

The Western Port Times

Grantville & Districts



Volume 4 Number 3

FREE

July 2021

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This magazine is a continuation of the original Western Port Times, which was published in Grantville from 1898 until 1908 by T. C. Monger, and from 1908 to August 1910 by Harold B. and J. A. Sullivan, at which date the premise is said to have been destroyed in a fire and everything lost. Publication never resumed.

At its peak, the paper was distributed from Flinders and Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula, to San Remo and Phillip Island, Inverloch and the Powlett region, through to Jumbunna and Loch, and as far north as Lang Lang.

This version of The Western Port Times is produced for the U3A Local History Group, based in Grantville.

* * *

The Mine Ponies

At the State Mine, when they spoke of horsepower, they meant it literally.
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Grantville's First School

It was probably called Deep Creek Non Vested Rural School No. 120. All other details are equally obscure. This article interrogates the sources and reaches some tentative conclusions.
on Page 14



Lang Lang Talkies

SATURDAY, JULY 8. SATURDAY, JULY 8.

FRED ASTAIRE and GINGER ROGERS in—

The Barkleys of Broadway

Joyously Together Again in Grand Technicolor Musical!

MARGARET O'BRIEN and GEORGE MURPHY in—

TENTH AVENUE ANGEL

A Tender, Exciting Comedy Drama You'll Love!

Programme suitable for general exhibition.
USUAL SHORT SUBJECTS. USUAL SHORT SUBJECTS.

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The Bass Valley U3A Local History Group is looking for photos and information on places of significance to our local history.

If you have anything you would like to share with us, we have the facilities to scan or photograph your items so they do not have to leave your possession.

Links to other historical groups

Bass Valley Historical Society: <https://bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au>
 Friends of Churchill Island Society: <https://focis.org.au/about-churchill-island/>
 Grantville History: grantvillehistory.com.au
 Hastings–Western Port Historical Society: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>
 Inverloch Historical Society: cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/ Also: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>
 Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/
 Korumburra & District Historical Society: Janet Wilson 5657 2267 or PO Bo 293, Korumburra 3950
 Lang Lang & District Historical Society: langlang.net/historical.html
 Leongatha and District Historical society: leongathahistory.org.au
 Phillip Island & District Historical Society: <http://pidhs.org.au/>
 Phillip Island Nature Parks, Churchill Island Heritage Farm Collection <https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/churchill-island-heritage-farm#collection-records>
 South Eastern Historical Association: seha.org.au
 Western Port Historical Society Inc.: hwphs.org.au/
 Wonthaggi Historical Society: wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/
 Wonthaggi Genealogy Inc.: secretary@wonthaggi-genealogy.org.au



From the *Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Friday 23 September 1910: Correspondence

An Unfair Report To The Editor.

Sir.—If you can find space in your valuable columns I would be obliged for the insertion of an apology to the members of the Baptist Church for the unthoughtful manner in which we made use of their building in connection with the enrolling of members of the Druid's Lodge, in connection with which the local correspondent of the "Age" has made such a noise. The facts are that owing to the large number of members being enrolled we found the meeting room of the fire brigade unsuitable and therefore exchanged places of meeting with the Progress Association who had engaged the church. After our ceremony was over we indulged in a convivial glass, thoughtlessly overlooking the fact that the building was a church, and I think the "Age" correspondent had little to do to make such a song about it. One thing I am pleased to say that any member of the Druids can get a better example to the town than the "Age" correspondent by not indulging too freely and becoming a nuisance.—Yours etc.

W. Norris.
Secretary U.A.O.D.

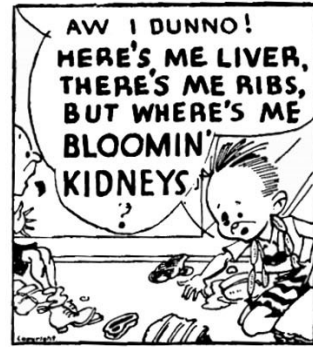
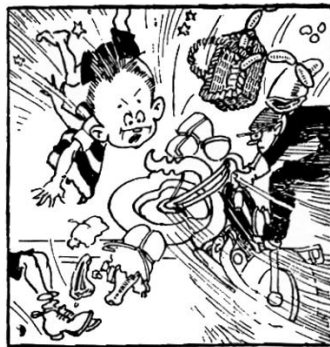
From the *Australasian Sketcher*, 16 April 1881, page 3

Spear Fishing At Griffith's Point

Griffith's Point is the northern point of the eastern entrance to Western Port bay, 60 miles S. E. from Melbourne, and in the vicinity of the Kilcunda coal mine. Our sketch shows the manner in which butterfish are captured at this place by means of spearing. This mode of fishing is exhibited by the residents for the amusement of visitors, and it is also adopted from bait and net proving ineffective to capture this kind of fish. The spear used is commonly a sharp, arrow-headed piece of iron, fastened to a strong stick like harpoon, with a cord attached.



BLUEY and SOL

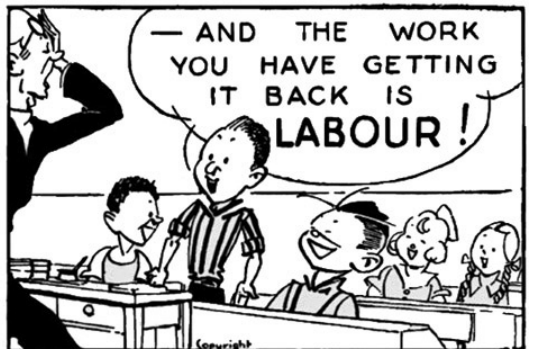


From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 15th October 1936

Meat Is Down To-day!

BLUEY and SOL.

When Capital Creates Employment!



From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 4th March 1937

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 17 November 1880

Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday, 13th November 1880

Present—Councillors Turnbull (President), Duffus, Misson, Kidd, West, Stewart, and Aldridge.

Outward correspondence read and approved.

Correspondence

From Mr Kingsbury, Inspector of Fisheries, stating his willingness to assist in stocking Swan Lake with fish.—Received, and handed over to the committee for Swan Lake.

From Shire of Belfast, advocating re-establishment of toll of over £500 annually when deemed necessary.—Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Kidd, that the Secretary write to the Parliamentary representative requesting him to support a bill to that effect before Parliament.—Councillor Stewart moved as an amendment that no action be taken in the matter.—The motion was carried.

From Under Secretary, appointment Mr Mardment, of Kilmore, as Government Auditor.—Received.

From Secretary for Lands, in re Clarke's road at Jumbunna.

From Under Treasurer, with 2nd moiety of subsidy, £385 10s 7d.

From South Melbourne Group of Municipalities, in reference to continuance of endowment to municipalities with copy of petition for the ratepayers to sign.—Secretary to copy petition and leave it at the following places:—Messrs Nowell's, Dickins', Williams', O'Meara's, Carews', Bergin's, and Bauer's.

From R. J. Buller, re special vote to Buln Buln and our Shire.—Secretary to inform him that when the time arrives action will be taken to comply with his suggestion.

Reports

The Clerk of Works reported on Queensferry bridge, with Mr Goding's offer. Tenders to be called.—Also on main street, Cowes, and recommend metalling 14ft wide by 8in deep with larger outlets. Tenders to be called, and Clerk of Works to confer with members for the Riding as to where to get the stone.

The Clerk of Works was ordered to enforce the proper completion of Godings contract at Corinella.

Accounts amounting to £110 16s 2d were passed.

The following tenders were then accepted:—W. Hickey, £10 13s 4d; H. Preece, £20; J. Murray, £6; J. Murray, £4 11s; J. Gall and Co. £16 3s 6d; H. Jenner, £3 17s; S. Davies,

£5 16s 5d; G. Coates, £80 3s 2d; J. Grant and Co., £90 4s 4d.

Councillor Smart *[sic]* gave notice of motion for a culvert and drains near Natcott's on the Bass road.

Councillor Duffus moved—“That a double iron roller be purchased from T. Robinson and Co for £14.”

Tenders were ordered to be called for formation from foot of Morrisson's hill to Furze's corner.—Also two culverts with approaches on Griffiths' Point.—Also that McHaffie's road be formed from west end of present formation to Salt creek.

Notices of motion by Councillors Misson, Norton, and Delaney were postponed to next meeting.

The president read a copy of a petition from the Corinella ratepayers to the Chief Secretary, praying for the subdivision of their Riding into two Ridings, and read a draft of a letter to the Commissioner of Public Works in answer to it, and moved that a copy of same be forwarded with the seal of the Council attached. Seconded by Councillor West and carried.—Councillor Stewart took exception to the matter, stating the Council had nothing to do with it.

The Council then adjourned.

From the *Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Friday, August 5th 1910

Dealing With Slops

A move in the right direction has been made by the local Progress Association. We refer to the existing sanitary arrangements, etc. The need of introducing a more efficient and up-to-date method of dealing with slops and garbage has been allowed to pass unnoticed too long. Under the present crude arrangements, householders are compelled to empty all kitchen slops, etc, to their back yards. The effect of this, if allowed to continue, will probably prove disastrous, as with the advent of the warm weather we must expect an outbreak of disease and pestilence which may have far reaching effects. The parties responsible for the efforts to combat this are to be commended, and in their decision to at once have the matter brought under the notice of the Central Board of Health the members of the Progress Association have earned the best wishes of the whole community.

