

The Tradesmen's Camps 1921-c1929

Following the resumption of construction work in 1921 the single men who were placed in segregated camps. The lowest on the social scale were the Labourers, then Pug (Horse & Dray) and at the top – the Tradesmen. Robert C Jones in his article *Toilers of the Territory* published in the Christmas 1925 issue of *Canberra Illustrated* referred to this practice and the lack of decent accommodation for construction workers. Part of his article states ...*But still, the main consideration in man's social well-being is the manner in which he is housed, and if the standard of a workman's habitation has not passed the calico tent stage it is futile to expect his mentality to be at a stage to assimilate say, a lecture on "Art" as applied to the home.*

On enquiry it is found that huts ten feet by twelve feet, with fire place, (an absolute necessity, unless we can breed hibernating – not Hibernian – navies), window and door could be built at a low cost. These rented at a shilling per week would give a handsome return per annum above interest and depreciation...Even under present conditions tradesmen are entitled to better accommodation than the labourers, thus fostering that spirit of snobbishness which is to be deplored.

Not that they ought not to have better quarters, for the labourers' camps are only different from the abos in that bags and calico are used instead of bark and boughs. Even if a labourer wanted to build a humpy for himself he is so bound by restrictions and red tape that the job becomes too formidable...

The *Gleaner* [Lasseter] who wrote regular articles for the *Canberra Community News* also spoke out about camp conditions and their segregation according to occupation. He wrote in mid 1926:

To separate the unskilled from the skilled workers in the various camps appears an unwise move. This is a democratic country you know. [he continued] St Valentine must have the city under his special care - there was no dust blowing on that Saint's day. [The strong winds, open plains and raw earth opened by construction work, made dust a big problem.] The postal arrangements at the various camps are most unsatisfactory. At present it costs about six pence a letter. [5cents a letter - at this time men's wages were around \$8 to \$10 per week.] Could not the Commission arrange with the postal officials to deliver mail to each camp in care of the camp steward, thereby obviating the necessity of the camp steward being absent when he should be guarding the property from fire and other loss, especially in canvas towns.

Canberra's camps were usually erected as close as possible to work sites and wherever possible out of sight of permanent buildings.

The following is a typed copy of a document found in Australian Archives that sets out the requirements for sanitation in camps.

WORKMEN'S CAMP SITES AND SANITATION

1. *When choosing a camp site bear in mind the length of time the occupation is likely to last, elevation, aspect, the neighbourhood of storm water, and convenience to the works; carefully select accordingly. If the water supply is to be taken from either a surface streams or well, no person should be allowed to camp above or within 100 yards of the point from which water is to be taken. Intercepting or diverting drains should, if necessary, be made to prevent the contamination of the water supply.*
2. *Avoid camp sites that have been recently occupied. High ground and the slope of a hill with grass are the best. Clay should be avoided and gravel or sand chosen. Although the neighbourhood of trees is desirable, avoid thick undergrowth. Rank vegetation indicates dampness of soil. River beds, ravines, depression, tilled or made ground should be avoided.*
3. *Ground should be prepared before pitching tents, and long grass, stones, and rubbish should be removed. Long grass and bushes within the camp harbour insects, hide refuse, and make it difficult to detect the fouling of the ground. The surface of the ground might be hardened by using all ashes from kitchen fires.*
4. *The form of the camp depends upon the space available, but in every case the tents should be arranged in an orderly manner. Enough space should be allowed to make it possible to occasionally shift every tent forward or to the side and thus allow ground covered by the tent to occasionally be exposed to the sun.*
5. *Whether the camp is to be occupied for a short or a long time, it is essential that the ground it covers should be kept clean, and this is materially aided by keeping the surface dry; in all camps channels should be cut to drain the ground, and to carry off rainwater from the trenches surrounding the tents.*
6. *Nothing should be allowed to foul the surfaces; it commonly happens that refuse from tents, such as meat-tins, bones, washings from the men's mess-tins &c, are thrown on the ground outside the tents and at night the men will urinate there, especially if the urine trenches are far away, and there is a want of supervision. All these cause fouling of the surface of the ground, and may become a grave source of disease.*
7. *There should be night urinals close to the lines, and men should be discharged for breaking the camp regulations. It may be necessary to dig special trenches; but wherever possible pans or tubs, one for each ten men, should be provided. A very useful urinal for night use can be made by filling a wheat sack with sawdust. This can be used without emptying for several weeks.*
8. *In standing camps an ablution place, for all washing, with proper gutters or drains and concrete floors, are necessary.*
9. *Kitchen refuse and grease readily decompose and become offensive. Rubbish bins must be used at all kitchens. Refuse must be burned or buried each day, care being taken that such method of disposal does not contaminate the water supply. Apply fire to all refuse. Burn everything that will burn; bury what the fire leaves.*
10. *Latrine should not be closer than 100 yards from the tents on the leeward side, and as far from the kitchens as possible to avoid the danger of flies passing from the latrines to the food. Ample chloride of lime or quicklime is needed for latrines*

