



Official *Bulletin*

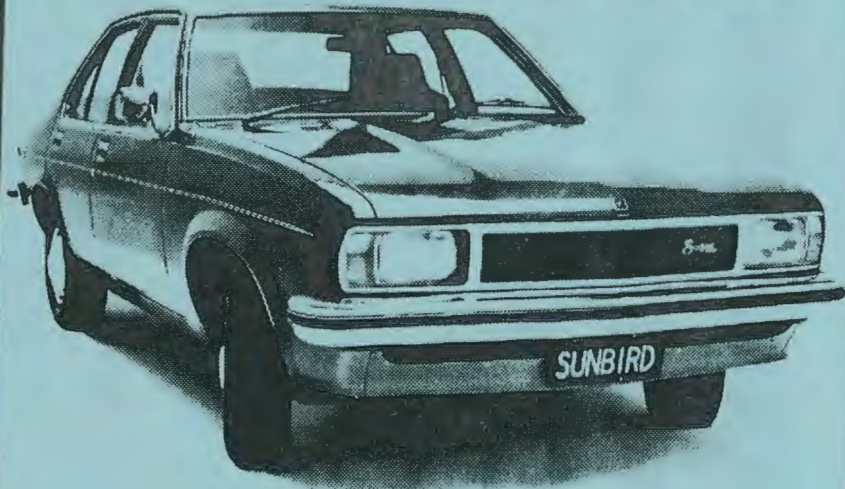
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Editorial

Yes, another year has slipped by and we are again approaching the annual election of officers. Give serious thought to the future of Marlborough R.S.A. and nominate candidates whom you consider have the ability, foresight and drive to lead the R.S.A. in the direction you want it to take. Have a good look at some of our able young members, but whatever you do don't sit back and leave it to the other fellows. Too often we hear the cry "What's the ... Executive think they're doing now?"

If you're one of those - get on the committee yourself and sort it out.

There is a sketch plan of additional alterations suggested by members on the main Notice Board. These alterations will be put to a General Meeting for a decision. The intention is to give the billiard players a room of their own which will also become a "Trophy Room", where many of our photos and war souvenirs can be hung or displayed. The additional space available in the bar lounge will enable better facilities for evening meals and dancing which are being considered as a future amenity.

PAUL BRODIE
EDITOR

Get Crossfire regularly \$3.85 will give you eleven copies posted to any address in New Zealand.

Have you an old R.S.A. mate who has moved to another town? What a thoughtful gesture if you paid the sub to send him a copy regularly.

Closing Time

This magazine will be published between the 8th and 10th of each month and available from the Bar. Closing date for any contributions is by the 30th of the previous month.

The Editor is Paul Brodie, the sub-editor is Allan Gardiner and the magazine is printed by Gards Print Limited.

All letters to the Editor must be in by the 30th of the previous month.

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE ENTIRELY THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT OFFICIAL POINTS OF VIEW.

Presidents Page

On the 25th February, Marlborough R.S.A. hosted a very successful Welfare and Pensions Seminar on behalf of N.Z.R.S.A. Speakers were Mr D. Leuchars (Dominion President), Mr C. Penny (Dominion Secretary) and Mr P. Burrell (Pension Officer N.Z.R.S.A.). Mrs Colleen Neal spoke on welfare work of the Women's Section. Two representatives of the local Social Security office gave up their Sunday afternoon to attend and answered numerous questions from the floor on pension matters. Nearly all the branches were represented as well as Golden Bay, Waimea, Motuëka and Nelson.

The Seminar was opened by His Worship the Mayor, Mr Claude Whitehead and chaired by our District President - Mr W. Templeton.

I must thank our Secretary for all the work he put into the Seminar that helped to make it such a success. I also thank the Women's Section for putting on morning and afternoon tea for everyone and also lunch for the visitors. Their efforts were very much appreciated, especially by the visitors. I have been accused of pandering to the ladies (and I'll bet that's news to them), but we, of the Executive, feel that the Ladies Section is a very vital part of our Club.

Ike Cameron staged a very successful fund raising effort for the benefit of our Primary School Rugby Reps. I had much pleasure in presenting a cheque for \$500 to the coach of the team at the finish of the address by Mr Russ Thomas, Manager of the 1978 All Blacks, and films by courtesy of Caltex. The balance of money raised is to be placed in a trust administered by Marlborough R.S.A.

Would you believe the following was written in 1975 by Nunc Dimitus (see December Crossfire) "I have been taken to task over the mention of the requirement to sign the visitors' book - a rule not of our making, but one forced on all R.S.A. Chartered Clubs by the Licencing Control Commission."

We were honoured by a visit to our Club recently by Mr A.R. Robbins, a "Gold Badge" holder. The other holders of a Gold Badge are:- Lord Louis Mountbatten, Mr C.W. Bell, The Duke of Edinburgh, Mr K.W. Fraser, Sir Hamilton Mitchell and Sir Dennis Blundell. I presented Mr Robbins, on behalf of the Club with a book written by Mr Lance Waters with whom Mr Robbins had worked on Rehab. matters.

I have just spent a month in the North Island, and visited various R.S.A. clubs. I should have taken the receipt for my sub with me, for I was looked at with disbelief when I told them we paid only \$4.00. Subs up there range from \$8. to \$12. Jugs cost from 80 cents to 85 cents. Clubs with the cheapest subs had the dearest beer. I think our Club compares favourably with any of them. We certainly get good value for our fraction over 1 cent per day sub.

KEN YEALANDS

MARLBOROUGH RETURNED SERVICEWOMEN

We are a group of about 25 Returned Servicewomen, who would be always ready to help in any R.S.A. function.

We meet every fifth Friday which varies from four to five times a year. We have always managed to have a Christmas get-together, for which on most occasions our Club President or Secretary has been kind enough to give us a toast.

Our Secretary is: Mrs R. MacDonald,
10 Muller Road,
Blenheim

Our President is: Miss C.W. Enright,
17 Edinburgh Cres.,
Blenheim

We are pleased to see all the new ventures in the Clubrooms, and hope the Club continues to advance

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All this, I saw - and more, I saw those splendid lads of England and of Ireland and of Scotland - and from the lands where the wattle and the waratah bloom in the sunshine. I saw the gashed earth torn by myriad shells - I saw the fifty thousand graves where our martyrs lie, open in the starlight.

