



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



Published Monthly

Issue No. 27. 16th September, 1987

Editor: REG BROCK (Phone 434888)

Annual Subscription: \$8. Registered by Australia Post No. VBH 7101

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President: ARTHUR EATON

Phone: 439162

Secretary: RAY DOWNEY

Phone: 434550

A Special General Meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday each month at 10.00 a.m. at the Bendigo Club.

All correspondence to the Secretary, 29 Woodbury St. Bendigo 3550

THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION of the Victorian State Emergency Service will be the subject matter of our talk today, when Regional Director NORM GROVES tells us of his experiences since the formation in Bendigo (in 1976) of that very active organization.

Our speaker has a wealth of experience with a background of 22 years with the Department of Crown Lands and Survey and 25 years voluntary service with the CFA, for which he was presented with the Queen's Medal.

IN A VERY INFORMATIVE ADDRESS entitled 'Telecom's Changing Directions' District Manager CHRIS DONALD last month took us through a sometimes bewildering, but always impressive spate of statistics illustrating the complexities of modern communications.

Chris took, as the scope of his talk, the period from 1975 when the Government declared the telephone service to be a Statutory Authority under the title 'Telecom'. It has proved to be a good decision, creating great excitement and a striving for engineering excellence.

Until then the real needs of the customer had been largely ignored and the telephone was a basic service without frills. By 1977 big changes had occurred in a very short time resulting in a change of direction by which a cost-efficient service had brought Telecom closer to the people. The emphasis was placed on full services to the business community and statistics illustrated a massive growth in this important area.

IN A VERY INFORMATIVE ADDRESS Cont.

The point was made that people are becoming more sophisticated in their requirements and with a 94% penetration of the homes in Australia we can readily understand the demands made on the service! By the year 2000 Telecom will be the biggest and the best enterprise in the Nation.

FOOTNOTE: As a fitting introduction Arthur Pulfer referred to the American Telephone Company who recently resurrected some rules applied to the use of phones in the 1890's:

- *Ladies who eat onions must stand 4 feet back from the mouthpiece.
- *No mistakes in grammar will be rectified during the telephone conversation.
- *Profane language is wearing on the line and will not be tolerated.
- *It is strictly forbidden to use telephone wires for clothes lines.
- *Messages sent out in the rain will be thoroughly dried before delivery.
- *Subscribers are strictly forbidden to use words of more than 12 syllables for fear of breaking the line.

PROBUS CALENDAR

SUNDAY SEPT. 13th: 8-day trip to Tasmania starts.

MONDAY OCT. 5th: Foundation Meeting, Probus Club of Sandhurst.
10 am. at Bendigo Club.

WEDNESDAY OCT. 14th: Melbourne - "CATS" (Matinee). Confirmed bookings only. ETD 9.00 am. at Bendigo Club. Car Parking available. ETA from City, 6.30 pm. Meal - BYO to Fitzroy Gardens, or takeaways available from Restaurant.

THURSDAY OCT. 22nd: In the Whipstick, combined outing with Probian friends and wives from Doncaster. 40 coming, with their own luncheon.

Bendigo Probians and wives will partake of BBQ lunch with meat provided (at cost). Ladies please bring salads, etc. WITH water in Thermos or fresh in containers.

Visitors will be acquainted with Bendigo - Present and Past, Gold Mining with detectors (if you have one please bring it) and Botany and bird life in the area. ASSEMBLE: 9.45 am Strathdale complex cnr. Crook St and McIvor Highway. TRANSPORT: Own cars.

List on Table Today - Cont. Page 4.

WE RECORD WITH PLEASURE the conferring on Probian ALBERT COOPER of a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship for services to sport and Rotary. Congratulations, Albert, for a well deserved Award.

WITH GREAT REGRET we learned of the death of fellow member LEW NEWMAN. To wife Vera and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

"WHEN CONSTABULARY DUTY'S TO BE DONE A
POLICEMAN'S LOT IS NOT A HAPPY ONE."

To a man with 38 years of service in 'The Force' behind him these words of famed W. S. Gilbert must have rung true many times.

