

Loophole



OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN

of the

MARLBOROUGH RETURNED SERVICES ASSN

Vol. 5 No. 2

March, 1958

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SEDDON 1 and 65

Presidential

Marlborough has again been honoured by another Royal Visitor and our members played their part by assisting the police. I wish to express the thanks of the Association to all those who responded to the appeal.

This is the last issue of Loophole for this financial year and our membership is a little below that of last year. I therefore appeal to all to maintain their membership and if possible to enrol new members. By the 31st March also, nominations will be required for your Executive Committee for next year and I hope that members will give this matter some serious consideration to see that the best possible committee will be elected to administer the affairs of the Association.

Next year will be one of the most important in the Association's history for as well as the erection of the new Clubhouse, they will have the responsibility of running the N.Z.R.S.A. Bowling Tournament and the privilege of assisting with the celebration of the Centennial of Marlborough. Dick Scott is our representative on the Centennial Committee and has already given many hours of his valuable time to its business for which I wish to thank him.

Another Anzac Day is approaching and I hope the Parade will be a record one. Speakers will be required for the various country and school functions. I appeal to all those who are able to come forward and offer their services. Items for the Anzac Concert will also be required and Archie Kitching would appreciate some assistance. Associated with Anzac Day is Poppy Day which means a lot of hard work for our office staff and our women's section.

In May the Seddon Shield District R.S.A. Conference will be held in Blenheim and our Social Committee will be called upon to arrange some entertainment. Last year the Conference was held at Hokitika and they set a very high standard.

This year also the Annual Ball, which has been run at a loss for several years, will be replaced by a Cabaret Evening for members and their wives.

These notes would not be complete without a reference to the coming departure from Blenheim of our Immediate Past President, Jim Bell. Jim has given several years, including two as our President, of outstanding service to our Association. His cheerful smile and valuable services will be missed around the Clubhouse, on the bowling green and in the cricket field. We wish him and Mrs Bell the best of luck and good health for the future.

F. W. PARKER, President.

Woman, after head-on collision with man motorist: "You had no right to assume that I had made up my mind."

★ ★ ★

For speaking up at the table

We reprimanded our lad.

It wasn't the mouthful he said,

But rather the mouthful he had.

★ ★ ★

Woman: "I assure you I'm not prejudiced. I'm going with a perfectly open and unbiased mind to listen to what I'm convinced is pure rubbish."

"Is that lady annoyed with you? I notice she didn't return your greeting."

"Oh, her, she lives next door to me, she never returns anything."

★ ★ ★

"For the last time," a husband shouted toward the bedroom, "are you ready to go?"

"For heaven's sake be quite," retorted his wife. "I've been telling you for the last hour that I'll be ready in a minute."

Sec.'s Short Say

A few loose ends need tying up before we hand material for Loop-hole to our printers. Re-building—You will have seen that we have called for tenders for foundations and steel work in connection with the new Clubhouse. Further tenders will be called shortly. We can't tell you a great deal more at this stage; but a special general meeting will be held late in March, when it is hoped, a clear picture of progress will be ready for presentation to our members. The meeting is being called primarily in connection with alterations to our Rules, these cover eligibility for membership, voting for Committee and Officers of the Association. Watch the papers for full information regarding the meeting.

Committee: Nominations for the Office of President, Vice President, Hon. Treasurer and eight Committeemen, close with the Secretary at 5 p.m. on Monday 31st March. The Annual meeting is usually held in the third week of May.

In regard to Committeemen, I would like to say that their work does not consist of merely attending a monthly meeting. Candidates

before allowing themselves to be nominated, should be prepared to put much more than that into the affairs of the Association. Loop-hole: I have been endeavouring to climb out of the Editorial Chair of Loop-hole and though things look promising for me at the moment, I am keeping my fingers crossed. I have to thank "Dasyen" for his articles—particularly the one about the Henglish Haristocrats but you know "Dasyen" what prudes returned men are. We'll print them later, Mr Narrator.

We still have to chase Bowlers (in and outdoor, Brevet Boys, Shooters, Navalmen and what else we have, for news of their activities. They should be chasing after us for space. Then our Branches—what of them! Take a note of this—material for next issue of Loop-hole may be left with the Secretary on or before the ninth day of May.

Finally all members particularly bowlers will join in congratulating Ron Bush, Geo Lowe, Dick Wanden and Bill Humphries on their win in the bowling tournament and in extending to them our very best wishes for success and pleasant bowling at the N.Z. tournament at Gisborne.



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68 SOUTH STREET

Broken Record

There were four men in the railway carriage—one in each corner. Shortly after the train had steamed out of Euston one of them spoke.

"We've a long journey to Scotland ahead of us," he said, "and I feel it might be interesting to compare notes, and to learn about one another. We've probably got some interests in common, and it would help pass the time."

The others seemed to favour this idea and it was suggested that the speaker might begin by telling them about himself.

"Well," he said, "I happen to be a Brigadier in the Army. I'm married to a very charming woman. We have three sons. The eldest in the Army, and doing very well indeed."

"By an odd coincidence," said the man in the opposite corner, "I, too, am a Brigadier! My wife, too, is a singularly charming person. It so happens, also, that we have three rister, and making a great success

of it."

boys—the eldest of whom is a bar-boys—
"This," exclaimed the third man, "is really extraordinary! You see, I'm a Brigadier, too. Moreover, I have a wife who is exceptionally charming, and our family also consists of three sons! The eldest of them is a chartered accountant, and holding down a very good job."

At this all three turned to the fourth man. Could he possibly keep up the record? It appeared he could not.

"I'm afraid," he said, "that I shall have to disappoint you. It is true that I am in the Army, but I am only a Sergeant-Major. I have never been married—but I have three sons, and as it happens, they are all Brigadiers . . ."

