



Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

Number 18 September 2020

Braidwood Heritage Centre

The Historical Society's bold new vision for the future was given a big boost recently when QPRC Councilors unanimously agreed to support the plan. The multi million dollar project has the energetic backing of council staff and managers and we are encouraged by the huge effort they are making to help us lobby for funds. Your Committee has been busy knocking on the doors of Government Ministers, senior executives in Planning, Tourism and Museums as well as decision makers that might advocate our cause. We are gratified by the responses we have received but we recognise that we still have a long way to go.

http://braidwoodmuseum.org.au/resources/Braidwood%20Heritage%20Centre_compressed.pdf



Braidwood Museum Artisan Workshops Plan



Blacksmith's shop

We firmly believe our plan can give the museum and its site a professional and self-sufficient future. It will establish our town as a centre of culture and heritage.

If you have not read the proposal it can be seen on our website under the tabs - museum - future plans.

The Braidwood Heritage Weekend is on March 27-28, 2021

Braidwood is gearing up to celebrate the days of old with a weekend of fun and festivities for the whole family. The Braidwood Heritage Weekend will be held on March 27 and 28, 2021 kicking off with a street parade featuring carts, horses, mounted police, bullock teams, tractors, vintage cars and entries from surrounding villages, school kids, marching bands and more. There'll be a billy cart derby, art exhibitions, a treasure hunt for the kids, indigenous dancers, Maypole and Morris dancers, and a re-enactment of bushrangers holding up the horse drawn Gold Escort Coach, once used to carry gold and cash between Araluen, Major's Creek and Braidwood between 1865 and 1885. You don't want to miss this! Mark it in your diary! Come together and express our appreciation of Rural Fire

Service brigades, volunteer mosquito squads, dozer operators, and back-of-house helpers during the fires. The free event is hosted by The Braidwood and District Historical Society and supported by the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and the Braidwood Community Bank. Venues include Ryrie Park, the Court House, BRAG Arts Centre, the National Theatre, the Braidwood Museum and the Showground. Wallace Street will be closed on Saturday, March 27 between early morning and mid-afternoon. To participate or volunteer contact: **Roger James 0403 025 877** or **Kerrin Glover 0403 054 221**
Email:braidwoodheritageweekend@gmail.com

Sweeney

by Chris Woodland
and from the writings of Elaine Collins.



Headstone of Maurice Lynn Hosking in Araluen Cemetery

Maurice Lynn Hosking was born to an established Araluen family on 12th October 1927 and died 4th January 2014. Araluen identities Elaine and Gloria Collins are, respectively, Sweeney's niece and sister.

He was known as Lyn until the first half of 1959. On that occasion he was leaving the hotel with a bottle of beer in his hand. Coincidentally I was finishing the Henry Lawson/Slim Dusty song which closes with the words "...visions come to me of Sweeney with his bottle in his hand."

I returned from Bourke later in the year, possibly October, and was enjoying a beer with a couple of locals when Lyn came in the door and I greeted him with "G'day Lyn". The other two welcomed him, almost simultaneously, as Sweeney. I said, "But his name is Lyn", to which they said, since I'd sang "that song", when I was there last time, his actions fitted the song so much that they had dubbed him Sweeney and he'd been called that ever since.

He was known to all as Sweeney until his death in 2014. He had carried that nickname because his actions had fitted in with the words of a song, and it had lasted for 59 years.



Lyn "Sweeney" Hosking cutting firewood in the backyard of Tom and Gloria Collins' at Araluen, c1960. While his niece Elaine was taking the photo, Elaine's mother, Gloria Collins, who was also Sweeney's sister, said that it was the first time she had ever seen him use an axe!

Braidwood & District Historical Society AGM

Friday 25th September 2020

TIME: 7.00pm

**VENUE: Braidwood Servicemens Club
Coronation Avenue, Braidwood**

All nominations for committee positions must be received by **Friday 11th September**. The meeting will be followed by presentations of the two major events being managed by BDHS at this time.

Roger James will lead an update and discussion on the organisation and events scheduled for the Braidwood Heritage Week-End of 27-28 March 2021. Roger is the principal organiser of the two days' of celebrations and activities involving the whole community. The Braidwood Heritage Week-End is to celebrate Braidwood's unique heritage and increase awareness of our proud history in the aftermath of the extreme difficulties of 2020, drought, fires and pandemic.

John Stahel will provide an overview and progress report of the proposed Heritage Centre concept. This ambitious project will have major benefits for the historical society, museum and the broader Braidwood community.

Delicensing of Local Hotels

The Temperance movement in Australia really began in the mid 1830s, promoting moderation rather than abstinence. The Independent Order of Rechabites had been active in promoting temperance from the 1870's along with The Band of Hope.

