

The Mallee Stump



DECEMBER 2021 NEWS LETTER

Mick Curry in his
Store beside
George Minos' Milkbar

WYALONG DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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*Michael Frederick Curry and his mother
Sarah Kathleen (Elliott) Curry*

Michael Frederick Curry, born 12th April 1911 in Wyalong to Patrick and Sarah Curry of Slee St., Wyalong. In the 1932 to 1937 Census he is listed as Grocer living in Slee St. in February, 1939 he was playing cricket for the Wyalong Rovers and in one match he made 88 before being run-out. He was one of the good bowlers for the team.

Mick played full-back for West Wyalong in 1939 against Cootamundra defeating them 33 to 15. Mick and Baden Broad got a bit of a "Roasting" over not training this was in an article by the Advocate reporter "Critic" and they must have took notice, in a game they played in May when they improved in their playing. For the Maher Cup team it was said, "Mick Curry only has one thing to do, that is get in condition." He played Tennis, organised many charity functions.

A very likable person in the district he joined the RAAF during WWII.

***Warrant Officer Michael Frederick Curry
No. 420830 Royal Australian Air Force
Enlisted 5th December 1941 at Wyalong.
Posting: 76 Squadron (UK)***

**West Wyalong Advocate
27th March 1944.**

FLT. -SGT. MICK CURRY

Letters From Headquarters

Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Curry, of Wyalong. have received the following letters from the Secretary of the Department of Air, Melbourne, and from

the Commanding Officer of their son.

Flight-Sergeant M. F. Curry, from Yorkshire. England: —

The letter from the Secretary for Air is dated 14th March, and reads as follows: —

"I am forwarding here-with a letter from the Commanding Officer of your son. Flight Sergeant Michael Frederick Curry. You will notice that the letter was written before your son was reported to be a prisoner of war, but it is thought that it will be of interest to you."

Following is the letter from Wing Commander D. Iveson, Commanding No. 76 Squadron, R.A.F. Station Holme on Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, England, dated 23rd January. 1944

"Dear Mr. Curry—It is with the deepest regret that I have to inform Air Ministry that your son, Flight Sergeant Michael Frederick Curry, failed to return from an operational trip against the enemy on the night of 20/21st January, 1944.

"He and his crew were detailed to attack the heavily defended target of Berlin, and I feel sure you will appreciate that there is very little I am able to tell you at the moment. I can assure you, however, that immediately any news comes to hand. I will lose no time in communicating it to you.

"Since arriving on this Squadron last November, he has proved himself to be a very worthy member of an exceptionally gallant crew. He inspired the whole of the crew's confidence by his fine offensive spirit in action, and his courage, initiative and efficiency. By his ability to make instant decisions in the face of emergency, and his strong sense of duty, both in the air and on the ground, he earned the respect of all those with whom he came in contact. Believe me, he will be greatly missed by all on the Squadron.

"If there is anything I can do to help you in any way. I hope you will not hesitate to get in touch with me. In the meantime, please accept on behalf of the entire Squadron, and myself, my very sincerest sympathy in these anxious days waiting.

Yours very sincerely. D. IVESON, Wing Commander, C.O. No. 76 Squadron, RAF."

MICK CURRY IN ENGLAND



LIBERATED FROM P.O.W. CAMP

Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Curry, of Wyalong, were delighted on Friday last to receive a cable from their son, W/O Mick Curry, RAAF, who has been a prisoner of war in Germany since he was shot down over Berlin 15 months ago, and who was liberated by the Allied Forces recently.

The cable read: "Arrived in England 24th April. Very happy. Fondest love.—CURRY."

