

Things Past

Newsletter 92

October 2015

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn VIC 3796 A0051327F



Dates for your diary

History Week, Saturday 18 October – Saturday 25 October.

Mt Evelyn Street Party, stall and writing competition: 1950s theme, Saturday 24 October 2015.

Lilydale High School Reunion 1960-65. 50th Reunion: Saturday 24 October 2015, 2pm to 6pm Chirnside Park Country Club. Details p.6 & www.lhs50yearson.blogspot.com

Mt Evelyn Memorial Pre-school 70th Anniversary, Sunday 15 November 2015, 2pm-4pm at the Pre-school. All welcome.

Tour of Mt Evelyn YMCA Recreation Camp, Saturday 28 November. General meeting to follow.

Dot Millard (nee Johansson/Johnson)

11 November 1913 – 10 August 2015

'There's no burden where there's love.'

Interviewed with her husband Theo in their Ringwood home twenty years ago, at 81 years of age, Dot Millard came across as fully engaged in the lives of her grandchildren and their families, with a zest for life and an ability to enjoy the humorous aspects of it. She was cooking and cleaning a little each day in preparation for a family dinner on the weekend.

Dot was born a twin of Jean in Birchip, Victoria in 1913. Her paternal grandfather, Peter Johansson (Dot sometimes said Peter was Norwegian, but his death certificate records him as a Swede born in 1828 at Jacobstad on the west coast of present day Finland), was a lay preacher. He built the bluestone Presbyterian Church and other buildings at Charlton, including banks, a post office, a courthouse and The Bridge Store which he built and operated in High Street from 1874, still standing today near the bridge over the Avoca River. Peter and wife Ellen had ten children. Their name was anglicised to Johnson.

Dot's father Andrew became a coach painter who moved with his family to Clifton Hill when Dot was only three. Dot's mother was of Irish descent and had quite a different temperament to her shy and reticent 'Norwegian'. The family were teetotallers but 'Mum, being Irish, had a tremendous sense of humour ... and Dad was just the reverse. He used to say to Mum, 'The neighbours will think you're drunk!' and she said to him, 'Oh, Dad, won't they be jealous!' On another occasion Dot's Mum dressed for a Fancy Dress party as Mr Pelaco' and Dad, being too refined to dress up, commented, 'Mrs Johnson, aren't you cold?'



Dot (seated) with twin sister Jean c.1920.

During the week they sat at the table in the large kitchen but on Sunday nights after cooking all day on Saturday, up to sixteen came, 'our boyfriends and our family. And we had high tea at 4 o'clock every Sunday.' With perhaps the exception of Mr Johnson the family were 'night owls', regularly having supper after 10pm and retiring about 11pm.

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As a young child Dot used to go to Mt Evelyn on the holidays, mostly renting a house from Mrs Flack at the top of York Road. The family travelled together on a packed train and caught a taxi from the station. 'We were very united. There were Mum and Dad and us two girls. There was my older sister Rene and her husband Noel and daughter Audrey, there was my brother Charlie and his wife Ruby and five children (Pearl, Betty, Charlie Jnr, Alan and Jim) and there was my middle brother Ern and his wife May and their three children (Ron, Norm and Margaret). We hung a sheet down the bedroom to create two rooms and a lot of us slept on the verandah. My mother and sister cooked on a wood stove for everyone.'

'It was like going overseas. You were quite somebody if you went up to Mt Evelyn or Healesville. We knew all the townspeople. Billy Hughes owned the newsagency and the greengrocer shop, the two Miss Daniels had the haberdashery shop – they had fancy work there. Strickland owned the grocery shop. Houghtons owned it after them. Micky Fuller was the milkman. His dairy was next to the lake that was in the railway section ... we used to go yabbing. And Andy Renouf was the nightman. We all thought it (pan collection) was hilarious. It was something different and it was all an adventure to us.

'My sister played piano and Mum played the mouth organ. We used to have races and play football at the Recreation Reserve. We used to dress up and act out plays. We went on long picnic walks and later went to local dances.' After walking home with boyfriends from Melbourne they would have supper then the boyfriends would sleep with the children on the verandah or in a tent. 'Then we had to be up early because the Presbyterian Church was at 9.00 or 11 am.'