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun*, 28 October 1953

Kooweerup Again Flooded

Third Time In 15 Months

Government's Inconsistency Deplored

Following heavy rain on Tuesday and Wednesday last week, Gippsland experienced its worst flood since 1934. Hundreds of people were marooned in their homes, thousands of acres of pasture ruined, and in Kooweerup and district many acres of potatoes, peas, asparagus and pasture were destroyed.

Although *[sic]* only 281 points of rain were registered in Kooweerup, local drains were called on to accept the rainfall at Gembrook (520 points), Pakenham (285), Tangil Bren (630), and consequently the Main drain overflowed its southern bank last Wednesday morning at various points between Cora Lynn and Vervale and caused widespread flooding down to the Kooweerup township, where, fortunately, the oncoming water receded before reaching the business area.

The water reached the same level in the township as the flood in July last year and was not so great as in the flood which occurred last December.

The recent reconditioning of No.4 drain by the S.R. and W.S.C. proved to be a Godsend, it taking most of the Main drain overflow. Although we commend the Government's loyalty to the Crown in exhibiting throughout the State photos of the Royal Family in specially arranged railway carriages, also it *[sic]* plea for greater production, we fail to agree with its policy of retarding essential works on the plea of no money available, etc.

Following the disastrous 1934 flood, and after a lot of red tape, the Government decided to construct the Yallock Outfall Cut in 1939. This work proceeded as far as the Bayles railway line, when it was stopped, firstly, owing to the war; secondly, awaiting the approval of the railways over a bridge for about seven years; thirdly, no money available; and, fourthly, awaiting the construction of a road by the Cranbourne Shire at the approach to the new bridge constructed by the S.R. and W.S.C. at Bayles.

As the excavation of only about one mile remains to complete the Yallock Outfall Cut, to give producers and residents from Vervale to Kooweerup immunity from floods, the inconsistently and lack of consideration given them by the Government is quite naturally greatly deplored.

From the *Herald*, Wednesday 15 October 1952, page 11

Wonthaggi May Be Ghost Town

Losing Best Customer

Herald Staff Reporter

Is Wonthaggi on the way to joining the list of Victoria's ghost towns?

The chairman of the Railways Commissioners, Mr R. G. Wishart, said today that when locomotives had been converted to burn brown coal dust, the State coal mine would lose its best customer.

Last year the Railways used 49,000 tons of Wonthaggi coal—more than a third of the mine's output.

Although the whittling of the railways' works programme had held up conversion of locomotives, every effort was being made to finish the job quickly.

A heavy X-class goods locomotive had been running very satisfactorily for some time on brown coal dust, and soon a fast R class passenger locomotive would be burning the same fuel.

Mr Wishart estimated that the engines would need 250,000 tons of brown coal dust a year.

To Electric

Other factors which would taper off the railways' demand for black coal were the plans to electrify the Gippsland, Geelong and North Eastern main lines and to use diesel electric locomotives and rail cars.

Wonthaggi's yearly output had shrunk to a fifth of its peak year.

In 1929-30, 662,159 tons of coal were raised. Last year's output was only 121,640 tons.

Last year the mine's wages bill was £385,970. In 1929-30 it cost only £546,111 in wages to win more than five times as much coal.

Coal Short

The railways had been forced to press its brown coal dust programme because the supply of good black coal was unsatisfactory.

In the last 15 years they had been compelled to burn large quantities of relatively poor coal, much of which had to be carried overland from Lithgow at very high cost.

Often they had been unable to get enough good quality Maitland coal to run even the Spirit of Progress

SMALL Cushions, nice colours, only 7/6. McLeod's, Kooweerup.

From the *Herald*, Thursday 26 May 1932, page 1

The Koalas' Busy Day

Migration Scene

Quaint Exodus From French Island

Quite a bustle there was today among the koala families on French Island. Sixty of these delightful little Australian natives were migrating to the game sanctuaries of Quail Island and Chinaman Island, in Western Port Bay, and what a flurry there was when Mamma Bear, fussily arranging baby's fur coat, spied Papa Bear having just one more nibble of a Manna Gumleaf with some of the boys who were staying behind.

The Koalas have become so numerous on French Island that they are running short of their favored food of gum leaves, and an insect pest has been putting them on even shorter rations.

Mr R. H. Bennetts, acting for the Department of Fisheries and Game, was welfare officer for today's little migrants, who in their new homes, where the Manna Gum is plentiful, are expected to prove as great an attraction as they have been on French Island.

Friendly Humans

Another notable sanctuary is Phillip Island, the residents of which, self-constituted protectors of the quaint little chaps, will not allow tourists to hunt or molest them.

In these favored natural conditions, the Koala is flourishing, but it is a sensitive and delicate creature, liable to epidemics, and it has a tendency to fret and die in captivity.

At Koala Park, Pennant Hills, New South Wales, Mr Noel Burnet has 38 koalas in nominal captivity, but they are kept under such ideal natural conditions that they have thrived.

Apart from this little family, the Koala is becoming rare in New South Wales, where it has been hunted almost to death.



Liberating koalas on Quail Island. From the *Australasian*, Saturday 30 July 1932, page 28.

The dreadful massacre of Queensland in 1927 is still fresh in the memory of animal-lovers. An open season was proclaimed by the Labor Government of the period, and hundreds of thousands of the helpless little fellows were destroyed. The Government derived blood money to the tune of some thousands in royalties. Most of the pelts were exported.

The Koala is protected in Victoria; no pelts have been exported from here for more than 20 years.



This bear was not anxious to leave his crate for his new home on Quail Island. From the *Australasian*, Saturday 30 July 1932, page 28.

C. TRESOTHICK,
BOOT & SHOE MAKER,
LOCH.

IS now prepared to make all kinds of Boots and Shoes at Lowest Prices. Repairs neatly executed at the shortest notice.

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, 21 August 1891, page 3

From the *Herald*, Thursday 27 April 1933, page 2

Famine In Bear Land

Food Short On French Island
Transfer Proposed

Because of insect pests on French Island, and the ravages of disease among the eucalyptus, the little colony of native bears there is faced with starvation.

The Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game (Mr F. Lewis) made a thorough inspection of the area last week, and will recommend to the Chief Secretary, that provision be made for the transfer of a number of bears from French Island to Quail Island.

Quail Island has an area of 3000 acres and is unsettled. It is an ideal location for the native bears. During the last two years between 150 and 200 bears have been placed on the island and are doing well. There is plenty of manna gums for their sustenance.

Native bears have suffered considerable depletion in number in recent years through the ravages of bush-fires and the clearing of land settlement. They have depleted in numbers from millions in Victoria since settlement took place. Mr Lewis stated today that there would not now be more than 1000 in Victoria.

Loveable, little woolly creatures, they immediately attract the attention of humans, and was it not for the rigid protection given by the Fisheries and Game Department they would have become extinct in this State long ago. Mr Lewis, however, estimates that the shrinkage of the koalas had been arrested and the present numbers should be preserved.

The Victorian colony of koalas is limited to Phillip Island, French Island, Quail Island, and a few round the Yarram District and at Inverloch.

Ruthless Slaughter

At one time the native bears abounded in millions on the east coast of Australia, from Cape York through to South Australia. They are practically extinct now in New South Wales and South Australia, but there are more in Queensland than in Victoria.

In 1927 the Queensland Government declared an open season for the slaughter of teddy bears, and thousands were ruthlessly killed. Commenting on this action, Mr Lewis said today that it was tantamount to murder for the bears, which are almost human in their ways, were offenceless and defenceless, and were practically knocked down from the limbs of trees without making any effort to escape. He could not picture a more heartless

slaughter of innocent game.

The fascination of the little creatures has been costly to many tourist. There is a penalty of £5 a head for taking native bears from their sanctuary. They wander from the bushlands and invariably are picked up by passing motorists who think they are doing the young bears a good turn. But the bears do not live in captivity unless their natural feed, the manna gums, abound in the locality.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 7 June 1899

District News

The good folk of Kongwak had a jollification on May 29, when a ball was held in the new hall. The attendance could have been larger and still not overcrowding the building, but as it was it was a very enjoyable affair. The floor was in good order for dancing, and to first class music by Mr. Reichardt, dancing was kept up until two o'clock. That important adjunct, supper, was in capable hands, and the manner in which Messrs. Scott, Halford and McKenzie, attended to their branch of the business was highly satisfactory.

On Friday week a complimentary dance was held in the Bass Hall by the people of Woodleigh, the occasion being in honor of Mr. Thos. Duff, manager of the Woodleigh Butter Factory. About 40 couples assembled, and despite the boisterous weather, a jolly time was spent.

A concert of a very successful character was held at the Bass Hall on Friday, by the local school and their friends. Included in the proceedings was the "Maypole Dance," which was well executed and the performers highly applauded. The weather was averse to a large assemblage, but notwithstanding about 70 persons attended.

The next sitting of the Loch police court takes place on the 8th inst.

The Grantville footballers have been busy during the last week clearing their ground in anticipation of their match with Glen Alvie on Saturday.

The committee of the Grantville and Jeetho Agricultural Society met at the Grantville Hotel on the 29th ult. The report of the sub-committee on the repairing of the grounds was to the effect that the cost would be too great and that the funds would not warrant the work being done at present. The annual ball will be held on August 18.