Throughout the 1910's the movement had been growing, supported by the conservative Sydney Morning Herald and demanding the closure of all bars until the war was over. Australia's troops were prohibited from drinking on duty, and many people back home saw it as proper to observe the same restrictions.



Under pressure, the state government agreed to put to the people of NSW the question of the closing hour of pubs. They scheduled a Referendum for the 10th June 1916.

Both the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Rechabites achieved a major success in bringing in mandatory closure of hotel bars and public houses at 6pm. This replaced the previous times of 11 or 11.30 pm.

"Six o'clock closing" was intended as a temporary restriction; partly to improve public morality and partly as a wartime austerity measure. Instead, this "interim" legislation lasted for 50 years, through both World Wars.

The Temperance movement had seized their opportunity, but still did not lose their momentum.



In 1919 the Licenses Reduction Board was constituted under the *Liquor (Amendment) Act*. The Board reduced the number of publicans' licenses in New South Wales by careful selection of the public houses to be closed and the fixing of compensation payments. The Licensing Courts could still transfer licenses and in special cases, issue new licenses without reference to the Board. All hotels were required to prove their worth.

Compensation

Under the law it was required that the hotels should close 21 days after the compensation has been paid, thereby closing on 24 Dec 1924 at 6pm.

The Courthouse Hotel, the Criterion, the Willow Tree Hotel, the Perseverance Hotel Araluen and the Victoria Hotel in Hoskinstown were all closed.

The Court House Hotel was compensated £1200 and licensee £1400. The Criterion awarded £1130 for owners and £1490 for the licensee. The Willow Tree owner received £700 and licensee £560. The Perseverance owner received £640 and licensee £590. There was no mention of the Victoria Hotel in Hoskinstown.

Court House Hotel Braidwood



In 1924 the licensee was John Joseph Feehan who had held it for 8 years. There were 8 bedrooms, a slab stable containing 2 loose

boxes and 8 stalls. Tariff was 5/- and 10/- per day. The public dining room accommodated 20 persons and the private one 8 persons. There were plans for the building to extend with 12 more bedrooms if the closure was not required.



John Joseph Feehan licensee of the Court House Hotel

Criterion Hotel Braidwood



1870s version



Early 1900's version



About 1950's version

Established in 1870, the licensee was Edward Torpy. There were 7 bedrooms with a dining room to seat 20 persons. It was mainly used by residents of Krawarree, Reidsdale and Majors Creek. There was also a cottage which could hold 16 persons. The Criterion served the southern half of the town and was considered better managed than the Courthouse Hotel. The bottle trade was 6-7 pounds weekly.

The Willow Tree Hotel



In 1924 it was regarded as an old weatherboard building in fair state of repair at 21 Solus Street (building on the left). It contained 6 bedrooms, a stable of 5 stalls and 4 loose boxes not in the best of repair. Tariff was 8/- daily. When it opened at the northern end of the town, it was within the centre of Braidwood's commercial business. There was a bank on the site of the residence in 1924. Formerly named 'Willow Tree Inn', it was kept by Robert Geelan and in 1882 by George Wilson, followed by J Turnbull in 1898 and H McIntosh. It was finally purchased by John Moore Craig.



John Moore Craig

It had 2 paddocks for public use. It was considered important as being on the junction of 7 main roads: Goulburn, Bungendore, Yass-Canberra, Euradux, Larbert, Nerriga and Nowra.

Victoria Hotel Hoskinstown



This was previously known as the 'Hoskinstown Hotel'. The oldest surviving building in Hoskinstown (previously called Blackheath) which was a staging post along the route to the Araluen goldfields. Adam Standish Livingstone (1844-1920) held the first licence in 1873 and it became the Victoria Hotel in 1876.



Adam Standish Livingstone

In 1882 the publican was Edmund Walsh. The original hotel was the existing single story local granite building with front corrugated iron gable roof and front verandah, and later, weatherboard buildings were attached. About 1950 the weatherboard outbuildings were demolished leaving just the main hotel building which contained the bar.

The Perseverance Hotel Araluen



Photo courtesy Chris Woodland

The publican in 1898 was Philip Madigan. In 1924 it was James Low. The building was weatherboard, containing 17 rooms with a garage for 2 cars. The tariff was 8/- and 10/- daily. The population of Araluen was about 340 persons and about 8 to 10 tourists passed through daily. There were 6 rooms for the public, 3 permanent boarders and 3 rooms for travellers.

Boyhood Recollections in Braidwood

by J. F Heazlett

from Braidwood Dispatch and Mining Journal 1952

The bush publican of 60 years ago had a lot to learn. Perhaps they knew the finer points of placing plugs of dark twist tobacco in Lowndes' rum, but they had hazy ideas of attacking the tanglefoot successfully and profitably. Farmers often discovered well soaked plugs in the bottom of beer barrels purchased as meat casks from various "bungs". The latter were just doting infants compared with the boys of today.

