

R.O.C.A.

Digest



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION



Volume 1. No. 4.

February 1963

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

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ROCA Digest

Published Bi-Monthly: (AUGUST, OCTOBER,
DECEMBER, FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE).

Editor: Ian R. Fry.

Management Committee:

I. R. Fry, Chairman.
F. B. Pearson.
A. Hooper.
R. Jones.
F. D. Stacy

Editorial Material To:

The Editor,
"ROCA DIGEST"
1 Sherwood Terrace,
Beaumont. 79 5557.

Founded 1962:

A Bi-monthly Journal published by the Roseworthy
Old Collegians' Association in the interest of the
Association, the College, and South Australian
agriculture.

Vol. I. No. 4. FEBRUARY, 1963

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Subscription Rate: 1/6 per year included in membership subscription of R.O.C.A.
1/- per single copy.

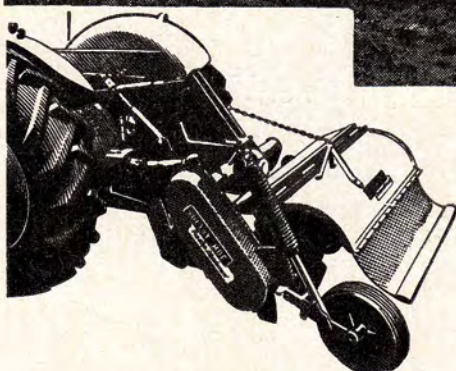
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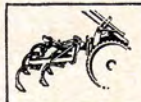
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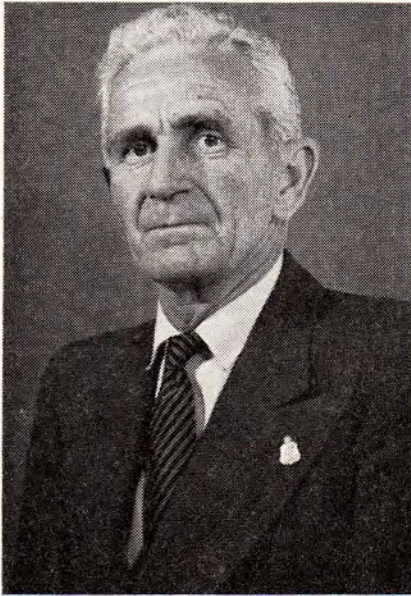
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EDITORIAL

As we enter 1963 most of us are expecting it to be a momentous year, especially in the Agricultural world, as a decision by England to join the Common Market would throw a big strain on our Primary Producers.

We have been through that selfish stage, which generally follows war years, of everyone endeavouring to grab the pleasures and profits which they missed during that period! We have read much of our teenage problem—irresponsibility, lack of thought for others, take what you can get, anti-government and anti-control of any sort. Is this not similar to world attitude over the past years?

The war period is far enough past for us to have developed or be developing a different outlook—the thought of combining together for the good of the world, our country and ourselves. We will need this approach if England joins the Common Market and it will not be wasted if this does not happen.

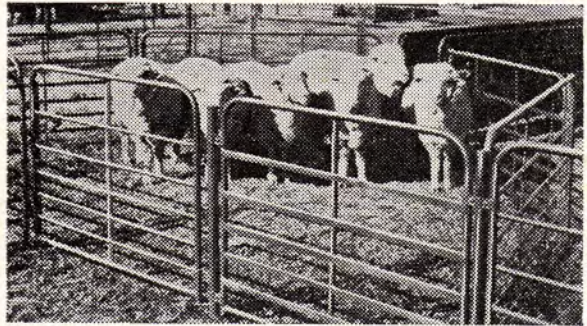
Many of us adopt the attitude of joining or being in certain organizations because it is the done thing. Then we sit back and leave the work to a few, excusing ourselves with the thought that they are more capable. We may even, from our resting position, criticize what is being done.

Make 1963 the year when you will do your share towards taking some of the burden from the shoulders of others. Work for the common good and not always for yourself. Pull your weight: you will be surprised at the satisfaction it will give to you and the results which can be achieved with a little effort by everyone.

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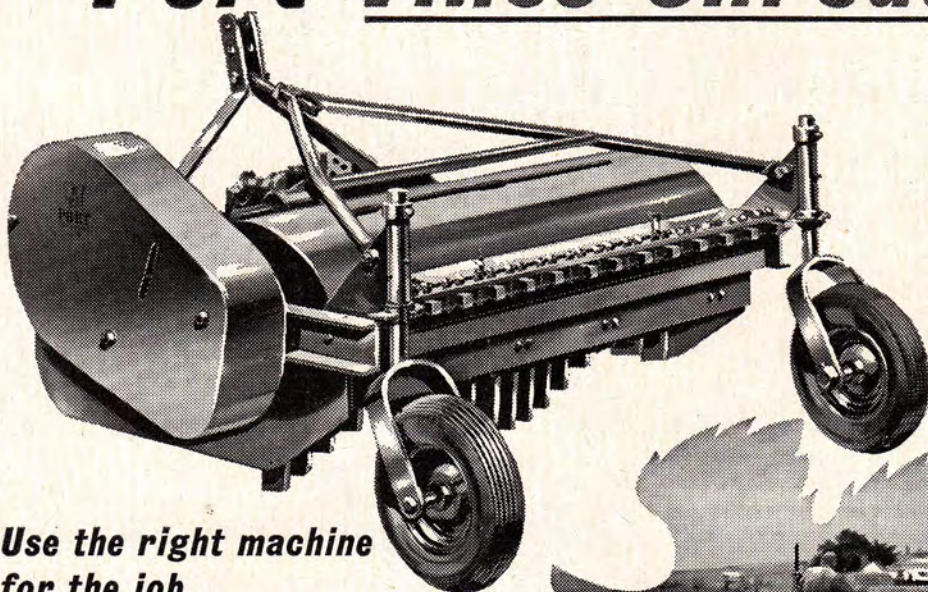
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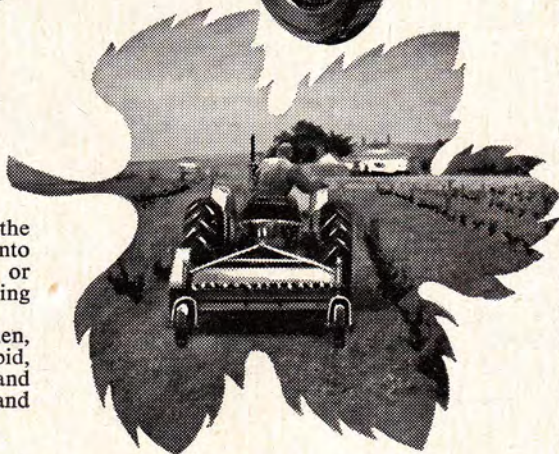


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"The Grapevine"

by IAN FRY

Do you remember those challenging thoughts that Milton Spurling gave us in his article on "South East Asia—Present and Future"?

"Those who have had the privilege of training at Roseworthy have ideal qualifications for . . . assisting South East Asian countries . . . and have a particular responsibility to seek an opportunity to assist."

Apparently Bob Baker agrees with this. He is in Nigeria conducting a soil survey with an F.A.O. team. Senior Adviser in Soil Conservation, he has been on leave since December 16, and expects to be back with the Department of Agriculture late in 1963. The scientific team consists of three members whose duties are complementary. The others are a French Forester and, I understand, an Ecologist. They are assessing the potential of a large slab of undeveloped country. Their base is Ibadan.