- and urinals to prevent contamination. Blue oil freely sprinkled over the trench contents daily is useful for the development of flies. Enforce the use of deodorants to be provided for latrines. If closet pans are used in the latrines, the contents must be buried 9" below ground level outside the lines of the camp, but if the cesspit method be adopted the pits must be filled in on the breaking up of camp, or as soon as the contents come within 9 inches of the surface of the ground.*
- 11. The ground around latrines should be covered with cement concrete or ashes laid down as often as available.*
 - 12. Horse stalls or tethered ground must be kept very clean and horse dung removed daily, otherwise it will breed flies and get blown about into food and water. If the horse dung or litter cannot be removed daily right away from the camp for manurial purposes, it should be burned or buried.*

THE TRADESMEN'S CAMPS

From archival documents and other contemporary sources such as *The Canberra Community News*, one becomes aware that there were more than one Tradesmen's Camp. The one established at Westlake for men working on the Provisional Parliament House is referred to as the *OLD TRADESMEN'S* camp. This particular camp may have had its beginnings in 1921 when one of the barracks at the ex-Molonglo internment camp was converted into rooms for 150 single tradesmen.

Another early Tradesmen's tent camp was established in 1922 at Blandfordia (Forrest). The population of this camp in May 1924 was 94. Oral histories place this camp near the Forrest Bowling Club (corner National Circuit & Canberra Avenue, Forrest). It is possible that this site was chosen to be near the construction work of 16 small brick cottages erected in 1923 in Franklin and Ducane Streets, Blandfordia [Forrest] for blue collar workers. This site is also close to the Hotel Kurrajong that opened 12th December 1926.

Northbourne Camp in Haig Park near Northbourne Avenue was probably another Tradesmen's Camp. It was established in March 1926 and was moved in 1927 to a Mt Ainslie site near an earlier camp. One of the men in this Northbourne Camp was HLB Lasetter who worked as a carpenter in the territory. The new Mt Ainslie Camp was a cubicle camp and the site was near the corner of Ebdon and Chisholm Streets Ainslie. This camp officially closed in 1928, but was used by married men with families moving through the territory during the Great Depression. Some evidence of this camp is still found on Mt Ainslie.

A letter dated 10th January 1927 by Chas A Scott, Secretary Mt Ainslie Camp, Ainslie to Mr Honeysette indicates that the men had moved into the new camp by that date. The letter reads:

Dear Sir, At a meeting of the Welfare Society held here tonight, I was instructed by the members present to write to you in reference to the recreation hall which the Commission has granted us.

The only feature before submitting your requisition to the commission, is that the recreation Hall carry a fireplace in brick. [Tin fireplaces allowed the heat to escape]

Another thing we would like you to do for us is to hurry on the electric lighting, also in our request we are asking for timber for seats and tables for recreation Hall, also site for Hall... [Australian Archives CP698/9 8/3 Bundle 1]

WESTLAKE, OLD TRADESMEN'S CAMP

The importance of this camp is that it was constructed on the hillside opposite Lotus Bay in what is now Stirling Park, Yarralumla. Because no development has taken place in the area of the park the remains of the camp's drainage systems and sites of timber buildings are still clearly visible and provide us with information about the 1920s construction camps. Some details about the work carried out on this site are detailed in the Appendix section of this chapter.

This camp was established at Westlake in 1923. It differed to other camps in two respects. The tents of this camp had wooden floors and sides and the men formed a co-operative and employed their own mess caterer.

Correspondence from the FCC to A Britton, Secretary of the Co-operative Mess have the address – Perth Avenue and Westlake. Perth Avenue was not constructed at the time of the camp. However, the use of Perth Avenue suggests that this camp may also be the one referred to as the *Avenue Camp*. The other contender for this description is No 1 Labourers Camp that was erected near Commonwealth Avenue.

The men who lived in the Westlake Tradesmen's Camp worked on the construction of the Provisional Parliament House and nearby administrative buildings. Following the completion of the work on this site in 1927 the tradesmen of the Westlake camp were moved to Parkes Barracks. Evidence of their work site is found in the numerous bricks used in the drainage systems that bear the same frog markings as the bricks used in the construction of the Provisional Parliament House.

A letter with the heading *FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION* date 2nd November 1927 to Mr A Britton, Old Tradesmen's Mess, WESTLAKE, FEDERAL TERRITORY from J McDowell, Industrial Officer Federal Capital Commission informs of the men of the Westlake camp about the proposed closure of their camp and the transfer of the men to other camps. This letter does not mention Parkes Barracks where many if not most of the men did move. The letter reads as follows:

Dear Sir,

You will recall sometime ago that I informed you verbally that it was the intention of the Commission to abolish the Old Tradesmen's Mess and to transfer the employees living therein to Capitol Hill Barracks.

