R.O.C.A. *Digest*

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

Volume 1. No. 2. *October 1962*

Registered at the G.P.O. Adelaide for transmission by post as a periodical.

MR. J. V. MERTIN
(B.Ag.Sc., M.A.I.A.S.)

technical adviser to

FARMERS UNION

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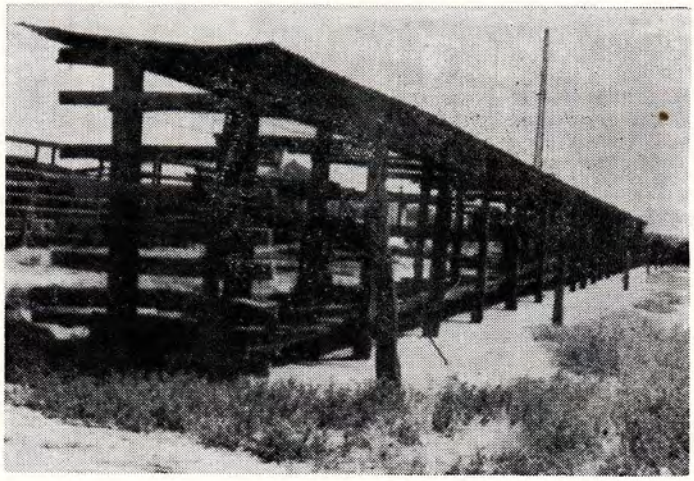

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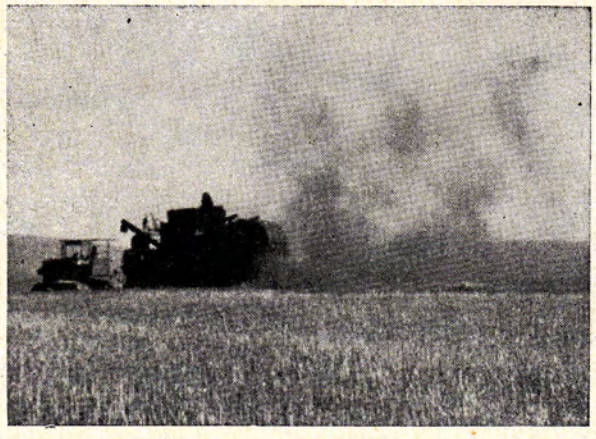

(Agricultural Chemicals Journal)

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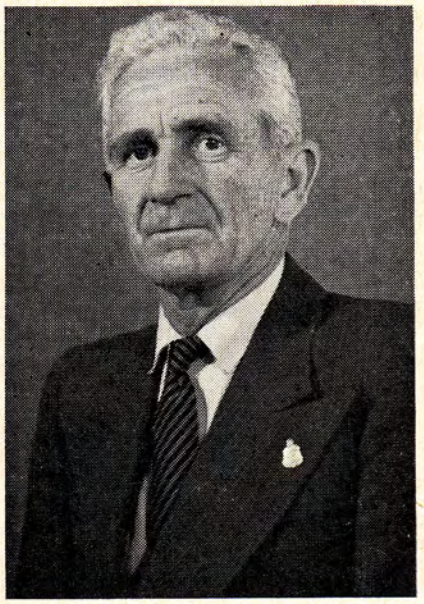

EDITORIAL

We have thought about it and recognise the need for it We have discussed it and a few years ago discussed plans and estimated costs. At last we have been given the necessary lead.

Wives of College Staff members at a meeting in August decided to raise funds and as a project selected "a new swimming pool". They recognised that it was a very big project in which they would need much help and assistance. Also behind the scheme was the thought that, with all staff and students working together for a common cause and with the same interests, it would probably knit the College closer together than had been the case over the past years.

The old pool was originally a dam and over the years has supplied a training ground for would be swimmers and pleasure for many students and staff families. The time is ripe for a new pool, with modern conveniences and closer to the college buildings.

I recommend this project to all old collegians and ask for your help and co-operation over the next few years.

C. W. Hooper.
President.
R.O.C.A.

EXTRACTS

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"The Grapevine"

by IAN FRY

I got a note from Jack Mertin the other day. He went across to Hawkesbury recently for the Australian Agricultural Extension Conference, and is now more enthusiastic than ever about the need for good extension services in commerce and closer liaison between commerce and the Department of Agriculture. Jack said that Roseworthy was very well represented. From South Australia there were Frank Pearson, Harold Chamberlain, Geoff Robinson and Peter Angove, all from the Department of Agriculture, as well as Jack from Farmers' Union. They met Brian ("Doc") Jefferies, up from the Tasmanian Department, and Ron Webber, who is working on Soil Conservation in Victoria. The week-long conference was most informative.

Incidentally, our congratulations to Peter Angove, who was recently appointed as Chief Extension Officer. This follows 23 years with the Department and a wide experience in Agriculture, Dairying, Rural Youth and Extension Services.

Cliff Hooper tells me he met a lot of Old Collegians down for the Show, but complained that he didn't get much information from them.

"Jungle" Fromm, the bearded gentleman from Darwin, promised him he'd write of the doings (printable) in his area.

Johnny Richardson came over from Victoria with a small team of Guernseys and upheld his reputation—but not in the judging ring.

"Tubby" Lock didn't paint a very optimistic picture of conditions around Loxton, but "Pop" Symes had no rainfall worries—all done by irrigation.

Mick Salter was down for a visit from Emerald, in Queensland.

Kangaroo Island seems to be liberally sprinkled with Old Collegians. Stock Inspector Joe Stanley goes across there for a "paid holiday" occasionally, and he mentioned meeting Bert Oldfield last time he went over.

You can't keep a good man down, and Doug Wheaton, of McGillivray, is apparently as active as ever in Agricultural Bureau, cricket club and various other affairs as he was several years ago while I was there.