Bob says that one of their big problems is that aerial photographs of much of the country are not available. He describes November to April as being pleasant, but says that at certain times of the year it is impossible to work because of the wet conditions. They go for long periods roughing it, and then get back to Ibadan for a while. On one long jungle trip they saw only **five rabbits**.

For relaxation there is tennis and golf, but apparently golf has fallen out of favour because "the rough" is a bit too rough—just plain jungle—and there are too many lost balls. In Ibadan Bob has a comfortable house set in three-quarters of an acre of grounds, and the services of a good cook-steward and a gardener.

Bob has been very impressed by the Missionaries whose lives are dedicated to the welfare of the natives. He says that in some quarters there is intense hypersensitive nationalism.

At times getting little things done can be very frustrating. However, if you are a keen bird watcher, like Bob Baker, you will find that Nigeria is a Mecca for ornithologists.

It's good to be able to report that Mrs. Cliff Hooper, our President's wife, is on the mend again. For several months she has not enjoyed good health, and was confined to bed for a long stretch. Recently, however, she has been getting around with gradually increasing ease, and we trust that the trouble will disappear completely very soon.

Keith Sinclair has been in the wars, too. On Christmas Day he was out Highbury way and was involved in a motor accident. Some cracked ribs, bruises and a bad shaking were not a very welcome Christmas present, but when I was up at Jamestown recently the chaps in the office said that Keith was getting on O.K. Incidentally, he is transferring from Jamestown to Adelaide as Livestock Officer.

Don Stevens, who had only been appointed District Agricultural Adviser at Keith a few months ago, has resigned from the Department. He becomes Farm Overseer with the A.M.P. at Brecon this month, and I think he has got his eyes on a property of his own at some future date.

Since he left Roseworthy, Peter O'Grady has managed a property in the South East and a Rundle Street electrical business. In September last year he moved to London with his wife Helen and their two children, and is now London manager for Reid Murray Developments.

John and Anne Dufty chose the coldest time of the year to arrive in England. After six weeks on the "Southern Cross", they arrived in London on 25th November, just in time for the big smog and the even bigger freeze up which followed it. Going via Panama, they called at Cuba in the middle of the upheaval, and Bermuda. For the first few weeks they stayed in London, having a look at all the traditional places of interest.

John, Gold Medallist in 1956, gained his veter-

(Continued on page 6)

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"Grapevine"

(Continued from page 5)

inary degree at Sydney in 1960, has been with the Department of Agriculture since then. He has been admitted a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and while in England is working with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, on T.B. testing in Coriwall. He hopes to extend his studies a bit at the same time.

They are looking for a flat, but their address at the moment is C/o Oates Hotel, Bond Street, Redruth, Cornwall, England.

On their recent South East trip the Third Year students visited the property of Gillman Brothers at Oakbank, where recent diplomate Michael Gillman is taking a keen interest in pasture development. Cec. Grose, Central District Adviser, was with them, and says that they have one of the most efficiently run properties in the Hills. "Everything they do they do well," Cec. said. There are about 1,000 acres in the block, and quite a lot of it is either being cleared or has yet to be cleared. They are milking 80 Jerseys, growing potatoes and "all sorts of other things", and developing excellent rye grass-sub. clover pastures. They are co-operating with the Department in pasture improvement experiments and demonstrations supervised by Mick Schwerdt, and in potato experiments run by Henery Feddersen.

I'll bet the tongues wagged furiously a while ago when Frank Pearson and Ern Alcock got together at Mount Gambier. Ern, one of the first of the State's Agricultural Advisers, retired in 1949 after 22 years in the Department, starting as a Field Officer at Kybybolite. Mount Gambier was his last posting. Now 78, he is "just taking things quietly."

Congratulations are due to a couple of "younger old boys" who are doing well in their further studies. "Happy" (Graham) Mitchell is home at Crystal Brook at the moment from Sydney, where he is doing vet. science. He was Dux of second year, getting a "bag" of High Distinctions, Distinctions and Credits, but no ordinary passes. Uni. holidays finish and it's back to Sydney in March.

Grantley Baldwin, of the Soils Branch, is completing a B.Sc. He gained top credit in Soil Science and equal third in Genetics.

Don Winn has moved from Minnipa, where he was District Adviser, and had acted as O.C. Research Centre for some time to Balaklava to be Adviser there.

Tom Davidson is now with "Shorty" Glynn Webber at Nuriootpa. He has been flat to the boards over the last couple of months chasing skeleton weed all over the north and Yorke Peninsula.

Apparently the Department of Agriculture isn't such a bad place after all. "Ande" Michelmores has returned to the fold after a term in the banking business, and I understand that he and Elizabeth and family will be going to Minnipa. Ande is already known to many West Coasters, as he was there for some time previously.

Edgar Pike becomes the third Old Collegian to

take to Local Government work within the past year. He has joined P. G. Rehn and Associates, and will be stationed at Murray Bridge doing Weed Control Inspection for a number of District Councils. With his wife and three children he will shift up from Mount Gambier, where he has been managing a property, some time in February. Before that he was at Robe.

Ray Alcock (Ern's son) joined the same firm last year. He is living at Koppio, and covers a large slab of the West Coast.

A couple of the Agricultural Advisers have taken well-earned holidays to correspond with the school holidays.

Gill Williams is spending eighteen days caravanning to Sydney and back with his family—two boys and one girl.

Jack McAuliffe likes to trail a line a bit. He went to Renmark for a while, and then down to Kingston.

We almost need a classified ads column for the "hatched, matched and dispatched".

Roxley Hall, who is teaching at Nuriootpa High, was married in late December.

R.O.C.A. Committee Member Harold Nash was also married in December, the 29th. He married Lorna James, from Wollongong. Lorna is a vet., and has been practising with Bruce Eastick at Gawler. Harry and Lorna will have a flat at Elizabeth.

On joining the married ranks, Ron Hodder took his wife to Alice Springs.

Frank Chapman was married early in the new year.

Mick Slee has been down on leave from New Guinea, and popped in at the College to say hullo. He is engaged, and may possibly be taking a wife back with him.

Ken Holden, who is stationed at Parndana on K.I., was engaged recently. He went to Perth in January for a brief holiday.

Leith ("Tuffy") Wallace, who is a salesman for Internationals at Kadina, is also engaged.

Barry Graham, Bushfire Protection Adviser, and Louise have their first daughter, Marina Louise, who was born between Christmas and New Year. They are living at North Esplanade, Glenelg.

Malcolm Timberlake has a daughter, Jane Susanne, a couple of months old.

"Blue" Lampe and his wife have another child, their third. "Blue" is with M. L. Kentish at "Greenbanks", Mingool, "the spud king".

Jim Sobels is settling down at Reynell's winery after his recent trip overseas.

Another one who has caught the travel bug is Leith Yelland. Leith, a writer with "The Chronicle", has produced quite a lot for the Digest. He is leaving on the "Fairsky" from Melbourne on 24th March for an eight-and-a-half-month working holiday. He will make London his headquarters, but plans to see quite a lot of Spain and probably a bit of other parts of Europe, and wants to get a good look at Scotland's Shorthorns. Perhaps we will see a bit from him in the Digest occasionally. He will be home about Christmas.

