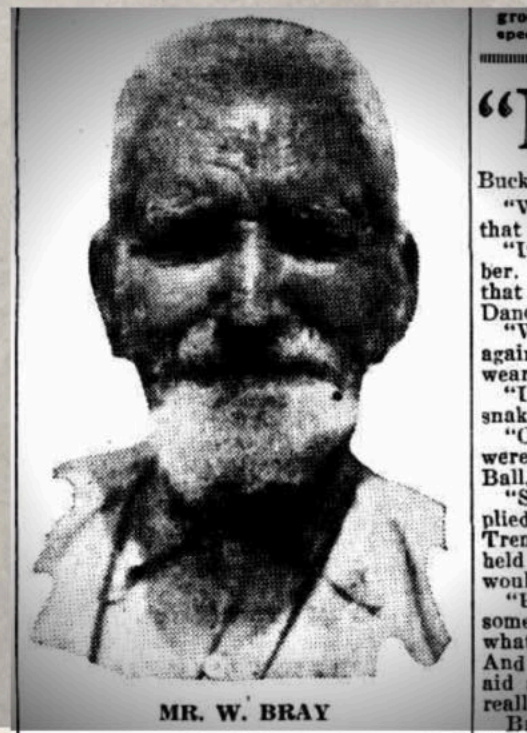
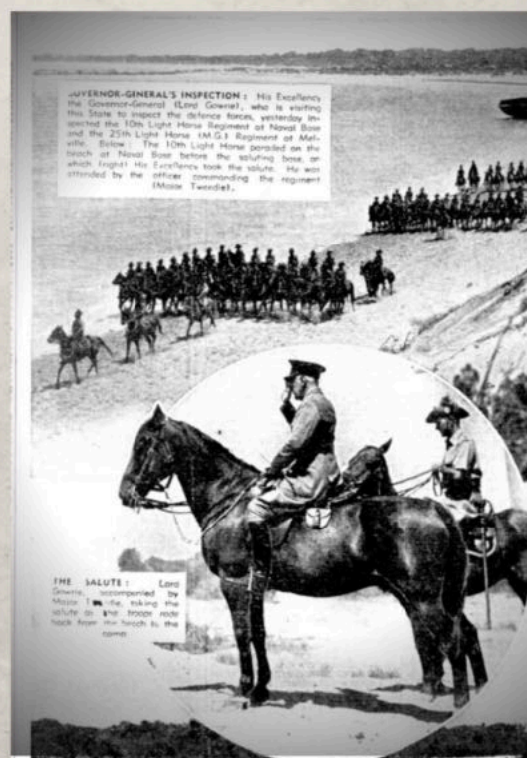


THE SMELTERS CAMP

Research Project



BATTLERS' HAVEN

SAND DUNE HOMES

LITTLE KNOWN SETTLEMENT

Nestling in the hollows of the sand dunes beyond the partly-demolished buildings of the old Fremantle Smelting Works is a motley collection of tenements, the existence of which is prob-



EIGHT IN A HUT
Eight Albanians were eating in this humpy.



BULLOCKS' BLOOD SAVES HIM

For 16 years Peter Lujo, a Yugoslav fireman, collected blood as it gushed from slaughtered bullocks at Robb's Jetty abattoirs and drank pints of it a day to keep alive.

Twenty-eight years ago he came to Fremantle from the goldfields with his death warrant.

His lungs riddled with miner's phthisis, doctors said he had two months to live.

Today the 82-year-old Slav posed for a Daily News photographer after collecting his pension. He says bullocks' blood saved him from the grave.

After being X-rayed on the goldfields, Peter was told by medical men that his case was hopeless. There was hardly time left for him to apply for a pension before death would strike.

Another doctor, however, told him his days might be prolonged if he could drink bullocks' blood.

He decided to come to Fremantle and settle near the abattoirs at Robb's Jetty, where there would be a plentiful supply of the magic fluid.

One of the first men he met was the late Alex Watson, manager of Edmund Brothers, and well-known in turf circles.

"He was a good man," Peter recalled today. "He let me have as much bullocks' blood as I needed. It was nothing for me to drink three or four pints a day."

"Other people could not take it, among them a doctor with chest trouble (now deceased), but I found the blood tasted like milk."

"For 16 years my diet consisted mainly of bullocks' blood, when I caught in a lull as the beasts were slaughtered. Doctors could not believe now that I was ever a victim of miner's phthisis."



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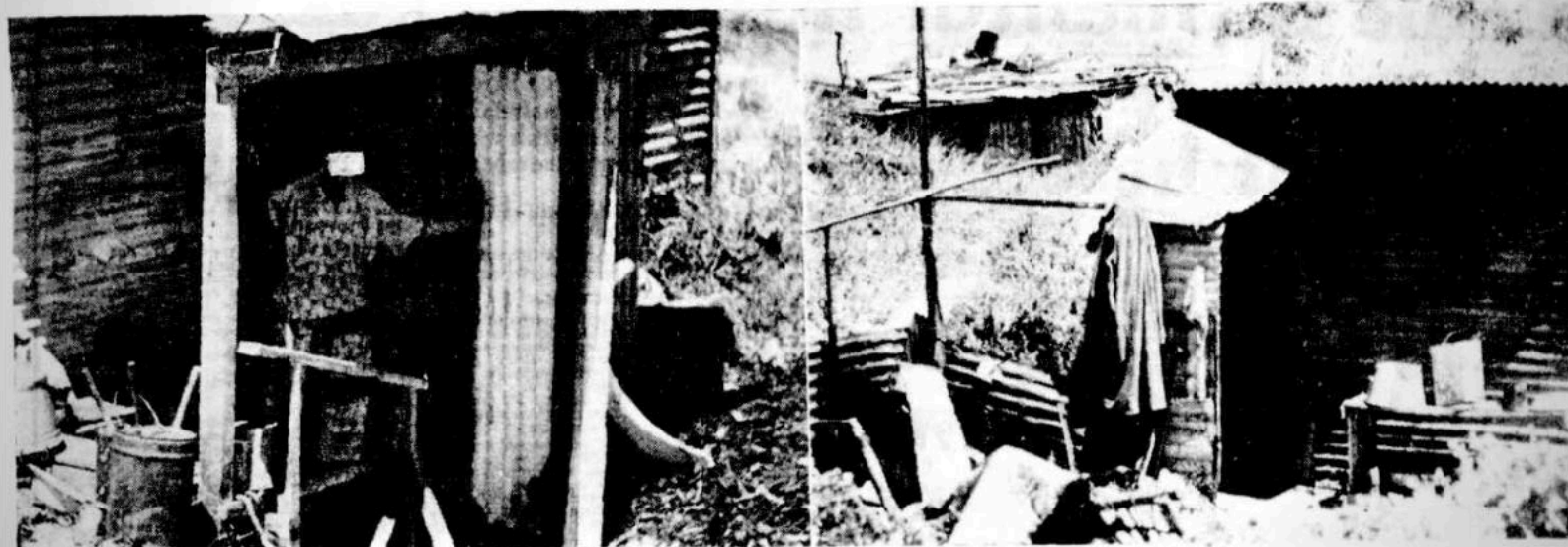
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NOTORIOUS BEACH CAMP MUST GO



THEY CALL IT POVERTY POINT—AND

NO WONDER! Shanty Town Is Disgrace to W.A.

A colony of families comprising more than 50 people and including old-age and war pensioners have been living for long periods in outrageous conditions not far from Fremantle.

Existence of the area is a disgrace to authorities and a threat to health.

A complete set of dwellings many with crude sanitation, without water, gas or light, has been erected and some changed hands for money (perhaps even rented) without Government or departmental supervision.

Sanitary conditions at the camp are mostly very primitive improvised wells provide washing and drinking water.

It is one of the worst living areas in Australia. It is known locally as "Smelters" or Poverty Point.

Colony is adjacent to a smouldering rubbish tip, a fertiliser factory using fish offal and an old abattoirs.

★ — ★ BULLDOZER TO START

Industrial development is threatening parts of Poverty Point.

Arrangements are being made for a bulldozer to clear an area which might include some of the bordering houses.

Bulldozing is expected to begin tomorrow.

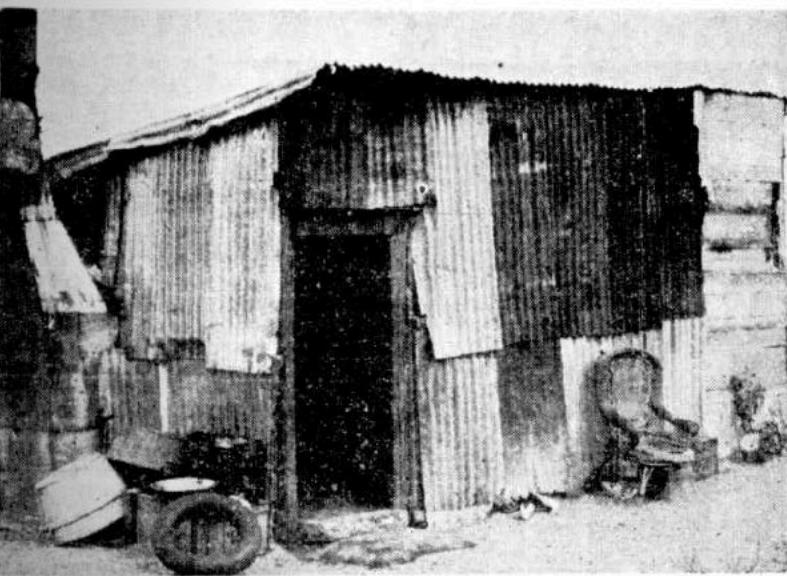
A pensioner remarked: "This is the last of it."

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After the squa
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THAT WAS YEARS A

An official signbo
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area states:



Sixty New Residents

This report was updated in 2024. Since the first draft of the Smelters Camp Research Project in 2019, there have been some casual, early discoveries of new residents. These included:

Ned Brown,¹ Allan John Lewis² and Jack Noel O'Reilly AKA Jack Riley AKA Jack Harley³ (residing at 'Woodman Point' in 1957); John Caskey Williamson,⁴ Tommy Yarran;⁵ and two colourful entrepreneurs named 'Gimme' and 'Charlie the Dip'.⁶ There are some additional unconfirmed residents that may appear in a future draft: Cotter Wims, Mrs Foot, Dirty Mick and Lilly Doyle.

¹ Annie Baker Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/9, 1996, mentions him living 'in a one room place on the property just near the slaughter yard' in a similar manner to Wandj's living arrangements - exact nature of his connection to the camp to be established

² Allan John Lewis, confirmed Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1910. Wednesday, 16 November, page 329

³ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1958. 29 Jan, photograph no. 38 in supplement

⁴ Douglas Williamson, as told by his father Cameron; see entry for John Caskey Williamson for references

⁵ R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, 'Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions' (1985), pp 83-85

⁶ Marks, Bill, 'South to Sillytown: Tales of battlers and larrikins', South Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1997

Meatworks Camp: From State Records Office of Western Australia

Later examination of State Records files unexpectedly identified more residents. Whilst researching during the Battye Fellowship 2021, a file emerged that referred to makeshift shacks and camps around South Fremantle beach visited by authorities in 1933. This file provided the names of multiple campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty. This was a file from the then-named Western Australian government Department of Native Affairs (1936 - 1954) that has been opened to the public. These people are now listed as residents, like others in the report, as part of the collection of camps associated with the Smelters Camp.⁷ There were still further references to people not identifiable by name in the file.

George Anderson	Alf and Jean Michael
Lulu Blurton	Johnnie Snr and Lily Michael and child
Tom and Bella Bropho, and child	Paddy Mindemarra
Leslie Cocie	Alf and Doris Mippy (already listed)
Tom Corbett	Johnson/Johnston and Jean Morden
Daisy Dean	Maitland Morden
Albert Dinah	Mary and Tunny Morden
Jim Egan	Wilfred Morrison
William Fairhead	Beatrice Nannup (wife of Johnny)
Alice Flower	Lionel Nannup
Dave and Grace Gentle	Lizzie Nellie
Gerald Gillespie AKA Sorrell	Barney Parfitt and wife (not named)
Maggie Gillespie	Thomas Phillips
Richard Gillespie	Jack Spratt
Mary Hedland	Lena Spratt (wife of Kimberley)
Effie Herdigan (already listed in report)	Joyce Warmdean (sister of Edgar Kalyan)
Teddy Hill	Willie and Dorothy Worrall
George Issacs	(and two children of Willie and Dorothy)
Albert and Myrtle Kalyan/Calyan & child	Alfred Worrall
Edgar Kalyan	Olive Worrall
Vincent Lambadgee	
Tim and Jane Lyndon	

⁷ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

RESIDENTS OF THE SMELTERS CAMP			
* Denotes new listing added 2024			
Agnew, Matthew	Smelter's Camp	war veteran/railway worker	1954
Allison, John	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1902-6
Anderson, George*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Bansatti 'the Albanian'	Robb's Jetty	ringbarker	1931
Barnett, Horace	Chesterfield	labourer	1909
Barry, Thomas	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Beaton, Donald	Smelter's Camp	-	1934
Beresford, Charles	South Beach	showman	1910
Collie 'Black' Paddy	Robb's Jetty (TBC)	stockman/boxer	1880s-
Black, George	rear Robb's Jetty	miner	1919-31
Blurton, Lulu*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Boswell, Robert Charles	Smelters, South Fremantle	horse driver/ carpenter	1948
Bottomley, Arthur Albert	Smelters' Camp	labourer	1943-54
Bray, William	Smelters' Camp, Robb's Jetty	miner	1839-
Bropho, Tom*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Bropho, Bella and child*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Brown, Alice	Smelters Camp	-	1949
Brown, Archibald	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1903-6
Brown, Cornelius	Smelters, South Fremantle	pensioner	1933
Brown, Ned*	Near the slaughter yard	stockman	1880s-
Brown, Thomas	Smelters' Camp, Robbs Jetty	fireman/gentleman	1913
Brown, William	Smelters' camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1947

Bryce, Archibald McPhail	Smelters' camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1953-55
Bryce, Elizabeth Stuart	Smelters' camp, South Fremantle	-	1953-54
Bryce, Colin McPhail Stuart	Smelters' camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1953
Burns, Charles Joseph	Robb's Jetty	carpenter/ shipwright/ boxer	1916-17
Butler, John	near Smelting Works	-	1905
Caporn, Sidney/ Sydney	Smelters Camp/ Poverty Point	pensioner	1937-49
Carey/Carrey, William	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1919-26
Carrera, Angelo	Camp near Smelting Works	guest	1906
Carlton, Owen	Fremantle Smelters	sampler	1916-9 1925-31
Chalmer, Hames Boteler	Copley's Siding	commercial agent	1931-36
Clark, Richard	Robb's Jetty	groom	1909-10
Clarke, Bettie	South Beach	home duties	1903-6
Clarke, Mary Ann	Smelters' Camp	home duties	1919-43
Clarke, Robert John	South Beach	shunter	1903-6
Clatterton, Henry	Robb's Jetty	stockman	1909-12
Claydan/Claydon, George	Owen's Anchorage	tallowman/ slaughterman	1909
Clunes, Hugh	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1909-12
Clyde, Patrick	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1903-6
Cocie, Leslie*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Corbett, Tom*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Cosgrove, James	Camp near Smelting Works	labourer	1906
Costello, John	Owen's Anchorage/ Robb Jetty	labourer/storeman 1909	1903-31
Cox, John	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1903-6

Cronin, Joseph	Smelters' Camp, Robb's Jetty	carpenter	1909-34
Dalton, James Michael	Robb's Jetty	prospector	1912-13
Davies, William John	Smelters' Camp	nil	1934
Day, Joseph	Robb's Jetty	stockman	1909-10
Dean, Daisy*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Dinah, Albert*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Denney, Charles Dumaresq	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer FCC/ waterside	1949
Drew, John	South Beach	engine-driver	1910
Drew, Richard	South Beach	engineer	1910
Duff, Francis	Robb Jetty	labourer/drover	1903
Dunn, Sarah Ann	Smelter's Camp	home duties	1937-43
Dunn, William Brian	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1902-6, 1937-9
Ebery/Esvery/Every, Frank	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1921
Edgar, John	Smelters' Camp, Fremantle	labourer	1912
Egan, Jim*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Ellis, Joseph	Rear Smelting works	retired	1926
Fairburn, Henry	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Fairhead, William*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Fitzgerald, Catherine C.	Robb's Jetty	married	1909-10
Fitzgerald, Richard	Robb's Jetty	stock inspector	1909-10
Fitzsimmons, Charles	Between Smelting Works and Robb's Jetty	unemployed/ boilermaker	1898-04
Flower, Alice*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Flynn, Peter	Pensioner's Camp, Robb's Jetty	labourer	1934-43
Forward, William Pascoe	Hut on beach, Robb's Jetty	no vocation	1928

Fraser, Dolores	Seagull Camp	artist	1980-4
Fulton, Edward James	Smelters' Camp	wool hand	1948-54
Fulton, Florence Irene	Smelters' Camp	home duties	1949-54
Frost, Wilfred John	Off Robb's Jetty	tanner/farmer 1926	1926
Gaibullini, Charles	Camp near Smelting Works	labourer	1907
Gallagher, Charles	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1928-31
Gentle, Dave*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Gentle, Grace*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Gentle, Simon	Smelter's Camp (also Chalk Hill Camping Area, Medina)	stock agent representative	-
Gibson, Robert William	Smelters Camp	freezer hand	1949
Gibson, Rosina Margaret	Smelters Camp	home duties	1949
Gillespie, Gerald* (AKA Sorrell)	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Gillespie, Maggie*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Gillespie, Richard*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
'Gimme' and 'Charlie the Dip'*	Hollywood (Smelters Camp)	-	1940s-50s
Golding, Edward Henry	Copley's Siding	-	1919-22
Graham, Mitchell	South Fremantle	slaughterman	1914-25
Graham, James	Smelters	ship's fireman	1938
Hardiman, Patrick	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Harrison, Michael	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1929
Hart, Herbert Edward	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	-	1953
Healey, Thomas	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Hearne, John Henry	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1946-7
Headland, William	Smelter's Camp	WWI Veteran	1949-50

Hedland, Mary*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Herdigan, Effie Maxine	Meatworks Camp and South Beach	-	1933, 1949-53
Herdigan, William	South Beach	child	1952
Hill, Teddy*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Heron, Thomas George	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	war veteran	1953
Hof, Helena	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	married	1909-14
Hof, Louis	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	butcher	1909-15
Horneman, John Clarendon	Robb's Jetty, South Fremantle	slaughterman	1909-43
Horton, William	Smelters Camp	-	1949-54
Hosking, John Nation/ Hoskins, John	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Howard, Agnes Beatrice	Smelters Camp	home duties	1949-58
Howard, Frederick William	Smelters Camp	boat proprietor	1949-58
Hughes, Alice	South beach	home duties	1903-6
Hughes, William	South beach	constable	1903-6
Hughes AKA Quigley, Patrick Christopher	Smelters' Camp, near Robb's Jetty	nil/former miner	1928, 1934
Huntley, Frederick	Smelters Camp	yardman	1936-49
Hyland, John (Joannis) Francis/Matthew	Robb's Jetty	pensioner	1905
Hyland, Augusta Agnes	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	-	1951
Inman, Arthur Stanley	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1946-7
Inman, Mary Gladys and children	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	-	1947-8
Issacs, George*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Jamison, Frederick	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1901, 3-6

Jetta family (Hannah Yarran, Doreen & Dorothy)	Smelter's Camp	holiday visitors	1950s
Kalyan/Calyan, Albert*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Kalyan/Calyan, Myrtle and child*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Kalyan, Edgar*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Kelly, John William Thomas	Smelters Camp	labourer	1935
Khan, Mary	Smelters Camp	domestic	1955
Killeen, John	Smelter's Works	miner	1926-29
Knight, John Albert James	Copley's Siding/ Smelters Camps	gardener	1943-58
Knight, Lizzie	Copley's Siding	home duties	1943-54
Krueger, Carl Frederic A.	Robb's Jetty, Fremantle	sausage skin manufacturer	1921-22
Lambadgee, Vincent*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Lewis, Allan John*	Robb's Jetty	-	1910
Lillywhite, Julia Bertha	Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle/ Cypress Valley	unemployed	1937, 54
Locke, William Reuben	Robb's Jetty	-	1927
Lujo, Pietro	Robb's Jetty	labourer/nil 1926	1914, 1926-43
Lyndon, Tim*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Lyndon, Jane*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Manser, Jesse Thomas	'Snake Gully'	war veteran	1949
McCallum, Arthur Andrew	Smelter's Camp	invalid pensioner	1953-4
McCallum, William	Owen's Anchorage	smelter	1910-22
McCaskie, Ted	Smelter's Camp	shearer	1951
McDonald, Ronald	Camp, Robb's Jetty	prospector	1919-31
McInerney, Michael	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6, 1914

McKenzie, Kenneth	Robb's Jetty	prospector/baker 1917	1912-17
McGee, James	Smelters Camp	labourer	1929
McLaughlin, William	Owen's Anchorage	fisherman	1903-6
McLean, James	Smelters	pensioner	1932
McMillan, Evander Cameron	Gage Road, Robb's Jetty	nil	1914-17
McMillian, Ewin	Robb's Jetty	butcher	1909-10
McNamara, Martin	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1931-54
McNeill, Neal	Robb's Jetty, near Smelters	traveller	1915-17
Mears, Jack	Robb Jetty	stockman	1920s-30s
Michael, Alf*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Michael, Jean*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Michael, Johnnie Snr.*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Michael, Lily and child*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Mindemarra, Paddy*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Mippy, Alf*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Mippy, Doris	Smelters' Camp, South Beach	domestic	1951
Mitchell, Lavinia	Lock's New House, near Smelter	home duties	1917
Mitchell, Phillip	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Mitchell, William Henry	near Smelters, Mandurah rd	surveyor	1917
Mocken, Florence Martha	Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty	home duties	1958-63
Mocken, William David	Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty	labourer	1958-63
Monaghan, Bartholomew	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1936-43
Monaghan, Martin Joseph	Smelters' Camp	-	1937-43

Monaghan, Patrick Cogan	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1928-31
Moog, Charles	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Moran, John	Woodman's Point	fisherman	1909-10
Morden, Johnson/ Johnston*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Morden, Jean*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Morden, Maitland*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Morden, Mary*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Morden, Tunny*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Moroney/Maroney, John	Smelters' Camp	labourer/lumper	1934-9
Morrison, Wilfred*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Mutton, Robert	Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle	shearer/merchant seaman	1949
Nannup, Beatrice* (wife of Johnny)	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Nannup, Lionel*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Nebro, Addil	Smelters Camp	-	1953-4
Nebro, Donald	Smelters Camp	-	1953-4
Nebro, Donald Peter	Smelters Camp	-	1953-4
Nebro, Andy	Smelters Camp/ Poverty Point	-	1953-4
Nebro, Rose	Smelters Camp/ Poverty Point	-	1953-4
Neilson, Issac	Smelters	pensioner	1933
Nellie, Lizzie*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Newell, Phoebe	Robb Jetty	-	1920s-30s
Nolan, Maurice	Camp, Robb's Jetty	labourer	1919-21
O'Connor, William	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
O'Halloran, John William	Smelter's Works Camp	labourer	1949
O'Reilly, Jack Noel*	Woodman Point	-	1957
Page, Stephen Lee	Smelters' Camp	prospector	1934-37

Parfitt, Barney and wife (Not named)*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Pedro, Don	Smelters Camp	stockman	c1950s
Peirce, Alfred John	Robb's Jetty	caretaker	1943
Perry, Henry	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1949
Phillips, Thomas*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Pickett, Margaret	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	-	1954
Power, Alice	Robb's Jetty	married	1910
Power, Thomas Joseph	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1909-13
Preston, Elizabeth	South beach	domestic service	1903-5
Pritchard, Tom Stanley	South Beach	coach builder	1919-31
Reed, William Thomas	Smelters' Camp	-	1937-40
Reilly, Leslie Norman	South beach Camp	labourer	1950
Richards, Alan Humphrey	Robb's Jetty	cement worker	1934-6
Richards, Edith Lillian	Robb's Jetty	home duties	1936
Richards, Frank Parry	Robb's Jetty	cement worker	1936
Richards, Walter	Robb's Jetty	manufacturer	1931
Robertson, William John	Smelter's Camp	-	1943-9
Roddam, Thomas	near Smelting Works	prospector	1928
Rogers, Edward Manton	Woodman's Point	labourer	1914
Rooney, James	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1903-43
Ryan, Dennis Leonard	Fremantle Smelters	assayer/metallurgist	1912-14
Ryan, John	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1928-43
Ryan, May Gertrude	Fremantle Smelters	married	1912-14
Ryan, William Denis	Fremantle Smelters	child of May Ryan	1912-14
Scott, Violet	Smelter's Camp	home duties	1929-43
Shearer, William John	South Fremantle	lumper	1912
Siddons, Charles Harry	Smelters' Camp	labourer	1931-42

Skinner, Lucille Hilda	Robb's Jetty	-	1920-1
Spratt, Jack*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Spratt, Lena*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Stewart, Amelia Mildred	Smelters' Camp, Fremantle	domestic	1954
Stewart, John George W.	Sandhills near Robb Jetty	naval deserter	1944
Sutton, Ada	South Beach	home duties	1903-6
Sutton, Anthony Francis	South Beach	labourer	1903-6
Tapper, John Arthur	North of magazine	fisherman	1903-6
Taylor, John (Jack)	Owen's Anchorage	labourer/ganger 1909	1903-9,48
Thompson, Colin	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1953,48
Tremellen, Charles Thomas	Owen's Anchorage 1909	labourer/smelter 1909	1903-13
Trinidad, R. E.	Smelters' Camp, South Beach	-	1949
Tully, William Charles	Smelters	miner	1938
Turner, Archibald	Robb Jetty	labourer/drover	1903
Vaggs, Deafy	Smelters Camp	wanderer	1950s
Vasseur, Amelia	Camp near Smelting Works	-	1903
Wallis, Ernest Edward	Smelters Camp	labourer	1943
Walsh, P. and family	near Smelters	-	1906
Walton, Andrew Joseph	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1954
Wandi	Smelters Camp	stockman	1880s
Warmdean, Joyce*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Watson, Roderick	Smelters' Camp	-	1943
Wellington, Herbert Leslie	near South Fremantle Smelting Works	war veteran	1922-25
Westcott, Maud	Smelters Camp	home duties	1946-53

Westicott, William	Smelters Camp	labourer	1946-53
White, Tom	near Smelting Works	butcher	1928-31
Whybrow, June Ellen	Robb's Jetty	home duties	1949
Williams, Sarah	South Beach	home duties	1903-6
Williamson, John Caskey*	Smelters Camp	-	1922
Wilson, Wilfred James	Smelters Camp	-	1949
Winder, Alexander George	Robb's Jetty	-	1920-21
Windi, Charlie	Smelters Camp	stockman	c1950
Wise, Emily	Smelters' Camp, Fremantle	widow	1913-4
Wood, Arthur James	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1912-26
Worrall, Alfred*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Worrall, Olive*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Worrall, William/Willie*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Worrall, Dorothy and two children*	Meatworks Camp	-	1933
Yarran, Tommy*	Smelters Camp/ Robbs Jetty	-	Late 1940s

THE SMELTERS CAMP

Research Project Information

The Smelters Camp initial research was self-initiated, and subsequently expanded with financial support under the banner of 'A Narrative for a Coastline', by the City of Cockburn and auspiced by the Historical Society of Cockburn. My gratitude is extended to everyone who offered assistance and knowledge from the Cockburn and wider community, including, but not only: Christine Elaine (dec.) and the volunteers of the Historical Society of Cockburn; Cassandra Cooper; Digger and Kay Cleak and the members of City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch; Sandra Nebro, Dolores Fraser, Peter Ford, Joe Northover Riley, Steph Mippy, Vic and Val Martin; Faye Minnett, cousins Graham and Kenny Goodes; Raymond 'Ned' Bowden, William Herdigan and Hara Herdigan; Doug Williamson, Jim Allen, and Bindi Baxter.

