M. T. Seeliger

R.O.C.A. Digest

HONOR PAX COPIA

ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSN 1883

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

Volume 1. No. 6. June 1963

1/-

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ROCA *Digest*

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

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"The Grapevine"

by IAN FRY

Next time you are in the United Kingdom, pop in and have a yarn with Dennis Muirhead. Dennis is on the permanent staff of the Australian Meat Board as their U.K. representative. In a recent note he wrote: "If any Roseworthy Old Scholars are visiting the United Kingdom, please let them know I would be interested to see them and assist them, particularly in any enquiries they may wish to make in relation to the marketing of Australian meat in this country." After leaving the Department of Agriculture several years ago, Dennis joined the C.S.I.R.O. in Armidale, N.S.W., and from there was seconded to the Australian Meat Board to represent them in America. After two terms in the States he was appointed to the permanent staff. His address is 109 Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

There was a gathering of the clan for Mick Slee's wedding on 16th March. Mick married Teresa Jones, and took his bride to New Guinea. John Sinclair called at the College on Sunday; he is still very busy getting the 1,700 acre property in Victoria into full production. Bill Glidden, just down on leave from New Guinea, had a look around on the following Tuesday. We have heard that John Shipard will be joining the Old Collegians in New Guinea. Bill Heath has been appointed Instructor at the school at Pompadatu.

Harry Stephens has passed on a note from John Hayes, whose earlier article on his life at Alice Springs you may recall. John has now joined the A.I.R.I (Animal Industry Research Institute), where he is assisting with experimental work. At present they are conducting a phosphate trial, using Christmas Island phosphate to find the solubility and practicability of feeding phosphate on a large scale and also the economics of it. Fifty-two steers are held in pens of two, giving eighteen pairs on varying levels of phosphate and fourteen controls on low phosphate. The basic ration consists of Hammer-milled straw, blood meal and sugar for all, and phosphate and Vitamin "A" for all except controls. There are three people working on the experiment to prepare, weigh and feed the rations. This trial will take about one hundred days to complete. John's comments on the farm are interesting. Ten acres of lucerne are grown under irrigation, and yield about 12 tons per acre. This is topdressed with two bags of super, and receives four inches of water per acre per week, except from April to September, when this can be halved. Ten acres of cereal for hay are grown, in addition to a cover crop, and this yields over two tons per acre. A number of trials are being conducted with pleuro. In one trial buffaloes surprisingly showed some symptoms of infection and a mild reaction.

Peter Young paid a brief visit to the College recently. Peter had spent three years in the cattle country, and after a short holiday he took a position near Albury—a change to better country and Aberdeen Angus cattle.

Another recent note came from George Dunn, who is living at 614 Seaview Road, Grange. He mentioned that his uncle, L. A. Dunn, of Ashbourne, a former R.O.C.A. member, had passed away some years ago. George is associated with the Dunlite Electrical Co., Tavistock Street, Adelaide. He spent five years with the A.I.F., mainly with the Royal Australian Engineers 9th Division.

Don Thomson also called at R.O.C. recently, the first time since graduation, and gives his address as 54 Swinden Street, Canberra. Don is a purchasing officer with C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, and their organisation carries all agricultural requirements purchased in the Eastern States.

Anyone looking for a job jackerooing? Russell Paltridge, who is managing a property on the Reedy Creek flat, about half-way between Kingston and Millicent, is on the lookout for someone. The place is about half-developed at present, and is running 8,000 sheep and 250 head of breeding cows. His address is Mount Bruce, via Lucindale.

There shouldn't be any trouble raising an Old Boys' Bowls team next year. Ed. Clarke, of 39 Ningana Avenue, Kings Park, was in Perth for the bowling carnival recently, and says that he met two other Old Boys of his own time, Frank Packham and Harry Leake. To add to it all, he stayed with

continued on next page

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College Chatter

They come and they go——

Gerry Woodroffe has taken the position of Assistant Farm Manager. Warick Hack is cadet in the Sheep Section, and Ross Ford will shortly return to the Plant Breeding Section.

Bill Bussell, after a long stay, will leave shortly to take a position at the Northfield A.I. Centre.

Malcolm Campbell, who has been on the Office Staff for 12 months, is transferring to Adelaide.

Unfortunately I cannot report any news of the other vacancies being filled.