Ian Short is developing a block at Vivonne Bay (plenty of hard yacca in it, too, I believe), and Jim Cowell seems well settled in at McGillivray. Apparently he still does quite a bit of sailing as time permits.

Actually, Henry Day, who is O/C Parndana Research Centre, and Dave Suter (Supervisor of Land Development), are in a very good position to contact all of the Island's Old Boys occasionally, and we can expect some interesting bits of scandal from them from time to time.

Half of the 58/61 boys got together at Northgate House recently to help Ian Wearing celebrate his 21st birthday. A good time was had by all—of course!

Continued on page 6

TM4 *AUSTRALIA'S* BEST *MEAT CHICKEN*

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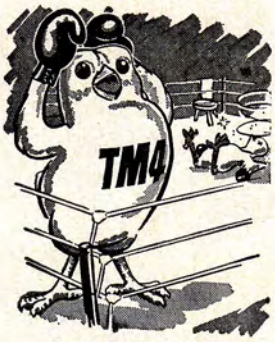

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Continued from page 5

At a school at Tintinara recently Stan Green came across John Fuss, who left Roseworthy about three or four years ago. John is with "Snow" (A. S.) Rodda, who is widely known for his work on the Advisory Board of Agriculture. I asked Stan how John fared at the school: "Very good—so he should—he was a student of mine."

If you are a follower of country race meetings — (you're not? No? Neither am I!)—you might get some interesting tips from Des Habel. Over the past couple of seasons Des has had outstanding success with his two horses, "Haylander" and "Fair Question", at West Coast and Murray Bridge meetings. He appears to be among the winners again this year at North Shields and Lincoln.

You had better drop in at the workshop on your next visit to R.A.C. They say it's worth a drink. Ed. Mann, Jack Burrell and Ron Smallwood recovered some of their investments in Tatt's a while back. It wasn't long after that that Ed. went back to Victoria to his old firm!

Have you noticed the new factory, offices and merchandise depot of United Co-operative Dairymen Ltd. on Glen Osmond Road, Parkside? Robin Steed is there, managing the factory. He was with the Co-op. as manager at Gumeracha, and came down to town to set up the new factory. The Steeds are living at Norwood temporarily until their new house at Myrtle Bank is completed.

Jim Martin is going to start a Friesian Stud on "Kentish Downs" at Parawa in the Southern Hills. Jim manages the property for E. A. & M. L. Wirth, of "Kentish" clothes fame. They have South Down Stud doing quite well.

"Shorty" (J. B.) Pennells is working with Massey Ferguson in Melbourne now on Quality Control in machinery production. Andrew Brown tells me that "Shorty" hasn't changed a bit since he left Roseworthy—and he's still not married.

We'll soon be able to start a R.O.C.A. sub-branch in the Brewarrana Pastoral Coy. John Hardy has gone over to join Pat Auld,

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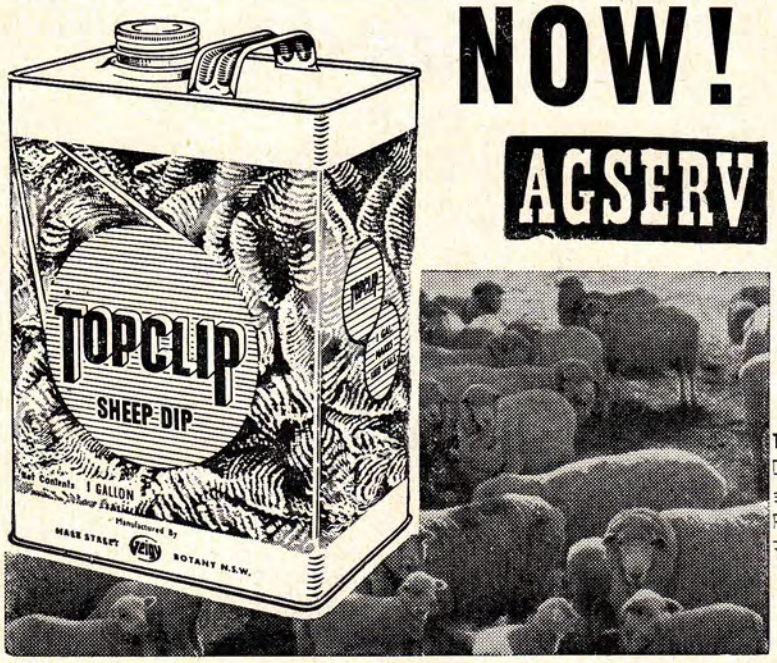

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College Chatter

with CLIFF HOOPER

The rumours have started.

Although at the time of writing none of the Staff vacancies which I discussed have been filled, the rumours indicate that there are "possibilities." On the other hand, to keep the gossip flowing, there are three more resignations.

John Hardy, after a short stay as Field Officer, has taken a position with the Brewarrana Pastoral Company. ("Dutchy" Sluiter is filling this position already).

Mr. Hutchinson, Deputy Principal and Head of the A.P. Lab., will join the C.S.I.R.O. at Armidale about Christmas.

Also for interstate is horticulturist Phill Henry, who decided he liked the look of the New South Wales olive oil industry. He will also be leaving about Christmas time.

Harry Stephen returned in time for the Show and A.G.M. after an interstate trip. He attended the World Poultry Conference in Sydney and followed this by a few days with the New South Wales and Victorian Departments of Agriculture before returning home. There will no doubt be new ideas incorporated in the poultry expansion plan.

With the end of September just around the corner, the season is rather doubtful. Like most of the state, we need a good soaking rain to ensure a finish to the crops which, at the moment, are looking well.