Later the same day Mr. and Mrs. Curry received the following telegram from the Department of Air, Melbourne: —

"320830 W/O M. F. Curry safe. Pleased to inform you that your son. Warrant Officer Michael Frederick Curry has been liberated by the Allied Armies, and is now safe in the United Kingdom. Anticipate your son will communicate with you direct—AIR FORCE"

The West Wyalong Advocate

Thursday, 31 May 1945 page 3

W/O MICK CURRY

Letter From England

Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Curry, of Wyalong, have received a letter from their son, Warrant Officer Mick Curry, RAAF, who was recently liberated

by the Allied armies from a prisoner of war camp in Germany, and was repatriated to England. Following are extracts from the letter, which was written from Brighton; England under date 9th May, 1945:—

Up to the present I am taking things rather quietly, and as yet haven't started on my 28 days leave. However, there is plenty of time for that, and Brighton isn't a bad place, the food being excellent.

I am having a good spell and putting on a few pounds before going around. You are probably anxious to know how my health is improving. Well, I should say, slowly, as I am not putting on weight very fast, but at the rate of 2½lbs a week. What I need is some exercise, as I haven't done a thing since goodness knows the day. The weather here has been too uncertain to organise anything.

Ken Buchan has been in the hospital since our arrival, suffering from a slight fracture of the jawbone. You know, we were very lucky to get out of that motor accident I told you about. Our driver went to sleep hit a tree, smashed the truck to bits, killed himself and two South Africans, besides injuring 8 or 9 others. I was very fortunate to get out with minor scratches and bruises.

The boys are arriving back here every day. To date there are about 200 of us back; we were in the first 75 to get here. I was up in London over the weekend for three days. I have many invitations to go to different people, but I'm afraid I can't oblige all—much as I would like to.

Well, yesterday was V-E Day and today is V-E plus. London (according to the papers) was very bright, but Brighton was rather dull. How did Australia celebrate?

(unfortunately I can't find any mention of the motor accident that Mick was involved in)

The West Wyalong Advocate 4 March 1946

Football Meeting On Thursday

There is no reason why West Wyalong should not field a first-class representative team this year. Mr. Mick Curry, acting secretary pro tem, said this to-day when announcing that the annual meeting of the West Wyalong Rugby League Club would be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday night of this week, in the Memorial Hall.

In 1943 James Miles Thomas died his son, Cecil Thomas took over and owned the Grocery Shop at 167 Main St. And in The West Wyalong Advocate on **Thursday 1 November 1945**



WEDDING CURRY—FARRAR

Two families which have been associated with the progress of Wyalong and West Wyalong for many years were united by the marriage of Miss Geraldine Yvonne Farrar (ex AWAS) and Mr. Michael Francis Curry, (ex RAAF) which took place at St. Mary's Church, West Wyalong on, 19th November 1946, the Rev. Father T Lynch officiating. The bride, is the younger daughter of Mrs. C. Farrar, of Tattersalls Hotel. West Wyalong, and the late Mr. W. J. Farrar, and the bridegroom is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick H. Curry, of Wyalong.

The bridegroom served in the RAAF, and was a prisoner in Germany for some time, and the bride was on service in the AWAS for a long period.

The bride wore a smart suit of hydrangea, blue French crepe, heavily beaded in a leaf design, with burgundy accessories. To this she added a

burgundy hat, with blue rouleaux posies, and she carried a burgundy Prayer Book.

She was given away by her brother, Mr. Jeff Farrar. Miss Flora McDonald, the bride's cousin, was the bridesmaid, wearing dusty pink crepe, with a knife pleated skirt, and trimmed with sequins. She wore a small dusty pink hat to tone and carried pink roses and delphiniums.

Mr. Jack McDonald (the bride's cousin) attended the bridegroom. Mrs. F. J. McNamara was the organist, and Miss Merna Sloane sang "Ave Maria".

THE RECEPTION

At the reception at Tattersalls Hotel the bride's uncle, Mr. T. B. Dwyer presided. Among the sixty guests present were Mrs. Alice Hanson, the bride's grandmother, who is 83 years of age, and Mrs. Elliott, the bridegroom's grandmother, who is 78 years of age.

The guests were received by Mrs. Farrar and Mrs. P. H. Curry. Mrs. Farrar wore a beaded black suit and hat, relieved with a spray of white orchids. Mrs. Curry wore a brown crepe suit and hat in Autumn tones, with matching accessories, and a spray of sunset roses and orchids with nigger brown accessories. The couple left on a motor tour of Central New South Wales, Sydney and Albury

Mick purchased a grocery store at 167 Main St., This was previously owned by Mr. Cecil Thomas.

