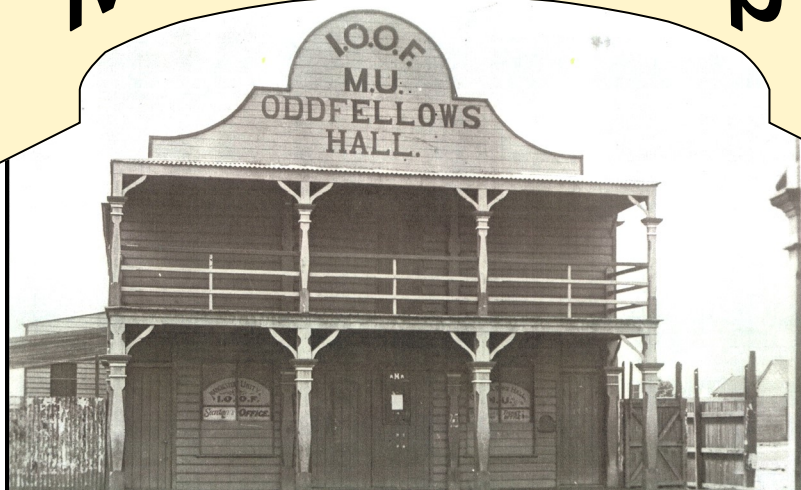


The Mallee Stump

**AUGUST
2021
NEWS
LETTER**



**The West Wyalong
MU100F
Lodge Rooms**

WYALONG DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

**58 Gilbert Street
WYALONG NSW 2671**

Email address: genealogy@wyalongfamilyhistory.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Sandra Gilding

SECRETARY

Pam Butcher (02) 6972 3113

TREASURER

Terry Butcher (02) 6972 3113



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MUIOOF

In June next year the MUIOOF Lodge in NSW will be no more. It has been decided that due to the lack of members and interest, that this Society cease. The present members have been given the option to transfer to Victoria or Queensland Lodge.

Members who hold the funeral benefits or other benefits at present, are covered by the Forester's Lodge of Victoria who took over the Lodge when the MUIOOF Hospital & Medical Fund were taken over by another fund.

The Lodge started in Wyalong in 1900, The Lodge had been formed on the 26th January. Then on Easter Monday night they held a successful Social under the auspices of the Wyalong Branch of Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity (Loyal Federal Lodge No.204), this took place in the Excelsior Hall, Wyalong. A successful juvenile dance being held on Tuesday night.

Claude Irwin was the appointed Secretary and he called for applications for an additional Medical Officer for the Loyal Federal Lodge. Manchester Unity had their own Medical Officers and their members were subsidised when they attended such practices. Members paid a weekly contribution which gave them a cover for Hospital & Medical and also gave them a Funeral Benefit for themselves and family. Benefit paid, after a number of years as a member £40, on the death of their partner £20 and children £15.

The Federal Lodge was governed by the Young District in 1905. The Lodge Room was destroyed by fire on **Easter Sunday** morning 7th. April, 1912. It had been built by Sam Botterill, then the members of some Lodges went into Cootamundra District. But the cover of this area was time consuming to the Officers of the District in travel and Governance. So in 1918 the Federal Lodge (which was a Sydney Lodge) had amalgamated with Loyal Wyalong Lodge and one new Lodge Cudgellico

(note spelling) had been added to the district. The Lodges in the district now being Tumut, Gundagai, Cootamundra, Stockinbingal, Ardlethan, Aria Park, Ungarie, Barmedman, Adelong, Temora, Wallenbeen Wagga, Bland, Batlow, Tullibigeal and Cudgellico.

A new general rule was proposed by Bro. Daniels to be sent to the G.A.M.C. (Grand Annual Moveable Conference) which read: That a suitable Certificate be presented to each soldier member on his return, or, in the event of his death, to his nearest relative, such certificate to be universal and supplied to lodges by the Board of Directors at lowest possible cost". Moved Bro. Hansen,

Another motion: "That sick members be relieved from paying contributions to benefit funds". It was stated that this was the premier society in New South Wales, with a membership of slightly over 50,000 and funds close on £1,000,000.