The family moved twice, to The Esplanade, Clifton Hill, then to Malvern. Dot attended school until she was 14, then began work as a bookbinder. She found the work interesting as they did a variety of products including dance cards, wedding invitations, bank books and bank cheques. During the Depression Dot, like everyone else, did her level best to keep her job, coming to work even when exhausted or a little sick. When asked to work till 8pm without a meal break, however, she confronted her boss, saying, 'Are you having your tea? Well, if you are, I will too. I'm a person, you're a person'. At



Theo Millard, daughter Barbara, Dot Millard, c. 1941.

the end of the week she received a pay rise of five shillings and ultimately she became the forelady at *The Weekly Times*.

When she was 22 Dot met Theo Millard in Malvern, where he was managing a grocery shop. 'We married about three years later and my daughter Barbara was born when I was 26' (1939). Although the birth was expected to be difficult due to Dot's slight frame, she was refused access to the public Women's Hospital on the grounds that Theo's wage of £5 allowed her to pay as a private patient elsewhere.

When the Second World War broke out Theo enlisted and Dot moved to Mt Evelyn. Her brother Ern Johnson and his wife May had a large poultry farm near Edinburgh Road off Swansea Road and her parents were also living in Mt Evelyn in Grantully Street. 'I didn't move in with my parents – I went into the Matthews house but I was afraid on my own because I only had my baby. My mother wasn't satisfied with that so Mum and Dad came to live with me. Mum became ill later on so I looked after her and Dad died in 1945.'

Other family members, Dot's sister and her husband Mr and Mrs Noel Phillips moved to Snowball Avenue, Mt Evelyn, after the war. Dot continued to care for her mother, who was bedridden for the final ten years and later had Theo's mother living with her as well. Although it was 'quite hectic', Dot maintained that 'There's no burden where there's love.'

There was a big block of land next to Dot and her family that used to have a big mulberry tree which in the past they raided and ate the berries with a shilling's worth of scalded cream from milkman Micky Fuller. Dot saved up to buy this quarter acre block of land in Grantully Street, where they

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O'Shannassy Aqueduct locations identified by Reg Varty

I believe I can assist you with the identification of the aqueduct photographs [*Things Past* #91, reproduced at right].

Both of the left hand photographs were taken from the same place, the one on page 2, looking upstream and the second, page 1, looking downstream. The photographs were taken some 30 or 40 metres west of the Channel Road bridge. ...

As soon as I saw the photo with the vehicle parked on the bridge, I immediately recognised it and the pine trees. ... The motor car is facing south where Channel Road veered to the left and then immediately right (you can see a remnant of Channel Road just in front of the houses). George Street swung down hill and below the aqueduct to the right. It was from this bridge, under the pine trees, that myself and other kids in the neighbourhood tested our strength by seeing who could throw a stone up the aqueduct the furthest. My parents had a house further up the road, into Olinda Road.

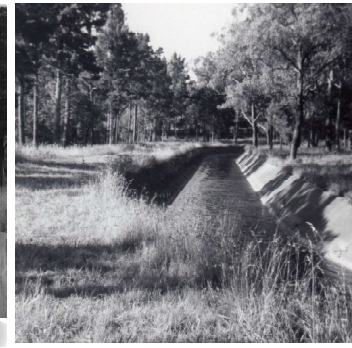
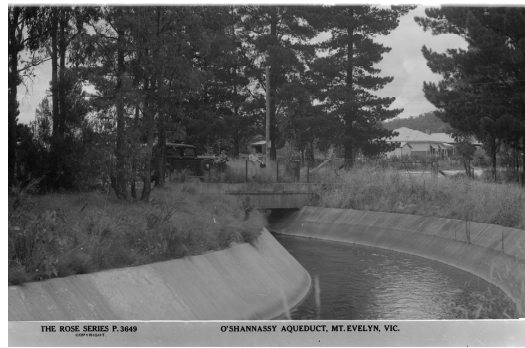
The second photograph shows the aqueduct running downstream and relatively parallel with Channel Road, before turning left around Elsie Grove and towards West Hill Drive. My father, Allan Varty (1921-2012), was only a very young child at the time the photographs were taken.

I can say further that the photo shows that the aqueduct veers to the right and this is correct. It turns to the left, around the end of Elsie grove, after having a slight hook. Looking carefully at the photo you can see the embankment of the aqueduct through the trees as it heads off to the pipeline which went down and under Swansea Road, Olinda Creek and up to the holding reservoir in Edinburgh Road.