Mick employed over the years Brian Brown (who in later years managed the store), Mrs. Flo Jamieson and Len Jamieson.

Remembering Mick Curry and his Shop



Mick passed away on the 2nd. October 1958 at age 47 years. He is buried in the Roman Catholic Section, Row W, Lot 16 of Wyalong Cemetery

*Jean Smith played Piano in the famous
“Gloomchasers Orchestra” >*

Corporal Jean Smith, of No. 10 E.F.T.S., has received word of her posting to a nearby station (says the Temora “Independent.”) Miss Smith, who hails from West Wyalong, is very well known in Temora, where her services as a talented pianiste have always been available to organisers of various socials. Cpl. Smith who takes her departure at the weekend will carry with her the very best wishes of her many Temora friends.

West Wyalong Advocate
8TH. January 1948 page 2

Police Say,

Man Said He Lit Fire at Golf Links

There was a dramatic turn in connection with the £1500 fire at the West Wyalong golf club house, when a Police Sergeant stated at the West Wyalong Petty Sessions that a man had admitted lighting a small fire in the grounds of the golf links, when Angus McKnight, 72, was incinerated.

Lloyd Fleming, of West Wyalong, appeared before Messrs. L. E. C. Luff and L. J. McCann, Justices of the Peace, on a charge which alleged that he was insane and had been found wandering at large. Fleming, who was dressed in a dark grey sports coat, dark grey baggy trousers, dusty working boots and was unshaven, stood in the body of the court with his gaze fixed on Sergeant J Marshall as he told his story in a soft clear voice.

Sergeant Marshall, who is in charge of the West Wyalong police district, said he was present at the West Wyalong police station at 8 p.m. when Fleming was interviewed by Detective Sergeant T. Wilson, of the Sydney Arson Squad.

"I WANT HELP"

At 10 p.m. the same night, Marshall said he had a conversation with Fleming in Church Street, West Wyalong.

Fleming said: "Sergeant, I want help" and Marshall said he replied: "Yes, what is wrong?" Fleming then said: "When I am on the road and I can see cars, I want to leave the road, and remain in the bush until they have passed. "I am afraid people are going to injure me." Marshall said he asked Fleming how he felt at that stage, and he replied: "Well, Sergeant, I get very bad turns and I am afraid of myself." Fleming was then arrested and charged with wandering at large.

LIT SMALL FIRE

Stepping smartly from the witness stand and walking to near where Fleming was standing

Sergeant Marshall turned to the Bench and said:

"There are other facts which I think your Worships might consider.

"Fleming, in a statement, has admitted that he was near the West Wyalong Golf links in the early hours on the morning of January third when the golf Club house was destroyed, and did, in fact, light a small fire in the grounds of the golf links.

"He was riding a bicycle, and his tracks were followed for many miles from the scene of the small fire.

"The tracks from his bicycle were found to be identical with the tracks sought by Detective Sergeant Wilson, of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, for investigation in connection with a very serious fire which occurred at the golf links early on the morning of January 3.

Fleming was found in possession of a bicycle with tyres, whose tracks were identical with tracks found near a small fire on the golf links.

I make application that Fleming be remanded for eight days under medical observation.

"If his mental condition is found to be one way or the other, he will be brought before the court as soon as possible." said Sergeant Marshall. Fleming was remanded until January 14.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Fleming, with a smile, offered to shake hands with Sergeant Marshall.

West Wyalong Advocate
22nd. March 1948 page 1

**FLEMING ACQUITTED ON CHARGE OF
 MURDER
 Farm Hand Is Insane**

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

SYDNEY, Monday Afternoon.

Lloyd Fleming, 39 years old farm hand of West Wyalong, was found not guilty at the Central Criminal Court, Sydney, today, of the murder of Hugh McKnight, 72 years old caretaker of the West Wyalong Golf Club House, which was destroyed by fire.