Shearing came and went as usual, but the wool showed the effects of the long dry summer and autumn, being light and lacking the quality and bulkiness usually expected. However, it wasn't quite as bad as the comment made by Vic. He threw a very light fleece on the table and to the query "What happened here?," he replied, "The sheep only wanted it short back and sides."

THE "ROYAL"

Following reasonable success at Gawler, the College faced Adelaide with the hope of better than usual results. In some cases we did achieve them.

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"Grapevine"

Drew Findlay, Ray Driver and Dave Thomson, who are already there.

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Addison dropped in at the College recently. They were on a run up to Wilpena Pound and across into New South Wales. Brian is growing lucerne hay under irrigation at Narrung, and producing vealers as a side line.

I hear that Howard Smith is with Elder, Smith & Co. at Port Augusta, and Jack Stain and Peter West are at Waikerie with the River Development Co.

From Bill Bussell I hear that Mr. Renk, senior, has been across from Western Australia with lots of news from home.

Johnnie Renk is on "Woodlands", the Wanimall property of the Renk Pastoral Coy., where considerable development has taken place in recent years with the establishment of about 1,000 acres of pasture.

Peter Renk is to be congratulated on the second addition to the family—a daughter. He's an enthusiastic breeder of Red Polls on the property "Hanover", Ballidu.

Neil Hilpern is working under the guidance of Norm McKeown in the Agricultural section of the University of W.A. His main interest is pasture improvement.

Did anyone else notice it? Frank Pearson tells me we should have had a title on the front cover photograph of the first issue:

"Breaking New Ground."

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THE REUNION

One hundred and ten members and guests enjoyed the Reunion at the Aurora Hotel. A few unfortunately did not reply to the dinner notice and could not be accommodated at the hotel. This may force a change in arrangements for the 1963 Reunion.

A few members wanted to know why the Secretary had not sent the usual circulars for the dinner and sports day. Obviously they didn't bother to look very closely at their Digest. I feel sure this will not occur again.

Mr. W. Goulter, former House Master, proposed the toast to the Association so well that he was left no option but to join our ranks as a member. We hope he will be a frequent visitor to R.O.C.A. functions.

Mr. Don Stacey proposed the toast to the College. He is known to all members as the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture, and has helped a lot on the Management Committee of the Digest.

Professor C. Donald presented the second Award of Merit to Dr. D. S. Riceman, neither of whom need introducing to old students. Mr. Morrison, another member of the Award Selection Committee, was able to enjoy his dinner without a speech this year.

Mr. B. C. Philp proposed a toast to our good friend Jack Daly, who has retired from the farm and now helps "the lad" (Ron Daly) with the chores around the chooks. Jack's long association with students has ended, but they will all be welcome to call in and see him at his home.

A group of 23 students of the years 1899-1912 enjoyed themselves immensely. Some were familiar faces at dinners, such as Roland Hill, Len Cook, H. Snow, Col. Dave Fulton, Bob and Fred Wheaton —and others were members who for various reasons had not been to a reunion for some time, such as Bill Aldridge, the Pearce brothers, H. Opie, E. Hubble, B. Hocking and E. Orchard, but whose names we will recognize.

The 25-year group was small—only Bill Bussell and Noel Burge—but we were told of a lot of others who just couldn't make it.

The 10 years ago people were represented by Ray Taylor, who talked of Rex Anderson, Charlie Tuckwell, Bill Ward, Doug Gordon and Don Story.

The talking continued till we were unwelcome in the hotel, and when the Secretary left at midnight there was still quite a group going strong on the footpath.

Continued from page 7

College Chatter

In the beef cattle competitions we won the J. Guley Trophy for a pair and three youngsters were placed first in the sire group and second in the breeder's group. In addition, Roseworthy Fancy Girl 11th took first prize in the 12 to 15 months class and went on to become Junior Champion Female, and we took a second and third in the 15 to 18 months class.

Southdown competition was keen and although better than usual, our six entries gained only a third with a woolly hogget ewe.

In the strong Jersey section, and with a judge from Jersey Island, our six entries held their own. We had a second in the class calved since 1st July, 1961, and two sixths.

Our only success among the Berkshires was a first with sow and litter.

SPORT

It was "thumbs down" for both the College "A" and "B" football teams in the finals.

The A's were unfortunate to lose the preliminary final to Mallala. In a game of changing fortunes, they started the last quarter down, hit the front and led for most of it, and were pipped at the post when Mallala goaled in the last minute to win by three points.

The B's lost their grand final to Souths by 10—8 to 7—5. They got off on the wrong foot and let South kick 7—2 in the first quarter.

In the Inter-College, Roseworthy were second to Hawkesbury on a count back in rifle shooting, but second to last in the tennis.

At the moment there is great activity among the College ladies in preparation for the Garden Party on November 3. No doubt we will see you there.

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W. J. SPAFFORD

— an appreciation —

Walter John Spafford—Roseworthy College diplomate; sometime Acting Principal; Director of Agriculture; Chairman of the Australian Barley Board; successful wheat breeder and outstanding agriculturist—died, aged 78, on 31st May, 1962, and South Australia lost a man who had for nearly 60 years been friend and helper to South Australian farmers.

