
THE CANBERRA TIMES Articles 1930's

Tuesday, January 14, 1930

FIRST BABY REGISTERED IN CANBERRA

By special ordinance which came into operation on January 1 all marriages, births and deaths taking place in the Federal Capital Territory have to be registered in Canberra instead of as formerly in Queanbeyan or elsewhere in New South Wales.

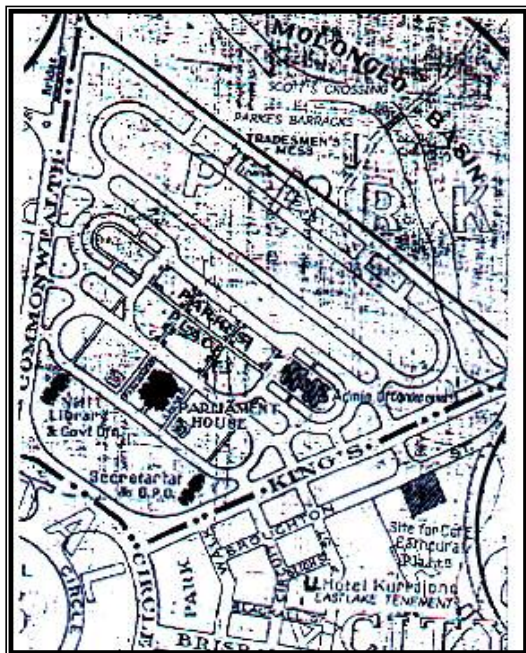
Isobel Joyce Hollins of Forrest who was born at the Canberra Hospital on January 2, has the honour of being the first baby registered in the Federal Territory.

So far there have been no marriages or deaths registered. Last year there were 154 births in the territory, 40 deaths and 48 marriages.

The reason why there has been only one registration so far this year is the fact that 21 days are allowed from the time of a birth to the registration, and in the case of deaths, 14 days and in the case of marriages, a month.

2nd January 1931

UNEMPLOYED Exodus From Canberra DISTANT FIELDS SEEM BRIGHTER



During this week there has been an exodus of the unemployed, no fewer than 50 having left the Federal Capital Territory in one day. They have come from all parts of the Eastern States, one actually trekking his way down from the Catherine River in the Gulf country. All seem hopeful of getting work and are bound for different destinations, including centres in Victoria and South Australia. As a Christmas gift to these travelling unemployed the Federal Government allowed all those who had been in the Territory on a certain date a special concession. This was nine shillings worth of goods each week for three weeks and during that period a day's work for which award rates were paid. Married men fared better, the amount of goods being increased to 14/- per week, and more if they have children. The

goods purchased by each order for 9/- include the following:- Bread, four loaves; meat

3lbs; tea half pound; sugar 2 lbs; jam one and half pounds; condensed milk 1 lb; butter half a pound; soap quarter a pound.

As a result of the exodus there are now only four families at the Mount Ainslie camp and about 100 single men at what is known as No 4 camp.^{1[1]} In future men single men travelling through the Territory will only have one week's rations – that is 9/- worth of commodities. In some cases the concession has been abused, and some of the men are known to be addicted to the drinking of methylated spirits which they prefer to ordinary liquor owing to the more decided "kick" that it contains. In the very great majority of cases the men are of a good type, whose misfortune has not been brought about through any fault of their own.

10th January 1934

PROGRESS IN 1933
CITY DEVELOPMENT
Revival of Definite Progress
MORE THIS YEAR

A review of construction activities in Canberra for the year ended December 31 shows that there has been a partial return to the progress witnessed in the city prior to the depression period.^{2[2]}

During the year 1933 an amount of 325,290 pounds was expended on works in the Federal Capital Territory.^{3[3]} Additions and new works cost 157,573 pounds; unemployment relief 9,413 pounds; and repairs and maintenance 158,304 pounds. Provision has been made for even a great expenditure on new buildings and roads for the current year.

Last year the building programme included 16 new cottages in addition to many alterations and improvements to existing building and the construction of the reservoir at Black Mountain. The putting into operation of the new brick kiln, as well as a considerable amount of road work.

Included in the new works for the year 1933 were the erection of seven brick cottages at Griffith; six pairs of semi-detached cottages at Manuka; two brick cottages at Forrest and the erection of a wooden cottage at the Cotter River.

^{1[1]} This was No 4 Sewer Camp on the southern bank of the Molonglo River in the area in front of old Parliament House. It was renovated in 1927 or early 1928 for use by the tradesmen who moved from Westlake towards the end of 1927 or early 1928. The camp was renamed Parkes Barracks at that time.

^{2[2]} The Great Depression commenced in Canberra following the opening of Parliament on 9th May 1927. Building work slowed from that time. The Great Depression officially started in Australia after the Wall Street Stock Market Crash in 1929.