A sale of Crown Lands will be held at Leongatha on Wednesday, 14th inst.

From the *Age*, Monday 8 November 1926

The Bass Valley **A Rich Tract Of Country** Fifty years of Development.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

Leaving the South Gippsland railway between Nyora and Loch, the Wonthaggi line for about 16 miles to Woolamai passes through the Bass Valley, a most fertile strip of river flat country, which embraces such fine districts as Woodleigh, Kernot, Almurta, Glen Forbes and Woolamai. Here there are farmers making comfortable livelihoods and adding materially to the wealth of the State.

A peculiar feature of this tract is that the bulk of the rich land is on the eastern side of the river, the western side being mostly steep banks of poor-quality soil, carrying messmate and stunted gum timber. Further to the east, between Woodleigh and Almurta, is the beautiful hill country, now mostly denuded of the huge blue gums and undergrowth which covered it less than twenty years ago.

Though what it has cost to develop this land cannot be reckoned in money, it is safe to say that, valuable as it is now, it would not show a profit but for the prodigious amount of labor expended and hardship entailed by the sturdy pioneers, both men and women, who were responsible for its transformation.

Around Woodleigh, some of the pick of the Bass Valley, the land is most beautifully grassed flats carrying English grasses and clovers. It is heavy stock-carrying country at any time, but this year the growth of grass is beyond all expectations, and stock is thriving in a remarkable manner. Given over principally to dairying, the Woodleigh district is in a flourishing state, and large consignments of milk and cream are forwarded daily to the city and to the district butter factories.

One of the finest properties in the district is that known as "Scotswood," where Mr. A. Schier has a stud of high-grade Ayrshire cattle. This property was originally selected more than 50 years ago by Mr. John Tulloch, who was the father of the Bass Valley (Wonthaggi) railway line, and who, upon the consummation of his work, had to sell out and seek health in Queensland.

Other pioneers who were confreres of Mr. Tulloch were Messrs. Alex. Biggar, Andrew Belfrage, M. McGrath, John Hayes, Arthur Ward and others, such as the Henrys, Michies, Lawrences, Urens and Thompsons,

who carved their way into the bush in the eighties. Mr. Hayes, who died only recently on his original selection, drove his first lot of cattle from Ballarat on foot.

Further on towards Kernot the valuable properties of Messrs. Stewart Bros., John Campbell and W. J. Craig are met, and bear outstanding testimony to the productiveness of the land. Messrs. Stewart Bros. have for years been successful raisers of fat stock, and bullocks grown on this property have always been noted for their quality. Mr. W. J. Craig, who is also a stock fattener, has a fine property close to Almurta railway station, mostly all river flat.

Mr. John Campbell has been succeeded by his son, who goes in for dairying on a large scale. As an illustration of what these flats are capable of, it may be mentioned that Mr. Campbell in 1909 won a competition conducted by the Grantville and Jeetho Agricultural Society for five acres of maize, which averaged over 9 feet high.

Near Glen Forbes the railway line passes through the well-improved properties of Messrs. J. Charlton, A. Eden, J. Caldwell and P. McGrath, and near Woolamai nice dairying properties are owned and controlled by Messrs. John Thorn and Titus Trewin.

A couple of miles away from the railway, on a good gravel road, is Bass, one of the earliest settled districts in Victoria, and which is named after the intrepid explorer who discovered Westernport Bay, the shores of which mark the western boundary of the district.

Here soldier settlement has increased the output of milk and cream to a big extent, where formerly only grazing was carried on. Two valuable properties – Harrison's Blackwood Park and Bass Park, owned by Mr. P. Kennedy – were acquired by the Closer Settlement Board and allotted to returned soldiers.

Bass Park was originally the home of the Penders, who were well known in racing and hunting circles in the seventies. Later Mr. James Munro, a former Premier of Victoria, acquired the property, after which it passed through many hands, until the march of

(continues on Page 9)

The Bass Valley (continued from Page 8)

progress demanded its present occupation.

Other districts that come within the province of the valley of the Bass, such as Grantville, Corinella and Fernhill, are given over to mixed farming and fruit growing, and in places near Corinella chicory is successfully grown. Grantville, once the trading town of the Bass Valley, has lost much of its prestige.

Up to 1910 it was the head quarters of the Grantville and Jeetho Agricultural Society, and on its picturesque little show ground on the banks of the creek near the township the society conducted one of the finest exhibitions of stock and produce then to be seen in Gippsland, exhibitors in the early days travelling their stock many miles by road from such distant places as Cranbourne, Berwick, Korumburra and Poowong.

This was in the early days of the society, before the railway was opened. Later, with the advent of societies at Korumburra, Leongatha and Lang Lang, the support dwindled to local patronage, which, after the construction of the Wonthaggi line and the development of other centres, was not sufficient to keep it going.

The municipal sale yards were also situated here, and at the monthly sales up to 1000 head of cattle were often yarded. To-day the stock business is distributed amongst the markets that are held at the railway towns of Dalyston and Almurta which are supported by the beautiful hill country around Glenalvie and Archie's Creek, and are attended by both Melbourne and other buyers.

The Bass Valley districts have many attractions that should appeal to motor tourists, especially now that good roads exist. Good fishing is to be had along the Bass River, and at spots in the vicinity of Woodleigh and Kernot splendid hauls of blackfish have been obtained at various time.

At Glen Forbes the road to Wonthaggi leads through a picturesque "gorge," and the road rises gradually to the summit at Glen Forbes South, where there is a beautiful panorama of coastal and inland scenery stretching from Capes Woolamai and Liptrap, in Bass Strait, and embracing Westernport Bay, with Phillip and French islands on the west.

**STOP that Cough with Tromax
White Pine and Tar. Get it at
McDougall's.**

From the *Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*,
Saturday, June 25, 1910

The Mine Ponies

Their Work And Stabling

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

The stables to accommodate the mine ponies are now almost completed, and have been erected on the most up-to-date plan. About 10 ponies are stabled at the present time, and it is intended to provide accommodation for another 20 – about 60 in all.

A separate stall is allotted to each pony, and each stall is provided with a trap-door and is blocked in such a manner as to carry off all water, etc. The stalls are ranged in rows of about 20, side by side, and a tram line is laid down between each section.

The lines run direct from the feed houses, and transverse the whole length of the stables. With such a convenience it is an easy matter to pay proper attention to feeding and mucking out.

Each stall is dusted with slack lime twice a day. This is done as a precaution against sickness as until quite recently there has been a mild epidemic amongst the ponies, but which has now been almost stamped out. The feed house, when completed, will be two storeys.

Provision has been made for a [unclear figure, perhaps 18] acre recreation paddock, the fencing in of which is to be at once proceeded with. All veterinary appliances are kept on hand, and two clipping machines are installed.

About 38 ponies are used in the mine when work is in full swing. At present the only ponies taken below are "novices," advantage being taken of the slack time to accustom them to the work. Each pony does an eight hours shift in the mine – eight hours on and 16 hours off. The stables are well ventilated and lighted.

It is intended to erect a concrete platform, so that as each pony arrives at the stable from the mine its legs will be hosed. Altogether, the ponies are well fed, groomed, and stabled, and are in tip top working condition.

Husband (looking over the household accounts): "What is this item of 15 shillings for overhead expenses?"

Wife: "Oh, thats a new umbrella I bought, dear. I left my old one on the bus."

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun*, 26 June 1941

From the *Argus*, Saturday 10 March 1888, page 5 and also the *Australasian*, Saturday 17 March 1888, page 11

Picturesque Victoria

Phillip Island

by Telemachus

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

There are three visits which must be made on Phillip Island—one to the Pyramid, already made, another to Cape Woolamai, and the third to the Nobbies, at the other end of the island. And all that is worth seeing is seen on the journeys these involve, for reaching the Pyramid its greatest breadth is crossed; it is indeed fairly divided by the Pyramid road, and the halves are bisected by the road to the capes. The hotels provide vehicles—stout and substantial waggonettes—with rather plough-horse cattle, for the roads are heavy in places, and the packing of the carriages when a big party proposes to move out is a work of art.

The Nobbies-road lies nearest to the western shore, skirting a fine round hill, the finest building site, I think, on the island where Mr. Richardson purposes to stay till he makes his last shift; and the township of Ventnor, which at present is nothing but a pleasant valley by the sea. Some wretched people have, I believe, been planning a township down there, with every acre subdivided into eight blocks, and streets and lanes laid out, and an evident intent to have a Prahlan-like slum or suburb there. I do not think they succeeded very well. I hope they never will succeed. I think it should be enacted by law that outside the township of Cowes, and of Newhaven, perhaps, a less quantity of land than five acres should never be sold. One might imagine that nobody would be so foolish as to buy a quarter of an acre in such a place as Phillip Island, but it is hard to set a bound to the possible limits of human folly in the way of land speculation.

When the racket was at its height in New South Wales (and if that is regarded as fever heat in suburban and rural blocks, we are yet at a normal temperature), I rode out once to the Nepean Waterworks, and five and twenty miles from the city we came on a sale board and evident alignment of pegs in the middle of a box forest. No fair prospect around, no sea or mountainview, no railway station within eight miles.

“What is it?” I asked, and got the reply, “Suburban extension; they tried a sale here last week.”