The jury acquitted Fleming on the grounds of insanity.

The newly erected Golf Club House, valued at £1.500. was totally destroyed by fire on January 3, 1948. The charred body of McKnight an original Anzac, was found in the ruins of the building.

Fleming, after an investigation by members of the Sydney Arson Squad, and Sergeant J. T. Marshall, of West Wyalong, was arrested by Sergeant Marshall and charged with being of unsound mind.

After eight days of medical observation, two West Wyalong medical officers declined to certify him as being insane.

Fleming was discharged on this count, by Messrs L. E. C. Luff and L. J. McCann, Justices of the Peace, and immediately arrested and charged with murder and arson.

ALLEGED STATEMENT

He later appeared before Coroner Harold Kaye, J.P., at West Wyalong, who committed him for trial on a charge of allegedly feloniously and maliciously murdering McKnight.

At the inquest, Sergeant Marshall produced a statement with Fleming and he was alleged to have stated that he had an argument with McKnight and determined to get even.

He is also alleged to have said that he burned down the golf club house and that he knew McKnight lived in the building.

Mr. John Nagle, barrister, of Sydney, instructed by Mr. H. J. Englert, West Wyalong, appeared for Fleming.

WEST WYALONG-BARRIER DISASTER FUND.**TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.**

Sir,-Please grant me space through the columns of your paper to make a special appeal to the generous-hearted people of the State of New South Wales in support of this fund. It is here necessary for me to point out that on January 13 of this year, a terrible mining fatality occurred in the Barrier Mine, West Wyalong, by which six young men lost their lives, five of whom were married, leaving behind them five widows and thirteen young children, and the latter number has since been added to. A local committee have collected a fair sum, which the majority of subscribers, I think, are favourable to being divided in a lump sum among the widows and their helpless orphans. Apart from this local fund the Lord Mayor of Sydney opened a fund which now amounts to £535 some odd shillings. Representation made to the Government by the local representative, Mr. A. J. Kelly, drew a promise that if the Lord Mayor's fund reached £1500 the Government would subsidise the amount £ for £, thus building the fund up to £3000 to provide weekly allowances for some years to come. In appealing on behalf of the widows and orphans I deem it unnecessary to go into details of the heartrending scenes witnessed on that eventful Saturday evening, when the wives mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters of the victims were subjected to the terrible ordeal of seeing their loved ones brought up from the underground workings, lifeless forms. The painting of such a picture or depicting the heartrending scenes witnessed in the Oddfellows' Hall, which had been converted into a chamber of death, and again at the cemetery, are surely not necessary to stir the humanitarian feelings of sympathy and charity with which the people of this State are imbued. I feel confident that, when the true facts of the situation are known, very few days will elapse before the Lord Major's fund will have reached the necessary total to win the subsidy of £1500. I am confident that before two weeks have elapsed the balance, about £900, will be subscribed. I am, etc.

J. N. CROWLEY.

West Wyalong. April 12, 1912

To An Unknown Soldier's Grave*By Herb Murphy*

It seems it was not deemed worth while to show
Your name upon the little cross that stands
Remote above your head, 'midst dunes that blow
Across your grave, submerged by desert sands . . .

Or your manly body blown in twain
By shell or bomb? Who knows—
perhaps they tried to ascertain your name—
alas, in vain;
Could only mark the place where you abide.

And this, your final resting place—unjust
To you who gave your all for country's cause—
Will be obliterated by the dust,
An unsung victim of these cursed wars.

You did not know—perhaps you did not care—
Which way or where you finally must rest,
But how it grieves to see you buried there,
When you undoubtedly deserved the best.

No pomp or show had marked your passing here,
In Egypt's desert waste near Alamein,
No mates to watch you lowered through a tear,
While thinking of the "times that might have been."

I cannot but now salute you, now asleep,
Though knowing not your race or name or creed,
For sacrifice and bravery lie deep
Beneath your simple cross that few will heed.