^{3[3]} The FCT changed to ACT (Australian Capital Territory in the mid 1930s).

In addition to the above the following new buildings were erected:- A tennis pavilion at Manuka; the conversion of the cadet block into flats at Duntroon; additions to the Government Printing Office; a pavilion for the croquet players at the Hotel Canberra; construction of fireplaces in all the cottages at Westlake;^{4[4]} and the provision of fly screens at Brassey House, Gorman House, Beauchamp House [now Ian Potter House] and the Hotel Kurrajong. Contracts have also been let for the erection of four brick cottages at Forrest, 14 semi-detached cottages at Manuka, and alterations and additions to the Hotel Ainslie.

Preliminary arrangements are in hand for the erection of a further 80 cottages. Forty of these will be erected on the north side of the river and the other 40 will be erected on the south side of the river. Tenders will shortly be called for the erection of a group of semi-detached cottages at Kingston.

In connection with the Australian National War Museum, tenders for the first portion will close on January 25. To enable an immediate restoration of electricity supply in event of a breakdown on either the north or south sides of the river, switch houses have been erected at Ainslie Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue.

External painting was carried out on the Bachelors Quarters, the Printers Quarters, all the cottages at Westlake^{5[5]}, the buildings at the Stromlo Observatory, and several groups of houses at Ainslie, Reid, Braddon and Barton.

The new reservoir at Black Mountain is expected to be completed in about three weeks time. A contract has been let to the Australian Iron and Steel Company in Sydney for the supply of 17,055 feet of 18 inch cement lined cast iron pipes and it is expected that the whole of the works in connection with the reservoir will be completed by the end of the current financial year.

During the year the large Staffordshire kiln at the brickworks was put into operation and 100,000 bricks per week are now being produced. The opening of the kiln has resulted in the increased employment and a reduction in the price of bricks which has been passed on to the public.

Repairs and maintenance services also received attention throughout the year and of the 80 miles of city streets approximately two miles were improved for heavy traffic by ballasting and approximately five miles improved by bituminous surfacing.^{6[6]}

^{4[4]} The chimneys were constructed of tin and they were built in the lounge room of the cottages. They were never effective because the heat went up the tin chimney.

^{5[5]} Cottages were painted a sap green.

^{6[6]} The majority of roads in the territory were dirt roads – that included areas of shopping centres. Oral histories refer to the dust problems in the city.

Recreational facilities also received considerable attention for five new tennis courts were constructed at City, Westridge and Reid, and five reconditioned at Canberra House, Parliament House and the Causeway. The Northbourne Oval was regraded and improved.

A steady improvement policy was observed in connection with the country roads, particularly with the main roads. The Cooma and Sutton roads were widened and culverts erected throughout.

On the Cotter Road additional culverts were erected, and many of the dangerous curves widened and banked and a large deviation provided at Western Creek to improve alignment and the grading.

Dangerous cutting on the Uriarra Road were widened in order to improve the visibility and on the Brindabella road all the decayed culverts have been replaced.

Considerable gravelling and forming was carried out on the Cooma, Cotter, Sutton, Yass, Fairlight, Old and New Uriarra and Charnwood roads; also the Red Hill and Mount Ainslie tourist roads were improved.

Point Hut crossing was regraded and is suitable for heavy traffic.

The Ainslie stock route is now negotiable by road vehicles and provides exceptional views of the city area for drivers.

A road has been made to the tomb of General Bridges and is open for inspection by tourists.

Apart from improving the country roads...

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

At the monthly meeting of the Canberra Chamber of Commerce last night, Mr White moved that the omnibus time tables at Kingston, Manuka and Civic Centre be moved closer to the bus stops or to some place of shelter. This was seconded by Mr R Maguire and the secretary was instructed to notify the Department of the Interior of the Chamber's request.

It was pointed out that the 'bus stop near the Catholic School at Manuka [St Christopher's Convent School] accorded no protection for passengers against adverse weather conditions and on the motion of Mr A McInnes it was decided to ask the Department to provide a bus stop where there is shelter.

Another attempt is to be made for the establishment of a post office at Manuka. It was resolved to support the petition that is being taken up for the establishment of a post office and to urge the Government to accede to the request.

Letter to the Editor of *The Canberra Times* dated 23rd August 1932.

Sir:- The announcement that Ministerial sanction has been granted to the establishment of a National rose garden under the directorship of the Curator of Parks and Gardens (Mr AE Bruce) will be hailed with delight by every individual resident of the Federal Territory and by rosarians particularly throughout the length and breadth of Australia.