When a small lad, and later a budding youth, I had a nodding acquaintance with the town's licensed victuallers. To sum them up: the first hotel when visiting Braidwood from Araluen or

Major's Creek was at the turn into Wallace Street, where Gus Whittaker now lives. Bob Cheeney was licensee. He was groom at the Albion, and later the 'Royal', for donkey's years. The place was managed by his wife and a comely daughter, and a generous welcome awaited any visitor, belated or otherwise. Miss Clancy afterwards married a policeman. Bob was a happy and attentive yardman, but would have been woefully out of place on the handle of a beer pump or escorting a fashionable dame to a cosy seat in the lounge. He knew it and stuck to his last like the town bootmaker, Ned and Bill Kelly. Further on was the 'White Swan', under the control of Bill Edwards. Jack Allen, a well liked person, married a daughter and kept the flag flying for a few years.



'White Swan' at 30 Wallace Street

The 'Criterion' on the opposite side of the street, was for a time in charge of the O'Heirs of coachbuilding fame, and then passed to Ned Torpy, a man of good appearance and popular. The famous old 'Albion' was conducted by J T Murphy, a former Moruyaite. He was married to a Miss Comans and the place had frequent visitors from the coastal town and was patronised by the elite of the Braidwood district. You occasionally saw Maddrell's coach and four with Bill Hollands' colourful regalia pull up at the door. The town youths admired Bill. Poley and Malone had an office there with Bill Cain as secretary. Over opposite stood Jack Daley's pub, where business was not over brisk, although the host was a breezy, likeable character. If you asked for a popular drink, McEwan's Ale, he called for his groom, Dave Hasler to run down the cellar and bring up a couple of bottles. The boy ducked out of a side

door and made a purchase across the road at the Albion. Everybody was happy. The 'Courthouse Hotel' was run by the Allens' and was the most favoured house for the middle and country class. Mrs Allen was a homely motherly soul, and the girls were attentive and well liked. Visiting teams of footballers and cricketers generally sought accommodation in this atmosphere and has a jovial time.



James Allen

James Allen snr, took little part in the conduct of the hotel, but spent many pleasant hours on a rustic stool in front of the house smoking his favourite Meerschaum and chatting quietly to passer-by about the weather generally. You sometimes admired on a wintry morning Dr Llewellyn, John Wallace, Jack Jeffrey and one or two others smacking their lips over a hot toddy in the little bar parlour.



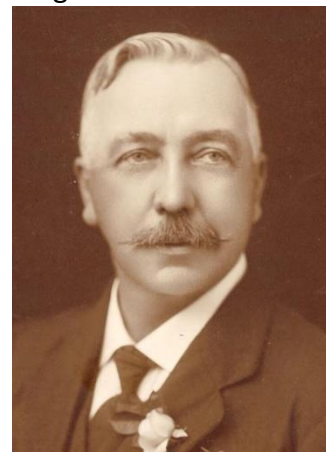
John Wallace of 'Nithsdale'

You wondered how it tasted. Nomchong's store adjoining the park was dismantled and the imposing 'Royal Hotel' has adorned that spot ever since.



Nomchong's Store Wallace Street

Austin Chapman was the first landlord. He afterwards became a leading politician and died with a Knighthood. The Chapman girls were chatty and entertaining and had a distinct following of gay business men even after moving in to the 'Albion', where Tot (Thomas) Pooley had his name over the door. He married one of the girls (Anastasia Chapman). Tot was a particularly quiet chap, but livened up to a marked degree if you had an intimate knowledge of the sporting world. Some of us still have vivid recollections of the 'Three Musketers' making merry each weekend on the way home from the 'Albion' towards midnight.



Austin Chapman

They were businessmen and a few old Braidwood boys may remember their names. The 'Commercial' belonged to the Gallagher family. Martin had a property at Krawarree and his wife and daughters looked after the pub.

One son, Pat, went to the Sudan War with William Bede Dalley's contingent.



William Bede Dalley

He may have had a ride on Dalley's famous donkey.

The last hotel was George Wilson's, who married a Miss Letitia Geelan.

He was one of the Braidwood cricketers who lifted the Foord Cup from Bungendore. The eldest son, Bob, lost his life in the Boer War in South Africa. He was a member of the First Australian Horse. The writer's brother, Harry, was also in this contingent. They were attached to Lord Roberts' division and out of 28 only 10 took part in the capture of Johannesburg and Pretoria 12 months later. Harry was one and met many comrades when the prisoners were released from Waterval prison, he brought back Bob Wilson's personal belongings and delivered them to the lad's mother, who had moved from Braidwood to Goulburn. Road accidents don't pay – ask the man who had one.

Part 2 next Newsletter

Our Society values the support of

Queanbeyan Palerang Council



And

Braidwood & Districts Community Bank