Thus, you passed away, uncared for and unsung,
Upon the battlefield where men are men
And heroes die; and though you're not among
Your comrades where they rest, you'll live again.

Yes, live, where immortality is shared
By heroes of the battlefield of fame,
Who grace the honour scroll, to show we cared—
The space reserved, was meant to hold your name.

**The Murphy's
Herb and Taz**

**Writers of Poetry
Regular contributors to the
Advocate**

**With articles and funny quips at
happening in the district.**

**And some of the treasures are
lost in newspapers no longer
available.**

Tales from the Grave

Book 1. \$20 each

Book 2. \$25 each

Postage \$10

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

7th. March 1946

PERSONAL

After long service with the AIF, with the Armoured Division, and for sometime, with the Water Transport in the area north of Australia, Sgt. George Hall has received his discharge, and is home in West Wyalong.

◆ + ◆

The engagement is announced of Nona, elder daughter of Mr. G. Staples, of Condobolin, (and formerly of West Wyalong), and the late Mrs. Staples, to William, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lambourn, of West Wyalong.

◆ + ◆

Pte G. Abbott, of Wyalong, has received his discharge from the AIF. He desires to thank the West Wyalong District, Patriotic Committee for Canteen orders and Monthly Letters received during his term of service.

◆ + ◆

Miss Laurel McArthur, of Orange, fiancée of Mr. Noel Byrne, of the Central Wyalong Railway staff, is spending holidays at West Wyalong, and is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Edwards, of Kurrajong Street. |

◆ + ◆

The engagement is announced of Marjorie Jean elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bracher, of the Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd., West Wyalong, to Herbert Bruce, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Staniforth, of Buddigower.

◆ + ◆

Miss Kathleen McCarthy, who shared the first prize in Lottery No. 1302 with three other Griffith girls, is a niece of Mrs R. M. Souden, of West Wyalong. The girls who are employed at Mrs. Draper's district newsagency, are all under 21 years of age.

◆ + ◆

14th March 1946

Strathmore Private Hospital

As from TUESDAY, 12th MARCH, Strathmore Private Hospital will be taken over by MATRON E. V. BAKER (Double Certificate) formerly Matron of Wyalong District Hospital.

◆ + ◆

POPULAR TRIO - FORM DANCE BAND

Announcement that Ken Emmett, Marie Sloane and Fred Butcher will be members of the band engaged for the St. Patrick's night dance in the

Masonic Hall, West Wyalong next Tuesday night has caused a demand for tickets.

This will be Ken Emmett's first public appearance since enlisting several years ago, and he is assured of a warm welcome from dancers.

A first-class supper will be provided, and the proceeds are for the Sisters of Mercy.

Wednesday, 19th. December 1900

WEST WYALONG, Tuesday.

The telephone exchange is working with great satisfaction there are 24 subscribers connected.

A day and night service will be maintained when 25 subscribers are on the exchange.

Wednesday, 12th June 1907

CAUGHT IN CYCLE SPOKES.

WEST WYALONG, Monday.

A peculiar and painful accident happened to Mr. Sid. Gorman, of the local telephone exchange. He was riding on the back of a motorcycle, ridden by Mr. Hart, dentist, when his foot slipped, and was caught in the spokes of the wheel, while the rider was travelling at a fast pace. The result was a severe laceration of Mr. Gorman's heel, necessitating the insertion of several stitches. Many of the spokes were torn out of the wheel of the vehicle.

Mr. Gorman is the fastest local runner, and it is hoped that the accident will not have any lasting effect.

Monday 13th September 1926

WEST WYALONG.-

The golden wedding was celebrated of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Nottle, of West Wyalong. -

The annual Farmers and Settlers' Association ball at Bellarwi was a great success.

A telephone exchange has been opened at Yalgogrin. Mr. E. R. S. Potter, a local contractor, was the successful tenderer for extensive additions and alterations to the West Wyalong Post Office and Postmaster's residence.



Recently while researching at the local cemetery we discovered this wonderful new plaque.
For many years this grave has been unmarked in the Church of England portion.