"Spaff" was a student at Roseworthy from April, 1900, to March, 1903. He came back

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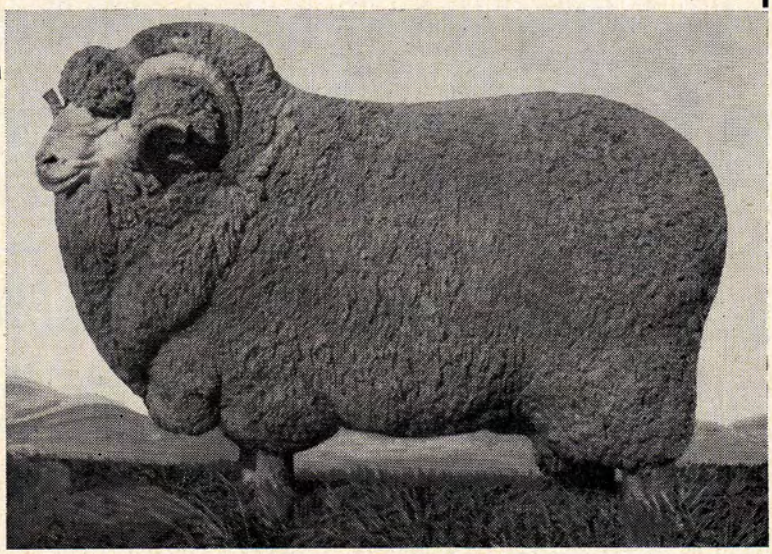

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on the staff in 1905 as Assistant Experimentalist, and from 1907 until 1914 he was Demonstrator in Agriculture. For four months in 1932 he was Acting Principal of the College.

While at the College he not only bred some of Australia's most popular wheats in Ford, Sultan and Felix, but he started on a lifetime career which led to him becoming one of the best-known lecturers on Agriculture we have ever had.

Some of his stories of early travel around the State in a buggy and pair, and some of the stories of the evenings at the local hotels, are remembered by all who heard them.

In later life as Director of Agriculture from 1936 to 1949 he had all the work worries of the later years of the "depression" and of the Second World War to contend with. His official duties were heavy and responsible. The loss of his son came as a tragic blow. But through it all he considered the welfare of the Departmental officers. He wasn't an easy man to work for. He worked hard himself and he demanded much of the people under him. He always tried to put them into the picture about what was wanted, and then let them go on their own. If everything went well he let the officer know he had done a good job, but if things didn't go so well, his comments were terse and very much to the point.

Briefing one of his new district Agricultural Advisers, and being asked by the new Adviser what his duties were, "Spaff" looked at the Adviser and said, "You've got to help South Australian agriculture and its farmers in any way you can, even if the only thing you can do yet is mind the baby".

He not only worked hard—he played hard—and many a poor judge of capacity found himself lamenting before the night was over. This relief from tension undoubtedly helped to keep "Spaff" going. No matter how late the night, early next morning he was up and about. He learned much about South Australia's towns from his before breakfast walks, and not infrequently came in to breakfast with some new knowledge about the weeds growing in the town, or of what the townspeople were thinking and doing.

During 1934-35 Mr. Spafford was sent to look at agriculture in South America and South Africa, and his reports of this trip con-

Continued on page 15

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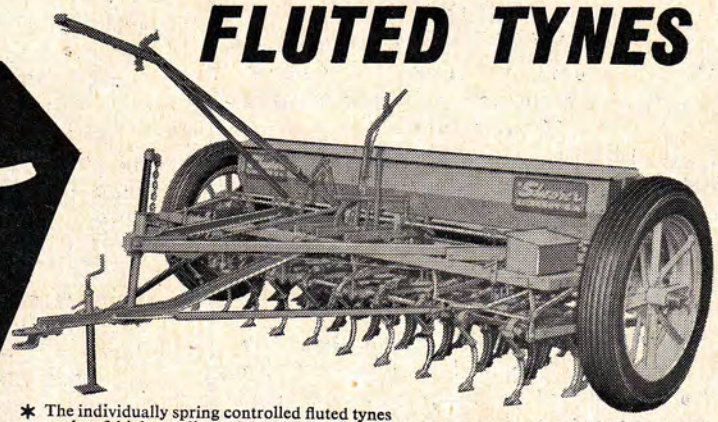

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"Agriculture Today" will be one of the regular features of your Digest.

The writer will be Mr. F. B. Pearson, who, as Senior Agricultural Adviser and a prominent spokesman for the Department of Agriculture, is known to almost everyone on the land in South Australia.

From time to time Frank will discuss the problems and trends of the season, interesting developments at home and abroad, the ideas and successes of our producer-members — in fact, almost anything which touches on our farm management.

He begins with a chat about the State's economy and the importance of . . .

AGRICULTURE TODAY

The Australian economy is still very largely dependent on the agricultural, pastoral and mining industries, despite the increasing importance of secondary production and the movement of developmental capital from overseas. Our primary production is an essential part of the national income, the main contributor to our exports and a measure of our economic well-being.

A record total of £724 million of primary produce was sent overseas by Australia in 1961-62. In spite of the emphasis and assistance given to secondary industry, and trade drives designed to build up our secondary exports, they have as yet only risen to a value less than one quarter of the total of exports.

Stock numbers in South Australia have been steadily increasing and are now at an all-time high with 16½ million sheep and 660,000 cattle. With these numbers we must look more closely to our livestock management.

After a fairly good seeding time, June and July were dry in the cereal growing districts of the State. Useful rains fell during August, but drying winds, warm weather and a shortage of subsoil moisture are at present taking toll of our crops.

The wheat area is up above 2½ million acres this year, and wheat production will sound fairly good. Because of the dry season, however, yields of this and other cereals will be below average.

Except in the South-East and part of the Adelaide Hills, feed has been fairly scarce throughout the year. It looks as though we are not going to get very much spring bulk in the cereal-growing districts.

Last year was not a good fodder conservation year. If this year is also a poor one, then the high stock numbers in the State are going to give a good few people headaches before next year.

The value of primary production in particular, and more especially the pastoral, agricultural, horticultural, dairying and poultry industry contributions, to South Australia's welfare must be fully realised and constantly maintained by everybody connected with, dependent on, and interested in the State if it is to continue to progress and prosper.

Whatever anyone else does, we, as R.O.C.A. members, have a duty to help the industry in which we were trained, and to which most of us belong in one way or another. If we are to do this properly we must keep our knowledge up to date.