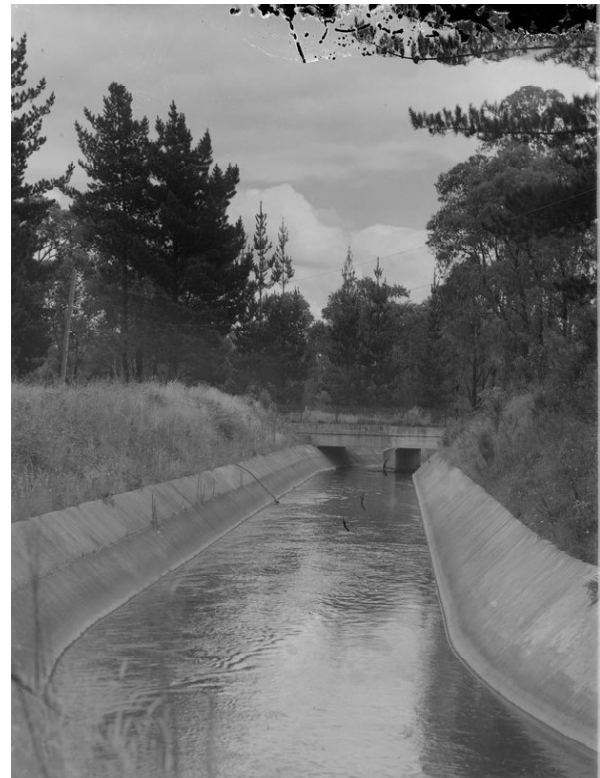
Another thing we, as youths, looked forward to was the times when the then MMBW stopped the water flow to enable cleaning of the aqueduct. It was at these times that we climbed into the aqueduct, went to the depressions under the bridges where the water collected and scooped out the fish. Good eating.

The [vertical] photograph was a little more challenging because it was taken from a position that I can't ever recall being at, however, I believe I can place it.

My belief is that it is still the Channel Road bridge with the photo being taken looking west towards



Above, the Aqueduct downstream of Channel Road (see #91 for larger images). Below, another Rose Postcard from the State Library. Reg identifies this as the Channel Road bridge seen from upstream.



THE ROSE SERIES P.4769 O'SHANNASSY AQUEDUCT, MT. EVELYN, VIC.
COPYRIGHT.

the bridge. The water in the picture appears to be flowing away from the photographer and the physical layout of the aqueduct when overlayed on a map of the area seems only to fit the Channel Road bridge.

The photo clearly shows the area into which we as children had competitions to determine who could throw stones furthest from the bridge.

The aqueduct at this point followed essentially along the south side of Wedderburn Crescent, under the bridge and then turned right to travel around Elsie Grove. From the bridge, there was a residential driveway that led to a home that sat below the embankment from where the photo was taken.

My Auntie Emmie lived in Wedderburn Crescent for some time.

Reg Varty

From p.2

ultimately built their house, for £60. Theo bought the adjoining block for £160 for Dot's birthday in late 1941.

During the war Dot wrote every day to her husband and also to his three brothers, Ken, Bob and Peter, and also sent cakes and shortbread. She kept ducks and took in dressmaking, concerned that she might be left a widow with a child to support. She was also in a theatre group that together with the Red Cross, the Church and the Country Women's raised money for the war effort and she walked many times between Mt Evelyn, and Lilydale, Silvan and Wandin. 'We did baking for the Red Cross and did a lot of sewing. We had doll dressing competitions and floral art competitions (Nance Knowles was good at that.) We collected acorns and pine cones and made different things like little painted dolls in crinoline dresses. We had eisteddfods and we were in the Mt Evelyn choir. Elsie Dorrington used to play the piano too.'



Above, Dot celebrates her 100th birthday in 2013.

After the war Theo moved to Mt Evelyn with Dot and made an agreement with the owner of the run down grocer's shop to work for him gratis for a few months then buy the property, 'lock stock and barrel'. As Theo cleaned up the place and business began to improve the owner doubled the agreed price so Theo 'did his block', saw the estate agent Hughie Wray about a block of land in the main street, the Repatriation Office regarding a start up loan and builder Jack Phillips, who agreed that the shell of a shop could be constructed in one month with the help of his son and Theo. Theo immediately put a sign up saying, 'A Modern Grocery Shop open here in a month's time'. This was to be the beginning of Millard's hardware store, joinery and cabinet making, the largest business in Mt Evelyn, employing up to 60 for at least 20 years.²

Theo and Dot became leading figures in Mt Evelyn. Theo became a councillor and member of the Progress Association and Dot's portrait was painted by Mt Evelyn artist Ernest Buckmaster. Under tuition from daughter Barbara, who became a qualified hairdresser, Dot washed and set hair in her own home for 'a donation only'. Dot often minded Barbara's children (Stephen and Kim), taking them out in the bush to pick wildflowers and to learn about the different varieties of fungi. In 1972, tragically, Barbara died and Theo and Dot took on the responsibility for most of the rearing of their grandchildren.