★ ★ ★

Suitor: "I just proposed to your daughter, sir."

Father: "Did she accept?"

Suitor: "Certainly Sir."

Father: "Fine, fine; Congratulations my boy! That makes you the second happiest man in the world."

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The Navy

MOA KIWI TUI MATAI
REUNION

ANZAC DAY WEEK-END
CHRISTCHURCH

Eligible dates:

Moa, Kiwi, Tui, October 1941, December 1943, Matai, June 1942, December 1943.

A long list of ships company attending headed by Commodore Phipps is available, anyone requiring further information contact L. Duckworth.

Don't forget Dominion Council Conference at Blenheim this Easter.

Reunion

26 BATTALION

Would all those interested in holding a local Reunion for all Marlborough personnel please attend a meeting to be held at the clubhouse on March 17th (Monday) at 8 p.m.

BRUCE HADFIELD, Convener

Relief Committee

The Relief Committee is still doing a very useful job in looking after our sick and other members who are unable to keep up with the present day cost of living.

The Hospital and Amersfoote Home are visited each week and many servicemen are contacted who are unable to keep in touch with the Association. Comforts such as tobacco or sweets are supplied to

each and advice and assistance given with their pensions.

Many servicemen from the First World War are now reaching the age where they find that they can no longer work, these and others are assisted with their applications to Social Security and Pensions Dept. A number of our members have their pensions supplemented from the canteen funds, and others find it necessary to occasionally borrow small amounts until pension day. Our own members are all very honest and repay these small loans when they receive their pensions; but the Committee is very concerned about the "Happy Wanderers" who drift about from one Association to another. Each of these cases is fully investigated and where found genuine assisted, usually with meals and accommodation. Other Associations throughout New Zealand are having the same difficulty and the position of these men is being investigated by Dominion Headquarters.

Another Poppy Day is rapidly approaching, and as most of the money to carry on the work of assistance to needy ex-servicemen and hospital visiting comes from this appeal, the Committee hopes that sufficient members will come forward to assist with the House to House canvass and to assist the Women's Section with the street appeal, which will be held on Friday, 18th April. The cost of the floral tributes also comes from this appeal.

The Committee again asks members to bring to its notice any cases of sickness or hardship where assistance is needed.

—F.W.P.

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Last Post

Since our last issue of Loophole the following returned men have answered the Last Roll Call. Our sympathy is extended to those who are left behind.

6/1434 E. Wilcox (D.E.C. Member)

65048 F. E. Thomas

57153 J. P. Murray

24/905 W. J. Smith

4/1009 A. Teuton.

N.1392 J. Zimmerman

13345 H. W. Mears

J511884

N.Z.D. 2004 A. G. Penney

6/1754 S. E. Wells

Behind is life and its longing,
Its trial, its trouble, its sorrow,
Beyond is the infinite morning,
Of a day without a tomorrow.

Transfers In

N.Z. 8705 F. O. Brice, 4/1070 C. W.

Wendelken, 73325 W. Duff, 19740 D.

M. Smith, 38174 H. H. Hickey,

428778 C. G. Fantham, 26489 D. H.

Melville, 4215887 J. G. Malthus,
N.1349 G. L. Davison, MN.313650
W. R. N. Jump, 69110 R. A. Hutcheon,
34141 G. Pratt, N.Z.R.N. 7654 D.
Miller, C.M.X. 48265 F. L. Cockran,
N.Z. 11807 A. Philpott.

New Members

A welcome to our ranks is extended to the following new members who have joined during the past three months:—75976 J. R. Chauval, 7/691 L. V. Ashwell.

R.S.A. Cabaret

Members are requested to keep Saturday 14th June free for our first Cabaret to be held in the National Party rooms.

This is an entirely new venture on the part of your Executive who realise that in the past the holding of an R.S.A. Ball has entailed much work and expense for the enjoyment of but few of our members. It is

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felt that a Cabaret held solely for R.S.A. members and their wives, etc., would do more to foster the spirit of comradeship which after all is the key note of our organisation.

We hope that as many members as possible will endeavour to make up a table and purchase their tickets early, as the number of tables available will be limited.

Remember the date—Saturday, June 14th—for a grand evening.

Dick's Banjo Mandolin

I first met Dick on the New Amsterdam sitting on the deck grimly playing a borrowed banjo mandolin. An intense chap, he would abuse Mussolini and Hitler at the fall of a pin for his present discomfort and uncertain future. Dick was always first to tell a new rumour if the ground was fertile enough. We became acquainted in the kind of way you do on a troopship. He was right enough we thought but a bit of a panic artist. When the Div. left

Maadi I lost sight of Dick until just before Cassino when he joined my unit. Still the same Dick we soon learned. "Look what's arrived, now we'll get an ear bashing," someone said, and how right he was. Later Dick acquired a mandolin of his own, a round back Italian model—it was a beautiful instrument inlaid with mother of pearl and different coloured woods and finished as only the Italians can do. Its new owner was a proud man and made music during his idle hours. Truth to tell he played it well, and gave a lot of pleasure when we sat round a jerry can of Vlnò. Dick could really go to town on it after a few mugs and he had plenty of vocal help.

Dick's brother-in-law was a tankie in one of the regiments and one afternoon at Fabriano he set sail all spruced up and carrying his mandolin to visit his brother-in-law in the tank lines. About the party that followed we can only guess. Dick is a bit hazy, too; but late next day

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he staggered home, haggard and bleary eyed, muddy and tattered, still clinging to his mandolin or all that was left of it—just the finger board with strings dangling and a few shattered splinters of the body.