Who ever placed this plaque has made the life of one researcher so much easier.

There are many unmarked graves in our local cemeteries.

Sometimes after a person has been buried, and time gets away and we forget to complete the marking of a grave.

Do you have an ancestor in an unmarked grave?

Do you know who is buried in an unmarked grave?

Sadly many will never be identified.

But if you known of one, could you please let us know, so at least it can be recorded.

Pam Butcher and myself doing research at the Cemetery in the Roman catholic section came upon a grave with a smashed headstone laying face down in water. We went out next day and were able to view some of the broken pieces, one with Mar on it with a date 1906. Pam researched for a surname with no result, so assuming it was a Christian name researched again. We now know who it is, and have located her son who is buried in the next grave. Good work Pam!

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**

14th March 1946

Beware Diphtheria

Have You Neglected Your Child?

You probably know what a dreaded disease diphtheria is. You know, too, no doubt, that it usually effects very young children and is highly communicable. You know of course that it is frequently fatal, writes the Department of Public Health.

Diphtheria is characterised by fever, marked weakness, and the formation of a greyish membrane in the patient's throat extending often to the nose and windpipe and sometimes causing death by choking.

You should know, for the facts have been widely publicised during the past few years by the Department of Public Health, that this dread disease can be prevented. Immunisation against diphtheria is simple, safe and certain, and is practically painless. And if it is not economically convenient to have it done by your own physician, facilities for immunisation are available by arrangement with the offices of your Municipal or Shire Council.

Diphtheria is called the disease of neglected children because science now offers immunisation which prevents diphtheria. The process is perfectly safe and is easily administered by a physician at not the slightest inconvenience to the child. If your child gets diphtheria it is because you have neglected to have him protected. No parent or guardian should hesitate to avail himself of the protection which immunisation affords the child. Bear in mind that if your child develops diphtheria, he may not only suffer many complications of the disease. The best time to have a child immunised is round about the first birthday. If this be done, you can rest assured that you have given complete protection to a helpless child, and by doing so, faithfully fulfilled your responsibility as a parent.

Neglect of this precaution leaves your child vulnerable to an attack of diphtheria, which will certainly be painful and may possibly be fatal.

Just Letting You Know

The early bird may get the worm,
but the second mouse gets the cheese.

I almost had a psychic girlfriend...
But she left me before we met.

If everything seems to be going well,
you have obviously overlooked something.

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.

When everything is coming your way,
you're in the wrong lane.

Ambition is a poor excuse
for not having enough sense to be lazy.

Hard work pays off in the future;
laziness pays off now.

I intend to live forever...
So far, so good.

If Barbie is so popular,
why do you have to buy her friends?

What happens,
if you get scared half to death twice?

My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your
brakes, so I made your horn louder."

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name.

The hardness of the butter is proportional
to the softness of the bread.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism;
to steal from many is research.

The sooner you fall behind,
the more time you'll have to catch up.

Everyone has a photographic memory;
some just don't have film.

If at first you don't succeed,
skydiving is not for you.

If your car could travel at the speed of light,
would your headlights work?

*The Camperdown Chronicle,
Tuesday, February 1st 1916*

WHAT I LIVE FOR.

I live for those who love me.
Whose hearts are kind and true,
For the heaven that smiles above me.
And awaits my spirit, too;

For the human ties that bind me.
For the task by God assigned me,
For the bright hopes left behind me,
And the good that I can do.

I live to learn their story.
Who've suffered for my sake,
To emulate their glory.
And to follow in their wake;

Bards, patriots, martyrs, sages,
The noble of all ages.
Whose deeds crowd history's pages.
And Time's great volume make.

I live to hail that season,
By gifted minds foretold.
When men shall rule by reason,
And not alone by gold;

When man to man united,
And every wrong thing righted,
The whole world shall be lighted:
As Eden was of old.

I live for those who love me,
For those who know me true,
For the heaven that smiles above me,
And awaits my spirit, too:

For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the wrong that needs resistance.
For the future in the distance,
And the good that I can do