The Horticultural Society of Canberra, which has played no small part in supporting the ideals of its late president, Mr Bruce, has more than justified its stimulating existence and the achievement of a national rose garden is a fitting hall mark to four years of patient, purposeful, perseverance.

Might I suggest that in fittingly celebrating the initial planting of the roses the day and date for the function be carefully chosen and subsequently be designated Canberra's National Rose Day.

Such a day might appropriately coincide with the Annual Rose Show and terminate in a Rose Carnival at night.

The suggestion is put forward not so much for the consideration of the Horticultural Council and for the consideration of flower loving public of Canberra whose active support and co-operation should be spontaneous.

Yours etc

LW Nott, Forrest...

11th March 1933

NATIONAL ROSE GARDEN
Progress of Canberra Scheme

Canberra, Friday. Good progress is being made with the establishment at Canberra of a national rose garden near Parliament House.

The Minister for the Interior (Mr Perkins) stated to-day that the beds were now ready for planting. One section had already been started and all roses received to date were growing well. The superintendent of parks and gardens, Mr Bruce, was particularly anxious to secure roses from all parts of Australia, so that the garden would be filled as early as possible and be representative of all parts of Australia and truly what its name portrayed: "The national rose garden of Australia."

Apart from the areas on the east and west sides of Parliament House, which it was proposed to fill with roses as early as possible, he said, an area of approximately five

acres had already been laid out in the form of a rose. A committee consisting of members of the Council of the Horticultural Society of Canberra and including the superintendent of parks and gardens, was now actively engaged upon the preparation of a colour scheme of planting which would ensure that every rose planted would be in its correct position as part of the whole colour design for the completed garden. Taking as a guide the spectacle of the 20,000 roses in Commonwealth –avenue when in full bloom, it could be imagined what a magnificent sight would be presented from the avenue in front of Parliament House when the planting of this garden was completed and the roses were in full bloom.

Gifts of roses would be received by the superintendent of parks and gardens Canberra, from individuals, municipal and shire councils, public bodies, commercial rose growers and others.

15th March 1935

NATIONAL ROSE GARDEN

In addition to the 99 roses secured for the National Rose Garden by the Horticultural Society on Monday evening, and which were acknowledged in the "Times" yesterday the following were also promised:- Mr F Warren 24, Mr AH Truelove 12.

A definite plan of securing donations of roses for the project is being prepared by the sub-committee of the society which is co-operating with the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens (Mr AE Bruce) in promotion of the scheme. Donations of roses are being received, however, from individuals, clubs and associations and other bodies in Canberra at the present time and will be acknowledged through these columns. Those individuals or public bodies desirous of making donations should communicate either with the secretary of the Horticultural Society or the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens.

27th August 1937

RESIGNATION

Parks and Gardens Superintendent

After an association of nearly twelve years with the development of Canberra, Mr AE Bruce, the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens, resigned on Wednesday. His resignation will take effect from August 31. Mr Bruce has been appointed Superintendent of Parks with the city of Sydney Municipal Council.

In tendering his resignation, Mr Bruce stated that his reason for doing so was the absolute impossibility of carrying on under existing circumstances. "I have been surrounded by a set of circumstances which have practically created a burden which no officer has any right to be shouldered with, and under which no officer could possibly discharge the duties of his office efficiently," said Mr Bruce. "The strain imposed, together with inadequate assistance is undermining my health, therefore in the interest

of those dependent on me and my personal welfare, there appears to be no other course that can be followed within the service.”

Associated with horticulture for about 40 years, Mr Bruce was prior to coming to Australia engaged in practical and botanical horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, and assistant instructor of Horticulture for the Cheshire County Council. He was appointed to the Forestry Department of the Western Australian Government as assistant manager of the State nursery and later was head gardener in charge of public works and gardens at Freemantle and Curator of Parks and Gardens Subiaco WA.

In 1926 Mr Bruce was appointed as Assistant Superintendent of Parks and Gardens for the Federal Capital Commission. He was later appointed Acting Superintendent and on the retirement of the late Mr TGC Weston in 1928 was appointed Superintendent.

Mr Bruce who has a comprehensive technical training was during his association with Canberra wholly responsible for the control and management of the horticultural section of the city’s construction including nurseries, recreational areas, street planting and gardens.

In 1935 in recognition of his work in Canberra, Mr Bruce was awarded an MBE by the late King George V. Mr Bruce and Mr Weston who received an MBE in 1927 are the only two horticulturalists in Australia to receive decorations.

When the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens (Sir Arthur Hill) visited Canberra he referred to the work here as the most successful and extensive ever attempted and on his return to London elected Mr Bruce to a fellowship of the Royal Horticultural Society.

3rd October 1937

Full-page advertisement in *Sydney Morning Herald*

AUSTRALIA FIRST!