He, in common with all his brother Officers in the Law Enforcement Trade would have been subject to the many opprobriums hurled at them by that strata of Society known collectively as 'Male-factors.' From the rather genteel 'eelers' and 'Bobbies' (in commemoration of Sir Robert Peel, founder of the modern Police Force), to the more vicious and less imaginative titles like 'Wallopers', 'The Fuzz' and 'Pigs' he would have withstood it all to earn his retirement with honours bestowed upon him. Such a man is



HIRAM O'SULLIVAN

and in case you do not recognise him, substitute 'JOE' for 'HIRAM' and you will know to whom we refer.

It was not until he was sixteen and called upon to produce his birth certificate that it became known that he was, in fact, Hiram O'Sullivan and not Joseph Hiram as it was presumed to be registered.

He was always known as 'Joe' and this seemed to act in his favour in the Police Force where he was known officially as 'Hiram'. As this name appeared in all official documents and records of Court proceedings none of his friends realised that it was he who was the subject of the reports!

Joe was born in Myrtleford, the youngest of four sons, and his parents carried on mixed farming in the Ovens Valley at a small locality known as Ovens. After primary education at Ovens State School he attended St. Mary's Convent at Myrtleford, completing his last four years of secondary education at Assumption College at Kilmore.

His education completed, he returned to the family farm growing tomatoes and assisting with the general farm chores. The farm cows knew his gentle touch as all milking was by hand in those days.

In July, 1939, he followed in the footsteps of his elder brother, Bap, and joined the Victoria Police Force.

From there on his working career followed the intensive activities of a serving police officer. After initial training he spent 18 months on 'beat duty' at Russell Street working consistently with only one day each fortnight off and half the time on night duty. There were NO penalty rates as compensation for long hours and hard work!

After a tour of duty at Hawthorn, he transferred to Balwyn where, in 1949, he was promoted to Senior Constable and spent the next 8 years as Supervisor in Collingwood.

After seven years as Sergeant, mostly spent at the Traffic Control Branch he achieved Officer rank in 1965 and returned to headquarters as a Duty Officer. Later, his duties took him to Wangaratta and Shepparton until, in 1974, promoted to Chief Superintendent, he was placed in charge of the Loddon Police District, a post which he held until retirement in March, 1977.

His Service Awards include the Police Service Medal, the Chief Commissioners Certificate (for a successful investigation into Car Licensing Fraud), the Queen's Police Medal, the Queen's Jubilee Medal and the National Service Medal recognising his 38 years of service.

With his well-earned retirement came the decision of he and wife Pat to settle in Bendigo (they have three children, all married, and ten grandchildren).

Competitive football, cricket and tennis were his sporting interests during his working life and today he plays golf at Eaglehawk and bowls at the Bendigo Bowls Club. Fishing and gardening are enjoyable pastimes.

The Community knows Joe as a member of the Board of Management (Branch Committee) of the Mirrigoong Home, Director/Chairman of the Assumption College Foundation and an active member of the Rotary Club of Bendigo (he was president in 1985/86). In his 17 years in Rotary he has attended three International Conventions in the USA., and last year was the District Governor's Representative in this area.

The community owes much to Joe O'Sullivan for a lifetime spent in service to his fellow-citizens; and, most importantly, he is a member of the Probus Club of Bendigo!

CONT. FROM PAGE 2.

List on table today.

TUESDAY OCT. 27th: Trip to Point Cook RAAF Base & Museum/Werribee Park & Mansion. ETD: 7.30 am. from Bendigo Club. Car Parking available. COUNTER LUNCH at Werribee Commercial Hotel (tables booked). You choose your dish (and pay). COST: including Coach & entrances Pt. Cook & Mansion \$12 per person (PLUS Luncheon). Payment at meeting TODAY please! Tour totally booked BUT please register for possible cancellations.

WEDNESDAY DEC. 16th: Annual Christmas Dinner (members and wives) at Bendigo Club. 7.00 pm. Accommodation restricted to 120 so please get your name in early - List at October meeting and payment November. FOR INFORMATION ON these exciting events contact Arthur (43 9162) anytime (Sept. 13th to Sept 20 EXCLUDED)!