In 1923 the District had a membership of 1612 an increase of 239, for the period—a record. During the year three new branches had been opened and none closed.

In January 1928, the Bland District was inaugurated, Lodges of the Bland District being; Temora, Winchendon Vale, Barmedman, Quandialla, West Wyalong, Ungarie, Tallimba, Lake Cargelligo, Aria Park, Ardlethan, Yalgogrin Nth., Tullibigeal. Bro. D. A. Gagie, of West Wyalong was unanimously appointed to the position of District Grand Master.

The Dispensation of the West Wyalong Lodge No. 187 of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, Bland District, was burnt in another fire on **Easter Sunday**, 20 March, 1928 and replaced on Friday 7th. June, 1929 and now displayed in the Wyalong Museum.

It is also recalled that while the fire was in progress, Mr. E. R. Nicholson, now carrying on as a butcher in West Wyalong, met with a serious accident. In his efforts to save the store premises of Mr. H. R. Helyar, on the opposite side of the street, he fell from the roof and was impaled on an

iron fence at the front of the building.

The NEW M.U. Buildings were erected by Mr. J. D. Rosie, at a cost of three thousand pounds. It was a two storey brick structure, containing two shops on the bottom floor and offices and lodge rooms on the top floor.

This was Officially opened by the Grand Master of New South Wales, Bro. C. Blamey. On about

June 5th. 1929. And caught fire on the Easter Sunday 20th. April 1930. Exactly 18 years between the two Easter Sunday fires. At the time of the opening of the Lodge Rooms in Main Street, the building had two shops on the ground floor and the Lodge Room and Office upstairs. Bro. McGee was the Financial Secretary at one time and lost many records in the fire.



The Original Hall built by Sam Botterill was eventually acquired by the Lodge for the sum of £400 for the right title. Later the land was made freehold at the upset price of £25:0:0. It was a one storey roomy weatherboard structure used by travelling touring concert companies and other forms of entertainment. At the time referred to, ten members of the Order contributed certain amount by way of deposit on the property. It had a seating capacity for roughly seven hundred people and for a number of years was a familiar landmark of the town. It burnt down on Easter Sunday, 7th. April, 1912.

Bro Blamey D.G.M. said. "That they were indeed fortunate in having as their Medical Officers, Dr. Shaw and Dr. Fisher, who had always displayed fairness to the members. I was said, that the MU was the oldest Friendly Society in the world. And by far the strongest Society in New South Wales. It was nearly equal in numbers to any three Societies in NSW. Referring to specific funds he

thought the Druids could equal their Lodge, although their contributions were much higher.

Each Year the MU paid in sick allowances £30,000 more than they received. This was due to the fact that the society had so much money at their disposal earning interest. Bro. Blamey also stated, "There was no monument in any part of the State to compare with the new buildings in

West Wyalong which was a distinct credit to the members.

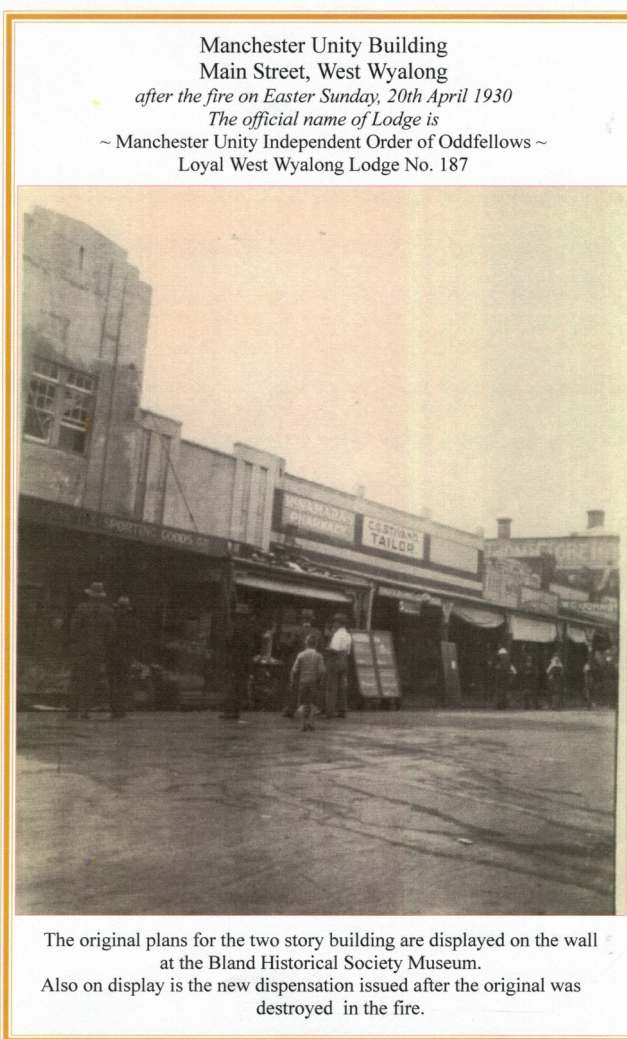
For a few days — 25 years ago — the speaker was in West Wyalong. The town was much different then to what it is to-day. The bullock track in Main Street in those days, is a little straighter to-day.