“And was anything sold?”

“Oh, yes, a good many lots, but the prices did not get over 2s. 6d. per foot, the depth was small, you see, not more than 120ft.”

A depth of 120ft, and 25 miles from town, who but a maniac would think of making such a purchase? There is room, perhaps, for a half-dozen more places at Ventnor, but nobody desires or requires a town there to-day.

The free, open, breezy character of the place seems one of its chief delights. There is no forest; only a few stunted gums and honeysuckles, with the ti-tree in the hollows, making pleasant cover for the rabbits and hares, and the deer, which they say still remain, but are not easily seen. We mistook many dead boughs amongst the bushes for antler tips, but saw never a burst through the scrub. Yet accessible game was seen in one spot which is known as the Green Lake. It is in appearance more of a swamp than a lake, and is better described perhaps as a long serpentine lagoon, lying amongst low hills a half-mile from the Nobbies-road.

A little money has been expended in building a dam, but something more is required in this way if it is seriously proposed to store large quantities of water. There are fine opportunities. The judicious expenditure of £1,000 would create, probably, a large and permanent freshwater lake.

There is deep water now along the centre of the Serpentine Channel, and innumerable ducks and teal swimming there, not easily scared apparently, and within easy shooting distance. I do not understand how it is they were not scared away years ago, and if this betrayal of their breeding place should bring down on them an army of Cockney sportsmen, the lamentations and condemnations of all my feathered friends will fall heavily on my head.

But we are nearing “The Nobbies,” another name which has at least one unfortunate repetition on the coast. Mariners will never recognise but one Australian headland as the Nobbies, and that is at Newcastle, New South Wales. These hillocks beyond the Cape are appropriately named, of course. There is no difficulty in understanding the reason why. They are actual knobs of land left in

(continues on Page 11)

Picturesque Victoria (continued from Page 10)

the deep water, rounded hummocks with water-worn sides and grass covered caps—remnants of a long unbroken cape, which in some remote eld stretched far out into the sailless seas. They are seen now distinct and apart, and apparently of another order of formation, just beyond the mainland, and we approach them under somewhat peculiar circumstances.

A day or two since a fire swept over the whole breadth of the inland cape, and left it black and bare and permanently blasted, it might well be supposed. For there is no timber growth out here, and the innumerable charred tussocks are like hearse plumes.

Wherever the shore is seen the rocks are black, and the whole surface of the sea is blackening, for the morning, which had broken sultry and close, the last of three days of northerly weather, is about to be purged with a “buster.” There is an ominous blackness out on the horizon, a moan rather than a roar in the waves that surge about the caves. Two big steamships making down the coast coal-up and head-out a bit to get a safe offing. There is a blow coming and rain with it probably, and the cape is bleak in a southerly, and bad for picnicking.

But the waves that even the coming of the wind seems to move, marvellously increase all the glory of the coastline, and looking eastward there is a half mile of coast-line where rocks seem set as for torment far out in the waves. A dozen miniature [*sic*] capes of basalt running out from the cliff-face, washed, and frayed, and torn, and carved into innumerable fantastic forms. The indigo waves roll up to their outer feet now, and break sullenly, and leap aloft in sheets of foam. In a quarter of an hour they will be coming in like squadrons at a charge, created ridge upon ridge.

The big steamships are almost hidden in their own smoke-clouds now, for the gale has not yet reached them. Inside their track a flock of mutton birds is seen skimming the water in swift methodical flight. The mutton birds make their home on these rocks, but will have nought to do with any rock that is attached to the mainland.

Penguins come here, too. The Nobby Cape, indeed, seems to be a natural home of the penguin. Poor innocent harmless creatures, almost as foolish in their habits as the ostrich in his notions of concealment. They scratch out little holes beneath the tussocks or lumps of cushion bush, and roost and lay

their eggs and incubate there, visible at times, and accessible to any cur or biped of currish instincts desirous of adding to his day's outing a little zest of slaughter. It is pitiful to see the numbers of these poor creatures lying dead about the cape and the rocks; killed wantonly, ruthlessly, savagely dragged out of their holes and clubbed or hunted to death, just for “sport's sake.” I wish some sportsman, who is also a gentleman and a bit of a Christian and nature-worshipper also, would write a little book on “What is sport and what is not.” It might do good in the world. Particularly if legislators would take it as an axiom that slaughter which is not sport is crime, and should be punished accordingly.

But what hypocrites we are in this way. It seems to me now a sin to be punished with stripes for any man to pull a penguin out of its nest, and laugh while a dog ravel out its entrails, and I believe that my instincts in that matter are right; yet I can join the clergyman down below in murder of another sort without any feeling of disgust or prick of conscience.

There are anemones down on the rocks there, tens of thousands of them visible at low tide, but they are fast shut up, and we desire to see them open. Do you know how to persuade a sea anemone to open himself? Take a stout knife and detach a limpet from the rocks, cut him out of his shell—never mind his squirming, he cannot shriek or yell. Take his little bit of writhing substance in your finger and thumb and place it fairly on an anemone's nose. Stand away then for a moment, and let him get the smell.

He is a hungry creature—greedy, indeed. He begins to open, he discloses all his glorious gorge of mouth and throat, enfolds his victim in his beautiful arms, and suck him down. And then your sport and reward begin. The whole tribe of anemones have smelled and would be fed. You may work away at your limpets if you will, and they will take them from you eagerly and quickly as pigeons take barley-corns.

But the storm is up now, and the anemones are quickly buried in foam. The smoke canopy is torn away from the ships, and they begin to pitch through the white water—big combers come right up on the seal rocks, and strike the outer Nobby with hammer-like blows.

The Blowhole (it is but a cavern, no orifice on the cliff serving as a trumpet), answers to each shock with a hollow roar, and the drift wood fire roars furiously around the billy

(continues on Page 12)

Picturesque Victoria (continued from Page 11)

in the shelter of ten thousand-ton blocks of basalt. The rain comes with a hiss, but the projecting basalt shelters us, and appetite is very keen, and picnic fare very good, only the driver is concerned a bit about the poor beggars of horses tied to their nosebags amongst the burnt tussocks a-top of the cliff. We reach them all right, however, and they warm themselves rattling home, but it should be said that a storm at the Nobbies is not an ordinary or even a frequent event.

Thirty-nine days out of forty a picnic party might go down in the morning and feed anemones and gather shells and look at the penguins and listen to the Blowhole till evening, and then drive home in a mellow twilight without a fear of any chill. I stayed for a moment on the cliff, and faced round at the fury of the storm. It was to notice a black channel between the two outer Nobbies—not more than fifty fathoms broad and about a third of a mile from the shore. It has an historic interest.

On a wild day, of a bygone year, a Green's ship was beating off this coast, and had got in far too close for safety. She would certainly indeed have left her bones on the rocks but for the pluck and luck of her skipper. He could not clear the outer rock, and seeing the narrow channel of apparent bold water, through which, however, no ship had ever sailed before, sent her at it, his own hand on the wheel, and every man on board waiting for the shock. But she found 20 fathoms of water beneath her, and came through gallantly into the open bight beyond, and got about there, and made out to a fair offing and up to Sydney. Mr. McHaffie watched the passage from the cliffs. Mr. McHaffie was squatter king, reigning alone here in early days

"Shall we drive down to the old homestead? It is near to the sea."

We did, and chanced on one of the patches of Australian pathos there, which like the true Australian poetry, are happened on in strange places. The old homestead, lies near to the sea, in a sheltered hollow. Pines have been set all about it, and without the pines sheoaks, and the wail of the one answers the sigh of the other now, and their shed needles mat all the ground beneath; a double row of yuccas within the pines, and the remains of lawns and flower beds and arbours and grottoes. Remains, also, of a fair old home of the old colonial sort, a long verandahed front, with a score of doors opening into as many rooms;

remains of an aviary in one corner, of a fernery in another, remains, indeed, everywhere of a beautiful, cultured, artistic, secluded life; remains, relics, nothing but relics, the ruins of the old order which, so far as our colony is concerned, has utterly passed away. It has all been lived through here. There is the old woolshed and the mustering yards and the stables.

Squatters of the Geoffrey Hamlyn sort used to sit here under the verandah; good sort [*sic*] of people from town would come out and stay with them a while. A good lady, still resident in the district, but not in the island, tells me tales of a long ago when the worthy old Baron, who has reigned so long over our botanical departments, was very much down at that homestead on the island, and not on matters of purely scientific research. The garden was all fairly ordered then. It seems almost like resurrectionist work to try to re-people it now, to bring back the living and the dead, and imagine them there as they used to be.

"All scattered now and fled;

Some are married, some are dead."

So the oaks seem to say in their wailing, and the sea makes answer to them lapping on the shelly beach yonder. The old order has to change, of course, but I cannot see that any good whatever was wrought by the change which ruined the occupation of the one squatter of Phillip Island. The land was given up to selectors first, and their huts remain, and their tumble down fences and the thistle covered fields. They came and went labouring much in vain, and making little profit for themselves or others, and the estate which was divided amongst them is again being consolidated by two proprietors, one of whom is well known in connection with sport, while the other is not renowned for liberality or public spirit.