John Hardy called in at the College in December

while on holidays from Brewaranna. Under Pat Auld the Old Collegians are evidently settling down very happily. Pat has been to England in connection with the property and the herd recently purchased there.

On a recent visit to the Gumeracha Dairy Factory I met Ross De Caux, who is manager there for the United Co-op. Dairymen Ltd. He worked with the Co-op. before doing the Dairy course, and was there at the same time as the new General Manager of the Co-op., Doug Gray. Ross and his wife will be moving to Bordertown in April, where he will be foreman of production of a new rindless cheese at the factory being built there.

Ross's elder brother, "Aussie", is with the Lands Department.

Harry Stephen recently received a note from John Arnold, and he passed on a bit of news. John has been Production Manager with the Dronin Co-op. Butter Factory Co. Ltd. for the past two years or so. It is quite a large firm, producing about 3,600 tons of butter, 1,400 tons of casein, 1,000 tons of milk powder and other odds and ends, with an annual turnover of £4½ million. It has about 1,000 farm suppliers, and in turn supplies Melbourne with about 15% of its milk. John wrote that "Life here is pretty good, average rainfall 42 inches, and a good season ahead for the next few months".



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STOP PRESS Starting Young!

There is no knowing what lengths some people will go to just to get their name in the paper. Andrew Dixon is starting rather young.

Andrew is the 22-months-old elder son of Malcolm and Mary Dixon.

Young Andrew found an interesting drain at the back of their Leabrook home down which he could just fit his foot. "This has possibilities," he must have thought.

But NO—foiled at the first attempt! Dad found him; out came the foot, and the drain cover was wired fairly firmly down.

Success at the second attempt! Dad's feeble effort wasn't enough to beat a man with an I.Q. like Andrew's. Off came the cover and down went the foot—good and firm. Mum and Dad couldn't budge it, and so outside assistance was called for. Staff from the E. & W.S. Department did the trick, but almost two hours in a drain was enough, and out came the cameras and notebooks.

Our photograph, by courtesy of "The Advertiser" shows Andrew with his grandfather, Mr. Hill, at the scene of the attempt. Andrew, no worse for wear, looks quite happy with the result.

AWARD OF MERIT

Nominations for the Roseworthy Old Collegians' Award of Merit are due with the Secretary by the end of May. This advance notice is given so that members may give the matter the careful consideration which it deserves.

The award, introduced in 1960, has been presented twice, to Mr. Rowland Hill and Dr. D. S. Riceman.

It is presented to recognize outstanding service in any field of agriculture by Roseworthy Old Collegians.

A summary of the Rules and Conditions under which the award is made is printed below to assist members in considering nominations. Statutory Nomination Forms are available on request from the Secretary.

Rules and Conditions.

1. The Roseworthy Old Collegians' Association shall periodically award a medal to the financial member of the Association who, in the opinion of the R.O.C.A. Executive, has made a meritorious contribution in any field of agricultural activity, including Association affairs.

2. The award shall be considered annually, and if, in the opinion of the Executive, there is no candidate of sufficient merit, no award shall be made.

3. Nominations must be made on the Statutory Form, and must include the information required thereon.

4. The Statutory Form to be used for the nomination of any prospective candidate, who must be a financial member, shall be prepared and signed by two financial members of the Association.

5. Nominations, with the supporting data, must reach the Honorary General Secretary of the Association by the 31st of May in each year. The Executive shall have the right to reject any nomination deemed unsuitable before submitting the nomina-

tions to the Selection Committee.

6. (1) The Executive shall appoint the Selection Committee.
- (2) The Selection Committee shall consist of four members, one each from the fields of agricultural research, public service, practical farming and industry, who, in the opinion of the Executive, are of sufficient standing and experience in the fields of agriculture to be competent to assess the merits of candidates from any field of agricultural activity.
- (4) The Selection Committee shall make its recommendation to the Executive.
- (5) In its assessment of candidates the Selection Committee may, at its discretion, include for consideration any candidates nominated in the previous year.
- (7) Association members submitting nominations, members of the Executive and the Selection Committee are requested to hold the names of candidates in strict confidence.

Details required include age, period at Roseworthy, full academic qualifications, and supporting data on employment, career, occupation since leaving Roseworthy, other organizations and committees on which the nominee has served, papers published, honours, other than academic, bestowed on the nominee.

Bowls Match - Rocca v Gawler

Did you know that our President, Cliff Hooper, is also the President of the Gawler Bowling Club? This is his second year as such. He plays in First Division Pennants.

Among our members there are known to be a number of keen bowlers, including the College Principal, Mr. Herriott. Interest has been shown in the idea of a R.O.C.A. Bowls Match, and so what better opportunity could there be than the present?

Cliff suggests that an evening towards the end of March will be the best time, and thinks that it may be possible to work in a visit to the College at the same time.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A MATCH, PLEASE CONTACT CLIFF HOOPER DIRECT BY PHONE OR LETTER AS SOON AS YOU HAVE READ THIS. His address is care of the College.

When he has your replies he will arrange the details with the Gawler Bowling Club Committee and then contact you personally.

When you write to him, mention any night of the week which is automatically "out" for you and any nights which you prefer to assist in arranging a night with Gawler.

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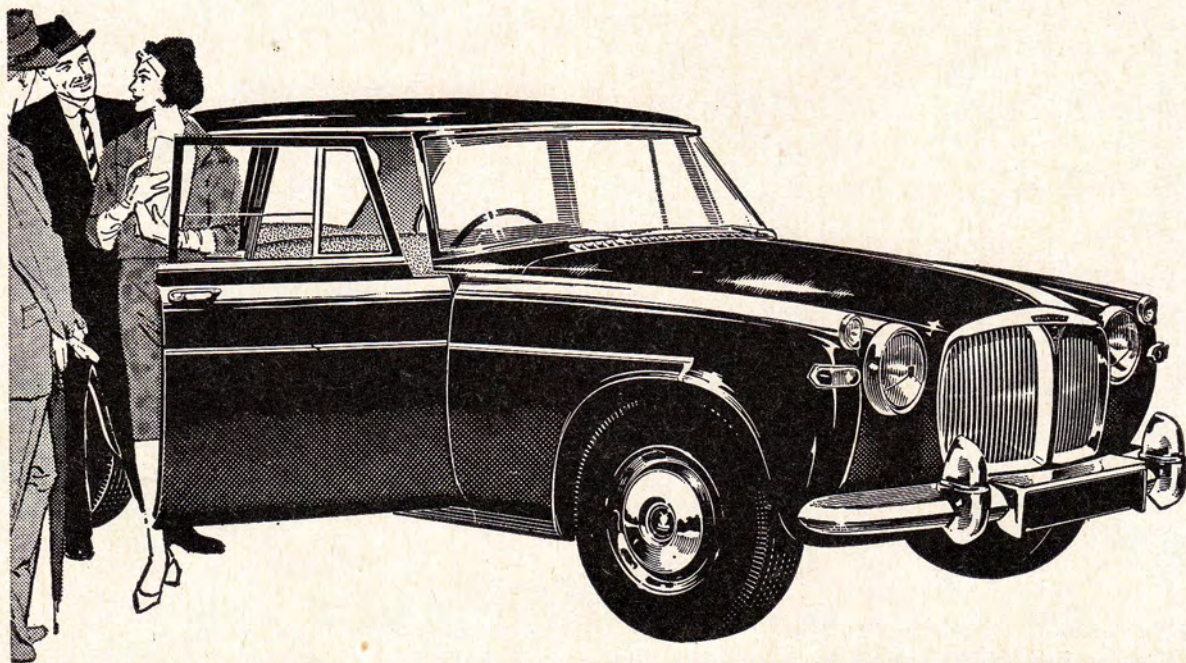
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Clover as you like it

It was a sight to make the Seeds Merchants' mouths water!