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I was delighted to be selected as the J.S. Battye Memorial Fellow in 2021, which allowed my research to access a more vast pool of resources in order to become, paradoxically, more precise. With the fellowship's support, I had the luxury of time to delve into Battye Library's extensive collection, through an immersive reading program of books, newspapers, police gazettes, government collections, academic papers, photographs, audio visual material and maps; Indigenous histories, oral history interviews, genealogical resources and some light exploration into the Western Australian State Records. My gratitude is extended to Margaret Allen and the Fellowship Committee, John Hughes, Peter Edwards, Dr Kate Gregory and the Heritage Team at the Battye Library. In particular I'd like to thank Terry and Carol Fulton; Terry outlined his experiences living at the Smelters Camp as a boy to an enthralled 2021 Battye Lecture audience; and to Dr Denise Cook, for her generous collegial support throughout.

The following organisations and individuals have kindly given permission to use archival material from their collections:

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Julie Raffaele
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The Author respectfully acknowledges the traditional ownership of the area of the Cockburn coastline described in this report and greater the Cockburn area by the Beeliar Nyungar people, a clan of the Whadjuk people of the metropolitan region.

This report contains the names of deceased Aboriginal people. Where appropriate, community consultation has been taken to prevent causing distress to Aboriginal people who follow specific cultural protocol concerning using such names.

The reader should also be warned that this report contains language and concepts from the historical era in which they originated. This includes some derogatory, racist and culturally inappropriate naming and contexts not acceptable in the present time: toward Indigenous individuals and groups, women, the elderly, migrants and persons experiencing economic disadvantage. Where particularly unsound, prior warnings have been provided.

The reader is advised that all information included in this report is provided respectfully, with no offence intended. The goal of the research is to benefit and provide vital information for historical use. All information in the report is available in the public domain unless otherwise specified or referenced.

This report contains descriptions of violence and adult concepts and parental guidance is recommended.

Limitations

This 2024 report is an updated version of the original 2019 draft. This second draft is still a work in progress and incomplete. Email notification of any errors or additional information would be most appreciated, to thesmelterscamp@gmail.com.

More work accessing oral histories and histories of Indigenous residents in the area is required. Similarly, deeper research is required to explore the lives of Smelters Camp residents briefly noted here, and to deepen the exploration of all residents through government records and further genealogical and historical research and descendants, for example, links to convict ancestors or war service. Time limitations precluded this detailed research beyond what is included here.

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Picture of Old Smelters' Huts. 21 Dec 1956

WestPix WAN-0017615

THE SMELTERS CAMP

'I lived through the Great Depression and heard many references to "Hollywood", which was the locals' way of referring to the Smelters Camp which I believe had been gradually established since post World War I days when returned shell-shocked soldiers...with their lives in tatters and no homes for various reasons, found refuge among the sand hills in an isolated and shunned beach.

These broken men built their huts or humpies from salvaged materials (the rubbish tip was a short walk away) partly into the lee side of the sand hills as protection from the prevailing winds.

As the Depression deepened and more and more people fell on hard times the population of the Smelters Camp grew. One can imagine the spirit of camaraderie between the unfortunates who had dropped through the cracks and were doing it tough, although for the enterprising there was fish in the ocean, a wine saloon on the corner of Douro Road where they could buy their four-penny darks, across the road was the terminus of the South Fremantle tram...'

Kevin 'Rusty' Christensen, Cockburn City Herald, 2011⁸

All following newspapers referenced up to 1952 were accessed on National Library of Australia's TROVE catalogue: <https://trove.nla.gov.au> unless otherwise noted

⁸ Christensen, Rusty, 'Smelters Camp in the Sands', Cockburn City Herald, 5 November 2011, page 24 (clipping held by author)

When my attention was first drawn this article written for the Cockburn City Herald by much-loved bush poet and balladeer Rusty Christensen, I could not reconcile that a long family residency of the Fremantle and Cockburn area had not introduced me to the curious existence of an itinerant camp along the beautiful stretch of wild coastline of Cockburn Sound and Woodman Point near where Robb Jetty once stood.⁹

For decades we had heard colourful stories about the odorous area surrounding the smelters; the tanneries and abattoirs, from my maternal grandparents John and Jean Bozanich who, along with daughters Margaret, my mother Janice, and Kaye, farmed a market garden surrounding the stone home at what is now 51 Goldsmith Road, Spearwood. My paternal grandparents, Silvy 'Soota' and Jean Raffaele lived in a house with backyard stables in Taylor Street, in now White Gum Valley. Soota trained pacers at the South Beach Horse Exercise Area, much to the displeasure of son Brian, who was intimately involved in the strict daily activity, while my father Dennis and younger sister Peg seemingly escaped this often freezing ritual through their respective employment or tender age. My maternal great-uncle George McAlpine, noted harness-trainer and owner also exercised horses there.

The presence of this camp was intriguing, and seeded an idea of researching the details, with a self-imposed restriction to the time period from just before the turn of the century to the late 1950s.¹⁰ I began this research project assisted by the Historical Society of Cockburn and City of Cockburn. The awarding of the J.S. Battye Fellowship in 2021 allowed further substantial development of the work, including the identification of an additional 60 residents.

The project is still in progress, but the following is research gathered up until 2024, with an acknowledgment that investigations could easily continue.

⁹ See also [https://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Statements of Significance_Whadjuk Nyoongar.pdf](https://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Statements%20of%20Significance_Whadjuk_Nyoongar.pdf) Accessed April 2024

¹⁰ For an excellent history prior to the 1900s read Berson, M, 'Cockburn: The Making of a Community' Town of Cockburn, 1978

A MOONLIGHT RIDE. (By Emily H. Pelloe, 1929) Part I

'To ride from Perth to Rockingham is a pleasant experience at any time. On a still summer night, by moonlight, it is a joy... once upon the white limestone road which skirts the coast from the point where motorists turn off for Rockingham via Hamilton Hill and Spearwood, the light, with the moon then sailing high in the heavens, was brilliant.

The beach was gained by crossing the railway line near Robb's jetty. The piles of galvanised iron buildings at the smelters flanked by the great smokestack and a graveyard of dead furnaces, the abattoirs, and the boilingdown works, none of which are architecturally attractive by daylight, were decidedly picturesque in the moonlight. A few lights gleamed from the quaint habitations of the old-age pensioners who have established themselves in the lee of the sand hummocks close to the smelters, exempt from rents and rates.

An old wreck, a broken-backed, rusty remnant of a once gallant iron ship, lying broadside on to the shore near the boilingdown works was a melancholy spectacle. The rippling tide sucked round the battered rudder post with a ghostly gurgle. Bobby, my steed, stirred up the sand considerably before he could be induced to pass it. Delay due to his obstinacy at this spot of unsavoury odours was unfortunate. But it seemed to speak of the danger of contamination of beaches all along the lovely coast south of Fremantle for many miles by the proposed discharge of metropolitan sewage effluent into the ocean. A notice, readable even in the moonlight, signed by Dr. Everitt Atkinson, Commissioner for Public Health, announces at the entrance of Robb's jetty that "all shellfish found in the vicinity are dangerous for human consumption." The inference is obvious.¹¹

The land area to the base of where Robb Jetty later stood was known as Robb's Ground, having been once owned by Captain George Robb and later acquired by the Manning family.¹² Robb Jetty camp and the Smelters Camp was first reported by O'Connor, Bodney and Little (1985) behind Robb Jetty in proximity to Catherine Point and the smelters at Fremantle owned by Bradford Kendall P/L Iron Foundry.¹³

¹¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 16 February 1929, page 4

¹² Herald (Fremantle, WA), Saturday 11 March 1882, page 3; The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation Azelia Ley Homestead 22/06/2001. <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Content/PdfLoader.aspx?id=f05e86a2-e4e3-4008-82b1-bd1c3b43e9ae&type=assessment> Accessed April 2024. The Mannings later lost this land when their claim was rejected by the Western Australian Government in 1887. For the early history of this part of the colony see Berson, Michael, 'Cockburn: The making of a community,' Town of Cockburn, 1978, page 18

¹³ R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, 'Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions' (1985), distributed by the Heritage Council of W.A., 1985. [Report held by State Library of Western Australia] See photographic plate no. 48 which shows 'Ashes and discarded domestic refuse at Robb Jetty Camp,' page 84

This report tries to name locations specifically, but groups several little camps under the name 'Smelters Camp' in the general area. Robb Jetty Camp and Poverty Point were other names. Later it even had suburbs - Hollywood, and one called Beverley Hills - curiously the first was more desirable real estate. Closer to the abattoir was alternatively called the Meatworks camp. There is one further obscure reference to Cypress Valley, between Robb Jetty and the Smelters.¹⁴ Housing ranged from makeshift huts to temporary shelters, moving and evolving on the sand dunes.

This coastal area, bookended by South Beach to the north and Jervoise Bay to the south, featured explosives magazines, a quarantine station, various industrial establishments including meat processing abattoirs, fellmongers and the smelters, Newmarket and Coogee Hotels, a lighthouse, the Coogee lime kilns and later, the power station.

There is even a 1846 reference of aboriginal families congregating close by to the whale 'boiling down plant' at South Beach, during the season, to 'feast on the whale blubbers' from the vats and iron boilers.¹⁵

Informal camps existed in many Perth and Fremantle locations, with some expanding traditional Indigenous camping areas.¹⁶ Other transient camps, for example at Midland, Bassendean and Coogee Beach often exchanged residents, as they moved according to need. These camps were also used as a stopping place for Indigenous people moving around between the Kimberley, Kalgoorlie, Boddington, Collie and other locations.

The Smelters Camp provided a home for miners, stockmen, itinerants, travellers and migrants. The camp was a symbolic microcosm of changes in society and along this coastline. With earliest published European-descendent residence specifically at the

¹⁴ 'Cypres(sic) Valley, an area where 'there were several camps in the valley, which is situated near the Fremantle Smelters.' Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 26 May 1939, page 25; Another reference to Cypress Valley: The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 30 January 1903, page 6, 'the ruthless destruction of cypress trees fringing the beach between Robb's Jetty and the Smelting Works at south Fremantle'

¹⁵ Cramond, Arthur, 'The Early History and Whaling Days of Fremantle and Early Settlers,' [Typescript HS/423], page 5. See also https://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Statements%20of%20Significance_Whadjuk%20Nyooongar.pdf and <https://www.derbalnara.org.au/CockburnAboriginalHeritageSiteSearch29749.pdf>, Accessed April 2024

¹⁶ See excellent research in Dr Denise Cook's book for further information on Perth-wide camps, published by UWA Publishing in 2019: "That was my Home" Stories from the Noongar Camps of Fremantle and Perth's Western Suburbs' <https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/products/that-was-my-home> Accessed April 2024. Blackboy Camp and Canvas Town were other poverty camps in the Fremantle area, for information on Canvas Town see Foster, Darren J., 'Neglected Children in Western Australia, A case study: 1897 - 1908', John George Foster, 1997 <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/301398> Accessed April 2024, also available at SLWA Q362.76 FOS; and for information on Blackboy Camp see Hyde, Dylan, 'Art was their Weapon: The History of the Perth Workers' Art Guild', Fremantle Press, 2019, chapter 1, pp 19-20.

Smelters Camp currently around 1898, but undoubtedly preceding this,¹⁷ and continuing beyond the official demolition of the camp in the late 1950s,¹⁸ the extraordinary lifespan of the Smelters Camp can possibly be attributed to the original Crown Land ownership inhibiting possible action by local councils, and the resumption of land during wartime by the Australian Federal Government.

In 1916 the Commonwealth Government acquired land at Cockburn Sound for 'defence purposes', including the former Clarence town site; with detailed descriptions of the boundaries but including land in the vicinity of Hamilton Road, Koojee lake, Rockingham Road, Russell Road and Jervoise Bay, but only to the high water mark at Cockburn Sound, and 'saving and excepting all reserves, Government roads and Crown Lands.' Then in 1928, part of the land west of the railway reserve (where Cockburn Road now lies) was transferred to the State of Western Australia and part-leased. The Commonwealth recognised at that time that the compulsory acquisition in 1916 required a payment of compensation, but without interest to the total of rental rate (£964 15s. 6d.), as a condition of the return of the land, 'being no longer required for any public purpose.'

Part of this land comprised the Explosives Reserves 8907. A similar compulsory acquisition of land occurred during WWII.¹⁹

Battler's Haven

'Nestling in the hollows of the sand dunes beyond the partly-demolished buildings of the old Fremantle Smelting Works is a motley collection of tenements, the existence of which is probably unknown to thousands of metropolitan dwellers. A less-inviting prospect as a permanent home-site would be difficult to conceive; yet men have lived there for as long as twenty years.'²⁰

A nostalgic report titled 'BATTLERS' HAVEN' in the *Daily News* in 1928 describes the melancholy scene just to the west of the railway line between Fremantle and Jandakot where, 'the wayfarer is depressed by the semi-ruin of the once prosperous smelting works, the two giant chimneys of which, stripped of their onetime buildings, stand gaunt against the background of silent seashore.' It imagines the lingering memories of busy workmen tending the



¹⁷ See entry for Charles Fitzsimmons, describing an already well-established camp including a population of European descent in 1898.

¹⁸ South Fremantle area Electoral Rolls indicate residency through to 1958 at least; see Electoral Roll data summary compiled by Julie Raffaele, 2018 (held by the author)

¹⁹ Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. 35, 3 May 1915; No. 47, 29 May 1915, page 993; No. 110, 13 October 1927, page 2114; No. 55, 28 Jul 1949; page 2115; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 23 June 1916, page 6

²⁰ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

thumping machinery and roaring furnaces of past industries, now being dismantled and removed, and stray bullocks wandering in sparse paddocks alongside the refuse tip, dotted with sewage-effluent enriched green patches.

'And yet less than half a mile away, on the other side of the smelters is busy life — South Fremantle, with its tramways, its electric light and macadamised roads, the Hydrodrome and its enticing foreshore where the people in their thousands foregather during the summer months.'²¹



SLWA 111700PD South Beach promenade 1923

The fascination with the mostly pensioner population of the camp in the 1920s seemed to revolve around their choice to live in such deprived and primitive circumstances, forgetting that at that time, these residents were remnants of the gold rush; hardy, determined and independent, self-made in the 'wilds of the outback' with a particular aversion to authority of any kind.

Their simple huts were constructed from old galvanised iron, hessian, driftwood and 'kero' tins but 'their tiny homes are snug within, proof against the weather and sheltered from the winds of winter by the friendly dunes around.' Though lacking in amenities, hand-dug wells provided water, and these ex-goldfields dwellers had learned lessons of hygiene the hard way, remembering 'when typhoid was a scourge' and keeping their surroundings clean. Some huts are even decorated, evidencing the presence of a woman, with a small garden 'and other refinements.'²²

²¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

²² Ibid. See also Whittington, Vera, 'Gold and Typhoid - Two Fevers: A social history of Western Australia (1891-1900)', University of Western Australia, 1988. '(Fremantle)...shared in the gold-rush typhoid epidemic years - giving shelter to goldfields patients who, passed on from crowded hospital to crowded hospital, at last found a haven there,' page 319

The Demise

'Notorious Beach Camp Must Go

"Get out—you'll get killed down here."

But by the mid-1950s, a completely new set of survival skills has been adopted by residents, and the biggest threat to the camp's existence is no longer disease, it is each other, and possibly a even more malevolent force - *The Sunday Times*.

'It's a filthy eyesore, a disgrace to the authorities, a threat to health, and a hideout and entertainment place for a vicious criminal element.'²³

There are references to 'inside walls black with flies,' 'strewn throughout with filth and rubbish', and 'bed clothes under bushes.' Outrage whirls around the idea that the ramshackle huts could be clandestinely rented, bought or sold illegally, that some residents had been there for years. *The Sunday Times* predicted a 'slum murder', being the result of 'regular plonk and metho parties...held day and night' and the estimated 50 or so residents being a mix of pensioners, veterans and "decent people" being terrorised by 'a criminal element'.²⁴



Sunday Times 16 Jan 1955 p4

Baker W. Wilson proved a little more level headed, assuring reporters he had been calling regularly to the area for many years to sell his tasty wares and did not consider his customers 'no-hopers'. He mused, 'Most of my customers are decent people hit in many ways by different circumstances and general poverty... To me this little place is like most others. You have all types. Here I have my good payers and my bad payers just like everywhere else.'

The newspaper ran a punishing public-awareness campaign beginning in March 1953

²³ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4

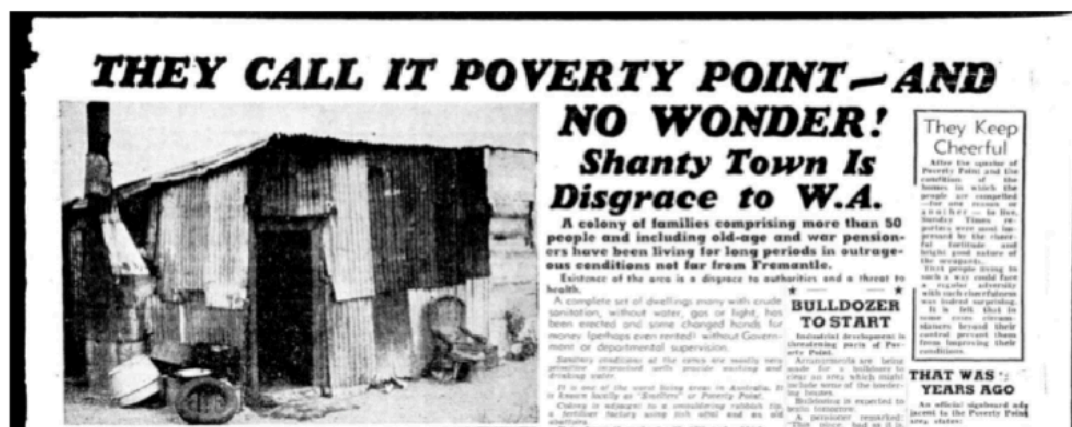
²⁴ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 24 October 1954, page 5

to close the Smelters Camp, re-branding the area 'Poverty Point' in the style of Sydney's La Perouse 'Happy Valley' itinerant Depression community of the 1920s. The reporter noted that an official sign was erected four years prior to this article's publication, adjacent to the area, warning, 'All buildings erected without authority of Crown Lands in this locality must be removed by June 30, 1949, failing which prosecution will be instituted.'²⁵

By 16 January 1955, bulldozers were expected within a few days, to begin clearing an area for industrial development, which at the time may have affected some of the dwellings. Actually this happened much later than threatened. Fremantle Road Board was at the helm of the decision, they would ask the Lands Department to demolish the 'shanty town' after an inspection by 'Members of Parliament...asked to take action to abolish the camp,' and the general feeling was that the wider community and police would feel relieved. *The Sunday Times* may have even been slightly remorseful with a sub-article headed 'They Keep Cheerful' and disclaiming benevolently

'After the squalor of Poverty Point and the condition of the homes in which people are compelled-for one reason or another-to live, *The Sunday Times* reporters were most impressed by the cheerful fortitude and bright good nature of the occupants. That people living in such a way could face a regular adversity with such cheerfulness was indeed surprising. It is felt that in some cases circumstances beyond their control prevent them from improving their conditions.'²⁶

Sunday Times 29 Mar 1953 p3



'There were lots of people living there under shocking conditions. A few sheets of corrugated roofing iron shoved into the sides of the sand-dunes was the normal abode. They scrounged food from the nearby rubbish tip, and any money they had went on grog. These people were drop-outs from society, they seem to have gone beyond redemption, booze had got the better of them. The poor souls were to be pitied, not mocked, but many of the South Beach citizens saw them as objects of

²⁵ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

²⁶ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4

ridicule, referring to their decrepit shantytown as 'Hollywood', with all the different types of actors and actresses.'²⁷ Below is an image from 19 October 1956.



A man and a woman take a nap at a Smelters' camp in South Fremantle

WestPix WAN-0039528

'..Those sort of fellows lived on the tip. Out the Fremantle South tip, which had the name of it... It was always called Hollywood out there then. And all these derelicts built their own little houses out of tin and cardboard and things like that and had their fireplaces in there and they lived on the tip.'²⁸

To investigate the curiously long life span of the camp, I focussed upon the zoning and ownership of the land itself. Eventual resumption of this Crown Land by the Fremantle Road Board was in partnership with the State Lands Department and parliament. The multi-pronged approach used by the Fremantle Road Board endeavoured to tighten laws. This area was rezoned under Parks and Reserves and then appointed a Board of Management (with some declining industrial development permitted). Actions were swift and comprehensive - questioning the

²⁷ Marks, Bill, 'South to Sillytown: Tales of battlers and larrikins', South Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1997, pp 142-3

²⁸ Wallace Leslie Hagan OAM Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/3, 1996, Part 2, tape 8, side 2, (Timecode reference approximately 03:44:00)

right of residents to continue boating and fishing (some residents formed an association to protect their rights - with fleeting success); disallowing the use of land to generate income; banning the use of weapons and subsistence hunting; comprehensive valuations of properties and squeezing out offensive trades between Robb Jetty and Woodman's Point.²⁹

In March 1955 it was noted in the minutes 'whereby it was agreed in principle for the erection of cottages for pensioners eastward of the explosives area and the complete vacation of the Smelters.

All of which, after an inspection by MPs and the Lands Dept on Christmas Eve 1956, lead to the eventual demolition of the camp, to make way for an adjacent industrial development, on 9 June 1957.³⁰



Picture of Smelters Camp being demolished

WestPix WAN-0039518

²⁹ Fremantle Road Board minutes (SRWA AU WA A421 - FREMANTLE ROAD BOARD 1871-01-24 - 1955-01-20) and AU WA A427 - COCKBURN ROAD BOARD (1955-01-21 - 1961-06-30), State Records of Western Australia

³⁰ Ibid.



A bulldozer at work at a smelters' camp in South Fremantle

WestPix WAN-0039534

But after demolition, the moving on of residents took much longer.

Whilst alternative accommodation was promised for elderly residents, evidence of specific building occurring is yet to be found, and residents remained in even more tenuous shacks dispersed more widely in the fringes of the area for some time after 1957.³¹

There was little follow-up documentation concerning the fate of the scattered camp residents, except that the 1958 South Fremantle Electoral Roll still lists a handful of residents at the Smelters Camp, Copley's Siding and Robb Jetty, but all are absent except the Mockens, who are living at Robb's Jetty on the following electoral roll in 1963. However, the electoral rolls cannot account for people living there casually.³²

Many of the long-term pensioner residents of the Smelters Camp had passed away

³¹ Terry Fulton confirmed that his parents, prior residents, (See Edward Fulton entry) were living rough east of the railway line following the demolition, Interview Terry Fulton by Julie Raffaele 26 February 2021; dates of the inspection and demolition confirmed in Fremantle Road Board minutes (SRWA AU WA A421 - FREMANTLE ROAD BOARD 1871-01-24 - 1955-01-20) and AU WA A427 - COCKBURN ROAD BOARD (1955-01-21 - 1961-06-30), State Records of Western Australia; and archival photographs from The West Australian newspaper.

³² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

before 1958. After 1954, places of residence named 'Camping area, Coogee', 'Coogee Beach' or 'Caravan park, Coogee Beach' begin to emerge in the electoral rolls, as the remaining occupants were officially evicted and moved on from the Smelters Camp. There had been fishing shacks for some time at Coogee Beach to the south, with the

[Left] The West Australian, Thursday 26 March 1936, p13

[Right] Daily News, Tuesday 25 January 1949, p5

BOAT SHEDS AT COOGEE.

At a meeting of the Fremantle Road Board on Tuesday night the general purposes committee recommended in a report that applications for permission to erect boat sheds at Coogee beach should be approved, subject to a fee of £1 a year, that wood or iron or similar material should be used and three months' removal notice required on each side. During a discussion about the advisability of allowing the sheds to be used for camping purposes, which was mentioned in the applications, it was made clear that, although the board had no objection to the sheds being occasionally used overnight by fishermen, the establishment of permanent camps there would not be countenanced. The recommendation was adopted subject to the sheds being erected on an approved site.

COOGEE CAMPING

Q. (1) Why have the authorities who control the Coogee beach camping area allowed houses and boat-sheds to be erected, depriving campers of camping and swimming space? (2) Why have trees been cut down in this area?

A. (1) A spokesman for the Fremantle Road Board (which controls the area) says that the board, to provide revenue to make the beach self-supporting, allowed houses and boat-sheds to be erected. Campers alone did not provide the necessary revenue. During the last two camping seasons there had been "plenty of room" for campers. (2) Campers themselves were to blame—the board had not cut down trees in the area. It was now planting them.

camp experiencing a public condemnation all its own, particularly during the 1930s and 1951, when the campground flourished due to post war public housing shortages and was largely, favourably commented upon by the secretary of the Fremantle Road Road and the Acting Premier.³³

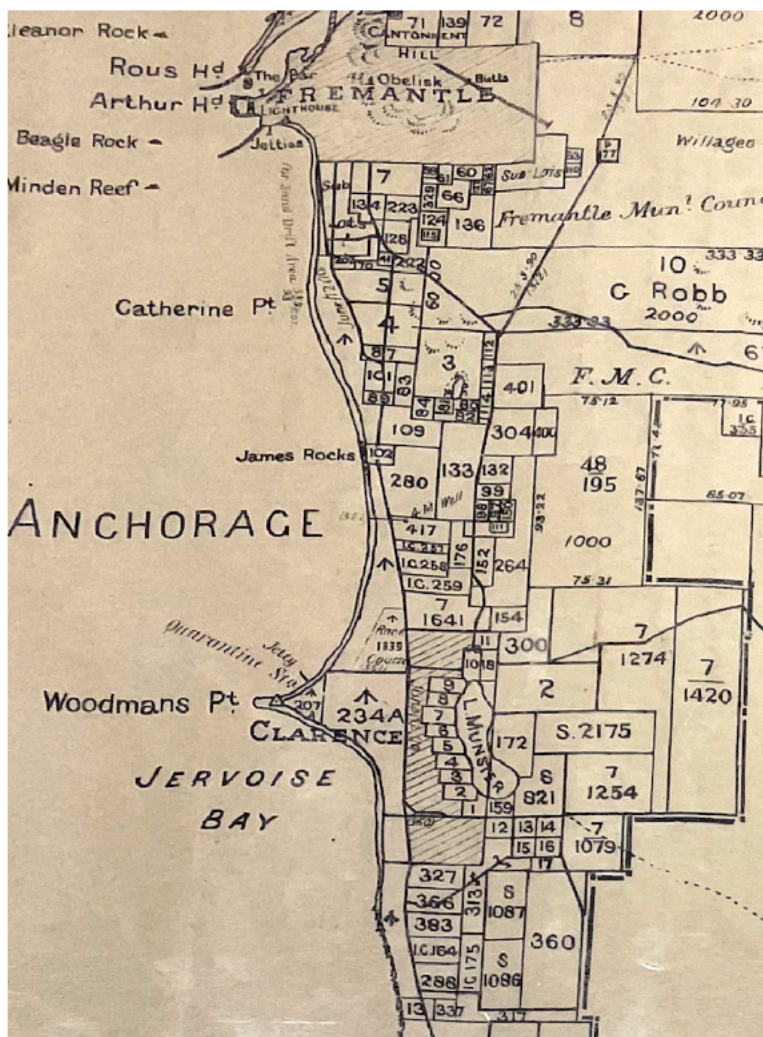
Also at that time, additional care facilities are established generally in the region, with listings for 'Anglican Home, Coogee Beach', and 'Nazareth House' appearing in the general electoral rolls, indicating new charitable care options.³⁴

³³ 'Coogee Beach. Camping Prohibited,' The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 21 December 1933, page 10; "'Exaggeration" in Press Reports on Coogee Camp' The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 27 April, 1951, page 8; 'Camp Families Refuse to Leave Coogee', The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 18 July, 1951, page 2; 'Officer To Inspect Coogee Camps', Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 15 October 1951, page 2; see also <https://history.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Buildings-and-places/Lost-sites/Coogee-Beach-boatsheds> Accessed April 2024

³⁴ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 24 October 1954, page 5; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4

MAPS AND AERIALS

As a general location, the Smelters Camp could be found near the junction of Bennett Ave, extending to the west end of Rollinson Road and at various pockets along the coast in the City of Cockburn and earlier in time, South Fremantle.³⁵ Following are discoveries and several additional map and aerial resources to explore.



SLWA. Western Australia Department of Lands and Surveys 1893 [Historic Map series], b27756464 (45/15-16)

In a particular example of the Battye staff and Heritage Collection professionals being key to navigating the collection, Peter Edwards assisted with revelatory aerial maps that located the camp in 1942, within which the actual huts could be seen.³⁶

³⁵ Indicated in situ by William Herdigan to Julie Raffaele

³⁶ SLWA. Aerial Detail of huts on beach c.1945-50, b1958281x (15/14-19) The State Library of WA describes this collection in their catalogue notes as, 'Enlargements of 1:14 550 scale aerial photographs of the main populated area and militarily significant features in Perth metropolitan region of 1942.'