2 N.Z.E.F.

Provost Coy Reunion

EASTER, 1958, WELLINGTON

The reunion for 1958 will now be held in Wellington and not in Christchurch as previously arranged. A full week-end's fun is assured commencing with a natter session and get-together on Good Friday afternoon and ending when the last member leaves town. Ladies are welcome and those members who attended the previous reunion and brought their wives can vouch for the reception given to the ladies, so open your hearts and bring your wives with you. For further particulars write to W. Roberts, 90 Nairn Street, Wellington or F. Harnor, 465 Broad-

way, Miramar, Wellington. Follow the Diamond Track and come to Wellington for a week-end never to be forgotten.

Time Off

The other day a farmer's wife of my acquaintance was summoned for an interview at her local Labour Exchange, some miles distant; eleven o'clock was the time given. With considerable difficulty she found a neighbour to take her place for an hour or two and then set out on the long walk to the nearest bus. Arrived at the Labour Exchange, she waited for two hours, thinking of all the jobs waiting to be done at home and watching the varied expressions of her predecessors as they emerged.

At last her turn came. Methodically she began to go through the details of her daily round: "I'm up at half-past five to get my husband's breakfast, then I get ready his dinner which he takes with him, then I wake the children and wash and

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dress the younger ones—I've got four under fourteen. I get their breakfast and my own and see them off to school. I feed the chickens and ducks and rabbits; I make the beds, wash up, get the vegetables, cook dinner for the children . . ." and so on throughout the day—cleaning, cooking, washing, mending, farm accounts, farm jobs, shopping, gardening . . .

"Yes, yes," said the interviewer impatiently, "but what do you do in your free time?"

"I go to the lavatory," was the reply.

To The Editor

Sir,

It is my prudent custom about twice a year to take what politicians these days are pleased to call a long hard look at my financial position. In all truth, however, I have to admit that the look is hard rather than long, for the scrutiny is pitifully brief. To give the occasion some im-

pressiveness, I start with a sheet of foolscap, on which to list my assets, only to find that an old tram ticket would have served the purpose equally well.

What has all this to do with "Loop-hole?" Well a couple of years ago, I listed as an asset, "Debenture in R.S.A. Building Fund—£10." A year or so later, instead of bold black ink, I used a rather faint pencil mark for this entry, and last week left it out altogether. The omission occasioned no pain, no sense of loss. It then occurred to me I might as well send in my old receipt, and have it cancelled, thus making my modest tenner into a donation. It also occurred to me that I had been pretty parsimonious not to have made it a donation originally. May I commend this simple action to others who may consider doing the same thing, and leave the thought with them that parting with a tooth always occasions a sense of loss, and usually of pain, too; but if the dentist were to offer it back to you a

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few years later, you would feel that having done without it for a fair time, you are still getting on fine, and are likely to continue that way.

The gesture gives me the feeling that I am entering the New Year with an indication of faith in the Building Scheme, and in the future of our fine Club.

YOURS "KIWI"

P.S. Here is a fiver as well, this time as a donation. K ["Thanks Kiwi, the fiver's in the kitty," and Debenture No. 90 is cancelled.—Ed.]

The Election

Now that the polling's finished
And the dust has cleared away,
We find National strength diminished
And Labour's won the day.

And so the Labour ship of state,
Is in dry dock once more,
They scrape and tar each rusty plate,
And caulk the leaks galore.

They'll slick her up, both fore and aft,

Will do their best at any rate,
But she'll never be the dangerous craft,

She was in nineteen forty eight.

And when they've done all they can do,

It's plain as plain can be,
That Walt will pick and brief his crew,

Then they'll shove her in the sea.

And so old Walter picks his staff,
It's Mookhan for the pumps no doubt,
The tripe he talks would make you laugh,

The sort of bilge he's sure to spout.

He's sure to find a job for Mabel,
Who's been suppressed for many moons,

A lady who's both keen and able
Should be minister for pantaloons.

With all those National reefs and rocks,

If it should be my lot to choose,
I'd rather chart the Edwin Fox
To start that dangerous three year cruise.

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But still they might avoid a crash,
And keep her on an even keel
With brave old Captain Walter Nash,
And first mate Skinner at the wheel.

Of course by chance that motley
crew,
Might even try to seize the ship,
But Walt would sure know what to
do,
He'd shoot at them straight from the
lip.

Should one back-bencher disbelieve,
Or even make an attempt to think,
By collar and sleeve a grunt and a
heave,

Walt would dump him into the drink.
So shrewd old Walter makes a bid,
To gain the goodwill of the nation.
Five hundred quid for every kid,
And so He'll boost the population.

And to confound the air freight
backers,
In schemes for ferries o'er the
strait,
She'll cost about two million smackers
Walt hands the ship out on a plate.

Rarely the truth can I recall
From the men who man these
party ships;
But rarest of all are the pearls that
fall,
In truths from political mariners' lips.

And so they'll face each National
gale,
Ride out each opposition squall,
And tho' the green ones lap the rail,
They'll do their very best for all.

All must be there, there's none to
spare
Let every man be at his post,
On deck, that tory icy air,
Below, Mabs makes hot tea and toast.
So when they've rigged each rope
and fall
And beat out from the land,
It must be very plain to all
The old ship's sadly under manned.

Still Walter knows the game by heart
There's no flies on that old sea horse,
He'll slack away without a chart
He knows to steer a middle course.

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 ing main,

If still on deck, without a wreck
 They'll fit the old barge out again.

No grog from Scotland is Walt's
 motto,

To bring it in he says is huey,
 A man can get completely blotto
 On prime New Zealand Hokonui.

Crime of War

What's up with all the world's great
 Powers.

Ever at each others throats,
 Hold their talks and gas for hours
 But only get each other's goats.

The Union Soviet States of Russia
 In Hungary have shown their hand,
 Their policy "completely crush her"
 Should weaker Powers dare to stand.

And all members of this Club
 Have surely fought in some cam-
 paign,

You've lived in filth, on army grub,
 You've seen your cobbers maimed
 and slain.