It was Ted Higgs and Newton Tiver running around the Department of Agriculture with a tray of huge sub. clover burrs from one of Ted's plots in the South East. There were 483 burrs from one square link, and Ted had some counts of up to 700 burrs per square link. The cuts were taken from a ten-acre clover seed crop grown under irrigation, five acres of which were as good as this, and conservatively estimated to yield at least 3,000 pounds of seed per acre—perhaps as high as two tons.

Ted gave us this message for R.O.C.A. members:

"Yields beyond the wildest dreams are being obtained from irrigated sub. clover seed crops in the South East. There is tremendous potential for further development in this field.

"The essentials for success are to sow the clover as a pure stand and not as a mixed pasture, and to keep it watered until the middle of December.

"By sowing 25 lbs. of seed per acre in May, taking one or two light grazings during the winter, then shutting up and watering when required until mid-December, yields up to and over a ton per acre are being obtained commercially.

"This season about 250 acres are being grown. The area of country suitable is capable of production far in excess of the total Australian production of recent years."

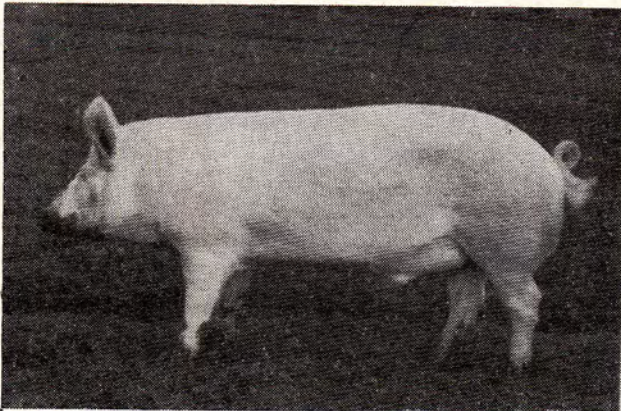
It all started this way.

Newton Tiver came back from the U.S.A. convinced that we had to make better use of our available irrigation water. Subsequently a group of growers and departmental staff got together in the South East with the idea of getting a crop improvement or seed production association going. Following this, Eric Jarman convened a public meeting at Naracoorte on seed production. Ted addressed this meeting, attended by 90 or 100 people, which was reported in "The Chronicle". An enthusiastic meeting, it had a big bearing on several growers deciding to give irrigated seed production a go.

Altogether there are nine growers involved—three at Mundulla, two at Kepoch, and one each at Padthaway, Kybybolite, Hynum and Koppamurra. Ron Badman, who was at Roseworthy in the mid-1930's, is among them.

At that meeting a number of people were dubbed in to act as district representatives to maintain contact between growers and report back to another meeting.

The Department is not directly involved, but is watching the techniques used very closely and giving assistance wherever possible. Messrs. Tiver and Higgs made four or five visits to the area during the year, and cuts and seed counts, etc., are being taken. In addition a seed growers' news-letter is being produced for periodic circulation to interested growers.



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"The future for land development in Australia is enormous . . . today we in South Australia have a marvellous opportunity to simultaneously increase production and reduce costs by accepting the new and proven techniques available to us providing we adapt them to suit our own particular needs," states our Guest Writer Mr. Brian H. Harris, H.D.A., General Manager of Robby's Aerial Services. He has been closely associated with land development over a considerable period, including nine years as agricultural adviser to the fertilizer industry in New South Wales and three years as Sales Manager to the fertilizer joint selling pool which operates in that State. Fertilizer usage in New South Wales increased by 60% in three years, primarily because marketing techniques were streamlined to assist the landholder to reduce costs through increased production. The farm machine that made most of this possible was . . .

THE "AGRICULTURAL AIRPLANE"

THE SCOPE OF AERIAL AGRICULTURE IN AUSTRALIA.

Let no landholder think that the agricultural airplane is either a luxury or something that is confined to the servicing of the isolated large area landholder. The advantages from the use of the agricultural airplane can be enjoyed by most, providing the field programming and organisation of this vital farm tool conforms to certain basic principles. Co-operation between the rural community and the aerial industry, with a mutual understanding of the problems of each, can assist greatly.

TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL AIRCRAFT.

The functions of agricultural aircraft may be divided into two main sections:

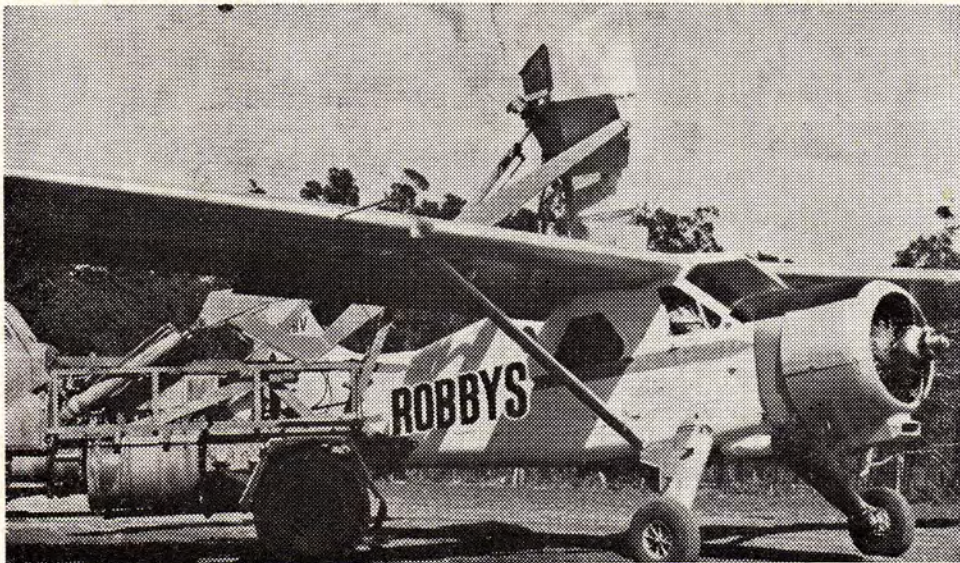
1. Aerial topdressing for pasture improvement.
2. Aerial spraying for weed and pest control.

Ancillary functions such as rabbit-baiting, wild dog baiting, fish dropping, bush fire spotting, supply

dropping and rural transport are all developing in varying degrees, but it is the two primary functions which will have the greatest impact on our rural economy in the next decade.