Dot lived to over 101 years, survived and loved by her two grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and newly born great-great granddaughter.

Janice Newton

¹ The Pelaco shirt company's advertising between 1917 and 1950 depicted 'Pelaco Bill', a bare-legged and bare-foot Aboriginal man striding along in a pristine white shirt and exclaiming: 'Mine Tinkit They Fit'. A.T. Mockridge drew the original sketch. Though recognised now as racially demeaning and inappropriate, it was used sometimes as a fancy dress option. The model for 'Pelaco Bill' was rodeo rider Mulga Fred (1874-1948), see *Australian Dictionary of Biography* article by Richard Broome.

² See chapter 'Millards Boys' in *Tracks to Trails*.

Book launch

Over eighty friends and relatives of Bill and Gwen Hardy attended the launch of Paula Herlihy's book *Bill and Gwen Hardy, dynamos of Mt Evelyn community life* on 12 September at Hardy House. Launching the book, Janice Newton said it was not only a personal history of a remarkable couple. The Hardys were active in almost every community group in the town for nearly sixty years, so the book is also an 'institutional history' of Mt Evelyn.

Thanks to MC John Stroud, speakers Christine Fyffe MP, Yarra Ranges Mayor Maria McCarthy, John Hardy and Janice Newton. Thanks also to Maria for contributing to the catering from Ward funds. The generosity of the Hardy family enabled us to print the book in colour.



Above, John Hardy at the book launch, MC John Stroud at the microphone. Photo Kevin Phillips.

OIL PAINT and OCHRE

Doug and I were guests at the opening of this exhibition. It may sound grand but the inclusive nature of our Yarra Ranges Arts Programme allowed us to simply ring up and ask if we could be there.

I've had a long standing interest in Barak as a leader of the Coranderrk settlement and as an artist, who desperately tried to pass on a threatened culture through his art work. I'm also aware of Vincent de Pury's art since I first encountered the frieze of birds he painted in The Manor House in Lilydale.

The exhibition is prompted by Guil de Pury's generous donation of early documents to the museum. The main exhibits weave around the viewing space on the ground floor. There are photographs of the de Pury family and the Coranderrk community, fascinating letters relating to social meetings and events and art work.

Central to the art are two oil paintings of Barak. One executed by Vincent's art tutor which is full face and Vincent's side view; together they present a comprehensive depiction of a significant leader. Barak's work is also on view, showing his ability with pencil and paint. There is a small reproduction of one of the works on paper held by the NGV. This collection represents dancers and ceremony; Barak's hope of handing on culture to an increasingly Westernised community. Hair is depicted by curls of charcoal whilst the bodies are drawn in with watercolour and pencil: a multifaceted approach.

I was blown away by Victor's obvious wit and drawing abilities as he penned doll size newspapers for his family noting local events around Yering. These are huge fun! Family letters (in tiny writing) flesh out other social activity at Yeringberg and beyond and the relationship between Barak and the family. Some of the references seem racist in the twenty-first century, however they do provide evidence of friendship. In her speech Auntie Joy Murphy touched on these issues brilliantly, acknowledging the wrongs that were committed in the past alongside the fact that the communities, drawn together in celebration of this event, point to a better future. Barak would have been happy.

A local dance group from Croydon Dardee Balagmdail performed three pieces. Their leader's explanation of handing on to the younger generation as well as promoting understanding within the wider Australian community was perfect for this event.

Guil de Pury informed us that the papers could have been lost in a fire at Yeringberg over fifty years ago but fortunately they had been stored in a shed. Thank goodness for sheds and the fact that not being too 'precious' about family memoirs can actually save wonderful windows into the past such as those on display.

My tear jerking moment came as I read about Barak's only child dying alone in hospital in Melbourne. He contracted some serious illness and Barak carried him all the way from Coranderrk to a city hospital. Barak was told to leave him and not come back; the boy died alone a few days later.