The season opened very well in May with 250 points, after a very long dry spell. The College was fortunate in that reserved fodder supplies were far in excess of our requirements during the long feeding period.

The football season opened with quite good hopes, as the new first year supplied some rather good footballers. Mallala appears likely to be very strong, and Balaklava not far behind. Adelaide Plains Association has been reduced to six teams; South Gawler returned to the Gawler Association, and Wasleys have also transferred to that Association.

The Inter-Col. Tennis and Rifles will be held at Hawkesbury in August. We anticipate being far stronger in Tennis, and the Rifle team should more than hold their own.

Secretary's News

A Committee Meeting was held at the College on 2nd May, and we learnt that I. Fry was leaving the State, and we needed a new Editor for the Digest.

This took up most of the evening, and we are hoping that R.O.C.A. Digest will find a new guiding star.

The rest of the meeting was concerned with Reunion arrangements, and the results of this discussion appear elsewhere.

I would like to thank all those who have written to me with information about themselves and other members. I can only keep the records correct with your help.

H. V. STEPHEN,
Hon. Secretary.

10-5-63.

Continued from Page two

his brother-in-law, Harrold Best, who was at Roseworthy from 1909-1912.

Howard Kerr Smith has had a quick change of address with Elders-G.M. He is transferred from Port Augusta to Keith.

Des Habel is at it again. Since about the begining of this year his two horses, "Haylander" and "Fairquestion", have won another seven open races, one at Pirie and the rest at Port Lincoln. They have now won 41 races between them. Believe it or not, Des says he is still battling to buy feed.

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"One of the most disturbing things about our economy is that our rural income is built on a very limited foundation."

"Australia is at present importing cotton, linseed, safflower and soya bean products—a few of the crops we may be able to grow."

CAN YOU HELP BROADEN OUR AGRICULTURE?

AGRICULTURE TODAY
by
Frank B. Pearson

The good opening rains have got the 1963 season away to a flying start. Let's stop and take a look around and see what this means to each of us and to South Australia.

The 1962 statistics show record population of sheep at 16½ million, beef cattle at 385,000, and dairy cattle at 275,000 in South Australia. This should mean more wool, more meat and more dairy products.

Wheat acreages have been steadily rising in recent years, and this year for the first time in 25 years we may have three million acres under wheat. The decline in barley acreages appears to have checked, and, particularly in the Mallee, more seed has been prepared for sowing, and we may have 1¼ million acres of barley. Oats for feed and grain is becoming more popular, and with the start of receival in bulk and some attempt to improve the quality and get-up of our oats to make them more attractive to buyers, we will see over one million acres under oats.

If the good "opening" is followed by even an average rainfall year we could have over 50 million bushels of wheat, our biggest crop ever, to harvest and sell. We could have 35 million bushels of barley and 10 million bushels of oats.

With good rainfall in the next six months we will probably produce more wool, more wheat, more dairy products and more cereal grains than we have ever had in the State before.

Cereal crops and animal production vary from season to season in relation to each other, but over recent years each has contributed about the same amount to our income. Between them they provide 80% or more of the total gross rural production of South Australia, and about two-thirds of the value of our overseas exports.

Fruit, fresh and dried, brings in some 5-6 per cent. of our rural income, namely, through oranges, apples, apricots, peaches and pears. Potatoes, tomatoes, green peas, celery and other vegetables provide another 4 per cent. Vine products and hay for animal feeding each make up about 3 per cent. of each year's income, while the poultry industry contributes 2 per cent.

All the other crops we grow, including lucerne, field peas, flax, linseed and the various seed crops we harvest, don't make up one per cent. of our income directly, although lucerne makes a major indirect contribution to the wool, meat and dairy production.

The animal, agricultural and horticultural industries listed above at the present time represent about one-third of the net value of South Australia's combined (primary and secondary) production and about 70 per cent. of our total overseas exports.

Rural production, either as part of the whole income of South Australia or as a major contributor to our export total, is a very important segment in our overall economy.

One of the most disturbing things about it, however, is that this whole rural income structure is built on a very limited foundation.

Wool, wheat and barley provide from 50 per cent. to 70 per cent. of the whole total of our rural income each year, and their value and production react sharply to changes in the sale price of wool and the effect of seasonal rainfall on the size of the cereal harvest.