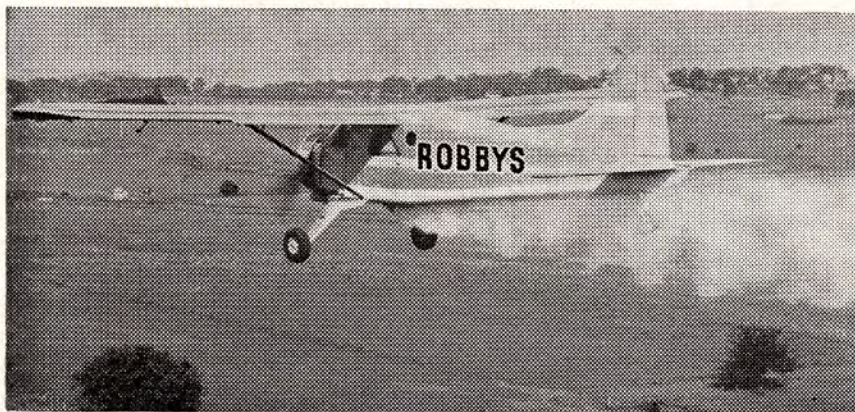
Aerial Agriculture is not something new, for as far back as 1919 in the United States of America aircraft were used for agricultural operations, primarily for pest control. Today it is an extremely vital industry to the rural economy of the United States, and over 1,000,000 agricultural flying hours are logged per year (in the whole of Australia at present it is 54,000).

Let's look at what we are doing in Australia as compared to countries such as United States and also New Zealand. As many are aware, New Zealand took an active interest in agricultural aviation immediately after World War II, and today over half a million tons of fertilizer is spread by aircraft. But do people realise that compared to total tons used, New South Wales has as high a percentage of



1. Loading a Beaver aircraft with bulk super.

Beaver aircraft top-dressing improved pasture with a capacity of over 100 tons per day.



aerial topdressing as New Zealand? This state of affairs was developed within three years, namely, 1959 to 1962, and was only achieved because "the marketing techniques were streamlined to assist the landholder to reduce costs."

In New South Wales over 60% of fertilizer used on pasture is handled in bulk, another saving in cost which was passed on to the landholder. Some five million acres were aerially topdressed in New South Wales last year, while we here in South Australia treated 260,000 acres. No wonder the industry must grow in this State, for as the man on the land accepts the fact that specialised operators can save him money in both topdressing and spraying of his pastures and crops, so the greater effective use of contracting machinery will permit further reduction in costs which can be passed on. This results in a snowballing effect of cost reductions which all of us associated with primary production are striving so hard to achieve.

FACTS THE LANDHOLDER MUST ACCEPT TO ACHIEVE LOWER COSTS.

For maximum development with lower costs, the pasture improvement man must accept that

(1) **Bulk Handling of his fertilizer is a must.**

Bulk handling brings greater efficiency to the fertilizer industry—with lowered costs.

Bulk handling requires less labour for trans-

porting to the property—with lowered costs.

Bulk handling means no additional cost for containers—meaning, again, lowered costs.

Why ignore something that can save money? — a rationalised bulk handling and contract spread marketing scheme such as is now available to South Australian landholders leaves no reason why 80% of all fertilizer applied to pasture should not be in bulk.

As the fertilizer contract spreading operation grows in South Australia, most landholders will come to realise that the specialised operator with his highly developed machinery can, in most instances, do the job cheaper for him than he can do it himself!

(2) **Spring Topdressing** is important as a maintenance topdressing in the endeavour to keep costs down. Now we know that when land development was in its infancy in Australia, and we weren't confronted with either the economic or physical problems on the scale we have today, it was accepted practice that if you had sown down a pasture in autumn that you topdressed it twelve months later prior to and close to the opening rains as possible. Experience has shown us now that we must think more and more towards spring maintenance topdressing and leave autumn periods free for new land development if we want to keep costs down. Remember always that agricultural practice must be related to economic practice, and there is no point

(Continued on page 15)



Unloading bulk super phosphate from rail head prior to carting to Agricultural Air Strip on client's property.

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* Model 4010 illustrated above

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(Continued from page 13)

The Agricultural Airplane

in trying to theoretically maximise production by a technique that can cost you more in the long run than any theoretical gain enjoyed.

Remember that there are the State railways to be considered, and the rail unloading contractors as well as the road hauliers. When landholders expect a fertilizer despatch programme throughout the State to be squeezed into a twelve-week period, they are expecting a luxury for which they must pay. If the landholder understands the problems of those who are servicing him, he can assist in getting these costs down—(YES, topdress early wherever practicable)—and in all this the agricultural airplane has a role to play.

WHERE DOES THE AGRICULTURAL AIRPLANE FIT INTO THE SCHEME?

Any landholder who is using a truck of Super-phosphate per year can enjoy all the advantages of bulk handling and contract aerial spreading, the same as the largest landholder in the State. Firstly, he must arrange to assess from the services available just where an agricultural airstrip can be sited on his property. To the trained and experienced aerial operator, this presents no problem. Without doubt South Australia is by far one of the easiest States in the Commonwealth in which to develop agricultural airstrips. In New South Wales over 2,500 agricultural airstrips were developed and catalogued within three years, and are now used regularly in the contract marketing system employed there. Here

in South Australia an airstrip inspection and advisory service to the landholder is as far away as his telephone.

IS THE AGRICULTURAL AIRPLANE ECONOMIC?

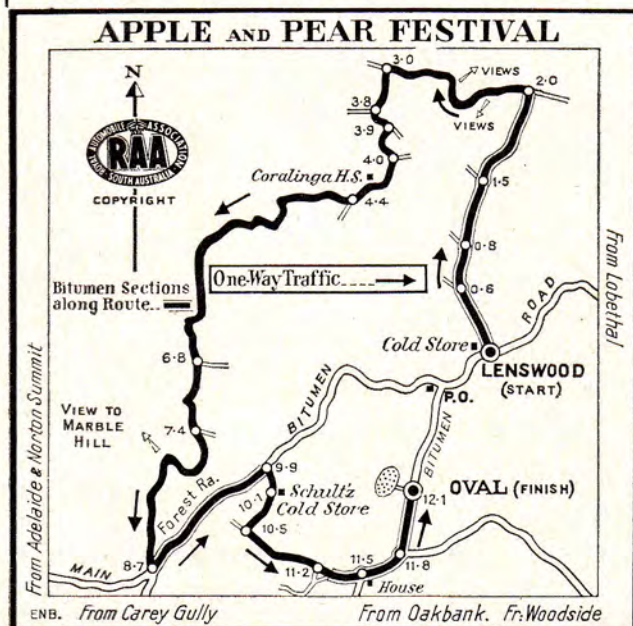
The factor of utilisation plays a very significant part in what prices need to be charged for both aerial topdressing, as well as all the ancillary services of cartage to the property, covering of the super-phosphate dump, etc. Coupled with this, the quickness of the topdressing operation by the aircraft, plus the fact that it can operate over acres that have a high potential productivity but are possibly too steep, rough, sandy or stony for improvement by other means, makes the agricultural airplane an extremely important farm tool. Figures are to hand of an evaluation carried out in Victoria, where the future for the agricultural airplane is just as high as here in South Australia. Facts showed that of the supposed 10 million acres topdressed with super per annum, one million was not receiving super-phosphate due to the amount of country missed by the currently employed ground operation — just imagine what this is meaning in loss of production!

Further to this, analysis showed there was over four million acres of high potential grazing country which had never been supered due to either hilliness or stoniness, and the capital value of this land was as high as £40 per acre!