It seems to me that the bulk of the island will never do more than keep 20,000 sheep and serve as a sanatorium for the city, and that farming, except on a few exceptional patches, is folly and madness. It seems to me, also, that those in whose hands the disposal of the public lands and the settling of the people were placed should have seen this a quarter of a century ago. But it is a melancholy fact that nobody seems to have seen or heeded the order of our land settlement, that the most important, perhaps, of all our foundational concerns has been allowed throughout

(continues on Page 13)

Picturesque Victoria (continued from Page 12)

Australian history to run absolutely “amuck.”

There is a house of another sort on the other side of the island—Woollomai-house to wit, the residence of Mr. John Cleeland, proprietor for many years of one of our good old Melbourne hostels, and winner of a Melbourne Cup with his horse Woollomai some 13 years ago. We can get round to that house and to the cape beyond by the road across the other half of the island, or by the good little boat Vixen, running round to Griffith’s Point, and calling at need at Rhyll and Newhaven.

Griffith’s Point, another aspiring watering place, is the cape of the mainland opposite Woollomai. It is the central township of the shire, the seat of government, indeed, and backed up by a good fattening and agricultural country, may become a village of some importance.

Rhyll and Newhaven have also promise of a prosperous future, and have already suffered some assaillment from the minute subdividers. They lie pleasantly to the sea, are backed up by good sound building country, good enough for gardens and orchards, and healthy in all seasons of the year.

Woollomai, the cape, is high and bold and bleak, and practically cut off from the island by a sandy isthmus, across which travelling can never be very easy. As many another true lover of all sorts of good sport, I can never get away from the memory of that brave racehorse when standing by or thinking about that Woollomai Cape. Over there on the long sandy beach he was trained, pacing up and down, and listening on windy mornings to the roar of the waves, little thinking, probably, of that other roar which should one day greet him when the wave face on the Hill flashed round on his turn into the straight, and the ever increasing shout swelled to his single name.

Another place of interest on that coast is Churchill Island, but this is not a public resort. Mr Alderman Amess secured Churchill Island all to himself, and has fixed his residence there, and lives a fine, free, hospitable life in as pleasant and healthful a situation as could be found in the world. The tide races past him down the eastern channel, fresh breezes from the ocean and the shore bring him perpetual instalments of health, and no matter from what quarter a too fierce wind may come, one side of his island estate will always be sheltered. Only I should imagine if ever the Russians should come these island

homes would be at a discount.

Visitors to the island will be content to gather shells at Woollomai, and to return to Cowes by coach or boat, and it will be many years to come probably before many folks take to picnicking or the establishment of summer residences on the eastern mainland, though to the sportsman by sea or shore there is much to observe there. Good bold water for sailing, and in the Powlett and Bass rivers abundant fishing and shooting, Gippsland mountains also rising inland, and practically unlimited scope for enterprise and adventure of the usual Australian sort. Far up at the head of the bay there is also the scene of a great enterprise of a near future in the draining of the vast Koo-wee-rup Swamp. Its turgid waters creep down the sluggish river now, some day they may be drawn off by a broad and deep canal, up which fishermen may sail or “pole,” amongst rich fenland farms, and as busy and prosperous a patch of agriculture as the colony will know. But that, like the Isle of Wight towns, on the old Phillip Island, is amongst the things of the future.

There is little to take any adventurer up into that extensive bight of the port now. He may be very well content to take departure, and say farewell at Cowes, and steam away to Hastings by the sea-grass meadows, with flocks of black swan feeding, and up the deep blue channels with the porpoises following and rollicking about the bows, and to pass between the nets of the fishermen, catching with scraps of practical fisher talk, hints of “marvellous manifestations” and “wonderful outpourings,” and other wild talk peculiar to consecrated cobblers and converted fisher folk. He will have to hang about Hastings from half to three-quarters of an hour waiting the convenience of the coach people, and will be lucky, having arrived at the wharf at eleven, if he catches the half-past three train at Frankston, fifteen miles away.



Sketch of Cape Woolamai. From the *Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers*, Monday 1 January 1872, page 13.

Grantville's First School

Here? There? Somewhere?

Interrogating the Sources

by

Geoffrey Guilfoyle

Imagine you are doing historical research in the 1960s and 1970s. A few of you won't need to stretch your imaginations far, having been in exactly this position. For those born after, say, 1995, it is an exercise in incomprehension. No scanning, digital photography, personal computers, electronic databases or Internet. Photocopying was sometimes available, but mostly the researcher took hand-written notes. As for the sources themselves...paper, usually hand-written, often barely legible, and scattered over a dozen locations, some even interstate or overseas. That's assuming the researcher actually knew of the existence of this information.

This perfectly describes the conditions local historian Joseph White worked under when putting together his ground-breaking book, *100 Years of History* [Shire of Bass, 1974].

However, fifty years on and the book, despite still being the first reference turned to by the local researcher, should be used very sparingly as a source. It isn't that the primary source material is now more abundant; it is simply much more accessible. If White were writing it today his would be a very different – and much longer and more accurate – book. That said, White did enjoy an advantage not available now: the cooperation of the Shire of Bass and, supposedly, the Shire of Phillip Island.

The subject of the first school at Grantville shows White at his most authoritative. From *100 Years of History*, page 107:

On the 4th March 1872 Alexander Stewart, a sawmiller, wrote to the Minister of Education to inform him that the residents of Grantville district had decided to establish a school and asked that a teacher's "form of agreement" and general regulations be sent to him.

In April of the same year an Inspector visited the district and gave a very favourable report in which he recommended that a school be established. A Mr. Brandwick was the proposed teacher and he (Mr. Brandwick) had also offered to erect a school room 18'x14'x10'.

An application was made out and signed by Alexander Stewart, George B. Miskins, James Wilkie, William Dunn, Palmer and Males (the latter signed their names with a cross) and forwarded to the Education Department.

The building for the proposed school was erected on Mr. Brandwick's Selection, Crown Allotment 176B Parish of Corinella and was known as Deep Creek Non Vested Rural School No. 120.

In constructing the school room the builders used the method used by selectors, vertical slab walls, shingle roof, gaps in the wall plastered with mud and earthen floor. A wooden chimney was also provided.

School was opened for the first time in Grantville in this building on 14th February 1873 with Mr. Brandwick as teacher. Seven days later the teacher resigned and left the district. Before leaving he sold part of his selection to a Mr. Monk – the part sold included the school building.

Mr. Monk indicated that he was willing to allow the school to carry on. To investigate the complaints Inspector Craig visited the district and in his report dated 30-4-73 found that the present building was not satisfactory and could not be used until a more suitable building was provided. He recommended that a new school be built to the south of the township, on Allot 9 which he stated was furthest from the pier.

Owing to the closing of the school he found that there were now 27 children of school age who were without instruction. Their names were Margaret Stewart, William Stewart, Elizabeth Stewart, Alexander Stewart, Anne Stewart, Anne Wilkie, Alfred Wilkie, May Wilkie, Sarah Wilkie, Ann Palmer, James Palmer, Celia Palmer, Arthur Law, Margaret Law, Elizabeth Law, Kate Pickersgill, Patrick Edwards, Sarah Edwards, Elizabeth Edwards, Edward Hades, Jessie Hades, Jane Dunn, Flora Maccasslaws, Billie Maccasslaws, Joseph Merkins, George Merkins, Emily Buttons.

The teacher could board with Alexander Stewart for the sum of 12/- per week. Rural school No. 120 re-opened January 6th 1874 with Mr. E. McKay as teacher. In a brief time the Education Department took over this school, which then became Grantville State School No. 1414.

Those of you familiar with the book will appreciate that this is unusually detailed. White was clearly using documents either

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Grantville's First School (continued from Page 14)

obtained from the Public Records Office or provided to him by the Shire of Bass, on whose behest he was writing the history. Add in a little bit of guesswork to fill in the gaps in the documentation and (despite the misspelling of Brandrick's surname) you have a coherent and, as far as the sources allow, accurate timeline of events.

As far as the sources allow.

Joseph White was clearly not aware of the Brandrick vs. Johnson libel trial, or if he was, didn't have access to the newspapers which reported it. While the exact circumstances leading to the trial aren't directly relevant to this article, the statements made by William and Elizabeth Brandrick and other witnesses are. These quotes are taken from the *Argus*, 25 November 1875, page 6.

William Baker Brandrick: *I went to Grantville on the 4th March, 1872. I rented the school, Albert-building, from Mr. Baldwin. I carried on the school until 14th February, 1873. The average attendance was 18 or 19. I got notice to quit the building on the 19th January, 1873. The property had been sold. Whilst in Grantville I selected 86 acres, and built a house...*

Elizabeth Brandrick, examined by Mr. MacFarland, deposed: *I am wife of the plaintiff. My husband went to Grantville as schoolmaster about March, 1872. I went there about 1st June. I lived with him until he left. He left Grantville finally in April, 1873. From June, 1872, I assisted in the management of the school. The schoolhouse was not far from the creek bridge...*

As you can see, the White and *Argus* accounts clash on nearly every point. Can they be reconciled?

