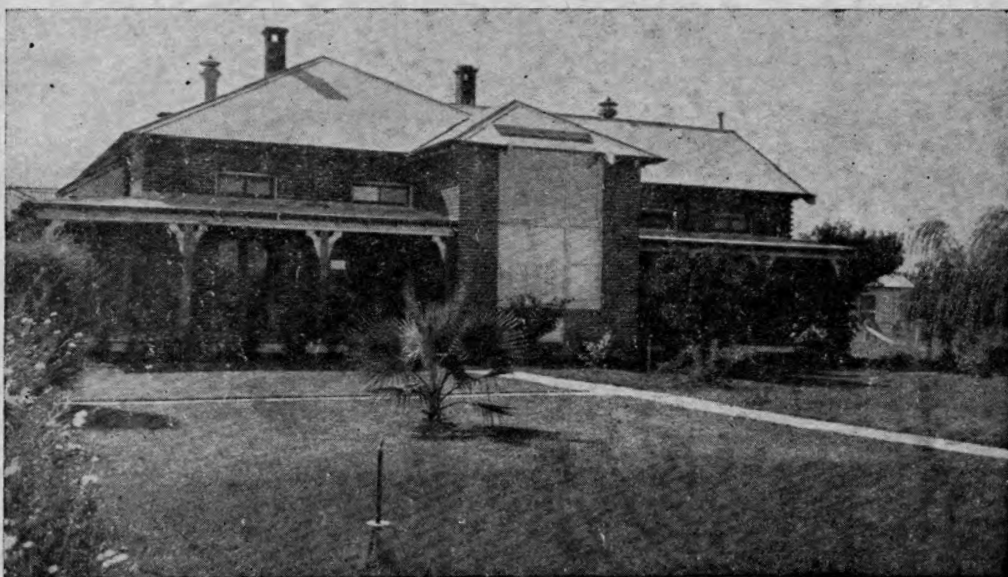


Back to Gilgandra

SEPTEMBER 20-26, 1937



Gilgandra District Hospital

Souvenir Booklet

Price 2/6

189⁹X

"BACK TO GILGANDRA"

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"Back To Gilgandra"
: Celebrations :

20TH. SEPTEMBER

TO

26TH. SEPTEMBER

1937

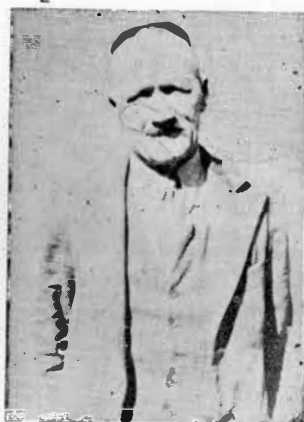
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FOREWORD

IN an effort to meet their present obligations to the District Hospital it is particularly fitting, for many reasons, that the citizens of Gilgandra should have chosen to publish a brief survey of the history of the district. Among these is the fact that the minds of present residents and of those who previously lived here, naturally turn to the past and that time when the benefits of such an institution in our midst were unknown and then on to the future, the prosperity of which depends upon present effort.

In preparing this outline the committee was faced with the formidable task of research for material not previously published in any form. This work was considerably assisted by those older residents who willingly gave of their time in an endeavour to supply many of the important links in the chain of the district's story.

It is but natural that many facts of interest have been omitted, and doubtless, some errors have crept in, but the utmost care has been displayed in securing information from only the most reliable sources, and this has been carefully checked.

We of Gilgandra must ever treasure the memory of those stalwart pioneers whose mighty efforts Australia has developed in face of tremendous difficulties to the proud modern Commonwealth we hail and revere to-day.

We have in our midst old residents who saw and aided much of the development, and to whom, also, we must express our profound thanks, in this auspicious week of our history. We would ask you to remember that, as well as pioneering in our early days we are still pioneering in these more complicated times. Modern knowledge and methods must stir us to still greater skill and greater effort, that our memories may, too, be treasured by generations to come.

Gilgandra and district is regarded as one of the State's finest assets. We proudly acknowledge ownership and accept it as

THE GOLDEN GIFT OF OUR PIONEERS.



PROGRAMME

Monday, 20th September

10.30 a.m.

Official Welcome to Visitors at Council Chambers.

2 p.m.

Car Tours of District.

Garden Party at the Gilgandra Park.

Bowling Green, Tennis Courts and Golf Club open to visitors.

8 p.m.

Ball at Curban Hall. Lorna Lance Orchestra. A royal welcome awaits all ex-Curban residents.

Pictures at Western Monarch Theatre. "Back to Gilgandra Week" funds to receive 25 per cent, of the gross takings.

Carnival in Bridge Street. Professor Wallace's Punch and Judy Show, etc. Gilgandra Band in attendance.

Tuesday, 21st September

(Public Holiday)

9 a.m.

Monster Procession to Show Ground. Procession will leave from corner of Miller and Wrigley Streets.

10 a.m.

Gymkhana at the Show Ground. Also Athletic and Novelty Events. Luncheon and Refreshment Booths on Ground.

2 p.m.: Official Opening of "Back to Gilgandra Week."

8 p.m.

Old-Time Ball, to be held in Australian Hall. Lorna Lance Orchestra. Admission prices 6/- and 4/-.

Carnival in Bridge Street. Professor Wallace's Punch and Judy Show, etc. Gilgandra Band in attendance.

Wednesday, 22nd September

(Half Holiday for Storekeepers)

Morning free.

First Day of Gilgandra Diggers' Race Meeting, at Gilgandra Racecourse. Excellent day's sport assured. Prize money for meeting amounts to £120.

8 p.m.

Ball at Collie. Lorna Lance Orchestra. Pictures at Western Monarch Theatre. "Back to Gilgandra Week" funds to receive 25 per cent, of the gross takings.

Carnival in Bridge Street. Professor Wallace's Punch and Judy Show, etc. Gilgandra Band in attendance.

Thursday, 23rd September

(Half Holiday for Storekeepers)

9.30 a.m.: Clay Pigeon Shoot, to be held on Gilgandra Race Course. Second Day of Gilgandra Diggers' Race Meeting— another excellent day's sport assured.

8 p.m.

"Back to Gilgandra Week" Ball, to be held in the Australian Hall. Lorna Lance Orchestra. Splendid floor and good supper. An ideal place to meet old friends. Prices: 7'6 gents; 5/- ladies.

Carnival in Bridge Street. Professor Wallace's Punch and Judy Show, etc. Gilgandra Band in attendance.

PROGRAMME—Continued

Friday, 24th September

10 a.m.

Car Tours to Tooraweenah for Athletic Sports Meeting at that centre. Visitors should take this opportunity to avail themselves of a good day's sport and also to view the scenic beauties at the foot of the Warrumbungle Mountains.

8 p.m.

Ball at Tooraweenah. Music will be provided by Lorna Lance Orchestra. Carnival in Bridge Street. Professor Wallace's Punch and Judy Show, etc. Gilgandra Band in attendance.

Saturday, 25th September

10 a.m.

Back to School Re-union. All ex-students cordially invited to attend at the Gilgandra District School and St. Joseph's Convent. Back to School" bell rings at 10 a.m.

2 p.m.

Carnival in Bridge Street—to be continued until mid-night.

8 p.m.

Dance at the Australian Hall. Lorna Lance Orchestra.

8 p.m.: Pictures at Western Monarch Theatre.

10 p.m.

Announcement of Winner of the Queen Competition. Presentation of candidates and tableau. A unique event—do not miss it. Voting closes at 9 p.m.

Sunday, 26th September

Special Church Services will be held at all local Churches. 'Back to Church' will be the keynote for the day.

The Lorna Lance Orchestra has been engaged for the "Week", and will be in attendance at all dances.

Mr. A. McGowan, of the Western Monarch Theatre, has generously consented to donate 25 per cent of the gross takings for pictures screened on Monday, 20th September, and Wednesday, 22nd September.

During the Week the Bowling Green, Golf Links and Tennis Courts will be open to all Visitors.

Special tournaments have been arranged.

DISCOVERY OF CASTLEREAGH RIVER

EXPLORER OXLEY

ON 23rd July, 1818, Oxley, who had been following the Macquarie River, was surprised to find that it expanded into large swamps and then disappeared. He returned to Mt. Harris and intended to trace the country east to the coast. He went as far as the Arbuthnot Range and found treacherous bogs.

On 27th July he found a large stream in flood, which he called the Castlereagh. On 2nd August it fell suddenly, showing that it came from the

mountains. He found a ford and continued his journey. Oxley really crossed the Castlereagh River twice on this trip, because his route from Mt. Harris to the foot of the Arbuthnot Ranges, Round Hill, and return to the depot again, took the form of an eclipse. He crossed the Castlereagh River just east of Brightling, in the Wingadee Shire, then went east, passing Mt. Tenandra and Round Hill near the Warrumbungle Mountains.

Evans, the surveyor with Oxley's



SKETCH SHOWING ROUTE TRAVELLED BY OXLEY



CASTLEREAGH RIVER IN FLOOD, 1920

expedition, made a detour from Mt. Harris, crossing the Castlereagh just north of Armatree. The accompanying sketch map, kindly supplied by Mr. B. T. Dowd of the Royal Australian Historical Society, shows the crossings.

A tree existed on Armatree Station until a few years ago on which were marks said to have been carved by Oxley (or Evans), but it has since been burnt down.

The name Warrumbungle Mountains has since been given to the western portion of the Arbuthnot Range, although the latter name is still retained for the eastern portion.

Before long he arrived at a beautiful hill, which he called Kangaroo Hill, on account of the large number of those

animals. Later it was called Loadstone Hill because of its effect on the compass, which it made turn south. Small pieces of rock from the hill, however, had no such effect.

On August 8th, Oxley ascended three thousand feet to the summit of Mt. Exmouth, which is the central point of Arbuthnot's Range.

After this he left the ranges and for a hundred miles or more passed through very rough country, with bogs and quicksands, and wooded stony hills. Forty miles north of Hardwick's Range he passed through fine rich country and saw and named Kerr's Peak, Mr. Letley and Witwell Hill, which had the same effect on the compass as Loadstone Hill. On 2nd September he saw and named Peel's River.



THE MOLE BLACKS, WHO CAMPED NEAR THE SHOW GROUND

GILGANDRA OR CARLGANDRA

ABORIGINAL MEANING—A LONG WATERHOLE

THE reasons for the selection site of most towns is sometimes very hard to determine exactly. Many people assume that it just grew in a particular spot, without assigning any special reasons why the pioneers selected such a situation in preference to others.

The present township of Gilgandra undoubtedly owes its origin to the fact

the scourge of the rabbit was, as then, unknown. In the vast expanse of the west water conservation was the work of Nature.

An old name for Gilgandra, used by the early settlers, was "Froghollow."

This same waterhole was the junction of two main routes to the farther West: One continuing down the Castlereagh towards the present town of Coonamble, and the other down the Marthaguy and on towards the Macquarie and Bogan Rivers.



THOMAS BYRNES, who was held captive by O'Shea, the bushranger.

that in the Castlereagh River, at the back of the present shop of Mr. A. W. Wood, there existed a hole of permanent water, 100 yards long and about 12 feet deep. The word Gilgandra, or Carlgandra, means a long waterhole. It was around this water hole that the earliest squatters made their headquarters, so that their flocks would never die of thirst. Grass there was in abundance, for the aborigines had no domesticated animals, and



THE LATE MRS. MORRIS

A plan of 1847 shows that the two squatting stations in this locality were Gulliganda and Eringanerin, the former occupied by T. Spicer and the latter by Merritt.

In 1848 Thomas Spicer applied for a lease of his run "Carlghanda", described

as follows: "Estimated area, 23,040 acres. Estimated grazing capabilities 900 cattle. This run is situated on the Castlereagh River, is bounded in the following manner: Commencing on the north bank of the said river, at a point two miles above my hut and stock yards, running east 4 miles, thence north 6 miles, west 6 miles, crossing the bed of the river, then south 6 miles, and east 2 miles to the point of commencement.



JOHN FISHER SMITH

This run is very uncertain and badly watered, being often nearly dry altogether: is joined on the upper side by Mr. Merrett on south-east; and on the lower side by Mr. C. Lowe, north-east."

John Merrett applied for a lease of his run, "Eringanerin," described as follows: "Estimated area, 15,000 acres. Estimated grazing capabilities, 500 cattle. Bounded on the east by the Castlereagh River; on the west by the Marthaguv Creek; on the north by Spicer's Station "Galganda"; on the south by Rouse's Station, 'Breelong.'"

In 1866 Thomas Byrne held "Carlganda" and G. Tailby held "Eringanerin."

The earliest selections in the vicinity are enumerated below:—

Portion 13 of 100 acres, Parish of

Eringanerin, County of Gowen, applied for as an Improvement Purchase by Thomas Byrne. Plan of survey in 1866 shows the following improvements:—Hotel, garden and cultivation paddock, with stock yard on the adjoining land to the south.

Portion 2 of 100 acres, Parish of Bobarah, County of Ewenmar, applied for as an Improvement Purchase by Thomas Byrne, but granted as a Conditional Purchase to Jane Wrigley. On this portion, also measured in 1866, was located a slab hut.

Portion 1 of 100 acres, Parish of Bobarah, applied for by E. M. Byrne as a Conditional Purchase in 1866 was measured in 1867, the improvements consisting of an inn and yard.

Portions 1 and 2 now comprise an extensive private sub-division.

Portion 14 of 40 acres, adjoining portion 13, Parish of Eringanerin, measured in 1871, and containing the stock yards previously mentioned, was applied for in 1870 under Conditional Purchase by John Macaulay. This holding was,



MARY ANN SMITH

however, declared void and offered for sale at Coonabarabran in 1878 at an upset price of £3 per acre, which included improvements valued at £1/15/0

per acre. No bid was received, nor when it was again offered in 1881 at Coonamble. It was subsequently disposed of in 1884 under Conditional Purchase to J. F. Smith.

Portion 15 of 50 acres, Parish of Eringinerin, was applied for by John Macaulay in 1873 under Conditional Purchase.

Portion 16 of 40 acres, Parish of Eringinerin, was applied for in 1873 by

G. K. Smith under Conditional Purchase. Plan of survey of 1876 shows the following improvements: Inn, value £300, post office store £30, stable £30, and well £40.

The Village of Gilgandra was proclaimed on 8th December, 1888, and a sale of Town Lots was held by the Crown at Coonamble on 23rd October, 1889. Sixty lots of half acre each were offered, all except six being disposed of.



MR. J. THOMPSON'S BULLOCK TEAM, in front of the Coronation Hall, which was below where "The Weekly" Office now stands.

SNAPSHOTS

FROM EARLY GILGANDRA HISTORY

WHEAT GROWING

THE first wheat was grown about 70 years ago, on river flat, near the Chinaman's garden. Only about an acre was sown, and the variety was "Purple Straw," but wheat on a commercial scale was later grown by John Collison (about three miles down the river, now owned by W. E. Morris); Peter O'Neill, at "Barrigan," near the present railway

crossing on the Dubbo Road; James Barling, at "Bunjie"; and Bonifous, at "Blayak." This latter property was then owned by Mrs Goodall, a woman doctor. Clifford Whiteman's father also grew wheat commercially at "Arthursleigh." In 1910 Joe Parslow conducted experimental wheat plots on the Collie Road, about six miles out, and still continues same on his present property near Balladoran.

The earliest wheat growers used a wooden plough, with a forked stick for harrows, reaping hook and flail, and lastly, cleaned the wheat with the wind.

The first stump jump plough was used at "Bunjie", by James Barling, who also introduced the stripper harvester to the district. These early Massey Harris strippers lost a lot of grain. For hay cutting a "back delivery" came from Wellington, as a demonstration machine. The sheaves were tied with tie wire instead of binder twine.

EARLY LAND HOLDINGS OF THE DISTRICT

BERIDA: The original boundaries of Berida extended right to the Castlereagh River, down to Armatree, and joined Bundemar on the west and Bunjie on the south. It was taken up in the early 50's by Richard Reade. He is said to have died at Bobborah. Flood and Co. then owned it until 1894. This company also owned Quambone, and use to shear up to 250,000 sheep. Barry and Jones later purchased the property, which they then called Berida Pastoral Coy., by which name it is still known. Much of the original holding has, of course, been subdivided, more especially close to the town—Bunter's, Miss Curran's, C. J. Reynolds', Murray's, Wheatley's, Rankmore's, Stokes', Hobbs', and J. J. O'Brien's, all originally, were portions of Berida.

BUNJIE: Cheetham owned this property in the early 70's, the original holding being 40,000 acres. Later owners were Brentnall (80's), and Waters. The present properties owned by W. Jarvis, J. B. Barling and the Wilsons were all sub-divisions of Bunjie.

YALCOGRIN was originally leasehold, and was selected by different settlers on C.P. and C.L.

EVERTON and **KICKABIL**, comprising 25,000 and 30,000 acres respectively, were held by an Englishman named Wheble, who, however, later became

bankrupt. He leased them as pastoral holdings.

Further south, around Eumungerie, Wheaten was a big land holder. James Donnelly's holding, "Oak Camp," is now owned by Charles Marsh. Broad was also an early selector.

Between Gilgandra and the War-rumbungles the country was taken up under different settlement leases, the most recent being the prickly pear leases. Singer's property, for instance, was one of the earliest selections. It was originally taken up in the early 60's by an old shepherd—Noels by name. Molken-tin's selection also dates back some distance, it being originally taken up by Anna Jane Byrne.

No account of land settlement would be complete without reference to the remarkable developments of the last thirty years, in regard to wheat growing in this district.

About the year 1907. Mr. F. Hagel-thorn, of Horsham, Victoria, in the course of a trip through New South Wales, visited Gilgandra, and was immediately struck with the future possibilities of the district as a wheat growing area. He purchased a number of properties here, and induced a number of Victorian wheat farmers to have a look at the district. From that date land sales boomed. Properties quickly changed hands at ever increasing prices, for it must be remembered that the earliest arrivals were able to buy land here at a very low figure, with the proceeds which they got from the sale of their own higher priced farms in Victoria.

The following are a few of the names of earliest Victorian, South Australian and Riverina farmers who showed that Gilgandra's soil and climate was especially suited for wheat-growing:—Messrs W. C. Rolls (formerly of Krookong, Lockhart), Geo. Pagan, snr., Wm. Pagan, A. Pagan and Geo. Pagan, jun. (of Ardmona, Mooroopna, Victoria), J. Gavin (of Bridgewater or Loddon), Albert Rogers, A. Rogers, W. Rogers, J. Rogers (of Horsham, Victoria), H. McClure, J. Curran, G. Curran, Wm. Brooks, W. Creenaune, Nalder Bros., L. Schmidt, P. J. Anderson, W. E. Linke,

C. J. March, J. F. Linke, J. Elsom, F. W. Mackenzie, Johns Bros., John Johns, Mrs. A. Linke, G. Altman, N. Reichelt, W. H. Block, Mrs. W. Stockings, H. Stockings, J. McKentint, W. Barber, J. Oehm, Hickman Bros., N. I. McLennan, H. Leonards, K. McAllister, Thos. Watt, Robert Stanley, Jas Young, Butler Bros., Norguay and Son (all from the Wimmera and Mallee district of Victoria), Messrs. D. M. McLennan, A. Lummis,

J. Ahern, J. Tynan (of the Goulburn Valley, Victoria), Messrs. Fallon Bros. (of Bunyip, Victoria), Messrs. E. E. Stuckey, Thos. Sheldon (South Australia), Messrs. G. A. Semmler, L. E. Semmler, C. Semmler, F. J. D. Hanckel, B. R. Cassidy, D. Nagle, J. Priddle, and W. Priddle (of the Temora, Henty and Grenfell districts of New South Wales). Many of the above settlers are still residents of the district.



TELEGRAPH HOTEL. 1886—The late Mrs. Morris licensee. Mayford Morris on the left, the late Harry Knowles on the right.

SOME FACTS

GATHERED FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH "OLD TIMERS"

THE Commercial Bank corner has seen some changes in the progress of Gilgandra. Charles Main had a store there first before A. F. Garling. The site was previously a cemetery.

* * *

Tom Wrigley built a hall on the present site of the Western Stores and Edgleys Ltd., while A. F. Garling occupied Main's store. He later shifted it across to the corner until recently occupied by Glover's store.

* * *

Just behind—a little to the north—where the "Weekly" office now stands was an old shingle shearing shed, built

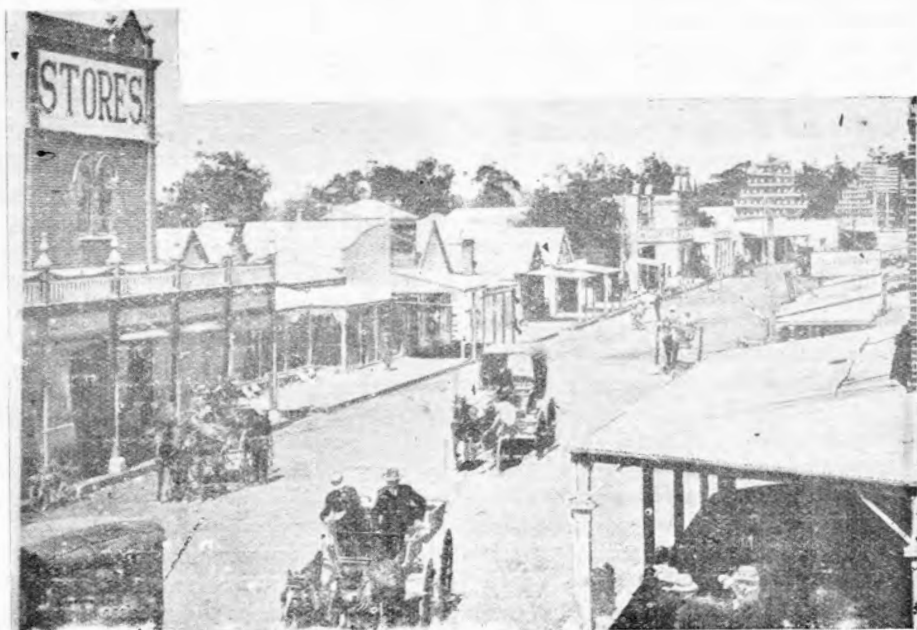
by Mrs. H. J. Morris. One end was also used as a racehorse stable. These stables were also used by the Cobb and Co. drivers.