Concerning the question of the economics of using the agricultural airplane for chemical spraying, it is now that the aerial industry is in the reorganisation

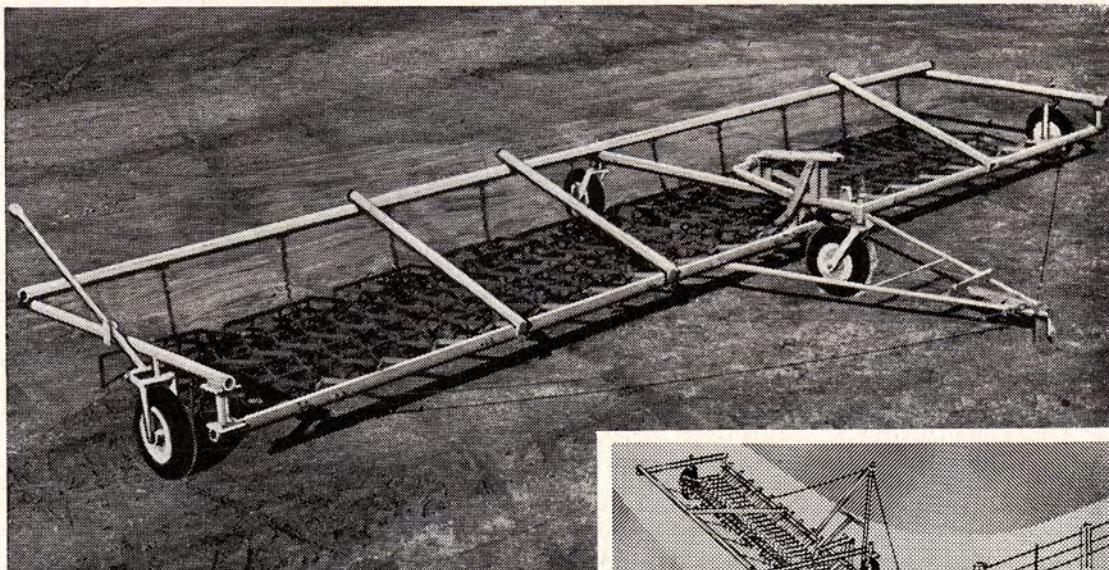
(Continued on page 17)

FIRST APPLE AND PEAR FESTIVAL HELD IN S.A. 22nd, 23rd & 24th March, 1963



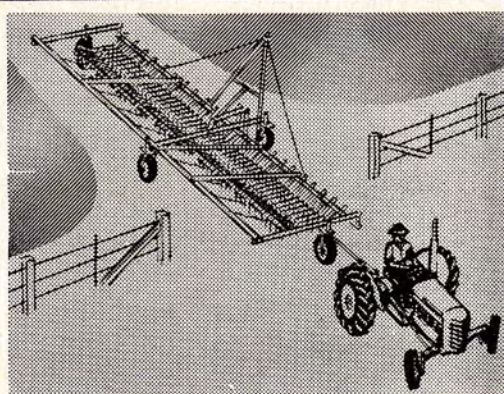
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SIR CECIL HINCKS

It was with regret that we learned of the death of the Honourable Sir Cecil Hincks, M.P., for sixteen years the Minister of Lands.

Although he was not directly connected with Roseworthy College, his decisions affected the destinies of almost every Old Collegian in some way or other.

He was responsible for all matters affecting land settlement in this State, particularly the settlement of returned servicemen, the development of the Loxton Irrigation Area, and the control of irrigation generally.

At an important period in its history the then College Principal, Dr. Callaghan, was seconded from Roseworthy to work in close association with Sir Cecil as Chairman of the Land Development Executive.

Many Old Collegians have worked in the several Departments under Sir Cecil Hincks' direction. There was a stage when a Roseworthy Diploma backed by experience on the land was regarded as a passport to a staff position in the State's land development.

Sir Cecil's influence in many rural, patriotic and charitable organizations was considerable and his judgment always sound.

In recent years Sir Cecil's son, Geoffrey, and his nephew, Allan, have attended Roseworthy. To them we extend our sympathy.

(Continued from page 15)

and re-equipment stages, and in the not too distant future one will see a terrific development in the role of the agricultural airplane for chemical application. The industry has been restricted equipment-wise till now. However, with the replacement of the DH.82 (and even other types), with recently developed and more economic types, costs to the landholder should be considerably lowered. This is vital in our battle for export income.

South Australia has a terrific potential for aerial spraying, for at present agricultural aircraft are responsible for spraying only 3% of the total cropping area—increased production must inevitably follow from better weed control and pest eradication possible by quick, efficient and cheap application from the air.

THE SPECIAL ROLE OF AERIAL SEEDING.

There is a special place for aerial seeding in South

Australia—not just by including seed in the superphosphate, but by treating it as a special operation, carefully planning both timing and accuracy of distribution. Neither can be wholly satisfactory when seed and superphosphate are mixed, for the topdressing operation is calibrated to ensure maximum efficiency for fertilizer application, and as seed particle size is different to that of superphosphate, it only stands to reason that a different dispersion pattern must result. Timing is important and, by providing an aircraft specially for the seeding operation, establishment is more assured.

WHAT AREAS OFFER THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR THE AGRICULTURAL AIRPLANE?

Land development is basically related to climate, and the agricultural airplane will follow the areas with such potential. All areas south of Goyder's Line offer scope for aerial topdressing. There are areas where fertilizer application may still be cheaper by ground method. Should this be the case, let's use it, for all our techniques must be viewed objectively with the aim of maximum production at the lowest unit cost. We must think in terms of fertilizer "cost on the ground", not cost per ton to spread. Along with all the benefits of time of application by aircraft, the rough country treated, the speed of application, and no additional labour commitment required by the use of contracting agricultural aircraft, there are many intangible gains from the use of the airplane in agriculture. Let's objectively evaluate every case to meet the individual need.

Concerning the use of aircraft for chemical spraying, this is economic wherever there is sown pasture or crop, for both of these are an "investment in production" in order to produce from the land more than Nature originally offered. The investment must be protected from both competition from inferior plant species and the ravages of pests. No farm machine can do this as quickly, nor as efficiently, as the agricultural airplane—and in the future, with specialised spray aircraft coming to hand, more cheaply.

To sum up, it may be said that the role the agricultural airplane will play in this State will increase enormously within the next five years. Last year agricultural aircraft in South Australia flew 2,500 hours in all operations, and were responsible for handling 15,000 tons of superphosphate and spraying approximately 100,000 acres.

Within the next three years we will see the industry responsible for spreading 70,000 tons of fertilizer per year and spraying 500,000 acres.

Just what this is going to mean in £ s. d. to the community as a whole is hard to assess, but it is interesting to note that recently in debate in the New Zealand Parliament, when the role of the agricultural airplane was discussed in relation to the rural economy, increased production to the amount of £35 million sterling was directly attributable to the role of the aerial topdressing aircraft. These figures, along with facts mentioned earlier in respect to both the United States and New South Wales, point out that we can apply the agricultural airplane to our benefit here, provided, as I mentioned earlier, "we accept and adapt these new and proven techniques to suit our own particular needs".

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7. "Cyclone" special fencing aids — save time and money. Tension indicating strainers, "Sargent" pliers, preformed wire ties.
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THE MILKY WHEY

R.D.T.A.

From the rather exclusive pages of the "Milky Whey", the original official organ of the Roseworthy Dairy Technologists' Association, to the broader circulation of the R.O.C.A. Digest, is but a small step, but for us of the R.D.T.A. a rather momentous one. We look forward to a broader circle of interest, since we have, as it were, "Ag." and "Plonky" students looking over our shoulders, and

we hope that, although these notes may seem to be directed mainly towards a secluded few, material of mutual interest will be included in this page.