You struggled onward there in
 France,

At times your losses of the gravest,
 And paid with lives for each advance
 For shrap and H.E. stop the bravest.

Though men must suffer there are
 others

Who suffer more when one man dies,
 It's then for sweethearts, wives and
 mothers

The world goes black before their
 eyes.

We are still obliged to keep a force,
 Until world leaders get some sense,
 Our efforts in this way of course,
 Must always be in pure defence.

So at war's cruel baneful teaching,
 Let your lip in scorn be curled,
 And "peace for all men" be your
 preaching,

Should be the motto for the world.

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Te Kohatu-o-Hatupatu

It is not my intention to write much about my annual holiday except to say that a holiday and a rest are not synonymous.

There are, however, a few items I would like to comment on. Napier, Taupo, Rotorua and Hamilton districts were visited and perhaps a New Year's Eve in Rotorua is something one would not easily forget or even wish to see again. For sheer downright crazy bedlam, Rotorua takes the bun on New Year's Eve.

The afternoon parade of floats, cars, ponies, bikes, Maori canoe speed boats, Lady Godiva, the mounted Rangatira and what have you were a sight worth seeing and a credit to the enthusiasm of the organisers. The parade circled the main streets twice in the afternoon and the whole show was repeated at night. There was no restraint during the evening performance; if some of those in the procession let their hair down, the young fry let every-

thing they have down.

Rotorua on New Year's Eve isn't exactly a restful place.

The Napier W.W.2 War Memorial has received a lot of publicity and was well covered in Review. Situated a stone's throw from the pounding Pacific breakers on the beautiful foreshore the Memorial is of the utilitarian type. No lovelier setting for such an edifice could have been chosen—no more unorthodox plan could have been designed. Approaching the building one is struck by the varnished timbers which run perpendicularly on the upper storey. I wondered how many years those timbers will stand the ravages of salt spray, sun and time. Others have asked the same question.

Napier's beautiful floral clock is in front of the Memorial which could be described as 'S' shaped—with no square corners. It appears from the street to be one storey; but is actually two storeyed.

A perpetual flame flickers over a small pool and behind this is a

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curved wall on which are placed 17 marble tablets each containing 18 names of Napier men who paid the supreme sacrifice in W.W.2. On the right is a cafeteria and behind is a ballroom.

On 1st January 900 people each paid 3/6 to attend a dance there and on the following night 800 attended a similar function. No supper was provided; but soft drinks were available in the cafeteria.

Below is a supper room for balls and such functions and also an aquarium—or should I say the first tanks are on the walls of the supper room. Buffet suppers are popular in Napier. I fished out a shilling and entered the aquarium then fished up the following facts. This incidently was the only fishing I did on my trip, tho' I did enjoy trout on a number of occasions.

The aquarium was organised by a small band of enthusiasts—ten I believe if my memory serves me right—and they were assisted to the tune of £500 by the Thirty Thousand Club

which is Napier's public spirited body acting along similar lines to our C.B.A. Twenty thousand five hundred people paid for admission to the aquarium in one month and two thousand seven hundred in one day. Believe me their tiny fish are popular. The Memorial cost about £40,000, the set up and surroundings are inspiring; but being old fashioned my vote is for non-utilitarian memorials. I have still to see something lovelier than our clock tower, fountain and gardens. And by the way, isn't the time ripe for us to talk of Seymour Square as Memorial Square and not Seymour Square. We could retain Seymour St. as a memorial to our early surveyor; but let's get the idea that the Square is a Memorial Square. But let me get back to my notebook with jottings made on my annual holiday—jottings which were intended to make headlines for Loophole and now only six weeks later, I find I can't read some of my own writing. I have notes on the parade of vintage cars, of a Cavalier

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King Charles Spaniel—a little spaniel with a pug nose—quite a quaint fifteen guinea job like Harold Sowman's Randle which must have a front seat in the car.

I have a note that strawberries were 2/6 per pottle on the roadside a few miles from Taupo; but 4/6 in that fair town, another about Anderson's Nursery in Napier, which has the greatest area of glass in N.Z. and probably the greatest assortment of plants one would see in a long while. John Anderson was to give me some technical advice for inclusion on this subject; and I meant to blind you all with horticultural science; but his notes have not arrived.

He will be in Blenheim shortly and I am expected to put on a party for him—to thrust a bottle of White Label into his hands every few minutes in an earnest endeavour to be as good a host as he has been to me on several occasions; but thanks to Walter's restrictions, John will have a lean time.

Atiamuri, Karapiro and Arapuni

with their man made lakes and massive works were visited, with a close look over the last. Though there is no movement noticeable inside the power house at Arapuni, outside, the ground vibrates continuously.

I lived in Hamilton for a short period in 1929 and was astounded at the growth of this inland City during the past 28 years. Then, Hillcrest—a suburb—was little more than a name; but today is almost a city in its own right.

One last subject is noted and that is the old inner harbour at Napier. The 1931 'quake, to partly compensate for the terrible devastation it caused, gave Hawke's Bay the Beacons Airfield and 7000 acres of land which prior to the 'quake was the bed of the inner harbour.

This area has been drained and brought into cultivation and seems to be well stocked with sheep. It appears that the Government developed the land, the Harbour Board own it and after twenty-seven years of joint ownership, it seems that no-one else is likely to get a small farm

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out of this 'quake-sent gift. It surely could have been 'a suitable area for rehab. purposes; but those I asked for information regarding its ultimate disposal, had many years ago given up trying to find the answer.

I see further notes on Tokoroa, the A.C. baths and a note that two sons of C. E. Townshend, of Picton, seem to be flourishing in a large motor business in Napier.

I headed this Article "Te Kohato-o-Hatupatu" which means the rock of refuge of Hatupatu. Between Atiamuri and Taupo we stopped at an A.A. sign marked "Historic Place—the rock of refuge of Hatupatu."