I have now to inform you that the proposed transfer will take effect from the 23rd November 1927, this date coinciding with the end of the tradesmen's pay period.

As the proposed extensions to Capitol Hill Barracks will not be finished for some time, the transfer will be effected as follows:-

- 1. All employees of the Federal Capital Commission will be accommodated at Capitol Hill Barracks.*
- 2. Until such time as the extension to Capitol Hill Barracks is completed, contractors employees will be accommodated in the Tradesmen's Mess either at Molonglo or Mount Ainslie, and endeavours will be made as far as possible to allot them to these Messes in accordance with the location of their employment.*

Lists are now being prepared and when completed will be posted in the dining room of the Old Tradesmen's Mess to enable men living there at present to ascertain where they are being transferred to... [A1/1 34/4662 Australian Archives]

Parkes Barracks was a cubicle camp erected on the site of the former No 4 Sewer Camp. It was situated on the southern bank of the Molonglo River opposite the Provisional Parliament House. An inventory of Parkes Barracks is available in Australian Archives. It notes that the Timber buildings were a Mess 16ft x 31ft; Kitchen 16ft x 27 ft; Drying Rook, 4 Store Rooms and one room 16ft x 12 ft used by the cooks; 8 lavatories; 3 showers; 3 baths and a laundry with three sets of troughs. There were 43 cubicles on the site – each shared by two men.

When the tradesmen left this camp is not known but it was sometime in 1929. Some men moved to the Causeway Camp.

From February 1931 the former Parkes Barracks was used for accommodation for single men passing through the territory in search of work. Here the unemployed men, who were not allowed to work in the territory, were provided with two weeks respite before being moved on. They were given a basic ration of 3 pounds meat, 4 ounces tea, quarter pound butter or margarine, 3 loaves bread, 12 pounds potatoes, 12 ounces jam, 1 pound sugar and one bar of soap. The camp closed sometime in the 1930s.

OLD TRADESMEN'S CAMP, WESTLAKE – THE SITE

The site of the Westlake camp is on the hillside opposite Lotus Bay Yarralumla on Section 128, Block 3 Stirling Park and it probable that this camp extended up the hill on to the sites now occupied by the Singapore High Commission, Brazilian and French Embassies in Forster Crescent. The quagmire marked the western end of the camp and it was next to this natural drainage system that the camp's laundry, lavatories, bathing

buildings were placed. The quagmire formed a natural boundary between the camp and Howie's Settlement (1922-1931).

Cutting across the hillside through the camp site is an old road that is probably the one referred to by Moriarty in his 1912 descriptions of properties. The road was constructed in 1890 and linked Briar Farm to a gate near the site of Hotel Canberra.

The camp site was an excellent one. It was above the tree line and sheltered in the curve of the rocky hill where it was protected from the strong winds that swept the open paddocks of the territory. The camp faced north to received the benefit of the morning sun and the old tracks and roads in the area provided good access to work sites.



The above photograph shows the camp taken from the hillside above it looking towards Black Mountain in the distance. Note the rocky nature of the terrain and the ditch that cuts across the hill below the road. This ditch is still in situ.

Camp Population

The numbers in this camp varied according to work needs and whether or not the married men in the camp were lucky enough to be allocated one of the cottages constructed for their class. A Memorandum to the Transport Officer from the Federal Capital Commission dated 11.5.1925 noted the population numbers in the various settlements and camps. (**Australian Archives A6266/1 G27/4505**) The population of Westlake (Stirling Park) was:-

<i>51 Portable Cottages</i>	250 [10 more cottages erected in 1926]
<i>Hotel Camp single men</i>	50 [Hotel Camp was also known as Hostel Camp – constructed by John Howie for his single men]
<i>Contractor Howies 20 families</i>	80 [25 cottages erected in 1922 – down to 20 in 1925 and by 1926 the numbers were further reduced to 13]

Tradesmen's Mess	110 [55 tents]
No 1 Daniels Mess	150 [Herbert Daniel was the Mess Caterer for No 1 Labourers.]
No 3 Sewer Camp Men's Labourers on top of Gap	100 [Stirling Ridge]
	Say 700

The 27th July 1927 the Sanitation Report noted that the population of the Tradesmen's Camp had dropped to 85. Part of the report reads:

OLD TRADES CAMP, WESTLAKE

Being demolished and accommodation being provided at Capitol Hill. 44 tents raised on wooden sides, upper canvas portions not in good repair, floors of wood in sections, litter under some floors, bins provided but lids not used. Mess Room and kitchen provided and run on co-operative lines instead of usual contracting caterer...