My thoughts wandered to Anzac - back to that terrible hell-hole won by deeds of daring that no Spartan troops ever equalled and held by a fortitude that has no parallel in history. Come ashore with me, reader - quietly, reverently - and watch the graves give up their "dead" - for there is no such thing as death for the brave: only the cowards really die.

Look yonder - is it the moonlight playing on the thorn scrub? Is it a fantasy of the brain? Nay, it is real. They are gathering in their thousands, regiment on regiment, brigade on brigade, kilted Scot and heroic Irish, stalwart and steady Englishman, mighty sons of Australia and New Zealand. They stand at ease there on the blood-stained battlefield and look down into the trenches - the sodden, shattered trenches where they "died" - ripped and riven by the bursting shells. And it was for this they died - those lion lads of a lion breed.

"There may be human joy in doing good with definite purpose, but they who do good expecting nothing in return know a joy that is divine.

MATERLINCK.

HUSBAND "After I shave in the morning, I feel 10 years younger."

WIFE "Why don't you shave before you go to bed."

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PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Marlborough R.S.A. has shown, in practical terms, that it fully endorses N.Z.R.S.A.'s policy of helping youth. Last year, a committee from Marlborough R.S.A. under the guidance of G.P. (Ike) Cameron (a Gold Star holder), set out to raise \$400/\$500 to equip the Marlborough Primary School Rugby Reps with new jerseys and socks. Due to Ike's efforts, the result exceeded all expectations.

Businessmen, rugby clubs and individuals contributed generously. The effort ended with an evening function on 25th February where the principal speaker was Mr Russ Thomas, who was manager of the recent All Black team to Britain. Films were shown and other speakers included Mr Doug Leuchars, President N.Z.R.S.A. and Mr Ken Yealands, President Marlborough R.S.A. On behalf of the organising committee, Mr Yealands presented a cheque for \$500 to Mr Vic Lloyd, coach of the Marlborough Primary School's team. The substantial balance will be deposited in a trust fund administered by the Marlborough R.S.A. to be called on when needed by the Primary School's team.

Efforts of such dedicated men as Ike Cameron do much to show the public that R.S.A. is not just an organisation of old men dreaming about the past, but is alive to the needs of young people.

As Mr Leuchars said, "It is a great exercise in public relations."

SNIPPETS FROM THE LAST EXECUTIVE MEETING

- * Approval given to purchase plates, cutlery and a Baine Marie steamer for the kitchen.
- * Patriotic Council to be asked to assist us in our relief work.
- * Wage and price increases being absorbed at the rate of \$135 per week. Review of prices following end of March.
- * Crossfire Sales costs are just staying at break-even.



LAST POST

30165 S. BORRIE
460632 J. GREEN
61137 T.B. HAY
474596 J.R. TALBOT

*"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.*

NEW MEMBER

25637 R.H. HADFIELD (W.W.1)
24003101 A. AMAIRA
27367 A.H.W. BEAVER (PICTON)

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FULL MARKS TO POP HEMMING (W.W.1 VET)

Pop recently won a raffle at a local hostelry, and the prize was not a smoked kipper, but an enormous groper. Pop's eyes bulged nearly as large as those of the fish, and there was a real outbreak of suggestions to Pop including "being on a promise tonight" and so on. One well-known builder among the crowd kept on and on until finally Pop said to him - "You don't smoke do you?"

The builder replied "No I don't. How did you know?"

Pop "The way you talk, you wouldn't have time to smoke!"

BLACK AND WHITE T.V SETS

A request for Black and White T.V. sets on behalf of the M.P.P.C. has met a satisfactory response. There is still a need for such sets for our aged and disabled, and generally a used set can be bought cheaper than it costs to repair sets which break down. One set has been donated by one of our members. If you have no further use for your old Black and White set, why not give it to a good cause.

PENSIONS AND WELFARE SEMINAR

An attendance of 65 at the above Seminar held last Month was an excellent response and is some indication of the need for our welfare workers to understand the whole aspect of pensions as they affect returned servicemen.

OUR RELIEF ACCOUNT

So far this year, more money than usual has been needed to meet our Relief work. \$500 was transferred from the Relief Account Term Deposit and \$500 from the General Account to meet the commitments. A legacy of \$496 was also deposited in the Relief Account. Increasing costs of hospital comforts and more calls for grants to needy cases account for the increased expenditure (Grants amount to \$938.79 and hospital expenses \$1638.94 so far).

Among grants and donations from our General Account so far this year are:-

Bucket Collection	\$120.00
Telethon	314.39
Salvation Army Home	850.00
Schoolboys' Cricket	60.00
Marl Boys' College Tents	200.00
Air Cadet League	144.30
Young Citizens Award	70.00
Forces Overseas Parcels	114.14
Entertaining our Veterans	202.85

\$ 2075.68

PALL BEARERS AT FUNERALS

There is an occasional need to provide pall bearers at funerals for returned servicemen. The office is compiling a list of those who could be called on when required. If you can help, please leave your name, address and phone number at the office.

IT BEGAN WITH A FEED (OF FISH AND CHIPS?)

Wally always knew he had a chip on his shoulder - but now he's come out in the open and advertised it.

With the other shoulder though Noel. Remember an immigrant is a person with a chip on both shoulders!

HEARD AT THE BAR

THEO " I want a good stiff drink for a pick-up."

BARMAN ""Yes sir, and what will you have?"

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THIS MONTHS PERSONALITY



FOSTER HUGHES

FOSTER HUGHES born 1896 on the Conrass Farm in the Pelorus Valley.