The rock itself is cone shaped about six feet high and perhaps four or five feet across at the base. It is hollowed out probably by water action and offers ample shelter for one adult person. I was never introduced to Hatupatu; but had to learn from Euan my nine year old Grandson that Hatupatu was a character in Maori mythology. When fleeing for his life from the ogress

Kurungaituku, Hatupatu repeated an enchantment over the rock, thus causing it to open and conceal him. Later the ogress or witch—fainty Miss Kurungaituku met her desserts by falling into a boiling pool at Whakarewarewa.

No doubt that with a vivid imagination and a drop or two of Maori blood in your veins, you can still see Kurungaituku's scratches on the rocks.

Ignorant as I am, I thought they may have been caused by glacial action. I can't imagine a member of our famed Maori Battalion fleeing from a hint in Cairo or anywhere else for that matter.

That's all. —P. G. T.

★ ★ ★

The Widow Jones told a neighbour that her late husband had been very unfortunate all his life but that things had changed near the end.

"How do you mean?" queried the neighbour.

"Well," replied the widow, "when they dug his grave, they struck oil."

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Promises

Quite a large number of our members have either verbally, or by medium of signed statements, indicated that they would contribute to our building fund. These promises amounting to approximately £1000, are an important part of our building fund finance. A number of these promises have been ratified by payments in one sum, about 20 or more by small instalments, and a number have deposit accounts which have not reached the required level to allow us to issue a £10 debenture. To this group we have written asking them to let us have the balance owing so that we can tidy up what could become quite a man sized job of book-keeping.

We are happy to receive instalments from new contributors and to continue receiving instalments from those whose contributions have not reached the £10 level; but we are

afraid that a number who have made one or two instalments seem to have neglected us of late. We are most anxious that as many as possible of these deposit accounts are paid up before 31st March.

Another group who have promised contributions are awaiting some tangible evidence that the building programme is really going ahead. Another article in this issue will deal with progress made in that direction.

Others say that when building commences they will forward their contributions. The names of nearly all who have made promises have had their names included in the lists published in Loophole and posted on the Clubhouse notice board; but in some cases we have no written record of these promises. They were voluntarily given to the Secretary or members of the Committee at social functions, on the bowling green, at a race meeting and whilst sea bathing. In such cases pencil and paper were

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not always readily available to record these promises. We know the chaps who made them will not forget. We want them to know that now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of the Building Committee.

We have sufficient funds to make a start; but not sufficient to complete the job. There isn't a shadow of doubt that sufficient money will be forthcoming from our members.

Four hundred and eighty debentures have been issued and posted to some three hundred members. Sixty-six members have made straight out donations of sums ranging up to fifty pounds. Over 30 members have returned their debentures for cancellation—converted Debentures to Donations.

Of the two thousand returned men in Marlborough, less than five hundred have so far responded to our appeals for funds.

With positive action in actual building a reality it is certain that those who have not yet contributed or promised contributions will now come forward.

This is a unique year and an opportune time to renew our appeal for funds. It is "£100 rebate" year, so there really should be no need to ask our members to ratify their promises before 31st March. Those who have been saving for Income Tax payment day should now find themselves with some surplus cash, so "What about a loan Dig?"

Just Rumours

We have it on the highest au-

thority that there is no truth in the rumours:

That since the advent of parking meters the B.B. Council is considering changing the name of Blenheim to Morgueville.

That being allergic to gas is the reason for Jim Bell's move to Te Awamutu.

That Bruce Clarke when concreting his driveway fell into the wet mix and has since been unable to get out of his own way.

That Nip Harvey served in J-Force. Don't mix your Nips.

That Athol Hood has had some sharp negatives from the blonde in the photographic shop.

That Bruce Hadfield was trying to think out some other method when his wife asked him to smother her with kisses.

That Jim Naysmith was served hay for his tea after complaining that he worked like a horse for his wife.

That Jim Furness is convinced that a flight round the world got him nowhere.

That Hamish Horton said "see you later, irate Pater," when he handed Frank his school report.

That Johnny Mc has been transformed from a rake into a lawn-mower.

That Wal McAlpine is complaining that because of age, work now seems a lot less fun and fun a lot more work.

That when Doctor Ken asked Sister Scotty if she had fits of giddiness, Scotty indignantly replied, "No, I'm a respectable married woman."

That when Jim Knowles told his wife that he had taken out a

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personal accident policy, she maintained that it was a sheer waste of money as they never had any luck.

That a well known young teacher down Clarence way told his class that a POLYGON is a dead parrot.

That Ruth Duncan is on the look out for a man who is tall, dark and has some.

That our President after falling up some steps and grazing his arm, remarked: "It was so dark you couldn't see your face in front of you."

That our local Scottish Padre when talking of the dog Laika, said, "I believe in being dumb to kind animals."

That Buff Bartlett when asked for advice about a cold, told one of our members to go home and take some hot water juice in a lemon.

That Jack Synnott was heard to remark that two can live as cheaply as one but it costs them twice as much.

That Arthur Manson telling us about a "stupendous" picture which

is coming to the Palace said, "Don't miss it if you can."

That L. G. (Bill) Sinclair has ducks for sale. Yeah, he gets a couple every cricket match he plays in.

That Betty after a couple of vain attempts to tot up a column, said, "You can't blame me for making a mistake, after all none of us are human," and as an afterthought, "I may be wrong but I'm not far from it."

That Dick Scott told us he is making a concrete bust of his daughter Patricia's head.

That at a recent meeting of the committee, George Cole jumped to his feet and said, "For your information, let me ask you a question."

N.Z.'s Mau Mau

Loophole's September issue had some hard things to say about our delinquents and though we expected someone to stand up and defend the

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youngsters we regret to say we are disappointed no one has done this. Rather the reverse has happened and we are spurred on to continue the subject, following encouraging and complimentary reference to the article by Mr E. M. Basil-Jones and many of our members.