Recommendations

1. *Rake under huts where necessary and keep garbage receptacles covered.*
2. *Kitchen – improve natural lighting if demolition delayed also rejoin kitchen benches.*
3. *Sanitary blocks – drainage to long quagmire to be shortened and directed to shallow trenched patches – used alternatively.*
4. *Earth closets – institute portable boxes with lids for pans in lieu of fixed uncovered seats if conveniences remain.*

ORAL HISTORY

The names of a few of the men who lived in the camp are known because family members contributed to the Westlake stories published in *True Tales from Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton*. One man, Frank [Francis] Clowry, Foreman Carpenter on the Parliament House job lived in the Tradesmen's Camp until a Westlake cottage in the nearby *Gap* became available in 1924. There is a well told Clowry story. Frank rode his push bike home every fortnight to visit his family who lived in a small village near Braidwood. On his way home on a particularly windy day he was offered a lift by a chap driving a T model Ford. Mr Clowry replied in his usual gentle way - *No thank you kindly, I'm in a bit of hurry*. Since the driver was likely to stop at various spots for a drop or two of the amber liquid Mr Clowry was probably wise in his decision to continue on.



Above right is a photograph of Ken Dinnerville (left) taken at school during the time that he lived with his father. Next to him is Jack Dorman who lived at Acton Cottages. The photograph loaned by Jene Baker (nee Saunders). Left is a cartoon from *Canberra Illustrated* Christmas 1925 issue.

Ken Dinnerville lived with his father at the Tradesmen's Camp. Part of his story is recorded in *Past Images, Present Voices* by Val Emerton. Ken's father, Charles Dinnerville, was an ex-serviceman whose wife died whilst he was away on active service. Part of Ken's story follows:

I was only ten when my father brought me here from Sydney. We arrived in Queanbeyan at 3am and drove to Canberra in Dad's horse and sulky in what I think was the biggest frost and fog I have ever struck. My first home was in the Tradesmen's Mess at the Westlake camp, which was all tents. The tents had wooden floors and were quite warm and comfortable but I found it very cold in Canberra. My bed was made of two corn bags stuffed with straw in between two shafts. The camp was pretty wild and woolly then. The men used to play two-up - it was illegal, but they still played...[his aunts because they were concerned about the youngster staying in the camps took him back to Sydney. Ken's father wanted him back] so he left the camp and built us a one bedroom house near John Howie's Cottages using left-over materials - the best of Pacific maple. When he finished he called it the "Ut". The front garden beds were edged with empty beer bottles - there were plenty of them around at the time...

Charlie Law, another Westlake lad, also recalled in his story in *True Tales from Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge & Acton* that his father lived at the Tradesmen's Camp until a Westlake house became available. He too told about the arrival of the family and that their large dining room table did not fit into the Westlake cottage. Mr Law, a carpenter, took out his trusty saw and cut a section out of the middle of the table. Mrs Law was not amused. This family also has a story about the glue for the Speaker's Chair (Parliament House). It was kept in liquid form by sitting at the back of the wood fired stove. Its aroma left much to be desired.