* * *

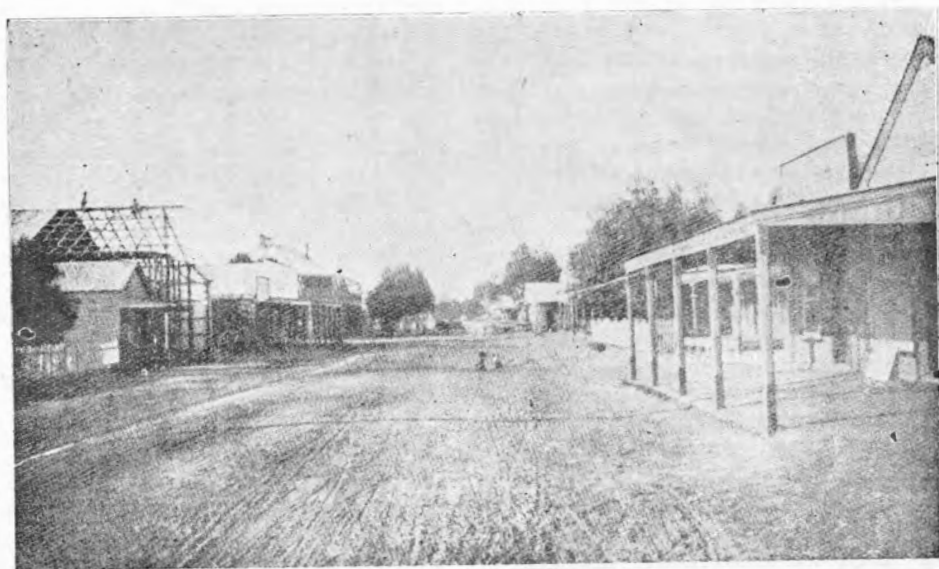
How many windmills are there in Gilgandra to-day? The answer does not matter, but A. Mortimer erected the first—about two miles down the river on Bruce Lithgow's present farm, "Lockwood."

* * *

Thomas Collison carted the first load of wheat to M. McLeod's Flour Mill, soon after it was opened in 1910.



MILLER STREET, 1908



AN EARLIER VIEW OF MILLER STREET—Looking towards the Royal Hotel
from Townsend's Garage

McTaggart's store was situated in Lower Miller Street, near where a clump of cedar and pepper trees are now growing. He was one of our very earliest storekeepers. McTaggart's store was hardly a general store—it kept merely knick-nacks, but in the 80's Russell and Mocre, of Dubbo, opened a branch here. It was the first big general store.

* * *

Other early storekeepers were John Collison, Charlie Tym and James Hall and Son. The latter were burnt out about three or four years after they opened up in business. Collison's store was also burnt down.

* * *

The only relic of the old Bushman's Arms Hotel (later the Telegraph Hotel), which occupied a position on the western side of the old river crossing at the intersection of Court and Miller Streets, is portion of one of the chimneys.

* * *

John Fisher Smith opened a branch store towards the site of the present race course, and later still, built the old hotel at the junction of the Coonamble and Mendooran Roads. This building still stands.

* * *

Two old residents of Gilgandra are descendants of very early pioneers. They are James Madgwick and Charles James Gibson. The former's father, in association with John Jones, took up "Enrogha" Station in 1844, for Robert Martin. Later they shifted to "Kiameron," below Mt. Harris. Madgwick, on his own account, then moved to Coborra, near Dunedoo, where James Madgwick was born. He and his wife celebrated the 61st anniversary of their wedding on 2nd May, 1937. John Jones later owned "Merrigal" Station, Collie.

* * *

George James Gibson was the first white man to live at Coonamble, and he formed the station for Walker, from which the town derives its name. After forming Coonamble, he then took up "Bimble", in partnership with Patterson. George Gibson was born there in 1842, and thus claims to be the first white child

born on the Castlereagh below Curban. "Tooloon" was the next property taken up by Gibson and Patterson, but as their wives could not agree, they later sold the property to two Scotchmen.

* * *

Another resident whose descendants live in the district was James Christian. He came over from the Mudgee district about 1836. He had a hotel and post office combined on "Carlgandra" Station, but on leaving "Carlgandra" he selected "New Breelong (Mr. K. McAllister's present home)". While there a bale of wool fell off the skids when loading the teams and killed him. He was buried near McAllister's house and the remains of the grave may still be seen there.

* * *

The two young Scotchmen, who bought "Tooloon" from Gibson and Patterson, provide a link with early Gilgandra. This is the story: These young men employed four Chinamen on their property. One of them had very severe ideas of discipline and often took the stockwhip to his celestial employees when they displeased him. He was frequently reminded of the possibility of reprisals, but it remained unheeded. One day his stock horse returned without its rider, and a diligent search failed to reveal the whereabouts of the station owner. An aboriginal, however, discovered that the man had been buried in the sheep yard. The four Chinamen were tried for murder. One turned Queen's evidence and was reprieved, but the others were hanged. This Chinaman, Cam by name, then worked at Mrs. Byrne's hotel, in Gilgandra. Cam remained in her employ for many years, until his death, following a burning accident, about 1907.

* * *

The other Scotchman met an equally violent death. Returning from Mendooran, with supplies, he called in at a friend's place at Appletree Flat for a cup of tea, but was shot dead as he entered the door of the hut by a bushranger who had bailed up the hut-keeper, just before, and forced him to prepare a meal. The bushranger availed

ently took the Scotchman for a policeman, as he was a perfect physical specimen of humanity.

* * *

Neither Scotchman left a will, nor did they have any relatives in Australia, so the property was sold by the Sheriff, Michael McMahon being the purchaser.

* * *

The large waterhole in the Castle-reagh River, near the present bridge site, also attracted two neighbouring tribes of blacks in dry seasons. The Coonababran blacks used to camp in the bend of the river, where the race course is now situated, and this fact accounts for the number of blackfellow tomahawks that have been found thereabouts. One of their kings was blind in both eyes. The other tribe, the Mole blacks, used the present site of the show ground as a camping ground. One of their kings, "Big Jimmy," and his queen, "Gillen," are remembered by old hands. The Mole tribe wandered over "Wallengambone", owned by Gibson. The ending "bone" means a water hole or gilgai.

* * *

The tragic death of Thomas Byrnes, father of some of our oldest residents here, is worth repeating, if only to contrast present times and those of half a century ago. Byrnes kept the first hotel, the "Bushman's Arms," on the west side of the river. He was on his way home from Mudgee, in November, 1868, with supplies, when at Sallalah Creek, some 20 miles from Gilgandra, he was surprised by the bushranger O'Shea, who tied him to a tree, after securely gagging him with a silk handkerchief. He remained there for two nights and a day. John Allen Cameron discovered the wandering team of horses of Byrnes', and at daylight was surprised to hear a faint "coo-ee." Byrnes had managed to release the gag, but the awful experience resulted in his death a few days later. His grave still exists on Mr. Frank Bensley's property.

* * *

Some of our first tradesmen and professional men were:

First butcher: Wm. Fitzgerald, who came from Mudgee in the 80's.

First bootmaker: W. Murphy, father of Mr. Clem Murphy, of Warren Road.

First baker: W. Walker.

First blacksmith: George King.

First Solicitor: Mr. Salmon.

First chemist and dentist: Charles Kearns.

First doctor: Dr. Taylor.

* * *

The first bridge over the Castle-reagh at Gilgandra was built in 1885, by a man named Grey. Thomas Collison assisted in the construction, and he and Alex Miller organised the first dance on the structure, which netted £60.

* * *

Jack Hitchen had the first gramophone in Gilgandra. It was of the old cylindrical type and was played outside his shop, no doubt, as a means of advertising his business and attracting customers.

* * *

Mrs. Alf Mudie claims to be the oldest living resident born in the present town. She was born in the first hotel, in 1868, soon after it was opened.

* * *

Coaches ran from Dubbo to Coonamble three days per week in the early days. Well-known drivers were James Brown, Paddy Murray and William Walden. Walden later kept an hotel here, and still pursues that calling, being at present the licensee of the Union Hotel, Nabitac (North Coast).

* * *

The first big flood in the Castle-reagh River, remembered by white men, was the 1874 flood. Its waters reached the site of the present post office. Incidentally, the school was shifted from the old site, now used as the Recreation Reserve, to Wrigley and Womboin Streets, because of the low lying nature of the area. The 1920 flood was 4 feet deep on the Recreation Reserve. The 1874 flood washed away the kitchen of the old Telegraph Hotel, and submerged the main building to a depth of four feet.

* * *

A meeting to form a polo club was held in Gilgandra in September, 1905.

THE GILGANDRA DISTRICT

SITUATED 320 miles from Sydney by rail, on the main Western line, the rich and fertile district of Gilgandra is one that has made rapid progress during recent years. This is in no small measure due to an influx of new capital from Victorian and South Australian farmers, expert tillers of the soil who found in Gilgandra a district destined to become a rich mixed farming area.

Despite high land valuations which recently prevailed throughout most parts of the State, Gilgandra values remained firm. The result is that men on the land in this district are not burdened with over-capitalisation.

Areas range from 500 to 2,500 acres throughout the district, and there is considerable mixed farming—wheat, wool, fat lamb raising, and dairying—with the result that there is generally a fair amount of ready money in circulation.

Sleeper cutting is another industry which increases the spending power of the community. For the past twelve months 32,263 sleepers have been de-

livered to the local depot, valued at £7,553/3/0. At Balladoran 12,291 sleepers were delivered, valued at £2,915/18/6.

Railway returns also indicate to the observer the stability of the district. The total revenue at the Gilgandra station for 1936 was approximately £21,153.

In the matter of wheat production, Gilgandra more than holds its own, and in 1930 the total yield of the district exceeded 300,000 bags—the largest yield of any district in the State. For 1932 the total yield was 270,000 bags, but in 1933 over 400,000 bags were harvested—a record. In 1934, the yield was 331,000 bags.

Lucerne is grown to a considerable extent in various parts, adding increased value to land, as well as providing a safeguard in time of drought.

The building activity in the town during the past few years is a true indication of the prosperity and progress being maintained. There total the surprising sum of £9,963, for 1933, mostly new residences. For 1934 new commercial buildings amounted to £5,536.



THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE CASTLEREAGH RIVER AT GILGANDRA

and new private dwellings £7,291. Alterations to existing buildings amounted to £874. Alterations and additions for 1935 amounted to £7,363, and for 1936 £7,321.

It can be justly claimed that there is no country centre which has made such rapid progress as Gilgandra. On all sides there is evidence of advancement, and the main business centre has been transformed, comprising up-to-date buildings on all sides.

The town has an efficient lighting service, which is controlled by the Gilgandra Shire Council. There are 300 consumers. The service is D.C. Lighting units are charged at 9½d., with a reduction of 3d. per unit if paid promptly, power up to 60 units 3½d., with a reduction to 2½d. per unit for all over 60 units.

The district has an average rainfall of 24 inches.

An assured water supply is available from 25 feet to 75 feet underground, and house-holders have their own supply—windmills generally being used for bringing it to the surface.

With the establishment of a butter factory at Dubbo, considerable dairying

has been undertaken. Many valuable herds have been secured from the Central areas and the new venture is proving of considerable financial benefit.

For the year 1936 an amount of £22,563/16/10 was spent by the Gilgandra Shire Council on public work. For 1935 the amount was £27,170/15/1. The total length of dedicated roads and streets within the shire are 883 miles. The Shire comprises an area of 1,640 square miles.

A flour mill provides employment for 26 employees, with a wage sheet of £5,000 per year. During a twelve month period 450 tons of flour are milled.

Throughout the district sawmills operate considerably, cypress pine being a timber which is noted for its resistance against the attacks of white ants or borers. This is a large industry, and one mill alone pays £5000 in wages, and last year marketed two million feet of timber.

In the world of sport, Gilgandra can claim to be abreast of the times.

The main tennis club has six courts of the same quality as those at Dubbo, where the hardcourt championships of the State are played, and said to be the



FAT CATTLE, GRAZING ON LUCERNE IN THE TOORAWEEAH DISTRICT. Warrumbungle Mountains in the back ground.

best in New South Wales. Championship tournaments are held the first week in September each year.

Situated in the Park is an up-to-date bowling green, with six rinks.

A nine hole golf course, with sand greens, is located on the race course.

Races are held during the Xmas holidays by the Jockey Club, and this year a Diggers' Race Club has been formed.

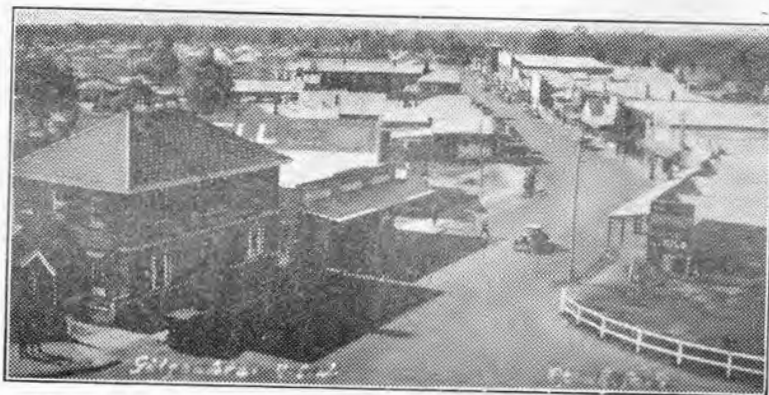
For services rendered during the World War, Gilgandra secured a grant of £1,200 from Bournemouth (England) towards the erection of St. Ambrose Church as a peace offering. This gift was

Shire in 1930 was 4,800. In 1937 it had increased to 5,500.

Freight Charges: On truck of sheep to Sydney, £9/19/2; cattle, same; wheat, 17/5 per ton.

Passenger Fares: First-class to Sydney, £2/13/3; second-class, £1/16/11.
* * *

Closely connected with the progress of the district is the firm of the Western Stores and Edgleys Ltd., for to-day they occupy a prominent position in the business life of the community, having followed in the footsteps of pioneer storekeepers already mentioned. Their commencement was in 1916 when they



VIEW OF MILLER STREET, LOOKING FROM FIRE STATION TOWER.

made for the town within the British Dominions with the greatest war record, in comparison to its size.

The Pastoral and Agricultural Association has over 300 members, and hold their annual Show in August. Gate takings for the 1937 Show amounted to £215/18/8. For 1936 (Jubilee year), the gate takings were £222.

A specially constructed rail motor train maintains a daily service. This is a new type of rail motor, capable of a speed of 70 m.p.h., and covers the 40 miles from Dubbo to Gilgandra in 1 hour 11 minutes, including stops. It is equipped with two Leyland engines of 160 horse power.

Population: The population of the

absorbed the firm of Wises Ltd., and then in 1920 A. F. Garling, following this up by acquiring S. J. Glover (formerly J. H. Hitchen) this year. The original firm was the Western Stores Ltd., and embraced Wises Ltd. (Wellington and Gilgandra), J. G. Brown (Dubbo), G. W. Barlow (Narromine), and W. J. Lequisene (Trangie). With the acquisition of Edgley's Ltd. (Bathurst) and Dalton Bros. (Orange), the name was changed to the present one. Later they absorbed leading stores at Canowindra, Cowra, and Grenfell. Mr. H. Richards was the first manager locally, followed by Messrs. D. J. MacGregor, M. Cameron and S. Gornall, present manager.

GILGANDRA DIRECTORY

Schools: Gilgandra District; St. Joseph's Convent.

Banks: Commercial Bank of Sydney; New South Wales; Union of Australia; Government Savings and Commonwealth (Post Office).

Chemists: R. L. Currie; A. E. Holmes.

Hotels: Imperial (E. S. Lewis); Royal (Miss A. Curran); Tattersall's (H. S. Gregg); Railway (C. F. Myers).

Hospitals: Gilgandra District; Chinnock Private (Matron Hill).

Produce Merchants: Western Stores and Edgley's Ltd.; J. Collison and Son; J. M. Hearn.



Picturesque Avenue of Wattie Trees, Gilgandra Park

Chief Stores: Western Stores and Edgley's Ltd., General Storekeepers; A. S. Garling, drapery and mercery; A. Shalhoub, drapery and mercery; C. A. Murphy, general store; J. Collison and Son, general store; J. Kelleher, general store; Miss K. Keir, general store; Douglas' Chain Stores, drapery; L. J. Rendell, general store; J. M. Hearn, furniture and ironmongery; G. Cullen, grocery.

Solicitors: Beveridge and Serisier; Kelly and Astill.

Forwarding Agents: B. Moore; K. Diggs; A. Organ; R. Diggs.

Stock and Property Agents: Tibbits and Sons (E. C. Tibbits); Miller and James (S. T. Bartley); Christie Bros. (G. Christie); A. Townsend and Son (E. Townsend); D. A. MacLean and Co. (D. MacLean).

Boatmakers: A. W. Gosling; E. Garbutt. Picture Theatre: Western Monarch, A. McGowan, Proprietor.

Dentists: J. Veroli; W. E. Croxon.

Saddler and Cycle Agent: W. B. Creen-aune.

Second-Hand Dealers: J. M. Hearn; D. Hearn; C. A. Murphy; J. Collison.

Skin Buvers: A. W. Wood; C. Morris and E. Ellis; D. Hearn; W. O'Neill; C. A. Murphy.

Churches: Church of England (Rev. W. J. Hudson and members of the Bush Brotherhood); Roman Catholic (Father Eviston); Methodist (Rev. Wm. Taylor, L.Th.); Presbyterian: Church of Christ (Mr. I. J. Chivell); Lutheran (Rev. T. W. Koch); Salvation Army, Adjutant Sayer.

Barber Shops: E. Mudie; J. Coventry; G. Noonan; L. Blackett; N. Norton; P. Potts; Miss McGahan (ladies).

Refreshment Rooms: A.B.C. Cafe; S. G. Turley; Carlton Cafe; Miss K. Keir.

Butcher's Shop: W. E. Morris; Athol Ferguson; McCarthy Bros.; J. Curran. Newsagency: T. Farrance.

Jeweller: I. Fleming.

Doctors: Dr. N. J. Clements; Dr. I. K. Alexander.

Town Band: C. Ross (Bandmaster).

Late Shopping Night: Saturday. Half holiday, Wednesday.

Sporting Clubs: Golf Club; Gilgandra Tennis Club; Presbyterian Tennis Club; I.O.O.F. Lodge; Gilgandra District Cricket Association (affiliated club, Gilgandra, Catholic, Rail, I.O.O.F., Springfield, Balladoran, Appletree Flat, Bearbong, Hillside); Catholic Sports Club; Jockey Club; Football Club; Cycle Club; Girls' Hockey and Cricket Clubs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT GILGANDRA

THE Shire of Gilgandra was constituted under the Local Government Act, 1906, and the first meeting of elected Councillors was held on 8th December, 1906, being attended by the following: Councillors S. J. Barden (President), Jas. Barling, H. W. Mitchell, R. G. Hitchen, John Wheaton, and J. A. Berryman, who composed the first permanent Council.

The first Council Chambers were rented from Mr. A. F. Garling and were situated on the present site of the Commercial Bank. Mr. Horatio Beveridge was Council's Solicitor, and Mr. A. A. Mudie was Council's Valuer, while the first Shire Clerk was Mr. F. McCook,



COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GILGANDRA

and the first Shire Engineer Mr. K. Beaton. Mr. Richard Biggs carried out the first contract, No. 1/07.

In addition to the gentlemen previously mentioned, the following have held Civic Office at various times:—Messrs. A. Maguire, George J. Gilmour, J. B. Roach, Peter O'Neill, Robert Stanley, James Patrick, John Luckie, W. Barden, John Wilson, Wm. Stockings, R. Moad, James Bell, A. W. Miller, J. W. Lithgow, T. C. McMillan, J. H. Mc-

Carthy, A. Whiteman, G. Skinner, D. J. Bonnington, William J. Barber, Edwin Townsend, Percy B. Walke, E. J. Blight, Geo. Chandler, W. Burrell, John Smirthwaite, I. J. O'Brien, Thomas Watt, O. Jarvis, T. G. Hitchen, Keith McAllister, Peter Fallon, A. W. Yeo, Norman D. Jones, Wm. Geo. Haynes, L. D. Serisier, W. Wheaton, F. C. Borough, Jack Nelson, Albert Barden, E. E. Semmler, R. J. Bell, H. J. Weston, A. A. Mudie, R. S. Lewis, E. C. Tibbits, and A. J. Collison.

The original Council was composed of six members, but in December, 1928, this number was increased to nine.

In November, 1928, Council established the Electricity Trading Undertaking, purchasing the trading franchise from Mr. H. Foran.

To-day the Shire consists of 1640 square miles, with a population of 5,500, and 883 miles of dedicated roads. Three bridges have recently been constructed on the Gilgandra-Dubbo Road, while two bridges are being built on the Gilgandra-Mendooran Road. Access roads serving a number of people are also receiving attention. Council is crushing basalt with its own plant, and bitumen surfacing has commenced, as well as extensive drainage works.

The expenditure for 1907 amounted to £1,244/17/3. Twenty-eight years later the annual expenditure was twenty-eight times greater, viz., £34,483/5/8.

The present Council is composed of Councillors Peter Fallon (President), Keith McAllister (Deputy President), T. G. Hitchen, I. J. O'Brien, E. E. Semmler, R. J. Bell, A. A. Mudie, E. C. Tibbits, and A. J. Collison.

The Shire Clerk is Mr. I. B. Sword; Shire Engineer, Mr. J. N. Hunter; and Assistant Shire Clerk, Mr. R. Smith.

EARLY SETTLERS ON THE CASTLEREAGH

THE very earliest settlers on the Castlereagh included John Ross Patterson, George James Gibson, Andrew Brown, and an English gentleman named Walker.