On the night the café acted as a mingling area where we listened to talks, drank beautiful wine and enjoyed warming finger food. The design of the museum works well in this context. Do go and see this

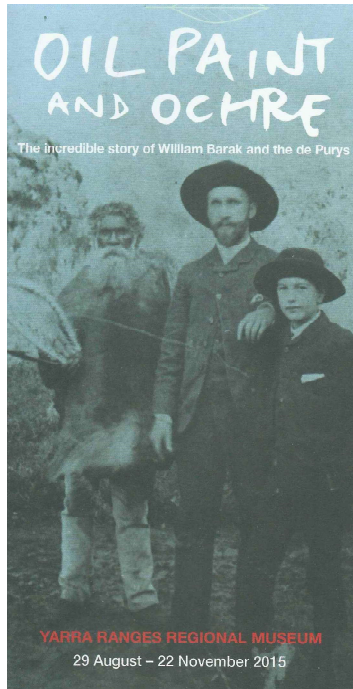
fascinating glimpse into a complex past but don't forget your specs.
Janet Wilson

Lilydale HS reunion 1960-1965

A group of ex students are planning a 50th reunion of all the class who started at Lilydale High School in 1960 and/or finished in 1965. We welcome any friends, partners etc. We have booked a space at Chirnside Park Country Club, 68 Kingswood Drive Chirnside Park 3116 from 2pm to 6pm on Saturday 24 October 2015. The space is comfortable where we can have a good chin wag and catch up on old times.

Drag out your old Salamanders, any school photos, sporting badges, team photos or even your old school uniform. Hope to see you there. We have set up a blog where there are some of the class photos and where we will be updating information about the event: www.lhs50yearson.blogspot.com If you were at Lilydale High School at this time, even if you can't come to the reunion, please send an email to lhs50yearson@gmail.com

Gail (Newton) Stiffe, Wayne Waters, Kerryn (Johnson) Blackshaw, Alison (Cooke) Smith and team.



The Scholars: Mary Macdonald's letters

Extracts from letters written to J.A. Macdonald October 1956 – August 1957

10 October 56 Kinder opening on Saturday and Mrs Garrett (Kinder mother who has been running the auxiliary while Mrs Adams was away) fell downstairs and was taken to hospital.

25 October 56 No ill effects from Salk injections. Drs Middleton and Ostberg (from Lilydale) swabbed 130 preschoolers in half an hour. They do 45 schools a day.

The Lilydale Show and sports were postponed because of rain. The Mt Evelyn Youth club had laid out £200 for a stall at the Show.

J Stubbs (butcher) has sold out to a bloke called Carswell who comes from Scotland via Horsham. One son will work in the shop. The other is only 10.

17 November 56 That clipping about the Communists – *The Argus* spread itself on the subject of the Mt Evelyn School Teacher Jack Highett, being exposed as a secret member. Much scandal around here of course. They say he will be struck from the preaching plan (Methodist Church) and it will mean more rows in the Youth Club.

22 November 56 AMPOL and Mr Bennett were to put a TV set into the garage shop this am for a free show (for the Olympic Games held in Melbourne). Would be on for the fortnight but some hitch occurred and the children who went up came back much disappointed. However we had the wireless on and they ... were all around for the Duke and Torch arrival.

28 November 56 The children finally saw some TV on Friday night – it was installed (at the Garage) about 8pm. We saw Misses Cuthbert and Matthews in the semi finals.

13 December 56 Malcolm went to Healesville sanctuary with the Kinder on Monday. A good day and a good day had by all except Mrs Garrett who had her banana stolen by an emu.

19 or 20 December midnight The Presbyterian Sunday School Anniversary was a great success in spite of rehearsals being Simply Awful. (This 40 minute production involved hymn singing, prayers, prize giving and three costumed and acted/sung plays, one concerning King Josiah, Onesimus, Tychicus, St Paul, the altar of Baal, carpenters and a Roman soldier, and the others directed by Miss Lloyd, involving Black American slaves and Korean communist soldiers. Several Methodists and the Billygoat Hill Sunday School augmented the audience.)