Delinquency as we term it today is just another word for what we older ones knew as hooliganism and larrikinism—you see that "isms" also are not new.

Perhaps too much is made of boys' and girls' pranks together. Our moral standards are not one iota higher today than they were fifty years ago; but stricter parental rule kept hooliganism in check. Man's or boy's natural instincts have not altered; but there have been changes. Parents have changed in their outlook on these matters when trouble develops.

The fear of family shame and disgrace would not have allowed parents of young folk fifty years ago to risk the now numerous cases of sex crimes reported daily in our papers. Parents held a tighter rein on their youngsters and so kept them from exposing themselves to dangers and from the danger of assault.

By danger we do not mean activities such as encountered while swimming, mountain climbing, football, etc., or other health giving activities which have helped to make New Zealanders with their elan, dash, initiative, self reliance and allied attributes, even better New Zealanders. In simple language the girls of fifty

years ago were taught to keep out of the way of the wolves. Those who heeded the warnings escaped damage, while those who did not encountered much the same treatment as is met by the modern girls. Discreet mothers saw to it that publicity was not given to a daughter's indiscretions.

But underlying all this criticism of modern youth there is one great difference between today's youth and the youth of fifty years ago. Today's youth appear to be proud of their hooliganism, while the youth of fifty years ago were too afraid to carry their pranks to the limit for fear of harming the good name of a devoted parent. Is it because modern delinquents do not receive parental love and respect and because of lack of home life, family pride, and parental love that they feel they have little to lose and something to gain by their half-wit behaviour?

What has delinquency to do with Loophole and R.S.A.? Witness two recent events which no real Digger or Kiwi can think over then dismiss lightly. We refer to the fracas in Napier when a handful of circus hands beat up a mob of youths who interfered with their work of loading a train. And think over the actions of another irresponsible mob of juvenile outlaws in Auckland who wrecked the carriages of a suburban train.

As guardians—in 1914-18 and again in 1939-45—of our elderly folk, our women folk and our country and

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REMEMBER — ERIC WILKES is Cash Buyer of Wool & Skins

empire can we confidently hope that these louts of today will take our place in the defence of theirs and our country? How many of these youngsters find excuses for avoiding their military training? What kind of leaders will they make in politics, business or battle. How would you like to have them in support of you in such places as say Cassino or do you think they would have followed Cadogan into the valley of death at Balaclava?

No, sir, you can recover from mumps and measles; but not from criminal instincts engendered by poor upbringing—poor home life, lack of pride and respect for parents, home and country.

The "play way," "self expression" selfish parents, juvenile courts (which protect delinquents by suppression of names), child reform (a darn good caning should be substituted), are only a few of the causes of this modern bedlam.

The answer is strict parental control—no more, no less. We are perhaps fortunate in Marlborough that we have not been faced with incidents such as Napier and Auckland have recently experienced; but we should not forget that Blenheim has not exactly been free from acts of vandalism.

It is up to us all with all the power at our command to stamp out this growing evil, unless, of course, we wish New Zealanders to go to bed at night with their boots on and a gun at their side.

According to Mat Carson, Chief Administration Officer of N.Z.R.S.A., the R.S.A. is the solid core of loyalty

within N.Z. There is no room for disloyalty within our ranks. There should be no room for disloyal people within our country. Craven irresponsible louts who wreck public property, assault innocent folk, dodge military obligations and generally create disturbances cannot be called loyal New Zealanders. They cannot be regarded as worthy trustees of the heritage handed on to them by men who made this wonderful country what it is today.

We cannot forget that the freedom enjoyed by all the people of New Zealand (including the louts) was made possible by men of many nations, who during W.W.1 and W.W.2 and in Korea and in Malaya were solely responsible for our present freedom and the good things we enjoy today. As Returned men, we should guard against losing our treasured freedom through any slackening of our determination to keep New Zealand free, loyal and wholesome.

Gardening Notes

There isn't any let up, you know, not even in the autumn. In the fruit world it is probably the most important time because, if you have followed these notes from issue to issue, you will have fruit with no codlin moth, no diseases, your fruit trees won't have any red spider or other pests and you will have bumper crops all ready to harvest. If you haven't followed the advice given, well, it is your fault.

Fruit Harvest should commence

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from mid-March on for varieties of apples suitable for storing. Delicious and its varieties such as the Golden and Red should be harvested, Jonathan, too. Delicious and Red Delicious are best picked firm—too green for good eating at the time of harvest. On the other hand Golden Delicious and Jonathan will store well when picked reasonably mature although they should, of course, be perfectly firm. Other varieties will be later, about mid-April, and should be picked slightly on the greenish side. It should not be necessary to add that all apples for storage must be perfectly sound. Cool airy storage is the best. I find that cases stored under my house keep very well, there is a constant draught and only moderate changes between night and day temperatures.

After your trees loose their leaves spray with red spraying oil, the directions are on the containers. In point of fact the later in the dormant season the better; but early sprays are quite in order. With most fruit tree sprays the old maxim can well be modified to "Better early than never." Spraying too late with red oil is dangerous.

VEGETABLES: There isn't a great deal of activity in this sphere, winter cabbage, cauliflower, leeks and celery are already planted, or should be. Spring cabbage have to go in soon, April 6th is a date for spring cabbage always used by a most successful gardener of my acquaintance. He grew good cabbages, too. If you are on a heavier type of soil liming may be beneficial, a light dressing annually keeps the soil sweet and assists drainage. However nothing that you can apply to the soil will give you good drainage if it doesn't already exist.

Happy Autumn.

—37044

R.S.A.