This brings me to the next point; I refer to the material for insertion in these columns. Generally, the most-sought-after item is that of news from members, and it is of course the members themselves who must supply this. An invitation is always open to members of the R.D.T.A. to send in any news, either of their own doings or that of fellow members, but this seems too general, and does not meet the desired response. It is proposed, then, to nominate in this page two members, not necessarily in every issue, who are asked to send in to me by a certain date about 200 words or so (a foolscap sheet) on just what they are doing, where they are, and some of the technical details of the processes in which they are involved. I know you may regard your particular work as common-place, but things like types of starter used in cheese processing or peculiar problems of your area are all of interest to us. Maybe you would prefer to write an original article of your own of topical interest; anyhow, I'll leave that to you.

The first two members to be called on are Nobby Arnold and Alain Chartier, and your material should reach me at R.A.C. by 1st March.

News from Members.

I was pleased to receive a note from Keith Lawson. Keith is turning out 10 tons of rindless cheese a day at Cobram; this sounds like a lot of milk to me, and must give you some headaches at times, Keith. You should have plenty of food for your article when the time comes round.

Keith mentions that Alan Lang is now a partner in a Cottage Cheese venture at Geelong. I must catch up with you, Alan, so that we can get some more details.

Ron Mertin writes to say he received an outsize Christmas present in the form of "big" Jack Hill. Jack is taking over the production side of the factory at Canberra almost completely, where approximately 3,000 gallons of milk per day are bottled.

Glad to hear you may be visiting R.A.C., Ron; we will be pleased to see you any time.

Although not a member, Alf. Skull, an R.D.A. of 1961 vintage, who is at present doing an H.D.D. (S.A.) cadetship, dropped in to tell us of "Life at Hawkesbury". Alf. came second in his first year class of 16 students with 76%; quite a creditable performance. The factory there receives up to 6,000 gallons of milk per day at times, some 4,000 gallons of this going through the spray drier, so there is plenty of material for practical work.

Well, that's it for now; over to you, Nobby and Alain.

G. R. NORMAN.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Have you ever been a club secretary?

I'm suffering from the usual Secretary's Disease!

Members generally don't bother to notify me of a change of address. Rather they abuse me because they have not been getting anything from the Association.

It has been brought to my notice that some people who work for large organizations such as the Department of Agriculture and the Commonwealth Development Bank are not all getting all their Digests. I would suggest that you send me your home address. I will admit to mistakes and may miss some occasionally, and will be pleased to rectify these mistakes if possible. However, please remember the Change of Address form at the back and fill it in.

Section 11 (b) of the Constitution states: "Any member whose subscription shall be in arrears by twelve months shall not receive a Magazine, Digest, or any other matter being circularized."

This is the last free issue of the Digest for those few who are concerned, so if you want the Digest in future, pay your subscriptions if they are due.

I am also receiving a few Digests back "Address unknown".

The following is a list of members whose Digests have been returned from their last address. If you have any news of them or know their address please let me know. Some of them are older members who may have passed on unnoticed by the Committee:

J. B. Flehr
E. Whitlock Jones
P. M. Sellars
D. A. R. Golding
F. L. Phillips
L. M. Hodge
J. B. Pennells
D. V. Kitto

K. C. Catt
A. L. Warren
J. P. Walker
F. H. Shand
S. F. Pearse
N. S. Miles
W. E. Hawke
W. R. Sands

HARRY STEPHEN, Secretary.

College Chatter

During the first week of December we farewelled the O'Hallorans, and Mick moved immediately to his new position at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Just before Christmas at a joint party we said goodbye to June and Keith Hutchinson and June and Phil Henry. Keith will be at the Armidale Research Centre, and Phil will be living at Robinvale, in Victoria.

Hans Sluiter, after a brief stay as Field Officer, caught the boat for Holland early in January — "Dutchy" expects to return to Australia at some future date.

There are various rumours about staff vacancies, but I can only report that the College will be operating in 1963. Mr. G. R. Quick, Dip. Mech. E., B.E. (Mech.), has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Farm Engineering, and so we are off on the right track!

Harvest.

At the time of writing grain carting had not been completed, so exact yields are not available. The crops recovered very well, and oats will average 3-9 bags, barley 9-14 bags, and wheat 6-12 bags. Very pleasing after the outlook in early October.

Only a few bales of hay were gathered, and one small stack of silage; fodder reserves are in a fairly sound position.

Sporting.

Our cricketers have played some interesting games

over the past few weeks, with the "A" team being defeated by 2 runs and then by 1 run. The "B" team has improved, but not sufficiently to get near the top of the list.

Neil Dansie gave the teams two Sundays of coaching, which immediately showed up in match play. On the 16th December he brought up a team to play the students, and our cricketers did very well against a team which included mainly interstate players.

The tennis team is still battling to win the extra odd sets to turn defeat into victory.

Sunday, the 30th December, saw a reunion at the College of the 1957 Graduates. This group decided to hold a get-together every three years, and this was their second function. Nineteen attended a dinner in Adelaide, and thirteen visited the College, where the Principal invited them to lunch, and they then inspected the College and several staff members. Late in the afternoon many unknown College doings came to light. A successful day was concluded with a pleasant buffet tea and more lies in the Wasleys Hotel. Thanks for calling in and an enjoyable evening at Wasleys!

The third year students went on their one week South East trip at the end of November - early December. Staff members Max Burton and Ken Leske went with the twenty-three students, and report that the trip was successful and enjoyable.

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"Canowie" began breeding Poll Merinos in 1914. The stud is noted for deep, plain-bodied sheep with robust constitutions and cutting heavy fleeces of soft-handling quality wool.

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AGRICULTURE TODAY

If we are to make good use of the brain power, man power, machinery and other things available in agriculture today we must work as a team to integrate the new and the old. The mass of information available is always growing, and is beyond the capacity of any one individual or group to understand and pass on to the farmer. It demands people with different kinds of knowledge and different kinds of experience.

This thought was strongly put into my head the other day when a couple of 17-18 year old lads came to me to discuss their training for their part in life.

Both of them were keen on agriculture as a career. Not farming, because they did not have the money to get a start, but agriculture as a career. Neither of them is at present qualified to be a research worker. Neither of them is interested in this field of work except that it provides information they would like to use.

Both of them would like to work in the field of agricultural extension. Getting knowledge by training and experience, and from being able to understand research findings made by the people interested in doing this. Then after absorbing, assessing and fitting this into existing methods in use in South Australia, they wanted eventually to be able to go

out and take the better knowledge and methods to the people on the land who would put it into practice.

The above, to me, seems to be a worthwhile thing to do, and offers the chance of an interesting and useful career. It ought to, of course, because I'm in something of this sort of job myself. But in spite of that, I feel that we can use a lot more people with the above approach to life, not only in agriculture but in all aspects of living.

Both of these lads decided that they wanted to get practical knowledge of agriculture and agricultural methods as well as theory. After consideration and discussion with their parents and others, they decided that the Roseworthy Diploma Course offered them the kind of training they would like, and should open up to them, after completing their course, the kind of life work they wanted.

After they had made up their minds to try to get into Roseworthy, they began speaking about this to other people.

Then they ran into something which becomes a challenge to every R.O.C.A. member, everyone connected with the College, and everyone interested in improving our agriculture and agricultural education.

