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Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
F.F.F. Newsletter,
G.F.O. Box 4441,
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From the President

April has been rather a quiet month, mainly due to all the holidays. I do hope you all had a pleasant Easter.

On Thursday 8th April I was privileged to attend the Opening of an Exhibition in Bankstown Library. This was held as part of the Sesqui-Centenary celebrations of the Library Council of New South Wales, and proved to be most interesting.

An interesting piece of information was passed on to us on the day Mrs Ross and I visited the Governor, Sir Roden Cutler. He explained to us the reason for the flying of the Union Jack at Government House. Each Governor has the right to fly his own Standard when in residence, and Sir Roden has chosen the Union Jack as his Standard. Thus it is flying as his personal Standard.

The Lecture by our Vice-Patron, Mr Dudley Cakes, on the subject "Anzac Day -- 1975," given on Wednesday 21st April, was particularly interesting. It was very obvious that a great deal of time had gone into its preparation. The slides were glorious and really brought "Anzac" alive to us. Those who were not there certainly missed a treat.

Following this, on Anzac night "our Dudley" was featured in a documentary, "Return to Anzac," on Channel 10. Speaking personally, I felt great pride in our Vice-Patron, and feel that those who missed either night were the poorer for it. Thank you and congratulations, Dudley.

If anyone has a colour photograph of the Dodd Grave Ceremony, I would appreciate one for the records.

Our most recent "Big Day" was Argyle Day, 1st May. I shall comment on this very successful day in my next report.

With the approach of colder weather we have arranged another bus picnic -- the last one we had was such a happy day. Details of this bus picnic appear later in this Newsletter.

Beryl Lewis.

1976 Annual General Meeting

Friday 10th September
At 7.30 pm

No. 1 Board Room, 4th Floor, Assembly Building
(Use Jamison Street entrance)

Tombstone Plaques

On 21st March the first plaque was affixed to the tombstone of Henry Dodd in Parramatta Cemetery, the ceremony being performed by Mr Justice Else-Mitchell.

This is intended to be the forerunner of many such functions, and the Fellowship hopes that particular families will subscribe towards the cost of placing a similar plaque on the tombstone of their First Fleet ancestor. The plaques are estimated to cost \$20 each.

It is desirable that any function so arranged will cover a number of graves in the same cemetery, e.g. Liverpool Pioneers Memorial Cemetery, where there are three known First Fleeter burials.

Our records are by no means complete, and members are once again requested to send in details of the burial place of their ancestor, with a photograph if available.

Details of the next ceremony will be advised when information has been collated, so please send in details as soon as possible.

Eric Blair.

"Anzac Day 1975"

On Wednesday 21st April the third Lecture in the 1976 series took place. A most interesting address was presented by Mr Dudley Oakes, Life Member and Vice-Patron of the Fellowship.

Mr Oakes, an original Anzac, was one of a group, accompanied by Sir Roden and Lady Cutler, who revisited the Gallipoli Peninsula to celebrate Anzac Day 1975. He presented a series of slides which, he pointed out, showed that the countryside had changed so very little in over 60 years. We were able to appreciate the rugged terrain and lack of covering vegetation that the troops experienced on landing at Anzac Cove.

Also of great interest was a tape-recording of the Dawn Service held at Anzac Cove, with Bryson Taylor as commentator. During the service Mr Oakes recited "Epilogue, Anzac," and messages from the then Prime Minister, Mr E. G. Whitlam, and the National President of the R.S.L. were read.

After the Dawn Service Mr Oakes and his companions had a "gunfire" breakfast (hot dogs and rum) and a game of "two-up" in true Army style.

The next Lecture will be given by A/Prof. Cliff Turney on 19th May. He is the foremost authority on the history of Australian education, and his topic will be, "Pioneer Teachers and their Schools." Do hope to see a good roll-up, and especially some new faces.

Tric Cairns.

Bus Picnic

The bus picnic mentioned by the President has been arranged for Saturday 3rd July. It is a trip to Wangi, on scenic Lake Macquarie, with a stop for morning tea at Kendall's Cottage, Gosford.

The bus will leave from York Street outside the Assembly Building at 8.30 am, but there will be a pick-up point at Hornsby.

Tickets: \$4-50 each, \$9 a double. There is a limit of 48 passengers. Tickets will be available at the next Lecture Night, or contact Mrs Beryl Lewis (telephone FOO 8974).

Visit to Norfolk Island

Ula and Alice Clarke have just returned from a holiday on Norfolk Island, where they had an interesting time delving into the history of the early settlements on the island.

F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

U.S.A. 1975

Dreams can come true; at least one did for Dorothy and Desmond Jurd in August 1975, when they boarded a Qantas jet in Sydney bound for San Francisco. As the male half of the team I'd like to tell you where we went, what we saw, and give you some of our impressions.

Flying time to San Francisco was 18 hours, and we had two stops on the way -- at Nadi (Fiji) and Honolulu (Hawaii).

We spent four days in San Francisco, and saw all the sights, including a day trip to the wine country in Napa Valley and a half-day visit to the Muir Woods to see the giant redwood trees. We liked San Francisco; it is a sparkling, clean city, full of very friendly people.

Our next stop was Los Angeles, where we did the usual tourist things -- Universal Studios, Graumans Chinese Theatre, the homes of the Stars in Beverley Hills, all well worth seeing. We spent one day at Disneyland and loved it. Los Angeles is very big, rather dirty, has a permanent smog hanging over it and we were less than enchanted by it, although we enjoyed our stay and the attractions we saw.