Miniature Rifle Club

1957 again proved to be a year of good shooting due mainly to the "Few" who regularly attended the

shoots. To those personnel from Woodbourne who gave us such assistance, we say a sincere "thank you." Actually these men have kept the Club functioning. Each year at this time I put out a plea for new R.S.A. members but with little results. The reason for such apathy is hard to understand because we have a good range and facilities superior to any other range in Blenheim.

Perhaps some of you have not seen our "set up." Our Annual meeting is being held at 8 p.m. on 19th March (Wednesday) and on this night or any succeeding night, we would be glad to have you along to fire a few shots under no obligation to join. How about it—especially ex-members.

We are facing difficulties—make no mistake. We can only draw on R.S.A. members and I would hate to see the Club fold up because of lack of support from members. Over the years there has been tremendous work and organising so that the Club could function and increase its efficiency. With the new building about to go up and a new modern rifle range incorporated in the plans, we would like this coming season to be a "bumper" one—a season of enjoyable combat with other teams, and friendly competition within our own club. It's over to you—you the individual.

Women's Section Report

There have only been two monthly meetings of the Women's Section since the last report to Loophole. The November meeting took the form of a picture evening. Mrs V. Robinson kindly screened her films taken when she and Mr Robinson were on an overseas tour some time ago. Pictures of England, Scotland and parts of the Continent were very much enjoyed by the members present.

A Christmas party was held for the December meeting; the clubroom was very prettily arranged with flowers and Christmas decorations. Mrs Shannon presided over the meet-

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ing. The National Anthem was sung after welcoming the guests, the entertainment part of the programme was handed over to the Vice-President, Mrs Fisher, who capably carried out her duties. The attendance was very pleasing over 90 members being present. Many visitors from Picton and Renwick sections attended.

The programme was very full and varied. The welcoming choruses by the Singing Circle put the party in good spirit to start the evening's entertainment.

Miss McGarva who had recently returned to New Zealand gave an exhibition of the hula dance, this was very well received, Mrs Quinn's whistling solo was much enjoyed, Mrs Gamble being the accompanist. Mrs Stewart conducted a competition which was won by Mrs Cruickshank. The next item was a sketch by Mesdames Neal and Atkinson entitled "Cockerel Stealing." This was well done and caused many laughs.

The singing circle rendered a bracket "Moonlight and Roses," and "I Love You Truly," in part singing.

Mrs Nees gave a very interesting elocutionary item and Mrs Parker an amusing sketch—both receiving loud ovations.

Then followed a fashion parade by six Committee members, an imitation of the H line the Sack-look and what may be expected to be seen in 1958 caused so much laughter that the comperes could not be heard. tained with bright piano-accordion Mrs Russell and Mrs Neal enter-music after which carols were sung by all attending.

Mrs Ashley was herald for the Christmas fairy and Mother Christmas. They then distributed the Christmas gifts.

A delicious supper was served, and a Christmas cake, made by Mrs Priddle and decorated by Mrs Ashley, was cut by the President, assisted by Mesdames Jellyman and McCormick of the Renwick and Picton sections respectively.

Mrs Shannon then thanked all who had helped her during the year, especially the helpers for the Rose Day appeal, the C.B.A. for the use of their lights for the Christmas tree, and the artists who contributed

to the evening's entertainment.

Mrs Duckworth won the competition and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a very happy evening to a close.

The ladies bowling club are getting along nicely with their competitions, club championships will soon be declared, and the President wishes that more ex-servicemen's wives join their club and make it a friendly and strong club.

A very successful all-day tourney was held in January, all rinks being filled, which was very pleasing.

We will soon be around to Anzac Day again, and members and ex-servicemen's wives may expect an appeal from our President for helpers, and flowers for the Servicemen's cemetery on the 25th April.

—Reporter

SECTION PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

I do trust members will be looking forward eagerly to the commencement of our meetings again in April—may I again appeal to any ex-servicemen's wives who are not members to come along and join our ranks, also to members who have not been attending—there is a cordial welcome to all. We still need recruits for our recently formed singing circle.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to all who helped to make Rose Day the success it was. To my energetic committee and the artists—a big thank you for the work put into the Christmas Party to make it such a happy and successful event.

As there will not be another issue of Loophole before Anzac Day may I again make an earnest appeal to all members and ex-servicemen's wives to come along and help with the sale of Poppies—and to make Poppy Day an even greater success than was Rose Day.

We welcome your assistance if only for one hour.

HILDA SHANNON.

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Secretary's Open Letter to Bob

Dear Bob,

On your return from W.W.2 in 1945, you were proud to join this Association and to wear its badge. You were active in R.S.A. affairs, you assisted us at functions, with decorating for many social events and you generally patronised the Club. You took pleasure in these activities and your efforts were appreciated.

You received and were justly entitled to all the concessions such as pensions, rehabilitation loans, gratuity, hospital visiting, etc., just as all the other Bobs were. They were made available in generous measure to Returned Servicemen mainly by the continuous effort of your R.S. Association over many years. You were entitled to these privileges Bob, and you have no obligation to continue membership of R.S.A. — none whatsoever, unless there is such a thing as a moral obligation.

You paid your subscription regularly in April of each year until 1951, when you lapsed membership. Like several other Bobs some little thing went wrong somewhere along the line—you just dropped out of things. To you the reason seemed to justify your action; but did it?

Let's have a closer look at things. In 1952 you required a loan and were granted it on your terms of repayment and to be repaid in six months time at your suggestion. Today, just five years after the loan was due for repayment you still owe 75 per cent. of it. We are aware that some financial difficulties came your way and I made these facts known to my committee who instructed me to invite you to call on me, when I would have informed you that a portion (30%) of your loan would have been written off as a grant. It is over a year since I wrote to you Bob asking you "to kindly call on me," etc., to discuss this adjustment of your loan. For five years at odd intervals you have received probably a dozen letters regarding the loan, you have received numerous circulars and accounts for subscriptions and during the past four and a half years a free copy of Loophole.