"CONRASS" was the name of his father's home in Innis Kwen, Northern Ireland. He had one sister and three brothers all born in New Zealand. Went to school at Canvastown and was taught by a Mr Hollis Hill and Miss Lammas, continued his education at Nelson College until the age of fourteen returning home to work on the farm until he reached 20 years of age when he left to enlist with the 1st N.Z.E.F. His three brothers Tom, Bert and Bob had already sailed for overseas. Bert was killed in action at Gallipoli. Foster sailed with the "Dink Reinforcements. He was transferred to the 4th Brigade and first served with them in France in the La Vasse canal area and then at Plocy Street. Moved to Messines and heard the big explosion from the tunnel dug by the N.Z. Engineers. Then up to the Paschendale (mud bath) as a Lewis gunner. Here the Brigade went "over the top" twice in four days and suffered crippling casualties and this was in fact the end of the 4th Brigade as such.

It was reformed later as the Retrenching Brigade. After a period of resting and reforming behind the lines Foster was posted to the 2nd Auckland Battalion and was back in action at Polygon Woods, this was part of Zpres, he was wounded in this action in the arm and was also blinded for three months. An unenviable experience. Still recalls the great thrill when he realised he was regaining his sight. Convalesced at both Hornchurch and Codsford after a lengthy spell in hospital. Never returned to France, had just been passed fit for service when Armitice was signed. Came home in the "paparoa" in June 1919. Went back to "Conrass" for a year or two then joined the timber milling gangs working in the Pelorus for a time. The depression caught up with him and he carried his swag throughout both islands working at what ever he could find, mostly in the timber mills.

Came back to Canvastown and joined the 2nd N.Z.E.F. Went into Burnham Camp in 1939 with the 27th Machine Gun Battalion. Sailing for Egypt 8th January 1940 with the 1st Echolon (the so called wife Deserters and debt dodgers) was in the Polish boat the "Zobieski".

Went up the "Blue" as far as Bagush where he dug gun pits and salted the wells in the area with coarse salt dug up near the coast. Unfortunately the users of the wells were the "Green Howards" and not the enemy. Took ill up there and returned to Maadi, was graded and worked in the Q.M. store serving the Div Cav. 27th Machine Gunners and Maori Battalion.

Returned home in the same convoy as the 9th Australian Div in "Aquitania." Landed in Sydney and after a few days there entrained for Melbourne. They were royally treated in Sydney and things are a bit hazy on the few days in Sydney, although he does remember going on a cruise and sailing under the Harbour Bridge. "Too much Fosters perhaps?" Also a fairly happy train ride to Melbourne. Left there in the New Amsterdam for Wellington. Spent a few days in a clearing station near the wharf in Wellington where as he puts it - "they were straightened up before being sent home".

Foster went back to Canvastown, this would be in March 1943. His future wife Miss Frances Bown, who was at the farewell function given to Foster and Frank Ward in 1939- was there to welcome him and they were married in June 1944. There were no children from this marriage. The newly weds went and worked on Bill Dalton's farm "Willwark". Dalton's son known as "Young Wilkie" had also gone to the 1st World War with the Mounted Rifles and had failed to return.

Foster and his wife worked on Blue Mountain and on Glenlee in the Awatere before retiring to Seddon. Mrs Hughes passed on in December 1977.

Foster Hughes is one of the few left who served in both wars. He visits the R.S.A. club rooms regularly where he is well liked and respected.



YOUR SUB.
HASN'T BEEN
SPOTTED...



THE DODO

I had wandered along to the Club as there was Jim. I waited until he had enjoyed a whiskey, then I said "Jim have you ever heard about a bird called the "Dodo" that lost its wings because it was too darned tired to use them." "Oh yes" said Jim, "read about it at school." I was surprised because I did not think Jim had ever been to school even though I know he is a pretty smart accountant. "Well", I said getting into my stride, "I believe it is only a matter of a generation or so before we will be like that bird. You know, get in the car to post a letter around the corner, or to pick the bread up across the street, we will soon be losing our legs. "Mind you" I said, "I believe we might grow an extra hand so we can switch off, switch on and pull a lever at the same time. Then I think we will also grow a sort of extra pad on our seats because it will all be sitting down in the future. By the way, I saw an ad in the paper the other day -
FOR SALE - Children's Bum Boots. I reckon those people are thinking the same as us."

Jim gulped down his second whiskey and as I started for home said, "Give us a lift although I live only just across the road, the car's in dock."

This article was first published by "Loophole" Volume 1 No 4 September 1954.

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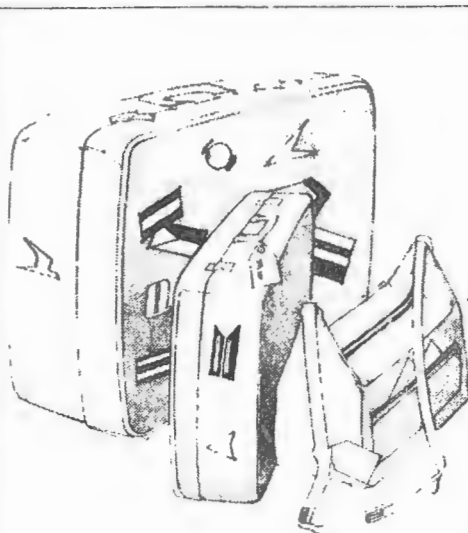
REPERTORY THEATRE

The young actor hopeful came home and proudly announced he had been selected for a role in the new play.

"I'm going to be a husband who has been married for 25 years." he said.

"That's not a bad start at all" said his father.

"Maybe in your next play, you'll get a speaking part!"