John Patterson arrived in Sydney from Scotland in 1836 or 1838. He immediately commenced working at his trade of carpenter and joiner, on an hotel then in course of construction op-

and was ever on the look out for more grazing country. Caigan Station, near Mendooran, was taken up in 1824 or 1825 by Andrew Brown and remained in the family for over 80 years, but Walker undoubtedly used Caigan as a sort of depot for further excursions, which brought him directly to the Castlereagh. Lawson, as stockman, and Hedgehill, as hut-keeper, were associ-



SWIMMING CARNIVAL NEAR GILGANDRA, 1921

posite the Convict Barracks. Seeing prospects of becoming a wealthy landowner he travelled west to a station called Wallerawang, from which the present town is named, owned by Walker, but managed by Andrew Brown for Walker. Brown received for himself a grant of 200 acres at Bowenfels, but he managed Wallerawang for many years. Here Patterson learned how to manage station property. His mate was named Sidey, who later became a son-in-law of Walker and inherited some of Walker's properties.

Walker was a man of great vision

ated with Patterson in finding new country for Walker.

Leaving Wallerawang with a train of donkeys and a black for a guide, they discovered many miles of excellent cattle country on the Castlereagh. Walker duly registered his claim for the properties, and commenced to stock them. He left some sheep on Caigan, but taking the youngest and best of the cattle he pushed on towards the lower Castlereagh. Hedgehill, Lawson and Gibson built huts and stockyards and so started "Eurime" and "Coonamble" stations. The first hut built in Coonamble was on a site close

to the present Roman Catholic Church.

These young men were not paid in money for their services, but received payment in cattle. Each muster a percentage was branded with the individual's brand, and turned out with the others to fatten. It was not long before each had sufficient stock to commence operations for himself, and so Patterson and Gibson, in partnership, took up a selection five miles down the river, which they named "Bimble." This was done by the simple means of building a hut and stockyard and notifying the Commissioner that they were in possession. The same partnership took up "Toooloon" later, as noted elsewhere in this pamphlet.

On 24th January, 1845, James Colman Patterson was born (evidently at Bimble), and he claims to be the first white child born on the Castlereagh—in a hut made of pine slabs and roofed with box bark. George Gibson, however, claims this honour, as he also was born at "Bimble," in 1842.

The late Samuel Meers, of "Sunny Clime," Collie, was also said to be the first white child born on the Castlereagh.

Patterson had as overseer at "Bimble," a man named Reardon, who had married the widow of another partner of Patterson, Angus by name. After a trip to Sydney to seek medical attention for his eyes, he found Reardon in possession, assisted by a hired out soldier Tomkins. He, however, rounded up his cattle and drove them over to "Caigan," but later returned and managed Curban for Robert Bennet. He extended Curban by taking up several "five mile blocks." Not content with the life of a manager, Patterson again made another start for himself, and rented two square miles of property near Prospect. Here he engaged in mixed farming and sheep raising. Later he was engaged in the carrying business, taking wool and wheat to Sydney and returning with stores. Walker made a practice of shearing his sheep at his headquarters at Wallerawang, for it was easier to travel the wool on the hoof, as well as being a saving in time, for sheep could be driven across country

where heavy waggons could not travel.

Patterson found the call of the Castlereagh particularly strong, and though he never actually owned land again in this district, he returned to Coonamble, where he died. Here, he again worked at his trade, and built the first hotel in Coonamble for Patrick McMahon, who bought "Toooloon" at a sheriff's sale from the two young Scotchmen mentioned elsewhere. It is interesting to note, however, that Patterson moved over to the Macquarie River and took up "Ewenmar," five miles below Warren, where he remained for many years, making it into a very fine property.

The descendents of Andrew Brown still remain in the district, and his grandson, Mr. W. Douglas Brown, is the present owner of "Rosewood," Gulgambone.

Amongst the business people in Gilgandra in 1905, who advertised in "The Castlereagh" were: Joe Smith, fruit and vegetables; A. A. Mudie, auctioneer and commission agent; W. C. Walker, IXI. Bakery, who delivered bread to within three miles of the town; John Murray, Railway Hotel, whose porter met all trains; D. G. Simmons, Telegraph Hotel; G. Chandler, Yalco-grin, who was agent for Lennon's Austral harvester, Alston's steel windmills 6' to 8' 1903 patent, Red Leap s.j. ploughs; The Gilgandra Steam, Saw and Planing Mills, Thos. Jones proprietor, H. Gibson manager; Edward Lyons, tailor; J. S. Salmon, solicitor; Chas. Bilsborrow, dentist; J. W. McDonagh, enterprise stores; McEwen and Smith, agents, who had for sale 900 Firth bred wethers at 14/- and 900 black ewes in lamb at 11/-; A. Townsend, agent; J. Page, tinsmith, whose address was opposite the new post office; R. G. Hitchen, butcher, steak being 5d. per lb.; Misses Jackson and Laws, dressmakers, late of Mudjee; Thos. Gardiner, blacksmith, and J. Clarke, the Federal Forge; A. F. Garling and J. H. Hitchen, general storekeepers; J. D. Smirthwaite, house agent and undertaker.

GILGANDRA'S WAR RECORD

THE "COO-EE" MARCH—A SNOW BALL ARMY

PROBABLY no aspect of recruiting in the early days of the late war so stirred the imagination of the people of Australia than the march of the Gilgandra "Coo ees."

After the lapse of some months Mr. W. T. Hitchen conceived the idea of the march, and overcoming the inertia on the part of official dignitaries, he at last gave the word of command that started the Gilgandra contingent on Sunday, 10th October, 1915, on an epoch making march of 330 miles.

This idea of raising men for overseas service was conceived by one of our leading townsmen, Mr. W. T. Hitchen, who was the local plumber and windmill expert. He had almost reached the age limit for military service and the fact that one of his sons had answered the call did not deter him from doing his bit.

With the close co-operation of Mr. A. H. Miller, who acted as secretary to the movement, and who performed wonderful work for its success, the military authorities were not long in realising the recruiting value of such a march. This was followed by similar ventures in all parts of the State, and "Bill" Hitchen's idea meant the response of thousands of men to the colors.

Although our grand old townsman did not see the firing line, he insisted upon sailing and reached England, where the severe winter climate undermined his health, and he passed away in the Harefield Park Hospital on September 3rd, 1916, at the age of 44.

Mr. Charles ("Cob") Hitchen and Mrs. P. Carroll, of Gilgandra, are son and daughter, whilst Mrs. R. Nelson, of Tottenham, is another daughter, and



Swaggies Cheer the Gilgandra Snowball

Good-bye

a hail for refreshments

The Snowball grows

THE "COO-EES" ON THEIR MARCH FROM GILGANDRA TO SYDNEY

Mr. W. Hitchen, Tottenham, and Mr. M. Hitchen, Condobolin, are sons. Mrs. Hitchen, widow of the late W. T. Hitchen, resides at Condobolin.

The men who were sworn in for the march from Gilgandra were: John Quinn, John McNamara, Stanley E. Stephens, Jack K. Hunt, William L. Hunt, Albert Pearce, Leslie Greenleaf, Charles Finn, Francis White, Alfred Wardrop, Victor Quinton, William Alston, Sidney Bennett, John R. Lee (now a member of the State Parliament), Harold Baxter, R. C. Wheeler, W. T. Hitchen, H. McKeown, James Crawford, Charles Marchant, A. J. MacGregor, L. L. McGuire, R. C. Campbell, Peter Wilson and Frank Humphrey.

Equipment at the beginning was distinctly inadequate—a few tents to be sure, but no bed clothes. Just before the commencement of the march a Gilgandra storekeeper provided waterproof sheets, good lengths of oil-cloth, but the men had no greatcoats.

Commencing just 35 strong, they arrived at Liverpool Camp on 12th November, 277 strong. The journey down will always remain in their memories as one of the most pleasant recollections. Nobody could be too loud in the praise of the splendid and kindly manner in which they were treated all along the

line, and with the great reception finally given them on their arrival in Sydney. They left for the front on 8th March, 1916.

Enlistments in the various towns en route were as follows: Gilgandra 35, Dubbo 13, Wongarbron 12, Geurie 6, Wellington 31, Stuart Town 1, Eucharreena 1, Molong 4, Parkes 5, Orange 19, Millthorpe 2, Blayney 11, Bathurst 17, Glannire 1, Yetholme 1, Wallerawang 3, Lithgow 19, Blackheath 2, Katoomba 11, Leura 1, Lawson 10, Springwood 5, Penrith 4, Parramatta 41, Ashfield 22. Total, 277.

THE FIRST ENLISTMENTS

The first to volunteer from Gilgandra for service in the Great War were Troopers Alex. Lithgow, W. Robinson, E. Skelly, and J. Clancy. This was on August 17, 1914, and they were tendered a farewell in the old Australian Hall. A week later W. McIntyre, Hooper, N. Lovett, Alvan Stanley, Dick Gavin, J. Christie, Davis, McMahon, and two others, offered their services, whilst at a later date—August 28, 1914—the following answered the call: R. V. Steward, L. Brook, R. Aldrett, R. Wheatley, I. Walker, E. W. L. Frost, F. W. Hunt, P. Griffiths, and J. Rough.

GILGANDRA'S HONOR ROLL

The following is, as near as possible, the list of men who enlisted for active service from Gilgandra and district.

*Denotes killed in action or died of wounds.

*Aldridge, A.
*Aldritt, R.
Anderson, T. S.
Anderson, A. E.
Alston, W.
Andrews, J.
Akers, F.
Ashton, W. J.
Adams, S.
Allan, H.
Allman, W.
Buckley, H. W.
*Buckley, H. A.
(V.C.)
Bailey, J. R. R. J.

Bailey, J. C.
Bain, L. H.
Byrne, E. F.
Byers, B. K.
Baker, W. J.
Baker, B.
Barden, R.
*Biggs, R. H.
*Brook, L. S.
Beames, K.
Blowers, D. P.
Brennan, J. A.
Bolder, H. D.
Bolder, A. V.
Bell, R.

*Brown, A.
Bullard, F.
Blackett, L.
Bell, C.
Bell, J.
Button, A.
Burns, J. N.
Campbell, H. E. O.
Campbell, H. C.
Cameron, J. G.
(D.C.M.)
Cameron, T. E.
Christie, J.
Christie, H. P.
Christie, G.

Carberry, S.
Callan, T. H.
Carroll, L. T.
Clark, C. F.
Clancy, J.
Colan, J.
Coxsedge, W.
Creennaune, W.
Cox, A. G.
*Cox, J. C.
Curry, R.
Christiansen, C.
Crawford, J.
Colderidge, —
Cummins, A. F.

HONOR ROLL—Continued

- *Cobcroft, E.
 Collie, J.
 Cole, R. H.
 Cullen, T. W.
 Casey, J.
 *Curran, E. C.
 *Currie, B.
 Cashell, H.
 *Clancy, W.
 Clancy, S. B.
 Carter, C.
 *Diggs, C. R.
 Diggs, R. D.
 *Dalmain, H. C.
 Deans, R.
 Desns, J. F.
 Davidson, F.
 Dawes, A.
 Dawson, J.
 Dawson, R. E.
 *Davis, J.
 Darlington, H.
 Davis, S.
 Doyle, T.
 *Doyle, M.
 Dawes, R. T.
 *Duncan, C.
 Drutt, F.
 Dash, K. M.
 *Ewin, A. E.
 Edwards, R.
 Elliott, S.
 Evans, J. C.
 Evans, A. E.
 *England, W. J.
 Ellis, T.
 Emery, A.
 Finch, R.
 Finch, W. J.
 Finch, C. E.
 *Finn, C. A.
 Finn, A. G.
 *Ferguson, D.
 Ferguson, R. C.
 Ferguson, K. D.
 Foran, H. (M.M.)
 *Fallon, J.
 Fardell, N.
 Fardell, —
 *Fitzgerald, L. M.
 Fowler, W. M.
 Fraser, R.
 Fletcher, M.
 Francis, R. F.
 Francis, H. G.
 Faulkner, W. H.
 Garling, H. M.
 Garvin, R. G.
 Gavin, E. H.
 Gibson, B.
 Gibson, G.
 Graham, M.
 Greenleaf, L. W.
 Gerver, C. J.
 Gandy, G.
 Gillies, D.
 Grady, J. J.
 Holmer, C. W.
 Hannan, C. G. F.
 *Hannam, W. H.
 *Harrison, H.
 *Hains, M.
 Haines, C.
 Hayes, T.
 Hansen, C.
 Hansen, W. E. C.
 Hanckel, F. C. A.
 *Hobbs, C.
 *Hobbs, A.
 Hobbs, T.
 Hobbs, H.
 *Howlett, A. I.
 Howlett, T. V.
 *Howlett, S.
 Howard, F. S.
 Howard, W.
 Howard, —
 *Hitchen, W. T.
 Hitchen, W. J.
 Hitchen, S.
 Hunt, F.
 Howe, W. V.
 Hargraves, F. C.
 *Homer, C. W.
 Homer, G. V.
 Homer, F.
 Irvin, L.
 Irvin, J.
 Irvin, A.
 Irvin, W.
 Judge, T. J.
 Jones, G. F.
 *Jackson, R. D.
 Jackson, E.
 Jarvis, O.
 Johnston, J. T.
 Johnston, J. S.
 Jensen, P.
 *Keys, W.
 *Kelly, F.
 Kelly, C. W.
 *Kelly, W.
 Kiely, P. M.
 Kiely, F. P.
 *King, B. R.
 Knapman, P.
 Knight, J.
 *Knight, S. R.
 Knowles, B. S.
 Kennedy, W.
 Kingston, D.
 *Knuckey, Jno.
 *Knuckey, Joe
 Lewis, E. C.
 *Lewis, A. G.
 *Lewis, V. G.
 *Love't. N. (D.C.M.)
 (M.M.)
 Lewis, H.
 Lynne, A. R. C.
 Lee, J. R.
 Long, L. F.
 Lithgow, J. B.
 Lithgow, A.
 *Lemon, G.
 *Laws, J.
 Lummis, H. A.
 Lyons, L.
 Loudon, S. V.
 Louth, S. A.
 London, P. S.
 Lovett, R.
 *Lord, H. W.
 Marchant, C. R.
 Marchant, C. E.
 Marchant, T. B. D.
 Marson, H. T.
 *Marsh, C. L. L.
 Mason, H.
 Markham Mills, S. W.
 *Morrison, T. W.
 *Morrison, G. H.
 Mason, W. H.
 Mudie, A. A., snr.
 *Mudie, J. F.
 Maguire, E. B.
 Maguire, H. J.
 *Main, C. H.
 *Main, D.
 Moore, C. H.
 Monk, E.
 Monaghan, H. E.
 (D.C.M.)
 Moon, A. C.
 Morgan, C. P.
 Morris, J. T.
 Mortimer, C. H.
 Meers, S. E.
 Meers, G. M.
 Murray, R. T. C.
 *Murray, S. D. D.
 *Murray, H. E.
 Murray, S. J.
 Millen, J.
 Murphy, J. P.
 Murphy, J. A.
 McNabb, W. J.
 McNabb, J. T.
 McClure, R. E.
 McClure, R. W.
 McKeown, J.
 McDonald, A.
 *McPherson, I.
 *McPherson, S.
 McDermott, S.
 *McGill, R.
 *McPherson, A.
 MacLean, J.
 (D.C.M.)
 McGregor, A. J.
 *McKinnon, D.
 *McAlvary, H. J.
 McDonald, M.
 McDonald, J. M.
 McCullough, D.
 McKenzie, J.
 McMillen, D.
 McKee, S. A.
 *Morrison, C. H.
 *Morrison, J. W.
 Nelson, A. E.
 Nelson, R. N.
 Nelson, J.
 Neate, A.
 Neate, F.
 *Owens, E.
 Owens, A.
 Owens, C.
 O'Connor, P.
 Orchard, F. E.
 Pathon, G.
 Patterson, A. J.
 Plummer, S.
 Plummer, R.
 Pagan, G.
 Paul, S.
 Pollard, J.
 *Prince, C.
 Pryce, L.
 Parker, E. E.
 Quikley, M.
 Quinton, V.
 Paglus, F. J.
 Ragluz, J. W.
 Ryan, W. J. A.
 Ralph, V.
 *Robinson, J.
 *Robinson, W. G.
 Robertson, S. V.
 *Roberts, W. S.
 *Reddan, J.
 *Rutter, T. T.
 Reid, J. R.
 Reid, C.
 Roach, J.
 Roach, W. J.
 Rendell, L. J.
 Rusten, C. W.
 Rea, D. W.
 Ross, A. S.
 *Smirhwaite, G. H.
 *Sandry, F. J.
 *Shumack, H.
 Shumack, W.
 Shumack, H. G.
 Schumack, A. S.
 *Stubbs, F. J.
 Stinson, L.
 *Stinson, A. K.
 Stewart, K. K.
 Stewart, S. G.
 Steward, R. V.
 *Stubbins, R.
 Stanley, A.
 Stanley, W. H.
 Skinner, C.

HONOR ROLL—Continued

Sheldon, L. J.	Sutton, A.	Tripp, R.	Whitley, P. S.
Sheldon, C.	Sutton, J. S.	Thornton, C. W.	Wooton, S.
Spicer, H. W.	Spicer, H. W.	*Travers, A. J. L.	White, J. C.
Smith, W.	Spink, P. S.	Upton, W.	White, T.
Smith, S.	Spink, G. P.	Varcoe, B.	Willock, P.
*Smith, T. H.	Sheldon, S.	Walk, W. R.	Willock, F. S.
Smith, A. E.	Savage, W. A.	Waldon, S. E.	Worthley, T.
Sillar, R. S.	Tibbits, E. C.	Walden, M. C.	Weston, A. E.
Simmons, L.	*Travis, A. L. G.	Wallace, J. E.	(M.M.)
Simmons, J.	Travis, N. J.	*Walker, W.	Wheaton, R. S. P.
*Sewell, A.	Turvey, T. H. (M.M.)	Walker, F. E.	Weldon, R.
Skelly, W.	Taylor, C. E.	Walker, J. A.	Wright, S. E.
Skelly, T.	Townsend, A. R.	Waterford, L.	Wright, T. P.
Stoey, P.	Townsend, R. S.	Waller, H. J.	Walker, T.
Scott, J. R.	Tipper, E. H.	Wrigley, R. G.	*Wheatley, T.
Scott, W. R.	Turner, P. J.	Wrigley, H. V.	Yarham, C.
Sullivan, S.	Turner, J. J.	*Wheaton, L. N.	Young, J.
Sullivan, H.	*Turner, G.	Wilson, J. W.	Yeo, D.
Shaw, H.	Tomson, W.	Wilson, H.	Young, P.
Smiles, P. J.	Tompson, J. H.		Zobel, B.

COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE first annual meeting of the Gilgandra branch of the Country Women's Association was held on 12th December, 1922, when the branch was established, and one of the earliest General Conferences was held here.

The foundation President was Mrs. Gerald McKellar, who was also on the first Central Executive. She continued to hold the position until her death early in 1926.

In 1926 a fund was inaugurated, and on 10th December, 1926, the "Mrs. McKellar Memorial Bed", in the Gilgandra District Hospital, was installed by Mrs. Fletcher, of Dubbo, a member of the Central Executive.

In 1925 active agitation for a Welfare Nurse was begun, but it was not until 1932, under the Unemployment Scheme, that a Health Centre was established. This was made possible by the Directors of the Western Stores and Edgleys Ltd. granting the use of the lounge as a temporary Centre, a Nurse visiting once a week from Dubbo.

During 1929 and 1930 a Rest Room was furnished and maintained in Miller Street—a room opening off the street being rented. Meetings were held there. This was practical for a while, but gradually losing favour, it was closed,

and the furniture given to the District Hospital, with a donation of £30 to the general fund of the hospital.

In 1927 £100 was raised for the Cancer Research Fund.

In 1930 about £100 was raised towards the building of a Mortuary at the District Hospital.

The Association's objective is a Health Centre, the building of which it is hoped will be possible in a short time.

During the depression the branch was called upon to help the distressed, and a second-hand clothing depot, at the Council Chambers, was opened, and members, notably Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Balderson, distributed clothes every Tuesday. The Government also depended on the branch to distribute its bi-annual grants of food to the needy.

A Younger Set, as auxiliary to the parent branch, was inaugurated in 1928, and has been most helpful, contributing liberally towards the up-keep of the Health Centre.

Through the representations of the branch, a Technical College Dress Making Class was opened in Gilgandra this year.

The President is Miss Travis, and Secretary Miss Rendell.

GILGANDRA'S FIRST SHOW

HELD MAY 15, 1912 ON RACE COURSE

ATTENDANCE 2,500; GATE TAKING £65; EXHIBITORS 800

RECORDS leading up to the first Show have been secured from the old minute book of the P. and A. Association, and demonstrates the keen interest displayed then and ever since in our premier public organisation. To those men—and there are many of them still working for the association—who helped to lay the foundation stone of our present P. and A. Association, a debt of gratitude from the general public is due to them. The association has continued to progress, despite adverse seasons and numerous set-backs.

FIRST GENERAL MEETING

The first general meeting was held at the Imperial Hotel on Saturday, 25th March, 1911. There had been considerable discussion amongst district landowners in regard to holding a Show, many of the new settlers having arrived from Victoria, where the benefits of agricultural societies were fully recognised.

At that time the Farmers' and Settlers' Association was a very strong association, and held an annual Carnival which were most successful. After a canvass of the members of this organisation, it was decided to call the above meeting, which was largely attended. Mr. Wm. Stockings was voted to the chair, whilst the acting secretary, Mr. A. F. Fitzhardinge, read the report of the provisional committee.

Mr. Stanley, President of the F. and S. Association, stated that that body had unanimously decided to support the P. and A. Association. After discussion it was decided that nominations for officers and committee be received at that meeting, and Messrs. Patrick and Stockings were nominated as President; Messrs. R. Stanley, A. W. Miller, W.