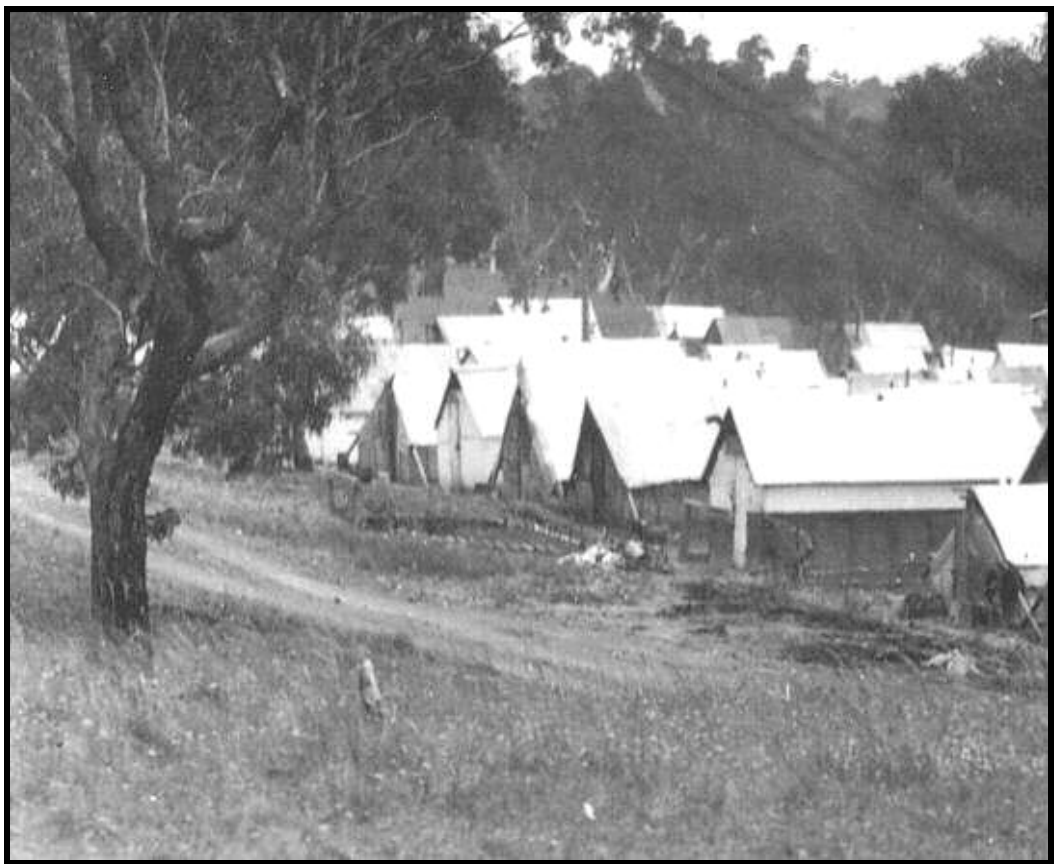


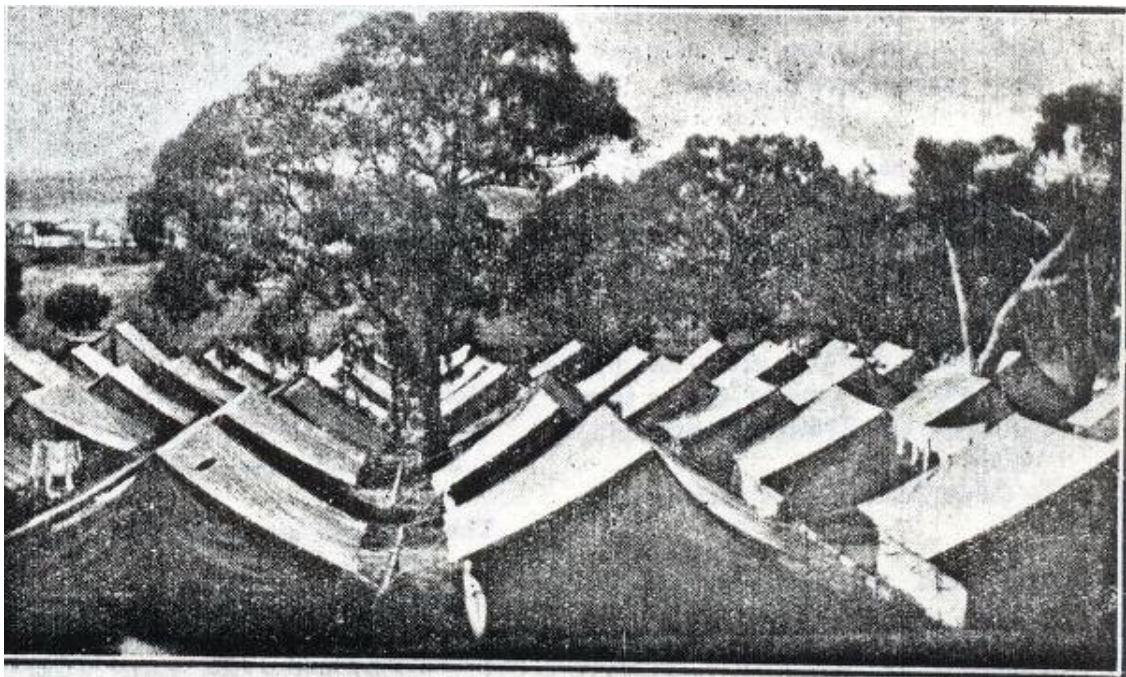
Above left is a 1924 photograph loaned by a member of the Todd family who lived in number 18 Westlake (far left). These temporary workmen's cottages were built in *The Gap* at Westlake (Stirling Park) for married tradesmen. On the right is a 1990s photograph of one of the iris flowers growing on the Tradesmen's Ablution site.

THE CAMP - ACCOMMODATION

The tents in this camp numbered between 45 and 55. Each was 12 foot x 10 foot and was shared by two men. Some may have had a tin fire place added. Contemporary photographs show that the tents were arranged in tight rows with little space between each. A number of photographs show in the background the tents of the Old Tradesman's Camp. One taken in May 1927 of the temporary police camp has in the background a view of some of the tents and one of the camp's timber building. Another published in the Christmas 1925 *Canberra Illustrated* shows the tents packed together in tight rows.