Sydney people claimed that George Street was once a bullock track, but the speaker thought that the man who drove the bullocks in George Street

had a straighter eye than the man who drove the bullocks in Main Street of West Wyalong.



Manchester Unity Building
169 ~ 171 Main Street, West Wyalong
The next day after the fire on Easter Sunday, 20th April 1930



The original plans for the two story building are displayed on the wall at the Bland Historical Society Museum.
Also on display is the new dispensation issued after the original was destroyed in the fire.

The Honours of the Order
of the MUOOF Lodge

*In Friendship,
Love and Truth.*

Una Monica Wilder nee Prest

JUNE 2003.

Prepared for Terry Butcher after a lengthy talk.

Una Monica Wilder, daughter of Michael and Mary Prest (nee Cottle) daughter of George and Hannah Cottle (nee Hallorin) born in Numerka, Victoria and brought out with her young brothers George and Alf and sisters Gertrude and Agnes in a spring cart during the big floods and settled here in Central Wyalong, Grandfather was a builder and they lived in centre between Boundary Street and the now Walkway. Grandfather Cottle grew the Australia Desert Pea, colours of West Wyalong Football team and people used to buy them to wear to the football especially Maher Cup Day, 6 pence a spray.

Michael Prest, was born in Cobar, to Robert and Bridget Prest (nee Craig) they had four children Ellen Michael William and Jack. Robert purchased the Club Hotel, West Wyalong where Stephenson's Building Business now stands.

The Club Hotel was burnt down in 1922. But Robert passed away 5 May 1915, 55 years (note the 5) and Michael took over till 1918 when Jack carried on. Jack was badly burned in the fire, he was down in the cellar when an alight candle ignited spirits. Jack carried the scars from his burns till his death at over 80 years at Griffith.

Una, recalls at the age of 4, holding Mrs. Enright by the hand and watching the Hotel burn down and the floor lino alight in the street. Now, from across the street and at the age of 86, she still recalls the scene.

As a move had to be made after the Hotel fire, dad bought a home in Gorman Street named after an old resident who had the rights for sell water from White Tank and Gorman Street was named after dad. Jack Emerton, Mr. Gorman and others gave land to widen the lane into a street.

Dad then had a farm at Blow Clear and later came

to a farm to "Rocky Glen", near the then "Spy Hill" and since removed. Why would one want to shift away a land mark? Only the Bland Shire.

We only were all at the farm for a few years and then dad would come in and out. I recall out that way Kinnanes, Ditchfields, Bowes, Vinecombes, Jefferies, Taylor, Prests and Wrights were farmers of that era.

The little Red School House of Jack Bowes property, Sadie Elder the teacher, lots of happy memories as we travelled home in Tom Jeffies sulky and Allan Taylors sulky one wonders as we raced each other we ever got home in one piece, last in had to shut the gate. Great days great fun and memories. And then we came back to town as Imelda started work, we always had the home in town until few years and it was bulldozed for a home for the Davies.