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N.Z.V.C.'S

The V.C. is worn before all other decorations, on the left breast, and consists in a cross-patee of bronze, 1½ inches in diameter, with the Royal Crown surmounted by a lion in the centre, and beneath there is the inscription "For Valour." From the institution of the decoration in January 1856 until March 1942 Victoria Crosses were, by Queen Victoria's decree, struck from the metal of guns captured by the British at Sebastopol during the Crimean War; the supply of Sebastopol metal having run out the crosses are now made from gunmetal supplied by the Royal Mint. In all three fighting Services, holders of the V.C. below commissioned rank (or below warrant rank in the Royal Navy) receive an annuity of \$20 a year concurrently with the award, plus an addition of 5 cents per day (\$18.20 a year) to the recipient's pension. In the case of a posthumous award \$100 is credited to the estate of a recipient, or the balance of \$100 if that amount has not been paid during his lifetime; an additional annuity of \$10 is paid for each bar, such bar being added for additional acts of bravery which would have entitled the recipient to the Victoria Cross if he or she had not already received it. In the event of an annuitant being unable to obtain a livelihood on leaving the Service, the amount of the annuity may be increased to \$150. In 1941 the right to receive the Cross was extended to Indian soldiers, and in 1920 a Royal Warrant extended the right to Matrons, Sisters and Nurses, and the Staff of the Nursing Services and other services pertaining to Hospitals and Nursing and to Auxiliaries of either sex regularly or temporarily under the orders, directions or supervision of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the Crown.

NEW ZEALAND RECIPIENTS OF THE VICTORIA CROSS SURVIVING IN 1953

Andrew Lt Col L.W. D.S.O. 1917
Crichton Pte J. 1918
Frickleton Captain S 1917
Hinton Sgt J.D. 1941
Judson Capt R.S. D.C.M. M.M. 1918
Trent Squadron Leader L.H. D.F.C. 1943
Bassett, Lieut, C.R.G. 1915
Elliott, Lieut, K. 1942
Grant, Lieut, J.G. 1918
Hulme, Sgt A.C. 1941
Laurent, Sgt H.H. 1918
Upham Capt C.H. (and bar 1942) 1941

This article was written in 1953 and can anyone tell us whether the Royalty above is still the same today, and how many of the above V.C. holders are still surviving?

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Letters to the Editor

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

While you are in the middle of alterations, I would strongly suggest that new extractor fans be installed high up in the new walls, near the ceilings in the extended areas, and also the switches for same to be controlled from behind the bar. Apparently, the ones at present operating annoy many members as they create a drumming or vibrating sound and are always switched off almost immediately they are put on, thus defeating the object they were originally fitted for. The need for the fans is more necessary in winter than in summer, when all the louvres, windows and doors are closed to retain the heat. They would greatly assist in keeping the air fresh and smoke free and also help to preserve the painted surfaces.

Suggestions for Bar Leaners improvement:-

Have two large holes cut in them, one near each end, and fitted with chrome ring on top and glass bowl underneath. (Same as the Workingmen's Club have).

The small slit at present in the centre of each leaner is not very hygienic and is always surrounded with ash which spreads all over the top.

Trusting you can see the wisdom of these suggestions.

JIM POOLE

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Copy was sent to Dominion President with last issue of Crossfire)

Dear Sir,

Let me assure Mr Mattingley that I do not have any troubles except those that may be foisted on the general membership of Marlborough R.S.A. because of the financial entanglements of the Picton (civilian) club.

To start with let me recall that in 1971-72 a five figure sum was poured down the drain on architect's fees and plans, for a clubhouse that was never built. That was Picton's first false start on a grandiose planning. That was the year the accounts were lost - 1972 remember? But the next year the book value of the building was

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What's On This Mo

BECAUSE OF THE ALTERATIONS IN THE CLUBHOUSE
THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANYTHING ORGANISED RE
ENTERTAINMENT.

REMEMBER ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL

A.G.M. OF THE POOL CLUB - 28 MARCH 1979

REMINDER

88 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION REUNION - AUCKLAND

OCTOBER 4 - 6, 1979

6 NEW ZEALAND FIELD REGIMENT - LABOUR WEEKEND -

PALMERSTON NORTH - 1979

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Month In Your Club

TROTTING NEWS



Horses to follow this month

BY "ARAPAHO"

- NEW DEER Went a great race at Greymouth last time. Looks as though he should carry on with work.
- COASTALONG Trotting really solidly at Trials, should win one at short notice.
- CASTLE DERG Looked a likely youngster, should come right from now on.
- SPOT LUCK Look for this horse around the wetter tracks from now on.

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CS — K. NEWMAN, 5551

AT ALL

TIMES THINK

GOODYEAR TYRES

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upped by \$10367. Was that the cost of the aborted plans? Not many, outside of the Picton executive were made aware of that expensive bungle. I am not prepared to see it repeated to the cost of Blenheim members.

Sure, I remember how much Picton Branch and Picton members contributed towards the Marlborough building. They contributed as Marlborough members and use its facilities as of right, but it doesn't work in reverse. A Blenheim, Kaikoura member may have to wait in the queue and submit to a secret ballot as explained in the second to last paragraph of Mr Mattingley's letter. Moreover, Picton contribute not one cent to the administration costs of Marlborough R.S.A. but share in hospital comforts, representation at N.Z.R.S.A. conferences, sporting events - expenses paid, and now financial help to extend club rooms for the enjoyment of some 120 non-R.S.A. members.

This once again highlights the situation where 300 Branch members have the dominant say in the administration of M.R.S.A. - appoint nine out of the seventeen Executive members and then, in addition, also get a vote for the other eight while 1100 Blenheim members get only a vote for the minority of eight Executive members. Toss in a Branch appointment as President and two vice-presidents from Branches and Blenheim members are well outnumbered. To quote Mr Mattingley they ought to be happy and only on the wish of the Branch members will any alteration be made. Sure, they can out-vote Blenheim on any issue.

Now for Picton's financial planning as set out in Paragraph 3 of Mr Mattingley's letter, "we are in need of a sum of money that would have to be at second mortgage" Why have to be? Why second mortgage? Isn't this usually the mark of a shaky financial proposition? So the Breweries are willing to guarantee our loan. But not fork out the money or take over the second mortgage. Will they guarantee Picton borrowings right down to a second mortgage. I think not. How much is being borrowed, and from whom. Surely as second mortgagees, M.R.S.A. members are entitled to know who, and how much ranks ahead of their second mortgage. I suspect that the Breweries are relying more on the credit rating of Marlborough than Picton.