Methods of land use, technical information, practical know-how, machinery, methods, varieties are all constantly changing for the better.

The widespread increases in weeds and insect pests, and the tremendous volume of agricultural chemicals which have been released since the war to counter these with, have brought us in to a field of knowledge in which we must always be expecting something new.

In these, as in all other aspects of agriculture and animal management, there is an ever-present need for research, understanding and practical answers.

Getting information to use oneself, spreading it abroad for other people to use, makes a big demand on both theoretical knowledge and practical experience. This should flow not only from Roseworthy, the Department of Agriculture, Waite Institute and C.S.I.R.O., but from every South Australian property. Almost everyone has something they know or can do better than their neighbours.

Stock numbers in South Australia are steadily increasing. Southern Australia is well known for its long dry summers, and notorious for its occasional severe droughts. In these crops may fail, but stock lose condition and die. Research findings have given a fairly good picture of minimum feed requirements and suitable management. With this information we have been able to increase lambing percentages, produce more wool, and check much of the "drought-caused" loss.

Developments such as these are constantly taking place in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, disease control weeds, poultry.

Continued on page 15

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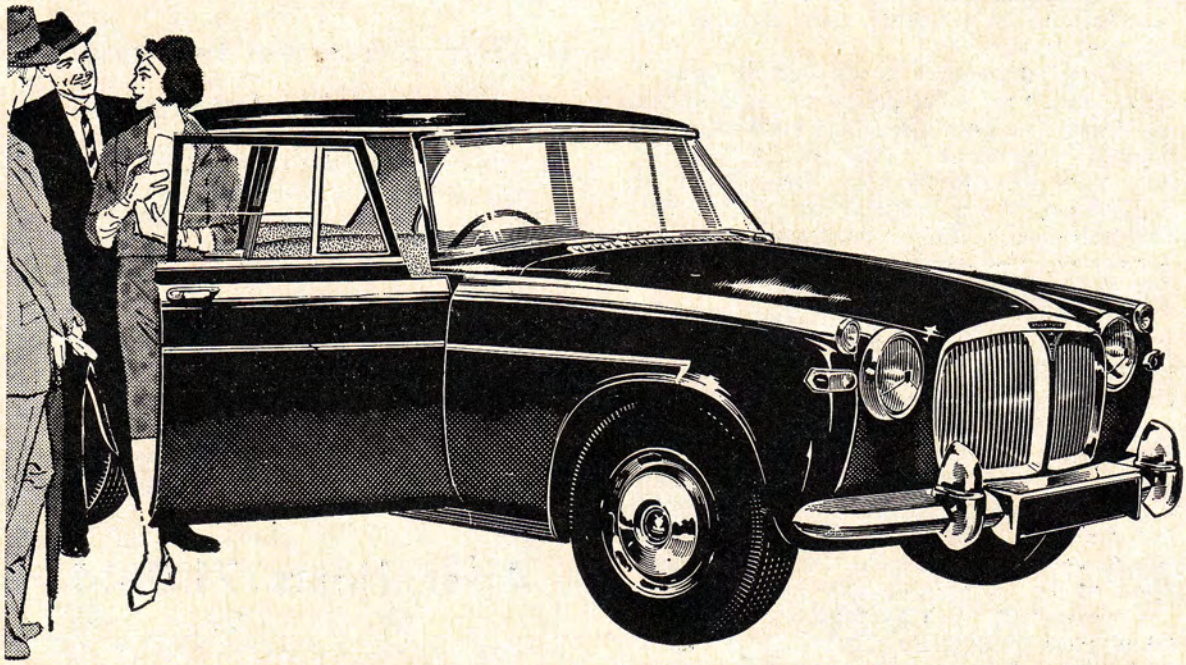

Continued from page 12

They are the result of close co-operation between landholders, producer groups, officers of the Department of Agriculture, Waite Institute, C.S.I.R.O., and many others. Progress in the future is dependent on the maintenance and development of the knowledge gaining and spreading forces which have achieved our present progress.

One of the new but simple things being tried at present is a type of rubberised super star and rubberised base plate for seed drills, combines and super spreaders.

Super does not build up on the rubberised stars.

This does away with a lot of laborious cleaning out, but more important — it does away with "jumping" of the stars so that there is a more even outflow of super and less strain on, and also less breakages, in the super drive.

These rubberised stars and base plates have been used on several farms in South Australia this year, and we will almost certainly hear much more about them soon.

Another idea in rubber, not yet tried here, might help our cereal growers eventually. A new thrasher idea of two heavy duty rubber belts, one running five to six times faster than the other, through which the heads pass instead of going between a thrasher drum and concave, is being tried experimentally. If it works, and this is pretty much in the early field trial stages, then thrashing is expected to be more positive and the damage to grain greatly reduced.

R.O.C.A. and its members can, and we hope certainly will, continue to play a considerable part in developing new and better ideas in all fields. This can't be done by sitting down with a "rigid" mind.

R.O.C.A. and its members can, and will, continue to play a considerable part in this. It can't be done by sitting still and relying on knowledge gained in the past.

To keep ourselves informed and up-to-date requires studying in many fields. With your assistance "Agriculture Today" will try to help you in this in future issues.

Continued from page 11

W. J. SPAFFORD

tained much interesting and valuable information.

In recognition of his work for agriculture during the war, Mr. Spafford was awarded the Imperial Service Order, and just after his retirement as Director of Agriculture he was further honoured by being made a Commander of the British Empire.

A member of many Agricultural Boards and Committees, he was a member of the Australian Barley Board from 1942, and chairman from 1947 until his death.

For many years he was on the Council of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia, and helped judge the cereal sections. Busy to the end, he inspected the proposed site of the cereal exhibits for this year's Adelaide Royal Show the day before his death, and was keenly looking forward at that time to seeing more shows.