Una recalled as a tiny tot, going to school in the old Tinny (part of it still out at Phillip Dodds farmlet now owned by Aub Connors) the cold wind blowing through the cracks in the wall and the draught from the tiered seating from floor upwards like a Theatre. How her father would bring bags of vegetables to the Convent quite often as he grew plenty on the farm beside the dam. Convent doors always closed by six, was a joy to receive a supply in those hard time and so much appreciated by the Convent Nuns.

The Gloom Chasers Orchestra Jean Smith, Ken Emmett, Bert Muir, Frank Smith etc.

Sand hills in Operator St. opposite Martin Kelleher's home which was once St Mary's Tennis Courts.

The characters I well remember to Norman's Barber shop, Fritz (Syd Holland) worked at Tatts Hotel, shell-shocked from World War1.), Charlie Daniels, great shooter, Jeff Souden, footballer and leaving the brooms behind in Norman's Barber-shop. Georgie the Washer Woman also Tommy the Nut.

The raffles, stalls Bazaars we worked so hard to help build the lovely Church Convent and school

the Parish is so proud of, lets hope the present generation continue to maintain them always.

I don't think the generosity of the old generation, both in work time and money, will ever come again. God Bless the all.

Fishing became a great love of my life when Norman introduced me to it. Our garden was noted for the Rose Garden Worm patch fed by so many Sunday papers, a joy for the worms and they caught many a great fish and also spent many fishing outings in Snowy mountains for Trout and Queensland fishing for the winter in our four years of retirement after our trip round Australia and caught some big ones at Darwin Great Times.

Tennis Days at St Mary's Tournaments at Town Courts where Joy Pollock and myself held the Tennis Ladies Doubles for many years ... and unbeaten. Great Days at Mildil, Mallee Plains, Barmedman, Ungarie just so many lovely Tennis outings and our tennis at Kalms' Operator Street and Billie and Irma Kings in Operator Street and our night tennis at Andrews lovely courts, where car park in east Court Street now is (*it is actually Nos. 9, 7 Court St*). Great times Great Friends.

Una and her husband Norman's love for the Museum, its many hours of toil to get it open, where it now stands from Top Town where it was. Jim Hewitt, Daph Hudson, Ida Leadbitter Joyce Periera, Mrs Brissenden, Nell Jackson and the Trousens.

Una Wilder spent her school days at St Mary's West Wyalong and at aged 17 went to Thom's store (which still stands under various stores now) and worked there till it closed down. She was offered a position in Material and Manchester, Bert Johnston was manager of the Department and Ross Fraser in the Department also, and stayed until her marriage to Norm Wilder Hairdresser, on 26 May 1941, they then lived in the Fire Station building. This marriage lasting till Norman's sudden death after an injection, which was to have claimed his life half an hour later. A death which shocked the West Wyalong commu-

nity, as Norman had participated greatly in town festivities that night, 17 December 1981. Una left the Fire Station 1982 and came to 89 Operator Street the old home of Edward and Isabel Wilder built in 1922, by Frank Prothero a Master Builder of that time and renovated by builder Geoff O'Rourke in 1982.

Una also helped at Cal & Ruby Matha's Shop when illness struck Ruby Matha's family at Temora and became the manager of Meagher's Grocery Department during War years 1941-45 .

"Tally Ho" was a great moonlight night game with friends and family "I you don't hollow, I wont follow."

Going to Balls, Dances Pictures etc always walking to our sport, cars for most folk in those days unheard of, rain, hail, frost or sun always walking.

I guess we were lucky dad always had a car, not for our use for sport etc., although the boys were allowed to take it shooting, wildlife and fishing.

Well remember taking Jim and Mrs. Fee, Roy and Jean Madeley, Cathie Caldwell to Weethalle turning on the Electricity to the town that night in our Chev car. Freezing winter night kerosene tins of fire in Main St. and travelled home 3am thick deep frost.

My lovely outings with Gran Hoye, her husband worked at Flour Mill and The Parkers next to there home where Alwyn England lives now in Main St.

Mrs. Wilder (Bell) tripping over a cow on way home from Wyalong hospital, on a very dark night after visiting her son in hospital, what a long distance and ... no car.