SLWA. Aerial Detail of huts on beach c.1945-50, b1958281x (15/14-19)



SLWA. Aerial Detail of huts on beach c.1945-50, b1958281x (15/14-19)

Another resource is the Geoscience Australian historical aerial photography search application at <https://aerialphotography-geoscience-au.hub.arcgis.com/apps/geoscience-au::historical-aerial-photography-search-application/explore>

Within are flight pathways with the best views of this part of the coastline at MAP1333 frame 14069, MAP 1333 frame 14129, MAP 1333, frame 14008. Those particular aerials frames are 1939 - 1942.

There are also images providing clarity around geographical proximity to the South Beach family area, including in SLWA images collections in this report, and John Dowson's book.³⁷ City of Cockburn Libraries also provide excellent map and aerial resources, as does the Government of Western Australia's Landgate.

³⁷ Dowson, John, 'Old Fremantle', UWA Press, Fremantle, WA, 2004; In the State Library of WA catalogue other suggested photos are: Owen Anchorage SLWA b195903_1 and SLWA b21775898 Item I63645579 Geological sketch map of Commonwealth land, Coogee, Cockburn Sound (3rd Flr Map Stack). Fremantle Suburban slwa_b1854359_1

Fremantle Impressions

'You pass a valley near the Catherine Point groyne. In the valley was a place called Hollywood, a camp for Fremantle's aspirational drunks. Hollywood residents live in cottages made from packing cases and flattened tin salvaged from the local tip. They use paint tins for their pot plants and grow pelargoniums along their shack walls, hence the occasional pelargonium still showing its head about the sand at the camp site. Friends come from other camps to holiday there, I'm told. But they are a different class of resident from those at the Smelters Camp or nearby Beverly Hills, which is a suburb of Hollywood and attracts the real outcasts. A strong sense of irony must have guided some unofficial nomenclature committee. Those at Beverly Hills made a little money digging and sifting shell grit which they dry on the beach before bagging it. Everyone has chooks. The Beverly Hills grit means harder shells on eggs from Fremantle chooks fed on wheat which was probably brought home from the wharf in a lumper's billy.'³⁸

THE RESIDENTS OF THE SMELTERS CAMP

Current historian focus holds a fascination with the recording of itinerant and transient communities. But sharing these stories of the returned veterans, the migrants, the homeless and the underprivileged also enriches us with examples of overcoming adversity, resilience, humanity and compassion.

It should be noted that occupancy dates listed are confirmed from source reading, but in certain cases, residencies may have actually extended without documentation beyond this time period, or in the instance of a single listed year, have included months, weeks or days within that year.

Particularly when dates are extracted from electoral rolls, there are intervening years not subject to elections for which confirmation is not always possible. However, where a resident's behaviour suggests they remained at the campsite, occupancy has been listed here as spanning the time between book-ending election dates.

The Western Australian Police Gazettes warrant specific mention. In addition to the obvious information regarding criminal charges, often included is an individual's geographical movements, physical description and aliases. Many listings indicated additional family members in trouble with authorities, providing some contextual understanding of dysfunction and generational poverty.

In many cases, occupancy was intermittent, with some Smelters Camp residents rotating between several temporary campsites throughout Western Australia.

How the Smelters Camp is named applies to the particular listing – this name varies with geographical and cultural changes and industrial development, e.g. early listings

³⁸ Davidson, Ron, 'Fremantle Impressions' Fremantle Press; Australia, 2007, page 246

refer to the location of the camp as 'Owens Anchorage', latter listings 'Smelters Camp'. This tends to be recorded as a reflection of 'community' interpretation rather than governmental (i.e. more specific than electoral boundaries). The occupation of each resident listed is that recorded at time of occupancy, but additional occupations of interest are also included.

Electoral rolls, newspapers and other source material may occasionally reflect misspellings, being the colloquial rather than the correct spelling e.g. Robb's Jetty instead of Robb Jetty, Woodman's Point instead of Woodman Point. In the interests of accuracy misspellings are retained. Residents are listed alphabetically, with variations in some cases of family groupings.

Agnew, Matthew

1893 – 1958

Smelter's Camp 1954

WWI veteran and former railway labourer

Matthew Agnew was born in 1892 in Maryhill, Barony, Lanarkshire.³⁹

In the 1901 Scotland Census, Agnew was a scholar aged 9, son of Arthur (35), a coal merchant, and Irish mother, Margaret (37),⁴⁰ surrounded by brothers Arthur (17), John (14), Thomas (5) and Joseph (2). They lived at 545 Garscube Road, Kelvin, St George in the Fields, Glasgow, Lanarkshire.⁴¹ Father Arthur lived some of his childhood just down the road, at 229 Garscube, with his father, also Arthur, his mother Ann and his siblings, brothers William, Jessie and Joseph, Samuel, and one sister, Mary Ann.⁴²

Whether it was adventure's call or simply living in Maryhill's garrison town environment that inspired him, Agnew served, and survived as a private in The Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), Gordon Highlanders, Seaforth Highlanders, Highland Light

³⁹ General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland. Ref 622/1 558 Maryhill

⁴⁰ Margaret 'Maggie' Cronan born c1864, Ireland, married 1887 in Maryhill (National Records of Scotland 622/1 57)

⁴¹ Scotland. *1901 Scotland Census*. Reels 1-446. General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland. Parish: Glasgow St George in the Fields; ED: 107; Page: 16; Line: 16; Roll: CSSCT1901_303

⁴² Scotland. *1871 Scotland Census*. Reels 1 - 191. General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland. Parish: Glasgow St George; ED: 54; Page: 2; Line: 9; Roll: CSSCT1871_135

Infantry and the Royal Engineers 1914 - 1920.⁴³ Agnew was living independently with his brothers Thomas and John in Fernie St, Maryhill, Glasgow following the war,⁴⁴ then on 23 June 1923 he embarked from London on board the 'Orvieto', of the steamship line Orient. He was a carter of 31 years of age, travelling 3rd class, on his way to a new life in Western Australia.⁴⁵

Railway Man

Agnew worked as a casual employee on the Western Australian Government Railways as a labourer in 1927-1928, but was eventually retrenched.⁴⁶ He was listed again in mid-1930. His pay rate per day was £16, 10 shillings, 11 pence as a labourer on the Caron-Buntine line. Buntine is about 30km from Dalwallinu.⁴⁷

In September of the same year, he had a different kind of experience with the railways, a story from Dalwallinu in *The West Australian* reported, 'About 11 p.m. on August 30, Constable Rowbottom discovered Matthew Agnew lying near the Grant-street railway crossing with a deep cut in the back of his head. Agnew was taken to Dr. Anderson, who inserted six stitches. The wound was caused by a heavy fall on to the footpath.'⁴⁸

In July 1933, he worked for the WAGR again on the Hines Hill regrading (half-way between Kellerberrin and Merredin). It was a more substantial job, lasting until March 1934.⁴⁹ He found steadier work in the north of Western Australia; in

⁴³ Agnew's service details are [Regimental Number: Royal Scots 35528 Pte., Gordon Highlanders 15764, Seaforth Highlanders 10921, Highland Light Infantry 31980, Royal Engineers 367886 Driver], The National Archives of the UK; Kew, Surrey, England; *WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls*; Class: WO 329, Piece Number: 446. Also Army Medal Office. WWI Medal Index Cards. In the care of The Western Front Association website, accessed on Ancestry.com. *British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914 - 1920* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008 (Accessed 12 September 2018) and Medal card of Agnew, Matthew. Corps: Royal Scots Regiment No.: 35528; 1914 - 1920. Ref WO 372/1/27529 National Archives, Kew (Discovery Catalogue accessed 12 September 2018)

⁴⁴ Glasgow, Lanarkshire electoral registers, Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections. Glasgow 1920; Register of Voters, Glasgow Spring, Wards 14-25, 1920, page 12

⁴⁵ Board of Trade: Commercial and Statistical Department and successors: Outwards Passenger Lists. BT27. Records of the Commercial, Companies, Labour, Railways and Statistics Departments. Records of the Board of Trade and of successor and related bodies. The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England. Ancestry.com. *UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890 - 1960* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012 Accessed 12 September 2018

⁴⁶ Railway and Employment Records. State Records Office Western Australia; *Casual Employment*; Reference Number: ACC 2629/7-8; 7 March 1928

⁴⁷ WAGR & T. – Register of Casual Workers 10 June 1930, page 239; see 44767_352669-00240 Agnew_Railways.jpg; State Records Office, Western Australia

⁴⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 9 September 1930, page 12: Country News, Dalwallinu

⁴⁹ Railway and Employment Records. State Records Office Western Australia; *Casual Employment*; Reference Number: ACC 2629/12 - 13

1939-1940 Matthew Agnew appears in The Western Australian Directory [Wise's] in March, living in Marble Bar.⁵⁰ He was also listed on the Western Australian Electoral Roll, under the Division of Kalgoorlie, Subdivision of Gascoyne, in 1949 and 1954. He was residing at Carnarvon and listed as a labourer.⁵¹ Christmas Eve of 1949 found him in the Carnarvon Police Court, after having been Christmas carousing in Baston Street.⁵²

Agnew lived at the Smelters Camp some time between 1950 and 1958. In 1954 he was reported as 'Matthew Agnew of the smelters' camp, South Fremantle,' when arrested during a particularly large and well-organised swoop by police –

'RAID YIELDS 19 TWO-UP MEN

A police raid on a two-up school in the sandhills at South Fremantle led to the appearance of 24 men in the Fremantle Police Court yesterday. The raid was led by Inspector A.O. Fiebig and Sgt. C. H. Brown with 12 other police officers. The cases against five of the men were dismissed.⁵³ The remaining 19 men included Agnew, who was fined £2.⁵⁴

Agnew and the police were participating in a longstanding South Fremantle ritual. Raids had been occurring for half a decade, with the 'dispersion of the famous South Fremantle two-up school' reported as early as 1916.⁵⁵

By 1958, Matthew Agnew had left the Smelters Camp forever; on the electoral roll he had moved to Sunset Hospital in Curtin, Nedlands.⁵⁶ Sunset was formerly known as the Claremont Old Men's Home,⁵⁷ and sadly, after a life of very hard graft and brave service, this would be his last address.

⁵⁰ The Western Australia Directory [Wise's], March 1939 - 1940, page 365. <https://slwa.wa.gov.au/collections/collections/post-office-directories/post-office-directories-1940-1949> Accessed April 2024

⁵¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁵² The Northern Times (Carnarvon, WA), Thursday 29 December 1949, page 1

⁵³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 27 May 1954, page 15

⁵⁴ Matthew's fine was approximately \$83 in today's currency. Calculated £2 (1954), decimal equivalent 2017 <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Accessed April 2024

⁵⁵ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 31 December 1916, page 8

Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1955. 11 May, (23773) Agnew, Alexander, Maintenance (3 charges); false name. He was listed in Prisoners Discharged from Fremantle Gaol for month of April 1955. See pages 48, 117, 159, 360 and 420

⁵⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁵⁷ <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/new-era-sunset-heritage-precinct> Sunset Heritage Precinct was opened to the community for the event on Sunday 27 November. Accessed April 2024

Agnew died in Perth in 1958 at 65 years of age.⁵⁸ The Metropolitan Cemeteries Board confirms Matthew Agnew's date of death as 26 November 1958 in Nedlands, and his grave is in the Roman Catholic area of Karrakatta Cemetery.⁵⁹

Allison, John
Owen's Anchorage 1902-1906
labourer

John Allison was listed on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1903 - 1906,⁶⁰ but was also named in newspaper articles as being a resident in 1902.⁶¹ There was an incident involving Allison (who was described as a middle-aged man) threatening to harm a gentleman called Reidy whilst at the Beaufort Street entrance of Perth train station, in which Reidy claims Allison accused him of hypnotising him.⁶² There are also several newspaper reports about Allison indecently exposed.⁶³

No Western Australian births, deaths or marriages; or shipping registers list this particular John Allison and there was possible use of an alias. John Allison has not been fully researched.

Anderson, George
Meatworkers Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁶⁴

⁵⁸ BDMWA registration no. 3180

⁵⁹ Section OA Gravesite 0134

⁶⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁶¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 24 May 1902, page 3

⁶² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 14 Feb 1906, page 4

⁶³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 27 May 1904, page 6; Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 23 May 1904, page 5

⁶⁴ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

Bansatti, 'The Albanian'
Robb's Jetty 1931
ringbarker

Grave Fears

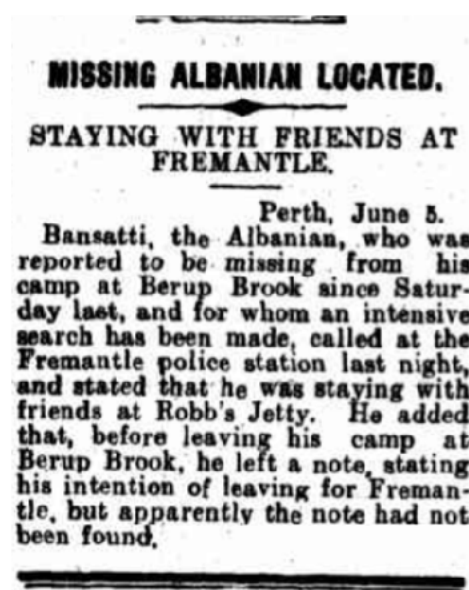
A migrant timber worker disappeared near Pemberton in 1931, and a flurry of newspaper articles portended disaster. Reported as widely as Tasmania, when a search in 'heavily-timbered country, too dense for penetration by horsemen... failed to reveal any trace of the Albanian named Bansatti,' searchers entertained 'grave fears... for his safety.'⁶⁵

A report in *The West Australian* on Thursday 4 June provided details of Bansatti's employment as a ringbarker with the Dunnet brothers at Nannup.⁶⁶ Bansatti had been involved in land-clearing operations on a new property adjoining Berup Brook. Last seen on Friday 30 May evening, and due to return with the camp to Nannup on Saturday, he did not appear. Constable Sholl at Nannup was notified; and Constable Marriott from Pemberton unsuccessfully led search parties through the area. Local police knew of a brother working in the wheat belt, and that Bansatti had friends in Fremantle, the latter of which proved a fruitful speculation when,

'Bansatti, the Albanian, who was reported to be missing from his camp at Berup Brook since Saturday last, and for whom an intensive search has been made, called at the Fremantle police station last night, and stated that he was staying with friends at Robb's Jetty.'⁶⁷

When Bansatti assured that 'before leaving his camp at Berup Brook, he left a note, stating his intention of leaving for Fremantle, but apparently the note had not been found,'⁶⁸ the mood around his disappearance transformed, and the press quickly turned against him, running a headline reading 'SEARCHERS' WASTED EFFORTS—

Supposed Missing Man Safe', further noting, 'Constables from Nannup and Pemberton, assisted by a party of experienced bushmen have been engaged for several days in the



West Australian 9 June 1931 p28

⁶⁵ The Mercury (Hobart, Tas.), Thursday 4 June 1931, page 12

⁶⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 4 June 1931, page 13

⁶⁷ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Saturday 6 June 1931, page 4; see also The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 7 June 1931, page 24; Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 9 June 1931, page 28 and The Northern Times (Carnarvon, WA), Thursday 11 June 1931, page 3

⁶⁸ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Saturday 6 June 1931, page 4

*unnecessary search.*⁶⁹

The attribution of 'Albanian' ethnicity often extended in a derogatory manner to Southern Europeans generally, particularly those from the former Yugoslavia. The tension surrounding Southern European newly-arrived migrants was reflected in an article in the *Daily News* eighteen months prior. The reporter included mention of the Albanians residing in the smelters camp at the time, musing over their lodgings...



EIGHT IN A HUT
Eight Albanians were eating in this humpy.

Daily News 13 Nov 1928 p6

'A FOREIGN INFLUX

But into this haven has come recently another generation, and another race, of men — swarthy young men from Southern Europe, probably equally deserving of sympathy by reason 'of the homelessness which has driven them to "squat" in similar hessian and tin shanties amongst the sand dunes of South Fremantle'

..to their lack of cutlery...

'In the humpy, about 10ft. by 8ft., yesterday eight men were having their morning meal of smoked fish of the sardine variety, picked up with the fingers from a common bowl and eaten with hunks of dry bread,'

..their inability to master a new language in a matter of weeks; and their livelihood,

'Two only of the eight could speak English intelligibly, and it was difficult to learn whence they came, beyond, that they were Albanians. From some of the old men, however, it was learned that the Albanians had been working in the country and arrived at South Fremantle some weeks ago. They rented the camps from one of the older settlers, bought a boat from another and engaged intermittently in fishing. Further along the foreshore, between the sea and what is known as the four mile, is another colony of foreign fishermen...'

And to complete the dismantling, by reasons of culture rather than poverty - a curious reference to sanitary habits and odour that reflects the era's inherent racism,

'The same forbearance and tolerance towards these could — and doubtless will — be extended provided it is assured that they maintain a proper regard for the public health insofar as sanitation is concerned... Thus far there does not appear much reason for objection — the advent of the foreign element has been only recent. No objectionable odors(sic) are noticeable, and there is an absence of flies; but the foreign colony already totals thirteen distributed in two tents, and one humpy, and sanitary conveniences are conspicuous by their absence.'⁷⁰

⁶⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 5 June 1931, page 19 [Author's emphasis]

⁷⁰ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

During the Depression, many Albanian migrants followed work to rural Northern Queensland,⁷¹ and by 1925 reports of 'Indigent Albanians' experiencing poverty were published, with the number of Albanians considered destitute in Fremantle numbering 56, with deportation being investigated by the Federal Government.⁷²

O'Connor, Bodney and Little Report

Described as 'Field Research carried out Jan-March 1985 commissioned by the Centre for Prehistory at the University of Western Australia, on behalf of the Department of Aboriginal sites at the WA Museum under a grant from the Australian Heritage Commission' this report was researched by Mr C. Bodney, Mrs L. Little and Mr R. O'Connor. Under the heading 'Aboriginal sites in the south metropolitan region', the following description appears,

'This camping area is located in the sandhills to the south of South Beach in the vicinity of Catherine Point. Camps were situated between the Bradford Kendall Pty. Ltd. Iron Foundry and Robb Jetty. This site is thus approximately 1.2 kilometres long (North/South axis), but no more than 100 metres wide at any point... This area, which is still used as an Aboriginal camping site today, is known to have been populated since approximately 1910. As with other long-established fringe camps, therefore, it is likely that this was a traditional camping area. Since the sands driven by the winter winds cover most evidence of human occupation, individual camps are not as easily identified in inland areas. Nonetheless, in the deep valleys between the higher sand dunes, camp fire ashes, domestic refuse and the remains of temporary shelters are visible. (See plate 48). Sometime police trackers Black Paddy and Wandj are among the earliest people recorded as living there. In later years, Paddy worked at the jetty and Wandj at the nearby abattoirs. Later, Charlie Windy and Don Nebro camped there, as did Tommy Yarran and Arthur Inman and his wife, a member of the Mindemurra family. This Mrs Inman tragically drowned while fishing near Catherine Point.

Although Perth Metropolitan Aboriginal people no longer camp here, it was noted that Aboriginal visitors from the Kalgoorlie region were living among the sandhills at the time of the survey.'⁷³

The reference to the area the Smelters Camp occupied being a traditional camping area has not yet been proven.

⁷¹ Carne, J.C. 'Moslem Albanians in North Queensland'. Lectures on North Queensland history. No. 4. edited by Dalton, B. J.. Townsville: James Cook University of North Queensland, 1984; page 185. Accessed April 2024 online at <https://espace.library.uq.edu.au/view/UQ:241825>. See also: <https://www.naa.gov.au/blog/muslim-journeys> Accessed April 2024

⁷² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 17 January 1925, page 10

⁷³ R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, 'Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions' (1985), p83-85; See also plate 48 in the report, 'Ashes and discarded domestic refuse at Robb Jetty Camp 2.6.1946. Robb Jetty Camp (Hamilton Hill).'

Barnett, Horace
Chesterfield 1909
labourer

Horace Barnett was listed on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1909 as a labourer.⁷⁴ Horace Barnett has not been fully researched.

Barry, Thomas
Owen's Anchorage 1903 – 1906
slaughterman

Thomas Barry was listed on the South Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman. When Barry left the camp in 1906, he moved to Boulder and was running his own slaughterhouse.⁷⁵ Thomas Barry has not been fully researched.

**THE SMALLPOX AT FREMANTLE. THE PATIENTS PROGRESSING FAVOURABLY.
LANDING AND DISINFECTION OF CAMELS...**

'Latest intelligence from the quarantine station at Woodman's Point states that the three quarantined Lascars [*Indian sailors*] are progressing favourably. The sick patient's case is running the usual course of small-pox, though the disease is not of a malignant nature. The two men who were placed in quarantine on account of having exhibited suspicious symptoms were less feverish yesterday, and the health officer, Dr. Hope, believes that a virulent development of small-pox in their cases may be averted.

The camels brought by the Cloncurry from Calcutta for this port were landed at Robb's jetty yesterday morning, great precautionary measures being taken in their transport to the camel quarantine ground. Twenty-nine camels were landed in lighters from the steamer, and upon shipment in the lighters and when landed on the jetty were subjected to a thorough spraying with diluted carbolic acid. The holds of the lighters were thoroughly fumigated by means of pans of burning sulphur being placed under the hatches. At the stock receiving yards at the shore end of Robb's jetty the camels were examined carefully by Mr. H. Edwards, the Government Veterinary Surgeon, under whose direction their landing was effected.

In order that the animals may receive proper attention, the agents for Messrs. McIlwraith & Co., owners of the Cloncurry, have engaged four Afghans residing in the colony to act as caretakers.'⁷⁶

⁷⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷⁵ Ibid.; Coolgardie Miner (WA), Saturday 29 June 1907, page 4

⁷⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 19 January 1895, page 6

The Smelters, Stinking Weed and the Woodman Point Quarantine Station

The suggestion of a bill 'to enforce and regulate the performances of quarantine' in Western Australia, and conditions and fines in regards to masters, crew, passengers, cargo and vessels carrying any 'infectious disorder' requiring quarantine were released by the Perth Colonial Secretary's Office in early 1833. Carnac Island ceased to be used for quarantine and was replaced by the Woodman Point Quarantine Station, another 'hidden community' in the Cockburn Sound area.⁷⁷

This move was prompted by the case of 226 civilians and military personnel who had contracted whooping cough aboard the 'Anna Robertson', when, because of water contamination, they were moved from Carnac to tents on the beach at Woodman Point. The subsequent construction of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station allowed for a specific location to base an isolation hospital to care for plague patients, and later, those with infectious diseases.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly drew attention to the danger from the arrival of vessels at the port carrying smallpox in 1892, with the medical officer returning from an excursion there, warning that the disease could be 'a menace to the health of the town.' Member for Roebourne, Horatio Sholl, wisely pondered with some irony that he 'thought it strange that a medical man should go to that vessel and attend a small pox patient and then mix with the public.'⁷⁸

'The inevitable plague arrives in 1900. Rats come down ships' hawsers and trigger an outbreak of bubonic fever. Seven people die. Fremantle is shocked. The portents are not good. There is talk of black death and fears it will spread quickly. Bodies are given multiple wrappings before being weighted and dumped in deep water beyond Garden Island.'⁷⁹

In April 1900 the fear brought by a bubonic plague outbreak to Fremantle was easing, and the Fremantle Public Hospital, which had been isolated for 11 days, reopened for patients. At Woodman Point Quarantine Station, satisfactory progress was being made by all 'contacts'.

Nearby at the sea jetty, the precaution had been taken to restrict public access with the presence of a guard, and the port wharves and jetties had been disinfected with 'one and a quarter tons of chloride of lime and 50 gallons of phenyl and carbolic acid', this process driving so many rats from the filth under the South Quay, that a bounty was implemented for each dispatched and cremated rodent.

⁷⁷ The Perth Gazette and The West Australian Journal (WA), Saturday 2 February 1833, page 17; <https://www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com/> Accessed April 2024; for Quarantine Station history see Darroch, Ian, 'Western Sentinel: A History of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station 1851 – 1979', 2018 email friends@woodmanpointquarantinestation.com

⁷⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), 20 Jan 1892, page 2 'Legislative Assembly'

⁷⁹ Davidson, Ron, 'Fremantle Impressions', Fremantle Arts Centre Press, North Fremantle, 2007, page 122



The southern end of South Beach, Fremantle c1909

SLWA b5993631_2

750 tonnes of seaweed from South Beach was gathered by a party of men employed for that purpose; proving very unpleasant as 'a large quantity of decaying matter was found underneath the top layers.' It was transported by train and spread out for drying near the Smelters, originally intending to be left there to prevent sand drift, until Dr. Anderson insisted it would be risky, and should be burned.

'The Town Clerk remarked that he had that morning received a telephone message from the officials of the Smelting Works Company, objecting to the stinking weed being dumped near their works. Councillor Webster replied, "Well it's going there anyway. There's no one at the works"'.⁸⁰

A new portable Reek's steam disinfector was moving through the homes of blighted families, cleansing their clothing and bedding. Various steps were suggested, including concreting sodden backyards where urine and bathwater was thrown, the disposal of waste, the careful monitoring and recording of Fremantle Port arrivals, the installation an incinerator for dead animals and closing the Oval tip. Councillor Willis suggested taking all waste to the end of the Owen Anchorage railway line. 'There was plenty of room there, and it would be away from everybody.'⁸¹

But the community's improving confidence was to be short lived with Dr. Anderson's diagnosis of 6-year-old Septimus Sweeney, son of the Constable Sweeney from the Fremantle Police Station, who had been quietly ill for nine days, with vomiting and diarrhoea, severe pain in the groin area and glandular swelling. The entire home, attached to the lock-up was closed, and the family was isolated.⁸²

⁸⁰ Western Mail (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 April 1900, page 46

⁸¹ Western Mail (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 April 1900, page 46; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 19 April 1900, page 5

⁸² Western Mail (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 April 1900, page 46

**A MOONLIGHT RIDE. (By Emily H. Pelloe) Part II
Nurses' Graves.**

'Within the quarantine reserve there is a little known half-acre where grey granite records the fate of some of Australia's war nurses. They rest among native wattles, banksias and jarrah trees in a neat and tended enclosure where sunshine alternates with dancing shadows in summer and the blast of winter storms is checked by surrounding dense shrub growth, with the moan or murmur of the sea beating neverending requiem close by.

These members of a noble sisterhood, with soldier patients near, were victims of the pneumonic influenza outbreak on the troopship Boonah. On the grave of one nurse, a Queensland girl, an imposing monument has been erected by her relatives. Others have the regulation A.I.F. headstones. The grave of Nurse H. Williams, of Western Australia is marked by a white-painted wooden cross. Nurse Williams was one of those who volunteered when a call was made by the Department of Public Health on December 1918, for local civilian nurses for duty at Woodman's Point, where hundreds of returning soldiers suffering from pneumonic influenza, many hopelessly ill, had been landed...

It would have been quite easy to visualise a filmy wraith in the sandy hollow near the stranded schooner Ababama, where are buried the ashes of a plague patient cremated before the reservation of the quarantine station. The grave is marked by a picket fence, from the corner posts of which the sand has been swept away by many a wintry gale, leaving the pickets well up in the air all round.'⁸³

**Beaton, Donald
Smelter's Camp 1934**

-

Donald Beaton was listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle (Supplementary section) in 1934. He did not declare an occupation.

But when he earlier appeared in the 1931 Fremantle Electoral Roll, living at the rear of 95 South Terrace, his occupation was labourer. Similarly, his listing in the 1943 Perth, Nedlands Electoral Roll, was at Varsity Flats, Stirling Highway. Donald Beaton has not been fully researched.⁸⁴

⁸³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 16 February 1929, page 4

⁸⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

Beresford, Charles
1876 - 1959
South Beach 1910
showman

Charles Beresford was listed in the Fremantle, South Fremantle district electoral roll in 1910.⁸⁵ His address was simply 'South Beach', but it is his occupation of 'showman', that instantly casts a sparkle across the sand. Whilst not strictly within the boundaries of the Smelters, the lives of the itinerant show people often intermingled with those of the more established camp.

Theatrical types

Travelling shows supplemented family entertainments available at the Hydrodrome (more follows). But South Beach hosted many theatrical types of colourful and often questionable character.