With a wide knowledge, sound judgment and long experience he was ever ready to help and advise. His passing cost South Australian agriculture something it could ill afford to spare. At the recent Adelaide Royal Show many of his former colleagues and friends found themselves looking over their shoulders, particularly around the cereal grain section, wondering where "Spaff" was.

Roseworthy College has had few, if any, sons who did more for South Australia than Walter John Spafford.

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Dookie diplomate, Rupert Griffiths, who was one of South Australia's early Agricultural Advisers, and Roseworthy diplomate Leith Yelland, have combined to provide the information and thoughts in this appreciation of Rowland Hill—the first recipient of the R.O.C.A. Award of Merit.

ROWLAND HILL

Land Development Enthusiast

Rowland Hill was born in Adelaide in 1891. In his lifetime he has seen his birthplace become better and more productive through his services to South Australian agriculture and land development.

Even before he topped the Roseworthy scholarship entrance examination in 1909 he had become acquainted with live stock and agriculture. He rode five miles each way on horseback to attend D. J. Byard's Hahndorf College as a day boy. Then for 12 months he had to stay home and help milk and look after the family's Jersey herd at Blakiston.

class honours in 1912, and stayed another year work-

At Roseworthy he earned a diploma with second ing under the late W. J. Spafford as Assistant Experimentalist.

During his time at Roseworthy, Rowley was a member of the football teams who won the premiership for the College three times in four years. Although he had as team mates "Dolf" Baker, the best-known of the College players over many years, Reg Mowatt and Spen Sibley, who both played interstate football later, Rowley more than held his end up, and gave the team valuable service.

During his early career he was associated with many well-known College identities. Professor Perkins was his first Principal; Walter Colebatch was Principal in his final years at Roseworthy; "Monty" Adams, as House Master, helped Rowley's courtship with Miss Laycock from Gawler toward a happy ending, and was later one of the first group of Agricultural Advisers with him; and Duncan Menzies, another of the early College House Masters, persuaded Rowley to look after his private stock and land agency in Clare for a while.

Speech Day, 1914, while at the College, helping with the preparation of seed wheat, Rowley was asked by the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Tom Pascoe, if he would go to Minnipa to help with the establishment of a new experimental farm there. It was a most significant day for the future Chief Officer of the Land Development Executive of South Australia. Before long he was helping manager Len Cook, and Stewart Opie, both Roseworthy diplomates, to put in a hay crop around Minnipa Rock.

In 1915 Mr. Hill enlisted in the Light Horse, and soon after marrying Miss Laycock in March, 1916, was sent overseas. He saw service in Palestine, Syria and Egypt with the Camel Corps, and with the 14th and 15th Australian Cavalry Regiments. Late in 1919, after the post-war emergencies quietened down, he came home and took up duty with the Department of Agriculture as Field Officer.

Soon after this, land development and Soldier Settlement, which were to see Rowley's greatest achievements, came together in his work when he became Inspector of Soldier Settlements in 1920. Later in the same year he succeeded Len Cook as Manager of the Minnipa Experimental Farm.

The next four years at Minnipa were Spartan. Minnipa was fairly remote, with a train once a week, and doctors many miles away. Bread had to be baked at home, and months without butter were commonplace. Many of the settlers lived in "pug and pine" homes with packed dirt floors. But the half million gallon water tank with its catchment from the Rock made Minnipa a centre for the surrounding district. A weekly dance in the barn and an occasional Charlie Chaplin film in the wheat sheds to an audience seated on bags of grain provided entertainment.

Continued on page 19

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Bureau Conferences were held in the big barn at the Farm, and farmers came from all over the "Coast". Farmers brought their own "tucker" and camped in the barn overnight, and Rowley has vivid recollections of the "campfire" evenings which were held.

In 1924 Mr. Hill became the first Agricultural Adviser of the Department of Agriculture. In those days an Adviser had to be a jack of all trades and master of many. Crops and pastures were the main job, but the Adviser was expected to know something about all sorts of live stock, weeds, insects and various different plants, as well.

Rowley had one of the most diversified districts in the State. It extended from Adelaide to the River Murray, and took in the high rainfall Hills areas, the low rainfall South Coast and Murray Plains, and the unusual and difficult reclaimed Murray Swamps country. His good knowledge of agriculture, energy and sound commonsense impressed everyone, and the older farmers in these districts still speak enthusiastically about him.

With W. J. Colebatch and W. J. Spafford he carried out surveys of the South-East during this time, and reported on the agricultural possibilities of the district. Another job, this time to help the Railways Department determine where to put new railway lines, was a survey and report on the Middleback Ranges and the area west of Poochera, on Eyre Peninsula.

Always interested in land development, Rowley transferred to the Department of Lands in 1940, just as a member of the Land Board, and later as a member of the Crown Lands Development Committee.

As Central District Agricultural Adviser, Kangaroo Island was part of Rowley's district. During his early visits to the island he was greatly impressed with its possibilities. From then on, at times in the face of bitter opposition, he fought, argued and talked to get development moving there.

One of the most pleasing of his jobs was the development of some 600 acres of virgin country near the centre of the island as a pilot plot and a guide for future work. Later on this block was to become the nucleus of the Parndana Research Centre. Another, and vastly different, job was on the peat swamps at Eight Mile Creek.

When the Land Development Executive was formed under the chairmanship of the Principal of Roseworthy College, Dr. Callaghan, Rowley Hill was appointed Chief Executive Officer.

The L.D.E. was set up to control and carry out land development in South Australia. When the demand for farms for ex-servicemen from World War II began, the work of the Executive increased tremendously.

The early development was in the South-East. Later on Southern Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island were brought into the scheme.