I PLEDGE MYSELF AND THE LABOR PARTY TO THE POLICY OF AUSTRALIA FIRST

(Signed) John Curtin

The letter states: - “On behalf of the Australian Labor Party I subscribe myself to a pledge given to the people of this Commonwealth. That pledge is sacred trust. It is Labor’s dedication to the service of the people of this great country. It is based on the principle of Australia First. It is your job and mine. I know that you will do your part and I will do mine.

I dedicate the Labor Party to the preservation of peace. Under Labor Australia will keep out of war. A Labor Government will keep Australia free of external entanglements that lead to war. It will not conscript the manhood of this country for service on a foreign battle-field. Labor will give immediate effort to a modern defence system.

I pledge myself to the social objective of Labor...to increase the security and happiness of the people in all occupations...to give the people a greater distribution of the good things of life...to give them security in employment...security in times of ill-health...and security in old age.

We pledge ourselves to the protection of Australian industries, both primary and secondary. Business will be given every opportunity to go ahead and make a reasonable profit, but will not be provided with opportunities for the exploitation of the consumer through combines. We pledge ourselves to a rural policy that will help the Australian farmers.

We will make the employment of the Australian people a major measure of national policy. Labor will legislate for a 40 hour week. The welfare of Australian youth will be an obligation of the nation. We pledge ourselves to give every Australian a fair deal. The worker in industry, the farmer, the store-keeper and the factory owner will find that Labor will conserve their interests. The Labor Government will be committed to a system based on co-operation and service to the nation. It will be one hundred per cent Australian.

The Labor Government will not sacrifice the lives of Australians in warfare that can be avoided. It will devote itself to ways of peace, the service of the people and the promotion of happiness and contentment as the goal of national policy."



9th April 1938

Plans for a new Trades & Labour Hall designed by Ken Oliphant.

26th April 1938

First birthday of Canberra Wolf Cubs (Scouts). Norman Taylor and Jim Cook were invested. Douglas Fyfe lit the birthday cake candle. Cub Masters were Mr and Mrs J Parker (? Hard to read)

Leslie William Dawson of 15 Westlake hit by a car and taken to Hospital.

Collision of cars on Uriarra Road near Mill Creek at 5.40 am. D McKenzie of Oaks Estate and George Coom(?) of Hayes Street Queanbeyan involved.

9th May 1938

Foundation Stone for St Christopher's RC Cathedral at Manuka.

12th May 1938

In this issue there are a number of articles on Scouts and Guides in the ACT. One mentioned that No 4 Guide Troop was at St John the Baptist Church at Reid. There was also a Canberra Wolf Cub (Baptist) group and the members mentioned in the article were Jacky Chandler, Stan Hutcherson, Leo Kestel, Douglas Fyfe, Rex Brodie, Allan Bagnall, Geoff Yeend and Jimmy Cavanagh. The Second Canberra Scout Troop (Forrest) – the Scoutmaster was Doug Strongway (?hard to read.)

17th May 1938

This issue contained articles on:-

- · Seventh Morrison Lecture delivered at the Institute of Anatomy at 8.15 pm.
 - · Members of the Causeway Club to meet at YWCA at Canberra 7.30 pm.
 - · Society News 2CA – Wyn Gilmore the founder of the Women's Radio Club ran the Women's sessions at 2CA.
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16th July 1938

Articles - HR Waterman Secretary for the Department of Interior replaced by DS Burgess; the site for the new abattoirs was selected; Philip J Ryan of the Printers Quarters died – his funeral took place at 1.30 pm on 19th July 1938.

26th July 1938

Big Bertha (gun) put on site of Co-operative Store near the Railway Station which was opened in 1916 and closed in 1924 with a loss of 28,000 pounds. This was the second move of *Bertha* who originally sat at Molonglo (Fyshwick) siding. Right *Bertha*. From photograph in Canberra's First Newspaper, *The Federal Capital Pioneer*.



6th August 1938

Article on New Church for Canberra – St Paul Church of England Church to be built at corner of Captain Cook Crescent and Canberra Avenue. Architect – Messrs Brucham & Sons of Sydney.

The original tin walled church of St Paul's was opposite the Power House.



10th August 1938

Obituary for Mrs James Southwell who was survived by her husband. She had returned to Sydney some 17 years earlier (c1922) and was the daughter of Stephen Brown. One of her daughters was Mrs SW Kilby of Westridge. She was buried at Weetangera.

20th July 1939

Darcy Mannix White of Westlake was fined for speeding on his motor bike. He was going at 40 to 50 mph.

The following is from a book *Introducing Australia* by C Hartley Gratton was published in 1942 and reprinted in 1944. The information, whilst not an article from *The Canberra Times* is relevant to this chapter.