The lovely old sand hills in Central Wyalong for walks and games but all removed now progress they say ... and I often wonder about progress of this sort. Visit to old Chinese gardens for vegetables at weekend, The Chinese were great gardeners and all work done by hand.

The Sand Hills and twin tanks where lots of Cray-fishing was done and “Tally Ho” played where West Wyalong Bowling Club now stands, our back fence bordered this area.

Lovely wide street now Monash Street where Miss Cameron, the King family, Godkins, Lead-bitters, Mr. and Mrs. Poole all lived.

The old wooden bridge over the creek, which we walked every day to school, work and play and is now Monash Street and Bridge on opposite side.

Sanderson's home and bakery, where Christine Gelling lives now in Gladstone Street. We used to go and get hot bread and often pulled the middle bit and ate it before we got home a real treat.

So many great memories I have and this writing of my memoirs has brought me much joy.

God bless us all
June 2003
Una Wilder nee Prest.

Extra notes added at top page 2:

“Stone crusher where parking for sports centre is now.

Members of school also Olive and Vera Taylor.

Tales from the Grave ***Book 2.***

Have been printed and now waiting
for delivered to Wyalong.
But due to the Covid 19 Lockdown
we have problems.

**We also have for sale
the book
125 Golden Years
Photos of Wyalong
and West Wyalong
\$40**

We have too many
Microfiche Readers
about six or seven

We are now on the **Internet**
for research which will be a great
advantage to the Group using
Trove, Ancestry etc.

Read this in an email this morning ...

Mergatroyd ? Do you remember that word?

Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize the word, Mergatroyd

Heavens to Mergatroyd!

The other day, a not so elderly (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy; and he looked at her quizzically and said, "What the heck is a Jalopy?" He had never heard of the word jalopy! She knew she was old ...But not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory when you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology.

These phrases included: Don't touch that dial; Carbon copy; You sound like a broken record; and Hung out to dry.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie . We'd put on our best bib and tucker, to straighten up and fly right.

Heavens to Betsy!

Gee whillikers!

Jumping Jehoshaphat!

Holy Moley!

We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers.

Oh, my aching back!

Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say,

"Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!"

Or, "This is a fine kettle of fish!" We discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished

with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink, and they're gone.

Where have all those great phrases gone?

Long gone: Pshaw, The milkman did it.

Hey! It's your nickel.

Don't forget to pull the chain.

Knee high to a grasshopper.

Well, Fiddlesticks! Going like sixty.

I'll see you in the funny papers.

Don't take any wooden nickels.

Wake up and smell the roses.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than some have liver pills.

This can be disturbing stuff!