Mr. Hill was responsible for the planning, the staff, the organisation of equipment and materials, and the methods used. Before he retired in 1956 several hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin scrub had been brought into production, and something like 600 servicemen had been settled on their own farms.

Continued on page 20

JERILDERIE CORRIEDALE STUD

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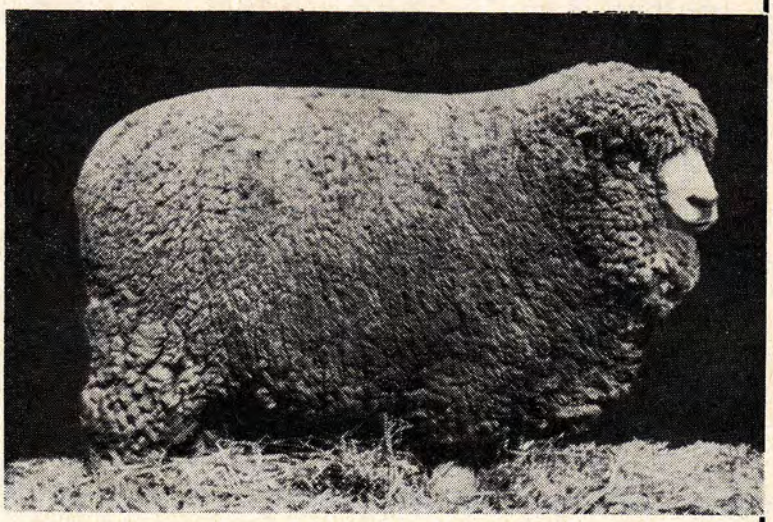

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Of these his greatest achievement, and the one which gave him the greatest personal satisfaction, was the development of Kangaroo Island. Kangaroo Island had been little known, misunderstood and despised. Its best lands had been picked out early and settled for many years, but most of the remainder was still under scrub. Even the Commonwealth Government for a long time refused to sanction and finance work on the island for War Service Land Settlement purposes. That it was finally accepted and developed was a personal success of Mr. Hill's.

The block he had developed some years before contained some of the poorest land on the island. The work done on this was a big factor in persuading people that there was scope for large-scale development. The methods used on the block were used as a pattern for the subsequent development of nearly half a million acres of virgin land on the island.

Throughout the whole of the development period there was continuous criticism. Some of it was kindly and constructive, but much of it was unjustified, malicious and destructive.

Rowland Hill is a man of sound agricultural knowledge and decided opinions, not easily moved to change his mind. He needed all of his resolution and ability to "go it alone" before the job was finished.

When the work was in full swing the L.D.E. were using 62 tractors, mostly large ones; 26 Majestic ploughs, 23 twin discs, and 19 combines.

All of the work was planned and supervised by Rowley. Not from an office chair, but on the job, and mostly in the field.

And what was the result of all this work?

It has been publicly stated, on many occasions, and in many different places, that nowhere in the world has the development of such a large area of waste land been more spectacular or more rapid.

In spite of his activities, which have been many and varied, Rowley Hill has never lost touch with Roseworthy and its affairs. Twice R.O.C.A. President, an active Committee member for 25 years, a life member, and first to gain the Award of Merit, he deserves to stand high in the regard of all old Collegians.

For "distinguished service" he was awarded a Coronation Medal in 1953 and an O.B.E. for services to agriculture in 1955. On his retirement in 1956 he was made Emeritus Member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science.

But of the many awards and gestures of recognition bestowed on him, Rowley is most particularly and deservedly proud of the naming of one of Kangaroo Island's principal roads as the Rowland Hill Highway.

The story of Kangaroo Island continues without him. It will always be a memorial to his foresight and knowledge.

Confidently it can be said of him that no one in his lifetime achieved more in improving land development methods here than Rowland Hill.

ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS' ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF 1962 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The incoming executive and committee is as follows:—

President: C. W. Hooper.
Vice-President: W. Gilchrist.
Immediate Past President: R. P. Day.
Honorary Secretary: H. V. Stephens.
Honorary Treasurer: G. R. Norman.
Committee Members:
G. Roe, J. Gore, H. Nash, W. Edge, A. Emerson, I. Fry.

Messrs. Emerson and Fry represent the 1-10 year group. There were no nominations from last year's graduating year and this position was filled by an ordinary committeeman.

Mr. B. C. Philp was persuaded to act as auditor.

The meeting was not well attended although people kept arriving all the time and the total was 45.

The main business was receiving the President's Report, Treasurer's Report, "R.O.C.A. Digest" Report and confirming the changes to the Constitution as published in the first Digest.

The main feature of the Treasurer's Report was that 28 members are 12 or more months in arrears and under the amendment to the Constitution many of these will be cancelled.

The "R.O.C.A. Digest" Report was a very comprehensive one, but many of the changes are incorporated in this isuue and comment is unnecessary.

Planning for the 1963 Reunion and Sports Day is in the hands of the committee.

Mr. C. W. (Cliff) Hooper, the incoming President, attended College in 1925-28 and has been sheep and beef instructor since 1949. He has been on the committee since the 1951 A.G.M., was secretary from 1955-58 and vice-president 1960-61.

NEW EDITION OF RUSSELL'S "SOIL CONDITIONS AND PLANT GROWTH"

Review by F. D. STACY,
Editor, South Australian Journal of Agriculture

Russell, E. W.: "Soil Conditions and Plant Growth", 9th Edition, Longmans, London, 1961. (English price 63/-.)