Fremantle History Centre Image # 4693 South Beach (*not dated, post-1898*)

When Mr Herbert Turnham was discovered residing at South Beach in December 1929, the *Mirror* announced, 'There was no better known man in the show grounds of the State, from the Royal to distant country shows, or at South Beach, where he always spends Xmas and New Year.'⁸⁶

Also described as 'the great mesmerist and tortoise trainer',⁸⁷ in 1943 he was remembered as 'short, stout, ruddy faced, with a cavalryman's moustache, his voice making up what he lacked in inches...' He was a man born to a journalistic family, who instead decided to travel, then became a 'dealer with cheeses, walnuts, fish,

⁸⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁸⁶ *Mirror* (Perth, WA) Saturday 21 Dec 1929, page 9

⁸⁷ *Mirror* (Perth, WA) Saturday 4 Feb 1922, page 3

prawns, York hams and poultry.’⁸⁸ But upon the stupendous discovery of a six-legged sheep at Bunbury, ‘Bluey’ Turnham was able to take his talent to the Nation, as a showman. After travelling Australia, he sold the sheep in Tasmania, where it sadly pined away and died. An equally ambitious enterprise exhibiting a whale in Perth was scuttled by hot weather, expensive ice and zealous health officials, and ‘Bluey’ advantaged the same escape – ‘the monster was sold to some foreign fishmongers, and ended up as the best deep-sea schnapper.’⁸⁹



Mr. Herbert 'Bluey' Turnham, *The Mirror*, Saturday Night 14 October 1933

In 1941 the *Mirror* sensationally reported court appearances following a horrific razor attack on showman Albert 'Clarry' Clarence Paull as he was eating his 9:45pm post-performance dinner seated on a box beneath yellow lamplight at South Beach. Fair-haired Noliene Heyward had arrived from Kalgoorlie the day before, and possessed by apoplectic revenge, purchased a razor and left Paull, a married but estranged magician, with a terrible face and neck injury requiring 14 stitches. "Paull is the father of my baby," she alleged, "I only meant to frighten Paull, to make him go and see his people and tell the truth."⁹⁰ Heyward was released on £100 bond, thanking Judge Dwyer for his clemency, insisting, 'she had not the slightest wish to see anything more of him.'⁹¹

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ *Mirror* (Perth, WA), Saturday 11 Jan 1941, page 13

⁹¹ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Saturday 8 February 1941, page 16

Old Pop

Charles Beresford, an infrequent visitor to the West beyond 1910,⁹² was known affectionately in his old age as 'Pop'. He recounted being an only child, born in 1875 near Ararat to English parents.⁹³ He was without other Australian relatives or a wife and children, so for the most vital years of his life, 'Pop never stayed long in one spot. His job in life called him from place to place...'⁹⁴ Beresford worked in the travelling entertainment industry; shooting galleries, electric poker stalls, with a sideline of illegal betting.⁹⁵

It was a tenuous and makeshift lifestyle, fraught with occupational hazard. In 1926, Charles Beresford was called before a magisterial inquiry in Queensland under distressing circumstances. He was a 51 year-old labourer working for another travelling showman, Joseph Trindell, and in late June he was erecting a shooting gallery on a vacant section of land in West End, Brisbane, when screams alerted him to the electrocution of Henry Burnett.⁹⁶

'The scream was followed by a dull thud. He immediately ran into the shed and called out, "Is anyone there? Is anyone hurt?" There was no reply. He went behind a calico screen and saw the body of a man tangled up in wires, lying on the floor.'⁹⁷

Later in life, Beresford was a resident of the Shepparton area,⁹⁸ his shooting gallery occupying a tent on an empty block not far from the Lyric Theatre in Maude Street. By 1951, Charles Beresford had lost his sight, and locals 'affectionately called him 'Pop'. They loved the "old blind man", as he always referred to himself.'⁹⁹

'RED CROSS AIDS "POP"' was a heart-warming story that made the front page of the *Shepparton Advertiser*. Beresford was to become a new resident at Bairnsdale Benevolent Home, supported by contributions from the Red Cross, staff of Mooroopna hospital, Shepparton ambulance volunteers and 'all of Pop's friends.' The Red Cross offered public gratitude, wishing to thank 'all who helped in the smallest way in arranging Mr Beresford's departure and comforts,' noting, 'He left Shepparton well clothed and happy', with him humbly expressing, "'Thank you from the bottom of an old blind man's heart, especially the children.'"¹⁰⁰

⁹² The Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 29 April 1922, page 1

⁹³ The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld.), Monday 5 July 1926, page 2

⁹⁴ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic.), Friday 4 January 1952, page 1

⁹⁵ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic.), Tuesday 16 May 1944, page 3

⁹⁶ The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld.), Monday 5 July 1926, page 2

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Shepparton Electoral Rolls between 1937 and 1949 list him as a resident

⁹⁹ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic.), Friday 4 January 1952, page 1

¹⁰⁰ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic.), Tuesday 3 July 1951, page 1

A year later, as his faltering eyesight demanded specialist care, the Red Cross arranged for comfortable transportation and accommodation in a new 12-bed hostel for the blind in Ballarat. This was again reported on the front page of the *Shepparton Advertiser* as he was 'well remembered in Shepparton as a sincere gentleman...' ¹⁰¹

The reporter respectfully noted that Pop lived by his sworn philosophy, "Make what you can honestly, spend only what you have to on your own bare needs and give the rest to the needy." ¹⁰²

Charles Beresford died in Ballarat in 1959, aged 83. ¹⁰³ He was cremated and his ashes scattered at the new Ballarat Cemetery. ¹⁰⁴

Hydrodrome To Be Demolished: Baron Frieze's Last Battle

'One of the finest baritone voices in the State was that possessed by the hustlesome Baron Frieze, of South Perth. Full and melodious, he was an excellent exponent of the songs... being in request at almost every social or concert in Perth... (and playing) the sergeant of police in an amateur performance of the "Pirates of Penzance."' ¹⁰⁵



Fremantle History Centre Image # 1761 Aerial view hydrodrome and South Beach c1950

Fremantle City Council decided in February 1949 that the dangerous Hydrodrome building should be demolished, and this commitment was reaffirmed in March. Lessee Baron Harry Frieze, who occupied the front shop kiosk, was refused his request to stay and expand upon his plans to reinvigorate the seaside facilities. Frieze had long-harboured a passion to improve the facilities by building, 'another forty feet of frontage,' to help resolve 'the difficulty of any congestion,' and promised

¹⁰¹ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic.), Friday 4 January 1952, page 1

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ BDM Victoria, registration no. 27017

¹⁰⁴ <https://web.ballaratcemeteries.com.au>; search Beresford. Accessed April 2024

¹⁰⁵ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 26 March 1933, page 7

‘hamburgers and hot dogs will be a popular item for the South Beach goer. There is an excellent dancing floor and everything will be first class.’ But it was not to be.¹⁰⁶

Baron Frieze, a secessionist, and tailor by trade; in the 1930s the secretary of the Coastal District Master Tailors’ Industrial Union of Employees, and later the president of the South Fremantle Progress Association as well as proprietor of the South Fremantle tearooms, was a fine singer and had a fervent interest in entertainments. He had advertised for ‘amateur vocalists and instrumentalists’ in the interest of ‘forming an amateur opera club in Perth’ in 1907, despite being sued three years earlier for non-payment to musicians in a comic opera company. (Which caused him consternation, with the company in ‘great straits, as far as finances were concerned,’ and other musicians ‘had been content to wait.’)¹⁰⁷

He had been involved, in an identical capacity, championing certain developments at South Perth where he previously lived, with ideas about filling in Miller’s Pool, building swimming baths; and general committee involvement in the area in the late 1920s, before turning his interest to South Fremantle in his twilight years. Age was no barrier to his enthusiasm, devising plans to build a £40,000 hostel structure in 1949, with council leasing the land to him at a nominal amount, despite the demolition order for 31 August and the ‘inroads of white ants making the structure unsafe.’¹⁰⁸

The Hydrodrome, an elaborate structure of wood and iron, had previously been part of the Fremantle old Base Hospital, and was transferred to South Fremantle following the Great War. It originally housed the colourfully-named ‘Comet Skating Rink’ and other fabulous entertainments, eventually also including a dedicated swimming area illuminated at night time. Council opinions concerning the building were always divided, with disputes about connecting it to sewage in 1925, and when heavy gales damaged the retaining wall in 1926, the lessees announced to the council they should not be paying full rent while structural repairs were in progress.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 22 March 1949, page 8

¹⁰⁷ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 23 September 1934, page 6; Tailor, The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 October 1939, page 26; Opera, The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 10 May 1908, page 7; Secretary, The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 16 June 1932, page 16; Progress Association, The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 23 November 1946, page 6; Comic opera, Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 8 June 1904, page 2; Tearooms, Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Tuesday 21 May 1940, page 7; Singer, Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 14 July 1909, page 4

¹⁰⁸ South Perth, Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 3 Feb 1928, page 9; Miller’s Pool, The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 5 November 1937, page 26; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 7 May 1925, page 10; white ants, The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 21 June 1949, page 6

¹⁰⁹ Comet Rink, The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 12 December 1910, page 9; Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 22 March 1949, page 8; sewerage, Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 16 May 1925, page 10; Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 30 October 1926, page 12



AFTER THE BLOW

Western Mail 31 July 1924 p24

But the vibrant activities at the 'seaside resort' Hydrodrome delighted the public. Only ten minutes by tram from Fremantle, and a perfect place to be entertained on a hot evening, additional excursion trains from country areas were organised to deliver more patrons.¹¹⁰ In 1925 the lease moved from Arthur Cowell to new manager, Mrs. Davies, who immediately began renovating; advertising that they had recently purchased the 'very latest floor-finishing machines, electronically driven, to ensure the dance floors may have absolutely a "glaciarum" surface.' Christmas and New Year dances were very popular, with a large orchestra engaged and the dance floors 'given great attention' and 'all kinds of teas and soft drinks being procurable.'¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 4 February 1928, page 11; Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 20 November 1928, page 12

¹¹¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 14 Mar 1924, page 10; Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 17 January 1931, page 5; Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 22 August 1925, page 10; Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 26 December 1925, page 9; Mirror (Perth, WA), Teas, Saturday 20 November 1926, page 12



SLWA 100312PD Colin Smith and the Palais Royal Band play for a crowd at the South Beach Hydromedone 1929

By 1927 the Hydromedone was crowded nightly, with bathers 'anxious to cool off' in the shark-proof reserve. Conversational-style weekly advertisements highlighted the civilised advantages of the venue, from 'a beach devoid of seaweed and sharks', the 'coolest ballroom' to exceptionally green grass, a merry-go-round, rollerskating and miniature golf.¹¹²



Fremantle History Centre Image # 1779 The Baths, South Beach, Fremantle c1920s

¹¹² Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 27 December 1926, page 12, Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 24 December 1927, page 11; Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 18 December 1926, page 11.

For more stories and an excellent mud map of the South Beach area in South Fremantle in the 1920s see Bill Mark's book, 'South to Sillytown: Tales of battlers and larrikins', South Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1997, page 12

But Mrs. Davies relinquished management in 1928, with notorious, annual 'winter waves' and 'stormy winds' on the horizon, and plans to embark on a 'tour of England and Wales' with Mr. Davies seeming more attractive.¹¹³

Weekly dances and regular roller-skating carnivals continued, with 'Hydrodome(sic) fans, incidentally... still finding golf at this popular entertainment venue an attraction,' when Baron Frieze finally arrived.¹¹⁴

But the demolition proceeded and two years later both Frieze and his dreams of expansion had died, as he exited stage right in 1951.¹¹⁵

Kenny Goodes, 85 years of age in 2020, recalled pristine memories of the late 1930s, when the Smelters Camp ceased operation, to the early 1940s. He lived in a house on the right hand side at the end of Walker Street, which ended at the dunes. Ken sold the house in 1960 for £2000. A lady once rang him asking if he owned it, and told him it had just been sold for over \$1 million.

He remembered that before the caravan park, under the big pine tree that's still there, farmers' families used to come and camp. Kenny's father Harry was the caretaker. Where the cafe is in South Fremantle, that's where the original life savers were based. Next to that was a red building with slot machines permanently housed, but used in the summertime only. Also a merry-go-round, swinging boats, side shows, an octopus and ferris wheel. Barney Hayward managed these very popular entertainments, at the end of Douro Road where it bends, and the two-storey units are now. There was a toilet block opposite, near the fig trees.

On the left of Douro Road behind the roundabout was a roller skating rink and a dairy. They would let the cows out and they would walk unaccompanied up Douro Road to Hampton Road and go into Healey's paddock. In the afternoon at 4pm they would wander back again.

Two to three hundred metres beyond the amusements facility, toward Fremantle, was the South Fremantle railway station. Steam trains would go past Douro Road, often slipping on the railway tracks until sand was applied, and on to Robb Jetty on the right hand side. Trains would bring two loads on people to South Beach on a Sunday morning. 'South Fremantle was a beautiful place to live in those days.'

Ken didn't know Baron Frieze personally but the name was very well known around the area. He remembers that the huge two-storey Hydrodrome originally came from

¹¹³ Western Mail (Perth, WA), Thursday 22 July 1926, page 15; Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 19 May 1928, page 10

¹¹⁴ Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 February 1931, page 4; rollerskating, Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 10 April 1926, page 10

¹¹⁵ BDM WA, Registration no. 1101

Fremantle. Frieze sold cigarettes, lollies and drinks. For a shilling (10 cents) you could hire bathers, a towel and have a shower afterwards.¹¹⁶

Black Paddy/Collie Paddy
Late 1880s - 1944
Smelters Camp (date unknown)
stockman, boxer

'Black Paddy' was known more respectfully by close associates as 'Collie Paddy', showing his connection to the Collie area and Boronia Gully.¹¹⁷

Paddy enjoyed an enduring friendship with one of the earliest recorded residents of the Smelters Camp, Wandi. (See Wandi entry). Both were noted boxers who fought in local competition, and entertaining exhibition matches for over 20 years, and Wandi was the first 'cobber' to greet Paddy upon his return, when a charity effort brought him home after his Eastern States boxing commitments came to a disappointing end, after many losses¹¹⁸ and he was languishing on Palm Island.¹¹⁹



National Library Australia PIC 8395/824
Jerry Jerome shakes hands with [R] Black Paddy c1913 [Brand]

'He was about 5ft 4in or 5ft 5in, with legs like an emu and a big chest and to see him you would think he couldn't fight. But he was good. He was a true welterweight and he took on six-footers and all-comers.'¹²⁰

Known in the industry as 'Black Paddy', a welter-weight of Murchison origin,¹²¹ Paddy was considered the second-best aboriginal boxer in Australia, with large winnings that he generously spent. Cecelia Lazenby remembered Paddy in her oral history,

¹¹⁶ Kenny Goodes interviewed by Julie Raffaele 23 January 2020

¹¹⁷ Joe Northover Riley, conversation with Julie Raffaele 12 April 2019

¹¹⁸ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 5 January 1913, page 3

¹¹⁹ R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, 'Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions' (1985); Permit, Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 8 September 1916, page 8; Palm Island, Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 26 Feb 1924, page 8; Westralian Worker (Perth, WA), Friday 29 February 1924, page 16

¹²⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 5 August 1944, page 3

¹²¹ The Evening Star (Boulder, WA), Friday 2 August 1912, page 4

George Atkinson recalled his fame as a woodchopper and boxer,¹²² as did Clement Booth, recalling shows at 'Ugly Men's' in Fremantle,

'...I can remember Black Paddy and Wandy(sic) in the ring there, fighting, they were paid to fight, and it was a comic opera of course.'¹²³

Paddy was found work at Robb Jetty upon his return from Queensland, but died in poverty 1 August 1944 at the Sunset Rest Home.¹²⁴

In Ron Davidson's book, he says, 'I remember stories of Black Paddy, the Robb Jetty stockman with the infectious laugh. He would sit in the front row of the Majestic and constantly laugh. The laughter would spread until everyone was laughing.'¹²⁵

Black, George
rear Robb's Jetty 1919-1931
miner (1917), no occupation

A Notice of Application for Auriferous Lease number 1176T was published in the *Laverton and Beria Mercury*, 1 December 1900, announcing that the agent Kerridge was applying on behalf of F. Foreman, for the 'ground known as The Golden Orbit.'¹²⁶ At the time, Western Australia's annual average of gold production in 1901 to 1909 was £14,485,648 – almost double that of the closest rival State, Victoria.¹²⁷

They proceeded to work the 12 acres with optimism, 'on which a great amount of sinking and driving has been done... by Messer W. Kerridge and Party, who are pushing on the further development of the property with the intention of shortly putting through a parcel of 50 tons.' Expectations were to glean 30dwt of gold from 'a good body of stone' at the south end of the lease.¹²⁸

¹²² Cecelia Lazenby Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/2, 1996; Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

¹²³ Clement Booth Oral History SLWA: OH 1564 (page 89 of transcript), interviewed by Lorraine Stevens, 1982.
'Ugly Men's' is a reference to the Ugly Men's Association, which would hold carnivals and boxing at Uglieland in a showground environment in now Pioneer Park, Fremantle, <https://freotopia.org/organisations/uglymen.html> Accessed April 2024

¹²⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 1 August 1944, page 5

¹²⁵ Davidson, Ron, 'Fremantle Impressions', Fremantle Arts Centre Press, North Fremantle, 2007, page 273

¹²⁶ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 1 December 1900, page 4

¹²⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, <http://www.abs.gov.au>, [Search '1301.0 – Year Book Australia, 1911'] 23 Nov 2012, accessed April 2024

¹²⁸ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 20 April 1901, page 3

At the close of 1901 Kerridge and party are 'still of the opinion that a policy of energetic development is the only necessary one to achieve riches, as evidenced in their present work.' With their North shaft already reaching water level at 75ft, they are justifying a reef at 50ft, which was 'of good value.'¹²⁹ But they were flagging fast.

Meanwhile, in 1901, 'Messrs Black & Party', George Black and his brothers Leslie James and Charles Robert, busily exhibited their enterprising natures in nearby claims, including recovering a respectable 15oz 12dwt of gold from 12 tons of rock in April;¹³⁰ placing 'The Tired Feeling' claim under option, 'with a view to an ultimate ownership,' putting through crushings on the 'Cartledges' claim;¹³¹ and in February 1902, cheekily and successfully applied to 'sink a shaft for gold mining purposes on the Presbyterian Church property.'¹³²

As luck would have it, the Western Australian mining industry was about to experience the best returns of the year, and opportunely, circumstance and gravity brought George Black and his brothers to the Golden Orbit gold mine. In April 1902, *The West Australian* reported how digging an extra 5ft beyond that reached by Kerridge and party yielded a strike!

'Mr Black and party, of the Golden Orbit Mine, Mount Weld, has brought in a cake of gold weighing 50oz, 10dwt., ...the crushing was taken from the water level at 80ft.'¹³³ With an average return of £3 /13 that year, the windfall of approximately £150 would have been equivalent today to over \$25,000.¹³⁴ The brothers formally applied for the Golden Orbit lease in September, but also continued with many other options.¹³⁵

Charles and George invested in another lease with partners Willis and Clive at 'The Charleston' in October.¹³⁶ Leslie and Charles then moved on to other leases called 'The Enterprise'¹³⁷ and 'The Bush Lawyer'¹³⁸ in 1904 and 1905 with other partners.

¹²⁹ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 7 December 1901, page 2

¹³⁰ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 20 April 1901, page 3

¹³¹ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 18 May 1901, page 2

¹³² Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 15 Feb 1902, page 3

¹³³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 22 April 1902, page 3, see also Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 19 April 1902, page 2

¹³⁴ Approximation <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Accessed April 2024

¹³⁵ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 13 September 1902, page 4; see also Laverton Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 6 September 1902, page 4 and 13 September 1902, page 4

¹³⁶ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 18 October 1902, page 4

¹³⁷ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Friday 11 May 1904, page 4

¹³⁸ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Friday 2 June 1905, page 2

George was still in the area, mining in the Burtville, and later in 1906 worked with Charles at Charleton GM, while Leslie was employed at Sons of Westralia.¹³⁹ Leslie then worked as a carter, moved to the Coolgardie area, and apart from a painful incident in 1907 when George Black accidentally shot himself in the leg while out hunting roo with his mate Mr Oldfield,¹⁴⁰ the Black brothers kept busy in the industry. By 1912 George was in Moolyella,¹⁴¹ but the area, which at its height had experienced a tin-mining boom and offered employment to hundreds of men, then hosted only dozens.¹⁴²

George Black was listed on the Fremantle, Claremont Electoral Roll in 1914 and 1915 as a resident of the Claremont Old Men's Home.¹⁴³ Perhaps after years of dangerous and debilitating mining toil, his health was suffering. But whether discharged or voluntarily moving on, he did not return to the goldfields, and lived the long period from 1917 until 1932 at the Smelters Camp.¹⁴⁴

George Black was a man for whom hard work and a little luck had substituted religion. He passed away at 75 years of age on 19 September 1932 and was buried in Fremantle Cemetery's Non-denominational section.¹⁴⁵ The Golden Orbit mine continued to change hands to other lessees, still producing returns in 1917.¹⁴⁶

Blurton, Lulu Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See

¹³⁹ Coolgardie, Burtville Electoral Roll 1906; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] accessed Sept 2018

¹⁴⁰ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 14 Sept 1907, page 2

¹⁴¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] accessed September 2018

¹⁴² The Northern Times (Carnarvon, WA), Saturday 12 July 1912, page 6

¹⁴³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] accessed Sept 2018

¹⁴⁴ South Fremantle Electoral Roll; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] accessed Sept 2018

¹⁴⁵ Metropolitan Cemeteries Board. Mon Q Section, gravesite No. 0104

¹⁴⁶ Other Leasees, Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 7 July 1917, page 3; Returns, Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA), Saturday 8 December 1917, page 1

paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.¹⁴⁷

Boswell, Robert Charles

1880 - 1957

Smelters, South Fremantle 1948

horse driver (1916), carpenter, caretaker

Robert Charles Boswell was born in 1883 to mother Lucy and father Robert.¹⁴⁸

Six Chambers Loaded

In Fremantle court, witness George Allen recalled receiving a terrible shock in April 1902, after opening his front door to a very angry John McCartney, who was looking for his wife. McCartney was an ex-cavalry soldier invalided at Middelberg during the Second Boer War. Allen described his wife, Mrs Allen, leading McCartney to the gate to encourage him to leave the address, when McCartney drew a revolver from his pocket menacing, 'It is either one or two of us tonight.' McCartney's wife was indeed inside the home, having sought shelter and protection with the Allens.

McCartney then walked to 22-year-old Robert Boswell's house, arriving about 11.45pm. Boswell remembered McCartney saying of the gun, 'This is my only friend,' and pointing it at him. McCartney argued in court that he never threatened to shoot Boswell, but also declared paradoxically that he had no memory of holding a revolver. Constable Plummer confirmed he had arrested McCartney in Alma Street, drunk and with all six chambers of the gun loaded. He was warned and fined £10 by Mr. Fairbairn, magistrate.¹⁴⁹

Three Fingers

Robert Boswell's application for enlistment in the Australian Army in 1916 describes a 36-year-old man living at 64 Mandurah Road, South Fremantle (then an extension of South Terrace),¹⁵⁰ who was 5ft 8in tall with a chest measurement of 36-38 inches.

¹⁴⁷ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

¹⁴⁸ BDM WA Registration no. 102 (Death entry)

¹⁴⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 21 April 1902, page 3

¹⁵⁰ 'Mandurah Road was the continuation of South Terrace, beginning at South Street and ending south of Island Street, where the abattoir used to be. It was changed to South Terrace during 1951/52.' Fremantle City Library History Centre *"City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle Street Names Index"*, page 48, https://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle Street Names Index_0.pdf Accessed April 2024

The application was rejected however, because of '3 fingers missing on left hand' – an injury of consequence from his time in the Locomotive Workshops.¹⁵¹

Boswell was charged in April 1945 for 'obstructing the free passage of pedestrian traffic during the weekend' AKA picking up his returns, or laying a bet with an SP bookie at Canning Highway, South Fremantle. Boswell was 63 and working as a carpenter.¹⁵² He was targeted again in a raid in October, receiving the same charge, but this time warned any further offence would result in gaol time.¹⁵³

Bob the Rat

Three years later, Boswell was living at the Smelters Camp; friction had developed between him and another resident, 39-year-old labourer Edward Fulton. Fulton assaulted 66-year-old Boswell with a stick by hitting him on the head with a broom handle. It was 7pm in the evening along Mandurah Road, when Fulton passed Boswell, uttering, 'Bob, the rat,' and when confronted by Boswell he performed the blow, which resulted in injuries to Boswell's scalp. Fulton was fined £3 with 14/ costs.¹⁵⁴

Boswell raised the alarm just before Christmas 1948, when he had not seen his neighbour John (Jack) Taylor for many days; this led to the troubling discovery of Taylor's body in his four-room shack. Just over a week later, the same shack was destroyed by fire.¹⁵⁵ (See John Taylor entry for more information)

Robert Charles Boswell died in Fremantle in 1957 at 74 years of age.¹⁵⁶

Bottomley, Arthur Albert **c1879 - 1956** **Smelters' Camp 1943-1954** **labourer**

Arthur Albert Bottomley was born about 1879 in Fremantle, the son of William Bottomley and Isabella Griffin.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵¹ NAA: MT1486/1, Barcode 6516263 Boswell, Robert Charles; Boswell's injury, The Umpire (Fremantle, WA), Saturday, 1 March 1902, page 2, 'A Chapter of Accidents'; also The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday, 1 March 1902, page 11, 'Accidents at Fremantle'

¹⁵² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 4 April 1945, page 2

¹⁵³ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 15 October 1945, page 6

¹⁵⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 27 August 1948, page 4

¹⁵⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 22 December 1948, page 7; Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 29 December 1948, page 1

¹⁵⁶ BDM WA Registration no. 102

¹⁵⁷ BDM WA Registration no. 19870

Arthur's father William Bottomley was born c1832 and arrived in Fremantle as a convict from Bradford, England on the *Belgravia*. He was a semiliterate coach maker serving 7 years for larceny. His date of arrival was 4 July 1866 and yet his ticket of leave date was 18 October 1867 – perhaps remand time or good behaviour was taken into account. He was employable as a servant, wheelwright, blacksmith, carpenter or gardener.¹⁵⁸

William Bottomley died 2 July 1900. His age was listed as 64, but may have been closer to 68, according to his convict record.

Arthur Bottomley and his brother Benjamin shared accommodation in 1901 at Orient Street, Beaconsfield, and by 1905 their mother Isabella, who had become a widow, lived with them at number 25. Arthur was a storeman and Ben, a tinsmith.¹⁵⁹ Isabella moved between her sons and her daughter Eliza Anne's residence, because she does not appear at the Orient Street location between 1906 and 1912. By 1914 she was living with them again after the death of her daughter on 29 November, aged 44. Both of her sons were lumpers in 1916, and they lived together at 24 Orient Street, now South Fremantle.