Mrs Matthews and Heather (Grey) in one wing dressing carpenters (Alistair Macdonald, Peter,

William Smart, Martin (Pearson-) Jones, Richard Carrol, Ron Dixon and John Bakker. Miss Lloyd and Rosalie in the other wing doing Koreans and Negroes (no make-up, thank goodness). Mrs Hudson provided various garments for the principal Koreans and King Josiah (who) also wore my gilt Pakistani sandals. The negro slaves picked cotton and sang 'Were you there' and 'Steal Away'. The Korean play was probably the best – Sandra Adams and Margaret Hodges were excellent and Katharine not too bad.

There was a fire in Grantully Street today – Ward's place. Everything gone, even money in a tin box.

10 January 57 The Kinder is in some slight strife with the Council. Mrs Garrett is all for pitching into them, but I finally managed to convince her that it should be done through the Preschool Association. Things are somewhat complicated for us by the fact that Sister Dolphin (from the Infant Welfare Centre), who has never paid us any particular attention, suddenly decided it would be a Good Thing for her to move into the Kinder.

14 February 57 Kinder Annual General meeting last night. Fair attendance. Rawson MLC chaired and spoke on Parliamentary approach to Juvenile Delinquency. I am second Vice President, Mrs Garrett, first. Mrs Adams looks very sick. Mrs Hardy is now Secretary and is expecting a baby soon.

21 February 57 It was a Scout parade on Sunday. The Church was quite full for the first part of the service. Mr Stroud is proving a very popular leader. We had a Kinder Committee meeting last night at the Hardys' home ... they say that just opposite lives a Dutch Parson who ministers to all the Dutch folk in the surrounding districts. High School still seems fairly good but I am instructed to write a letter to the Education Department, about the over-crowded busses.

8 March 57 We just had a few minutes' rain, but not nearly enough. The tanks are perilously low. I have been bathing all 4 children in the same water which is a delicate shade of black by the time I fish the boys out. I have to do the girls first as they are slightly less grubby.

13 March 57 This is being written by candlelight, as we are enjoying a lovely thunderstorm and lots of beautiful rain at last. Perhaps I will be able to use the laundry once more.

Thursday late afternoon The Presbyterian Sunday School picnic on Monday was a great success, about 100 present including 15 adults.

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We went to Kalorama reserve. We had a staff versus PGA rounders match. Mrs Koolmees and Mrs Lillie played for us. Mr Stroud and Mr Dixon and (Rev) Mr Scott were the only men, but very useful (for starting races with loud voices etc.)

16 April 57 Tuesday night I went to the Horticultural Open Night. I was saying to Miss Lloyd that it had been ages since I had been out 'just for fun' on my own and she suggested letting me go as she had some study and she could do it just as well here as at her place. ... Mrs Garrett snaffled most of the prizes. Mrs Peter Millard got quite a few and Mrs Hudson one or two.

9 May 57 Isabel was on T.V. on Tuesday. (HSV 7 had arranged for a dozen young children from the Presbyterian girls and boys club to be present. Isabel answered a riddle ... 'What goes 99-thump?' (Ed. A centipede with a wooden leg!) Then 4 (Wendy Lillie, Lyn Morris, Mel Cox and Bruce Jones) got behind the screen and put their faces through holes and the cartoonist, Weg, drew around them what they wanted to be.



Above, Isabel's childhood paintings of the Macdonald home, painted at about age 10. The lower picture includes her sister Katharine and brothers Alastair and Malcolm.



Above, the house as it is today.

'The house is now number 49 Bailey Road, and as you are going downhill, it's on the left-hand-side, just 'below' the old Spring Road, now called Spring Street on 'our' side of Bailey Road – north, I guess.

The extension of Spring Road on the other side of Bailey Road is now called Marshall Street, but in my day that was just a rutted track which only Doc Hardy was game enough to actually drive along in his little VW! Whether rain (huge mud puddles) or shine (snakes), we had to walk along it to reach the main road each day in order to get to Mt Evelyn Primary School.' – Isabel

They couldn't see of course and Lyn's giggles when she came around the front afterwards were terrific. She had said a ballerina and was drawn very fat with very skinny legs. The children got a bottle of cordial each to bring home. Evian Williams drank half of his neat then filled it with water to take home.

19 July 57 The SEC are making a clean sweep of all the trees along all the roads, it would seem. The Avenue of Honour looks ghastly.