Joseph White: *On the 4th March 1872 Alexander Stewart, a sawmiller, wrote to the Minister of Education to inform him that the residents of Grantville district had decided to establish a school...*

William Brandrick: *I went to Grantville on the 4th March, 1872.*

Joseph White: *In April of the same year an Inspector visited the district and gave a very favourable report in which he recommended that a school be established.*

Elizabeth Brandrick: *My husband went to Grantville as schoolmaster about March, 1872. I went there about 1st June.*

Joseph White: *A Mr. Brandwick was the proposed teacher and he (Mr. Brandwick) had also offered to erect a school room 18'x14'x10'... The building for the proposed school was erected*

on Mr. Brandwick's selection, Crown Allot 176B...

William Brandrick: *I rented the school, Albert-building, from Mr. Baldwin.*

Joseph White: *School was opened for the first time in Grantville in this building on 14th February 1873 with Mr. Brandwick as teacher. Seven days later the teacher resigned...*

William Brandrick: *I carried on the school until 14th February, 1873...*

Joseph White: *Before leaving he sold part of his selection to a Mr. Monk – the part sold included the school building.*

William Brandrick: *I got notice to quit the building on the 19th January, 1873. The property had been sold.*

Additionally...

From the *Argus* 25 November 1875 in which James Bothwell took the stand:

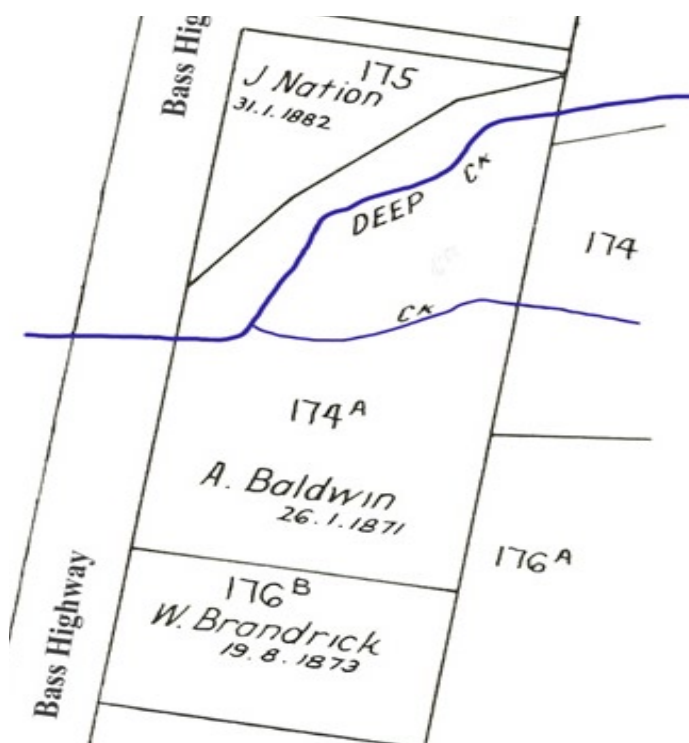
I went to plaintiff's school from August, 1872, to February, 1873.

And finally, from the *Argus* 26 November 1875, in which Alexander Stewart under cross-examination offers the following:

In 1872 I was a correspondent of the school there. I have lived at Western Port for the last 10 years. I first knew plaintiff as teacher of the school in 1872. My daughter Elizabeth Jane attended the school. She was then nine years of age. She is now 12. In consequence of something I heard, I made inquiries of other parents early in 1873, about February, I think.

So, no, the accounts can't be harmonised Brandrick doesn't seem to have bought 176B

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Grantville's First School (continued from Page 15)

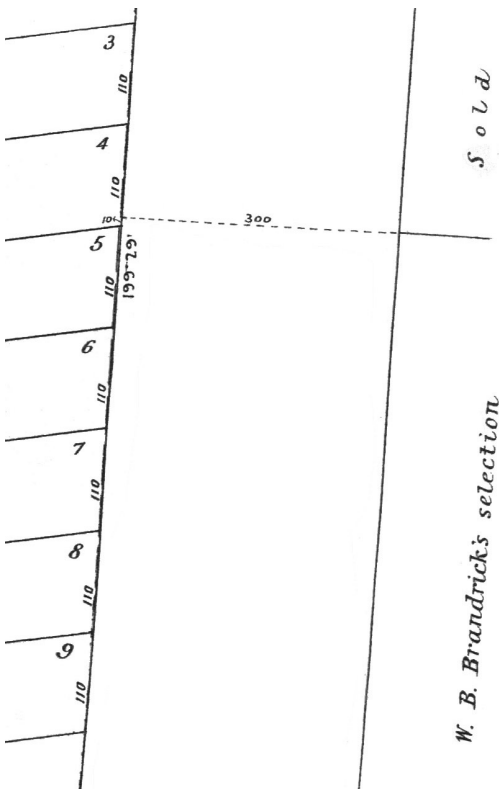
until 19 August 1873 – which is somewhat at odds with Elizabeth Brandrick’s assertion that her husband had left Grantville in April of that year – nor is it clear *if* (not when) John Monk purchased the land claimed by White. He did purchase Lot 174 which was next to Baldwin’s Lot 174A and close to Brandrick’s 176B. It is unclear when this purchase took place.

Noticeably, William and Elizabeth vary in their respective accounts about the reason for his (William’s) arrival at Grantville. He, unspecified; she, he came as schoolteacher.

Brandrick’s version receives support from the 1972 original G198 L4469 Colbert chart (see below). Although it lacks the details in the 1876 updated version, this map dates to, at the latest, September 1872.

In his testimony at the libel trial, Brandrick stated: *Whilst in Grantville I selected 86 acres, and built a house...*

G198 confirms that 176B was part of this 86 acres. It is likely, the land being located in central Grantville, this is where he built the house mentioned, and with a suitable building being available one block over (174A), that’s where he started the school rather than on 176B as White states.



Source: G/198 L4469. Survey by Edmund Colbert. Town of Grantville, Parish of Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material]. Carries the notation *Photolithographed at the Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, by J. Noone. 21st Sept. 1872* but potentially drawn much earlier in the year.

However, G198 also shows Lot 174A as sold a minimum four months before Brandrick says he received notice to quit by the new, unfortunately unnamed, owner. Brandrick doesn’t state when the land was sold, only the date of notice to quit, so presumably the new owner allowed the school to continue for a number of months before deciding that he (or she) wanted to make use of the land.

According to White...

Mr. Monk indicated that he was willing to allow the school to carry on. To investigate the complaints Inspector Craig visited the district and in his report dated 30-4-73 found that the present building was not satisfactory and could not be used until a more suitable building was provided. He recommended that a new school be built to the south of the township, on Allot 9 which he stated was furthest from the pier.

Could it have been Monk who purchased 174A and allowed the school to continue until, as Brandrick claimed, January 1873?

In his account, White implies that the school continued after February 1873 thanks to Monk and was ongoing when Craig visited and condemned the building, though no teacher is mentioned. However, he doesn’t specifically say so, and it is clear that the school closed with the resignation of Brandrick and that the building condemned by Craig had stood unused since February.

The teacher could board with Alexander Stewart for the sum of 12/- per week. Rural school No. 120 re-opened January 6th 1874 with Mr. E. McKay as teacher. In a brief time the Education Department took over this school, which then became Grantville State School No. 1414.

White doesn’t say it but this has to have been on Lot 10 in Section A.

There is a further problem here that White, who must surely have been aware of it, ignores. When the land in Section A of Deep Creek was put up for sale in February 1873, a certain E. Mackay bought Lot 5. In *100 Years of History* (page 31-32) White even labels him as “E. McKay, school teacher.”

Though Stewart’s offer of board is probably genuine – another example of him squeezing as much money out of an opportune circumstance as he could – McKay (Mackay) would not have needed to take up the offer. Even if he had no house on his land, which was just five lots from the school, it would have been cheaper to build one than to meet Stewart’s exorbitant demand.

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Grantville's First School (continued from Page 16)

Where To Now?

One line of further inquiry is to revisit White's sources. The Public Records Office, which has much of the correspondence regarding the schools at Grantville and in the district, doesn't seem to have material earlier than 1878.*

Whether White's material came from either the Shire of Bass or the Shire of Phillip Island, or was held by the Public Records Office, it appears to have been lost sometime in the last 50 years.

The booklet, *Grantville School 1874-1974* (a publication put out by the Grantville School Committee as part of Grantville's centenary celebrations), even though it came out before *100 Years of History*, somewhat follows Joseph White who was an adviser to the committee. Its claims will be examined – briefly, I promise – later.

The August 18 and 25 1977 edition of *The West Gippslander* features an article by John Wells. Wells, the son of a former teacher at the school in the 1940s and a teacher there himself at the time he wrote the article, adds a few interesting (and mostly incorrect) snippets not related to the location of the school but otherwise follows White closely.

A reference in the *Victorian Government Gazette* [see below], namely in Application 208 for financial aid for rural schools, while helpful, doesn't settle the matter. It was received in March and passed on to the

AID TO RURAL OR HALF-TIME SCHOOLS.

THE Board of Education hereby notify that they have received applications for aid to New Schools in the undermentioned localities, under the provisions of the Rules for the distribution of a Special Vote of Parliament for Schools in sparsely populated districts, where the average attendance of twenty children required by the Common Schools Act cannot be maintained. The applications have been referred to the proper officers for report:—

No. of Application.	Name of Locality.	Name of Applicant or proposed Correspondent.
199	Moolort	James McLay.
200	Clydebank	E. Davies.
201	Fern Tree Gully	J. T. Dobson.
202	Purdeet East	J. Williams.
203	Mount Cole Creek	J. McL. Dalling.
204	Lady Gully	William Lewis.
205	Wurruk-wurruk	W. Gibbs and others.
206	Yankee Creek	H. S. Russell.
207	Drung-drung	T. Meyer.
208	Deep Creek	A. F. Stewart.
209	Hanson	John Bryson.