For many years Sir John Russell's "Soil Conditions and Plant Growth" has been a standard English textbook for students of agricultural science. Since 1950, when the 8th edition appeared, a large amount of research on all aspects of soil science has been carried out. The task of bringing the book

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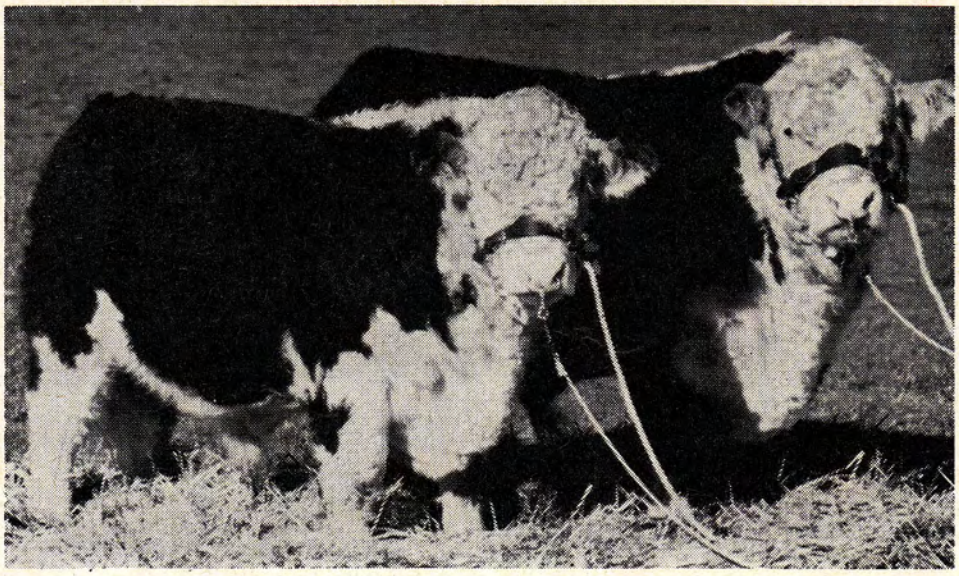

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up to date and incorporating the new knowledge has been continued by Dr. E. W. Russell, the son of the original author. He has produced a revision which will fully maintain the high reputation of this book.

Although it follows the same lines as the 8th edition, nearly half the book has been thoroughly revised and re-written or expanded. The chapters on soil chemistry and physical chemistry have been completely overhauled. They include discussions on the mineralogy of soils and clays, their buffer curves, anion and cation exchange. The section on soil phosphates has been greatly expanded to include the advances that have taken place in the last 10 years. It now discusses the value of various phosphatic fertilizers and their residual effects in the light of recent theories.

Perhaps the most important feature of this 9th edition is its emphasis on the biological aspects of soil science. The biological chapters include new sections on reactions brought about by the soil organisms and on the decomposition of pesticides in the soil. Sections dealing with the relationship between fungi and plant roots have been re-written, as have those on soil humus. Discussions of the break-down and build-up of soil organic nitrogen have been extended.

Throughout the book Dr. Russell has marshalled into orderly sequence the results of a vast number of investigations. The standard of presentation is excellent. "Readability" has been maintained throughout, and the illustrations are well chosen and of outstandingly high quality.

The new edition ensures that "Soil Conditions and Plant Growth" will continue to be high among the leading textbooks on agriculture.

CHUCKLES

A man went into a Sydney hotel bar and ordered a beer. The barmaid served him and had started to walk away when the man called: "Hey, Miss, what's this fly doing in my glass?"

The barmaid looked back, stared at the glass, and replied: "The backstroke"

"What! Broken off your engagement to Mary?"
"Yes. She wouldn't have me."
"Yes. She's my aunt, now."
"But didn't you tell her about your rich uncle?"

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Qualifications: As a minimum, the appointee is required to have a Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture and to have gained experience in plant and animal husbandry.

Salary: This will be commensurate with experience, qualifications and proven skill.

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Agricultural diplomates are being sought for many fields in Australia at present. Departments of Agriculture in all States are looking for them, but so is Industry. And many diplomates who cannot get on to a farm, or do not want to go into the Public Service, can find interesting and profitable career jobs if they look around in the right places. R.O.C.A. Journal would be glad to hear of opportunities suitable for members.

Recently we were told of one firm who are looking out for qualified staff as area and technical sales representatives. This was the firm of May and Baker (Australia) Pty. Ltd., who are just launching a planned programme of expansion with new products in the agricultural and horticultural fields.

In the first instance, staff would be primarily based on Melbourne or in Victoria, because the firm's programme is more advanced there; it is expected that they will later cover all States.

Working conditions are good, and a superannuation scheme and personal life assurance are available. The company is looking for Agricultural College diplomates, and are prepared to train suitable applicants to the company's requirements.

This type of work should be very interesting, with some chance to travel, and with a wide field of opportunity for advancement.

Any diplomate, or suitable third year student, who is interested would be well advised to make early contact with

The General Manager,
May and Baker (Australia) Pty. Ltd.,
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quoting this R.O.C.A. Magazine note, giving personal details, and asking for more information about possible openings in the firm.

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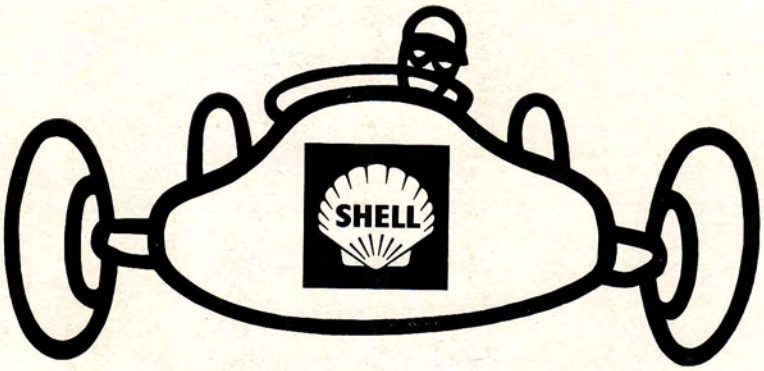

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