

IDLE CHATTER Mark II

Newsletter No: 19

Thursday 6th December 2012

This newsletter is an initiative of the Quandialla Centenary Committee

Sponsored by Delta Agribusiness

Part Three Memories of R.S. Grinter From 1923 – 1926

I lived at Quandialla from Saturday 30th June 1923 until I left for Trundle on Monday 22nd February 1926. At that time the town consisted of the necessary shops and a few houses.

- There was no hotel, I think the closest was at Bimbi
- The garage was operated by Stewart Hope
- The blacksmiths shop was operated by.....who came from the Wimmera District.
- The post office was in a private house and.....was the postmaster.
- The Commercial Banking Company was in the main street.
- The bakery was operated by Mr Myres
- There were 3 general stores
 1. Mr Watterson, a middle aged man had a shop near the railway line.
 2. Olsen's had one in the main street which is now occupied by the post office. This was their second store as the first one was burnt down sometime before I went to live in Quandialla. Chris Olsen was burnt to death in this fire. They also operated a boarding house at the rear of the store.
 - 3.....(two men) had a store on the same side of the main street (as Olsen's), a bit further down close by the hall

- A public hall of sorts, somewhere near the present day one. This was also the picture show which was the regular Saturday night entertainment. I think the man that ran the pictures did not live in the town and came from either Bimbi or Grenfell. His power supply seemly came from his motor vehicle.
- There was a public school.
- There was a Massey-Harris agency operated by Martin Keir. I purchased a binder from him in 1925 for 90 pounds new.
- Charles (Charlie) North, an Englishman, was the local carpenter. Charlie was left handed and it was interesting to watch him using a hammer. Charlie and his mate erected the kitchen at GLENDALYNE.
- There was a fancy dress ball held in the hall, can't remember the date off hand, but the post master came dressed as a sheikh. He first arrived dressed in normal clothes but went back home, which was just across the street and came back wearing a red table cloth with a head band, his dark complexion suited his choice of outfit. I was a bit more localised, I went as a typical farmer.

I can only marvel at the wonderful memory Mr Grinter had at the time of writing these memories down - as you would have noticed there are a few blank spaces – can anyone out there, help me fill in the gaps.

Look out for Part 4 later down the track.

THE FUTURE – CENTENARY NEWS

Not a lot is happening in this department at the moment.....

I would like to think everyone is very busy working on their family history but I know everyone is very busy with harvesting, getting ready for Christmas and working on those everyday jobs that have to be done.

Hopefully when things settle down, you will be able to put pen to paper and contribute to the Centenary History Book.

Those that know me well know I'm like a dog with a bone so.....

I will keep jogging your memory on this matter.

NOW

I'VE HIT THE WALL AGAIN – No news in the old town that I know about and CAN print, so this page should be very interesting. I must say that over the last 18 newsletters I have only had to waffle once or twice so that's not too bad for a small village. However if you guys don't tell me what is happening around the place there could be more waffling in the future – so get your act together and report in.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER: I heard from a reliable source and he heard at the establishment down the road while having a soft drink that Bruce and Donna Slade are to be congratulated. They are very proud grandparents again - a new little grandson has arrived.

QUANDIALLA HONEY: For those who didn't know my other half loves bees and for a hobby we have a couple of bee hives on the block, just far enough away to keep me happy – I hate bees and I swell up when stung. Roxy the dog has also found out she doesn't like bees, they chase her when they are riled up especially after the bee person has been doing his thing whatever that is – the less I know the better – then he can't ask me for help. Why would you love to play with bees when they insist on stinging you, we go through a lot of calamine lotion – and I'm not using any. It would be very remiss of me not to mention his outfit, right out of the cartoon pages. Jokes aside he loves his bees and honey and everyone that has tasted it has told me how nice it is. So for anyone interested this message is for you - John has finally extracted a few kilos (nothing to do with losing weight) and he now has a limited quantity available for sale at the post office, hopefully there will be more, later in the season.

JUST SO YOU KNOW: The Priestley's are going to do something on their block for the "Town Christmas Scene Comp". We aren't officially in the running but I just love Christmas and everything that goes with it. So join us this year a bit of tinsel goes a long way – especially in this wind.

A FEW MORE LINES OF WAFFLING: Members draw at the club went off last week, now back to \$600 – I could buy lots of pressies with that. The Bowling Club Members' Children's Christmas Tree will be held on Sunday 16th Dec at 5pm. The Hotel Poker Jackpot is \$1380 - I could take a trip.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Extracts from IDLE CHATTER

This same day in 1956

Extract from IDLE CHATTER NO. 33

THURS. DEC 6TH 1956

THE BUSH FIRE BRIGADE *held a meeting last Saturday when Mr Bill Mainwaring was elected President in place of Mr Conn who has resigned after many years of service. Mr R Dibbs was elected Treasurer and I was not elected I was railroaded in to the Sec's job. A building is to be erected to house the many pieces of plant and in no time at all offers of posts and timber were received from Len Trounson, Hugh Russell and Alf Bloomfield. Milton Hunter is going to weld the tresses and Norman Conn offered the use of the Ferguson with post hole borer. Col Russell has delivered railway sleepers to the job and once again that splendid spirit of co-operation for a worthy cause is in evidence. The subscription has been fixed at 4/- per 100 acres with a minimum of 2 pound and 10/- for each town ratepayer. The money subscribed to this brigade will not be wasted, and if you send it without being asked, you will save at least 6d in expenses and a lot of work for me. Until the position becomes really acute, permission can be obtained to burn off, and the Brigade can be there to help you. A word of warning. If a fire should start, please ring the local POST OFFICE and then leave the matter in their capable hands. Do not use the phone more than is necessary.*

GENERAL CHAT *Mrs Armour is tickled pink with the amount of business she got during the first few day's trading and wishes to thank you all..... Mr Bourke of the Quandialla Central School has received notice that he is to be transferred to Tuggerah Lakes..... Charlie Broben who was admitted to hospital with pneumonia is progressing favourably and will soon be up and about..... For sale. A Jas. Smith 3 blade chaff cutter, had little use and a sunshine grister which is nearly new. The two can be had for 35 pounds.....* It has been many weeks since I had the decency to leave Mrs Penfold room to write her few notes but with twenty lines still to go I am debating with myself whether or not I will act like a gentleman. You will notice I said "Like"

Cheers Everyone **Sue Priestley**