Both boys, living in different places and moving

(Continued on page 24)

Shearer SODSEED DRILL



BUILT ESPECIALLY FOR SODSEEDING PASTURES

WITH 12, 14, 16, 18, 20,
24, OR 28 ROWS . . .
Spaced 7" apart with
Special Disc-Breast-set

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Ron Tuckwell gives us this report of—

THE FIFTY-SEVENERS' REUNION

On the weekend of the 28th-30th December, 1962, the 1957 Graduating students gathered for the second Triennial Reunion, the first having been held at the beginning of 1960.

We had a list of addresses from the first reunion, so that tracking down was reasonably simple, and by the end of November I had replies from all except one. But as that was Howard Mortimer, who doesn't reply to letters anyway, I was in no way perturbed.

Friday, 28th, opened the proceedings with a party at my house in Royston Park, to which the boys brought wives and girl friends. This was a successful yarn and reminiscence swapping evening, although a trifle rowdy (perhaps it was just as well my parents were in Millicent).

I had received twenty definite starters for the formal "stag" dinner in the Strathmore Hotel on Saturday, 29th, out of thirty-three on the list. When it is considered that five were overseas and five were interstate with definite commitments, I feel that it is a worthy achievement. Unfortunately, we sat down to dinner with only eighteen, as Ian Macrow had sickness in the family and sent his apologies at the last moment, and Ian Short disappeared off the face of the earth. It was a spirited evening, bringing forth many of the interesting doings of members of

the year, and bringing back many happenings of College days. One half-hour of the evening was devoted to plans for the next reunion in three years' time, plus discussion of keeping records. A committee was elected to handle both of these.

Following an invitation from Mr. Herriot, fourteen of us attended for lunch at the College on Sunday, 30th, followed by an informal tour of the College. The remainder of the afternoon was split into visits to the homes of Bill Russell and Cliff Hooper, who opened their homes to us, made us very welcome, and provided a most enjoyable afternoon.

From Cliff's we proceeded to Wasleys, where Jack and June Altmans had provided a bumper buffet tea and to which we had invited various staff members of our time.

This proved to be an admirable round-off for the weekend and, as the last car left at approximately 11 p.m., it was felt that our reunions were assured for many years to come.

Those who attended the second reunion:

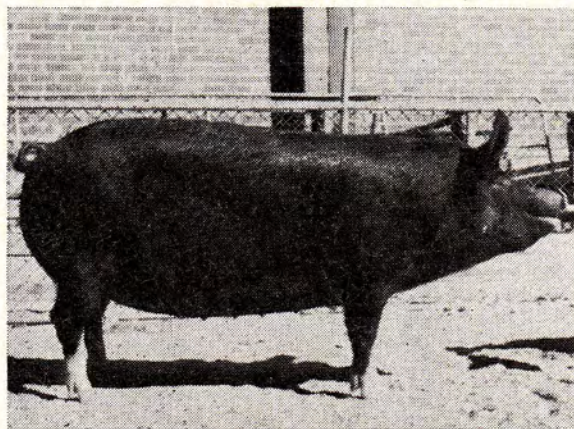
John Donnellan—Katherine, N.T. Given away peanuts for clover seed production.

John Nicholls—"Hawick", via Keith. Managing MacGregor's property of 22,000 acres.

Lynjoleen Berkshire Stud

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR, ADELAIDE, 1959-60-61-62

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ROSA LEE 10th

Reserve Junior Champion,
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Jun. Champ. Boar, 1960-62.

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Jun. Champion Boar, Jananda
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Ian Oliver—Waikerie. A big noise in the River Development Company at Waikerie. Married, two children.

Ian Rice—"Oaklands", Dutton. Running his own place at Dutton. Married.

Clive Newland—9 Kooyong St., Horsham, Vict. Is, I think, with C.S.I.R.O., and has some connection with Longeronong. Married.

Ray Teagle—Private Bag, Kalangadoo. Developing a property near Kalangadoo.

Bob Puckridge—6 Clinton Ave., Myrtle Bank.

Tony Miller—Mundallio Station, Box 225, Port Augusta. Working for father-in-law. Married (obviously).

Hans Meinck—Eldena, Box 19, Mt. Gambier. On the home property.

Frank Chapman—Coromandel Valley. Managing the family property. Married on 5th January.

David Cunningham—6/25A Foam St., Elwood, Vict. Employed by Massey Ferguson. Married, two children.

Dick Reidel—3 Arthur St., Forest Lodge, N.S.W. Going into third year of Vet. course at Sydney University.

Trevor Dillon—Box 370, Naracoorte.

Kevin Tuckwell—Port Lincoln. International Rep., Lower Eyre Peninsula.

Russ Daniel—Long Plains. Share farming with brother.

Malcolm Scott—2 Fairweather Ave., Woodville. On staff of Massey Ferguson.

Howard Mortimer—15 Renwick St., West Beach. On veterinary practice at above address.

Ron Tuckwell—St. John's Theological College, Morphett, N.S.W. Starting at above College on 1st March. At present temporary Field Officer, Sheep, at Roseworthy.

Those who did not attend:

Ken Pedley—"Craythorne", Moltema, Tas. Share farming with brother. Recently engaged.

Peter Renk—Box 44, Ballidu, W.A. Farming with uncle and brother. Married, with two children.

Leith Wallace—C/o B. and E. Humphrys, Kadina. International Rep. Engaged.

Ian Macrow—Box 178, Murray Bridge. Has an enviable dairy set-up at Murray Bridge.

Bruce Cree—4 Bailey Ave., Clandelands, Hamilton, N.Z. Recently left Ruakura and joined Sales Staff of Nicholas. Engaged.

Michael Frost—Home address, 21 Hughs St., Woodville. Last heard of at Lima, Peru, on extended overseas working tour.

Chris Fletcher—Sugurai Estate, P.O., Ngobit, Kenya. Working home property at Ngobit.

Jim Forwood—Private Bag, Willalooka, via Keith. Running family property at Kenton Park. Married.

Colin Krause—24 Milton Ave., Fullarton Estate. Teaching at Urrbrae. Married.

David Sexton—52 Melrae St., Dandenong, Vict. With Vict. Department of Agriculture. Married.

Michael Sexton—C/o S.P.S.C., Hackney. Studying Medicine at Adelaide University.

Bill Heath—C/o Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries, Konedobu, New Guinea. Assuming post of lecturer at new Ag. School at Popondetta. Married.

(Continued on page 24)

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(Continued from page 23)

THE FIFTY-SEVENERS' RE-UNION

Ian Short—"Karatta", Pte. Bag, Kangaroo Is. Running Karatta Station. Married, one child (I think).

Jack Messenger—Dept. of Agriculture, Adelaide. Works in above—don't know position. Married.

Darryl Morgan—256 Connel's Point Road, Hurstville, N.S.W. Sales Promotion Officer for Aust. Fertilizers.

P.S.—Did you notice Ron Tuckwell's movements? We wish him well in his studies for the ministry.
Ed.

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(Continued from page 21)

Agriculture Today

among two different groups of people, were challenged with the continuing question: "Why go to Roseworthy? They can't teach you anything you can't get better in a University course. Roseworthy diplomas don't mean anything these days. They won't open the way to a useful or profitable career for you."

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Do you agree or not? We'd appreciate your comment on this and any suggestions to help in establishing diplomates in their proper place in Agriculture Today.
F. B. PEARSON.

(Tear along dotted line)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

The Secretary,
Roseworthy Old Collegians' Association,
Agricultural College,
Roseworthy,
South Australia.

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