In April 1916, Arthur Bottomley tried to enlist in the AIF. He listed his occupation as miner and he was 37 and 5'6 1/2". He refused to be vaccinated and was rejected, despite being deemed fit for active service.¹⁶⁰

Isabella died 3 December 1916, aged 70. Her sons lived together until 1917, after which Arthur lived alone. Later, in 1938, he appeared in the WA Government Gazette as an owner and cabinetmaker at 8 Orient Street, South Fremantle. Then in 1943 Bottomley was living at the Smelters' Camp, Fremantle and working as a labourer.¹⁶¹

The headstone at Fremantle Cemetery for William, Isabella and Eliza Anne is marked as 'erected by their loving son, Ben.'¹⁶²

In *The Sunday Times* article 'THEY CALL IT POVERTY POINT – AND NO WONDER!' Bottomley is happily and articulately quoted;
'Among those who talked openly to reporters was aged pensioner A. A. Bottomley. "I certainly am not proud to be found living in these conditions," he said, "but what choice do you think I have, young man? With prices what they are and rents like they are I have my choice of starving in a slum in town or eking out a frugal existence rent

¹⁵⁸ <http://fremantleprison.com.au/history-heritage/history/convict-database/> Accessed 2024

¹⁵⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

¹⁶⁰ NAA, Item Number 6516298 Bottomley A.A. military record

¹⁶¹ Government Gazette of Western Australia, Friday 11 March 1938, <https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/gazettes.html> Accessed April 2024; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

¹⁶² <https://billiongraves.com/grave/Isabella-Bottomley/7624898>

free here. I choose this. I've had this place for a number of years and it would do the politicians good to come out and have a look at it and see how it compared with their own. Then they might at least raise my pension.'"¹⁶³

Arthur Albert Bottomley died in Fremantle in 1956, aged 77. He was buried in Fremantle Cemetery.¹⁶⁴

Bray, William

1839 -

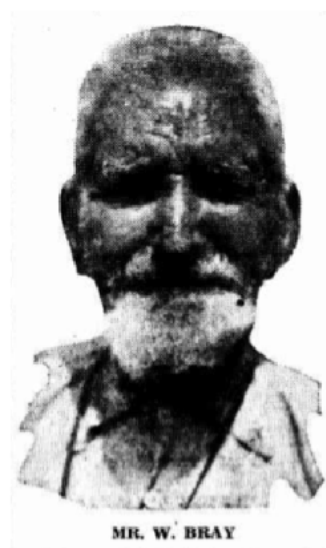
Smelters' Camp, near Robb's Jetty, South Fremantle

1915-1917, 1922, 1926-1928, 1932

miner

'Living quietly upon his pension away down in a little slice of Federal territory between the old Fremantle smelters and Robb's Jetty, veteran alluvial man Bill Bray. The old battler is now nearing the ninety mark, and looks hale and hearty in spite of his long and arduous span upon this mud-ball.'¹⁶⁵

Miner Bill Bray appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle 1915-1917 electoral rolls living at Smelters Camp, near Robb's Jetty, South Fremantle. He was listed again on the 1922, 1926-1928 and 1931 rolls, with absences in between testifying to a nomadic lifestyle even in his older years.¹⁶⁶



Daily News 29 September 1932 p2

Bray was a gentle man who lived on his own terms, sharing many audacious stories with his old mate Pat C. Quigley AKA Hughes (see later entry) in their sunset years. Clashing with a mining giant wasn't an action pre-planned by Bray, but he would no doubt say his sense of fairness got the better of him.

The 'Notorious Bray' of the Ivanhoe Venture Riots

'THE IVANHOE VENTURE LEASE. TWO DIGGERS IMPRISONED FOR CONTEMPT. EXCITING SCENES AT KALGOORLIE. MR. MORAN HUSTLED' headlined in *The West Australian* in early March 1898.

Bray and Hughes were charged with contempt of the Warden's Court in Kalgoorlie for disobeying an 1897 order and mining for gold on the lease of the mighty Ivanhoe

¹⁶³ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

¹⁶⁴ BDM WA Registration no. 195; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board <https://www.mcb.wa.gov.au/> Accessed April 2024

¹⁶⁵ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 1 April 1928, page 2

¹⁶⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [Electoral Roll] Mentioned in The Sunday Times, 1 April 1928, page 2; and Daily News, 29 Sep 1932 as resident those years

Venture company. The company had disputed and ordered them off the lease. Bray was randomly assumed a ringleader. He produced his valid license, asserting his rights. The men decided to continue working their diggings despite the Warden's advice they let the Supreme Court take care of it. From the sense of foreboding described in the article, it was apparent that it was sombrely understood this was a cause Bray and Hughes believed in.

'The warden spoke severely to the men and said he would commit them to the Fremantle gaol until they themselves considered that they had purged the contempt, and petitioned for their release. The sentence was, therefore, unlimited.'¹⁶⁷ The sentencing immediately ignited a gathering of 400 diggers, which grew to 600 as they marched two and a half miles to Kalgoorlie to acknowledge Bray and Hughes in the railway carriage in which they were being detained before the leaving with the Express train. There was a risk of a breakout, quelled by 'the more sensible' of the mob present, who kept a necessary order and earned the respect of the police and reporters present.

Member for Kalgoorlie, Mr. C. J. Moran, refused to speak with miners who gathered at Wilkie's Hotel; he was jostled and extracted by police. The excitement level increased.

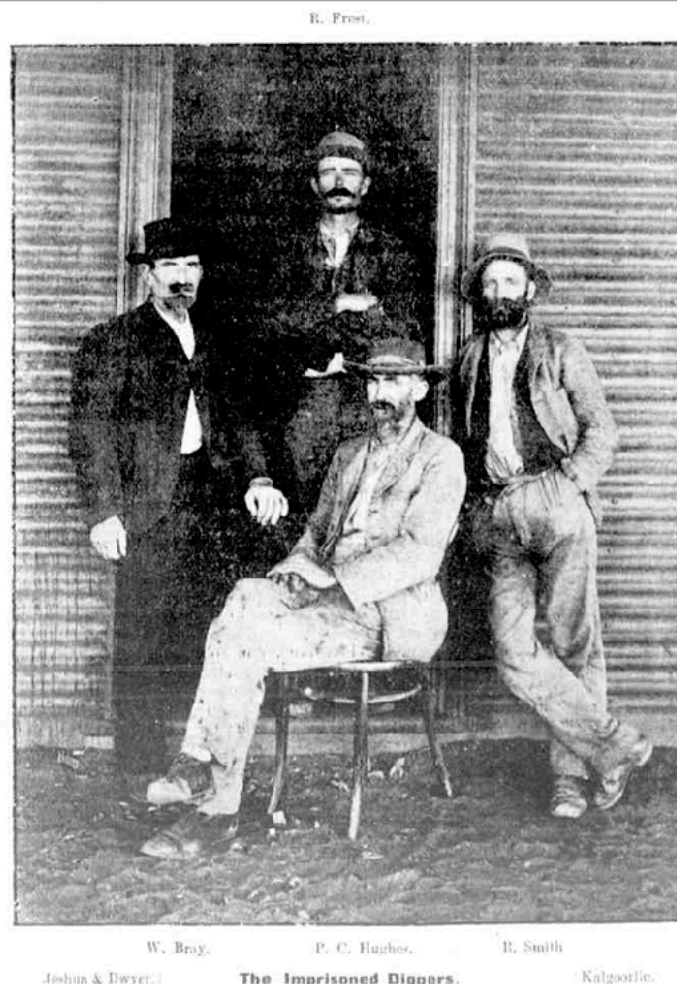
'The crowd then went up Hannans-street and opposite the Palace Hotel an effigy of Mr. Wittenoom (*Minister of Mines*) was publicly hanged to an electric light post in Maritana-street. The effigy bore a label with the words, "Ten Feet Drop" on it, in allusion to the amendment of the regulation. After the hanging, which took place about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the effigy was burned amidst deafening cheers. As the effigy was falling a voice cried, "There goes a worse man than Deeming."¹⁶⁸

Not one to miss a political opportunity, Mr. J. J. Wilkinson (defeated in the last election by Moran) called upon the raging miners, "'Be quiet boys. Everything will turn out all right,'" as they returned to replace Bray and Hughes at the mine in a show of defiance.

How is it that a Minister of Mines was compared to a serial killer and yet the miners and the police show mutual restraint? A mass meeting that night in Kalgoorlie discussed the accepted privileges given to alluvial or surface miners under the Goldfields Act of 1835, so a sense of righteousness pervaded all; and a challenge to stuff each and every one of them in prison cells was issued. Mr F. C. B Vosper MLA, himself a former journalist once arraigned for seditious libel as shearers' and miners' actions disrupted the working man's landscape across Australia, did not take part in the riot but promised to visit the men in Fremantle Prison, and would raise the question of the whole affair in Parliament.

¹⁶⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 8 March 1898, page 5

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.



Bray with Hughes from 'Kalgoorlie Western Argus', Thursday, 9 June 1898, page 12

'With several others, Bill Bray was sent to the House of the Hill, but while there they were treated as political prisoners, all literature being allowed them as well as having their hot dinners sent in to them.'

On the 8 April, 1898 'The Inquirer and Commercial News' reported, 'Yesterday the sheriff received the following order from Warden Hare: - "I hereby order the release of Patrick Hughes and William Bray, who were committed to Fremantle for contempt of this court on the 7th March, also Robert Smith and Robert Henry Frost, who were committed to the same prison for a similar offence on the 11th March last..." and the men were released early afternoon on the 7 April. 'Before leaving, the four men expressed their thanks to the superintendent of the prison (Mr. George) for the manner in which they had been treated during their incarceration.'¹⁶⁹

Smith and Frost had been arrested from later trouble on the lease. Bray and Hughes only served a month, Bray recounting, 'Judge Hensman, who was on the Supreme Court Bench, was a fair man. He decided the case in our favor and we got the 300oz. of gold which were in dispute.'¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁹ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA), Friday 8 April 1898, page 1

¹⁷⁰ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 29 September 1932, page 2

Cold Dip

Bray came out from Devonshire to Melbourne, Victoria in 1853 as a young man with his father, a sea captain who was later a building contractor, his mother, a brother and sister. He was spirited away from a building apprenticeship by gold fever in the 'Roaring Nineties', spending fifty years working as a miner, first in Castlemaine and Victoria, then taking the long trek to Western Australia in 1893, at Black Flag, then Kalgoorlie.

"I never struck anything big, but I had fair luck. Most of the time I was prospecting, but there were times when I was satisfied to work for wages; — but not for long... I made a lot of money in my time, and I spent it," and the old man laughed lightly as he made the admission. "Like all miners... I have had my good times and bad."¹⁷¹

When asked if he ever married, Bray confessed he once had, in Melbourne - the biggest mistake in his life and not long-lasting. 'For a long time I felt like the man who stands and shivers on the bank afraid to plunge into cold water. At last I made up my mind and plunged— and I found the water colder than I thought it would be.'¹⁷²

A Kind Soul

September 1928 saw a fire at the Smelters Camp, at that time commonly known as the Pensioners' Camp, which housed about 30 small structures in the dunes.

'Burned out of his well-appointed camp near the old Fremantle smelters, old Bill Bray, who will be remembered as being a kindly-souled alluvial man when the big trouble was on around the famous Adelaide leases along the Golden Mile. In the fire he lost most of his belongings as well as a well-built camp. He didn't deserve his hard luck.'¹⁷³

Taking all in his stride, he simply built another.¹⁷⁴ Still a resident in 1932, he was interviewed by a reporter mysteriously named 'Q.C' from the *Daily News*, who approached the camp and found Bray laying on his trundle bed, enjoying the newspaper with the aid of a reading glass. Skeptical of advice he had received and observing a man who didn't look more than 60 years old -

'A pair of keen blue eyes, an alertness of mind and movement, and a remarkably retentive memory belie his years,' the reporter asked Bray his age, who replied, 'I will be 93 next month, and I think I will see the century.'¹⁷⁵

Mr Bray still had strong opinions about how a man should conduct himself in the

¹⁷¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 29 September 1932, page 2

¹⁷² Ibid. Although there is the publication of a letter claiming to have been provided by Bray's wife at Boulder - perhaps common-law, or a marketing device used by Pat C. Hughes. Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Thursday 24 March 1989, page 27 'Letter from Fremantle Gaol.'

¹⁷³ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 2 September 1928, page 2

¹⁷⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

¹⁷⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 29 September 1932, page 2

world and refused to join the new pensioner's association; he would harshly judge those who used their pension in the public house instead of the market, and then came asking to 'borrow a bob', and create drunken havoc for younger drivers on the roads. He loved his tobacco, and his independence, and lived in his shack in the dunes 'contented with his lot', 'on and off' for nearly 20 years.¹⁷⁶

Inspired by William Bray, the humbled reporter suggested that the Centenary Committee recognises 'those veterans who have done so much to lay the solid foundations of the present prosperous State,' and 'see that these Old Pioneers are in the first vehicles of any proposed procession.'

Bropho, Tom and Bella, and child Meatworks Camp 1933

-

These names appear in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.¹⁷⁷

Brown, Alice Smelters Camp 1949

-

Alice Brown was listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle in 1949. She does not declare an occupation. Alice Brown has not been fully researched.

Brown, Archibald Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906 labourer

Archibald Brown was listed at Owen's Anchorage, on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1903 - 1906 as a labourer.¹⁷⁸ Archibald Brown has not been fully researched.

¹⁷⁶ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 1 April 1928, page 2; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 2 September 1928, page 2; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 29 September 1932, page 2; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 8 March 1898, page 5; The W.A. Record (Perth, WA), Saturday 15 December 1900, page 46

¹⁷⁷ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

¹⁷⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

Brown, Cornelius William

1862 - 1933

Smelters, South Fremantle 1933

pensioner

Cornelius William Brown's death is reported in *The West Australian*, 22 June 1933 under 'General News'.¹⁷⁹ Brown was born at Fremantle in 1862 to mother Anna (Hannah Alice) Adams and father John.¹⁸⁰ He had an early charge of disorderly conduct, where he was fined 15s and costs. His three companions were fined 10s.¹⁸¹

He 'died suddenly' at the Smelters Camp 'while sitting on the verandah at his home last night.'¹⁸² Cornelius Brown has not been fully researched.

Smeltermen and Cameleers

Elsie Tonkin, the daughter of Edwin Tonkin, was interviewed by Jean Teasdale on behalf of the State Library of Western Australia in 1975 as part of the Battye Library oral history programme. Elsie lived with her family at the Welsh Harp Hotel on the corner of Collie and Pakenham Street, and remembered the Smelters and the presence of Afghan cameleers in the vicinity.

'The family had separate eating quarters to the boarders... We boarded a couple of smeltermen when the smelter works started out south but there weren't many travellers - not much passing trade. There was another Hotel as well - the Esplanade I think.

While we were living at the Hotel, camels often used to be brought down to the parks nearby and they would camp on the beach. They had empty packs, two each side and were brought by Indians with turbans - Afghans. They would camp a few days then go off to load up and return to Kalgoorlie. They didn't interfere with any one - just camp and move on. We children used to go down and watch them. I've seen them kill the baby camels - they couldn't take them with them. I don't say I saw this often but a thing like that remains in your memory for a long time.'¹⁸³

¹⁷⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 22 June 1933, page 13

¹⁸⁰ BDMWA, registration no. 6632

¹⁸¹ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1884. 7 May, page 94

¹⁸² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 22 June 1933, page 13

¹⁸³ Tonkin, Elsie, Oral History. SLWA: OH4829, July 2004. Interviewed by Jean Teasdale, Library Board of Western Australia http://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa_b1766738_10 Accessed 2024

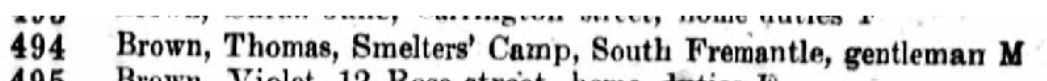
Brown, Ned
Robb Jetty, late 1800s
stockman

Ned Brown¹⁸⁴ was named by Annie Baker (née Davenport) as an Aboriginal stockman who had his meals with the Dixon family, and Wandí. She stated that Ned 'lived in a little one room place on the property just near the slaughter yard,' in a similar manner to Wandí's living arrangements - exact nature of his connection to the camp to be established.¹⁸⁵ Ned Brown has not been fully researched.

Brown, Thomas
Smelters' Camp, Robb's Jetty 1909-1925
fireman, gentleman (1913)

Thomas Brown was listed at the Smelters camp, Robb's Jetty, as a fireman on the Fremantle, subdivision South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1912.¹⁸⁶ Along with Driver F. R. Dalley, he was charged of stealing a case of Usher's whiskey from the Geraldton to Cue train in 1899, due for delivery in a batch of 12 cases to Mt Magnet. After multiple witness statements were delivered and a forensic examination of the evidence at hand, both men were dismissed of the charge.

They were later reinstated by the railway company by means of a telegram, 'after perusing the evidence given on the case, arrived at the same conclusion as the jury... who acquitted the men without a stain on their character,' but transferred him to Kalgoorlie. 'Dalley and Brown have since been warmly congratulated by their friends'¹⁸⁷ – *perhaps involving a few celebratory drinks?* As well as harbouring a penchant for fine spirits, Brown was a man of sartorial humour – on the 1913 to 1922 Electoral rolls in the same camp locale, he declared his occupation as 'gentleman'. Thomas Brown has not been fully researched.



494 Brown, Thomas, Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle, gentleman M

Thomas Brown was a gentleman indeed. 1913, Australian Electoral Commission

¹⁸⁴ Annie Baker Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/9, 1996 - the exact nature of his connection to the camp to be established.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

¹⁸⁷ Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette (Cue, WA), Thursday 31 August 1899, page 2; see also Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette (Cue, WA), Saturday 5 August 1899, page 2

Brown, William
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1947
labourer

William Brown was mentioned in *The West Australian* 4 March 1947 as a resident of the Smelters Camp.¹⁸⁸ The article briefly describes his involvement in illegal street betting. Mr Brown has not been fully researched.

Bryce, Archibald McPhail (McFall Brice/Bryce)
1896 - 1969
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953 - 1955
labourer

Bryce, Elizabeth Stuart
1899 -
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953 - 1954

Bryce, Colin
1924 -
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953
labourer

The Bryce family do not appear on any South Fremantle Electoral Rolls, all dates mentioned are sourced from newspaper articles, and likely correspond over the 1953 - 1954 time period.

Archibald McPhail Bryce was born in Glasgow, Scotland, 26 January 1896. He was a married labourer of almost 45 years of age when he enlisted for WWII service in February 1941. He had migrated from Glasgow to Albany in 1923 with wife Elizabeth and toddler sons John and Colin.¹⁸⁹

His wife Elizabeth's address in 1941 was the Ritz Hostel in Murray Street, Perth and later at Chester Street, South Fremantle. There was also a note of an earlier residency at Hester Siding. He had served previously in the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery in WWI in France. His enlistment was brief and fraught with difficulty. He was immediately injured on Rottneest during training, and two months later reported as absent without leave three times in April, and reported for disobeying a lawful command. He suffered detention and then multiple AWOL infractions and another casualty on Rottneest in May lead to his eventual discharge for 'discreditable service' at the end of August, with an additional note of 'his services being no longer required.'¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 4 March 1947, page 6

¹⁸⁹ SRO of Western Australia; Albany: Inward Passenger List from Overseas 1900 - 1932; Accession: 108; Item: 2; Roll: 18; UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890 - 1960 Ancestry.com, Provo UT, USA, 2012

¹⁹⁰ NAA: B884, W27555 Barcode 6496617 Bryce, Archibald military record

Eunice Hornby Trial

Three years earlier in July 1938, Archibald McPhail Bryce had been a witness at a murder trial. Bryce was then a dairy farmer at Hester Siding, near Bridgetown, and Walter Hornby had been shot in the back of the head whilst sitting in a chair in his home after dinner. Hornby's daughter, 18 year-old Eunice Hornby, was charged for murdering her father with a .22 shotgun. Bryce had personally experienced Walter Hornby's violent temper, but bravely ran to the neighbouring farmhouse, sheltering under cover – thinking that Hornby himself was on a shooting rampage. He proceeded inside the house and wrapped the dying Mr Hornby's head in towels. Young Eunice had emerged from the house crying, 'I shot Daddy,' and assured her mother, who was in hiding that day after another violent exhibition from her husband, that she was not to worry because her 'eighteen years of misery are over.' A burst of applause, mostly from female supporters, erupted from the court's public gallery when Eunice Hornby was acquitted.¹⁹¹



Image courtesy of the National Archives of Australia. NAA: A9301, 80371
Bryce, Colin McPhail

Keen to Serve

Archibald's son, Colin McPhail Stewart Bryce was born 26 November 1922 in Perth, Scotland. Bryce was a 19-year-old stockman and farm hand when he enlisted in May 1942, and his family lived on a farm near Nannup. Bryce was keen to serve, signed up and only later received his parents' consent.

After a period of training at Pearce Base Perth (RAAF) and then in Mitcham, Melbourne, Bryce disembarked two days before Christmas in 1942. Bryce found his service fulfilling, recording no infractions, unlike his father. In 1944, Archibald Bryce wrote from Marhill Farm, near Hester Siding, asking his son to request a discharge to help on the

dairy farm. Colin does so in October and December, citing his father's weak heart and his request for assistance during the harvest, but the application was denied and only later granted in January. Bryce enlisted again after the war in 1946, to the interim RAAF in the same role, an LAC Guard.

Colin Bryce was reported as living at the Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle at age 30, in a 1953 newspaper article, which identified him as a labourer gaoled for one month for having 'been an idle and disorderly person without visible means of support.' Four years earlier, in 1949, at 27 years of age, Bryce lived in Francis Street, Perth, and faced charges for receiving stolen goods in the Perth Police Court. He pleaded guilty, and blamed alcohol as clouding his judgment. He was released on bond.¹⁹²

¹⁹¹ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Wednesday 13 July 1938, page 4

¹⁹² NAA A9301_80371 Barcode 4936225 Bryce, Colin McPhail, Military Record; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 22 September 1953, page 8; Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 3 December 1949, page 10; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 10 December 1949, page 31; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 8 December 1949, page 10

He was still living in the Smelters Camp in 1955, when in January Mary Khan, a 33-year-old domestic and fellow resident of the camp, assaulted him, which resulted in his admittance to Fremantle Hospital early in the morning.¹⁹³

Fighting seemed to be an unfortunate aspect of camp life during this time period, with Colin's father Archibald also involved in a court case in 1955 over charges relating to a fight between him and 'a Balt' over a tin of sardines. 'Balt' was a derogatory geographical term for a gentleman of origins in proximity to the Baltic Sea. The fight erupted during a dare that Bryce could eat the contents of the tin 'in a moment' after a period of heavy drinking. Bryce pleaded guilty under provocation and 'the Balt' took flight and was largely blamed.¹⁹⁴

Elizabeth Bryce was also twice a victim of violence at the camp. In 1953 she was repeatedly attacked by 25-year-old Bevan Howard Hay with a broomstick, after going outside her hut to identify the source of a brick being thrown on her roof. Hay, from Hilton Park, was among a group of young men who entered the camp just after midnight. Hay was gaoled for a month and Mr. J. M. Groom JP stated, 'This is a most despicable and cowardly offence for a youth of your age to have done. Disturbances of this nature are too prevalent at the camp.' Bryce, who was 54 at the time, was treated for bruises at Fremantle Hospital.¹⁹⁵

The following year, on 23 September 1954, fellow resident Andrew Joseph Walton (46) was charged with assaulting Elizabeth Bryce with a punch over her right eye. He was also sentenced to one month.¹⁹⁶

Archibald and Elizabeth Bryce later lived in the northern suburbs of Perth, Western Australia. Archibald McPhail Bryce died aged 73 in 1969.¹⁹⁷

¹⁹³ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4.

Bryce also went missing in a 1958 report. Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1958. 'Bryce, Colin McPhail Stuart (photo and description vide Police Gazette, 1956 Supplement No. 18). Special Inquiry is requested for the present whereabouts of the above named who is wanted for payment of the sum of three pounds (£3) on Warrant of Execution No. 192. Any information to be forwarded to the Officer in Charge, Criminal Investigation Branch, Perth. -CIB. 56/8165. (N.P.R.)' but by 1959 the issue appears to have been resolved, Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1959. 'No further enquiries necessary' (page 190, A16)

¹⁹⁴ Blackwood Times (Bunbury, WA), Friday 24 March 1950, page 1

¹⁹⁵ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 20 December 1953, page 6; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 21 December 1953, page 25

¹⁹⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 23 September 1954, page 14

¹⁹⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; BDM WA Registration no. 1807

Burns, Charles Joseph
Robb's Jetty 1916-1917
carpenter, shipwright, pugilist

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language relating to race, quoted from a newspaper published in 1904.

Charles Burns was a carpenter, boat builder and boxing coach accustomed to using a little shuffling and skirting to survive. Bankruptcy proceedings against him on 25 October 1897 introduced him already experiencing a challenge. 'In the matter of Charles Joseph Burns... the bankrupt's deficiency amounted to £81 17s 6d.¹⁹⁸ He attributed his insolvency to his having had too much work on hand at one time, and to the low prices for tendering.'¹⁹⁹ He also claimed an 'inability to secure timber caused him a loss,'²⁰⁰ as the industry was experiencing high demand.²⁰¹

He diversified as a sporting promoter and coach. The boxing editorial of the *Evening Star* on 12 November 1904 announced Burns was in the process of 'endeavouring to arrange another match between Tom Dunn and Bob Turner for a purse of £200.'²⁰² It was his involvement with the boxing scene that put him in a few scrapes.

Coffee Point was a boating slipway on the Melville foreshore where passengers would board the Perth-bound paddle steamers before a dedicated bus service existed.²⁰³ Burns was working in the boat shed on 9 August 1904 when 'Joseph Brown otherwise Pluto, a well-known colored pugilist,'²⁰⁴ arrived and an argument and fight ignited. Burns denied all accusations, however Brown admitted having used bad language in response to Burn's insults. The case was dismissed.

Burns was later presented as a witness in a 1906 city court case, as he taught boxing in a building's rooms on Barrack Street, Perth, which also leased an illegal gaming house. Access was via a trapdoor to the rear; through which Burns curiously happened to be exiting, after which claiming, despite not actually being inside, that the complainant had not been assaulted or robbed by two other thugs.²⁰⁵

¹⁹⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 9 October 1897, page 2. £81 17s 6d would equate to almost \$15,000 by today's value. Approximation <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Accessed April 2024

¹⁹⁹ Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA), Fri 29 Oct 1897, page 11

²⁰⁰ Western Mail (Perth), Friday 29 October 1897, page 12

²⁰¹ <https://www.jarrahdale.com/a-history-of-jarrahdale-western-australia/> Accessed April 2024

²⁰² The Evening Star (Boulder, WA), Saturday 12 November 1904, page 3

²⁰³ Heritage of Coffee Point, see City of Melville WA, Local Government Inventory at https://www.melvillecity.com.au/static/attachments/2014/June/3499_2014_LGI_Place_Records_Merged.pdf Accessed April 2024

²⁰⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 18 August 1904, page 4

²⁰⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 21 September 1906, page 6

Charles Burns was listed at Robb's Jetty on the 1917 Fremantle, subdivision South Fremantle Electoral Roll, suggesting he had once again suffered an economic pummelling.

Butler, John near Smelting Works 1905

-

John Butler was admitted to hospital early on the morning of 4 September 1905 with 'severe burns about the head, arms and shoulders.' Falling asleep in a tent near the Smelting Works, South Fremantle, his bedding and tent were ignited by a candle left lit for reading. Although suffering immensely, he was able to get to the Smelters, where the night watchman, Mr. Julius Major dressed his injuries and alerted the Fremantle Police and ambulance. All of Butler's possessions were destroyed but he was expected to survive.²⁰⁶

There are several stories mentioning a 'John Butler' in the vicinity of Fremantle, but as yet, none can be precisely matched with the former Butler. These include several AIF recruits and a drover also based around Wyndham, but would require further research. An article published in 1902 describes a spirited race –

'RECKLESS RIDERS John Butler and Walter Holding were fined 20s, with costs, at the Fremantle Police Court this morning, for furious riding. There were racing horses along the South Beach at top of their speed, while Holding, so far from "holding", had lost control of his steed.'²⁰⁷ John Butler has not been fully researched.²⁰⁸

²⁰⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 4 September 1905, page 1; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 5 September 1905, page 4

²⁰⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 26 August 1902, page 3; see also The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 27 August 1902, page 3

²⁰⁸ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1903 (Year ending July): Unconfirmed. Prisoners Discharged from Fremantle Prison, during the week ending Saturday, 21st March, page 98. Condition: Free... Reg. No.:2548, Name: Butler, Jno. Ed. ... Offence: Drunk (want of distress); Sentence: 22s. or 7 days h.l. Where committed: Fremantle. Date of discharge: 16th March. Date Group Photo: Sept, 1899

1903. (Year ending 31 Dec) A number of reports of a John Butler charged with vagrancy and idle disorderly at Northam (pp 11, 24, 34 and drunk at Fremantle)

1925. Unconfirmed. Butler, John Jas. Reg. No. 12342 supplying liquor to ab. natives; sly grog; unlawful possession.

1925. July 1. page 238. Unconfirmed. Butler, John James, Reg. No. 12342 (same as above), native of Ireland, born 1861-6, height 5 feet 63/4 inches, weight 163 lbs, dark brown hair, light hazel eyes, scars: left side head, right side small back, lump outside right wrist. Discharged 12th June, 1925.

Caporn, Sydney Samuel

c1868 - 1958

Smelters Camp/Poverty Point 1937-1949*

pensioner

*'Poverty Point' article reports residence 16 years prior to 1953, estimated 1937

Sydney Samuel Caporn was born about 1868 in Fremantle, the son of James and Sarah Caporn (née Tonkin).²⁰⁹ He was mentioned in an article concerning the camp, published in 1953.