The author was one of America's foremost authorities on Australia. He lived in Australia for a number of years and had a travelling grant from the Carnegie Corporation that allowed him to live for two years in Australia whilst researching for this book which was being published at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. This book was written for an American Public. In his chapter *Australia in the World, The Second World War* he has the following to say about the changes of federal governments between 1939 and 1942.

When War broke out Robert Gordon Menzies was Prime Minister of Australia. Mr Menzies had long been recognised as a man of exceptional ability, though few people had ever regarded him as a popular political leader. He had succeeded to the prime-ministership in April 1939, after the death of Joseph A Lyons, but because of the exigencies of politics, his coming to office as leader of the United Australia party had broken up the alliance between the UAO and the Country party. Standing alone, the UAP was a minority group in the House commanding but twenty-seven votes. As time passed this was recognized by the conservatives to be a dangerous situation, especially since Labor's political power appeared to be waxing, and so, after a change in leadership in the Country party, the coalition was resumed, giving the government forty-one votes in the House...Labor was divided into two groups, the Federal Labor party with twenty-seven votes, and a splinter labor party based on New South Wales, with five votes.

There was one independent. Both labor groups supported the Government on all major issues of war policy.

In the months before the general election of September 1940 the Menzies government was subjected to severe criticism for poor administration of the war effort. Both sides appealed for a clear-cut decision, but the result was a stalemate. The government parties were able, after supplying a speaker, to command thirty-seven votes in the House, while the Labor parties (shortly to be united by the readmission of the splinter group to the Federal party) commanded thirty-six. There was still one independent, but his power had been enormously increased. He showed an inclination towards Labor. This situation naturally made for uncertainty as to the future of the Menzies government and for a dangerous instability in the politics of the Commonwealth. The situation was not improved when Labor swept the polls in a state election in New South Wales. Only a Prime Minister able to command loyalty beyond the limits of the government parties could hope successfully to govern, in spite of Labor's avowed intention to support the government on all important aspects of war policy. The Labor party leader, John Curtin, was a benign man with no liking for trouble for trouble's sake.

There was little in Mr Menzies' record to lead anyone to conclude that he could achieve the miraculous kind of leadership required. He was the reverse of popular with labour, and he inspired little enthusiasm amongst the masses of the people. Nevertheless he continued to be Prime Minister until the end of August 1941...Finally confronted with clear evidence that he could no longer successfully rule, Mr Menzies resigned. In the final phase he was attacked by members of his own party as well as by Labor. The immediate issue was his desire to make a second war-time trip to London to represent Australia in the councils of the Empire. Labor, argued, however that if the Pacific situation was as desperate as represented the Prime Minister should stay in Australia... Prime Minister Menzies was replaced by Arthur Fadden and this government lasted thirty-seven days before the government changed and John Curtin as leader of the Labor Party became Prime Minister. John Curtin died in the last year of the war and his position was taken over by Ben Chifley. The Labor Party lost office in the 1949 election and Robert Menzies again became Australia's Prime Minister.

6th September 1939

Article on Duke of Kent who was to be sworn in as Governor General on 23rd November 1939. However decision was made that he would not come to Australia and his place was taken by the encumberant (Lord Gowrie).

14th September 1939

This issue of the *Canberra Times* contained information about a number of divorce applications. They included Cecil James Luton of Bougainville Street Manuka who deserted Lillie May Luton. The couple married 18th March 1910 at Moruya and came to Canberra in 1923. In 1933 he went to Sydney to see a doctor and never returned.

Willie Thompson of Westlake and Ellen Teresa Thompson – married in Bega on 17th November 1917 and came to Canberra in 1922. Wife left in 1936.

Maud Hartley V George Hartley of Causeway. The couple married in September 1906 and came to Canberra in 1926.

8th September 1939

The Prime Minister Mr Menzies gave his word that there would be no conscription for overseas.

25th September 1939

RESERVED OCCUPATIONS AUSTRALIAN LIST BEING COMPILED

A provisional list of reserved occupations has been compiled by the Defence Department which, it is understood follows closely a similar list prepared by the British Government. More than 70 groups of occupations are included in the British lists. The British list, with the age limit in parenthesis, includes the following:-