Mr Mattingley states that I often said Picton would never get a Charter. Completely false. I advised Picton, as I did Motueka, to plan for an extended membership CLUB charter. This is exactly what they did. And I went further. Mr Mattingley was on the Marlborough executive, perhaps even present at the meeting when I proposed that a \$10,000 investment be placed with the Bank of N.Z. in Picton, in preference to our A.N.Z. Bank here in Blenheim, so that the Picton Bank would be aware of a "rich uncle" in the background if and when Picton were successful in getting a charter and needed finance. That was way back in 1974 - three years before Picton's charter became a reality. That was the \$10,000 that Picton eventually used. So much for my lack of confidence in the Picton Branch. I suggest that I did more forward financial planning for Picton's charter than any of their

solicitor who handled their own Executive. If Mr Mattingley cares to check with their solicitor who handled their charter application he will find an acknowledgement of thanks for the help I gave the solicitor. And at the same time he might just remind the solicitor that my file of licensing procedure, hearings, judgements, appeals was never returned to me.

And now for Mr Mattingley's "crunch" statement. Quote "in ten year's time we could be practically a thing of the past. So much for Mr Mattingley's confidence in his own Branch. A positive indication of his lack of willingness to grow up - become an association assume their own responsibilities - still want to lean on Marlborough R.S.A.

Can Mr Mattingley assure us that Picton will be clear of debt in ten year's time?

On the basis of their last Balance Sheet, Picton had a ready-money shortage, to pay all debts of \$1800. Sure they still had a building, second hand furniture and equipment to cover that but that is not a particularly healthy start to further borrowing so for my part I'd be happy to get out from under and leave the Breweries to it. Picton members have little to lose in their next financial plunge.

And so I come to Mr Mattingley's last comment, quote "the advance from Marlborough R.S.A. was a loan, not an investment."

A rose by another name. The prickly part is still there - repayment.

This is the naive approach to the future (and past) borrowing that troubles me, as well as the still uncompleted incorporation of the Picton Club.

J.R. NAYSMITH

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In 1945 the Marlborough R.S.A. Picton Branch (Inc) was issued with a "birth certificate - Certificate of Incorporation, by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies. I've seen it. Every incorporated organisation gets one.

If the birth of the Picton Club did not result in an abortion it would similarly have been given a "birth certificate - Certificate of Incorporation in November 1976.

If all, each, or any, of the Marlborough and Picton Executive members will accept a wager to give \$10 to Heritage I will match their total stake - could be up to \$200 for me - in a Certificate of Incorporation of a Picton Marl R.S.A. Picton Branch Club (Inc) can be produced to the Dominion President on Sunday 25th February 1979.

Surely in the space of just over two years it cannot have been lost of mis-filed. Yes you can get Wisheart out of bed over the weekend, but it is not in his office, but please be assured I have not enquired there.

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To put it in simple language, the use of the word CLUB in conjunction with Picton R.S.A. Branch is illegal - the Club does not exist.

If anyone wants to up the ante I'll - Heritage will take it. But I've got to keep it small to get the mice to nibble.

J.R. NAYSMITH

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

My congratulations to Mr Baden Norris for his excellent article, "To Blenheim By Ship."

I am sure Mr Norris will be delighted to learn that the skow "Echo" which he referred to as a dismantled hulk lying in Picton Harbour awaiting restoration by the Marlborough Historical Society, is in fact a proud adornment to the scenery of the Picton waterfront. She stands on concrete blocks on the south east side of the harbour, having been restored and renovated as a popular Clubroom for the Marlborough Cruising Club.

E.J. FRISKEN

Friendship

You do not need a score of men to laugh and sing with you;
You can be rich in comradeship with just a friend or two.
You do not need a monarch's smile to light your way along;
Through weal or woe a friend or two will fill your days with song.

So let the many go on their way, and let the throng pass by;
The crowd is but a fickle thing which hears not when you sigh.
The multitude is quick to run in search of favourites new,
And all that man can hold for grief is just a friend or two.

When winds of failure start to blow, you'll find the throng has gone;
The splendour of a brighter flame will always lure them on;
But with the ashes of your dreams, and all you hoped to do,
You'll find that all you really need is just a friend or two.

You cannot know the multitude, however hard you try;
It cannot sit about your hearth, it cannot hear you sigh;
It cannot read the heart of you, or know the hurts you bear;
Its cheers are all for happy men and not for those in care.

So let the throng go on its way and let the crowd depart;
But one or two will keep the faith when you are sick at heart;
And rich you'll be and comforted, when grey skies hide the blue,
If you can turn and share your grief with just a friend or two.

Contributed by C.M.J. (Reg)
Watson

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HUMOROUS ANECDOTES OF CLUB PERSONALITIES (With the kind permission
of the persons named)

Some 16 years ago when that legendary Club member John McFarlane was in his prime as an imbiber of the famous Scottish nectar, his name was mentioned at an Executive meeting and some member of the Committee suggested that this might quieten him down. However, another Committee member said "Mr Chairman, I don't agree. I realise that the mode of Club life is under change and we now are allowed to bring our wives in to join us in a drink, and I am all for that. I know that Johnny makes a bit of noise now and then, but let's not forget that this Club was founded by ex-servicemen for their members and the Club is Johnny's pride and joy, and anyway, I think he has probably only got about 18 months to go. I think we should wear him." And so the discussion ended. Now 16 years later, I have a quiet smile when on entering the Club, I see the familiar figure of John perched on his tartan top stool beside the bar, still downing that Scottish nectar and still strong of voice.

My second story is also about the same Johnny Mc and happened in the R.S.A. bar lounge on a Saturday afternoon in the year 1960, when I had the original bar separating the billiard room. I was sitting with some member friends by the windows enjoying a quiet beer when some member came up to me and said "Johnny Mc is over by the bar and he's making a hell of a row, and as we have quite a few guests, it's not very nice. How about you trying to quieten him down?" Looking over, I spotted Jim Naysmith who was the current President, and when I mentioned this, the member said "I know, but he has a guest and I don't want to worry him, and as you are the vice president, I think you should do something about it." So reluctantly, I went over and said to Johnny "How about just dropping your voice a few octaves and speaking quieter." Straight back and split second came his answer "You are only second prize, get out of my bar... way." He of course reasoned that if it was good enough for the President to sit close by and say nothing, why should a mere vice president worry him, and as the humour of the thing hit me, I could not help laughing as I retired to my seat, but John did in fact become quieter.