8 August 57 There is to be a (Presbyterian) Church Board meeting tonight, at which, so Mr Stubbs gives me to understand, there will be fireworks. Mr Pitt died recently ... bequeathing income from some properties to the Mt Evelyn Presbyterian Church Trustees, to use for the Church. These properties, so Mr Stubbs says, have been condemned and must be sold, but still should yield not less than £3000 for re-investment. But as there are no longer any Trustees, the money will be handled by Presbytery. Mr Stubbs and, he says, Mr Stroud and Jim Marshall think that the Trustees should be appointed forthwith so that they can be sure of the money being re-invested in building a new Sunday School. He says he wouldn't trust Presbytery to do this. ... Scott, however is against having trustees.

From the letters of Mary Macdonald, with permission from Katharine Macdonald.

Dalmeny cupboard mystery

Greg Luke recently made a surprising discovery at his home.

'Today we found a label/sticker attached to a piece of furniture whilst painting at Dalmeny. The cupboard, from Parker and Bird Timber Merchants 192 Burwood Road Hawthorn, was addressed (in pencil) to:

G Royal
c/- Elmo
Mount Evelyn

These names do not usually appear in association with Dalmeny.'

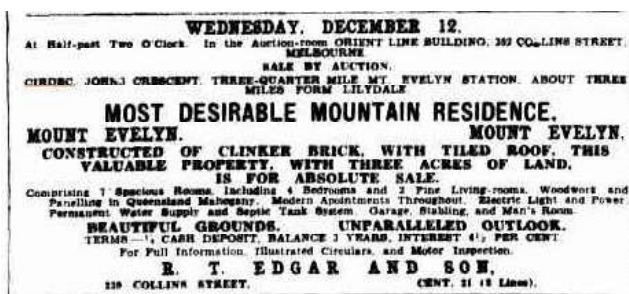
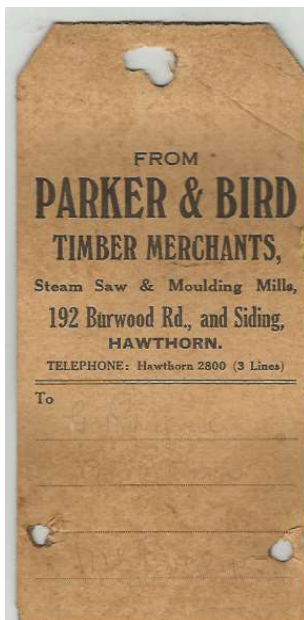
Greg said the cupboard appeared to date from the 1930s or 1940s. Mentions of Parker and Bird Timber Merchants come up on Trove, dated from 1915 to 1949.

Dalmeny, in Johns Crescent, was formerly Mrs Harriet Hordern's house Cirdec, built about 1923. An auction notice from 1934 describes the house, including the 'woodwork and panelling in Queensland mahogany'. Cirdec did not sell until 1937, and then for much less than it had cost to build.

The new owners, Mr and Mrs W.H. Glen, renamed the house 'Dalmeny' after a village and stately home in Scotland. Greg thought Mr Glen might have ordered the cupboard, as he had connections to Hawthorn. 'Mr Glen was a descendant of operators of Glens Ferry – Glenferrie.'

One possibility is that the timber was sent to Mt Evelyn and that Royal was the cabinet maker or joiner who built the cupboard. We have however no record of a 'G Royal' or 'Elmo' (a house name? business name?) in Mt Evelyn.

Greg added a note on problem trees near Dalmeny.



Above, auction notice for Cirdec, *The Argus*, 1/12/1934, p.2. Top, the address label from the cupboard. The pencil writing is very faint in the photo.

'We had difficulty with local Shire re dangerous trees on Aqueduct land. After ten years of inspections and non-activity we contacted the Ombudsman. Trees were removed the next day! Apparently local councils live in mortal fear of the Ombudsman. This may help others having difficulty with local "Tree Managers".

Our trees are managed bi-annually by a QUALIFIED Arborist.'

Preserving the station platform

Representatives from the History Group, Rotary and Friends of the Rail Trail met with Council reps at the Mt Evelyn Station site on 7 September to discuss plans for the former platform remains.

The surviving section is of historic interest but, with its bits of rusty iron, is potentially dangerous to Trail users.



Council's proposal is to wall off the foundations but include clear panels so that the structure will still be visible. The area will be landscaped. It is not yet decided whether to plant natives or to create a garden reminiscent of the award winning station garden.

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for September 2015 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and the Melbourne average.

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
57.2mm	62.9mm	30.6mm	58.0mm

McKillop readings courtesy Jean Edwards. Melbourne figures Bureau of Meteorology: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

Kevin Phillips

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