Chemicals and drugs (30 years of age),
Chemists and pharmacists (21)
Civil servants, non industrial (35)
Clerical and office staffs (25 to 30)
Bank officials and bank clerks (25)
Clothing manufacturers, constructional iron and steel fitters and erectors (all ages)
Cooks other than those in private service (30)
Coppersmiths (all ages)
Retail distribution trades (35)
Drainage and sanitary services (21)
Draftsmen (all ages)
Dock and harbour workers (all ages)
Harbour, wharf, dock and river services (21)
Divers (all ages)
Dentists (all ages)
Boiler construction and shipworks' divers of various transport vehicles (25-30)
Electricity generation, transmission and distribution (25)
All sections of agriculture (in most cases 25)
Aircraft body builders (all ages)
Accountants and actuaries (30)
Broadcasting administration and executive (25)
Blacksmiths (all ages)
Boiler Shops, constructional ironwork and shipyard workers, cementers or concreters (30), Firemen and furnacemen bolt and nut and rivet makers (25)
Boot and shoe manufactures (30)
Bricklayers (all ages)
Brewing, malting and spirit manufacturers (30)

Bronze and aluminum turners, finishers, fitters and goodsmakers (all ages)
Building trades workers (25 to 30)
Carpenters and joiners, cement, plaster, lime and artificial building material
manufacturers (30)
Electrical (all ages)
Civil and marine engineers (all ages)
Explosive manufacturers and fillers (25)
Fishermen, trawlers and drift hands (all ages)
Fire Brigade (all ages)
Bread, biscuit and cake makers (all ages)
Gasworks (25)
Gun smiths (all ages)
Garage, tram and bus workers (30)
Hard and edge tool makers (23 to 30)
Skilled laboratory assistants (all ages)
Laundry workers (30)
Leather goods (30)
Mining (23 to 30)
Medical men and students (all ages)
Merchant and shipping services (all ages)
Except bankers, stone dressers, hewers, machine hands and slate grinders (30)
Nursing and hospital services (all ages)
Except porters and attendants (under 30)
Naval Architects (all ages)
Navies main layers (25 to 30)
Oil Refining (30)
Paper manufacturers (30)
Plumbers and gasfitters (all ages)
Police and prison workers (all ages)
Postmen and sorters (35)
Press operators and metal trades (25)
Printers composition roller manufacturing (30)
Printing, publishing and bookbinding (30)
Railway services (all ages)
Ship designers (all ages)
Shipwrights main grades (all ages)
Teachers, university and professors (male), schoolmasters and teachers (25)
Telegraphists (all ages)
Telephone operators and post office telegraphists (all ages)
Textile and allied trades (25 to 30)
Trades Union officials (30)
Vehicle building and repairing main grades (all ages)
Veterinary surgeons (all ages)...

CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Hospital Carnival Committee was held on Friday night at the Bowling Club's Pavilion. Mr PW Hammond presided and those present included Messrs Darcy, O'Rourke, W Koorey, A Johnstone, M O'Rourke, AJ Bowers, WJ Hill, J Webster, Bert Coppin, C Mayne, C Meers Senr. After discussion it was decided to abandon the night carnival and hold it at some more opportune time...

22nd September 1939

CANBERRA HOUSES TENDER ACCEPTED FOR 23 COTTAGES

The tender of Mr CW Turton of Arthur Circle Forrest has been accepted by the Department of Interior for the erection of 23 brick cottages on Sections 58 and 59 Braddon, the contract price being 24,200 pounds. Cusacks (Canberra) secured the contract for the supply of floor coverings and curtains etc for cottages at Harman and Belconnen at a cost of 1,002 pounds.

ARP CANBERRA CLASSES LECTURES BY DR EH KNOWLES

An outline of precautionary measures necessary in the event of bombing raids by hostile aircraft was given by Dr EH Knowles lecturer with the St John Ambulance under the ARP organisation, at the Albert Hall last night. The inaugural meeting of the St John Ambulance Brigade Nursing Division (First Canberra Division) was well attended, Dr Moya Blackall presiding.

Instruction will be commenced immediately, St John Ambulance, St John Association, Red Cross, VAD, and other kindred organisations co-operating in work associated with the treatment of casualties, decontamination after gas raids and other matters likely to arise in an emergency.

Dr Moya Blackall will conduct the first of eight lectures at the anteroom of the Albert Hall on Thursday next at 8.15 pm.

Dr EH Knowles stressed the necessity for preparedness in the event of any possible contingency. From July 1917, when the Germans first used poison gas until November 1918 there had been 160,000 British casualties as a result of gassing. However the percentage of deaths was only 2.5. He expressed the opinion that had the knowledge of protective methods been as great as it was now, the casualties would not have been so numerous. While expressing the hope that Australia would not experience the horror of war within her boundaries, he urged the necessity for complete preparedness. It was proposed said Dr Knowles to instruct candidates in all branches of air raid precautionary work. To be effective a comprehensive knowledge of the uses of respirators, special clothing and methods of decontamination was essential.