In the ten years 1951-60 these three items, wool £428 milllion, wheat £210 million, and barley £145 million, contributed nearly £800 million to our gross rural income for the period of £1,300 million.

While we can grow wool, wheat, barley and the other products we do satisfactorily, and can continue to sell them profitably on local and world markets, then by all means let us continue with them, and even expand these industries if there is a likely market at good prices.

Agriculture today, in South Australia, is much too dependent on a limited number of animal products and crops. We must broaden our whole agricultural field if we are to be able to expand properly and at the same time be able to cushion our economy against the shattering shocks of lack of demand through over-production, price drops and drought effect on a few major production sources.

One of the safest avenues of expansion and development of new crops will undoubtedly lie in the field of irrigation. With our uncertain rainfall all crops relying on rain are affected by a dry season. The greater knowledge being obtained about our underground water supplies, and the prospect in the not too far distant future of more water for irrigation from the Chowilla Dam, offer us hope of increasing production across a broader field of crops.

War Service Land Settlement development and plantings would appear to have brought many of our horticultural and viticultural plantings up to the requirements of present-day markets. These, and vegetable crops, will expand with the local markets provided by our increasing population. How much they can find in the way of new export markets I don't know. This is an avenue which must be explored for these and all other rural products.

A few crops we might be able to grow, cotton, linseed, safflower and soya bean, are the source of raw materials Australia is at present importing. The Department of Agriculture is at present looking at

some of these, because new varieties offer the possibility of their fitting in with our weather and soil patterns.

Cotton, grown through the summer when temperatures are about 60° F., wants 25-30 inches of irrigation water, or rainfall, to grow successfully. Fifty thousand or so acres are being grown in Australia now, compared with 10,000 acres ten years ago. In spite of this, over 90% of our requirement for cotton is imported from overseas.

Linseed has been grown commercially in South Australia since the war, but is now declining in favour. It is a crop which fits well into a cereal-growing rotation, and can be handled with cereal-growing machinery. Walsh was at one time the standard variety, but several new ones, including Uruguay, Hazledean, Marine, Lin de Tunis and Bonnie Doon, look better. The Linseed Crushers' Association are again guaranteeing a price of £70 per ton, net weight, for pure seed, bagged and delivered capital cities. This is 35/- for each 56 lb. bushel, and at this price a 12-bushel crop compares reasonably well with a 30-bushel wheat crop. Australia's best recorded crop to date averaged 35 bushels per acre, grown in Victoria.

Most of Australia's linseed (115-120,000 acres) is grown in Queensland and northern New South Wales, and present production is about 25-27,000 tons. Australia's present requirements for linseed oil would take about 41,000 tons of locally grown seed to produce.

Safflower is another crop tried here at different times which has something of a future if suitable varieties can be found for our conditions. Some 15,000 acres is now grown in Australia, with a production of 1,500 to 3,300 tons of seed. A new variety, "Gila", suitable for Queensland conditions, has been introduced by C.S.I.R.O. to replace "Horowitz", which had an average yield of 8-10 bushels per acre and an oil content of 26-29%. "Gila" has an oil content of 36-38%, and trials suggest it will yield better than "Horowitz". Australia's usage, in terms of seed, is estimated at around 10,000 tons a year.; £45 per ton is the guaranteed price this year, with a premium of £1 per ton for each 1% of oil content above 30%.

New varieties of soya bean are also being tried out, and as this is used extensively as flour, as well as for its oil content, there is a big market overseas at competitive prices, as well as in Australia. The broadening of our population by intake from other countries will broaden the things we eat and use.

There are undoubtedly many other crops we aren't growing which would be worth trying. Irrigated seed crops of many varieties are being grown in South Australia at present and will increase in future.

If agriculture today in this State is to mature from a three-horse team to a fully developed and balanced industry, then we must grow a wider variety of crops to help us along, or we will be bogged down through lack of power to move forward.

Keep this date free
28th SEPTEMBER

GALA DAY at College, with which will be combined the annual R.O.C.A. Visiting and Sports Day.

Proceeds for SWIMMING POOL FUND. Watch for further details in next "Digest".