It is probable that a number of the men planted gardens. No photographs to date have been found of gardens at the Tradesmen's Camp. However, contemporary photographs of the tents at No 1 Labourers Camp show a number of gardens including one with a brick border. A similar brick pattern has been found in the area of the Ablution blocks at the Tradesmen's Camp. Nearby are white iris flowers and hyacinths that flower most years. An old strawberry patch is nearby.





TRADESMEN'S QUARTERS
Note how tents are huddled together.

Above – photograph reproduced in *Canberra Illustrated* Christmas 1925 issue. Note the washing line strung between two tents. There may be a missing tent on that site.

Electricity & Water

The camp's timber buildings were connected to electricity and water. At least one tap was provided in the grounds for use by the men. The power poles alongside the lower side of the old road that cuts across the hill follow the original line of power poles. They carried electricity to Howies and the Tradesmen's Camp. The nearby farm cottages - Briar and Kaye's *Klensendorlffe* farms missed out.

Evidence of the lighting used by the men has been found in the dumps and on the site of the Sanitation buildings. At the latter a squashed metal section of kerosene lamp was discovered. *EverReady* batteries were found in dumps suggesting that some men used torches and from *Canberra Times* articles it is known that candles were also used.



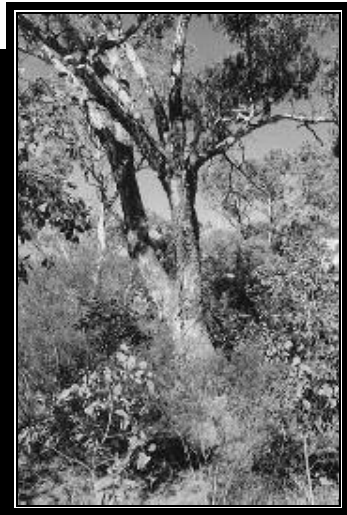
TIMBER BUILDINGS

The timber buildings provided included mess, storage, recreation, laundry, lavatory and bathing blocks. All the timber buildings were hauled to the site by steam driver traction engines and were situated on the perimeter of the tent block.

THE MESS

The men of the Tradesmen's Camp formed a co-operative - Building Trades Co-op Mess - and employed their own Caterer. Their elected secretary was A Britton. His correspondence regarding concerns of the men and requirements of the Mess can be found in Australian Archives.

The Mess Caterer employed by the Co-operative was Mrs Erikson. It is probable that she and her husband lived in a tent cottage until 1924 when a Westlake cottage in *The Gap* became available. The tent cottage was then rented by Arthur Freeman Sn and his family up until they moved in 1927 into 13 Howie's Cottages.



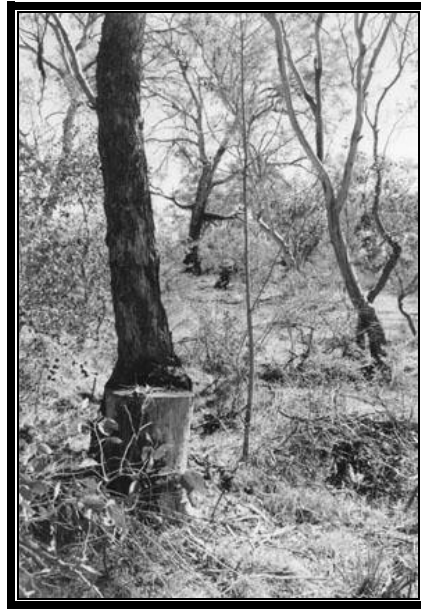
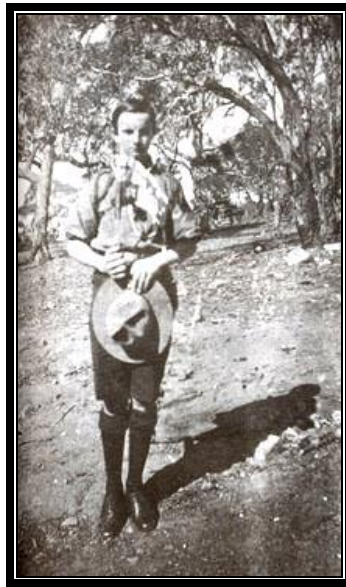
Above left is a photograph loaned by Arthur Freeman Jr showing the hessian fence around their tent home. The tree in the background on the left still grows on the hill – see photograph on right.

Arthur Freeman Jr told me that during the time of living in the tent the family had the use of two timber buildings - a kitchen and storage area. Evidence on the hillside suggest that the sites of these buildings may be to the west of the tent cottage.

The timber lavatory outhouse structure used by the family was placed on a concrete slab that is still in situ on the hillside. It is in the vicinity of a Howie's cottages removed sometime before 1925 – and probably before 1924 when the family moved to the area. A photograph taken of two of the Freeman children show the lavatory in the background.