“I am as happy as a king living here – provided the authorities leave me alone,” said Mr. Sydney Caporn, an 85-y-o pensioner who has been living in the area 16 years.’²¹⁰ He died in 1958 in Fremantle, aged 90.²¹¹ Sydney Caporn has not been fully researched.²¹²



Sunday Times 29 Mar 1953 p3

Carey/Carrey, William

Robb's Jetty 1919-1926

labourer

William Carey was listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle at Robb's Jetty from 1919 until 1926. He does not declare an occupation. William Carey has not been fully researched.

²⁰⁹ BDM WA Registration no. 10557

²¹⁰ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

²¹¹ BDM WA Registration no. 207

²¹² Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1958. Fremantle.- On 30/10/58, from Pakenham Street, Fremantle-one gent's Swansea bicycle, red and blue enamelled, free wheel, handbrake attached to handlebar, three speed gear, Miller headlight and generator, rear mudguard silver, no front mudguard or bell. frame No. 40978, Reg. No. 13353; valued at £10; the property of Sidney Charles Caporn 58/15818, page 450

Carrera, Angelo
AKA Frank Rosse AKA Frank Marconi
Camp near Smelting Works 1906

Angelo Carrera stayed at the shack of Charles Gaibullini on 14 March 1907, then stole a mirror, a serge suit and two dozen eggs. Next he entered the nearby shack of James Cosgrove and stole a suit, a silver chain, boots and items to the value of £4 15s. Gaibullini had hosted Carrera and then went in search of labouring work in Jandakot the following morning. He discovered the theft after returning home at lunchtime. Carrera was brought to camp by detectives still wearing part of the stolen suit. Carrera admitted to the theft, and for stealing the boots from Cosgrove. The detectives retrieved trousers and the mirror, and later he showed them where he had hidden the boots. Carrera had form in petty thievery and was imprisoned a total of nine months.²¹³ Angelo Carrera has not been fully researched.²¹⁴

Carlton, Owen
Fremantle Smelters 1916-1919, 1925-1931
sampler

Owen Carlton was listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle at Fremantle Smelters, 1916 - 1919, and again 1925-1931. As a sampler, he collected and analysed data – perhaps geographical test samples for the smelter. His mining connection was confirmed as he was also camping at Laverton prior to this time, where, incidentally, he was robbed by Alice ‘The Great Boulder’ Edwards of £10.²¹⁵ Whilst in Fremantle, Carlton supplemented his income ‘unlawfully frequenting and betting in Mandurah-rd,’²¹⁶ Owen Carlton has not been fully researched.

Chalmer, Hames Boteler
Copley’s Siding 1931-1936
commercial agent

Hames Boteler Chalmer was registered on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle at Copley’s Siding from 1931 to 1936. His occupation was as a commercial agent. The following electoral roll for Fremantle, South Fremantle, only includes a

²¹³ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 26 August 1902, page 17

²¹⁴ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1920. Angelo Carrara (Carrera), has two aliases, @ Frank Rosse and @ Frank Marconi, charged at Cunderdin (8 inst.) and Fremantle (2nd inst.); he was a guest at the Smelters Camp in 1906 and is still thieving to survive; 6 mths h.l., page 68; and Angelo Carrara @ Frank Marconi at Perth on 16th inst. on warrant; stealing; 6 mths hl. Property recovered

²¹⁵ Laverton Mercury (Laverton, WA), Friday 11 Nov 1904, page 2

²¹⁶ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 8 September 1918, page 2; see also Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 14 September 1918, page 4 and The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 10 Sept 1918, page 6

Supplementary list – it's possible Hames Boteler Chalmer also resided at Copley's Siding in 1937. Hames Boteler Chalmer has not been fully researched.



A CATTLE SALE AT COPLEY'S SIDING, ROBB JETTY: THE 'FATS' SHOWN IN THE PHOTOGRAPH ON THE RIGHT REALIZED FIVEPENCE PER POUND. Lockwood photo.

Western Mail 4 August 1911 p3

Copley's Siding

Copley's Siding comprised of 65-plus acres, housing several large brick and galvanized iron buildings, sheds and an abattoir 'being serviced by a splendid Railway Siding.'²¹⁷ The siding, built in 1903 at a cost of £1400,²¹⁸ was an unloading area for livestock, including all-weight bullocks and lambs from the Nor'West, the South-West and other regions; and market for the private and agent sale to metropolitan buyers and country butchers, later working in tandem with the adjacent Robb Jetty. By 1911 it housed 'commodious sale yards' that had 'disposed of 5,000 head of fat cattle and 301,000 sheep.'

It was named for Ben Copley, Ord River Station partner and founder of Anchorage Butchers Ltd in 1914 (who later established the freezing works for lamb exports), whom *The Sunday Times* later accused of collusion with railway officials to facilitate ongoing fraud by the understating of the weights of transported goods, to increase profit margins.²¹⁹

When Copley proposed the Siding operations to the Board of Health of the Fremantle Roads Board in 1903 there was also received an application 'signed by two hundred and forty ratepayers of South Fremantle', which stated concerns 'to the best interests of South Fremantle and its immediate neighbourhood, by causing depreciation in the value of property, and also that the health of the residents would be endangered' with the establishment of another abattoir. Mr. Bamkin, a local ratepayer, stated that many residents had settled in South Fremantle 'on the understanding that nothing of the

²¹⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 10 February 1928, page 2

²¹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 1 April 1903, page 4

²¹⁹ Western Mail (Perth, WA), Thursday 15 July 1920, page 17; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 4 February 1907, page 8; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 25 May 1911, page 6. <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Inventory/Details/07aa1fd2-0dec-44ba-82f0-320760533bd8> Accessed April 2024; commodious, The Western Mail, (Perth, WA), Saturday 5 August 1911, page 26; The West Australian (Perth, WA), 24 February 1902, page 6; according to this article, Copley later handed over account books to the Railways for identification of any possible freight owed.

nature of a noxious trade would be started,' that would be 'detrimental to health.' The residents were already suffering from the fumes from Robb Jetty Abattoir.²²⁰

Mr. Copley assured that the model was based upon the best Chicago slaughterhouses and with the use of an Anderson's patent dryer, gases and blood would be harmlessly reduced to solids. Board member Mr. Davies 'thought it would be unadvisable to turn back money', and Health Officer Dr. Owen Paget stated that his understanding of the treatment would mean, 'all that went into the sea would be practically pure water.' The motion was seconded and carried.²²¹

Clark, Richard
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
groom

Richard Clark resided at Robb's Jetty 1909-1910, as listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle Electoral Roll. He worked as a groom. Richard Clark has not been fully researched.

'Across the road was a line of disused old lime kilns, material from the limestone ridge which extends from Mosman Park to beyond Mandurah. It was a typical industrial area containing two abattoirs (Robb Jetty and Anchorage) also a couple of fellmongers where the hides were dried. It was well-known as 'Pong Alley' for an obvious reason: It was pretty much a no-go area except for the many horse trainers who had stables in South Fremantle and beyond who used the beach to fine-tune their charges.'²²²

²²⁰ For more stories about Robb Jetty listen to Annie Baker (née Davenport) Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/9, 1996; Mayor Ray Lees Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/6, 1996

²²¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 1 April 1903, page 4; Copley's Siding was sold in February 1928 after dissolution of the partnership. The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 3 February 1928, page 2

For more information on the history of Anchorage Butchers Pty Ltd see Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024; RN 463 SLWA 1908 Shipment to Fremantle from the Kimberley took 6 days. See this resource for a report around Kimberley cattle industry and prices and avenues of market expansion. RN582 SLWA for the early history of Dalgety & Co. (wool buying and brokering)

²²² Christensen, Rusty, 'Smelters Camp in the Sands', Cockburn City Herald, 5 November 2011, page 24

The Pony Race

The Heritage Council of Western Australia's Register of Heritage Places notes the South Beach Horse Exercise Area, which includes within its vicinity the site of the Smelters Camp, as including 'sites of Aboriginal heritage significance, including mythological sites pre-dating European settlement, and the site of the Aboriginal stockmen's camp at Robb Jetty.'²²³

South Beach from Woodman Point to Fremantle had been used for a horse training and exercise area since the 1830s, including by Engineer-In-Chief C. Y. O'Connor, who died and is commemorated there; and the 10th Light Horse Regiment.²²⁴ At times, up to 400 horses could be seen training, with some housed in local stables such as Randwick, or marshalled on the former tip site near the smelters. Aboriginal stockmen camped near Robb Jetty would occasionally assist or moonlight as jockeys.

'South Beach Horse Exercise Area, the site of the first official horse race in Western Australia in October 1833, along with the adjoining dune area, including the bridle path, the former rubbish tip site, Hollis Park, the cycle way and Ocean Road, has played an integral part in the history of the horse racing industry in Western Australia, in particular in the 1830s, and in the period from c. 1900 to the mid-1970s, when the industry thrived in Fremantle, with various winners of every major State and national event other than the Melbourne Cup having trained at the place and numerous trainers and jockeys of State, national and international repute having worked horses there.'²²⁵

The proximity to surrounding stables, and equine industries including blacksmiths, farriers and saddlers, and established tracks through the dunes, including one wide enough to accommodate pacers' spiders, made the South Beach Horse Exercise Area convenient. But also the natural presentation of the beach area provided an ideal setting, particularly to the south of the main family recreation area where

'there was a straight of about six and a half to seven furlongs between James Rocks to Robb Jetty. When the tide was out, there was sufficient area for the horses to gallop four or five or more abreast over a distance of seven furlongs.'²²⁶

²²³ The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation 30/03/2007; <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/0b8131cd-70e4-045c-15b9-e905af4d574a> Accessed April 2024

²²⁴ Charles Yelverton O'Connor died by self-administered gunshot in 1902, commemorated by Tony Jones' oceanic, partially submerged statue; The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation 30/03/2007; <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/0b8131cd-70e4-045c-15b9-e905af4d574a> Accessed April 2024

²²⁵ The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation 30/03/2007; <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/0b8131cd-70e4-045c-15b9-e905af4d574a> Accessed April 2024

²²⁶ The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation 30/03/2007; <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/0b8131cd-70e4-045c-15b9-e905af4d574a> Accessed April 2024 - for a full history of the beach in relation to the racing and pacing industries see this excellent report by historian Robin Chinnery.

But the much earlier 'duty to record' by the Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal gives an account of the first horse race across the sands at Cockburn Sound -

'Capt. Taylor of the *Helen*, who has lately imported a number of Timor Ponies, aided by Mr. C. Smith and Mr. J. Weavell, for the institution of an amusement calculated to excite a considerable emulation amongst the breeders and importers of Horses.' With a course decided upon and a plan for regular meets, the prospect was promising. A view from the hills, ladies and gentlemen in their finest, booths adorned with flags, a 'ginger-bread nut-stall-and the lame fiddler, contributed much to the animation of the scene.' Four thrilling races, featuring racers named Dandy, Tinker, Mr. Sampson's black mare and Jack filled the programme (and one foot race between humans Misters Morrell and Davey, with Race Four proving 'more amusing than edifying' as from a field of five ponies, 'most of them preferring the branch roads soon after starting,' resulted in course hilarity.

But a regular race day didn't begin until the 1880s, and the whilst the Fremantle Jockey Club were granted a lease in 1899, the event had ended by 1901, part of the failure attributed to the reluctance of parliament to extend the railway line from Owen's Anchorage to Woodman Point, despite the club's enthusiasm, profit projections and prior investment of over £2,000.²²⁷

Glen McLaren later referred to the area just south of the Smelters Camp as 'Snake Gully', knowledge retained from his career in the racing industry.

'Things went along as usual, until we were more or less forced out of Snake Gully in the late '50s, when the Powerhouse (generating plants) went in. They were developing all that area and we had no beach left to work on.'²²⁸

Adeline Russell-Davidson (née Eborall) remembered working horses on the beach at South Fremantle, right alongside the boys, in all sorts of weather.²²⁹

'..The walk down the street and through the dunes is enough to warm up the galloper - and scare anyone sleeping rough after a heavy night - before it is given a hit out on the firm beach sand...'²³⁰

George Atkinson, descendant of the prominent local family who owned Anchorage butchers, remembered the area well. The sandhills in South Fremantle near his

²²⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 29 April 1833, page 3; Western Mail (Perth, WA), Friday 5 May 1899, page 60; Lease, Western Mail (Perth, WA), Friday 2 June 1899, page 41

²²⁸ McLaren, Glen, 'Life's Been Good', Fremantle Arts Centre Press, South Fremantle, 1999; page 148. 'Snake Gully' was a popular name from the 'Dad and Dave' radio series, there was another in Beaconsfield, see <https://croatiansinwa.com.au/2017/02/28/market-gardens/> Accessed April 2024

²²⁹ Adeline Russell-Davison (nee Eborall) Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/11, 1996 contains horse racing colour, Tape 2, side 2; Albert Powell/Doreen Brown Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/1, 1996

²³⁰ Davidson, Ron, 'Fremantle Impressions', Fremantle Arts Centre Press, North Fremantle, 2007, page 234

grandfather's home, '...was an area where the poverty stricken people lived; they actually lived in the sandhills and probably all the winos and drunkos – it was a mixture of a lot of poor people that couldn't afford any housing, they would live there. So I don't know if in any way they interfered with the racing setup but the fact that my grandfather had so many racehorses at any one time, I'm sure that they got around any minor problems that they might've had. My actual father had a champion racehorse that won the Perth Cup in 1960 and that was trained at the South Fremantle area.'²³¹

Clarke, Bettie
South Beach 1903-1906
home duties

The Clarke family lived at South Beach between 1903-1906 approximately. Bettie Clarke's occupation was 'home duties'. Bettie Clarke has not been fully researched.

Clarke, Robert John
South Beach 1903-1906
shunter

Robert John Clarke was the patriarch of the Clarke family, living at South Beach between 1903-1906 approximately. His occupation was shunter. Robert Clarke has not been fully researched.

Clarke, Mary Ann
Smelters' Camp 1919-1943
home duties

Mary Ann Clarke lived at the Smelters Camp between 1919-1943.²³² She was the longest residing female identified to date, with a 24-year-occupancy. Her employment was simply listed as 'home duties'. Periodic listings on the electoral rolls of South Fremantle span this time period, assuming permanent residency. Mary Ann Clarke has not been fully researched.

²³¹ Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024. The Smelters Camp connection with racing and gaming industries was conclusive, in addition to infractions on the beach between residents and horse trainers, identification of the area known as 'Snake Gully'; impromptu two-up schools in the dunes and regular raids.

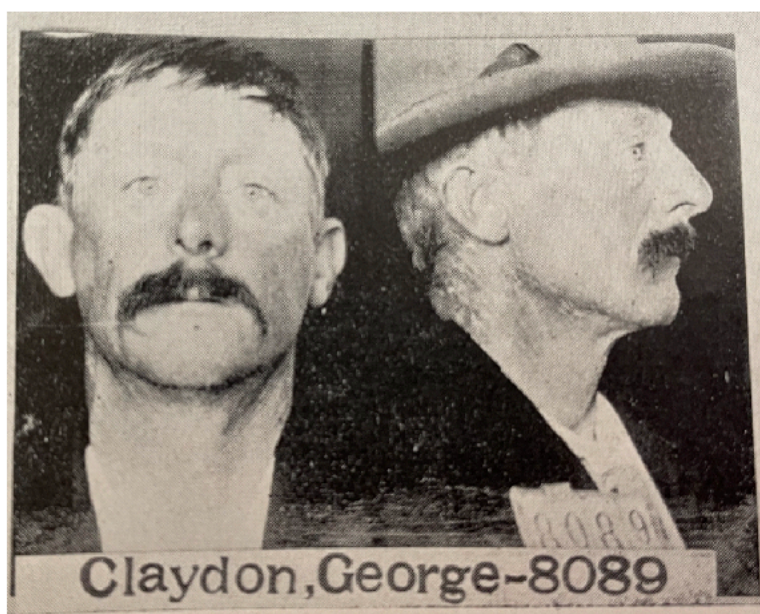
²³² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

Clatterton, Henry
Robb's Jetty 1909-1912
stockman

Henry Clatterton was listed on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robb's Jetty in 1909²³³ as a stockman. Henry Clatterton has not been fully researched.

Claydan/Claydon, George
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1909
tallowman/slaughterman 1909

George Claydan/Claydon was registered on the Fremantle, South Fremantle, Owen's Anchorage Electoral Roll 1903-1909. His occupation was tallowman and slaughterman connected to the abattoir industry at Robb Jetty. Tallowmen would render the suet or fat of the animals, preparing it for industrial or domestic application. Claydan moved to the Newmarket Hotel after 1909, perhaps prompted by a spat inside gaol.²³⁴ George Claydan/Claydon has not been fully researched.



George Claydon, W.A. Police Gazette 1909, p 289

²³³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

²³⁴ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1909. George Claydon, Group photo Nov; discharged Fremantle Prison; page 289



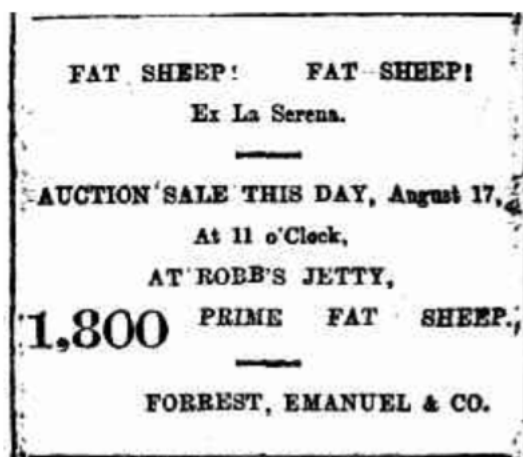
Fremantle History Centre Image # 4816 Cattle at Robb Jetty c1890

Robb Jetty

Before the construction of Robb Jetty in 1877, Owen Anchorage, just south of Gage Roads, functioned as a mooring area for ships since the establishment of the Western Australian colony. The deep water allowed access for large ships and relieved congestion at the Swan River entrance. In the matter of unloading cattle, it provided a solution for the government that, ‘..if the yards and landing-place were fixed at North Fremantle, the same trouble would arise in taking them back across the bridge through the town,’ describing the herding of mobs of cattle through populated areas, even in the ‘late hours of the night’ according to municipal regulations, being ‘a source of great danger to the people.’²³⁵ The popularity of Owen Anchorage and Robb Jetty (built in 1877) facilitated the construction of a linking railway, which proved essential to the success of the slaughterhouses, whose pastures and holding yards sprawled over a substantial area.²³⁶ Further dredging at Owen Anchorage was speculated upon from 1892, but the eventual and expensive development of the Fremantle inner harbour hastened its demise.

²³⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 16 Jun 1897, page 6

²³⁶ Western Mail (Perth, WA), Saturday 2 January 1892, page 44; railway, Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Wednesday 13 April 1898, page 5; Berson, M, *Cockburn: The Making of a Community Town of Cockburn*, 1978, page 100.



West Australian 17 August 1897 p8

The establishment of the smelting works at Owen Anchorage had upset North Fremantle residents, who at a meeting in 1898 had protested the move to the planned location, from Rocky Bay.²³⁷ In 1899 the address of the West Australian Smelting Co. Limited was as expected at Owen Anchorage, with supply of lead ore assured for opening in March. But by 1900 it has faltered. In May 1900 it was reconstructed, and listed in 1901 in the W.A., Post Office Directory at Mandurah Road, Beaconsfield. Again in October it faces liquidation, and a March 1902 scheme to reconstruct as Fremantle Smelting Works Limited; unsuccessfully, as it was auctioned in January 1903. By 1905 it was Fremantle Smelter Ltd and in May, operating in profit.²³⁸

The 1901 - 1903 Wise's Directory for Owen's Anchorage, Beaconsfield, lists the following businesses in the area: Explosives magazines for the Western Australian Government (Sergeant Major Timothy McCarthy, in charge), Strelitz Bros., J & W Bateman, Sandover & Co. and W. Moore & Co.; the slaughter yards of Connor, Doherty & Durack Ltd. (also hide and skin processing, including sheep, bovine hides, tallow, kangaroo and opossum skins, horns, cowtails, horse hair and manna gum)²³⁹ and Forrest, Emanuel & Co.; and the Government Cattle Quarantine yards.²⁴⁰

²³⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 5 Feb 1898, page 4

²³⁸ Fremantle smelting works - articles on the various companies and their fate - Index Entries, 1905, SLWA with information from the WA Post Office Directory; Colonial goldfields gazette, 1 Apr. 1899, page 299; 17 June 1899, page 568; 17 Mar. 1900, page 243; 12 May 1900, page 435; 5 Oct. 1901, page 211; 1 Mar. 1902, pp 142-144; 24 Jan. 1903, page 50; 27 May 1905, pp 327-328, F 620 COL, .b18248871. See also, 'Fatality at the Fremantle Smelting Works,' The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 12 November 1903, page 4.

²³⁹ Bunbury Herald (WA), Tuesday 20 June 1899, page 3

²⁴⁰ West Australian Post Office Directory, H. Wise: 1901, page 105 [Towns, Fremantle], see <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/explore-discover/wa-heritage/post-office-directories> Accessed April 2024; Fremantle Herald (WA), Saturday 10 January 1914, page 1 and Tuesday 10 Feb 1914, page 1; Fellmongers, The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 3 March 1935, page 1

Later businesses established adjacent to Robb Jetty included Western Australian Tanners and Fellmongers Ltd, processing hides for shoes and bags; slaughterhouses Messrs. S W. Copley and Co. and Elder, Shenton & Co. (later Elder, Smith & Co.); Dalgety and Co., the Fremantle Smelting Works (later the W.A. Smelting Company and Bradford Kendall P/L Iron Foundry) and the Fremantle Freezing Works. Into the 1930s and 1940s, the West Australian Meat Export Co. dominated the landscape, and diversely advertised tenders for manure removal, requested 'bones, tallow and meat offal at best prices' with 'all animals removed', and provided an early-morning bus from Collie St, Fremantle, for men looking for export lamb slaughtering piece work with 'experience not required.'²⁴¹

The area also hosted the kilns of lime merchants Brown & Waugh, T. McLaughlin & Co., Oaten's Davilak Lime Works and Briggs & Co., (who also sold stone) and advertised 'Lime from our Works awarded Gold Medal, Coolgardie International Exhibition 1899, proving to be the highest percentage of Lime obtainable.' The Coogee kilns stood nearby on the east of Mandurah Road (now Cockburn Road), the ruins of which can still be viewed.²⁴²

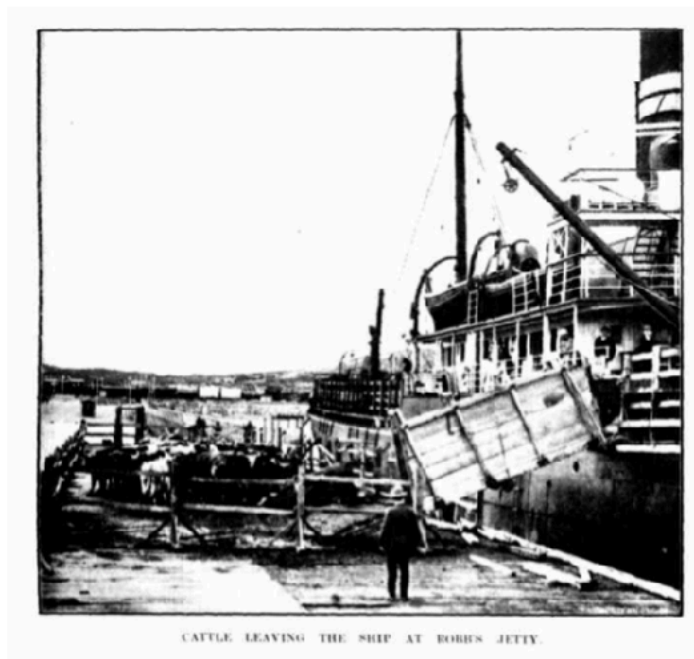
Jarrah destined for Asia (particularly Singapore) and sandalwood were valuable exports, but the primary activity at Robb Jetty was the delivery of cattle, shipped on steamers from the South West and the Nor'West (Meekatharra, Carnarvon, Derby) and often unloaded after the dispatch of general cargo and disembarking of passengers at Fremantle, no doubt with handkerchiefs clasped to delicate noses.²⁴³ On one occasion, a live kangaroo was delivered from Katanning. Aboriginal stockmen who unloaded the cattle often camped near the jetty before returning North.²⁴⁴

²⁴¹ Manure, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 25 July 1951, page 17; Bones, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Friday 29 Jul 1938, page 10 and *The Beverley Times* (WA), Thursday 15 November 1956, page 8; *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Monday 1 November 1948, page 24.

²⁴² McLaughlin & Co., *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Friday 28 April 1916, page 10; Oatens, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Tuesday 22 December 1903, page 4; Brown & Waugh, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 23 March 1904, page 4; Briggs & Co., *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Saturday 20 January 1906, page 9; Elder, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 31 August 1910, page 2 and Friday 4 April 1941, page 2 (also Dalgety); Freezing Works, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Thursday 19 June 1919, page 4 and Wednesday 5 Jun 1929, page 11

²⁴³ *Daily News* (Perth, WA), Thursday 24 November 1910, page 7

²⁴⁴ *Great Southern Herald* (Katanning, WA), Friday 27 September 1946, page 1; stockmen, Berson, M, *Cockburn: The Making of a Community Town of Cockburn*, 1978, pp. 94-95; <https://australianabattoirs.com/2013/06/24/robb-jetty/> Accessed April 2024



Western Mail 5 August 1911 p26

The unloading, though haphazard, and initially involving a ramp prior to the extension of the jetty, proved more efficient than prior arrangements of simply pushing the animals from the ship into the sea, and forcing them to swim ashore. Conditions were rough, stock often strayed and appeared in the lost and found columns of the Fremantle newspapers,²⁴⁵ and the chaos provided rodeo-style entertainment for the locals, albeit often with a gruesome tone

‘Bullock and Sharks. – Early yesterday morning the stock brought down from the Nor'-West by the cattle-boat Moonta were being discharged at Robb's Jetty when a diversion was afforded those engaged in the work. One well-proportioned beast, which is supposed to have been blind, became fractious and broke away from the mob. The inevitable result followed, and the bullock fell overboard into the sea. At first it struck out, making for the shore, but subsequently turned in its swimming, and made out to sea. When about 200 yards out from the jetty, the animal was attacked by a number of sharks, and a boat put off to try and effect a rescue. It is estimated that some eight or nine sharks were engaged in attacking the unfortunate bullock, which struggled gamely. The men in the boat were unable to scare the sharks away, and had to leave the animal to its fate.’²⁴⁶

Cruelty was also recorded in the cattle yards, with the issuing of a summons by the inspector of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals against Mr. Frank Connor, MLA, representing Connor, Doherty and Durack Co., for ‘cruelly ill-treating a number of bullocks by causing them to be kept in such a place as to cause them unnecessary pain and suffering.’²⁴⁷ And over a decade later reports were still filed.

²⁴⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 2 July 1910, page 1 (one fat bullock)

²⁴⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 24 June 1909, page 4

²⁴⁷ Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 6 October 1903, page 20

'With regard to the abattoirs at Robb's jetty, a letter "was received from Dr. Atkinson, forwarding a report from Dr. Dale, complaining of the method of killing cattle by youths at Robb's jetty." It was decided to forward a request to the Department of Agriculture to prohibit youths from using the hammer in the destruction of bullocks at the abattoirs.'²⁴⁸

All meat was consumed in the metropolitan area or railed to the goldfields, with restrictions prohibiting the further transportation of any live beasts beyond the slaughter yards. Graham Goodes remembers the manufacture of dog biscuits and blood and bone at places like Visers and Anchorage.²⁴⁹

KILLING A BULLOCK.

Man Fined for Cruelty.

"During the killing operations the bullock was mad with pain and it was moving about the pen with blood streaming from its wounds." This was the statement of a witness in a prosecution brought yesterday by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals against Henry Graham in the Fremantle Police Court.

The case was taken before Captain Biddles and Mr. Parker, J's.P. Mr. J. Moss, assisted by Mr. Crooks, secretary of the society, conducted the prosecution.

Graham was charged with cruelty in connection with the killing of a bullock at the Anchorage Butchers' abattoirs, South Fremantle, on November 23.