(By Order of the Board of Education)

B. F. KANE,
Secretary,

Education Office,
Melbourne, 15th March 1872.

From the *Victorian Government Gazette* No.16, 15 March 1872, page 573; No.18 22 March 1872, page 612; No.20, 5 April 1872, page 681 and No.21, 12 April 1872, page 713.

* Central Inward Primary Schools, School Number 1414, 1878-1882 Correspondence. VPRS 640 P0000 Unit 966

“proper officers” to report on, which was done, according to White, in April.

This fits Joseph White's account on how the school came about but answers none of the later questions, including why it took ten months after approval for the school to (in White's account) hold its first class.

Nor does it invalidate William Brandrick's retelling if you have Brandrick arriving as a settler at that time rather than specifically as a teacher. Nor was Brandrick new to Grantville, having held, probably *in absentia* (with, perhaps, and extended visit to the area), two speculative mineral leases (No. 181 & 182) on the Hurdy Gurdy cattle run in 1868 [*Vic. Gov. Gazette* No.105]. Though they came to nothing, being extinguished the following year, it gives Brandrick an early tie to the area.

But what about Joseph White's description of the schoolhouse and its construction? There are two possible explanations.

Brandrick offered to erect a building and supplied a plan but then was able to rent a suitable structure on Baldwin's block next door and thus the construction didn't go ahead. The second and more likely reason will be discussed later.

Fifty years on, it is impossible to untangle White's sources and he, of course, frustratingly, provides none.

Grantville School 1874-1974

This 16-page booklet has this to say about the first school:

We are celebrating just now the Centenary of this State School, but an unadopted Rural School had been started at Deep Creek, now Grantville, two years earlier. Alexander Stewart, who had five children and had been a well-educated man himself, led the local people in this, and we find that on the day he wrote a letter to the Education Department requesting an “official” school, he and others had opened for teaching, a hut (14'1 X 14) built by W. B. Brandrick on his own selection, and Mr. Brandrick became the first teacher. Before a year was by, local gossip was strong about aspects of his behaviour: it was not laid to rest when he promptly resigned and disappeared. A Mr. Monk purchased the building and, though he offered another in its place, there was no school at Deep Creek until the 6th. of January 1884.

The school re-opened on that date in the original building, now called “Monks”, but was referred to by the Educ. Dept. as Deep Creek Rural School. The new teacher, Ebenezer Mackay, had been officially appointed by the department, but the official number 1414 was not attached till a little later. The building

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Grantville's First School (continued from Page 17)

was on the south bank of the creek itself, and east of what is now the main road. A school committee had been formed, with William Dunn as Correspondent with the Education authority.

The first "official" pupils were:—

Margaret, William, Elizabeth, Alexander and Ann Stewart; Ann, Alfred, May and Sarah Wilkie; Ann, James and Celia Palmer; Arthur, Margaret and Elizabeth Law; Kate Pickersgill; Patrick, Sarah and Elizabeth Edwards; Edward and Jessie Hades; Jane Dunn; Flora MacCarshans; Billie MacCasslaws; Joseph and George Milkins; Emily Buttons.

The building was very rough; draughty and not fully rainproof. The floor was trodden earth. There were no proper desks or seats; no blackboards; no maps, textbooks, paper or pens. The children sat on rough planks and used slates with slate pencils.

But in September 1875 Charles A. Topp was sent down to inspect the school and immediately recommended the erection of a new school-building. He also gave an urgent call for furniture which was sent from Melbourne by sea. In the middle of 1876 an unpainted, portable school building arrived by the same route, on the schooner "Clara". School re-opened in this on the 1st. August: even then the Teacher, John Scott, had neither a desk for himself nor an easel for the blackboard.

It having been condemned in April 1873 by the education department, the school could not have re-opened in the original building, nor could it have been on either Lot 174A or 176B. The new owner of 174A had already given notice to quit in January 1873 and Brandrick, now absentee owner of 176B, was likely leasing out the house and land, and by 1875 had sold all his holdings in the shire. The re-opened school did so on the block recommended by Craig in his April 1873 report (mistakenly labelled Allotment 9, not 10 to which it obviously refers). It is not clear that Mackay was officially appointed by the department. Would not this imply that it was now a Government State school, which it doesn't seem to have been until late 1876 or 1877? *Grantville School 1874-1974* also adopts a very vague timeline, even allowing for that 6th January 1884 date which is clearly a typo which escaped proof-reading.

It is the differences with White's account (and remember, White was an adviser to the committee that put the booklet together) that are most instructive. The mention of William Dunn and Charles Topp, for instance, and the variance in spelling of the children's names. They also spell Brandrick correctly.

This section of the booklet can, however, I think, be dismissed without further comment.

After Brandrick

Joseph White in *100 Years of History* continues the story from the transition from the initial edifices to the establishment of the third school building.

For the sake of completion I reproduce it here without endorsing its accuracy; indeed, I will point out numerous problems with it:

The Education Department had previously decided to act on Mr. Craig's report and a reserve for school purposes of 3 acres 2 perches was vested in the Minister of Public Instruction see Gazette 73/1317. Town of Grantville, Parish of Corinella commencing at South East corner of Allot 9, sect. A bounded by that allotment bearing N. 81° 25' W.

White's reference to No.73, page 1317 of the *Victorian Government Gazette*, should be No. 56, page 1317. This is another example of White's poor transcription and proof-reading skills. Here are the measurements from the actual 25 July 1873 source:

GRANTVILLE (DEEP CREEK)—Site for State School purposes, vested in the Minister of Public Instruction.—Three acres two perches, county of Mornington, town of Grantville: Commencing at the south-east angle of allotment 9 of section A; bounded thence by that allotment bearing N. 81° 25' W. ten chains twenty-four links; thence by lines bearing respectively S. 19° 29' W. three chains and N. 81° 25' E. ten chains twenty-four links; and thence by the road from Corinella to Melbourne bearing N. 19° 29' E. three chains to the commencing point.—(73.K.8982.)

Allotments 1-9 are all slightly less than one acres as shown on Department of Lands and Survey maps C246C and the G198 series; Allotment 10 is the requisite three acres and two perches, and it is shown as the site of the land reserved for the school on C246C, the G198 series and other maps.

Mr. J. R. Ulyett took over from Mr. McKay as teacher on 12th January 1875 followed by Edward Thomas Wall on June 6th 1875. By this time the Board of Advice was very critical concerning the state of the school. It was so bad the board would not compel parents to send their children to school. So bitter were the complaints that the school was closed and later re-opened again with J. T. Scott as teacher on 10th April 1876. The Department at this stage decided to build a new school – a portable type – and tenders were invited for the carriage of the materials. Captain McLachlan, captain of "Clara" won the tender submitting a price of £20. The materials came from Treiby's Yard, Spencer Street, Melbourne. Tenders were next invited for the erection of S.S. No. 1414 on 27th June 1876.

There was no 27th June 1876 edition of the *Victorian Government Gazette*, nor does the invitation for tenders to erect the school appear in the two additions either side of it (24 June and 30 June).

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John Monk tendered £27-10-0 (Grantville).
Henry Rowland, Grantville tendered £32-10-0.
Patrick Lyons, Grantville tendered £30-0-0.
H. Maxwell, St. Kilda tendered £39-0-0.

These tenders were considered too high by the Department and a team of men were sent from Woodlueen Creek to erect the school with Mr. Harding as clerk of works. The certificate of completion was issued August 1st 1876. Mr. Scott immediately occupied the new school room and commenced duty. Miss J. Henderson was next teacher in 1880.

The Victorian Government Gazette No.58 (see below) has Treeby winning the tender for providing material for the school on **18 August** 1876. Yet White has the material transported by McLachlan, erected, and the school certified and open for business on **1 August**.

From issues 1 to 96, which cover the entire year of 1876, and issue 1 to 43 of 1877, the Victorian Government Gazette's "contracts" and "tenders" sections contain no mention of the school other than the Treeby contract.

Additionally, according to the previously mentioned 1878-1882 correspondence held by the Public Records office (VPRS 640 P0000 Unit 966) Janet Henderson took over from John Scott in August 1878 and not 1880. Curiously, the Grantville School 1874-1974 booklet on which, again let me remind you, White was an adviser, has Henderson starting in 1879. White has Thomas Wall taking over from Ulyett; the booklet has Edward Wade doing so.

Given the working conditions and a poor salary further reduced by, in most cases, the need to rent accommodation, it isn't surprising that the school had three, four or five teachers during the period (as stated by Joseph White) 6 January 1874 to 10

April 1876; the names given in the secondary sources being Ebenezer McKay, Ben Langford, J. R. Ulyett or Ulyett, and Edward Thomas Wall or Edward Wade. Only Grantville School 1874-1974 lists Langford and Wall and Wade are probably the same individual...probably.

The actual starting and finishing dates of these teachers provided by White, although they look as if they came from a Public Records Office document, didn't given that he gets Henderson and Scott's dates wrong, and therefore cannot be trusted.