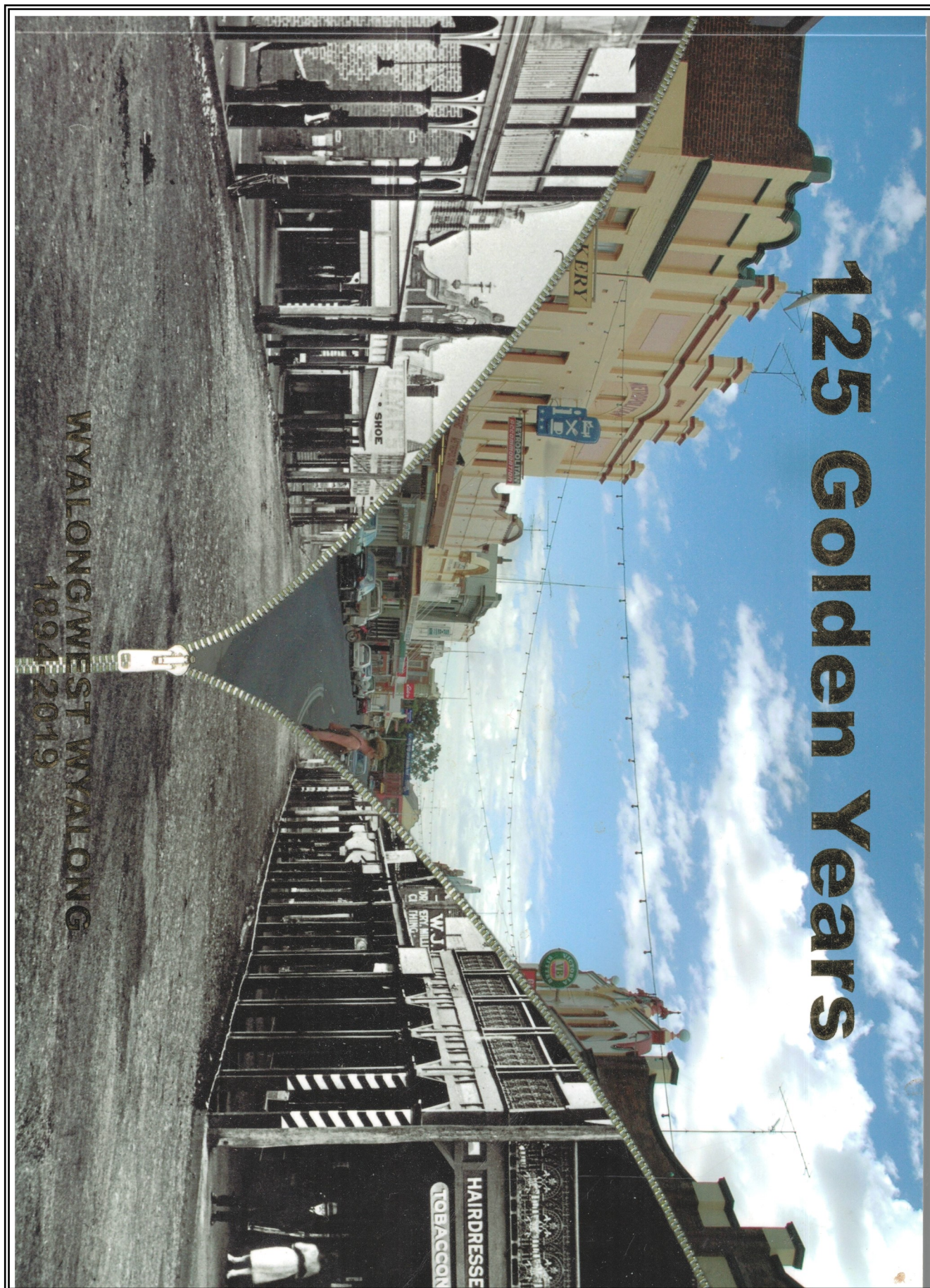
(Carter's Little Liver Pills are gone too!)

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth.

See ya later, alligator! Okidoki .

You'll notice they left out "Monkey Business"!!!

**Felt
uncomfortable
driving into the
cemetery. The
gps blurted out
you have reached
your final
destination.**



Produced by Lorraine Williams and Pam Butcher
\$40 each postage \$10.00

Changes to the Main Street History of

114 Main Street

1930-1932 Mr. Howard
Billiard Rooms

1933-1947 Mr. Essington Wright
Hairdresser and Barber Shop
Two small shops. One main entrance door.
Left Side: Ess Wright Barber
Right side: Ladies Hairdresser

1948-1964 Mr Ron Wright
Right side: Hairdresser and Barber Shop
Left side: Ladies Hairdresser:
Geraldine Curry & Nell McDonald

1964– 2020 Mr Fred Bleyer
White Goods, Electrical, Computers.

Over the years the store had carried many banners, but today, known as “Fred’s”.
The small store on the left, shown in the early photograph was also part of the original building,



and was incorporated into the main building in late 1980's/1990's.

What next ?

Whispers something new is coming.



The Wyalong Star and Temora and Barmedman Advertiser Tuesday, 6th. March, 1906 page 2

First Wooden Building —

Just at the present time the first wooden building erected in West Wyalong is undergoing a transitory stage, by being removed from the street frontage to the rear of more permanent structures.

We refer to the little wooden office next to Mr. G. P. Evans' brick office. The structure was erected some 12 year's ago and served as an office for Mr. Evans to conduct his legal work during the boon days of Wyalong.