West Australian 2 December 1922 p14

'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site Archaeological Report' by Dr Martin Gibbs and Fiona Bush notes that, 'Work fluctuated... during the busy season there would have been 37 slaughter men on each of the mutton chains with 20-25 on the beef floor. At these peak times 10,000 head of sheep would pass through per day, while in the less busy times a steady trickle of about 1000 per day would pass through the plant.'²⁵⁰

Of these, the dominant ethnic groups employed there were Australian and Portuguese, Yugoslavs and Italians.²⁵¹

Local resident Kenny Goodes worked at the slaughter yards. He remembers that when they brought the cattle down from Wyndham and before Robb Jetty was built, they'd push them overboard into the ocean and lose a few to sharks. After they built Robb Jetty, cattle walked down the jetty to the waiting stockmen on the beach. They were 'all black fellas mostly, and good horsemen.' They guided the cattle to 'big... huge pens made of solid wood', but first they transited through a chemical bath, up to their necks, to eliminate cattle tick. The stockmen wore cowboy hats and coloured shirts and were a 'sight to behold.'

²⁴⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 6 May 1920, page 28; For further history of Robb Jetty, see Wilkinson, Danielle, 'From Beef to Reef: The Maritime Cultural Landscape of Robb's Jetty', Dept of Archaeology, Flinders University SA. Report—Department of Maritime Archaeology, Western Australian Maritime Museum, No. 54. <http://museum.wa.gov.au/maritime-archaeology-db/maritime-reports/beef-reef-maritime-cultural-landscape-robb-jetty> Accessed April 2024

²⁴⁹ Graham Goodes interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 January 2020

²⁵⁰ Gibbs, Dr Martin and Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site Archaeological Report', Heritage Council of Western Australia and Department of Trade and Commerce, October 1995, page 7

²⁵¹ Ibid.



SLWA 013237PD Robbs Jetty Abattoir 1938

When Singapore fell in 1946 Ken recalls that ‘the Americans said that the two big chimney stacks at the Smelters had to go’ as they were a landmark for the Japanese submarine navigators and a risk. He was there the day they exploded them. This was not the little abattoir chimney, which is still preserved, about 30 metres away from where his place of employment was situated.

Ken left school at 14 to work at Robb Jetty in the blood and bone area. It was ‘filthy, dirty and horrible’ work. Following a one-year unsuccessful stint at the Wyndham meat works, he was married at 21 years of age. At 29, after becoming a father, he went back to school and learned about the diseases the animals could harbour. He passed night school and worked back at Robb Jetty, but in an office now and as an official representative of the Health Department. He was also sent to CSIRO in Brisbane, essentially training up to be the next manager, but he declined. He worked for the Health Department for 20 years. When Ken was 55, he injured his back and couldn’t work for 12 months. After his convalescence he went back to Robb Jetty eager to work and they told him his job was gone, so he unhappily retired at 55-56 years of age. But it was a blessing in disguise. ‘My beautiful wife Beatrice got leukaemia,’ he recalled, tenderly slipping into memory. As she went through chemotherapy, she developed dementia from the treatment. He survived on his pension, embraced his role as a full-time carer, and was immensely grateful for their time together.²⁵²

²⁵² Kenny Goodes interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 January 2020

"Poitrel" was reminded by the mention of sheep of an incident during his soldiering days. He was one of a draft of troops who were hurried out of Northam camp and entrained for the usual "unknown destination". The train made a stop at Koojedda, a meal halt between Northam and Perth, and the troops began to pester the guard to find out where they were bound. He was a bit closed-mouthed, but at length told them that the last train he had taken to their destination had carried 1,000, "and they're all dead now". That rocked them a bit, but finally he admitted that the previous train had been a stock train, loaded with sheep, and bound for Robb's Jetty.²⁵³

Clunes, Hugh
Owen's Anchorage 1909-1912
Labourer

Hugh Clunes was listed on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1909²⁵⁴ as a labourer. Hugh Clunes has not been fully researched.

Clyde, Patrick
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
labourer

Patrick Clyde was listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906²⁵⁵ as a labourer. Patrick Clyde has not been fully researched.

Cocie, Leslie
Meatworks Camp 1933
-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.²⁵⁶

²⁵³ Albany Advertiser (WA), Monday 19 September 1949, page 4

²⁵⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

²⁵⁵ Ibid.

²⁵⁶ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

Corbett, Tom
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.²⁵⁷

Cosgrove, James
Camp near Smelting Works 1906
labourer

James Cosgrove was a neighbour of Charles Gaibullini at the Smelters Camp. He was robbed of a pair of boots, a suit and a silver chain from his hut by Angelo Carrera, an overnight guest of the unwitting Gaibullini. He discovered the theft after returning from his new job at the Smelters Works at 5.30pm; he'd been absent since 7.30am. Carrera was found with some of the items in his possession and partially confessed to the crimes, earning three months imprisonment for robbing Gaibullini, and six months for robbing Cosgrove.²⁵⁸ James Cosgrove has not been fully researched. (See other entries for Gaibullini and Carrera).²⁵⁹

Costello, John
Owen's Anchorage/Robb's Jetty 1903-1931
labourer/storeman 1909

John Costello lived for an extended period at the camp, for 28 years between 1903 and 1931. During that time, the location description of the camp changed from Owen's Anchorage to Robb's Jetty(sic), reflecting the industrial development of the era. Costello was listed as a labourer and storeman. Periodic appearances on the electoral rolls of span this time period, assuming permanent or returning or intermittent residency. John Costello has not been fully researched.²⁶⁰

²⁵⁷ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

²⁵⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 20 April 1907, page 17

²⁵⁹ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police; 1890. There is a mention of John Cosgrove but unconfirmed, page 50

²⁶⁰ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police; 1930. (Ending 31 December) there is an unconfirmed mention of John Costello page 518a

Cox, John
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
labourer

John Cox was listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a labourer. John Cox has not been fully researched.²⁶¹

Cronin, Joseph
c1868 - 1936
Smelters' Camp/Robb's Jetty 1909-1934
carpenter

Joseph Cronin was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters' Camp, Robb's Jetty from 1909-1934 as a carpenter.²⁶² Periodic listings on the Electoral rolls span these years, assuming permanent or intermittent residency. A report in *The West Australian* indicates the death of Cronin, aged approximately 68. He was found deceased after missing for several days, at Capel's Siding, and a post-mortem examination was ordered.²⁶³ Joseph Cronin has not been fully researched.

Dalton, James Michael
Robb's Jetty 1912-1913
prospector

James Dalton was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robb's Jetty in 1912; occupation prospector.²⁶⁴ An earlier mention, unconfirmed but likely to be James Michael Dalton was a resident of the Old Men's Home at Fremantle; and someone has stolen his clothes, including 'grey tweed trousers, patched on the seat.'²⁶⁵

A Notice to Creditors was published in *The Sunday Times* in July 1914, 'In the Matter of the Estate of James Michael Dalton (deceased)... late of South Fremantle,'²⁶⁶ and

²⁶¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

²⁶² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

²⁶³ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Saturday 20 June 1936, page 20

²⁶⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

²⁶⁵ *Police Gazette*, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1910. Page 232, Fremantle. - On 5th inst., from the Old Men's Home, - black cloth suit, nearly new, size about 6, a small patch on the seat of trousers; a white duck trousers, a striped shirt torn at collar; a pair of grey tweed trousers, patched on the seat; 3 saddle straps, and a new scissors; the property of James Dalton. -A534061, 6th August, 1910.

²⁶⁶ *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 5 July 1914, page 5

he was named a miner who passed away on the 25th or 26th of August 1913. James Dalton has not been fully researched.

Davies, William John
Smelters' Camp 1934
nil

William Davies was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters' Camp in 1934 with no occupation. William Davies has not been fully researched.²⁶⁷

Day, Joseph
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
stockman

Joseph Day was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robb's Jetty in 1909-1910 as a stockman. Joseph Day has not been fully researched.²⁶⁸

Dean, Daisy
Meatworks Camp 1933
-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.²⁶⁹

Dinah, Albert
Meatworks Camp 1933
-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.²⁷⁰

²⁶⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

²⁶⁸ Ibid.

²⁶⁹ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

²⁷⁰ Ibid.

Denney, Charles Dumaesq

1910 - 1967

Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1949*
labourer/waterside worker

Charles Denney was born 22 January 1910 in Boulder to mother Florence and father Frank.²⁷¹ Denney's residency at the Smelters' Camp is stated in a newspaper article concerning a minor charge of supplying liquor in August 1949.²⁷² Before this, he lived at various locations around Fremantle.²⁷³



West Australian 14 June 1950, p13

Denney enlisted in 1939 in Perth.²⁷⁴ A later newspaper articles confirms that Denney was 'a gunner in the Australian Military Forces during the war... discharged as medically unfit after two years' service. He then served with the U.S. Navy forces stationed at Fremantle.'²⁷⁵

'39-year-old bachelor' Denney was introduced to the reading public in *The West Australian* in June 1950 as a 'FRIEND OF BLIND BABY' wishing to become the godfather of a child receiving eye treatment for cataracts at Princess Margaret Hospital. He hoped to give her his name, open a bank account and tailor his will for her. He approached the Department of Native Affairs with a character reference from the Town Clerk of Fremantle after reading about Elizabeth in the newspaper, visiting her and taking her toys. He was an experienced volunteer at Sister Kate's Cottage Homes, doing odd jobs and providing financial assistance.²⁷⁶ He had earlier supported another ward,

²⁷¹ BDM WA Registration no. 77

²⁷² *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 17 August 1949, page 21

²⁷³ 1943 Electoral Roll Denney was in Harbour Rd, Sth Fremantle; 1949 in Russell St; 1939 Parmelia St

²⁷⁴ NAA: B884, W46627 Barcode 6493831

²⁷⁵ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 14 June 1950, page 13

²⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

now a young girl of 15 and gaining some independence.²⁷⁷

However a report in *The West Australian* in June 1950 warns that Denney's endeavor to adopt Elizabeth will not succeed, assuring that Elizabeth's mother Neadiwidi and her father Bullinimbi waited patiently in a mission beyond Meekathara for the completion of their daughter's eye operations. 'Lizziebizzie' was well-loved at the Aboriginal Rescue Mission baby clinic at Jigalong.

'So the desire of Mr C. Denney, a Fremantle waterside worker, to give Elizabeth his name and to rear her is not likely to be realised.' However Sister Sheila Turnbull praised Mr Denney for his benevolence and wished there were more people willing to help.²⁷⁸

Denny also worked for Fremantle Council beginning at 4am in the morning, then would spend his afternoons on the beach or at sea in his 18 foot dinghy, from which he loved to spearfish in the shadows of Garden Island. He had an enterprising plan to make pleasure boating an income stream to save money for his new charge Elizabeth, and as a sideline also posed for art classes.

Denney made the papers once again in June 1950 attempting to raise interest in his speculative plans for a youth playground at the Hydrodrome. Described as 'of splendid physique', his focus on physical fitness was intended to provide young men direction, to 'make them up like me,' adding that he was 'awfully fond of kids.' Meaning to attract children to the 'working man's' South Beach, he feels that building canoes would be an excellent start.²⁷⁹

The *Mirror* celebrated Denney's efforts to raise money for 2-year-old Elizabeth with delight. Torturing himself with 60 hours of tattooing was a unique way Denney felt he could contribute, which the plan of exhibiting himself in a sideshow tent as 'Sinbad the Tattooed Sailor' at the Royal Show for money.

'...a South Fremantle man suddenly had his Apollo-like torso – and legs – smothered with designs of sultry eyed hula girls, grass skirted sirens and everything else from model pin-ups to Walt Disney characters and even autographs!' ²⁸⁰

²⁷⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 17 June 1950, page 14

²⁷⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 20 June 1950, page 2

²⁷⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 17 June 1950, page 14

²⁸⁰ Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 October 1950, page 9



The Mirror 21 October 1950 p10

Tattooist in residence at the 'Just For Fun' arcade in Hay St, Professor Broom created the works – the back tattoo alone taking 5 hours.

'At left a sultry-eyed siren sprawls beneath his heart. She sighs when he breathes. Above is an idyllic island scene. When he waggles his shoulder blades they dance hula.'²⁸¹

But he and showman Ern Bowler, owner of the arcade, were eventually disappointed. Bowler footed a bill of £31/3/0 for the tattooing, tenting, labour and transportation, and Broom only received half-payment from Denney toward the £73 tattoo masterpiece. Neither they, nor Denny, were to receive a split of the substantial profits they anticipated. Showing off the work at a 'bob at a time', Denney only collected £5 total, which he did deposit into Elizabeth's Child Welfare trust account. Denney was left sunning himself on South Beach, speculating future carnival exhibition options.

According to the 1958 and 1963 South Fremantle Electoral Rolls, Denney was living with wife Maxine June in South Terrace. In 1954 they lived in Mosman Park. Together they had four daughters.²⁸²

Charles Denney died in Fremantle 7 July 1967, aged 57 and he was buried in Fremantle Cemetery.²⁸³ In 1977, his wife Maxine returned to live in Mosman Park.

²⁸¹ Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 October 1950, page 9

²⁸² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; <https://trove.nla.gov.au/list?id=47543>

²⁸³ BDM WA Registration no. 351; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/182118280> Accessed April 2024

Drew, John
South Beach 1910
engine-driver

Drew, Richard
South Beach 1910
engineer

John and Richard Drew are listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at South Beach in 1910 as an engine-driver and engineer respectively. John and Richard Drew have not been fully researched.

Relocation of the Explosives Magazine, Robb Jetty

The Inspector of Explosives, Mr. Mann, and Harbor-master Captain Russell inspected Woodman Point and Garden Island for suitability of explosives magazines placement in February 1902 and were expected to choose Woodman Point. The relocation would allow safer unloading and transport of explosives materials from a new 400-foot jetty to be built for this particular purpose. Total cost of the transfer was expected to be £20,750, to be recouped from magazine rent at £2,000 annually.

The Minister of Mines, Mr. H. Gregory and Mr. McDonald, M.L.A. and other representatives again visited the site, in proximity to the old racecourse and about a mile from the quarantine station, later in the month. They noted the progress of the railway line and sidings construction, work which had found employment for a large number of unemployed men, and discussed plans to move to the new magazines within three months, as well as to 'proceed as quickly as possible with the construction of the abattoirs at the present magazine site.'

There had occurred concerning earlier breaches of the act at Robb Jetty, with one lessee, Strelitz Bros. charged with storing 60 tons of explosive in an area licensed to hold only 30 tons, simply because another suitable accommodation had not been constructed yet. Paul and Richard Strelitz had received a small fine.²⁸⁴

²⁸⁴ Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette (Cue, WA), Saturday 9 Feb 1902, page 2; Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 12 December 1902, page 2, Thursday 26 February 1903, page 1, Thursday 23 July 1903, page 1 and Monday 16 May 1904, page 7; small fine, The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA), Friday 2 December, 1898; The Western Mail (Perth, WA), Saturday 15 August 1903, page 43; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 27 February 1903, page 6

Duff, Francis
Robb Jetty 1903
Drover, labourer

Francis Duff had the misfortune to be one of two last people to see Thomas Whelan alive at Robb Jetty explosives magazine reserve. At the time he was camping at Robb Jetty and working on the construction of Copley's Meat Freezing Works at Copley's Siding.²⁸⁵ See following entry.



SLWA 090581PD Possibly Owen's Anchorage, North Coogee area c1900

Blown to Atoms

Thomas Whelan was 28 years of age when he was working as senior caretaker for a dozen explosives magazines on the Robb Jetty reserve. He lived with his wife and child in the caretaker's hut at the magazine area.

At 7.15 pm on the night of Wednesday 15 July 1903, Whelan observed a light through cracks in the galvanised iron walls, inside one of the smaller explosives magazines belonging to Mssrs. Guthrie and Co. Whelan asked Archibald Turner and Francis Duff, drovers who were camped close by, to accompany him while he inspected the source of the unusual light, but recognised the risk of explosion some 80 yards short, and asked them to wait behind the sand buttress that partially surrounded the iron building.

When Whelan reached the 10-foot square magazine, he knocked twice, then began to break open the door with an axe which had been provided by Turner, then turned and shouted to Turner and Duff to clear out. 'The explosion was almost simultaneously with the last blow' of the axe.

Beyond the jetty '..the residents of Beaconsfield and South Fremantle were startled by the loud report. The noise was like that made by the firing of a cannon, but the deep rumbling of the earth which accompanied the reverberation resembled the

²⁸⁵ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Saturday 18 July, page 7 and Monday, 20 July 1903, page 5; There is also a mention of Francis Joseph Duff in Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1938. (Half year ending 30 June); 391a, 423c (same charge) Mosman Park 6th, driving a motor car whilst under the influence of liquor. Fined £15 + costs. DL cancelled 12 months 8369/38

premonitory signs of an earthquake. The walls of buildings shook, windows rattled, and ornaments fell from mantelpieces and brackets. Several people rushed out of their houses in alarm.’²⁸⁶

Turner and Duff, recovering from the shock, retraced their steps to find ‘galvanised iron twisted into all kinds of shapes...together with some pieces of clothing and minute bits of flesh...’ and debris scattered all around. The whole magazine was destroyed ‘and the body of Whelan was found about 60 yards away, terribly mutilated.’

‘Corporal Edmondson, the officer in charge of the Beaconsfield police station, was immediately despatched to the scene of the catastrophe,’ followed by Mr. E. A. Mann, inspector of explosives, and Fremantle’s Detective Condon.

‘Detective Condon was found this morning carefully raking together a few bits of galvanized iron and shattered woodwork from the loose sand. There was a knot of curious spectators this morning to look at the scene of the terrible catastrophe, which last evening hurled a man into eternity...’²⁸⁷



Western Mail 25 July 1903. Site of Explosion

The concussion was felt 15 kilometres away in Perth, but the cause was a mystery. Original damage was estimated in the realm of £200, but increased to between £3,000 and £4,000 according to *The West Australian* reporter’s conversation with Mr. Barrymore, manager of Messrs. Guthrie and Co., who stated that their two magazines were ‘nearly full of gelignite dynamite and other explosives.’ The

²⁸⁶ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Saturday 18 Jul 1903, page 7

²⁸⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 16 July 1903, page 1.

Also, from the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1903. ‘Fremantle.-On the 16th, 23rd, 29th, and 31st ult, and the 1st, 3rd, and 5th inst., at the Court House, before R. Fairbairn, R.M., Acting Coroner, on the body of Thomas Whelan, who was killed in the magazine explosion at Owen’s Anchorage on the 15th ult. Verdict-“Death by an explosion wilfully caused by some person or persons unknown”- B2/5309.

magazine was later proved to be a detonator store and cost devalued to less than the original estimation.

The fatal accident was reported in Eastern States newspapers, with the exaggerated phrase that Whelan was 'blown to atoms' giving some indication of the level of sensationalism of the event. Within days key intelligence was leaked by the press -

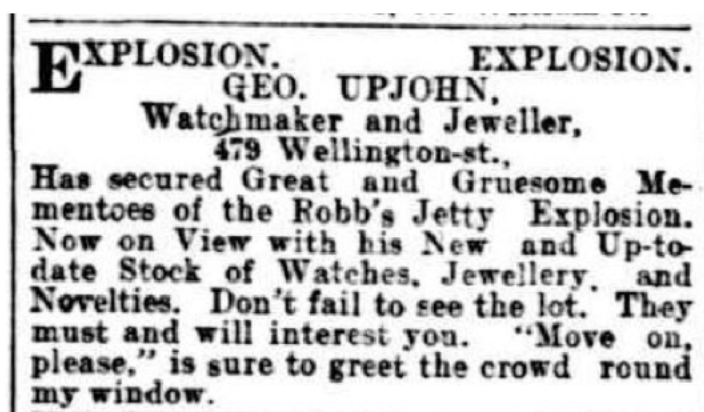
'Friction has existed for some time between the senior caretaker and some of his assistants, and it is suspected in some quarters that this may have had something to do with the explosion.'

It was ascertained that the magazine had been open earlier in the day to store some new detonators arriving from Fremantle, but should have been locked at 5 o'clock that night, as per regulations.

Mr. Gawler, representing the Crown, made a thorough inspection of the disaster on behalf of the caretaker's relatives and considered supplementing the Government-offered reward for information.

The 1903 Western Australian Police Gazette declares: '£300 Reward. Whereas on the 15th day of July, 1903, an explosion occurred at Messrs. Guthrie & Co.'s Magazine, situate at Robb's Jetty, Fremantle, whereby Thomas Whelan, one of the caretakers of the Magazine Reserve, was killed : And whereas there is reason to believe that the said explosion was caused wilfully and maliciously: Notice is hereby given that a Reward of Two Hundred Pounds will be paid by the Government (in addition to a Reward of One Hundred Pounds offered by the Explosives Importers of Fremantle) for such information as will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the offender or offenders. Fred Hare, Commissioner of Police. Police Department, Perth, 7th August, 1903. A3/3477.'

It was remarkable that the concussion, thanks to the protection of the sand ridge, did not ignite the seven other magazines nearby.



West Australian 18 July 1903 p12

The following inquest by resident magistrate Mr. R. Fairbairn at Fremantle Court was a crowded affair. The Inspector of Explosives Mr. Mann attributed the cause to be a small fire igniting the sawdust inside the detonators. Robert Carrick, the magazine's

head keeper, was rigorously questioned about the cause of the explosion. He confirmed that he had speculated to many people after the event as to the possible cause, and was asked to explain why he had stated, when the keys to the magazine were found, 'Poor Whelan must have had them, after all.'

Carrick had been referring to the missing keys being later found near to where Whelan's remains had been discovered. There had been other infringements around the magazine reserve, with the door to the Messrs. Strelitz Bros. store being mysteriously left open on another occasion – and these infractions had caused tension between employees, and with the clients.

It was determined through the inquest that the keys had not been present at the explosion and instead had been placed there and later found by Mr Carrick. Rumours whirled around Carrick, including that he had been one of few white men who worked for the Japanese Navy in the war with Russia and 'had the reputation of knowing more about time fuses than any other man living.'

The jury's open verdict found that, 'The evidence placed before us, however, does not warrant us in coming to the decision that Mr. Carrick exploded the magazine.' Two months later the case had still not been solved, and Mr Carrick was suspended. He wrote to the Minister of Mines demanding an official inquiry to clear suspicion surrounding his name as a result of the jury's findings, which was rejected.

On 11 August, Mr. A. J. Diamond, Member for South Fremantle, moved to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly that as a consequence of the tragedy, 'the House is of opinion that the explosives magazines are a serious menace to the lives of the citizens of Fremantle and suburbs; and that the necessity for protecting life and valuable property demands the removal forthwith of the magazines to a hulk anchored in a safe place.'²⁸⁸

The *Daily News* sombrely noted that Mr. Thomas Whelan's remains of were buried on the anniversary of the death of his father – an old army pensioner. The community later rallied around Mr. Whelan's widow, hosting a football match and auction to raise money for the family. The family had declined payment for expenses but government donation of £500 compassionate allowance was granted.²⁸⁹

²⁸⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 12 August 1903, page 9

²⁸⁹ Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette (Cue, WA) Saturday 18 July 1903, page 3; Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette (QLD.), Saturday 18 July 1903, page 3; Geelong Advertiser (Vic.), Friday 17 July 1903, page 4; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 19 July 1903, page 16; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 23 July 1903, page 1; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 16 July 1903, page 5; Murchison Advocate (WA), Saturday 18 July 1903, page 3; Inquest, Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday, 1 Aug 1903, page 1; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), 20 July 1903, page 5 and Thursday 20 July 1903, page 5; The West Australian (Perth, WA) Mr Carrick, 18 September 1903, page 7; Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 15 January 1906, page 1, Saturday 22 August 1903 and Remains, Friday 17 July 1903, page 1; Western Mail (Perth, WA), Saturday 10 October 1903, page 31; granted, Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 22 July 1903, page 1

See also <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Inventory/PrintSingleRecord/855c07b9-21c9-4207-9701-df9731cb4125> Accessed April 2024

Boiling the Billy

In November 1908 two fishermen, William Barrett and Edward Egbid, were jointly charged with, 'found committing an act tending to cause fire about the explosives magazine, situated at Woodman's Point.' Barrett and Egbid claimed to have been 'only boiling the billy', blissfully unaware that they were not only contravening the act but also surrounded by gelignite.²⁹⁰

Dunn, Sarah Ann

1883 - 1955

Smelter's Camp, Mandurah rd 1937-1943
home duties

Dunn, William Brian

Owen's Anchorage 1902-1906, 1937-1939
lumper

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language possibly relating to race, quoted from a newspaper published in 1939.

William Brian Dunn married Sarah Ann Hughes at Fremantle in 1930.²⁹¹

The Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll places William Dunn at Owen's Anchorage from 1902-1906, and although he is not on the electoral roll at the Smelters camp in 1943, his wife was living there, and on his funeral notice it was also printed as his address. A complete picture of their interim residency, between 1906-1939, is as yet unconfirmed, but in 1912 William Dunn was at Norfolk Street, 1913-1917 at John Street, in 1925 at Fothergill St, Fremantle, in 1928 at the rear of 116 South Street; he was steadily employed as a lumper and lived locally around the port.

In mid-September 1940, while exercising a horse on the beach near Robb Jetty at 11am, James Norrie was shocked to find the body of a woman floating in the shallows. She was fully clothed and unconscious when retrieved from the water, but the station master at Robb Jetty successfully resuscitated her and she was administered carbogen (carbon dioxide and oxygen) while taken by ambulance to Fremantle Hospital, in a serious condition.

Sarah Ann Dunn (59), who lived at the Smelters Camp, was suffering from immersion and shock. The following morning, her name was removed from the provisional danger list.²⁹²

²⁹⁰ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 25 Nov 1908, page 8

²⁹¹ BDM WA Registration no. 241

²⁹² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 17 September 1940, page 13; Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 16 September 1940, page 6; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 18 September 1940, page 14

The Fremantle Lumper's Union buried their late comrade, William 'Darkie' Dunn, on 27 December 1939 in the Roman Catholic portion of the Fremantle Cemetery. He had died the day after Christmas.²⁹³

Sarah Ann Dunn died in 1955, aged 72.²⁹⁴ William and Sarah Dunn have not been fully researched.

Every, Frank
AKA Frank Ebery AKA Esvery AKA Evans
1891 - 1942
Robb's Jetty 1921
labourer

Frank Every was born in Condobolin, New South Wales in 1895, to mother Emma Emily Bowden and father Frederick.²⁹⁵

At the age of 21, Frank Every was already raising havoc with a group of friends on the streets of Fremantle, principally Alexander Winder and David Joslin. They were charged with stealing with violence in January 1916, their victim being the baker, Charles Thomas Anning. Anning had been heading home after going to the pictures and enjoying some liquid refreshments, and at 11.15pm had the misfortune of coming across Every, Winder and Joslin near the South Fremantle seawall. After Winder approached him for a match, the other two men pinioned him, threw him down and emptied his pockets. A threat of strangulation stopped him crying for assistance, but they were frightened away when a policeman arrived and unsuccessfully chased them. Anning was semi-conscious from the violent assault when found at 1.30am.²⁹⁶



Frank Every's fellow gang member, David Joslin.
Supplement to the West Australian Police Gazette, 3rd May, 1916
Photographs of Prisoners to be Discharged from Fremantle Prison
During the Month of May, 1916 p127

²⁹³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 27 December 1939, page 1; BDM WA Registration no. 336; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board FB00013611, Section Mon CC, 0766

²⁹⁴ BDM WA Registration no. 470

²⁹⁵ BDM NSW Registration no. 31477/1895

²⁹⁶ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 22 January 1916, page 3

Every and Winder had refined and added a further element of expertise to their operation by 1920. Lucille Skinner, who had turned Frank Every's head in at least 1917, officially joined the duo to create a posse so notorious they were well-known to police.²⁹⁷

When arrested at an old dilapidated camp at Robb Jetty in August, they were frequently robbing drunken men, whom Skinner would tempt into ambush. The court's decision required payment of a surety each was required, under threat of six months' imprisonment.²⁹⁸ When questioned about his relationship with Skinner, she denied Every had been living in her humpy at Robb Jetty.

'Every asked Detective Porter, "Do you say I, a bludger (*pimp*) for Lucy Skinner?" 'Yes, a very dangerous one, too.' Every: "I say it is a lie." "Yes, indeed," chipped in Lucille, "I have no man living with me. I never have.'" Later Every confessed he was living

²⁹⁷ Frank Every is a regular fixture in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, : 1919. 'Frank Every, at Fremantle, on 13th inst., by P.Cs. W. McNeill, E. Lambert, and W. Smith, on warrant; evil fame. Ordered to find two sureties of £25 and self in like amount to be of good behaviour for 6 months, in default 6 months imp. Gaol'

1919. Frank Every, at Perth, on 16th inst., by Det. Sgt. J. D. Cowie and Det. I. H. Pusey, unlawful possession, charged by Det. F. P. Maingay. 14 days h.l. page 202

Frank Every, at Fremantle, on 25th inst., by Det.-Sergts. J. Porter and A. Molloy, on warrant; evil fame. Bound over for 6 months or 6 months imprisonment

1920. Frank Every, Alexander Winder, and Lucille Skinner, at Fremantle, on the 10th inst., by Let.-Sergts J. Porter and A. Molloy, on warrants; evil fame. Bound over for 6 months, in default 6 months imprisonment.