Dr Knowles pointed out that the ordinary masks issued to civilians were designed only to enable the wearer to leave an affected area but the workers in the gassed zone would have to wear special clothing and masks. In the event of a raid all civilians should remain in their homes and he stressed the importance of householders preparing a gas-proof room. Further instructions on these questions would be given at the eight lectures. The lectures he said were designed to train candidates in the organisation of decontamination squads, first aid, the bringing in of casualties and transport to hospital. Advice was also given to employers regarding the organisation and care of their staffs while householders would be advised as to what they should do in the event of air attacks.

Decontamination squads would be instructed in the use of chloride of lime (Bleach powder) if mustard gas was used by attackers and the effects of all poison gas would be studied with a view of protective measures being adopted as quickly as possible.

19th October 1939

CANBERRA BRICKS
LOCAL PRODUCTION INADEQUATE
IMPORTS FROM BOWRAL

Owing to the heavy building programme it has been necessary to import 631,500 bricks to Canberra from Bowral to supplement the local supply according to information given to Mr AE Green (Lab Kalgoorlie) in reply to a question asked in the House of Representatives on September 21.

The average quantity of bricks produced daily at the Canberra Brickyards was 45,800 and the average consumption in building operations totaled 50,280 per day. The cost per 1,000 bricks at the Canberra kiln was four pounds five shillings, but the cost of carting from the kiln or from the Canberra Railway station was met by the contractor, and was not, therefore available.

Six brickmaking machines manufactured by Whittaker Bros, England, had been installed at the Canberra brickyards. Two kilns were utilized in burning the bricks and each had an output of approximately 114,500 per week when kept continuously operating. To double the output at the Canberra brickyards would involve costs amounting to 75,000 pounds.

25th October 1939

Red Cross

At the last meeting of the Council in the ACT division held on Monday a report on the activities of the workers groups was considered. The report showed that there are now 22 groups operating comprising over 500 workers. Up to the present 1,750 skeins of wood have been issued, together with 260 yards of material, cut to pattern for pyjamas, shirts and undergarments. In the purchase of these materials the division has expended

100 pounds and further action is being taken to obtain a further 480 yards of material for pyjamas etc which will absorb an additional 50 pounds.

Completed articles are now being received and will be held pending decision by the central executive as to allocation of stocks to meet possible future demands for Australian soldiers on active service and for supplies for the sick and wounded of the British and Allied forces. It is also proposed that such portion of the stock of this division, as may be required for aid to sick and injured soldiers in militia camps will be utilized for that purpose.

In this connection arrangements are being discussed with the New South Wales division under which the ACT division will supply to military camps at which Canberra volunteers are being trained, such proportion of Red Cross supplies as is equal to the proportion of Canberra volunteers in the camps. Conditions of distribution are proposed which will ensure that supplies from this division will primarily be utilized for the Canberra men.

The council received with pleasure information that the management of the Capitol Picture Theatre Ltd had arranged the holding of matinees on Thursday afternoons of each week alternatively at the Capitol and Civic theatres. The proceeds without any deductions for expenses would be donated to the Red Cross. To this end the directorate of the company has approved of the theatres and plant being made available without any charge and the members of the staff are supplying the necessary services without payment.

The council expressed by resolution the deep appreciation of the division of the action of the manager (Mr Malcolm Moir) in initiating this welcome help to the appeal and that of the members of the staff for their generous support. A message of thanks was also directed to be sent to the board of directors. It is hoped that this effort of the management and staff will receive the well-merited support of the people of Canberra.

At the inception of the meeting a welcome was extended to Mr AE Jackson, president of the ACT branch of the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League, who has accepted office as a member of the executive of the division. It is confidently anticipated that great benefit will follow this direct association of the league with the Red Cross Society, both in relation to the present state of emergency and in the future peacetime activities of the society..

15th November 1939

Article on the Kitchen tea held for Miss Jessie Heudebourck of Duntroon who was to marry George Campbell.

19th November 1939

REMEMBERANCE DAY, SERVICE AT CANBERRA, PROGRAMME FOR SATURDAY

An Armistice Memorial Ceremony arranged by the Commonwealth Government will be held at Parliament House, Canberra on Saturday commencing 10.45 am. The Guard of Honour will be provided by the 3rd Battalion, Returned Soldiers, Royal Australian Navy Details, Royal Military College Details, Royal Australian Airforce details, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Junior Red Cross girls and representatives of the Schools will take part in the ceremony. The music for the occasion will be provided by the Queanbeyan Municipal Band.

At 10.50 am wreaths will be laid on the Cenotaph by the Prime Minister and special representatives. Their Excellencies and the Governor General and Lady Gowrie will arrive at 10.53 am. After inspecting the Guard of Honour, His Excellency will lay a wreath on the Cenotaph. The hymn "O God our help in ages past" will be sung and immediately prior to 11 o'clock the "Stand Fast" will be sounded. Two minutes silence will be observed from 11 am to 11.02 am. The "Last Post" and the "Reveille" will be sounded and the ceremony will conclude with singing of the National Anthem.