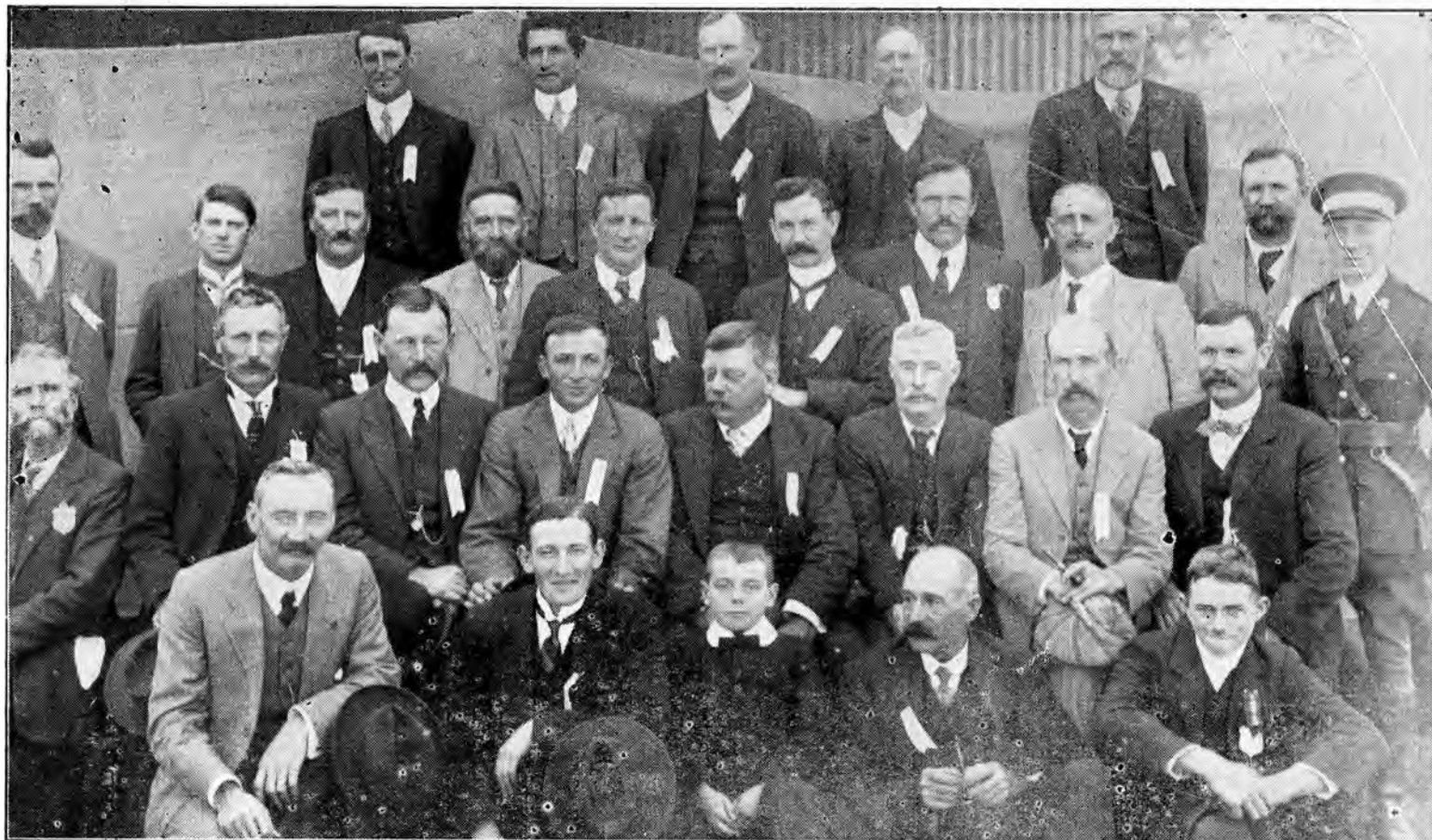
Barden, A. F. Garling, W. Rolls, J. Patrick, W. Stockings, Dr. Quinn, and H. McClure for Vice-Presidents; and 64 members for the committee. Mr. G. Rankin was elected unopposed as Treasurer.

The first committee meeting of the Gilgandra P. and A. Association was held at Tattersall's Hotel on Saturday, 6th May, at 4 p.m. Mr. A. F. Fitzhardinge was acting secretary at the time, and he was voted to the chair, and announced the ballot for the election of officers and committee as follows: President, Mr. W. Stockings; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. R. Stanley, H. McClure, A. F. Garling; Committee, Messrs. A. F. Fitzhardinge, E. E. Beveridge, N. I. McLennan, H. Stockings, W. Priddle, W. C. Rolls, O. J. McCutcheon, J. Kemp-Bruce, W. Creenaune, H. Machin, Arch Rogers, J. J. O'Brien, E. J. Foley, G. Chandler, G. A. Semmler, R. Moad, Jas Patrick, W. E. Linke, T. Foran, W. Hickman, I. H. McCarthy, J. W. Lithgow, W. H. Scholz, P. J. Anderson, H. Beveridge, C. H. Richards, P. J. Whiteman, A. Townsend, J. E. M. Gilmour, and Dr. H. Peet.

The Secretary's allowance was fixed at £50 per annum, on the motion of Messrs. Moad and Scholz. An amendment, by Messrs. Rankin and McClure, that the allowance be £25, was defeated.

Efforts to secure a show ground were made at this meeting, and on the motion of Messrs. Moad and Machin it was decided that the President (Mr. Stockings), Messrs. Stanley, McClure, Rankin, and the Secretary, be appointed a sub-committee to inquire into the suitability of available sites for a show ground and to report to the general committee.

The next meeting of the committee was held on 20th May, at the Royal



GILGANDRA P. and A. ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS, 1913:—Top: W. A. Craig (deceased), P. H. Wake, C. R. Martin, H. Stockings (deceased), A. Richards (deceased). Second Top: F. Firth (Judge), K. McAlister, W. Priddle, P. J. Anderson (deceased), A. F. Garling (deceased), G. Rankin, A. H. N. Reichelt, N. T. McLennan (deceased), W. Burrell, J. Kemp-Bruce. Third Top: J. E. M. Gilmour (deceased), F. W. Mackenzie, W. E. Linke, Robt. Stanley (President), W. C. Rolls (deceased), W. L. Creanaune (deceased), A. Crammon (deceased, Judge), J. Parslow. Bottom: ———, G. Christie (secretary), Jack Rolls, E. E. Beveridge (deceased), Ian Beveridge.

Hotel, and Mr. Fitzhardinge was appointed Secretary by 16 votes to 11. The other applicant was Mr. H. W. Mitchell.

At a meeting held at Murray's Hotel on 11th September, a letter was received from the Lands Department, in reply to an application for 24 acres of Government land adjoining the Railway Station, stating that the matter had been referred to the District Surveyor for report, and he had recommended it as suitable. Discussion took place as to using the race course for a show ground, but this was considered unsuitable. Some members favoured 30 acres, others 35, and it was eventually agreed, on the

Show, some members contending that as this was purely an agricultural district it was not suitable to follow Coonamble, but eventually it was decided to hold a one day's Show on 15th May, on the race course, the charge for the ground being £10/10/0 for the day.

Officials: President, Mr. W. Stockings; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. H. McClure, R. Stanley, A. F. Garling; Committee, Messrs. E. E. Beveridge, N. I. McLennan, H. Stockings, W. Priddle, W. C. Rolls, O. J. McCutcheon, J. Kemp-Bruce, H. Machin, W. Creenaune, A. Rogers, A. Wilson, E. J. Foley, G. Chandler, G. A. Semmler, I. Patrick, W. E. Linke, T. Foran, W. Hickman, J. M. McCarthy, W. H. Scholz, P. J. Anderson, H. Beveridge, C. H. Richards, P. J. Whiteman, A. Townsend, J. E. M. Gilmour, Jas Bell, H. J. Weston, J. Luckie, and Dr. Peet; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Geo. Rankin; Secretary, Mr. A. F. Fitzhardinge.



Mr. Robt. Stanley (President)

The entries, which numbered 800, far exceeded the expectations of the committee, and though that number may seem small, compared with some other shows, the quality of the exhibits was very high and there is probably no other Show in the West which started with so many. The attendance numbered fully 2,500. The takings at the outside gate and the grand stand amounted to £65.

Mr. Trefle, the then Minister for Agriculture, officially opened the Show.

By way of comparison, it might be stated that at the Jubilee Show, held in 1936, the entries exceeded 2,000, the gate takings amounted to £222, while the members had increased to almost 500.

Office Bearers, 1937: President, Mr. R. Stanley; Vice-President, Messrs. J. Johns, G. M. McKellar, and L. D. Serisier; Secretary, Mr. G. Christie; Life Members Messrs. J. J. O'Brien and R. Stanley; Honorary Life Members, Messrs M. McLeod Pty. Ltd., H. E. O. Campbell, W. G. Haynes, G. A. Semmler, T. Watt, Mrs. E. E. Beveridge, Western Stores and Edgleys Ltd., Gilgandra F. and S. Association.

motion of Messrs. Beveridge and Scholz, that 40 acres be applied for. Until this meeting the committee had met alternately at the various hotels, but in future decided to meet in the Masonic Hall in Wrigley Street. The Treasurer reported that the association had 175 financial members.

THE FIRST SHOW

Opinion was divided as to the most suitable date for holding the first

GILGANDRA POST OFFICE



GILGANDRA'S FIRST POST OFFICE, ESTABLISHED IN 1867

A POST OFFICE was established at Gilgandra on 1st January, 1867, the first postmaster being Mr. James Christian, who received a salary of £12 per annum.

Mr. Christian was succeeded on 16th March, 1868, by a Mr. Murphy (Mr. Clem Murphy's father), who resigned on 1st January, 1871, when the office was closed. It was re-established on the western side of the river on 15th May, 1872, under Mr. J. Macauley, and has continued to function uninterruptedly since that date.

A telegraph office was opened at Gilgandra on 4th August, 1882, under Mr. W. H. Golding, and a few months later, viz., on 1st November, 1882, the Post and Telegraph offices were amalgamated under Mr. Golding, who was designated Post and Telegraph Master.

The telephone exchange at Gilgandra was opened on 24th July, 1908.

The present staff at Gilgandra consists of nine persons, including the post master.



POST OFFICE, 1937

GILGANDRA FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

THE HIBERNIAN AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY

THE Hibernian Society, which has a branch in almost every town in the Commonwealth, opened a branch in Gilgandra on 21st February, 1915, at a time when the World War occupied the minds of the people. Despite the fact that its demise was foretold by many on this account, it still flourishes as a very important part of one of the greatest social services in our community—the great Friendly Society Movement.

The late Rev. Father John Parker, parish priest at Gilgandra for many years, was the originator of the move to open a branch in Gilgandra, and the following names indicate the office bearers and members on the opening date:—Chaplain, Rev. Father John Parker, P.P.; President, Bro. A. S. Carroll; Secretary, Bro. F. Judd; Treasurer, Bro. H. Hybert; Warden, Bro. W. C. Ryan; Guardian, Bro. W. B. Creenaune; Sick Visitors, Bros. G. Curtis, J. E. Donnelly; trustees, Bros. A. G. Byrnes, A. S. Carroll, P. Heanne; Auditors, Bros. H. Kybert, W. C. Ryan; Members, Bros. R. G. Hitchen, I. B. Cassidy, J. M. Ferry, J. C. Creenaune, J. W. Gavnon, P. J. Gaynon, W. O. Gavnon, R. Diggins. The proceedings of the first branch meeting were conducted by the following officers of the Dubbo branch: Bros. M. Ginty (President), J. White (Secretary), J. Cleary (Treasurer), C. Rogan and P. Burke (Past Presidents).

Some idea of the social service rendered by the Hibernian Society in Gilgandra can be gathered from the fact that an amount of £516 has been paid out to members in sickness payments since the branch was formed in 1915. The funeral fund has paid out £70. The members also contribute the modest sum of six-pence per quarter per member to a welfare fund, from which assistance to distressed members is

made; also assisting in the education for the Catholic Priesthood of any young man from the parish who may require financial assistance to complete his studies. The extra funeral fund scheme: A weekly contribution ranging from six-pence per member per quarter to this special fund increases the funeral fund by an additional £100. This scheme is regarded by members as an excellent insurance benefit.

The present membership is in the vicinity of 50. Office bearers are as follows: Chaplain, Rev. Father T. Eviston; President, Bro. M. J. Gunning; Vice-President, Bro. E. B. Hobbs; Treasurer, Bro. W. B. Creenaune; Secretary, Bro. J. Nevlon; Warden, Bro. J. Donovan; Guardian, Bro. N. Noonan; Sick Visitors, Bros. A. Hobbs, E. J. Bogie; Auditor, Bro. E. J. Bogie; Welfare Office, Bro. E. I. Bogie; Trustees, Bro. I. E. Donnelly, S. G. Turley, D. R. B. McCarthy. The credit balance of funds, as at quarter ending 30th June, 1937, were: Sick Fund £129/10/10; Management Fund £19/18/2.

P.A.F.S.—GILGANDRA LODGE No. 142

A BRANCH of the P.A.F. Society was opened in Gilgandra on 5th October, 1911, by Bro. J. Salmon, who was then Grand Secretary. He was assisted by Bro. J. C. Davey, a member of Wellington Lodge. Eleven members were initiated on the opening night, Bro. H. T. Lemon being the first Worshipful Master. Bro. Chris Offner was appointed Secretary, and has held that position up to the present time—twenty-six years. In 1915 twenty-three members enlisted for service in the Great War, six paying the supreme penalty. The Society has been very fortunate as regards members, there being only three deaths during the twenty-six years.



EARLY MEMBERS OF THE M.U. LODGE: Top: A. Stanley, C. Stanley, ———, F. Irvin, W. Hannigan, Geo. Smirthwaite, Flannaghan. Second Top: E. Tibbits, E. Townsend, ———, E. H. Scott, Sid West, T. Nash. Third Row: H. J. Walden, W. C. Dewe, W. E. Diggs, H. Dalmain, B. Gibson, R. Stanley, P. J. MacManus. Front: ———, L. J. Rendell.

MANCHESTER UNITY—LOYAL FEDERAL

LOYAL Federal, the Gilgandra branch of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, was formed in 1900, under the jurisdiction of Bathurst. The District Grandmaster of the Order was Bro. Job Gardner and Bro. T. Kemp was Grand Secretary. District officers of the Bathurst District were Bros. J. C. Bray, A. M. Jones, and J. F. Slack.

Present office bearers are: N.G., Bro. C. Ross; V.G., Bro. W. Irvin; Secretary, Bro. F. W. Purdon.

I.O.O.F. LODGE—GILGANDRA BRANCH, No. 94

THE I.O.O.F. Lodge was formed in Gilgandra on 6th April, 1902. The first meeting was held in the late Bro. Bob Townsend's dining room, it being then in Bridge Street. On the first night of the opening, eleven members were initiated, together with one clearance member, making a total of 12. The names were as follows: Bro. F. C. Cooper

(Secretary); Bro. A. E. Smith (Noble Grand); Bro. E. J. Newland (Vice Grand). Other members were: Bros. Clarence Cosier, Geo. Magwick, Thomas Smith, Dick Hodge, Dick Hitchen, Harry Mitchell and Johnny Gaynon. The first D.D.G.M. was Bro. James Coady, of Talbragar Lodge No. 74 (Dubbo), who was organiser also. The Lodge was opened by Bro. G. T. Clarke (Grand Secretary), who at one time was Lord Mayor of Sydney. Owing to Bro. J. W. Lithgow being unable to attend the opening, a special meeting was held on 7th April, 1902, to initiate him. He is the only living member of the first initiation, and he is still an active member of Lodge No. 94.

The Lodge has now grown to a membership of 140. The present officers are: Bro. F. Paul, Secretary; Bro. James Collison, D.O.G.M.; Bro. E. Holland, Noble Grand; Bro. W. Easman, Vice Grand; Bro. I. E. Collison, Recording Secretary; and Bro. T. G. Hitchen, Treasurer.

GILGANDRA RACECOURSE

BEFORE the establishment of the present racecourse, meetings were held in a paddock near where McLeod's flour mill now stands. In 1905 the present course of 100 acres was vested in trustees, viz., T. Gardiner, J. H. Hitchen, J. W. Lithgow, H. Gibson, and Mr. Morris, when an amount of £150 was spent on fencing the area. In October, 1905, tenders were called for the clearing of the course and the present track marked out. About 12 months later the grandstand was erected.

The Gilgandra Jockey Club has been in existence for the past 37 years, one of the first secretaries being Harry Mitchell, who was then an agent here. Mr. S. Barden, senr., was one of the first

presidents, and was virtually the jockey club, taking a great interest in racing.

For the past ten years Mr. E. V. G. Townsend has been president, whilst for a number of years Mr. R. O'Neill acted as secretary. Of late years he and Mr. J. Fleming have carried out this position in conjunction, in a honorary capacity. Other officials are: Patron, Mr. R. M. Diggs; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. B. Gould, W. Boardman, E. S. Lewis, A. J. Habgood, and H. Campbell; Committee, Messrs. L. Blackett, M. Godfrey, F. Lucas, W. M. Johnson, J. Christian, H. Collison, W. Creenaune, J. Morris, A. Townsend, B. Linke, W. Strange, snrs., and A. Krohn; Treasurer, Mr. I. Farrance.

NEWSPAPERS



"WEEKLY" OFFICE

THE first newspaper in Gilgandra was established in December, 1904, by Alfred Porter and Thomas Crouch and was named "The Castlereagh," and was produced as a four-page weekly on Fridays. In April, 1905, the imprint was changed to "John Porter and Thomas Crouch." On May 11, 1906, an editorial announced that P. J. MacManus and J

Foley, formerly of the Orange "Leader" staff, had assumed control of "The Castlereagh." Later Foley disposed of his interests

In August, 1910, the need for another newspaper to serve the interests of the men on the land politically was felt and a large number of farmers and business men formed a company known as "The Castlereagh Liberal Newspaper Co." This resulted in the establishment of "The Castlereagh Liberal", under the management of Mr. P. J. Donnelly, who was later succeeded by Mr. A. E. Perkins. However, the venture was not a success and the plant and goodwill was sold to Mr. Perkins, who later altered the paper from a bi-weekly to a weekly and changed the name to "The Gilgandra Weekly."

In December, 1922, Mr. Perkins disposed of his interests to Mr. H. E. O. Campbell, who later absorbed "The Castlereagh", by purchasing from Mr. MacManus. To-day Mr. Campbell also owns the Coonamble "Times," Nyngan "Observer," and Coonabarabran "Times."



GILGANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL, 1887. Mr. W. R. Train, Headmaster.

Girls in Group: R. Collison, F. Falkiner, C. McEwen, A. McEwen, L. Falkiner, Mabel Murphy, Rose Murphy. Boys: Mayford Morris, Clem. Murphy, Jack Murphy, W. Falkiner, Jack Acort, W. Murphy, Jack and Jim McEwen.



PUBLIC SCHOOL IN 1908

GILGANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

FIRST ESTABLISHED 1881

A FORMAL application for the establishment of a Public School at Gilgandra was made on 7th May, 1881, Messrs. J. F. Smith, G. F. Cox and John Morris (father of Mr. Mayford Morris) acting as the local school committee. It was stated that the nearest school was at Collie, and that the number of children at Gilgandra likely to enrol at the proposed school was about 36.

The application was approved and the school came into operation in October, 1881. The first teacher was Mr. W. C. Kensett, and he had to travel a distance of 185 miles by coach from Wallerawang to take up his position. The

An entirely new school building was erected in 1914, at a cost of £2,687, and additions were made in 1918 at a cost of £905.

In 1929 additions to the school were carried out at a cost of £2,329, the contractors being Messrs. Wallace and McGee, of Dubbo. The work comprised three class rooms, office and store.

During the present year, Messrs. Beddie and Brown, of Bathurst, completely renovated both interior and exterior of the school, besides erecting a new manual training room, staff room, and converting the existing manual room



DISTRICT SCHOOL

school opened on 10th October, and it was conducted in a cottage rented from Mrs. Hannah Morris.

The attendance increased fairly rapidly. For the first month 54 children were enrolled, and as the school would not hold more than thirty pupils, application was made for a tent to be erected. The tent was supplied in March, 1882, and measured 24 feet by 16 feet.

In 1887 a new school building was erected, constructed of wood, the builder being Mr. G. Shaw. A class room was added in 1898 to cope with the growing attendance.

into a Kindergarten class room.

The curriculum covers the Intermediate Course of Study for High Schools, students having the choice of language, commercial, or manual training courses.

The staff consists of headmaster (Mr. A. Schuemaker), first assistant, and eleven assistants. Five University graduates are attached to the staff.

Over 100 students have passed the Intermediate Certificate Examination since 1925, when students were presented for the first time.

TIMBER INDUSTRY—GILGANDRA DISTRICT

THE history of sawmilling dates back to the beginning of settlement in the district. For some years the timber produced was cut by the pit-saw method, but from 1890 onwards the power driven plant came into use. In that year Mr. Geo. Wilkins commenced operations with a mill. Mr. Wilkins gives the following history of his plant:—

Along with other pioneering ventures of the early days of Gilgandra, the sawmilling industry has developed from a modest enterprise into a large business concern. The first mill to operate in the town was owned and worked by George Wilkins in 1890. Prior to that date some very small plants had operated at varying distances from the town. In one of these, Mr. Wilkins had a share with his father, trading under the name of G. Wilkins and Son, and it was when the younger Mr. Wilkins decided to branch out on his own that the town mill was erected. The site chosen was the spot which the park now occupies, between the river and the present post office. The plant was erected by George Wilson, of Dubbo, and when everything was in readiness to commence work, J. G. Brown, of Dubbo, Mr. Main, of Gilgandra, and a number of other residents gathered for the "official opening." A name for the enterprise was lacking until George Wilson suggested that "Perseverance Sawmill". So "Perseverance" it was, and amid the cheers of a friendly crowd of well-wishers the wheels turned.

Trade depended on local orders, for timber was not then railed to other centres as it is now, and consequently some slack periods were experienced. Nevertheless, except for one short break when the plant was shifted to Collie to cut some 300,000 feet, it remained at Gilgandra for six years. After that it moved out to be replaced by other mills, but although Mr. Wilkins left this district he continued in the timber industry, and "The Perseverance," now a large concern, is operating in the Pilliga Scrub under the old name of G. Wilkins and Son.