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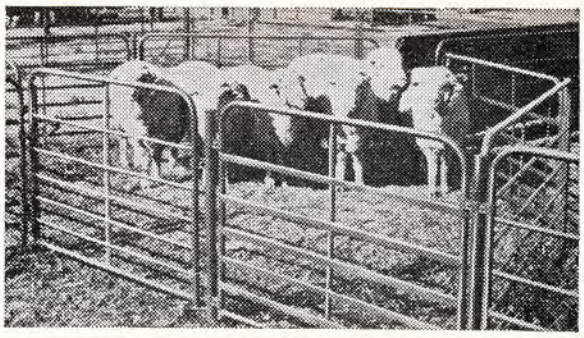

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THE MILKY WHEY
R.D.T.A.

The Annual Reunion is the most important date to keep in mind. Don't forget, 17th July, at 6.00 p.m., at the Oriental Hotel, Rundle Street; meet in the first floor foyer. Dinner will be followed by a discussion group, during which a guest speaker will address the gathering. The dinner charge is 17/6 per head. If you intend coming to the dinner, please let me know by at least a week before the night.

News From Members.

Not a great deal to report from this section.

Eddie Van Hooff dropped in to College a few weeks ago to give the place the once over. He had his fiancee with him, and told me of his pending marriage, 18th May, I think. Anyway, although the date will be well past when you read this, Eddie, we wish you well. It will certainly be a new life for you at Myponga in more ways than one.

I noticed Brian Hannaford's favourable report on the Cheese Industry in Victoria at the recent Victorian Conference. The decision to cut cheese production by 10% in Victoria may not be as difficult to put into effect over there, where so much diversification occurs in the industry. One can imagine the chaos in South Australia should this step have to be taken here. Some firms, however, are already looking ahead and are presenting flavoured yoghurt for sale in Adelaide. This may only represent a small amount of milk, but it is a step in the right direction.

The New Zealanders have made a move along these lines, and are developing a sauce, using powdered milk, for use by the Asians as an adjunct to the staple diet, rice.

R.D.T.A. members at the Victorian Conference were to have had their second reunion this year. How did it go, chaps? Let's have some news.

John Arnold has kindly supplied information on his doings during his sojourn in Victoria. The next two members from whom information along similar lines is required to reach me by 1st July are Dave Wilson from King Island and Viv. Hannaford from Heywood.

For now it's over to you, John Arnold.

"I have now lived in Victoria for the past fifteen years, during which time I have been employed by Nestle's for seven and a half years, by Tooralac Milk Products for four years at their Toora factory. For the past three and a half years I have been with the Drouin Co-operative Butter Factory Co. Ltd., mostly as Production Manager.

Duties of this position entail the production of, and supervision of the vitally important quality of, Spray Dried Milk Products (mostly used by bakers), Buttermilk Powder and Hydrochloric Casein and Cheddar Cheese.

The following facts and figures (taken from the 1962 balance sheet) may indicate the size of the Company. (We have two factories—one at Bayles and one at Drouin).

Number farms—approx. 1,000.

Total assets—£1,307,279.

Total annual turnover—£4,209,638.

Extra value of city milk to suppliers this year—£575,558.

Output as commercial butter equivalent—6,272 tons.

Total city milk sales—8,826,417 gallons.

Total milk handled—24,093,399 gallons.

As can be seen from these figures, our sales of milk to the city are the highest in Victoria, averaging over 25,000 gallons per day, and this huge amount means a large premium to our suppliers over and above the price paid per lb. butter fat.

Manufactured Products.

Butter—3,618 tons.

Casein—1,424 tons.

Cheese—452 tons.

continued on next page

BUTTER MAKES IT BETTER !

JERSEY BUTTER BEST

FOR BETTER BUTTER MILK RETURNS PUT JERSEYS TO TEST

J. M. and Mrs. E. M. GORE, Gnangwea Jersey Stud, Inman Valley

Russians and the Rest

ROCA MEETS AT KIMBA

Eyre Peninsula Branch members of the R.O.C.A. held their Annual Reunion on March 30 at the Kimba Community Hotel.

It was just as successful and enjoyable as previous dinners, with twenty-three ex-students attending. Many areas of Eyre Peninsula were represented, from Port Lincoln to Minnipa one way, and to Whyalla along the eastern coast.

Bert Solly ('09-'11), who had been branch president from 1950 until the past year, could not make the trip to Kimba due to family ill-health. Everyone present at the reunion wished Bert well, and we all hope to see him at next year's dinner in his home town.

