

Memo on Members

Pat Kearns recently got a write-up in the Melbourne newspapers. Boss of a night-patrol service in Dandenong, Pat was making the rounds when he surprised a marauder breaking into a shop. The newspapers gave the story a play because of the novel way Pat kept his prisoner at rest: when the cops arrived they found the unhappy culprit with his pants draped around his ankles. What the newspapers didn't mention was that Pat had once worked with the Elliot Ness boys back in Cleveland.

Schieffler, and Harry Oden, who might have helped us to victory. But you can't take it away from the opposition. Their bats were whistling. One broken bat even whistled out into left field. Most of us brought the wife and kids and we had a picnic lunch. A feature of the day was the get-together at the end of the game. We did full justice to the ample supplies of cold beer.

Welcome to Warren Landes, our newest member! He quickly made his presence felt at the poker session, but then really hit his stride in the black-jack game. How did we ever get talked into that!

Most of us know that our President, Joe Bradshaw, is a school teacher. Not so many know that he is a good one. One of his pupils at Williamstown, Laraine Abberton, 15, rated a nice write-up in the Melbourne "Age" when, during a supervised shorthand exam, she passed at 120 words per minute, establishing a record for her age group. Joe also taught Laraine's sister, a supervisor at the S.E.C.

Harry Du Long, the Gippsland cowboy, is back in town, looking rugged

and fit. Puts some of us city slickers to shame!

And this just about puts an end to 1961 doings. Make a little note to yourself for 1962: "I'm going to drop a line to the G.I. now and then, and tell the boys what I'm up to." And you can bet that we'd be mighty interested to hear from you!

The very best of Christmas wishes to you all, and lots of good health and prosperity for 1962!

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TO The Executive of the Association—

Gentlemen,

Having paid to the Association the sum of £_____ I request you to allot me

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N.B.—All cheques should be made payable to American Ex-Servicemen's Association or bearer and crossed.

NOTE.—If you do not wish to remove this application from the publication, just send in a letter advising how many Debentures you wish, and that you will pay for same on delivery.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Several of the members celebrated Thanksgiving Day with a dinner at the Oxford Hotel. Fine food, congenial surroundings, and good company — it is more than likely that this sort of spontaneous get-together will take place more often, now that we know how much fun it is.

Nonetheless, there was also a serious undertone to the occasion.

More than a few of the members have been rather unhappy with the apathy and disinterest evinced by the general membership when it comes to any kind of active participation. So talk veered to matters of special interest to the organization, when it came time for the usual after-dinner conversations.

Henry Foote, whose name is linked with the growth of Kodak in Australia, has long been our guide and spiritual godfather. His comments were especially valuable to us, for they had a background of experience in other American-Australian organizations.

Vol Heath commented from the businessman's point of view, stressing the value of targets and objectives if the Association is to flourish.

In another part of this issue the general discussion is briefly summarized. It is to be hoped that members who were not present will take the situation to heart and give us their own comments. A framework for a bit of exploration is being laid, and there's little doubt that the Ex-Servicemen's Association can be made a more potent force.

In the meantime, our thanks go to Henry Foote for the pleasure of his

XMAS PARTY

Well, it's only a few days now until the Annual Xmas Treat for the children of all the members, so if you act promptly you can still put the kiddies' names down with Art Mayfield, telephone 39-3439. Remember the date: Sunday afternoon, December 17, and Saint Nick will start out giving presents no later than 4 p.m.

The party will be held in the Club Rooms, with lots of room for all! There will be ice cream, drinks and candy for the kids, plus games and activities. The grand climax, of course, will be the arrival of Father Christmas himself.

As for Mom and Pop, bring along a plate of sandwiches or cakes or potato salad or any other little tidbits you might be proud of, and we will furnish the coffee, tea, milk and sugar.

And remember, you don't have to be a parent to be eligible. The party is on for young and old, and if last year is any kind of an indication, everyone is bound to have a good time.

Remember . . .

Get there before 4.
Bring a plate of something to eat, preferably sandwiches or cakes, or something else that doesn't involve too much fuss.

But most of all, simple come. Your company is what we want most this Christmas!

company and his very valuable suggestions. And special thanks to Vol Heath, who contributed to the success of the evening by arranging the hotel accommodation, and so generously taking the responsibility on himself.

Reading from left to right: Carl Harris, Brad Bradbury, Vol Heath, Henry Foote, Joe Bradshaw, Frank Malakar, Andy Posneik, Art Nicholls, Bud Bailey.



Official Publication of the
American Ex-Servicemen's Association



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SOCIAL SECURITY

We got a surprisingly strong response to our story about social security. You'll recall that we offered to find out for you how many quarters of coverage you had credited to your account.

We collated the information in the various letters and passed it on to the headquarters for processing.

The details should be available before too long, and we'll have them ready to pass on to you. Perhaps we can make a feature of this kind of service.

Is there anything else that is bothering you? Please let us know and we'll do our best.

A Member Says -



"Where do we go from here?" That is probably the main question that lay behind the special meeting at the Hotel Oxford, described elsewhere in this issue. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that our ranks are thinning out each year.