Arizona's Grand Canyon. We believe that it must be the most awe-inspiring sight in the world! Neither words nor film can give any real impression of the splendour of it all. For the first time I could think of time past in millions of years, because it must have taken several millions of years to produce this miracle.

After the Grand Canyon we travelled overnight by Greyhound Bus to Salt Lake City, Utah. The only points of special interest on the trip were a view of the Hoover Dam and a meal stop in Las Vegas. The Neon signs and lights make a dazzling spectacle in Las Vegas, and even the bus terminal was equipped with poker machines.

From Salt Lake City we travelled on by bus through Idaho and Montana to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. Yellowstone is the world's first National Park, 5588 square kilometres of wonderland, thermal springs, geysers, placid lakes, sparkling swift-running streams, pine forests and an abundance of wildlife from squirrels to grizzly bears. Add to all these features a clear, crisp day with the bluest sky you can imagine, and it will give you some conception of Yellowstone as we saw it.

We returned to Salt Lake City for the weekend, visited Temple Square, which is to Mormonism what the Vatican is to Catholicism; we were very much impressed by the sincerity of these good people. On Sunday morning we heard the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, a spell-binding experience, a high spot on any holiday.

On to Denver, Colorado, to visit friends. The locals call Denver "Mile-high America" because of its elevation. It is a progressive, modern city and we made some new friends there.

Our next bus journey took us through Kansas, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio to Buffalo in New York State, then we crossed the border from Buffalo to Niagara Falls in Canada. The Falls are spectacular and splendid, the gardens are the most beautiful I have ever seen, and the local shopkeepers and tradespeople show a remarkable dedication to the cause of fleecing the tourist. In mitigation I must say that accommodation and meals at reasonable rates are readily available.

An overnight bus trip found us in New York City, known by the locals as The Big Apple. We had one well-packed week there. We saw most of the famous sights -- the Rockefeller Centre, Radio City Music Hall, the Empire State Building, etc, etc. We spent a weekend on a farm in Connecticut; the farm house is 150 years old, with eight bedrooms upstairs and corresponding living-space at ground level. We cherish our memory of Connecticut.

We were entertained for a day in New Jersey by new-found friends before

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U.S.A. 1975 (Continued)

leaving New York to travel back across America to Salt Lake City, sparkling, clean and beautiful. We flew from there to Portland, Oregon, where we spent our last two weeks with friends. Oregon has an abundant natural beauty, and we ran out of superlatives during our stay.

Our friends took us by car from Portland through Washington State to Vancouver, Canada, where we boarded an Australia-bound jet.

We stored up enough memories to last a lifetime, found New York to be the most fascinating city, big, dirty and a little frightening but completely wonderful.

America as a whole appeared to have the same problems we have, inflation and unemployment. Their rate of unemployment is much worse than ours. The cost of living appeared to be about the same as ours, with some notable exceptions. Drinking in clubs is very expensive; a round of drinks for four people can cost \$9-50, which includes a \$1 tip for the waiter. Accommodation and meals are generally a little less costly than they are in Australia.

Our most treasured memory concerns the warmth and hospitality of the American people. We encountered it wherever we went and from varying walks of life. We would be happy to go again this year if our fellow Fleeters will pass the hat round for us.

Des Jurd.

Argyle Day

Argyle Day on 1st May was very successful, both financially and socially. Many thanks must go to Dick Markwell and Des Jurd for erecting and later dismantling the tent, to Margaret Markwell and her band of assistants who worked hard on the stall all day, and to Colleen Bernath, who was responsible for the float and display in the procession. Thanks also to everybody who supported the day, including those who took part in the procession, and those who sent donations for the stall.

Visiting Mt Gambier?

In the course of an interesting letter enclosing her latest subscription, Mrs Aida Rackett, of South Australia's Mt Gambier, invited any member visiting the "Blue Lake country" to call in and see her. Aida, who (if we can be so rude as to give away her age) will shortly be celebrating her 80th birthday, says she is the only Rackett in the local phone-book. Her address is Flat 3, Holder Street, Mt Gambier.

Among functions she mentions was a lovely celebration held at Bordertown (about 86 miles from Mt Gambier) for her twin son David's 50th birthday. David is manager of the Commercial Bank at Bordertown. Also two 30-year wedding anniversaries. Aida's granddaughter Susan is a ballerina with the company stationed at Brussels. She has been overseas for nearly six years in Germany, England and Paris, but may be visiting Australia later this year. Aida also said she would hate to miss out on getting the Newsletter, which keeps her in touch with the Fellowship's activities.

"Horsley" (Continued)

Dying in 1759, Henry Weston was succeeded by his son Henry Perkins Weston, who married firstly Marianne, daughter of Sir Sebastian Bergier de Rovereaz, who died in 1789, and secondly Jeanne, daughter of Joseph Samuel Bergier du Mont in 1790. The NSW branch of the family was established when the fourth son of the second marriage, George Edward Weston, visited Sydney and met and married Blanche, youngest daughter of Lt-Colonel Johnston, deposer of Governor Bligh. (To be continued)

Coming Events: Lecture, "Pioneer Teachers and their Schools." May 19.
Bus picnic to Kendall's Cottage and Wangi, July 3.