"It was through the generosity of one of the finest and most honourable men that I have ever met that I was enabled to commence in Gilgandra," says Mr. Wilkins. "I refer to Mr. J. C. Brown, of Dubbo, who, without any security whatsoever, without even the scratch of a pen, financed the enterprise and supplied me with the new engine with which I commenced operations, refusing any recompense in the way of interest. His name must be linked with the history of the timber industry at Gilgandra."

It will be gathered from this that small plants had operated in the district, but the distinction of being the pioneer in establishing sawmilling as a commercial enterprise appears to belong to Mr. Wilkins.

About 1894 a mill was established on the Coonamble Road, on the outskirts of the town. It was managed for



NELSON'S SAWMILL

some years by Mr. Strudwick, and about 1898 came into the hands of Mr. Tom Jones, of "Merrigal" Station, for whom Mr. Strudwick managed for a time. Later the management was given to Mr. H. Gibson (father of Mr. B. Gibson), who conducted the business for many years.

Mr. Jones retained ownership until

the year 1912. It then passed to a company trading under the name of Gilgandra Sawmills, the principal shareholders being J. H. Hitchen, G. Rankin, R. J. Nelson and H. Paterson. This company continued as owners until 1916, with Mr. H. Paterson as manager. In that year Mr. R. J. Nelson bought out the interests of other shareholders and became sole owner. In 1936 the business was floated into a company, called R. J. Nelson and Sons Pty. Ltd.

The business has developed of recent years into a builders' supply organisation, and in addition to milling Cypress, the Company now specialises in all classes of building materials. The Company has extended its milling operations to Gular, Wellington and Tottenham.

About 1900 Mr. R. Townsend erected a plant on a site where the Presbyterian Church now stands, which was managed by Mr. T. Whitton. This plant did not operate for a long period, and Mr. Whitton a few years later commenced milling at Mendooran. He is still connected with the industry, and with his sons, conducts a sawmilling business at Combara.

Mr. S. Brooksbank operated a mill at Balladoran and Curban, and for many years was established near the Railway Hotel, Gilgandra. He was succeeded by Mr. M. E. Hector, in 1920 (Mr. Hector later established machine brick works in Dubbo), who conducted the business for about two years, but about 1923 the mill was destroyed by fire. Mr. A. C. Bailey erected a mill on the same site in 1924, and worked it for about one year, then moving to various sites in the district. He was bought out by Mr. Cliff Anderson, who sold out to R. J. Nelson in 1930, but continued his association with the latter until 1934.

The Howard family, of Biddon, were connected with mills just before the war. (One of the sons, Mr. Cliff Howard, later became the inventor of Howard Rotary Cultivators).

Mr. J. C. Elsom commenced at Balladoran about 1925, but closed down his plant after a time, and about 1929

took over a plant from Mr. F. W. Mackenzie, of Biddon, which had been operated by Mr. H. Schwertfeger. He subsequently moved to Tooraweenah and Gulargambone, and then to Collie, but in 1936 shifted to Wellington.

Others to own and operate mills in the district for a time were Mr. F. Walker, who commenced at Brelong, but after a few years he moved to Dubbo and later to Wellington. Mr. V. E. Gaff came here from Parkes in 1936. He is still operating.

Mr. Machin, a farmer, of Balladoran, commenced milling in that centre, but after a few years he moved the whole of his plant to Taree, North Coast, and for many years has continued in the same class of business in that centre.

Messrs. Utley and Co., of Dubbo, had branch sawmills in this district in years just prior to and following the war. One operated at Balladoran, one at Bulga, and a third at Bearbong.

Other small plants were worked in the district between the years 1920 and 1936 by the following persons: Messrs. E. Castein, P. B. Zell, Rankmore and Paterson, Palmer and Paterson, J. Lewis, R. Siminia, Carlton and Co., C. R. Martin, L. J. Minchin, and G. Palmer. Mr. W. J. A. Ryan worked a mill plant at the old brick yard site in 1924.

The district has been noted for many years as a prolific producer of timber, chiefly Cypress and Ironbark, and to-day it is still regarded as one of the principal individual Cypress producing areas of the State. The timber has generally been of excellent quality. The continual production for so long a period has been of inestimable benefit in the settlement of the district. The industry has given constant employment to a considerable number of men for a period of over 40 years.

In the early days timber was at times ruthlessly destroyed—justified in cases to make room for settlement—but of latter years the majority of land holders have realised the great value of Cypress and now regard the timber crop, which can be "harvested" at any time, as one of considerable importance.

SLEEPER INDUSTRY

Sleepers were first cut in the district for the building of the Dubbo-Coonamble railway line, and without a break for 35 years, this industry has consistently employed large numbers of men. During the past twelve months 32,263 sleepers have been delivered to the Gilgandra depot, representing a total value of £7,553/3/0. Hewn timber was delivered to the value of £225/5/0. The

past year has been a slump period for cutters, but the gross average return for each man was £300—about £6 per week gross. The quality has improved considerably, being as near as possible to 100 per cent. perfect. In the last pass during August, out of 2,650 sleepers only 29 were condemned.

At Balladoran, 12,291 sleepers were delivered for the twelve months, of a value of £2,915/18/6—a gross average of £291 per cutter per year.

MASONIC LODGE

WARRUMBUNGLE No. 277

THE first effort made to form a Lodge in Gilgandra was in 1905, but as the total strength then was only six members in the district, and no P.M., nothing could be done. The spark was kept alive till 1909. The ranks had then grown to 11 members, and with the assistance of two or three commercial travellers, who visited Gilgandra monthly and promised good support, another meeting was called to discuss the opening of a Lodge. This meeting was held at the Royal Hotel, and Mr. Jimmy Wailes, P.M., and Mr. P. W. Moses gave considerable information, and agreed to interest Dubbo Lodge in the case. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. Jimmy Wailes, P.M. Every month on his visit to Gilgandra a little re-union was held and prospects discussed. Finally, in 1911, the following members petitioned for a Charter Messrs. J. H. Hitchen, A. I. Thorpe, P.M., H. Gibson, P. W. Moses, R. Blackie, J. M. Sterling Levis, A. J. Vincent, W. G. Haynes, I. D. Simon, S. L. Brvan (secretary), W. Dawes, S. C. Sallir, W. Cavanough, W. C. Rolls.

The Lodge was consecrated by V.W. Bro. E. H. J. Stevencor, District Grand Ins. of Workings, on September 5th, 1911, and the Lodge Room was dedicated to Masonry by V.W. Bro. F. W. Cracknell on September 25th, 1923.

The first Lodge Hall was a small

weatherboard building, known as the Union Church, on the site of the present Temple. This was burnt down during the fire epidemic, when nearly all the halls in town were burnt down. All the furniture and some regalia were burnt. The Lodge meetings were held in the Church of England Hall until the present Lodge Room was built. Mr. I. H. Hitchen retained the office of Treasurer from the inception up till 1930-31, and he is the only foundation member who has continued membership up to the present.

The first W.M. was Bro. J. Wailes 1909-1910. He was succeeded by:— 1911-12-13, Bro. A. J. Thorpe; 1913-14, Bro. W. J. Cavanough; 1914-15, Bro. W. Dawes; 1915-16, Bro. A. F. Fitzbarding; 1916-17, Bro. R. Blackall; 1917-18, Bro. J. D. Simon; 1918-19, Bro. H. C. Paterson; 1919-20, Bro. G. B. Stanley; 1920-21, Bro. Robt. Stanley; 1921-22, Bro. A. B. Adams; 1922-23, Bro. Chris Offner; 1923-24, Bro. W. Brooks Clifsham; 1924-25, Bro. G. Christie; 1925-26, Bro. A. R. Townsend; 1926-27, Bro. W. A. Brown; 1927-28, Bro. C. H. B. Douglas; 1928-29, Bro. C. N. Francis; 1929-30, Bro. F. W. Purdon; 1930-31, Bro. A. Pagan; 1931-32, Bro. T. Hobbs; 1932-33, Bro. F. C. Borough; 1933-34, Bro. G. C. McKellar; 1934-35, Bro. J. Fleming; 1935-36, Bro. J. Nelson; 1936-37, Bro. J. B. Sword; 1937-38, Bro. F. Varcoe.

GILGANDRA BAND

THE first evidence of the formation of a band in Gilgandra was about 1909, the bandmaster at the time being Tom Kift, who conducted a hairdressing saloon and book exchange at the Railway Hotel. However, it did not last very long and in 1910 another effort was made to form a band. Several of those who had played with Kift—Les McMillan, Alex Connelly, Bob Fleming and others—with the addition of the Weaver

developed an efficient band. Jack McCarthy, the blacksmith, was another who added strength with his cornet. With Arthur Weaver still in command, preparations were being made for the Coonamble eisteddfod in 1913 when our bandmaster could not secure a position and the band collapsed. Later he went to Coonabarabran and formed a band there. However, the bandmen were still enthusiastic and they struggled



GILGANDRA BAND, 1919: Back Row: George Willis, Ernie Field, — Hill, B. Smith, — Thompson, J. Maguire. Front Row: W. Ryan, W. Creenaune, E. Sousa, C. Willis, C. Ross.

Bros., Frank Collins, of Wellington, Ben Boardman (manager for P.W. and Co.), and Joe Ferguson (a building contractor and tenor player), steps were taken to purchase a set of instruments. Eventually in 1911 a committee of citizens guaranteed Palings the price of a set of instruments and several recruits—Norman Smithers, Bill Creenaune, Ted Andrews, Ernie Steele, Bill Smith—were admitted. The loss of Collins, the two Fergusons, and Alex Connolly put the movement back a little, but in Arthur Weaver they had a good bandmaster who worked on the young material and

along under Wally Hayward. Then an old circus player in Ben Young put in an appearance and later Charlie Ross, Harry Phillips and Arthur Ross strengthened the band. In 1915 Emanuel Sousa picked up the remains of a struggling band and carried on for three years, and after his departure Oliver Williams did the job. However, later the band failed to function owing to many of its members having enlisted. These included Harold Lewis, Harry Philips, Jim Mudie, Jack Reddan, and Billy Smith. Alas, poor Jim and Jack are still away. Jim struggled all day with Jack McCarthy's sledge

hammer and a tenor horn at night, and mastered both. And those who have never heard Jack Reddan on a side drum do not know how one should be played. About 1924 the old brigade got together again and under Fred Foster, and later Albert Ross, resumed practice. Then Charlie Ross assumed control in 1931 the urgent need of a bass player having been fulfilled in the arrival of Bill Strange. Through the efforts of Mr. Joe Keen the band was induced to play at the Gilgandra Show, for which he collected a goodly sum. On that occasion Jim Wilson, band master at Coonamble,

came along and assisted the lads with seven of his members. They also had Jerry Collis and Bob Paton, the latter a drummer of note who was one of the chief attractions on the ground. About four years ago Mr. Fred Brook gave concrete support to the band and engaged the members to play in front of his picture show every Wednesday night, and this has kept the band together. A visit was received from the Dubbo Citizens' Band about two years ago, and this was returned by Gilgandra at a later date.

FIRST POLICE STATION

IN the year 1880 a Police Station was established at Curban, about 15 miles to the north of Gilgandra, but as Curban (also known as Terrabile) declined in importance and settlements at Gilgandra progressed, the Police Station was removed to Gilgandra and erected at the place where the Sergeant's residence now stands. The building was demolished later on and sold, and the present quarters for the Police Sergeant were erected. With the expansion of Gilgandra in a southerly direction it became necessary to remove the Police Station, and about

1931 it was established in a room at the Court House in Myrtle Street, Gilgandra. The present Police Station building was erected in Myrtle Street in 1934, and police entered into occupation of the premises in December of that year.

The first police officers stationed at Gilgandra after the removal of the station from Curban were Sergeant James Cusack and Constable Brown.

The present staff comprises Sergt. H. E. Taylor, Constables A. Evans, C. C. Gould and F. Skiller.



FIRST POLICE STATION IN GILGANDRA, 1897

THE FIRST MOTOR CAR



DR. AND MRS. PEET IN THE FIRST MOTOR CAR IN GILGANDRA

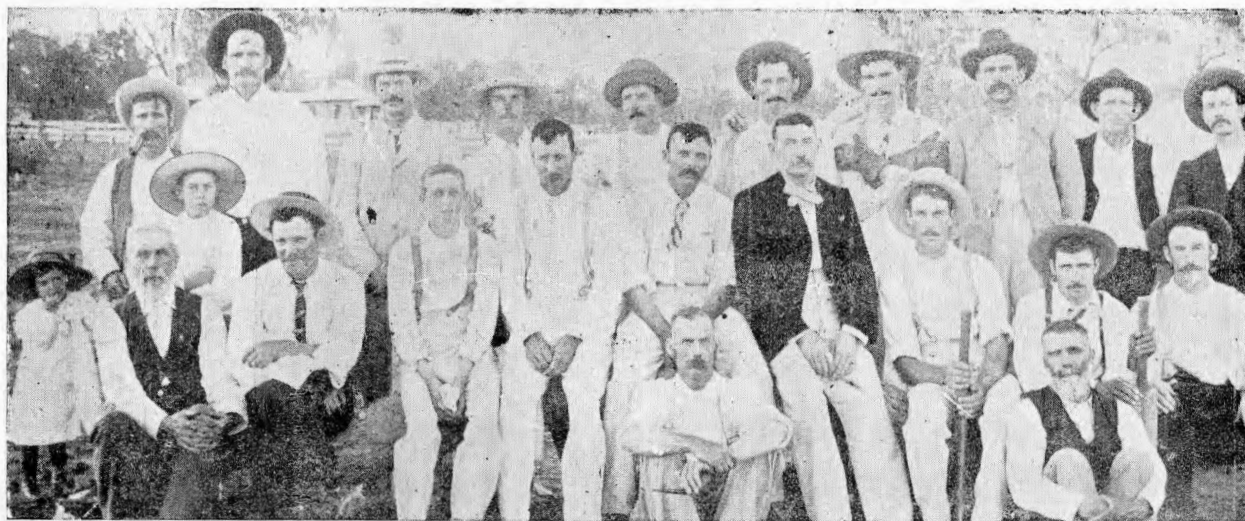
DR. Henry Peet was the first citizen to own a motor car in Gilgandra, having purchased a second-hand "Star" from Dubbo. Three weeks later Mr. J. W. McDonagh, one-time storekeeper of Gilgandra, but now with a similar business at Coonabarabran, purchased a new single-seater Ford from Mr. Austin Shea for £250, and he presented it to his wife—that was in 1907. The McDonagh's

had that car for two years, and then purchased another new Ford, in which they went for a nine-months' tour throughout New South Wales and Queensland. They had for their chauffeur Mr. Jack Cusack. Mr. and Mrs. McDonagh and son, Mr. Charles McDonagh, were in business at Gilgandra for nine and a half years.

COURT OF PETTY SESSIONS

THE first Court case was held on 29th June, 1884. The C.P.S. Office commenced at this centre in June, 1884. The Officer-in-charge of Police also acted as Clerk of Petty Session. In July, 1911, the first permanent C.P.S. was appointed. In January, 1915, the Clerk of Petty Sessions, Gilgandra, was also appointed Assistant Registrar of the District Court.

The Court House was first situated in Court Street, Gilgandra (near the present residence of the Sergeant of Police). In April, 1929, it was shifted down to its present site in Myrtle Street. Robert Bailey was the first Police Magistrate to visit here, coming from Coonamble. Robert Bell Symington was the first permanent C.P.S.



GILGANDRA CRICKET CLUB, 1900

Back Row: R. Smith, A. Cameron, J. Murray, A. Richardson, J. Madgwick, A. Hargraves, J. Doherty, J. Neate, C. Tupper, W. McKenna. Second Row: J. Morris, Billy Diggs, W. Heaps, C. Diggs, R. Diggs, M. Morris, H. Mitchell, G. Gibson, H. Madgwick, H. Herbert. Front: E. Webble, J. Madgwick. The girl is a daughter of R. Smith.

GILGANDRA FIRE BRIGADE



THE FIRST FIRE BRIGADE IN GILGANDRA, 1912

Standing: G. Gibson, F. Bensley, W. Greenwood, B. Gibson. Sitting: B. Gould, I. Walker, P. Hearn, T. Nash, P. C. Miller (Driver).

GILGANDRA Volunteer Fire Brigade was established on December 6th, 1911, under the control of the Board of Commissioners N.S.W. Fire Brigades. A manual horse drawn fire engine was first installed, the foundation members being: Captain J. Ferguson, Engine Keeper J. H. Ferguson, Firemen T. Nash, B. Gibson, H. Hutchins, W. C. Weaver, H. H. Hodge, W. B. Gould, P. R. Hearn, M. N. Ryan.

On January 16th, 1912, the first fire was attended—a shop in Miller Street.

The present Fire Station was erected May, 1915. The manual was replaced by a turbine engine on April 9, 1923.

Later a Garford motor engine was installed, on October, 1926.

Teams were sent to Katoomba, in 1935, and Tamworth, in 1937, to compete at the Volunteer Fire Brigade Demonstrations. The Brigade attends, on an average, 10 fires each year.

Present members are: Captain G. H. Convary, Firemen J. Acker, J. F. Morris, E. R. Lewis, L. G. Convary, T. Connelly, J. Heiler, A. Gopsill, P. Hearn and J. Wilson.

The Gilgandra Park was first dedicated as a recreation reserve of four acres on February 10, 1906, the trustees being S. J. Barden, J. Barling, J. J. Murray, A. F. Garling, and P. O'Neill.

DUBBO-COONAMBLE RAILWAY LINE

OPENED 29th JULY, 1902

THE proposal for construction of a line of railway from Dubbo to Coonamble was included in the Government Railway Policy of 1886, but, apart from references by deputations to the Minister for Works, no action was taken until the matter was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in 1899.

The committee in question considered four proposals for linking Coonamble with the then existing railway system. The routes proposed were:—Dubbo to Coonamble, Mudgee to Coonamble, Narromine to Coonamble, and Warren to Coonamble. Of these, only the first route passed through Gilgandra.

are of opinion that the connection be with Dubbo, that route being the most central, the widest in its range of interests for traffic, the best for providing openings for markets, and, in comparison with the route which is its only rival, by far the cheaper in cost of construction and maintenance."

In the same year, 1899, Act No. 35, authorising the construction of the line was passed and the work was undertaken by the Public Works Department.

The original survey would have placed the town of Gilgandra $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Railway Station. Efforts were made by the citizens to alter the route to pass through the town near where the



RAILWAY STATION

The committee, after taking evidence and making inspection of the routes, arrived at the following conclusion: "In the public interest, as well as in the interests of the districts most concerned, it is expedient the proposed railway from Dubbo to Coonamble should be constructed. The justifiableness of the claims of Coonamble to be connected with the railway system of the Colony being admitted, the only question for consideration is that of route; and from the evidence before them, and their visit of inspection, the committee

District School now stands, but eventually its present position was agreed upon.

Sir Wm. Lynne turned the first sod at Dubbo in 1901.

The first passenger train, conveying 17 passengers, ran from Coonamble to Dubbo on the 29th July, 1902.

Conveyance of goods traffic commenced in August, 1902.

To illustrate the extent of development in the area served by the line, the following figures showing traffic carried on the line are given:

1903: Passenger journeys, 7,590;

goods tonnage, 19,469; wool—bales, 20,821.

1936: Passenger journeys, 23,997; goods tonnage, 62,167; wool—bales, 47,436.

In 1903 the tri-weekly mixed service took 6 hours 30 minutes to make the trip from Dubbo to Coonamble, as compared with the present-day time by rail motor of 3 hours. The journey from Dubbo to Gilgandra occupied 2 hours 34 minutes in 1903, as compared with 1 hour 11 minutes by the present service.

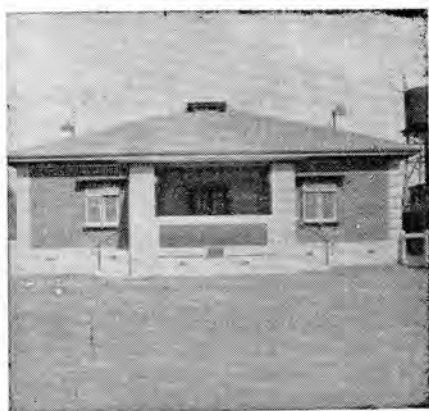
On August 7, 1902, the Council Clerk, Coonamble, advised the Office of the Secretary for Railways: "I have the

honour to inform you that the following resolution was carried unanimously at the last meeting of the Council: 'That the best thanks of this Council be conveyed to the Hon. E. W. O'Sullivan, M.P., Minister for Works, for the expeditious manner in which the line from Dubbo to Coonamble has been pushed on and opened for the convenience of the public and which has proved such a boon to all classes of the community during such a trying time as the present'."

The line was handed over by the Public Works Department to the Railway Department on the 18th February, 1903.