My third story concerns that well-known character George Landor-Lane, who was often referred to as the mayor of Onamalutu, but was in fact caretaker of the Domain, and the second person is Bruce Clark of Safe Air fame, who served with me on Executive many years ago.

George and Bruce were standing side by side at the old bar one Saturday afternoon, and George who was 'nicely' thank you, kept

Continued on Page 27

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bumping against Bruce, and generally giving Bruce a rough time, when along came Joe Griffiths selling raffle tickets. This was many years ago before the advent of the present raffle bar when clubhouse committee members walked around the Club selling tickets. Anyway, Joe asked George if he wanted a ticket. George bought one and Joe asked Bruce, upon which George turned to Bruce and said "You are wasting your money. I have just bought the winning ticket." Bruce replied "Well, its a free world, and I will buy a ticket if I want to." George thumped the bar and said "I will bet you ten shillings that I have the winning ticket," and Bruce who was mighty brassed off with George did a quick mental sum - one chance in 50 he thought the odds favoured him, so he said "You're on." Well, Joe went on to sell the rest of the tickets and in due course announced, "Who has a blind 40? Up shot George's hand, and turning to Bruce who had just raised a glass to his lips, he thumped Bruce on the shoulder, causing the drink to splash over Bruce's face and suit, and as if this was not enough George said "I told you so. Give me ten bob". Well, needless to say Bruce's face was a real study of many emotions, as he paid up and my only regret was that I did not have a camera to record his expression.

(Reg)

— OBITUARY —

The recent sudden passing of Jack Talbot left a gap within the Ranks of our R.S.A. Bowling Club. Jack was a member of our Bowling Club for a considerable length of time and during that era made a wide circle of friends for his gentle manner and sportsmanship especially of which he enjoyed Social Bowls. Indication of his popularity within the community was demonstrated by the large attendance of mourners at his funeral service, at the Church of the Nativity. This service to the community and his Church was most eloquently spoken on by the by Rev Pickering whilst the Masonic Fraternity paid their tributes for his work within the Lodge.

It was appropriate that Trevor Neal a fellow bowler and serviceman, did the R.S.A. service fittingly concluding a personal tribute to our departed bowler. Our sympathy was conveyed to his widow and the family by Ralph Blake our President and the large number of bowlers who attended the service.

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TODAY'S GREAT DRINK

Our Fair Ladies

For the first meeting of 1979, Mrs J. Allan, President presided over a fairly large number of members, at which Mrs Dorothy Brown of the R.S.A. office staff was guest speaker. We literally travelled with Dorothy and her husband David through Europe, Middle East and on to Kathmandu, and enjoyed the talk immensely. Dorothy was presented with a small gift.

A presentation was made to Mr Keith Jamieson, who has recently retired from the position of Secretary/Manager of the R.S.A. Mrs Allan thanked Keith for all the help given by him and the office staff to the Section. Mr Jamieson thanked members for their gift - two silver goblets. Opportunity was taken to introduce Mr Paul Brodie, the new Secretary/Manager to members. A delicious afternoon tea was then served.

MOIRA WILSON.

RENWICK R.S.A. WOMEN'S SECTION

I was away for our first meeting of the year in February, but a good attendance of members turned up, the meeting capably chaired by Betty Boyce.

Very little to report from Renwick really. Two new grandchildren another grand-daughter for Ken and I, and congratulations to Avis and Ricky Newman, Joan and Lyall Thompson on their new grandson.

It is with regret that we have heard of Roy Kinzett leaving the district. He is going south to live with a niece, and Renwick will sure miss him. He was a familiar figure riding his bike through the township. His many friends at the bowling green will also miss his genial smile as he went quietly about looking after the greens, which he has done for years. The best of luck Roy. Renwick will miss you. In reference to February's issue of Crossfire and to the photo of the Queen. A certain person, during the Cabaret, held at the Div. Cav re-union in Blenheim in 1969, whilst sitting next to Mrs Muldoon at the official table, stretched his legs out, lay back and went to sleep. How embarrassing for Mrs Muldoon. His excuse - he was tired!

NOLA YEALANDS

A property owner, thoroughly sick of his home and its surroundings and craving for something better, told an estate agent to advertise it for sale and gave all the relevant details.

Two days later he phoned the agent and told him he had changed his mind.

"Why? asked the real estate man.

Came the reply: "I read the advertisement, and it so happens that this is exactly the kind of place I've wanted all my life."

Sub-Branch News

Picton Branch

Owing to the lack of constructive material for this month, I have been forced to give a run down of the Clubhouse Committee meeting held on 27th February. However, I do have an article, on the history of the 'Picton Freezing Works' in the pipeline, and next month, I hope to introduce the nominees for the Executive Committee for 1979-80.

The meeting commenced with a mark of respect being accorded to N602931, C.H.N. Mottram W.W.II and 30165 S. Borrie W.W.I. The chairman Jim Taylor welcomed Mr Bevan Tapp to the committee. Bevan replaces Mr Bon Wrightson, who was forced to resign from the finance committee because of ill health.

The committee decided to co-opt Mr Noel Carter to replace Mr Kevin Harwood who has moved to Blenheim (Noel has accepted the nomination).

Approval was given for the club to donate a grocery raffle to the ladies section for their shop day.

A letter of thanks from the crew of H.M.A.S. Jervis Bay was received.

It was resolved that we pay a deposit to Billiards Ltd, in order to have a new Club Special Billiard table held till required.

Continued on Page 32

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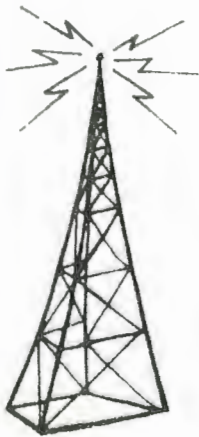
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Reports: Social Committee, chairman Ross Fredericks advised that it is hoped to hold a snooker competition against Marlborough R.S.A. on March 17th. The competition will begin about 11 a.m. depending on competitors and the day's activities will be followed by a social in the evening. Apparently Marlborough have held the snooker trophy so long they forgot they had it, so we need a willing team to uplift said trophy and re activate the annual challenge. Likewise, we will need a willing crowd to show the Marlburians what is required to make a success of a social, as ours always are.