At the time the office was erected the only other structures in Main Street were Murphy's corrugated iron store, where the New South Wales Bank now stands, and a bark bakery establishment, known as the 'black baker,' and erected where Hartigan's Imperial Hotel now stands.' (now A. C. Lord Optometrist)

EDITOR'S REPORT

We hope our members are well in this time of challenge. It is not the first time that this town has seen such a pandemic, and lived through it.

After the Gold rush in the early years we went through a Typhoid Plague, they used the Drill Hall as a temporary hospital, and many families lost loved ones, wives, husbands and children a lot from the same family.

Then came World War 1,
"The War to End All Wars"
we endured the Spanish Flu wore masks for such a long time. We got on with it and excepted what had to be done.

Then came Diphtheria and after that
Polio that left so many with problems that lasted a lifetime.
And now this Covid 19.

This will not be the last, so we have to deal with it as we are told by people smarter in the field of infectious disease.

Stay Safe! Use the Mask for your own protection and all your friends and rellies.

Remember:

"It is easier to breath in a Mask that a Coffin"

Terry Butcher

RESEARCH REQUESTS RECEIVED

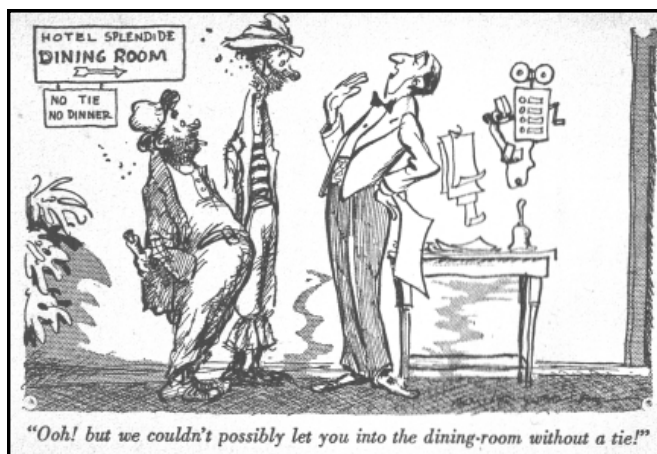
Pam Butcher who has taken up the ***Research Received*** has listed the following requests:-

Matt McLachlan, researching any World War 1 soldier born and lived in West Wyalong and the original house is still standing.

Max Cattle — Businesses owed or built for the Cattle family.

Robert McLaren is searching for information on Barmedman Station and the Family of Lachlan and Ann Robertson.
Would very much like any photographs.

**If you can help Pam, please ring her on
02 6972 3113
or Email: teggysy@bigpond.net.au**



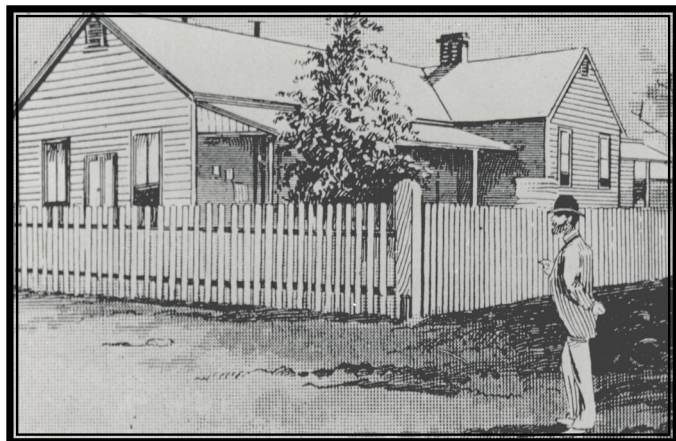
Reilly is walking through the graveyard when he comes across a headstone with the inscription
"Here lies a Politician and an honest man."
"Faith now" exclaims Reilly, "I wonder how they got the two of them in the one grave?"



First World War Soldiers.

Does anyone know who these men are?
This is a post card to "Father and Harry with
love from Bob"

Contact Pam Butcher Research Officer
Ph. 0269723113



The original Court House at Wyalong taken
on 1 January 1898

Down Memory Lane Reminisces of Mr. Cronin.