Below left is Arthur Freeman in his scout's uniform 9th May 1927. The tree in the background on the left is still living in the park. It is on the mid distance in the contemporary photograph on the right.



The Mess, Storage & Recreation Buildings

The exact sites of these buildings are not known, but nearby to the location of Freeman's tent is evidence on the ground of two building sites. One is above the old road. This building may be the one shown in the police camp photograph. Part of this site has a number of zig-zag channels linking a number of small holes – one of which is rock lined.

Another building site is further to the east just below Forster Crescent road and another on the lower side of the old road.



The second site is further to the east again and just below Forster Crescent.

Timber building on the lower side of the old road

On the lower side of the old road near a light pole and a big drain that joins the road is the site of one building. Earth has been cut away to allow the building to sit on a flattened area of land.





Site of Laundry, Lavatory & Bathing Buildings Tradesmen's Camp

A rectangular area of land on the eastern side of the quagmire between Forster Crescent and an old road that cuts across the hillside shows clearly the sites of the buildings (laundry, lavatory, bathing) erected on the site and the drainage systems used to direct water to the quagmire.

There is evidence that two sets of buildings were erected here. A document found in Australian Archives dated October 1925 support this theory. This document showed the building plans for new bath/shower block and new lavatory area to be erected on the site.

I believe that Forster Crescent may cut through part of the land where the first set of buildings were erected. The second group of buildings commence about half way down the hill and differs to the first in that a shallow trench has been added to the drainage system. This trench is referred to in the July 1927 Sanitation Report.

Both sites use pipes set into the ground - metal on the upper site and concrete on the lower - to direct water away from buildings to quagmire via drains. Both areas use rock and brick lines to direct and slow down water on its way to the quagmire. In the upper area broken bricks - some with concrete adhering - predominate and in the lower section river rocks were used. Each section has a large circular hole around one and half metres by around a metre in depth. On the lower slope side of each hole a number of smaller channels have been dug to direct water to the quagmire and towards the road. Bricks have been used to line parts of the upper channels and stones on the lower.



Large rocks placed between buildings and quagmire have also been used as part of the drainage systems. Around each earth has been dug away and in the case of one a number of small river rocks have been placed on the upper side of the hole – probably to prevent erosion of the soil. The purpose of each may be to slow the water flow on the way to the quagmire. A similar arrangement is found on the eastern side of the camp just below Forster Crescent. Nearby is a honeysuckle growing. Another grows in the quagmire. This plant was often used near outdoor lavatories.

When I first saw these rocks I thought that they had been brought to the site but they may have been there? These are very large heavy rocks.

LAVATORY BLOCK

The Lavatory Block according to the October 1925 plan consisted of a urinal and four closets with pans. This plan indicated that a concrete slab was part of the design.

Because no slabs have been found in the area of the Tradesmen's Camp it is probable that timber floors were used. In the nearby quagmire a dump was found and in it were pieces of heavy duty brown lino of the type used in office buildings. It may be that lino was used in this building?

The lavatories are referred to in documents as earth closets. The pans used in this had to be emptied somewhere. There are three known methods of disposal at the time.

1. Pans emptied into holes. This method of disposal was used at Riverbourn (1925-1926 – opposite Harman) where holes were dug into the sand near the Molonglo River and the contents emptied. (Information from Hazel Hartley nee Williams who held the lantern for her father – the camp caretaker - who carried out the task.) It is unlikely that this method was used at Westlake because of the rocky nature of the land. It is possible, but unlikely, that the quagmire may have been used?
2. Contents collected and taken to the Night Soil Depot at Westridge. Proof that this method was used is found in Australian Archives in a section on the collection of night soil. Document in Australian Archives [A6270/1 E2/28/1293] refers to the collection of pans at the Tradesmen's Camp and Contractor John Howies. One document dated for the period 20th September to 26th December 1927 notes that Tradesmen's Mess and No 1 Westlake had 252 services. The cost was 15 pounds, 15 shillings. The reference to No 1 Labourers Camp is confusing in that the 1927 Sanitation Report states that the camp at that time was connected to the sewer. Another document that I read suggested that No 1 Camp was connected to a septic tank. It is possible that pans and connections to septic and main intercepting sewer was used at No 1?

In July 1928 a new sanitation motorized vehicle was put into use. However it is probable that the camp continued to be serviced by horse and dray. Further evidence of the latter method of collecting and replacing pans is found on the hillside nearby to the probable site of the 1925 lavatory block. A track links the old road to an area of flattened land sufficient size to allow a horse and dray to turn and back up to a cutaway earth ledge that would have made it easier to load the full pans on the back of the dray. A walking track links the loading area with the building site.

Below left is a photograph taken August 2003 from the Tradesmen's ablution area to the access road. On the right is a photograph that shows the bank at the end of the path and road. The horse and dray would have come up the road, turned and backed to this bank where the pans were loaded. In the background are buildings in Forster Crescent.