Karori R.S.A. visit. A letter was read from Jim Tait (Karori Secretary) advising accommodation has been reserved at Carlton Hotel at \$17 Double and \$12 Single. With the boat passage return at \$15.20 each, it is not surprising that this visit is becoming less attractive, in spite of the welcome and good time we receive from Karori. On this trip, a visit to Hutt Valley R.S.A's has been planned.

Finance and Property

With the advent of building extensions almost underway, it is not surprising that the Finance Committee's recommendation of beer price increases of 5 cents per jug etc, had to be adopted.

Jim Maxwell advised that the hold-up for the building permit is over enquiries relating to the lounge floor of the extensions being wood or concrete. Enquiries have been steady for the tender for painting the existing building.

The Committee's recommendation to purchase an ice making machine was adopted.

MARLBOROUGH R.S.A. PICTON BRANCH INC

Returned Servicemen are advised that nominations are being called for executive committee for President (1) - Vice Presidents (2) - Treasurer (1) - Committee (8). Members are further advised that nomination forms (available at the bar) must be in the hands of the Secretary not later than 5 p.m. 23rd March 1979.

OBITUARY

Familiarly known to his mates as Curly, Stewart Borrie was a man whom many would describe as a typical Kiwi. A man of independent mind and action, cherishing that which was best in a rich heritage of Maori, Scottish and English. Two of his forebears were married by Johanne Wohlers, the Pioneer Lutheran Missionary of Ruapuke Island. Another was baptised by Bishop Selwyn. His family history, reaching back through Australia, to the British Isles on the one hand, and to the Islands of the Pacific on the other, spans the world and would provide an intriguing background picture of the man himself. He was

born at Otakeho in Taranaki, just before the turn of the century, one of the younger of a lively family of 16 children (of which latterly he was the sole survivor). He was educated at the local school and the New Plymouth Boys High School, where he represented the school at rugby and was the boxing champion. At the age of 18 he went to Hawkes Bay and from there joined the local Regiment, serving in France in World War I. He celebrated his 21st birthday while on active service.

He was an enthusiastic musician, and a member of the Regimental Band. In later years he served in the local band here in Picton.

After the war he worked for a while at the French Pass lighthouse but when he married Ella Landall, he settled at Picton, being blessed with two sons and a daughter.

Over the years, he followed various occupations as a painter and paper hanger, a Railways employee, and also on the wharf. Always a keen follower of rugby, he was a member of the Waitohi Rugby Club. Politically he was an ardent labour supporter, serving on the representative committee.


Just over three years ago he suffered a stroke which was a grievous affliction to such an active man, but with characteristic determination he fought the affliction with considerable success. The loss of his wife seventeen months ago was a further blow, which he bore with fortitude. Some months ago, a broken hip necessitated his transfer to Wairau Hospital. Even there, for all his frustrations and discomforts, that irrepressible sense of humour which had endeared him to so many down the years, never left him. Despite difficulties in speech he would bid me good-day with a smile.

Now we pay tribute to his memory. True he was no angel, and didn't pretend to be, but none could doubt his genuineness and sincerity as we recall memories both sad and joy of 80 years of living.


This obituary was prepared for Crossfire by Reverend N. Thornicroft.

NEWS FROM OTHER BRANCHES

CONSPICUOUS BY ITS ABSENCE

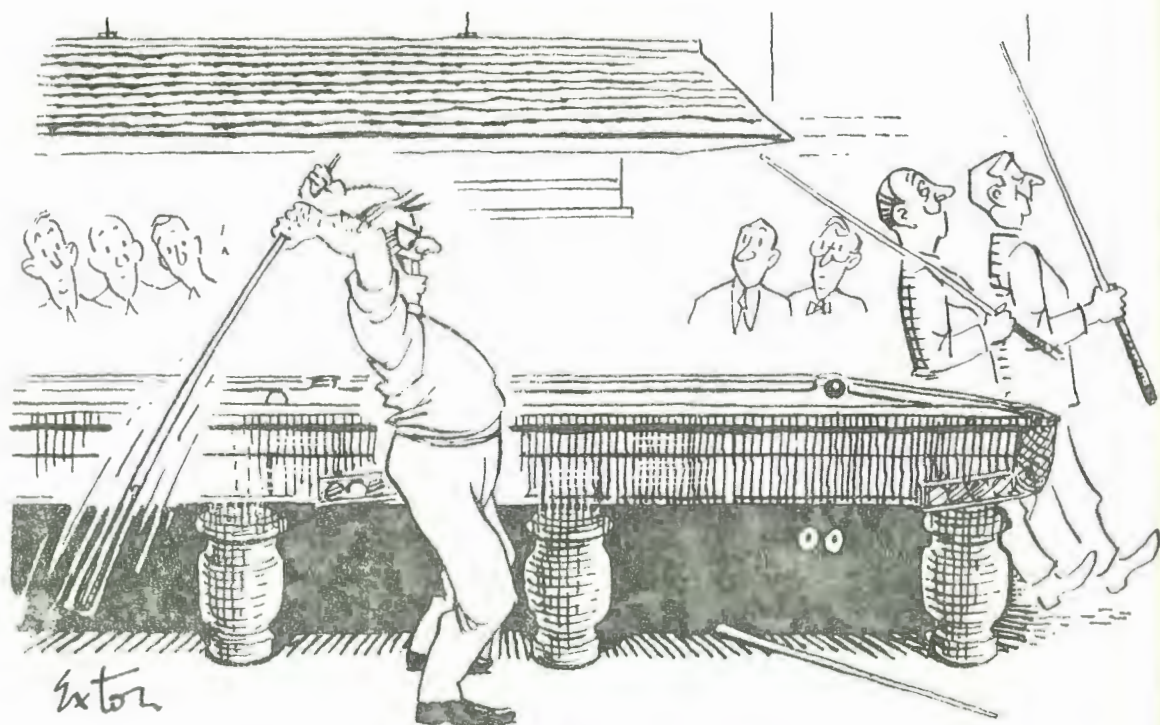


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VERY SMALL
CHARGE* TO BE
MET



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"Come on out, 'Leri', don't let a little thing like missing the black and losing the game bother you."