Jack Ranford ('19-'22), of Arno Bay, as the president of the Branch, welcomed the gathering to the function at Kimba; then vice-president Gavin Young ('49-'52), of Cleve, carried on as toast-master.

Many incidents of college life over the years were recalled by individuals, but Bob Horne ('29-'32) took the "oscar" for his story about the goat in the main dining room. Bob Stirling ('31-'32) substantiated the facts, adding about the goats fighting for position on top of the strainer posts and also about having to milk them out on to the ground daily.

Jack Ranford was not far behind on points with his true story of just how the "Corridor" became cracked, and Hamish Patterson's ('30-'33) description of his aristocratic Russian fellow student took some beating. This Russian's ancestry was traced back through archdukes and grand duchesses until finally it was worked out that there could also have been some connection with "Ernest of Harveston".

Stories of the old tank adjacent to the bathroom were numerous, and it was also learnt why a certain college hack turned into a Morphettville prospect overnight.

George Nicolson ('22-'23) and John McFarlane ('60-'61) came over from Whyalla and said that, as they had enjoyed the dinner so much, they would certainly make the trip to Port Lincoln for next year's reunion.

Throughout the night the name of the late Worsley Johnston was mentioned many times in connection with past dinners and college happenings. He will always be remembered at functions of this Branch for his enthusiasm and consideration for his fellowman.

Bruce Richie, who was at the College with "Johhnie" and David Ritchie ('57-'60), made up a father and son combination at the dinner.

Peter Dunn ('53-'56) arrived late as usual, although farming only a stone's throw away at Cleve. Anyhow, he soon became one of a very argumentative group comprising Peter Mowatt ('55-'58), Trevor Schubert ('53-'56), both of Minnipa, Geoff Eastick ('51-'54), and Graham Martin ( ), both Land Inspectors, of Cowell and Wudinna, respectively, and Denis Elliott, ex-varsity student, now using

Continued on Page eight

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continued from previous page

Spray Dried.

Skim Powder—773 tons.

Butter Milk Powder—386 tons.

As a point of interest, our casein is all sold direct to Japan for use as a bond between the raw paper sheets and the kaolin (chalk) used for manufacture of gloss art paper.

The area which produces all this high quality milk is about 60 miles from Melbourne, average rainfall about 42 inches, good unlulating dairy country with a fairly temperate climate, few frosts and few prolonged heat waves. Pastures are mainly rye grass and white clover mixtures, supplementary feed is mainly hay, with very little concentrates being necessary or economically practicable. Land values are variable, but sometmes are over £200 per acre, although not much cropping or irrigation is carried out in the district. As you will have gathered, it's an ideal dairying situation, and production should keep on increasing each year.

At our peak period in November we received and handled 119,619 gallons milk per day, so our equipment must be on a large scale. Staff total about 200 all told."

Well, that's it for now, chaps. See you at The Oriental.

G. R. NORMAN.

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continued from previous page
Cleve as a centre of relaxation.

By the way, Geoff Eastick has a shift to Kangaroo Island. He is going to be homesick for the West Coast, so will be pleased to see any visitors to Kingscote from over this way.

Jim Chewings ('42-'45) said he and Peter Minhard ('32-'35) heard all the latest yarns from Pat Marrie ('25-'28) during the trip from Cummins.

At nine o'clock thoughts turned to old students who lost their lives in defence of their country, when Bob Horne recited the Ode of Remembrance.

Mr. J. A. Beare, who came from Adelaide as guest speaker, spoke with aid of colour slides on his journey through North America, Europe and Asia in connection with his work on soil conservation. Alan knew the College in his University years.

Pat Marrie, on behalf of those present, expressed appreciation to the speaker for the interesting and also extremely educational address. Jack Jones ('36-'39), of Wangary, is now convinced that American sheep eat strawberries.

It has always been the policy of this Branch of R.O.C.A. to invite a senior agriculturist or a person of similar qualification to be guest speaker at each dinner, and since the inception of these reunions the address has been the highlight of the evening. This was stressed by Ray Alcock ('39-'42) in a few well-chosen words.

It was decided that the next dinner would be held at Port Lincoln on 7th March next year.

Jack Ranford (president), Gavin Young (vice-president), Peter Minhard (committee), Col. Chillingworth and Des Habel (joint secretaries), were elected to the positions of office.