WAR MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

FOR her War Memorial, Gilgandra selected a most useful institution in a spacious School of Arts. The building is situated at the end of the park in Warren Road and known as the War Memorial



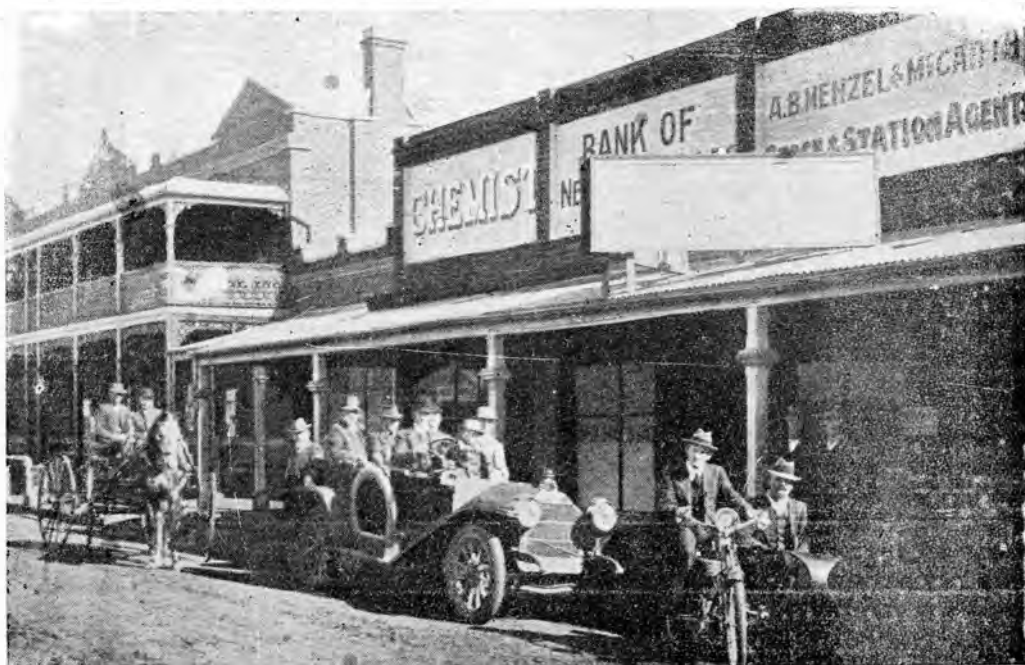
WAR MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

Literary Institute. It was officially opened free of debt on October 3, 1923, by Major Buchanan, the cost being £1763. Of this amount a grant of £500 was made from the Gilgandra Shire Council,

whilst a further amount was raised by a queen competition. Mr. W. A. Barden was the first president, and Messrs. W. A. Brown and A. F. Garling vice-presidents. The first committee were:—Messrs. O. Jex, R. Hicks, E. Townsend, H. J. Warden, G. Christie, J. F. Brownlow, and Sergt. Woods. Employees of Messrs. M. McLeod Ltd. donated a tablet containing the names of those who had fallen in the war, and this is in front of the building.

The present officials are: President, Mr. G. Christie; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. L. J. Rendell and S. Gornall; Treasurer, Mr. V. Brown; Secretary, Mr. E. Bogie; Committee, Messrs. W. A. Brown, A. Hobbs, A. McGowan, J. Williams, E. Mudie, S. Godfrey, A. E. Holmes, A. B. Adams, W. Coomber, R. E. Dunstan; Returned Soldiers' League Delegates, Messrs. R. Riggs and H. E. Monaghan.

Early files of "The Castlereagh" newspaper record that the temperature at the Gilgandra Post Office reached 117 degrees in 1905. In January, 1906, for nine days it was 104, 106, 110, 110, 108, 106, 102, 109 and 108.



MILLER STREET, 1913



VIEW OF MILLER STREET, 1903, BRIDGE HOTEL (now the Royal) ON THE LEFT

GILGANDRA POLO CLUB

POLO was first played on a small scale in Gilgandra during 1905, but it was not until 1922 that it reached its greatest heights. Through the enthusiasm of the late E. E. Beveridge, of "Tuglands," Gilgandra was the first club in the West to revive the game after the war, and it has flourished ever since, the annual tournament being the means of players from the surrounding clubs competing for the Gilgandra Challenge Cup and the Warrumbungle Cup. The former was subscribed by prominent business men, and the latter by Mr. W. V. Dowling, of "Gumin." After the death of Mr. Beveridge some years ago, he was succeeded in the position of president by Mr. G. Christie, the secretary being Mr. D. M. Kennedy.

Winners of the cups have been as follows:—

A GRADE, GILGANDRA CHALLENGE CUP

- 1922, Wellington A (H. a'Beckett, capt., J. Smith, C. Smith, J. Cross-
ing).
- 1923, Gilgandra A (S. Beveridge, capt.,
F. Corderoy, I. Beveridge, D.
Beveridge).
- 1924, Warrumbungle A (D. Brown,
capt., J. Campbell, T. Machattie,
B. Stevenson).
- 1925, Gilgandra A (S. E. Beveridge,
capt., D. S. Beveridge, I. Beveridge,
C. McKellar).
- 1928, Wellington A (D. Barton, capt.,
J. Read, P. Douglas, D. Barton).
- 1929, Narromine A (W. H. Webb, capt.,
M. Scott, A. K. K. Scott, F. J.
Dempster).
- 1935, Gilgandra A (D. S. Beveridge,
capt., D. I. Beveridge, I. E. Beve-
ridge, K. J. Beveridge).
- 1937, Wellington A (D. H. Barton,
capt., H. Smith, T. T. Maurice, T.
M. Scott).

B GRADE WARRUMBUNGLE CUP

- 1922, Gilgandra (D. S. Beveridge, capt.,

I. Beveridge, J. D. Beveridge, P.
Wheaton).

- 1923, Narromine (T. Perry, capt., J.
Perry, H. Johnson, E. Bennie).
- 1924, Wellington (J. Read, capt., P.
Douglas, D. Barton, C. Smith).
- 1925, Gilgandra (A. E. Markey, capt.,
V. Barden, N. Press, J. Christie).
- 1928, Gilgandra (H. W. Anderson,
capt., E. A. Anderson, R. Semmler,
V. Barden).
- 1929, Gilgandra (R. Semmler, capt.,
C. McKellar, H. W. Anderson, E.
A. Anderson).
- 1935, Gilgandra (J. Christie, capt., C.
McKellar, D. M. Kennedy, G. E.
Moss).
- 1937, Gilgandra (D. M. Kennedy, capt.,
C. McKellar, G. E. Moss, J. Perry).

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

THE Bank of New South Wales com-
menced business in Gilgandra on
4th September, 1909. The present build-
ing was occupied on 30th March, 1922.
Managers: Messrs. S. L. Bryan, M. John-
son, F. J. Brownlow, John Horsley, P.
F. Cameron, S. A. Woodward, and M.
G. Godfrey.



Bank of New South Wales

HOW GILGANDRA PROGRESSED

(By HORATIO BEVERIDGE)

BEFORE the advent of farmers from Victoria and elsewhere, Gilgandra was a village where bullock and horse teams were to be seen wending their way in a more or less leisurely fashion along Miller Street, the main thoroughfare. Everyone then appeared to have plenty of leisure. Groups of men were to be seen sitting on their heels in the street for indefinite periods without any apparent strain, now a lost art. An extensive Chinese garden, which faced Miller and Morris Streets, occupied the land where now stands the Imperial Hotel and other places of business. This garden was the only beauty spot in our dusty, drab little village. There was comparatively a small area of the rural district of Gilgandra cultivated and a large area of it was not then regarded as favourable for grazing purposes. Rabbits and sleeper-cutters were plying their callings in large numbers and teams carting logs to a sawmill were frequently to be seen. It was remarked by Mr. A. F. Garling, who at this time conducted a general store in the building now occupied by the Western Stores and Edgleys Ltd., that most of the ready money in Gilgandra came from rabbits and sleeper-cutters. On Saturday (pay day) the hotels did a flourishing business. It was quite common on those days to see the bars crowded to the doors. Between drinks, and, no doubt because of them, quite gory contests used to take place in Miller Street outside the Royal Hotel. About this time Mr. Frederick Haylethorn, stock and station agent of Horsham, Victoria, and his salesmen, brought a few land seekers from Victoria and a sale or two took place. Thence onward a veritable rush of land buyers from Victoria set in, and properties were sold and re-sold rapidly. Buyers began to arrive from South Australia and from other parts of New South Wales. The new arrivals, after purchasing, set about

clearing and netting their holdings, and a great many more found occupation in this work. Gilgandra became a busy little centre. Wheat growing, and the suitability of the Gilgandra lands for growing this grain, became the principal topic of conversation. The new arrivals spoke caustically of the methods of growing crops that had prevailed before their arrival. Mr. P. J. MacManus, the then proprietor of "The Castlereagh," now "The Gilgandra Weekly", devoted much space in his newspaper to the "productivity and potentialities," etc., of the lands. When not writing these dazzling articles he could be seen in the day time and late into the night tapping people on the top button of their vests and one could safely gamble that "Mac" was adopting these minor assaults on his victims for the purpose of driving home the newly discovered truth regarding our district. It was P. J. MacManus who helped in a very large measure to put Gilgandra "on the map."

Gilgandra had become, in a night, as it were, a land of promise and newly found El Derado, but disappointments and doubts began to arise. Some seasons were unsatisfactory. Share-farmers who had obtained large credits could not meet their liabilities and share-farming more or less became a thing of the past. The farmers from Victoria were heard to grumble. Much argument took place before the Local Land Board as to the capital value of land in this district. Doleful tales were told as to failures in wheat growing in support of applications for re-appraisal of capital values, and the pendulums of success and failures swung to and fro. The price of wheat had become so low that farmers asserted wheat growing could not make it pay. Yet farming still went on, and the impossible happened. A record yield was produced at the record price of 7/6 per bushel. Three hundred thousand bags

of wheat were delivered at Gilgandra for haulage to Sydney. Farmers' debts were paid, their spirits rose, and "everything in the garden was lovely," and wheat farming went on with a swing. It has been written that "hope springs eternal in the human breast," and so it was with the farmers. Good seasons and poor seasons followed and prices were disappointing. Yet wheat farming still goes on in Gilgandra. Sheep come to the rescue of wheat farmers in the wheat-lean years, and it was demonstrated over and over again that mixed farming is the safe and proper course to adopt in the Gilgandra district. Much good and patient work has been done in the Gilgandra district under the direction of Mr. Bruce Arthur, of the Agricultural Department. It is claimed by one very successful wheat grower that he owes his success to Mr. Arthur, and it was further claimed that under the modern method of farming the failures in crops can be reduced to a minimum.

Turning back to the Chinaman's garden. Its death knell was sounded in a half an hour. Mr. E. J. Foley, the licensee of the old weatherboard hotel that stood where Miller Street merges into the Coonamble Road, was notified that his license would be cancelled if this hotel were not substantially improved. The hotel formed part of a trust estate and arrangements with the trustees of that estate could not be made for this work to be done. Mr. Foley then, in desperation, sought to purchase a piece of land near that hotel in order to obtain a removal of the license to a building he proposed to erect on such piece of land. It was then suggested that he buy 100 feet frontage of the Chinaman's garden and erect an hotel on it. It was thought that this could not be done because a Chinaman held a lease of the garden. This lease was purchased and then the 100 feet at the same time, and a short time following the Imperial Hotel was erected and the rest of the garden subdivided and sold. The price for the 100 feet was £3 per foot. To-day it might be valued at £30 per foot or more. This

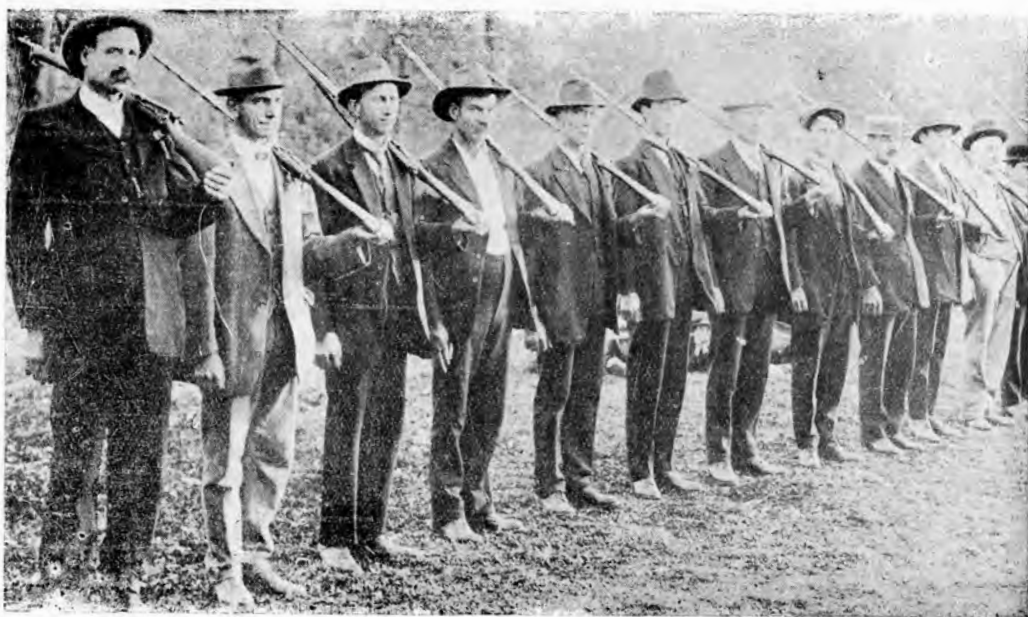
transaction was really something of an epoch in the development of Gilgandra, as it went a long way to fixing the main business centre of the town.

About the time of the disappearance of the Chinaman's garden the land where the flour mill stands and the land where the District Hospital is erected, right down to Miller Street and facing Wrigley Street, was one large paddock and formed part of the same trust state previously mentioned. The flour mill site was sold and a law suit arose between the late Mrs. Hannah Morris and the trustees and beneficiaries in the trust estate, in respect of the purchase money paid for the flour mill site. This law suit resulted in a compromise in which Mrs. Morris agreed to release a life estate which she held in the paddock. Then quickly followed the sub-division of the paddock and later there became erected thereon the District Hospital, Roman Catholic Church, Public School, and numerous private residences.

There is every indication that it only needs a few good seasons and reasonable prices for wheat, and the price of our wheat growing lands will substantially increase.



Water Fall at the Devil's Hole



RIFLE CLUB, 1915. In the group J. Hickmott, Carson, P. Hearn, F. Menzies, and J. R. Lee. Other names not available.



GILGANDRA CYCLE CLUB COMMITTEE (taken when race track was located at rear of St. Joseph's Convent): Top: P. J. MacManus, J. Campbell, T. Weston, H. Mitchell, J. D. Simon, T. Nash, W. Curran, B. Gibson, P. Hearn. Front: E. Garling, W. Dewe, J. McCarthy, J. D. Mudie, F. Hoare, H. J. Walden.



A. F. GARLING'S STORE AND R. G. HITCHEN'S BUTCHERS SHOP, 1907
The site is now occupied by the Commercial Bank.

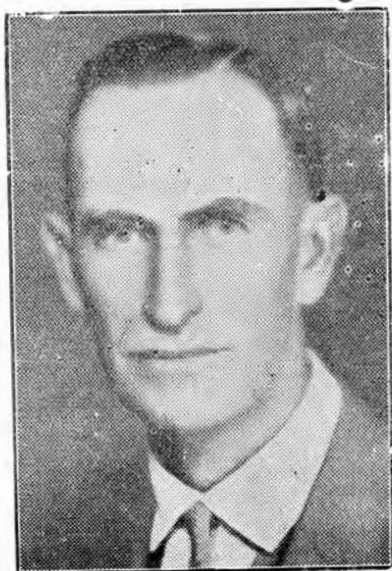
PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES

IN the early days Gilgandra formed part of the Coonamble State Electorate, and from 1894 to 1904 was represented by Hugh Macdonald. Other representatives were:

Macdonald, Hugh, 1904-1906
Trefle, John Louis, 1906-1915
Arkins, James Guy Dalley, 1915-1920
Ashford, William George, 1920-1921
Clark, Joseph Alfred, 1920-1931

Dunn, William Fraser, 1920-1925
Thorby, Harold Victor Campbell, 1922-1925
Yeo, A. W., 1932-1937.

In the Federal Parliament our representatives have been W. G. Spence, L. Cunningham, A. C. L. Abbott, A. Blakeley, and our present member, J. J. Clark.



MR. A. W. YEO, M.L.A.
FOR CASTLEREAGH



MR. J. J. CLARK, M.H.R.
FOR DARLING

"ST. AMBROSE" CHURCH

THE MEMORIAL CHURCH OF GILGANDRA

THE Memorial Church of St. Ambrose is important, not only to those who profess the Church of England faith, but it is just as important to those of other denominations for it represents the pride of Gilgandra district—the best and greatest service to the British Empire of any town in the Dominions during the Great War. That is why the Memorial Church of St. Ambrose means so much to the people of this district—it is the proof that the town of Gilgandra had the greatest war record. But, although the church in Gilgandra was higher in war service, the record which has won our town such distinction could not have been achieved without the co-operative war service of other denominations. So that what we see to-day in the shape of architectural beauty is a subject for universal congratulations.

Although the story of how the Church came to be built has been told before, there is, perhaps, some excuse for repeating it at this time. The Parish of St. Ambrose, Bournemouth, England, desired, under certain conditions, to make a peace thanksgiving of £1,250 to some town in the Dominion. The town had to have a war record, and the grounds of choice were church records and war records. For some time the town of Moosejaw, in Canada, was considered the most eligible, having put in a fine record of service. Hearing of the competitor when in London, on his way to Australia from the seat of war, Bishop Long nominated Gilgandra, and asked the authorities of St. Ambrose not to give their decision until Gilgandra's war record was placed before them. When that was done it was the end of Moosejaw and all other competitors. And, so thanks to Bishop Long's intervention, Gilgandra received this wonderful distinction—a distinction which carries with it a great amount of pride.

Then came the decision to build a

beautiful church, and to call it St. Ambrose, which was a condition of the gift. The money came along and financial arrangements to enable the work of building to proceed were made. Then, as is often the case, there were delays which threw the work back. The first set-back was the death of the original architect, Mr. R. S. Dods. Then the Bishop again came to the rescue. He discovered a new and very able architect in the person of Mr. Louis R. Williams, of Melbourne, a man who had studied



St. Ambrose Church

ecclesiastical architecture in England. Mr. Ryan, of Orange, was the builder.

The church was dedicated and consecrated on Wednesday, 26th July, 1922. The foundation stone was laid by Sir Walter Davidson, but he was unable, through illness, to be present at the dedication, but Dame Margaret Davidson made a special trip from Sydney to be present.

The church, which is of red brick, stands on a space 73ft. by 55ft., and the construction is of a most substantial character. Owing to the shifty nature of the soil, special attention was paid to

the foundations, which are of reinforced concrete in the form of rafts, the steel rods being continuous throughout the whole structure.

The various portions of the interior of the church are beautifully designed, the main features being the chancel arch,

with a span of 21 feet, the apse circular morning chapel, and the organ loft, specially designed for a pipe organ.

The nave has a floor space of 1,800 feet, with a beautiful arched aisle on the eastern side and an open cloister on the western side.

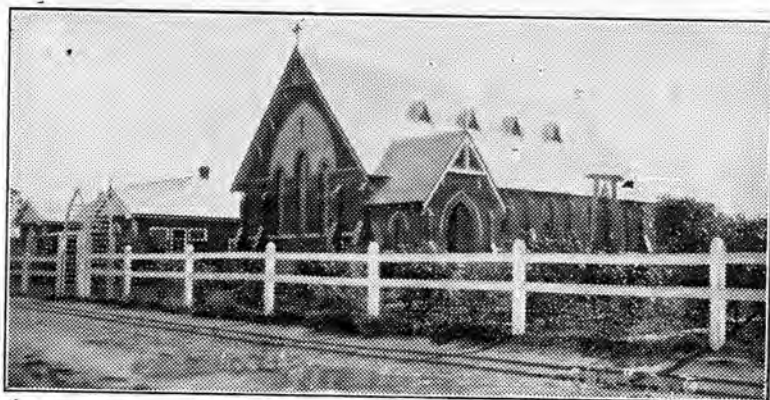
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE first Roman Catholic Church in Gilgandra was erected in 1900 under the supervision of the late Dr. Brophy. It was a wooden structure 15' x 20' and was situated in Morris Street adjoining Chinnock Private Hospital, the land having been purchased from the late Mrs. Miller. Late in 1908 the first Convent—St. Joseph's—was erected, under the guidance of the late Father Barry, of Coonabarabran, who visited Gilgandra periodically. The Sisters of St. Joseph's came from Perthville the same year, and it was not long before the demand for accommodation outgrew the limits available. It was in 1913 that the late Father Parker was appointed first parish priest of Gilgandra. The presbytery was then a rented cottage in Myrtle Street, but it was soon realised that a move was necessary for increased accommodation to cater fully for the

requirements of the Catholic faith. His keen business ability and indomitable courage overcame the many difficulties that were ahead of the willing workers and the present Catholic Church was dedicated by Dr. Brophy in 1914. The Presbytery and Convent followed later. Father Parker remained in charge for 18 years and later passed away in Orange whilst attending to his sacred duties.

Rev. Father Eviston was then appointed Parish Priest and has been in Gilgandra for the past six years. His good work is much in evidence and at the present time he is having a beautiful marble altar erected in St. Joseph's Church and is negotiating for the building of a convent at Gulargambone.

Gilgandra parish embraces Collie, Tooraweenah, Biddon, Gulargambone, Bearbong, Hillside and Armatree.



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH



OPENING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1912: Back Row: Peter Smith, Keith McAllister, J. W. Lithgow, J. Kemp-Bruce, W. H. MacLean, G. Rankin, Rev. Grassick, W. Pagan, Rev. Marshall, Rev. Hendry, G. McKellar, J. H. McCarthy, R. McKechnie, W. Pearce. Front Row: J. Johns, R. J. Carson (Contractor), Rev. J. C. McDonald, Rev. Crane, —, —, Watson (Architect), T. Watt, C. J. March.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

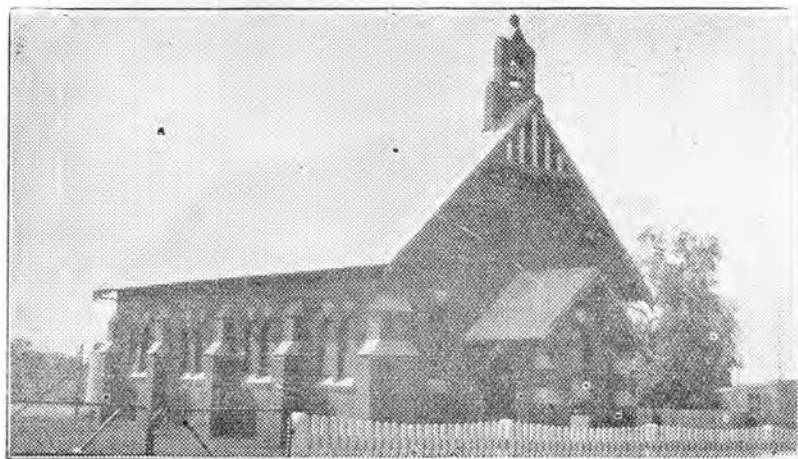
PERFECT Spring weather favoured the opening of the new Presbyterian Church of St. Stephen's, Gilgandra, on 21st August, 1912. For many years the Presbyterians of the district had felt the need for the church, and decided to build one that would meet the requirements of a growing congregation for some time. The handsome new building was the result of that decision. The church is of brick, faced with stone, in composite Gothic, and was designed by Messrs. Power and Andrews, architects, of Sydney. The contractor was Mr. R. J. Carson, and the work was supervised by Mr. Watson, architect, Dubbo. The building is 44 feet by 24 feet, with a tiled porch 6ft. x 8ft., a vestry 15ft. x 10ft., and there is seating accommodation for 250.