My father was a shearer, he used to shear all around here— Bolygamy and all around the district and when they'd finished here he used to go to Yass and all around there. He wasn't a contractor, just a shearer, and he used to travel a lot for work, he was never out of work. At other times he used to clear land. He cleared half of Girral, Calleen and all around there, he was always employed. The war broke out and he had a lot of trouble getting men to work with him.—

Mr Cronin's recollection of his time with the war:

The Japanese soldiers believed in dying for their country.

We took three prisoners in particular, the first time I'd seen them myself. One of them I didn't know what he was doing, as he just stood there lifted his shirt, I thought, just to scratch himself, he suddenly had this knife. It was one of the most beautiful knives I'd seen with a pearl handle. He ripped his stomach across with it and killed himself. Hari Kiri they call it. From the minute they went into battle they considered themselves dead so it didn't matter what happened to them. It was their belief they must never be taken prisoner, some of the Japanese were found in the Philippines 30 years after the war just living off the bush.

My eldest brother was captured in Singapore and my other brother tried to go into the army, but they wouldn't take him because he had bad feet. When Singapore fell I just had to join up. Dad said, "All right if you can get in you can go." So I joined up at the age of 15 years.

They said let the Japanese land here and we'd blow them out of Australia. I tell you if they had Australia would still be under the Japanese now.

They were hard fighters and really believed in fighting for their country and Emperor.

Excerpts taken from "Down memory Lane" from the Wyalong District Rehabilitation unit 1986



1900

*Wyalong and Wyalong West Division
Report to the Department of Mines.*

Page 23/24

At the close of the year Mr. Turland sold his battery to the True Blue Gold-mining Company, which intends keeping it wholly engaged on ore from its own mine. Only two batteries are therefore available now to crush for the public, viz.:— Nicholas and Raymond's and West's. These are not capable of meeting the requirements, and unless two or three more are erected inconvenience and loss to some of the mine-owners will probably ensue.

The richest and most productive mines of the field are— Neeld's No.1 depth 300 feet; True Blue 560 feet; Lucknow 532 feet; Bantam and Lady Grace (amalgamated) 650 feet; Shamrock-cum-Waratah, 460 feet; and Forget-Me-Not 260 feet.

(Neeld's and True Blue) line of reef, which is the richest yet discovered. This syndicate, having proved the occurrence of rich mineralised reefs elsewhere, to upwards of 2,000 feet is granite country, very similar to that of Wyalong, seems confident that the predominance of the reefs on this field, at a similar depth, can be fully demonstrated.



They are at it again!

I met with Peter Goldner, the Managing Director of Goldner & Associates (Mineral Industry Consultant) and Dr. Angus Collins, Consulting Geologist, last year about a project in the West Wyalong Goldfield. They planned a survey of the Mallee Bull Line of Lode which runs North and South in a line from out near the Wamboyne Road down through Boundary Street past the True Blue Mine and heading towards the Central Railway Station. They would be test drilling down 300 metres and if necessary down to 600 metres. The Mallee Bull Lode was a rich area that was not mined as other areas.

Knowing that they branch out in different directions once down to the required level, I said, "Would they run into some of the other old mines?" I was told that at 300 meters they would be well under the old workings.

So, how far did the old mines go down?

Neeld's No. 1	depth 300 feet = 91.44 metres
True Blue	560 feet = 170.68 metres
Lucknow	532 feet = 162.15 metres
Bantam/Lady Grace	650 feet = 198.12 metres
Shamrock/Waratah	460 feet = 140.20 metres

The Saturn Metals Limited from Western Australia has taken on this project and have drilled at the back of the True Blue Mine on Boundary Street up near Cedar Street and went down 550 metres, have now shifted to the North side of Neeld St to Bolte's road, and East of Boundary Road going up to the old "Sand Hills", about near the causeway.

Speaking to Project Geologist in charge, David Smith this morning, (7th September 2021) he told me that they are going down to 550 metres and maybe 600. So that's what I know and up to date

Terry Butcher

**A friend suggested
putting horse manure
on my strawberries...
I'm never doing that
again, I'm going back
to whipped cream.**