In turn, you personally, have not been inside the Clubhouse and you

have not replied to one single circular or letter. Have we been tolerant? Have you been reasonable? What would you do if our positions were reversed? Are you prepared and willing to stand on the sideline while your pals keep your Association strong and alert enough to see that those who return from future wars get as good a deal as you got? Have you a son, Bob? Are you quite sure you will never again want our help in your old age, or perhaps next year? Are you quite sure a widow or young children will never need R.S.A. or Patriotic assistance?

You and all the other Bobs will be welcomed back to financial membership today or tomorrow—anytime you think fit.

We have no axe to grind—we trust you will soon take a good look at the position—weigh the pros and cons of the situation and act accordingly.

Whether you or any other of the Bobs are financial or unfinancial members of R.S.A., we will never forget that you wore a uniform. We will never endeavour to escape our obligations; but now its over to you, Bob.

Cricket Notes

So far this season only two games have been played. Difficulty has been found in fielding a team on occasions. This was the cause for so reluctantly cancelling our game against the East Coast, but we feel certain we shall have sufficient members to play, outplay or be outplayed at our next encounter.

The game against the Waihopai Wanderers on their home ground was most enjoyable as was their hospitality. It was regretted by some that our most consistent run-getter, Frank Horton, should actually give away (free of charge) the secrets of his success to the crafty, wily, H. Tancred—who just kept pouring. But fears were allayed when it was found that after the next encounter "duff gen" had apparently been given—much to Tank's chagrin.

To get on with the game. Skipper Sinclair won the toss, and much against Sec. Tizard's advice, batted. He knows a thing or two, our Sec., and Bill was quite obviously avoiding him as the scoreboard read 42 runs for 7 wickets. But F. Horton and

W. MacAlpine were still together and P. Tizard was yet to bat. Horton made 71, MacAlpine 17 and Tizard 1—a grand total of 123 runs (Scribe Knowles made 1 run. Ed.)

Jim Stevenson, Jim Bell and Doug MacAlpine found the wicket so responsive to their vastly varying lengths and speeds that the Wanderers could muster only 81—S. Ching 21, H. Tancred 11 and H. Ashwell another 9. The players then adjourned.

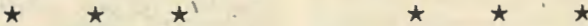
The return game at Pollard Park proved to be a truly grand game of cricket. The Wanderers took first use of a featherbed wicket and were dismissed for 68 runs after some lusty hitting by R. Reid, S. Ching, H. Tancred and H. Ashwell. Doug MacAlpine, striving hard to hold his place in the team, bowled his "wrong-uns" to such good effect that he took 6 for 14—quite commendable for this boy from the Valley. J. Knowles took 3 for 21 and J. Stevenson 1 for 11.

R.S.A. declared with 7 down for 132—F. Horton 23, W. Sinclair 21

not out, J. Stevenson 20, J. Knowles 17 and A. Hoad 12. Silcock took 4 for 52, W. Ashwell 2 for 28 and A. Barnett 1 for 10. The bowlers were assisted by some slick fielding.

The Wanderers fared much better in their second innings—compiling 128. J. Dawkins 37 not out, S. Ching 32, G. Silcock 24 and W. Ashwell 15 were the main scorers. D. MacAlpine 4 for 33, J. Knowles 4 for 46, J. Stevenson 1 for 8, and J. Bell 1 for 16 were the wicket takers. Athol Hoad had a field day behind the stumps in taking some seven catches.

This left R.S.A. 65 runs to get in 30 minutes. Hoad and Knowles opened and in the first over A. Hoad took 21 runs (five fours). Runs flowed from his bat until he was run out for 45 made in eleven minutes—a truly sparkling knock. J. Knowles finished a most exciting game with a six over long on and with ten minutes to spare. We look forward to more of these kind of games.



Membership

Following is the state of membership of this Association as at 31st March each year, from 1945 until 1957:

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
849	1451	1714	1734	1664	1624	1517	1471	1579	1671
				1955	1956	1957			
				1768	1761	1756			

With little over a month of the present financial year ahead of us, membership stands at 1630, that is one hundred and thirty-eight less than in our peak year of 1955.

Subscriptions from members and from Branch Secretaries must be in the hands of the Association Secretary on the 1st April—not later—if they are to count in this year's membership ladder.

Individual unfinancial members can greatly assist if they will forward their subscriptions without delay. We appeal to them for their co-operation in this matter.

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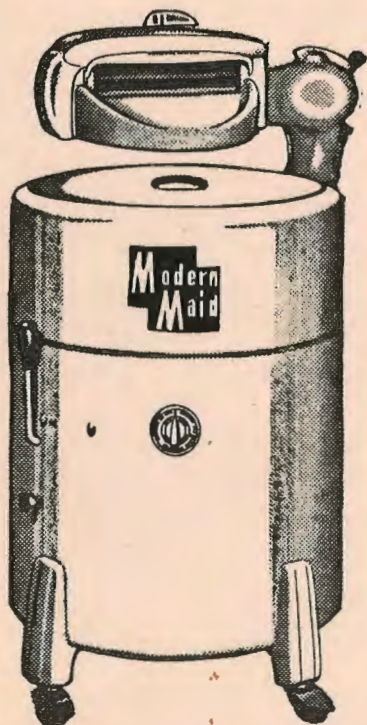
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CONCRETE PILES

CONCRETE BRICKS

CONCRETE TROUGHS

PUMICE CHIMNEYS

GALVANISED PIPE FARM GATES

GALVANISED PIPE RESIDENTIAL GATES

GALVANISED PIPE SHEEP CRATES

"DOWNEE" PATENT FITTINGS FOR

PIPE FENCES, ETC.

MANY OTHER LINES IN STOCK FOR BOTH

THE FARMER AND HOUSE OWNER.