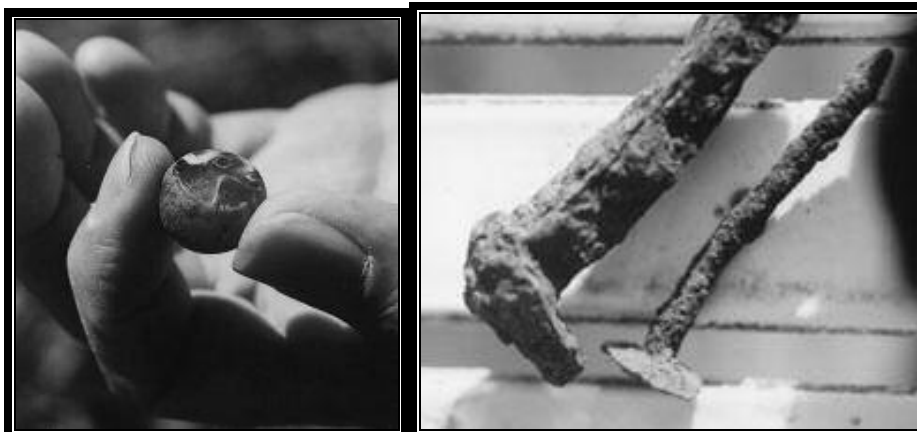
There may have been more than one block of lavatories in the camp in the Tradesmen's Camp. The number documented on the Ablution Block site would have been insufficient for the number of men living in the camp.

Another possible site for lavatories is on the lower side of the road near the quagmire. There is evidence of a building in this area and nearby second shallow trench around 3 metres long by half a metre across.

Rubbish Left Behind When the Tradesmen Left

When the men left they cleaned the site. However, a number of small dumps have been found that contain items such as broken beer bottles and crockery. Other items that still come to the surface include coddies, saucepan, padlock, metal tent peg, crocks, bullet cases, nails, metal lids of tobacco tins and a Commonwealth tea-spoon. Each of the old trees shows evidence of man's use. Branches were cut for purposes such as firewood and one tree still has a metal cable around its trunk – probably left there by the sewer men on their way through the area.

One tree in the quagmire area has jammed in the fork of the tree a bicycle part and many trees have rubbish around their bases.



Who were the men who lived at the Old Tradesmen's Camp at Westlake and Parkes Barracks. No lists have been found. However the 1928 Electoral Roll lists the men (over 21 who were British or Australian citizens) living at Parkes Barracks. It is possible that most if not all were former residents of the Westlake Tradesmen's Camp. Following is this list:

BULL, Frank haulage contractor
BRITTON, Albert clerk
CRUMP, George cook
EDWARDS, Albert engine driver
FOSTER, Charles caretaker
HAMPELL, Arthur boiler attendant
HENDERSON, James fencer
JACKSON, Victor labourer

LANE, Frank plumber
LOW, William labourer
McKEE, Michael labourer
McNEELY, Anthony labourer
McCORMACK, Thomas watchman
NORMAN, Bridget & Godfrey home duties & cook
O'REILLY, John contractor
PARSONS, Clarence labourer
PAYNE, Charles cleaner
PENTLAND, Colin driver
QUINN, James labourer
RANKIN, William machinist
RYAN, Michael labourer
SARGEANT, Robert labourer
SIMONS, William labourer
SIMPSON, Alexander labourer
SKINNER, Richard labourer
SMITH, James labourer
SMITH, Leslie labourer
STEWART, Edward carpenter
SWEENEY, David carpenter
TALBOT, Patrick labourer
TAYLOR, Robert painter
WALKER, William labourer
WALLACE, Alexander labourer
WILSON, James craneman

TRADESMEN'S CAMP (no address)

CARGILL, Peter labourer
DUGGAN, James lineman
GREEN, Edward gardener

Note the majority of men have the occupation of labourer. This suggests that some of the Tradesmen had already left and been replaced by labourers and/or the term labourer used as a convenient occupation. Harold Tuson who was one of the four men in charge of forestry work including plantings and other forestry work from 1926 put down his occupation as *LABOURER*. It is possible that many other workmen also did the same.

The Tradesmen who were moved from Parkes Barracks on 29th July 1929 wrote a letter of complaint to the Federal Capital Commission re the move to Causeway. The men who signed were:

BARBER, L
BLAND, J
BRITTON, A
EMESS, ?
GRAHAM, J

HARSHAW, Andrew
HESLAM, AW
KELLY,
KNUDSON, K
O'CONNOR, J
McGINN, M
MURRAY, C
SIMONS, WG
SIMPSON, A
SMITH, A
SMITH, GB
SMITH, J
WILSON, G