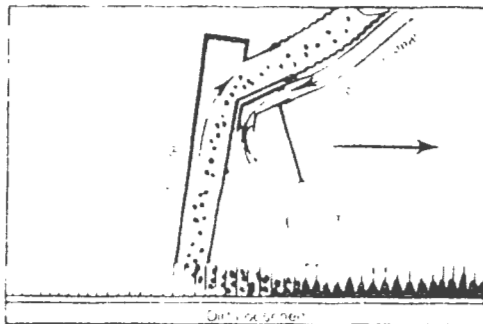
Two of our members Stan Blick and his wife Ollie have left their farm at Valleyfield, in the capable hands of their sons Brian and Maurice, and have shifted to Allison Crescent, Renwick to live. We wish them well in their new home.

In closing, I wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we will see you all again in 1979.

Nola Yealands
President

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AWATERE BRANCH

These sub-branches combined for a social get together cum Christmas Dinner Party at the City Hotel on November 16th. A total of 76 members, guests of honour, and wives enjoyed an informal get together with an excellent dinner in pleasant surroundings.

Guests of honour included M.R.S.A. President Ken Yealands and his wife, Secretary/Manager Mr Keith Jamieson and his wife, retiring M.P. Mr Edward Latter and his wife. Mr Latter offered the suggestion to members that some thought be given to a compulsory community service scheme for school leavers which could well be more in keeping with the times than Military Service.

Keith was presented with an inscribed tray to mark his forthcoming retirement by Awatere's Secretary Mr Franklin Conway, who observed that the turnout of Financial Members as against the Branch rolls, was worthy of note if not a challenge.

PENSIONER PERKS DISCOUNT FOLDER

Awatere Delegate

Indeed this discount book should interest all Returned Servicemen. It consists of approximately a 4" square Folder. The R.S.A. Insignia on the cover and on the inside (Name, Address) Regimental No and Battalion one inch or more for advertising on each successive page, for example - the more discount allowed the larger the advertisement.

This could be issued, optimally, at say 50 cents at the same time that we are paying our annual subscription. If the 50 cents does not cover the printing maybe you could charge a minimal amount for the advertisement.

Now to the discount business-side of the venture.

- Shoes and Repairs say 10% or more
- Watches and Repairs
- Clothing
- Hairdressing for Retired Pensioners
- Hardware etc
- Paint - suggest (12½% a good saving in large amounts)
- Television and Repairs
- Rotary Hoeing

The list is unlimited and I suggest that the committee would have businessmen falling over each other if approached tactfully for permission to advertise in the folder for extra business.

The amount of discount of course would be up to the advertiser but the more he offered I would suggest the more business he would receive.

Trusting this suggestion is acted upon and be successful and at least be discussed.

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