A large congregation gathered for the opening, which was performed by the Rev. M. Henry, M.A., Gular, in the presence of the Bathurst Presbytery, the

members of which assisted at Public Worship immediately after the opening.

Among those present were: Rev. W. C. Marshall (Molong), Moderator of Bathurst Presbytery, Rev. C. Crane, B.A. (Blayney), Rev. W. G. Sharp, B.A. (Wellington), Rev. M. Henry, M.A. (Coonabarabran), Rev. J. C. MacDonald, M.A. (Orange), and Rev. J. Marshall (Gilgandra), Messrs. R. Menlove, G. Rankin, G. Chandler, A. E. Linke, F. Skinner, Lou Semmler, F. Wise, P. J. Whiteman, Symington, G. Christie, W. E. Linke, W. A. Barden, A. F. Garling, J. Kemp-Bruce, J. H. McCarthy, C. J. March, K. McAllister, J. W. Lithgow, A. Wilson, G. McKellar, McKenzie, T. Watt, J. B. Barling, W. Craig, W. McLean, W. Pagan, P. Smith, W. Pearse (Collie), Hankel, and W. Bunter.

In the evening a concert was held the items being contributed by local artists.



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

GILGANDRA LUTHERAN CHURCH

SOME 40 years ago the magnet of good low-priced land began to attract Lutheran settlers from South Australia and Victoria, and later, from the Riverina of New South Wales. With many of these early pioneers their greatest earthly wealth was health, strength and a stout heart. Despite the many odds they came up against in carving out new homes from the virgin bush, the spiritual needs of life were not lost sight of. The urge of common worship and Christian fellowship brought them out of their humble slab huts along the rough bush tracks to their first meeting place—the home of the late Mr. J. G. Scholz, about four miles from Gilgandra, on the Bearbong Road. Later they gathered for worship in homes about half-way between Biddon and Gilgandra. These were the homes of the Hankel and Linke families. Lutheran ministers from the Riverina and Sydney travelled hundreds of miles several times a year to attend to the spiritual needs of pioneer Lutheran families. The Dubbo-Coonamble railway was, in those days, but a dream, so the visiting pastor was met at Dubbo, not with a high-powered stream-lined sedan, but a buggy and pair, which rattled and bumped him over 50 miles of mostly atrocious roads to his destination. Amongst the families attending these early services were the Scholz, Hanckel, Reichelt, Linke and Semmler families.

The year 1913 saw the organisation of the Gilgandra district Lutherans, or rather the greater part of them, into two congregations, under the leadership of Rev. E. Graebner, of Sydney. Early services were held in the Methodist Church, Biddon, and at Gilgandra, in the Union Hall, and later in the home of Mr. G. J. J. Molkentin.

A big step forward was the arrival

in 1920 of the first resident pastor, Rev. C. Venz. His huge parish extended from Biddon and Gilgandra, in the north, to Alectown and Forbes, 130 miles south, and his mode of transport a bone-shaking motor bike.



LUTHERAN CHURCH.

In 1925 the Gilgandra congregation dedicated a neat church of cement bricks in Elizabeth Street. It was also in this year that the Rev. W. P. Lehmann took charge, remaining until 1936. During his pastorate the parish made steady progress, despite the great distances separating the two sections. In 1933 a real forward move was made, when the southern and northern ends of the parish decided to organise into separate parishes. Biddon and Gilgandra congregation decided to form a separate parish and the comparatively small number of members decided to double their free-will church offerings in shouldering the heavy financial requirements. Since 1933 the new parish has made steady headway, and firmly consolidated its position. Up to £400 are raised annually for various church purposes at home and at large, all of it by the Biblical free-will offering

system. The present Pastor, Rev. T. W. Koch, formerly of Warwick, Queensland, was inducted May, 1936. At present the Gilgandra Lutheran Parish consists of the Biddon and Gilgandra congregations, together with preaching stations at Bearbong and Eumungerie. Regular fortnightly devotional broadcasts are

conducted over Station 2DU, Dubbo. During the 24 years of this parish's existence a Bible-grounded Christ-centred confession of faith and doctrine has been upheld, and despite the inevitable reverses, members have lived and worked together in a spirit of Christian unity and progress.

METHODIST CHURCH

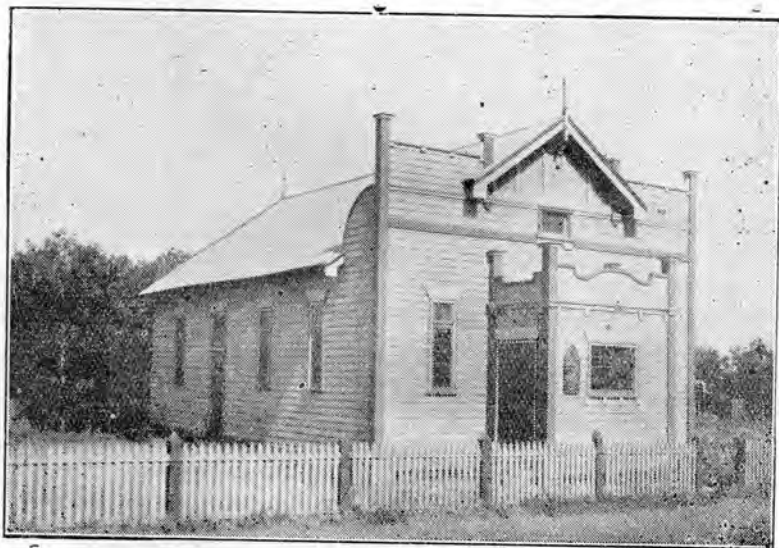
THE development of early Methodism in the Gilgandra district is particularly hard to trace, due, possibly, to the fact that it was not constituted a Circuit until 1912. During preceding years it was governed from elsewhere.

The development of Methodism throughout all the districts west of the Blue Mountains is in every sense an epic in the history of Australia's national life.

First mention of Gilgandra comes

addition of a large tract of country under his pastoral care. Mr. Taylor first visited Gilgandra in 1882.

The work, however, was not permanently established, Gilgandra being only a very small settlement, due to the very severe drought which gripped the countryside at that particular time. There was no minister north of Dubbo, and it was not till 1889 that Rev. W. F. Oakes was appointed to Coonamble and given



METHODIST CHURCH

from Dubbo, some years after work was established there. Rev. J. S. Morris-Taylor, who was stationed in Dubbo from 1881-4, stated that when he was appointed to that circuit he found no less than 32 preaching places, with the

charge of all the territory north to the Queensland border and south to within a few miles of Dubbo. During Mr. Oakes' term, Methodist services were first held and have been held regularly since. The settlement, though still very small, show-

ed signs of rapid growth, and though there were no churches in those early days, the services were held in the Good Templars' Hall, which has long since disappeared.

The list of ministers who served in the Coonamble circuit is as follows:— 1889-90, Rev. Wm. F. Oakes; 1891-2, Rev. Ambrose Fletcher; 1893, Rev. Geo. H. Barrett; 1894, Rev. J. Herbert Chaseling; 1895-7, Rev. M. Scott-Fletcher, B.A.; 1898, Rev. J. Ward Harrison; 1899-0, Rev. H. E. Andrews; 1901, Under Chairman of District's care; 1902, Rev. John W. C. Horberry, 1903, Rev. Wm. M. Woodhouse; 1904-6, Rev. Wm. N. Lock, M.A.; 1907, Rev. C. Sedgwick Oliver; 1908, Rev. P. O. Davis; 1909, Rev. D. P. MacDonald; 1910, Became Coonamble-Gilgandra Circuit; 1910, Rev. S. W. Bonnor (Coonamble), Rev. S. Bostock Jones (Gilgandra); 1911, Rev. W. J. Dunbar (Coonamble), Rev. Ralph Stanger (Gilgandra).

In 1897 the first church was built. It was very fittingly a Union Church. After the construction of the railway, Gilgandra's progress knew no bounds, and in 1910 the Methodist Conference appointed the Rev. S. Bostock Jones to the Gilgandra end of the Coonamble Circuit.

This was the first official appointment, but yeoman service was rendered by a Mr. Winn, who was a Circuit Missionary. Mr. Winn has the honour of being the first representative of the Methodist Church to reside in Gilgandra.

It was during the year 1910 that the church was built. Rev. D. P. MacDonald was the Superintendent at Coonamble. Those responsible built first a building which was later expected to be used as a School Hall, but to date their visions and hopes have not been realised as it was intended to build a church facing Myrtle Street.

The following year, 1911, Rev. Ralph C. Stanger was appointed, and in 1912 a further forward move was made,

and Gilgandra was constituted a separate circuit with its own minister.

The first minister was Rev. Stuart Udy. Ministers since appointed to the circuit are as follows: 1913, Rev. John R. Lee (now member of Drummoyne in the State Parliament); 1914, Rev. Wm. Green; 1915, Rev. Wm. Jenkins; 1916, Rev. Kay Mason; 1917, Rev. Wm. Butler; 1918, Rev. Scarth Fleming; 1919, Rev. Harold E. Burrows; 1920, Rev. Franch E. Donnison; 1921-2, Rev. Joseph Wadkin; 1923-5, Rev. J. Stanley Paine; 1926, Rev. Robert Grayson; 1927-9, Rev. Leslie R. Bensley; 1930-2, Rev. Wm. J. Harper; 1933-5, Rev. Arnold C. Towner; 1936-37, Rev. Winston Jones; 1937, Rev. Wm. E. Taylor, L.Th.

In 1928 a fine Parsonage was erected on a splendid site in Womboin Street.

This review would not be complete without reference to the splendid service rendered by Mr. W. Holswich as a local preacher for 20 years or more.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

IN 1913 Mr. D. J. Butler and family came to this district from Victoria, and settled at "Warwick," on the Mendooran Road. In Horsham, the family had been meeting with the people known as Churches of Christ, so they immediately began meetings in their home. They were joined by the Mudford family the following year. These meetings were continued in the two homes until 1926, when a tent mission was conducted in the town by Messrs. Baker and Clay. Meetings were then continued in the I.O.O.F. Hall. The following year the chapel in Warren Road was built and opened for worship in September. Three preachers have served with the church: Mr. C. Byrnes, 1926-29; Mr. A. R. Lloyd, 1930-1934; and Mr. I. J. Chivell, the present preacher.

P. AND C. ASSOCIATION

THE Parents and Citizens' Association was first formed in March, 1917. At the inaugural meeting, Mr. Alban



Mr. E. V. G. Townsend (President)

McLachlan, B.A., District Inspector of Schools (late Deputy Chief Inspector of Schools), gave an address touching on

the functions of the old School Boards and the newer organisations which were to take their place. It was on the motion of the first Secretary, Mr. J. Smirthwaite, that the P. and C. Association was formed. The original office bearers were as follows: Patron, Mr. Alban McLachlan, B.A., Inspector of Schools, Dubbo; President, Mr. A. F. Garling; Vice-Presidents, Dr. H. Peet and Mr. G. Rankin; Secretary, Mr. J. Smirthwaite; Treasurer, Mrs. G. Rankin.

For the past 20 years the association has been an active and vigorous body, catering for the material needs of the school and managing such social functions as the Empire Day Sports, which later became competitions for the Western Stores Cup. Many additions and improvements to the school building and grounds have been the direct result of the persistent advocacy of that body.

Mr. E. V. G. Townsend is President, and Mr. F. W. Purdon Secretary.

OSTRICH FARM AT "THE JUGGAH"

IT is not generally known that on "The Juggah," near Gilgandra, an ostrich farm was established in 1905. The property was purchased from Mr. Mayford Morris and is to-day owned by Mr. J. Johns.

The venture was owned by Captain Cairnes and Councillor Sanderson and was successfully conducted for many years. The dry, crisp climate of the district provided a suitable breeding place for the birds, whilst the light, red soil resulted in an excellent plumage. The holding at that time comprised some 3,000 acres and portion of this was netted into areas of 15 acres. The birds

laid something like 40 eggs each year and were hatched in incubators, until the supply exceeded the incubation space, when the male birds assisted in the hatching.

At the time "The Juggah" enterprise was the only one in the State and crops of feathers were gathered every eight months. With the sale of the property, about 1910, the birds were removed to Coonamble. Prior to the establishment of the farm, the South Australian Government offered the owners 5,000 acres as a free grant—enough to run 250 birds—to establish the industry in that State.

TENNIS IN GILGANDRA

TENNIS in Gilgandra has grown with the town and district and is a true reflection of the progress that has been made over the past 25 years. The first courts were located near Idaleigh private hospital and those who were prominent players some 25 years ago included Albert and George Richardson (Armatree), Bill Wheaton (Kickabil), Phil Wheaton (Eumungerie), N. W. Farrand, A. F. Fitzhardinge, Spencer Barden, Misses Barden (later Mrs. Farrand and Mrs. Fitzhardinge), Miss Carter Wheaton (now Mrs. Brown, of Gulargambone), Rt. Hon. Weble (Everton Station), G. G. Lee (Shire Clerk), Ivo Beavis (now Chamber Magistrate at Burwood), Ben

force to be reckoned with at the various championship meetings.

As the town progressed it was necessary to move the town club to the park, where one court was established about 1912. This continued for several years until a progressive move for additional courts resulted in three being put down, these being later top-dressed with Dubbo gravel and a further three were made, making a total of six courts to-day.

About 1923 keen interest was displayed in district tournaments and a cup was donated by Mr. H. Foran, of Tattersall's Hotel, for competition amongst teams, same to be won three years in succession. This was achieved by the Coonabarabran team, comprising Dr. Docker, Arnold and Roy Brown and Middleton, who were far superior to any of the district teams. However, another cup was forthcoming from Mr. E. S. Lewis, of Tattersall's Hotel, and Coonabarabran were excluded from competition, Dubbo being admitted. Their team comprised Doug Yeo, W. H. Christie, L. Yeo and D. Gavel, and it was not long before they won the cup outright, *despite strong opposition from our own team and from Gulargambone, Collie and Coonamble.*

The main players for Gilgandra at this time were W. A. Brown, A. Krohn, Alf Weston (one of the best secretaries the club ever had), Bill Highfield, Stan Howard and Stuart Anderson.

At the same time a ladies' team match was also held and there was always keen competition between Gilgandra and Eumungerie for 'The Weekly' cup. Both these cups are still open for competition. Eumungerie had a particularly strong team in Misses Edna and Joan Wheaton, Miss May Lee, Miss Elsie Matthews and Mrs. N. Strahorn, whilst Gilgandra had the services of Miss Pearl Reakes, Miss Aileen Leake, Miss Susie



Mr. G. Christie (President)

and Summers Barling, and later Norman Lovett, Blackall, and others.

Two of the best lady tennis players the West ever produced were Mrs. Farrand and Mrs. Fitzhardinge, the latter winning the country championship two years in succession, on one occasion meeting her sister in the final. Another champion was Bill Wheaton, than whom there was not an equal in the West when in his prime. Phil Wheaton was also a player of no mean ability and is still a

Nelson, Miss Olive McCutcheon and others.

In 1926 representations were made to the N.S.W. Lawn Tennis Association to grant a championship fixture to the Gilgandra club and the Castlereagh championship tournament was allotted. This is held each year in September and has attracted such notable players as Jim Willard, Jack Crawford, Viv McGrath, Thelma Coyne and others. The first outstanding player to visit Gilgandra was J. O. Anderson in 1924, and he played an exhibition match against Guy Williams, from Barrabra, after the Dubbo annual tournament.

For the past nine years Mr. G. Christie has acted as president, having succeeded Mr. H. Campbell, who

occupied the position from 1924-28. Until his departure from Gilgandra two years ago, Mr. Alf Weston was the hon. secretary for many years and he rendered splendid service for the advancement of the club.

Officials are: Patron, Mr. W. A. Brown; President, Mr. G. Christie; Vice-Presidents, Dr. Alexander, Messrs. H. S. Gregg and H. Campbell; Secretary, Mr. V. Brown; Treasurer, Mr. S. Caldwell; Committee, Messrs. N. Norton, M. Lewis, J. Creenaune, D. M. Kennedy, R. Leight, R. Trennery, and J. D. Williams; Ladies' Committee, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Creenaune, Misses S. Nelson, U. Ellis, Jean Williams, A. Weston, Jean Fleming, A. Kelly, S. Kelly, and I. Weston; Auditor, Mr. W. Coomber.

BOWLING CLUB

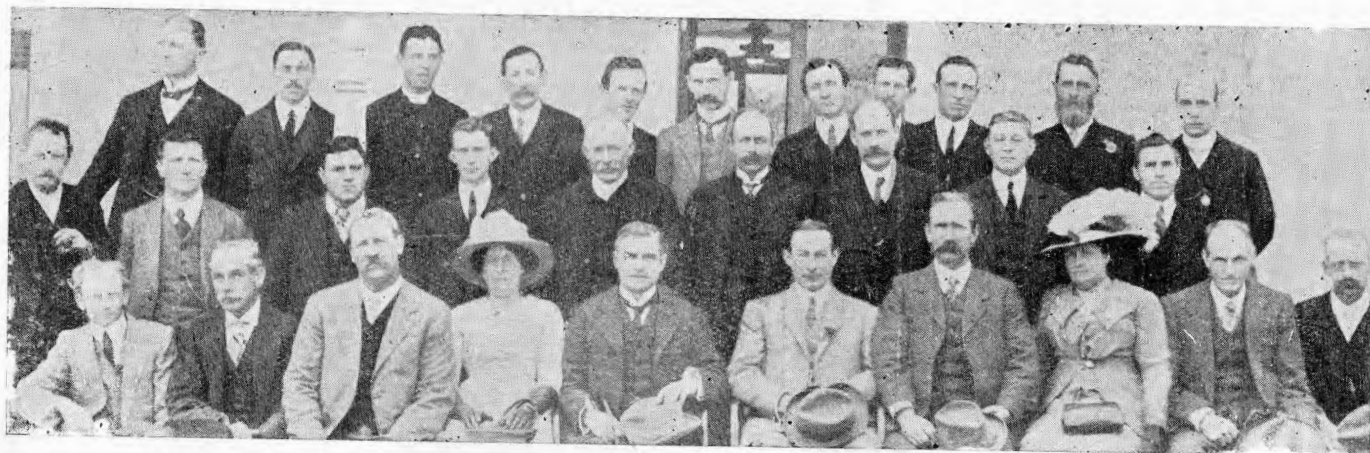
THE first meeting held in connection with the formation of a bowling club was on April 26, 1921, when the following were in attendance: Dr. H. Peet, Messrs. P. J. MacManus, J. D. Smithwaite, J. H. Hitchen, A. E. Perkins, F. Smith and A. S. Carroll. Efforts were



Mr. L. D. Serisier (President)

then made to secure a green and land in the park was secured, fenced and the levels taken, but beyond that matters did not proceed. It was not until eight years later—March 28, 1929—that a

definite start was made, and a green established, which was open for play in October the same year. The first officials of the club were: Patron, Dr. H. Peet; President, Mr. L. D. Serisier; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. B. Boon, S. J. Glover, W. Wark, and R. J. Nelson; Committee, Messrs. C. Offner, R. J. Carson, W. Weatherley, B. Cottey, M. Cameron, E. S. Lewis, Leake, and Dr. Campling; Secretary, Mr. G. Christie. Shortly after the opening the club engaged in B Grade Pennant matches against Narromine, Wellington and Dubbo, whilst in 1931 a cup for club championship singles was presented by Mr. Murdock McLeod. This has resulted: 1931, F. Munro; 1932, H. Campbell; 1933, M. Costigan; 1934, J. Fleming; 1935-36, B. Gould; 1937, J. Pearce. With the exception of two terms, Mr. L. D. Serisier has been president since the formation of the club. Other officials today are: Vice-Presidents, Messrs. R. J. Nelson, J. Fleming, S. Gornall and W. Bentley; Committee: Messrs. J. Pearce, H. Trennery, W. Creenaune, B. Linke, E. S. Lewis, P. Cornwall, G. Withers, A. B. Adams, J. A. Holmes, Dr. Alexander; Secretary, Mr. B. Gould.



A Group of Citizens at the Shire Council Chambers on the occasion of the visit of Sir Gerald Strickland to open the District Hospital.

Front Row: Dr. H. Peet, H. Gibson, W. A. Barden, Mrs. Barden, Sir Gerald Strickland, Hon. J. L. Trefle, J. Bell, Lady Strickland, P. O'Neill, R. Moad. Middle Row: J. Cosier, A. F. Garling, P. J. MacManus, A. S. Carroll, J. W. Lithgow, — Hardy, A. Field, A. E. Perkins. Back Row: —, —, Rev. J. R. Lee, P. J. McMullen E. Townsend, G. Rankin, J. H. McCarthy, —, M. Barden, —, W. C. Dewe.

GILGANDRA DISTRICT HOSPITAL

FOUNDATION STONE LAID OCTOBER 1, 1913

AFTER a deal of preliminary work and meetings held for the purpose of providing a hospital for Gilgandra, a general meeting of subscribers was held on Monday, 25th October, 1912, in the old Australian Hall, at which Mr. A. W. Miller presided. At this meeting the first

tect were received and discussed at a meeting held on 29th August, 1913.

On 3rd September, 1913, the committee was informed by the Hon. J. L. Trefle that a grant of £1,250 was available. The foundation stone was laid on 1st October, 1913, by Sir Gerald Strickland, C.C.M.G., Governor of New South Wales, accompanied by Lady Strickland, the Misses Strickland, and Mr. and Mrs. Trefle. A public holiday was granted in honour of the event.

The hospital was erected by Messrs. R. J. Nelson and Sons.