Some of the members eventually go back home; some die. During this year, for instance, we lost our friend, Morley Dangerfield. His passing leaves a terribly big gap in our organization.

In any case, our membership in all probability won't get much bigger. So it's up to us to do the best with what we've got, and to give the organization a purpose and drive that it seems to lack at the moment.

It's rather ironical that in the old days, when the treasury amounted to all the membership list was at its peak, and the enthusiasm was keen. Do you remember those early working bees at the Club Rooms, when we finally decided to take the plunge and buy our own place?

Anyway, the zing eventually died away. Perhaps that's the way life itself is constituted: in retrospect we always seem to remember the fun we had trying to get somewhere, but somehow the fun goes out of it when we finally reach the goal.

I have an idea, however, that this explanation doesn't quite fit an organization. Most individuals feel the need to hand together when they're lonely, or simply out of things, or when they feel they can achieve a definite goal only by gathering themselves into a group.

Well, most of us have been here long enough to have lost the loneliness. We have our wives and kids and friends. We're no longer on the outside of things because we've managed fairly well to fit into the general Australian scheme. We have good jobs, or we run businesses of our own. In fact, in some cases the public has learned to depend on us for certain duties and functions. In some cases we've even pioneered a new idea or a new service. Yes, I think that we can say in all sincerity that we're no longer out of things. Even if our kids didn't drag us out into functions and affairs, we would still belong to the community.

And that just about kicks the props from most of the reasons that lay behind our original banding together. So what's left?

It would be easy enough to let the American Ex-Servicemen's Association die a natural death, through a dearth of interest and participation. But somehow this appears criminal.

Not one of us wants to see it die. Somehow we feel that it still has a definite function to perform, something more than arranging picnics and ball games, putting in an appearance at memorial programs, or even participating in the sorrow of a bereaved family.

It is behind this reluctance to see the organization die that we must look for reasons and objectives that we can't see at the moment. They do exist, or we simply wouldn't care.

Frankly, some of us think there's a new day dawning for us. We believe there's a vast pool of talent in our membership and that it's waiting to pop out when the right objective comes along. These transplanted Americans have something very definite to offer wherever they strike their roots, and with a little bit of luck our organization is going to help that idea along. It may even be that our outfit isn't really sleeping for the moment. It

may be that it's gathering strength for a launching into something entirely new.

We know that a lot of you will be thinking about this. 1962 is your chance. Let's get together on where we're going next!

— F.M.

More Americans to Come Here

From Brisbane: Grocer Bill Ludwig, of Yeerongpilly, who migrated to Australia from American four years ago, is getting two letters a day from Americans wanting to do the same.

The letters, seeking information, have been arriving since Bill had wide publicity in the U.S. four months ago as "A Yank who made good in Australia."

According to Bill — "one of the letters came from a man in Florida who said he had just sold one million pounds worth of property.

"He wanted to know everything . . . from 'How bad are the mosquitoes?' to 'How much is a licence for a television station?'"

According to the Melbourne "Herald," the Ludwig family will answer all letters if possible—and migration officials have offered to help.

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Bantum League

Well, the kids came through their first year with flying colors. Practice sessions were held regularly, and now the junior ball-players are ready to join a league. Several preliminary competition games indicated that there's a lot of talent here, and soon they'll be able to show their stuff. The holidays are coming up, so practice dates will be postponed till February.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Remember last year's wonderful picnic at Heaney Park? We'll be having another one this February. Keep it in mind, and we'll give you the date and the place in the next issue of the G.I.

DEBENTURE LIST

Debenture List.—Australasian friends: Sir John Latham, V. Merlo, D. L. Fraser, M. McMahon, F. M. Henderson, F. L. Watts, Harry J. Kyke, Cyril Chapple, G. E. B. Saddler, W. R. Stout, Jerry Grant, Mrs. Patterson.

American friends: Henry Foote, Jack Ranger, R. B. Price, R. J. Anderson.

Members: Joe Diggins, Vernon McGhee, J. Kornhauser, A. Mayfield, Jim Thursby, John Ferraro, Morley Dangerfield, Al Block, Grace Taylor, Steve Zygia, John Brown, Eddie Wetzler, Dale Bruce, Carl Gillespie, John Nowak, Bud Bailey, Don Mulholland, Art Nichols, Gus and Mrs. Shallies, Joe Bradshaw, Elsie Rochester, Tim Tyler, Dr. Schnapp, Vol Heath, Bill DeBroun, Joe Allison, Colin Campbell, Rudy Ganther, Thelma Hartley, John Charleson, Les Saynor, Carl Harris, Morrie Pollock, Colin Jupp, Frank Malarka, Harry Oden, Jay Grimm, George Batdorf, Pat Kearns, Bud Bacon, Ian F. Williams, H. Hanson, B. Mullins, R. G. Wilford, Stu Schieffler, Kirby Hallmark, Stuart Batdorf, Cary Batdorf, Harry Trieb and Mabel Gladys Trieb, Rodney Jon Batdorf.

What new names have been added since last time?

See you with a debenture.

—SNAFU.

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