Most interesting of all is the map on page 15 of the booklet showing the locations of the various schools. Grantville School 1874-1974 places Brandrick's Deep Creek school on Baldwin's Lot 174A. Maybe the other members of the committee knew something Joseph White didn't.

A line in the Leader (19 September 1874, page 20: Western Port) at least indicates that the school was now on the land recommended for reservation by Craig, and very visible near the road:

We have already arrived at such a state of dignity and populous power, that the State school of Grantville stands proudly on an elevated position commanding the main road, and the nucleus of a flourishing township already exists.

But was it a State school at this stage, or did the author just make the assumption?

That Treeby's winning tender (below left) doesn't come with a school number, unlike other entries, indicates that in August 1876 it was still a non-government establishment.

Here is my timeline based on what the evidence points to. Unless it is absolutely clear that White is using official documents as his source, the Brandrick's account will be given preference:

The first school at Grantville was a non-government one, probably called Deep Creek Non Vested Rural School No.120.* Classes were held in a single-roomed existing structure close to Deep Creek on Albert Baldwin's 174A.

It came about when Alexander Stewart, a resident of the area, wrote to the Minister of Education on 4 March 1872 informing him of the need for a school. In April a Department of Education inspector visited the area and approved the establishment of a school.

The first teacher was William Brandrick, who arrived in Grantville as a settler in March 1872, and who had a level of education and/or background

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* Non-vested schools were those whose property and control were in the hands of various church groups and/or private individuals, that is, not vested in the Board of Education.

CONTRACTS ACCEPTED.—(Series 1876-77.)

Serial No.	Purpose, No. of Tenders, and particulars of Contract.	Amount.	Name for Approval.
	RAILWAYS—	£ s. d.	
672	Supply of 144 railway carriage kerosene lamps, at £4 5s. each	612 0 0	Henkel and Paterson ¹ V
673	(4)—Supply of 25 tons best mutton tallow, for Victorian Railways, at £38 2s. 4d. per ton	952 18 4	Thomas Miles ¹ ... D
	SCHOOLS—		
674	(6)—Repairs to teacher's residence, Carngham, 146	84 17 9	John Armstrong ¹ ...
675	(4)—Repairs to school and teacher's residence, Illabrook, 722	88 10 0	J. Butterworth ¹ ...
676	(5)—Repairs to school and teacher's residence, Tabilk, 951	84 3 9	Bain and Co. ¹ ...
677	(4)—Repairs to state school, Upper Moorabool, 840	79 15 0	R. Hain ¹ ...
678	(7)—Fencing site and sundry works, Yarraville, 1501	145 19 6	H. Maxwell ¹ ...
679	(17)—New state school, Brunswick ...	5118 6 8	John W. Linaere ...
680	(7)—Materials for portable building, Chiltern road	108 18 0	James Treeby ¹ ...
681	(7)—Materials for portable building, South Ravenswood	108 18 0	James Treeby ¹ ...
682	(7)—Materials for portable building, Grantville	108 18 0	James Treeby ¹ ...

From the Victorian Government Gazette No.58, 18 August 1876, page 1535.

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considered suitable for the job. When classes actually started is uncertain; in August at the latest, but probably at least from June when Brandrick was joined by his wife who became an assistant teacher and, more likely, as early as April when the school was given official approval.

The land on which the school stood was sold in 1872, though the new owner allowed the school to continue for an unspecified number of months.

William Brandrick resigned on 14 February 1873 and left the area a few months later, but still purchased 176B *in absentia* in August that year. After February 1873 the school stood empty and was condemned by Inspector Craig in April.

Rural School No.20 re-opened in a new building on Lot 10 in Section A, probably in January 1874, with Mr. Ebenezer McKay as teacher. This building was likely, as Joseph White states, although getting the date and place wrong, built using *the method used by selectors, vertical slab walls, shingle roof, gaps in the wall plastered with mud and earthen*

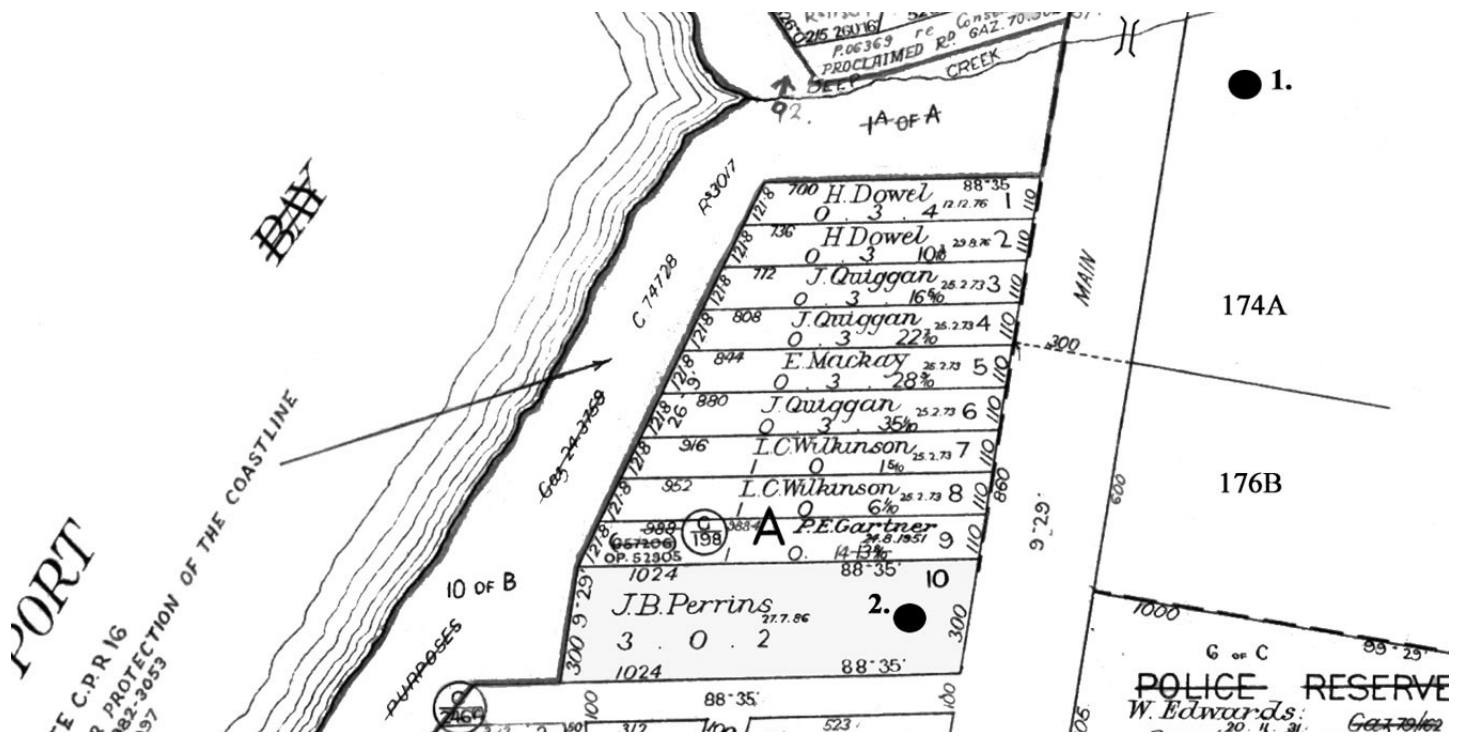
floor. A wooden chimney was also provided.

In 1874 this building was “good enough” but ill-furnished and supplied. That said, conditions were doubtless primitive, and as Grantville grew in size and prosperity, calls for the building to be replaced would have become more urgent.

Eventually the Victorian Government was pressured into providing a new school. The contract to provide the materials for a portable building was won by James Treeby and announced on 18 August 1876. The material was transported to Grantville, likely on the Clara, and the new school erected, probably not by a team of men from Woodlue Creek as stated by Joseph White, a place that doesn't appear to have ever existed.

It was unclear when the school reopened (late 1876 is assumed) with John Scott as teacher, and if it did so as a non-government school (No. 120) or as Sate School No. 1414. If not, it soon (before June 1877) became No.1414, a designation it retained (despite a number of changes of location) until its closure in 1979.

And that is the story of Grantville's first school.



1. The probable approximate location of Brandrick's 1872-February 1873 school on Baldwin's 174A.

2. The probable approximate site of the 1874-1876 school on Allotment 10 in Section A of early 1870s Grantville.

The school remained on Allotment 10 until early 1883 when George Binding, whose tender of £105 15s. was accepted on 22 December 1882 and announced in the *Victorian Government Gazette No.134*, dismantled the schoolhouse and reassembled it on a new site, the reason for this move being a story in itself. The Victorian Government gave notice of its intention to revoke Lot 10's reserved status for State School purposes in March 1886 (*VGG No.38*) and did so on 20 April. (*VGG No.50*). J. B. Perrins purchased the block on 27 July 1886.

When Joseph Stalin died, he went up to the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said to him, "What are you doing here, you are going down below."

About half an hour later St. Peter heard another knock at the Pearly Gates and was very surprised to see the Devil there. On asking the reason for this visit the Devil replied: "I am a political refugee."

From the *KooWeeRup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 21 October 1953