Roger Panser and Len Cook have been since written to asking them to continue to act on behalf of the Branch as its R.O.C.A. delegate and proxy respectively. The work these two old students have done on behalf of the local Branch has been much appreciated.

A part of the evening was set aside for comments on the Digest. Praise unanimous was the result, with several members stating that they would contribute during the next few months. This publication is certainly highly thought of, and the efforts of those directly concerned with the publication were lauded.

The Eyre Peninsula Branch Reunion is over for another year. Those old students who did attend agreed that it was really worthwhile, and certainly those members who were unable to get there really missed something.

Anyhow, there is always next year, and we are looking forward to a record attendance of both local and, we hope, visiting members.

1963 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION

The A.G.M. will be held on Saturday, 7th September, at 5.00 p.m., at No. 3 Hall, Railway Institute (behind the Olympic Pool).

Business:

(1) President's Report.
(2) Treasurer's Report.
(3) R.O.C.A. Digest Report.
(4) Any other business.
(5) Election of Officers.

Nominations are required to be lodged with the Secretary not later than Friday, 30th August, 1963.

The positions required for Executive are:

Present Holder	Nominations
President:	
C. W. Hooper	.....
Immediate Past President:	
R. P. Day	(No nomination required)
Vice-President:	
W. Gilchrist	.....
Secretary:	
H. V. Stephen	.....
Treasurer:	
G. R. Norman	.....

Committee:

(a) One ordinary member who shall be from the Graduating Classes of the year: .....

(b) One ordinary member who left the College more than one (1) and less than ten (10) years ago:

I. Fry .....
(Not available for re-election)

(c) Four other ordinary members:

G. P. Roe .....

J. R. Gore .....

W. S. Edge .....

H. M. Nash .....

A. A. Emerson .....

As there was no nomination from the Graduating Classes, a fifth ordinary member was elected.

REUNION.

This will be held at the Gresham Hotel, corner of King William Street and North Terrace, following the A.G.M.

The charge will be £1/3/-, payable in advance to the Treasurer.

Please fill in the following form and return to the Treasurer not later than the 1st September.

Mr. G. R. Norman,
R.O.C.A. Treasurer,
Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY, S.A.

Dear Sir,

I will/will not attend the Reunion on the 7th September.
Please find enclosed £1/3/- to cover the cost of dinner, etc.

Yours faithfully,

Fill in address here:

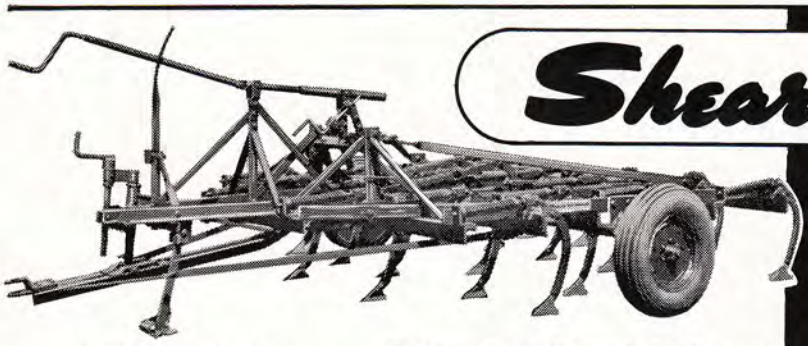
.....

.....

.....

.....

Your receipt will be required to gain admission to the Dinner.



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HIGH CLEARANCE SPRING RELEASE SCARIFIER

AVAILABLE IN
17, 21, 25, 29 TYNES
✱
REDUCIBLE TO
15, 19, 23, 27 TYNES

✱ You'll certainly 'snap to it' when you cultivate with the Shearer Spring Release Scarifier. The two rear rows of tynes are spaced evenly apart leaving a perfect cultivation pattern, and the tyne layout of the whole machine allows maximum clearance to get through the heaviest rubbish. The whole unit is built of special quality high tensile Australian spring steel with rugged bolted frame construction and Timken axles give free rolling transport—light pulling when at work.

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FLOCK No. 1374

Proprietors

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Wool—4-year average per ewe 13.54 lbs. Maximum average 1 year 14.57 lbs.

Lambs—90% marked, ewes retained or sold as breeders, wethers compete favourably against any breed either as suckers or weaners.

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