The present hospital opened on 16th August, 1916, on a site purchased



Mr. Chris Offner (Chairman)

committee was formed and trustees appointed as follows:

President: Mr. A. W. Miller.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. R. T. Menlove and Mr. A. F. Garling.

Treasurer: Mr. G. Rankin.

Committee: Messrs. W. C. Dewe, Dr. Peet, H. Gibson, N. W. Farrand, J. H. Hitchen, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Keith, J. D. Simons, E. L. Garling, F. Wise, P. J. MacManus, and J. Skelton.

Trustees: Messrs. A. F. Garling, A. W. Miller, H. Gibson, J. Skelton and Dr. Quinn.

At a committee meeting immediately following this general meeting, Mr. H. Gibson was appointed Hon. Secretary and Mr. A. W. Donnelly was elected to fill the vacancy on the committee.

Soon after this the President (Mr. A. W. Miller) died, and Mr. H. Gibson was elected President and Mr. E. G. Colquhoun hon. secretary.

Plans from the Government Archi-



Mr. A. R. Townsend (Secretary)

for £225. The original site given by the Government was not suitable, and was later disposed of.

The first staff comprised: Matron, Miss Jessie Anderson; probationers, Miss Chrissie McKinnon, Miss Nellie Smirthwaite; Secretary, Mr. N. Farrand.

The present staff comprises: Matron E. McMillan, Sister E. Childs, Sister K. Mitchell, Nurse R. Buck, and Nurse S. Curran.

The Board of Directors comprise: Messrs. C. Offner (Chairman), B. Gould (Treasurer), F. Purdon, A. B. Adams, C. F. Myers, J. G. Curran, J. Hiatt.

Mr. A. R. Townsend is secretary.

MCLEOD'S FLOUR MILL

THE building of Messrs. M. McLeod's Flour Mill, at Gilgandra, was commenced in the year 1909, and was completed during December, 1910. Mr. Murdock McLeod laid the last brick, and



McLeod's Flour Mill

to do this it was necessary for him to climb to the top of the "smoke stack", where the last brick of the building was laid. This smoke stack is sixty feet high. Mr. McLeod also opened the stem valve of the engine, setting the mill off on its initial run. The first manager was Mr. J. K. Bruce. Mr. C. Offner, the initial engineer, still occupies that position to-day. The first Miller-in-Charge was Mr. F. Gamble; the first packerman, Mr. P. C. Rose; the first storeman, Mr. J. Fardell; and the first bookkeeper, Mr. Field. The present manager is Mr. J. H. Hiatt. The number of men employed during the year varies. During the wheat season about twenty-six men are employed, and for the rest of the year about eighteen or nineteen. The hourly output of flour is $6\frac{1}{2}$ sacks (200lbs.).

THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY LIMITED

THE Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited was the first bank to open in this town. It commenced business in Gilgandra on 28th July, 1900, in a small room 10 x 12 in the late A. F. Garling's store, where the present bank building now stands. The present site was purchased in the year 1908,



The Commercial Banking Company
of Sydney Limited

and the existing premises erected thereon in 1910 by Messrs. Hocking Brothers, contractors, under the supervision of Messrs. Kent, Budden and Greenwell, architects. Managers: 1900-1903, Mr. G. F. Antill; 1903-1910, Mr. I. B. Faunce; 1910-1923, Mr. G. Rankin; 1923-1937, Mr. W. A. Brown.

COPIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS APPEARING IN THIS BOOKLET

or Enlargements therefrom, may be obtained at "The Weekly" Office. Send one of these souvenir Booklets to your friends. It would be appreciated and advertise your town and district.

Only a limited number of these books have been printed, so secure your extra copies at once.

GOLF CLUB

THE first golf club in Gilgandra was situated on the hill near the District Hospital, and extending towards Morris Street. There was no membership fee and those who played were: Messrs. Farrand, Beveridge, McCook, G. G. Lee, MacManus, A. F. Garling, Fitzhardinge and others. In 1921 a definite move was made to establish a club and

Secretary, Mr. T. H. Farrance; Treasurer, Mr. J. Coates.

The club championship was first played for in 1930, the winner being A. Krohn. Other winners were: 1931, E. Tibbits; 1932 and 1933, H. Campbell; 1934, A. Krohn; 1935 and 1936, F. Munro; 1937, A. Krohn.

The associates' championship was held by Miss Bena Campbell from 1932 to 1936. This year it was won by Miss K. Keir.



View of Gilgandra Golf Links

a course used near the old bridge on the eastern side of the river. Prominent players then were: A. Krohn, E. and W. Tibbits, L. D. Serisier, P. Timmins, M. and S. Hitchen, A. J. Habgood, E. Mudie, Brimstone, Chrystal, Rankin, J. and M. Costigan, and F. J. Brownlow.

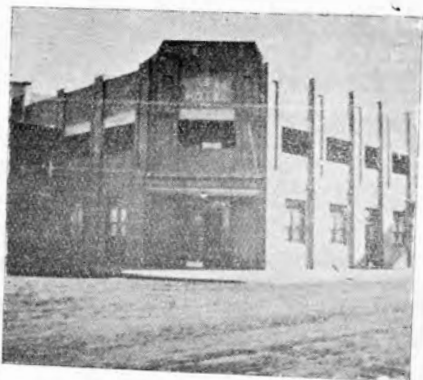
When the present Oxley Highway was surveyed in 1930 it was found necessary to secure another course and a move made to the race course, where the club has functioned since. Officials are:— Patron, Mr. A. W. Yeo, M.L.A.; President, Mr. L. D. Serisier; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. A. R. Townsend, W. A. Brown, L. Kember; Captain, Mr. F. Munro; Committee, Messrs. B. Gould, A. Krohn, E. Tibbits, A. Schuemaker, J. Morris, A. E. Holmes, A. McGowan;

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

OPENED for business on 22nd May, 1909, in portion of the premises of the 'Gilgandra Weekly and Castlereagh'. Mr. R. T. Menlove being the first manager. New and commodious premises were erected in 1927, opposite the bridge over the Castlereagh River. Managers: 1909-1913, Mr. R. T. Menlove; 1913-1916, Mr. J. F. Allen; 1916-1919, Mr. S. W. Cripps; 1919-1923, Mr. F. L. Hill; 1923-1929, Mr. R. C. G. Hamilton; 1929-1932, Mr. B. Boon; 1932-1934, Mr. W. Allatt; 1934-1937, Mr. J. J. E. Andrew.



The Union Bank of Australia Limited



Royal Hotel



Railway Hotel



Western Stores and Edgleys Ltd.



Tattersall's Hotel



Imperial Hotel

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MEMORIES OF GILGANDRA

(By WILLIAM GAYNON)

IN January, 1877, accompanied by my father I left Sally's Flat, near Hill End (where my father was a farmer and miner) on horseback for "New Lawn," Gilgandra. I only had a hazy idea where Gilgandra was, but had heard from the late Edward Maher (who then owned Yalcogrin) what great grazing land was in the district. However, we reached our destination on January 11, 1877, and my father selected New Lawn and in November of the same year I selected Spring Vale from Bungygibong Station—a station of 38,000 acres and owned by Mrs. Cheetham. I then returned to the gold fields to bring my mother and younger brothers and sisters to our new

home—a wooden structure 20' x 40' the timber of which was cut with a pit-saw, with some 26,000 shingles cut by hand by myself and brother Jack.

The following year we cultivated 11 acres, which grew a wonderful crop of 25 tons of hay, which was reaped with a scythe. In those days fences were unknown and dingoes were plentiful, and what sheep there were had to be shepherded. Later wire fencing became the order of the day and dingo poisoning a wholesome pastime.

Tribes of blacks were plentiful and they passed my home on many occasions on their way from Coonamble to the Macquarie, where the opposing tribes would meet and do battle against each other, mostly for gins from the opposing camp. The men of the tribes were a lazy lot and believed in the women doing all the work. Whilst the men slept during the day the gins would have to hunt for food, climbing trees for opossums, which were here in abundance. When meal time came the men would sit around in a circle and have the pick of the eatables, passing over their shoulders to the gins what they did not want.

Settlers in the early days led a rather lonely life and there were few visitors, but on one occasion I had a surprise visit from Dempsey, a bushranger of note at the time, who was passing, and in appreciation of a rest and food he presented me with a beautiful whip handle, carved with a pen knife and file from a piece of myall wood. This is still one of my prized possessions.

There was no main road when I first came to this district and to Dubbo the only means of communication was



Mr. William Gaynon

home. We made the return journey in a bullock waggon, together with a twelve months' supply of food and our only furniture—the dining table of which is still in use at Spring Vale. My two sisters, Ann and Ellen, rode on horseback, whilst my brothers, John and Pat, brought the sheep—a mob of 600 ewes. We then set to work to clear and build

a bridle track, too narrow at times for two horsemen to ride abreast. After leaving Boborah, where Mother Reid kept the hotel, there was not another residence until one reached Coalbaggie, where the late Tom Foran's father had the hotel. Gilgandra then was a very small place and the only means of communicating with the outside world was by mails carried on pack-horses from Mudgee, through Gilgandra to Curban and Coonamble. Some of the old hands conveying the mails at that time whom I remember were Billy Hill, Tom Pankhurst (better known as Tow the Jaston), and Jimmy Walden (brother of John Walden, of Quambone). Later the mails were brought from Dubbo by Cobb and Co.'s coaches. The first police station was in charge of Cusack and Burton, at Curban, and then Dolman, Brown, Trebillock and others.

The first store-keeper was Mr. Trimm, who sold his business to Mr. Marsh (who later moved to Mendooran). The late J. G. Brown, of Dubbo, then purchased the business and had as his manager Mr. Cadden. Then came Mr. Main, who sold to the late A. F. Garling. When he opened his new store on the site where the Western Stores now is he celebrated with a big dinner, and declared open by the member for Coonamble—Mr. Hugh McDonald. At that time dances were held in the Mechanics' Institute, music being supplied by Joe Hansen (Collie), with a violin, Jack Collison, Charles Fowler, and Bob Diggs, with concertinas.

The late Mrs. Morris kept the first hotel as far as I can remember, and late Bob Townsend built the Bridge Hotel, on the site where the Royal Hotel now stands. The walls were of piosa and he obtained the soil from his back yard and afterwards filled in the hole with sand from the river. The clock which used to keep time in the bar is in my possession and is still keeping good time. I well remember the first bridge across the Castlereagh at Bridge Street,

next to the Commercial Bank. This was in 1884 and my brother Jack and I were the first to cross with a team of 18 bullocks, carrying timber from Mr. Gray's (who built the bridge) to my own selection. The bridge was later officially opened by Mrs. Morris with champagne, and the occasion was celebrated by holding a big ball on the bridge, dancing continuing until sunrise.

In the early days fish were rather plentiful in the Castlereagh and in 1890 I remember seeing the late James Markey shoot fish with a gun at the Curban crossing. From various markings made in the early days I can definitely say that the river in many parts has filled up with sand to a depth of ten feet and over. There were many fine water holes in the old Castlereagh when I first came here, but there are very few now, mainly due to this sand having been carried down from the hills higher up. After doing my residence on Spring Vale I went carrying for years through to Wallerawang for Berida Station, then owned by Edward Flood, and where they shored 120,000 sheep. My last trip with the waggon was in 1880, to take my father's wool from New' Lawn to Wellington, the nearest railway. Later, upon the retirement of my father, I purchased his property and now have the two properties which we selected sixty years ago.

Mrs. Gaynon can lay claim to close association with the early days of the district, for her father, the late W. J. Carey, came to manage Curban Station in the year 1865 for Mr. Crossing, of Mudgee. The station at that time was a big cattle run and on one occasion, after the sale of 300 head of cattle, a bushranger named Johnstone held up Mr. Carey and demanded the purchase money. Luckily, Mr. Crossing had left during the night with the money. Later Mr. Carey purchased Yalcogrin, now the property of Mr. Pagan, and afterwards conducted a hotel on the property. After retirement he lived in Parramatta until his death in 1924.

OLD PIONEERS

UNTIL 1922 there had been a hotel at Balladoran, right on the Dubbo Road, which was conducted by the late Mrs. Johnstone, and her husband before her. The name of Johnstone is prominent amongst the early history of this district, for it was in the year 1874 that Mr. and Mrs. H. Johnstone and their six children first came to these parts. Their arrival is well remembered by the older members of the family, for it was on the night of the big flood, and the family lost everything—only escaping with their lives by climbing into a big apple tree and remaining there for a night and a day. After managing "Bongeabong" Station for about three years, Mr. Johnstone took his family to Balladoran in 1878, built a large house there and secured a hotel license, which remained in force until it was surrendered in 1922.

In an interview in "The Castle-reagh" newspaper of July 6, 1906, Mrs. Johnstone gave the following details of the 1874 flood: She and her husband had only been a week in the district at the time and knew nobody. Five of her children, her husband and brother had to seek shelter in a large apple tree, the children being tied to the limbs with ropes. At first she was sitting on a large log after the water had covered all the ground, hoping that it would not be necessary to climb into a tree. Snakes, centipedes and vermin of all kind came on to the log, but as she had a baby in arms she was unable to kill them. As the river persisted in rising she was forced to wade through water waist deep to reach the tree. So high did the waters rise that some of their sheep were lifted 60 feet into the forks of huge gums. The family remained up the trees for 14 hours, during rain the whole time, and the children were continually slipping on the branches, causing the pillows to fall from them into the flood. To quench their thirst they lowered a billy can tied to string and drank the muddy water; so wide was the water that they could

not see land. The cause of the flood was stated to have been a sudden watersprout at the head of the river after rain had fallen almost every day during December and January.

This experience befel the Johnstone family a little below Sheep Yard Flat, a property occupied in 1906 by Mr. J. W. Lithgow.

MRS. JAMES HUMPHREY

Born at "Eranganerin" Station (now owned by Mr. G. McKellar) on September 21, 1866, Mrs. James Humphrey, of Myrtle Street, claims to be one of the oldest native-born residents alive. At that time her father—James Markey—had "Eranganerin" Station, and the nearest settlers were at Gilgandra and Boborah. It was nothing for Mrs. Humphrey and her brothers and sisters to walk to Gilgandra across country—a



Mrs. James Humphrey

distance of five miles—for store supplies. This meant following a bush track and crossing the river twice, passing a tribe of blacks who always camped near a big waterhole at Barramigill, and being scared to death with wild horses, wild pigs and other native life. There was not much of Gilgandra here at that time—the store being kept by McTaggart and



MOUNTAIN VIEW HOTEL, CURBAN, 1877, conducted by James Markey. In the picture are Mrs. W. Blowse and William Blowse, Mrs. Markey and A. E. Markey, Tom Markey, Mrs. J. Marchant, and J. Markey.

the Bushman's Arms Hotel by the late Mrs. Morris. The surroundings were dense scrub and described as Mrs. Morris' paddock. At the age of 11 years, Mrs. Humphrey moved with her family to Curban, where her father took up land, and later built the Mountain View Hotel, situated on the Gilgandra side of the river, near where the low-level crossing bridge now is. Later Mr. Markey selected "Rose Hill," in the Mendooran district, where he resided until his death at the age of 69 years in 1913. He was a native of Windsor and had been in this district for over 50 years. Her mother was a native of Penrith—Sarah Blowes.

At the time Mrs. Humphrey resided at "Eranganerin", the nearest big town was Mudgee, from where supplies were brought by bullock waggons. The first mail was by pack-horse, and later Cobb and Co.'s coaches—three times a week. The license of the Imperial Hotel was originally that of the Bushman's Arms Hotel (later known as the Telegraph Hotel). The Royal Hotel was formerly known as the Bridge Hotel, and was first kept by Bob Townsend, then Jack Murray. When Con Curran came across from Horsham (Victoria) it was known as the Royal Hotel. Where the Imperial Hotel now stands was a huge Chinaman's garden.

MR. MAYFORD MORRIS

To have been born in Gilgandra, educated here and remained in the town ever since is the record of Mr. Mayford Morris, a member of one of the early pioneer families. He first saw the light of day in the Bushman's Arms Hotel on October 18, 1872, and was two years of age when the big flood came. He attended the first school in Gilgandra, which was down the river near Wrigley's crossing. There were about 40 pupils then and Mr. Kensitt was the first teacher. Within 12 months the school accommodation could not hold the pupils and



Mr. Mayford Morris

a move was made across the river near Fisher Smith's residence, near where the pound yard now is. After leaving school young Morris worked in the post office for some time, and when he attained his majority was successful in securing one of the first blocks of land to be thrown open in the Coonamble district under the Settlement Lease Act. This was of 2,547 acres and part of Gum Hole Station. Later he sold this property and purchased 600 acres of "The Juggah," and then made additions to it. After selling this property for use as an ostrich farm he went dealing in stock and when Messrs. Miller and James opened a branch office here in 1910 joined that firm, where he has been ever since.

MRS. MUDIE

From side-saddles and crinolines to present day fashions is a long ride, but in the days of old, when Gilgandra was in the making, the lads and lassies had to ride 30 and 40 and upwards of 60 miles to attend dances and cricket



Mrs. Ruth Martha Mudie

matches, visit relatives and friends, and as needs be seek medical attention. Those were the days that are recalled by Mrs. Ruth Martha Mudie, one of the oldest residents who has lived all her life in the town. She was but a wee tot when her father, Thomas Byrnes, was held captive by Bushranger O'Shea and died from the effects of being tied to a

tree for several days. She was born at the Bushman's Arms Hotel, on February 22, 1869, attended the first school here, and later the Convent at Dubbo, and then a Sydney school. There were no buggies in those days—tip-drays were the vogue—and wherever one had to go horses were the method used. It was nothing to ride to Dubbo, Collie, or even Coonamble, to attend a dance or a cricket match. Brothers, sisters and sweethearts all rode together and for a short cut a bush track was often used, the lads carrying the ladies' ball dresses on the front of their saddles. And families in those days were families—unless there were ten or fifteen youngsters the parties concerned were looked upon as weaklings. "Why now," said Mrs. Mudie, "if the couples of to-day have two or three children they consider they have a large family."

OLDEST DISTRICT BORN NATIVE

BORN at Bennett's Station, in the Curban district, in the year 1853, Mr. George Clare can rightly claim to be the oldest district born native who will attend the "Back to Gilgandra Week" celebrations. He has spent the greater part of his 84 years in the Gilgandra district and recently returned from a visit to Queensland. At present he is the guest of Mr. W. Gaynon, of "Spring Vale," with whom he has been associated for the past 50 years.



Mr. George Clare

MR. JIM MADGWICK

Mr. Jim Madgwick, of Lower Miller Street, came to this district in the early 60's. He recalls that at that time the settlers within a 20 mile radius of the present town were: Thomas Byrne (Gilgandra), Mary Ann Read (Bobarah), Len Cheetham (Bungey), Edward Flood (Berida), Robert Crossing (New Curban), J. Neville (Yalcogrin), George Richardson (Biddon), John Cafe (Bearbong), Michael Healey (Old Breelong), Alexander McEwan (Breelong), John Christian (East Breelong), Thomas Foran (Balladoran), J. Bonnnigton and Andy Markey (Eranganerin). The first free-selectors were: James Rogers (Barragon), Richard Humphries (Everton), J. Gaynon (New Lawn), Edward Maher (Yaragond), Edward, Timothy, John, Thomas and George Marchant (who took up Mvall View), A. McKechnie, Peter Smith, L. Bonafous (Blayak), William Trew, E. Collison, Frank Cullen, Harry Hall, D. Jackson (Springfield), James Lewis (Breelong), James Copeland, J. F. Smith (Gracemere), John Collison, snr., A. W. Miller, John McTaggart, and Peter O'Neill (Barragon).

The first hotel was in 1868, and was kept by Mrs. Hannah Byrne. It was called the Bushman's Arms, the name later being changed to the Telegraph Hotel, which was held by different people until the time the license was transferred to the Imperial Hotel. The old

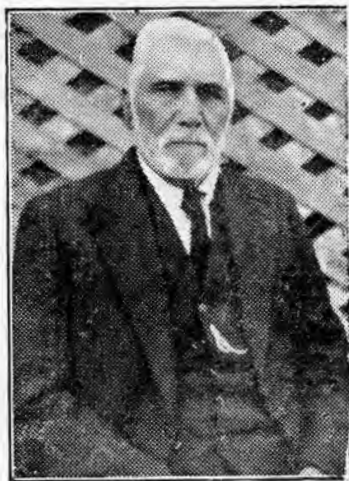
hotel has been demolished many years, but one of the old brick chimneys still remain. The only other business house in those days was a shoe-maker and saddler by the name of Michael O'Brien. Gilgandra remained at a standstill for many years, but as the population increased a Mr. McTaggart opened a small store. Later George Marsh opened a drapery store, then came C. Tym, who opened a general store. It was about that time that B. Townsend built the Royal Hotel and R. G. Hitchen opened a butcher's shop—the old shop still remains, and is the oldest building at present standing in Gilgandra. Then settlers came from Victoria, among whom are recalled J. W. Lithgow, Alfred Mortimer, the Chandlers, the Irvins, Harry and William, who took up Chippendale and Ten Mile, on the Tooraweenah Road.

Mr. Madgwick adds that the first business place, in a big way, were Russel and Moore, then Mrs. Hall and Son (who were burnt out), D. Main, the late A. F. Garling, J. W. McDonough, J. H. Hitchen, and others in a small way. The first doctor was a Dr. Taylor, who was followed by Dr. Burton. Mr. A. S. Carroll was the first chemist. T. Gardner and George King were the first blacksmiths.

Mr. Madgwick has resided in Gilgandra since 1868, and has seen the township grow from a roadside pub to the flourishing centre it is to-day. In that time there has been many changes—the stores have grown from one-man counters, to quite equal to the best, and the banks, first opened in only a 10 x 12 room, to large, modern buildings.

Pioneering families still in the district include the Collisons, Murphys, Gaynons, McEwans, Marchants, Christians, Markeys, Bonningtons, McKechnies, Forans, Richardsons, Lewis, O'Neills, Diggs, Wrigleys, and Morris.

Mr. Madgwick remarks that the above information is given entirely from memory, and if any mistakes are made, he hopes to be excused, as to-day he has passed the 84 mile peg, and his memory therefore is not quite so clear as it was when he was younger.



Mr. James Madgwick