Arrangements have been made for the Canberra Power House siren to be sounded for the 30 seconds immediately proceeding 11 o'clock. A short blast will be sounded at 11.2 am.

Special provision will be made as on Anzac Day for incapacitated ex-soldiers attending the ceremony. Detachments from the Naval Wireless Stations and the Royal Australian Air Force now stationed in the Territory will be presented for the first time. The public is invited to lay wreaths on the cenotaph prior or at the conclusion of the official ceremony.

The following special buses will be run to Parliament House in connection with the ceremony:-

10.15 am from Ainslie Terminus.

10.20 am from Causeway (No 2 Route).

10.15 am from Giles Street (No 1 Route.)

MILITIA NOTES

Off to Camp

Next Monday the 3rd Battalion is off to Dapto for 30 days camp of continuous training. The Canberra sub-units will assemble in the park at the rear of JB Young's Ltd store Kingston at 6.45 am and after the roll call, inspection etc, will march to the railway station, headed by the newly organised pipe Band of the Canberra Highland Society and Burns Club. The troops will entrain in a special train and will depart at 7.55 am.

To suit the convenience of members of the local sub-units and their relatives and friends, three special buses will be run. One will leave Ainslie terminus at 5.55 am, travelling by No 2 Route to Kingston, while the other two will leave the same place at 6 am and go via No 1 Route to Kingston. Those men who have been detailed for the baggage party will report direct to the railway station at 6.45 am. All troops are required to bring...



Left: Dan Worrall one of the men who joined the home army. He came to Canberra before World War 1 and worked for many years as a clerk at the Brickworks. (photo courtesy of his daughter)

YWCA APPEAL FOR FUNDS, RAPIDLY INREASING SOCIAL SERVICES IN CANBERRA, GIRLS' WEEK AND FINANCE CAMPAIGN

Rapidly increasing calls on the YWCA expansion of social services in Canberra and added responsibilities assumed in the war cause form the basis of the Third Annual Girls' Week and Finance Appeal of the Canberra Branch of the YWCA.

Since the last Girls' Week the YWCA has greatly extended its activities. In recognition of the rapid growth the Minister for the Interior granted an increased subsidy last year which enabled the Association to appoint a trained assistant.

Since then clubs for boys and girls have been opened at Molonglo and another club for boys at the Causeway. These were in addition to the regular clubs at Civic Centre, Westridge and the Causeway.

RESPONSE TO MANY CALLS

Services offered by the YWCA include use of rooms in the lunch hour by business girls when a fire is provided in winter. An employment placing department assists girls and men to be placed in positions and employers are helped when needing assistance. The YWCA is always ready to help in any personal need such as finding accommodation, introducing newcomers to new friends, family and personal problems, organizing study and discussion groups, assisting travellers, visiting hospital patients. Too varied and too numerous to tell are the many calls received by the YWCA. Organised clubs and classes are carried on regularly throughout the year and these include such interests as dressmaking, cake decorating, pottery, pokerwork, French and German conversation, charm and etiquette course, dramatic art, ballet dancing, ballroom dancing and other.

LOW MEMBERSHIP FEE

The membership fee for the YWCA is only 5/- for those 18 years and over and 2/6 (or one penny a week) for those under 18 years. This is a low fee to enable the facilities of the YWCA to be within the reach of all. Even then if girls are unemployed or in financial

difficulties no fee at all is asked for. The YWCA cannot rely on its membership fees to support it entirely but must call upon the community. As the YWCA endeavours to cater for the needs of girls and women, women and men and boys of all age, classes and race, it feels it is entitled to ask support of the community. The membership fee is for twelve months from the date of joining.

WAR ACTIVITIES

Since the outbreak of war the YWCA has assisted by raising funds for the Red Cross and organised an emergency work group which is busy knitting, making shirts and working for funds. Using two spinning wheels the YWCA is teaching women to spin for the fleece and the carded wool thus overcoming the shortage of wool and thus teaching an art that will be most valuable in peace time as well. Six more spinning wheels are to be made and further classes held. A group learning First Aid meet weekly in the YWCA and numbers about 60 members.

The Girls' Week and Finance Campaign offers the public an opportunity to share in the work of the YWCA in Canberra by direct giving of donations. In this way the unnecessary overhead costs in raising money are avoided and the full value of the gift utilised in the work of the community. Donations should be addressed to Secretary, YWCA Canberra City... [Mrs A Percival was the President of the Canberra Branch.]

8th December 1939

Article on desperate need for a new Canberra Hospital.