THEN THERE WAS THE ONE ABOUT

When Ali, the sheik's most devoted eunuch, died unexpectedly in the middle of the night, the potentate's teenage son asked his father how this unhappy event had come to pass.

"My son," said the sheik, "Ali's death teaches us a valuable lesson. Last night, upon retiring, I commanded him to hasten to my harem and select for my pleasure the one most beautiful among the hundred *houris* waiting there. He returned with surprising swiftness with a ravishing brunette, but this tasty morsel merely whetted my appetite for further amour, so I summoned Ali again and told him to fetch forth the most sensual female of the harem. This time he returned even more quickly — though the harem is a considerable distance from my quarters, as you know — with a female whose hair was red as flame, with a passion to match.

"This erotic creature further increased my desire and I instructed Ali to have the

most innocent maiden he could find brought to my bedchamber; he reappeared soon after, short of breath and perspiring from his efforts on my behalf, with a honey blonde that was the very image of innocence.

"So it went throughout most of the night — with a fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh — faithful Ali scurrying back and forth between harem and bedchamber again and again, and again and again, until he dropped dead at my feet . . ."

"And what is the valuable lesson to be learned from all this?" the perplexed son of the potentate wanted to know.

"There's no harm in sex," said the sheik with a wise smile, "It's the running after it that can kill you!"

Two six-year-old boys were standing in the school playground during their lunch break when a jet thundered over. Said one: "Look at that . . . it's a Mirage 111-0!"

NEWS FLASH

The Annual General Meeting of the Marlborough R.S.A. Men's Indoor Bowling Club will be held in the Club on Thursday April 5th at 8 p.m. Old and intending members welcome.

Please note that sons (aged 20 or over) of Marlborough R.S.A. financial members are eligible as associate members and it is not necessary that the fathers be members of the Men's Indoor Bowling Club.

MEETING AGENDA

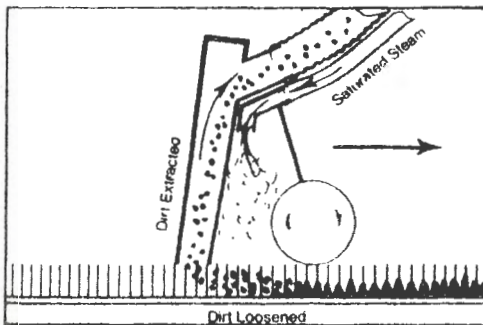
Confirmation of Minutes
Correspondence
Financial Report
Election of Officers & Committee

See you in the Pavilion Lounge - 5th April 1979.

Jack Ahearn
Secretary

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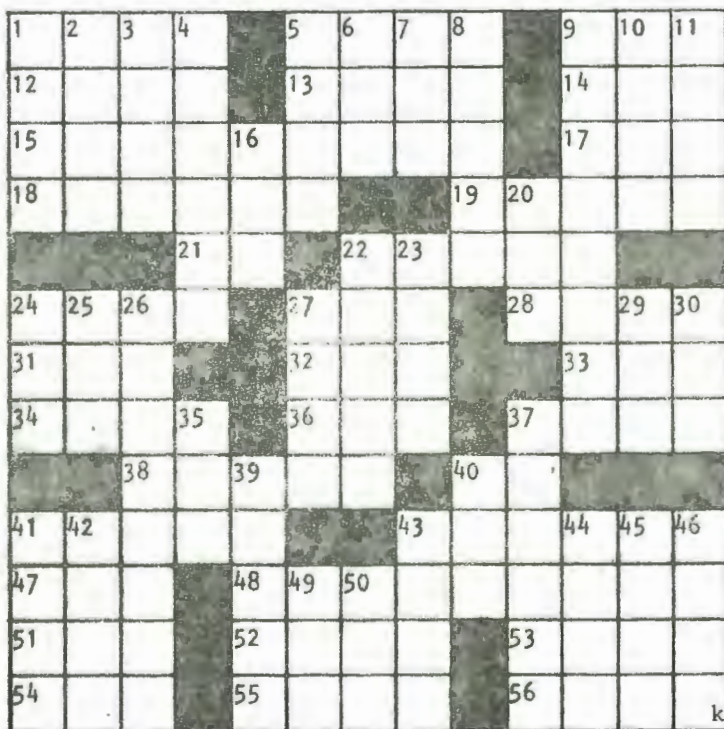
1. Sect
5. Professional tramp
9. Crowd
12. Song heard at La Scala
13. Tied
14. Sleeveless garment
15. Abuses
17. Ignited
18. Gladdened
19. Growing out
21. Note of the scale
22. Matched
24. Alaskan city
27. Fairy queen
28. Italian city
31. South American river
32. Corrida cheer
33. Lamp ornament
34. Soothing ointment
36. Siamese coin
37. Peter, for one
38. Greek letter
40. Note of the scale
41. Sphere of combat
43. Tiny

47. Hebrew letter
48. Arctic dogs
51. Fish
52. Persia
53. Females of the ruff
54. June bug
55. Assistant
56. Serf

DOWN

1. Arrived
2. Mountain range
3. Girl's name
4. Spill the beans
5. Observe
6. Eggs

7. Wager
8. Beginning
9. Diseases
10. Newspaper item
11. Moderate
16. Turmeric
20. Cluster of fibers in wool
22. Mediterranean island
23. Incite
24. Seize
25. WWII agency
26. Seasickness (3 wds., Fr.)
27. Protective ditch
29. Resort
30. Melody
35. Chess pieces
37. Right of holding
39. Vampire
40. Edge
41. Among
42. Redecorate
43. Word on the wall
44. Indians
45. Numerical suffix
46. Being
49. Jackie's spouse
50. Young boy





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