Reg. no. 9901. Stealing. Prisoners discharged from the Fremantle Prison during the two weeks ending Saturday, 13th March, 1920. 1 month hl. page 113

Frank Every, at Fremantle, on 21st inst., by P.Cs. G Ross and J. Young; attempting to steal from the person. 1 month h.l.

1921. Frank Every, at Perth, on 16th inst., by Det. Sgt. J. D. Cowie and Det. I. H. Pusey, unlawful possession, charge by Det. F.P. Maingay. 14 days hl. page 202

1922. There is reference to an earlier group photo, unfortunately this no longer exists. page 202

1925. Frank Every, at Perth, on 30th ult., by P.C. S. Tully; unlawful possession. 1 month hl. Further charged with resisting arrest and damaging uniform. 7 days hl and fined 40s and costs or 6 days hl.

With another alias, as Evans, '9901 March 18, 1925 page 100. Every @ Evans, Frank. Unlawful possession; resisting arrest; damaging uniform. Photo book no. 240M, date of group photo. Nov., 1915. 1 month hl; 7 days hl; 6 days hl; (cumulative) date of sentence 31-1-25 where committed Perth. Date of discharge 2-3-25' (Winder is in same list)

There is still another entry in 1920 where Skinner, Every and Winder are charged with evil fame.

²⁹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 12 August 1920, page 10

with Skinner, but was not her bludger. He was representing himself at trial, and when asked about the camp said, ‘—“Oh, just a camp, and that. Any amount of men and women live in rougher places in the bush. Everybody can't get a two-storey house like you detectives, you know.” “Weren't you with a man when you were arrested, who had just came out of gaol?”—“Yes, I was. But what about it? I am a convicted thief myself. Do you think you do us any good by sending us to gaol?”’

Every sported a cut hand, blaming this for his recent lack of employment.

““Yes,” interrupted Detective Dungay,’ immediately striking while the iron was hot, ““You cut it while you were trying to steal some crayfish.””²⁹⁹

A description of Every appears in 1930 Western Australian Police Gazette where he is described as ‘a native of New South Wales, age 36 years, ‘a labourer, single, height 5ft. 9in., well built, brown untidy hair, brown bushy eyebrows, sloping forehead, blue eyes, small fat nose, several teeth missing, round chin, small ears, long face, dark complexion, clean shaven, wearing a dirty brown suit and grey felt hat...’³⁰⁰

Every continued to mix with bad company and in 1936 was charged with fighting Frank Miller and James Conlon (32), also a labourer, in Queen Street, Perth and imprisoned for 14 days.³⁰¹ He was then arrested in 1937 for swearing, and sentenced to 14 days.³⁰² Every was described as ‘quivering and shaking with emotion’ and ‘almost incoherent’ when he was sentenced to another three months’ gaol in 1938.³⁰³ Described as 45 years old (although actually 48), Every admitted stealing £20/3/9 in a bag from the seat of a carter’s van. Detective Richardson gave evidence that Every was under the influence of alcohol when arrested, with most of the money spent but two torn cheques and a postal note linked him to the crime, leading to his confession.³⁰⁴

One year later a ‘shabbily dressed’ Every was arrested for pickpocketing a watch and chain, some keys and money from James Temple, who sitting on the kerb outside the Royal Hotel in Wellington Street, Perth at 8.45pm. Arrested after being witnessed by a pedestrian, Every was found with the watch on his person. In his court appearance Every blamed ‘a newsboy’ for hanging the watch in his pocket, but Magistrate H. D.

²⁹⁹ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 14 August 1920, page 3

³⁰⁰ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police. The description is in the context of an arrest - 1930: Warrant of commitment to Perth Gaol for 48 hours imprisonment, in default of payment of 11s., being fine and costs inflicted by the Perth Police Court, on 21st ult., for drunkenness. Dated at Perth, 3rd June, 1930. -555: 6225/30, p336

³⁰¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 7 January 1935, page 3; Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 20 Jun 1936, page 21

³⁰² Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 10 May 1937, page 2

³⁰³ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1938: (Half year ending 30 June) ‘96a, 205a, 212a, (correction) Apprehended at Perth 25th by Dets Richardson and JA Jones and PC Blackmore; stealing 3 mths hard labour 26 ult: 1840/38 (205) Frank Every and William Robert Taylor at Perth 18th 3 mths hard labour’

³⁰⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 26 February 1938, page 2

Moseley sentenced him 3 months hard labour.³⁰⁵

Frank Every was living at Boddington but was visiting the city when he died at 5am Sunday 22 March 1940 after being knocked down by a car at 9.15pm on the previous night in William Street, Perth.³⁰⁶ See also Alexander Winder and Lucille Skinner entries.

Edgar, John
Smelters' Camp, Fremantle 1912
labourer

John Edgar was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters' Camp in 1912³⁰⁷ as a labourer. John Edgar has not been fully researched.

Egan, Jim
Meatworks Camp 1933
-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.³⁰⁸

Ellis, Joseph
rear Smelting Works 1926
retired

Joseph Ellis was listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll as living at 'Rear Smelting Works' in 1926.³⁰⁹ His occupation is 'retired' – the only time this description is formally offered. Joseph Ellis has not been fully researched.

³⁰⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 26 June 1939, page 9

³⁰⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 23 March 1942, page 3;
BDM WA Registration no. 762

³⁰⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

³⁰⁸ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

³⁰⁹ Ibid.

Fairburn, Henry
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

Henry Fairburn was listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1905³¹⁰ as a slaughterman. Henry Fairburn has not been fully researched.

Fairhead, William
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.³¹¹

Fitzgerald, Catherine C.
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
married

Fitzgerald, Richard
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
stock inspector

Catherine and Richard Fitzgerald are listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls (Robb's Jetty) in 1909 and 1910, with occupations listed as 'married' and 'stock inspector' respectively. After 1910 the Fitzgeralds moved to 194 Lefroy Road, Fremantle. Catherine and Richard Fitzgerald have not been fully researched.

Fitzsimmons, Charles
bwt Smelting Works and Robb's Jetty 1898 -1904
unemployed/boilermaker

Charles Fitzsimmons was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1904, but it was his letter to *The West Australian* in October 1898 which ordains him the fatherly activist of the Smelter's Camp community, and a man ahead of his times. Well-aware of his tenuous existence at the camp location, he begins an eloquent letter to the editor thus -

'A COMPLAINT FROM TENT DWELLERS. To THE EDITOR.
SIR,- Would you do me and a number of unemployed men the favour to publish the following account of the unnecessary misery to which we are subjected by some

³¹⁰ Ibid.

³¹¹ Ibid.

person or persons at present unknown to us.'

He goes on to describe 'a number of us are camped between the smelting works and Robb's Jetty, which is Crown land, and as this narrow strip of sand bank is covered with scrub.' He and his companions are unemployed or awaiting work at the Smelters. The campers have already moved from the Company's lease to avoid construction, and with brush removed, 'with it the protection from the drifting sand or rain has been removed, leaving no shelter for the mens' tents.'

'Many of the men are like myself married, with wives and large families in the other colonies, and we intend to bring them here when we earn sufficient money. On Saturday the police visited our camp, and gave those they found there verbal notice to shift. Complaints had been made, they said, and they had instructions to clear the camp.'

Fitzsimmons, after consulting with Mr. Back, the Inspector of Police, confirmed the complaints, along with a deputation sent to Perth asking how the camp could exist on Crown Lands. Fitzsimmons suspected the deputation to have been issued by either land sharks or boarding houses, who were

'putting up secondhand galvanised iron houses on bald sand hills, which have no protection from the inclemency of the sea coast weather, which is as shifty and changeable as the dolls of a Parisian show.'

However, he endorsed their location, being away from the public houses, proudly describing it as 'free from the evil association of bad women and quite void of larrikinism.' He described the men of the camp occupied themselves in fishing, being 'too proud to steal or beg' and with boarding houses beyond their means.

He implores, 'If we are compelled by law to shift our camp, where shall we go? Shall we be compelled to roam the streets at night with the criminal class, or what? At present my tent is my mansion. Though humble it may be, I feel there at least a quiet resting spot where I can condole with others and ponder over my own misfortunes, which, I must confess, have pursued me since I landed in Western Australia.'

Fitzsimmons continued to make political enquiries, suggested a petition or deputation to the State government asking for permission to occupy the scrub land 'until such times as it may be required for some other useful purposes.

Yours, etc. CHAS. FITZSIMMONS. Fremantle, October 20.'³¹²

Fitzsimmons could not predict the scrub land would still be occupied over 50 years later. Charles Fitzsimmons has not been fully researched.

³¹² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 29 October 1898, page 10

The Unemployed (1898)

'During the two days that the West Australian Trades and Labour Council have opened their office for the registration of names of unemployed some 49 men have given their addresses. The bulk of those applying for registration are labourers, cooks, and clerks, while a commercial traveller, a telegraphist and an electrician help to swell the total. The average time the men have been out of work is nine weeks, a large proportion of those giving in their names being single men who are living in camps outside the city.'³¹³

Issues of feeding, housing and keeping newly-arrived men and families free from disease had been troubling the Swan River Colony since settlement in 1829.³¹⁴ The colony particularly struggled with the large numbers of male convicts and immigrants arriving between 1850 and 1868 to an immature economy that could not sustain the cost of poor relief, despite their best efforts.

Penelope Hetherington, in her book 'Paupers, Poor Relief & Poor Houses in Western Australia 1829-1910' explains how after the exertions of the Colonial Government it was finally able to take control of the Fremantle Gaol in 1886 after 16 years' management by the Imperial Government. In addition, they now governed the Imperial Invalid Depot at The Knowle, and the Insane Asylum.³¹⁵

Simultaneously, the gold rushes ignite in the late 1880s - 1890s, the wealth gap widens and attention from the fortunate turns toward, 'the increasing number of destitute men, women and children congregating in tents along the river,' many of them failed prospectors, with the river offering some relief from the summer heat,

'Some tents had already been erected, and little fires flickered between the scrub. In other places groups of persons lay rolled in their rugs.'³¹⁶

'Newcomers' were also occupying the tent cities of Willis's Point, Monument Hill and Fremantle Park in 1895.³¹⁷ The invalid, the insane, orphans and homeless families

³¹³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 28 June, 1898, page 4

³¹⁴ The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal (WA), Saturday 5 September, 1835, page 559 'Four Years' Report on the Colony of Western Australia'; The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 19 November 1879, page 3

³¹⁵ Hetherington, Penelope, 'Paupers, Poor Relief & Poor Houses in Western Australia 1829-1910', The University of Western Australia, Crawley WA, 2009, page vi (In the *Forward*)

³¹⁶ Quoted from The West Australian, 4 February 1886. See Hetherington, Penelope, 'Paupers, Poor Relief & Poor Houses in Western Australia 1829-1910, The University of Western Australia, Crawley WA, 2009, pp 130 - 133.

³¹⁷ Whittington, Vera, 'Gold and Typhoid, Two Fevers: A Social History of Western Australia, University of Western Australia Press, 1988, page 326 from a deeper reference of Ewers, J.K. 'The Western Gateway', p87, citing 'Messenger', 15 November 1895

including single mothers were becoming very visible, under makeshift shelters on Fremantle allotments and spare ground in their hundreds,³¹⁸ without amenities. This issue not only presented a pressing responsibility for the local council, it wielded a sting in the tail - the risk and the expense of typhoid.

‘These folk could not afford hospital fees, and if the Colonial Hospital in Perth had no room, the police were forced to send them to a private hospital at the government’s expense. In January, a seven-year-old boy, living in a tent at North Fremantle with his mother and four other children, had become seriously ill with typhoid...’³¹⁹

Hetherington estimates that at the peak of the typhoid epidemic in 1897, there were 1,408 cases and 134 deaths.³²⁰ By June 1898, the above article ‘The Unemployed’ appeared in *The West Australian*, only four months prior to Fitzsimmon’s remonstrations, which were in reaction to attention returning to the unhoused and the itinerant. The Fremantle Wesleyan Church and ‘Fremantle Sisters of the People’ had been in the front line, assisting tent dwellers through the devastating typhoid outbreak the previous year. Protocols around death (including by typhoid and bubonic plague) were being quickly developed.³²¹

From 1890 the Salvation Army and private charitable initiatives were gaining their footing; then the establishment of the Labour Bureau in 1900 by the Charities Department, allowed meaningful and directed assistance to be offered, and subsequently, ‘the old Poor House system has ceased to exist.’³²²

After 1905, the processing of migrants in Western Australia was more sophisticated, with arrangements made to assist them to find employment, the provision of a labour bureau card detailing wage structures, screening for tuberculosis, and guidance toward the State’s receiving home in South Terrace, Fremantle, where they

³¹⁸ Whittington, see also, ‘Canvas settlements still occupied vacant land and the local press angrily condemned the filth of the campers without a sign of sympathy for their plight or without making allowance for their lack of amenities. Perth *Daily News* claimed that 259 people lived in 126 tents in and around Monument Hill,’ Whittington, Vera, ‘Gold and Typhoid, Two Fevers: A Social History of Western Australia, University of Western Australia Press, 1988, page 327

³¹⁹ Whittington, Vera, ‘Gold and Typhoid, Two Fevers: A Social History of Western Australia, University of Western Australia Press, 1988, page 323

³²⁰ Hetherington, Penelope, ‘Paupers, Poor Relief & Poor Houses in Western Australia 1829-1910, The University of Western Australia, Crawley WA, 2009, page 130

³²¹ Various, including but not limited to: Whittington, Vera, ‘Gold and Typhoid, Two Fevers: A Social History of Western Australia, University of Western Australia Press, 1988; Smith, Marg ‘Death in the Nineteenth Century’ [Research Paper manuscript, History 14], 1976; Hetherington, Penelope, ‘Paupers, Poor Relief & Poor Houses in Western Australia 1829-1910, The University of Western Australia, Crawley WA, 2009

For detail around the movement of aged men after 1886 from the Imperial Invalid Depot to the Fremantle Immigration Depot, the building of the Fremantle Hospital, new for the insane, and the Old Men’s Home/Sunset Hospital, see Hetherington pp 149 - 150 and (Sunset), page 636

³²² Ibid, pp vi-vii

could stay for three days free, or longer at a discounted rate, if unsuccessful in securing employment in those first three days. The establishment of a Department of Immigration, headed by Auber Octavius Neville, was formalised in 1910.³²³

As time passed, many cared for their own arriving family members, with stories of established Spearwood Southern European immigrant families welcoming even countrymen strangers in need into their homes and properties.³²⁴

In Annie Baker's oral history, held at the State Library of Western Australia, she remembered the later Depression era as, '...the tough times when men working on the Sustenance were paid only 7/6 a week...' ³²⁵ and Thelma Bertucci (née Bishop) recounted tramps in her local area,

'...there was a lot of pine trees in Spearwood... They were enormous trees and in marvellous health too. And we used to... swing along them and it was a haven in the winter time for all the old drunks... or swaggies... They'd sleep under the pine trees and in the morning they'd be quite dry and it would be raining all night.'³²⁶

Brian Atkinson recalled his aunty telling him that additional men supplementing the three or four paid workers on his grandfather's property who tended the racehorses were sometimes not paid at all during the Depression, 'because they were quite happy just to live with them to get enough food, you know, just to be fed, because they were really tough times.'³²⁷

'Timber for the new prison was cut at Woodman Point and brought to Fremantle by flat-bottom barge towed along the beach by horses...' ³²⁸

³²³ Peters, Sonja 2004, 'The Immigration Buildings Victoria Quay 1906-1966', *Fremantle Studies*, 3: 40-52 <https://freotopia.org/fhs/fs/3/Peters.html> Accessed April 2024

³²⁴ Author's own family oral history and research

³²⁵ Annie Baker (née Davenport) Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/9, 1996, held at State Library of Western Australia. Tape 2, side 1; For more stories about sustenance workers during the Depression: Wallace Leslie Hagan Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/3, 1996, held at State Library of Western Australia. Read also an interesting account of Depression workers and 'tramps' in the south west region in Isabel Agnes Hutchinson (née Whitham) Oral History SLWA: OH2003, 1986; Transcript pp39-40, State Library of Western Australia. *Isabel Hutchinson née Whitham was born 11 May 1902 in Fremantle*

See also Jack Bavich Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/10, 1996; Mayor Ray Lees Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/6, 1996

³²⁶ Thelma Bertucci (née Bishop) Oral History, SLWA: OH2825, 1996, Tape 2, side 1

³²⁷ Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

³²⁸ Darroch, Ian, 'Fremantle Tales', [Publisher not identified], Western Australia, 2013, page 32

Flower, Alice
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.³²⁹

Flynn, Peter
Pensioner's Camp/Robb's Jetty 1934-1943
labourer

Peter Flynn was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll as living at 'Pensioners' Camp, Robb's Jetty' in the nine year period between 1934 and 1943.³³⁰ The description of 'Pensioners' Camp' is not often used in the electoral rolls, though it was sometimes used in newspaper articles. His occupation was 'labourer'. Peter Flynn has not been fully researched.³³¹

Forward, William Pascoe
Hut on beach, Robb's Jetty 1928
no vocation

William Forward literally lists his address as 'Hut on beach, Robb's Jetty' in 1928's Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll, with 'no vocation' noted as his occupation. He died in 1929.³³² William Forward has not been fully researched.

³²⁹ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

³³⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

³³¹ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police. 1919. There is an unconfirmed photograph of a Peter Flynn

³³² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 20 April 1929, page 1



Fremantle History Centre Image # 1713 South Beach c1920s

Fraser, Dolores
Seagull Camp 1980-1984
Artist

Dolores Fraser was interviewed in the film 'Freo Yorgas'³³³ and she was a resident of the 'Seagull Camp', which was a short distance north of the site of the Smelters Camp. Dolores Fraser is a Wadjari Nyarlu artist born at Big Bell, 700kms north of Perth, and she lived on the streets of Fremantle for many years as well as at her beach camp for three years from 1984, and then in the later community³³⁴ known as the Seagull Camp.³³⁵ This camp was near to the Smelters Camp location, and consisted of seven couples. Dolores looks back on her time at the Seagull Camp fondly.³³⁶

'..we had little camps in and out of these caster oil bushes here. We lived there for three winters and you couldn't see out... camp because it was camouflaged. You couldn't see it from down here or anywhere around. You could hear us but you couldn't see us. We used to party there all the time.'³³⁷

The Seagull camp suffered the same fate as the Smelters Camp in 1987.

³³³ Quartermaine, Blanche and Roberts, Paul 'Freo Yorgas' (Director and Producer), 30 minutes; made with assistance of the Indigenous Community Stories Initiative, Screenwest and Lotterywest. Fremantle, Western Australia; FTI 2010 (Held by Fremantle Library)

³³⁴ Residents of the camp included Dolores Fraser, her partner Yallabowie, her mother Beatrice Fraser, Geoffrey Arago, Mitchell Waigana, Ruby Spratt, Kelly Lui and Maxine Moody, Donald Claude Nona 'Mice', and Ezekial Babia 'Dr Robert'

³³⁵ <https://www.daa0.org.au/bio/dolores-fraser/biography/> Accessed April 2024

³³⁶ Dolores Fraser interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 11 May 2019

³³⁷ Quartermaine, Blanche and Roberts, Paul 'Freo Yorgas' (Director and Producer) 30 minutes; made with assistance of the Indigenous Community Stories Initiative, Screenwest and Lotterywest.

'They bulldozed the place. I had a big tea box full of all my cooking gear. I had a camp oven and I had (a) primus and everything like that. And when I came back to pick my stuff up and there was nothing there.'³³⁸ Thanks to Dolores Fraser for contributing.

Fulton, Edward ('Ted', 'Ginger', 'Bluey') James

1909 - 1980s

Smelters' Camp 1948 - 1954

wool hand

Fulton, Florence Irene and child, Terry

1901 - 1970s

Smelters' Camp 1949 - 1954

home duties

Wool hand Edward 'Ted' and Florence Fulton, married in 1935, are listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1954. Fulton was born in 1909,³³⁹ and had an early association with the Smelters. Facing court in September 1927, he was found unlawfully on the premises of the smelting works, but he declared his good intentions and the case was dismissed.³⁴⁰ This area was obviously part of his beat, when in their and he and his friend were later arrested not far from the Smelters, at Mandurah Road. This time it was a minor infringement of stealing and receiving a showcase of 18lbs (8 kilograms) of cake from a shop in Mandurah Road occupied by Domingo Padreny; they were arrested in a park throwing cake at each other.³⁴¹

Fulton had perpetual problems with accommodation. Unemployed at 20 years of age and a labourer, he was convicted of vagrancy in Fremantle, and sleeping rough at a friend's house. Judgment was suspended provided he moved on. When this did not occur, he was arrested again and sentenced to three months in prison. He had since married his friend Florence (34), who was a widow. He and Florence were found

³³⁸ Ibid.

³³⁹ BDM WA Registration no. 348; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; BDM Registration no. 393

³⁴⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 22 September 1927, page 19

³⁴¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 28 February 1928, page 7

Edward Fulton also appears in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police 1930. December 24, 1930, page 704. Edward James Fulton and Edwin George Smith, at Fremantle, on 9th inst., by Dets. Nisbet and Blight; stealing. Fined £10 and make restitution or 30 days hl each 12inst. - 11915/30
1955. 11 May, 1955, page 159. 15633, Fulton, Edward James Maintenance (2 charges). Prisoners Discharged from Fremantle Gaol for month of April 1955
1958. Fulton maintenance prisoner discharge (page 158); 170, 345, 372

living illegally in a South Fremantle house that was unoccupied. Florence was released with a caution.³⁴²

Accidentals

Two years later, Fulton was driving with Florence and her three children from a previous marriage - William Hopkins (13), Roy Hopkins (10) and Harry Hopkins (8) after picking them up from Clontarf Orphanage, Manning, to take them for a drive. When the car skidded and overturned on the Albany road beyond Armadale, Florence had to be treated for head abrasions and lacerations, William sustained a broken collarbone and the other two boys, abrasions.³⁴³

Fulton also met with military challenges, 'Twice discharged from the Army during the past few months, Edward James Fulton... was convicted in Perth Police Court yesterday of having failed to enrol for military service. Finding him guilty of a technical offence in that he should have registered following his second discharge in April, Magistrate cautioned Fulton, ordered him to pay costs.'³⁴⁴

Bob the Rat, part 2

By 1948, friction had developed between Fulton and another camp resident, 66-year-old Robert Boswell. Fulton assaulted him by hitting him on the head with a broom handle. It was 7pm in the evening along Mandurah Road, when Fulton passed Boswell, uttering, 'Bob, the rat,' and when confronted by Boswell he performed the blow, which resulted in injuries to Boswell's scalp. Fulton was fined £3 with 14/ costs.³⁴⁵



NAA B883 W12205, WX22444
and WX17834 Fulton, Edward
National Archives of Australia

In a sad state of affairs, in 1952 Cox Bros. (Aust.) Ltd, a furniture department store, seems to have not been paid for items hire purchased by the Fultons, as an advertisement in *The West Australian* in June 1952 advised an auction 'would soon take place, on the premises at Smelters Camp, South

³⁴² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 7 December 1935, page 10; Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 December 1935, page 2; see also The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 24 December 1935, page 5

³⁴³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 27 April 1938, page 18

³⁴⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 30 October 1942, page 4

³⁴⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 27 August 1948, page 4



Ted and Irene Fulton (undated)

© T. Fulton

Beach... One double bed; one single bed; one wooden oval table; four padded chairs and sundries.’³⁴⁶

A Mistake

Edward Fulton’s maternal relationship was also a little fraught, albeit unintentionally comical.

‘Edward James Fulton (43), of the Smelters’ Camp, South Fremantle, pleaded guilty in the Fremantle Police Court yesterday to having stolen a roast of beef worth 7/– from his mother’s refrigerator on Saturday night. Fulton said that it was all a mistake. He had been drinking (with his mother) and soon after leaving her house he had returned to collect his share of the Joint. Being “slightly under the weather,” he had taken it all, he said. He was placed on a £20 bond to be of good behaviour for six months.’³⁴⁷

Kenny Goodes explains that the people who lived at the Smelters Camp were what are known as ‘street people’ nowadays. Poor people used to go up there to ‘Hollywood’. The rubbish tip at the end of Thomas Street, South Fremantle would supply corrugated iron that they would stick into the sand and live in there.

He vividly remembers Ted ‘Ginger’ Fulton and his ‘skinny’ wife Irene ‘Reeny’. They lived up there in the Smelters for twenty years. They were ‘case-hardened,’ but ‘beautiful people and good friends.’ They had a son who ‘became very clever.’

In the street behind the semi-detached workman’s cottages at the back of the grass park at South Beach, were Mr Quidlon’s stables. There were more adjacent stables in the sandhills and magnificent herds of brumbies in the dunes. They’d range between Hollywood and right up to Robb Jetty. In Daly Street, South Fremantle, the last stop left on Douro Road was where Mr Cockle lived. He had race horses that he would release during the week, and Saturday he’d catch them again and take them to the races. On Saturday all the big horse trailers would show up at South Fremantle railway station and the men would load the horses into the train and take them to the races. The SP bookies would be ready outside the Davilak Hotel. There were lots of stables and racehorses in the area. Every day men would ride them down and

³⁴⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 June 1952, page 17

³⁴⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 24 March 1953, page 7

gallop them from South Fremantle jetty to Robb Jetty, when it was a straight stretch of sand.

Ted 'Ginger' and Reeny would go and sleep in the hay and straw, and take some barley from the horses and boil it up for a meal. Ken would bring them a neck bone from the abattoir where he worked, and they'd boil that up too.

Where the bicycle shop is now on the corner of South Terrace and Douro Road was a wine bar, managed by a generously proportioned woman whose name he could not recall. For six pence they would buy a little glass of wine. Ted and Reeny used to drink a fair bit. Opposite the wine bar was a lolly shop (where the flats now stand near the roundabout). Miss Fields and Miss Biggins operated the shop, and after Miss Biggins died, Miss Fields kept the shop going for a long time. Many teenagers would congregate outside the shop at the back, and watch the girls go past.

Ted's mother lived in Douro Road, she was a midwife known as Nurse Fulton, and delivered all the babies in South Fremantle and Beaconsfield. Ted lived there as a child with his brother.

'Rockingham Road of course didn't exist. It only came as far as Hamilton Road... but the sand track went right up around to Gerald Road. And that's where Ginger Fulton and all his group - Ginger was a well-known character around Fremantle. Excellent mechanic. Wonderful on baby Austins. He could do anything with a baby Austin engine to make them go again. But addicted to drink.'³⁴⁸

Ken also remembers Ted was a mechanic, and he always wore khaki clothes. He didn't own a car (very few people in the area owned cars, as no one had any money) and so would 'shank's pony' everywhere. One day he was walking past a panel beaters and the workers grabbed Ted and sprayed him completely pink, clothes and all, which infuriated Ken.

Ken can't remember everyone who lived at the Smelters Camp. But he remembers some aboriginal residents, and recalls that Reeni had another woman named Mrs Foot who lived with them for some time.³⁴⁹ She was a qualified pharmacist but also an alcoholic.

The Bowden's, who were related to the Fultons, did their best to care for Ted throughout his life.³⁵⁰ The Bowden's lived at the end of Walker Street, South Fremantle, and Arthur Bowden worked in the abattoir.³⁵¹ They weren't wealthy but had been successful with a Perth cup-winning horse, England's Dust, co-owned with

³⁴⁸ Wallace Leslie Hagan Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/3, 1996

³⁴⁹ Ken speculated that Mrs Foot was Irene's sister, but Terry Fulton confirmed his mother Irene did not have siblings. Ken said Mrs Foot was a pharmacist with alcoholism. More research is required on Mrs Foot. Ken Goodes interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 January 2020

³⁵⁰ Aileen Bowden was Edward Fulton's cousin. Terry Fulton Oral History, recorded by Dr Denise Cook, 11 November 2021, Cockburn Libraries

³⁵¹ Interview Terry Fulton by Julie Raffaele 26 February 2021

George Atkinson, in 1961, which no doubt bolstered Arthur's training reputation, and they kept horses nearby.³⁵² Ted's pension was sent straight to Aileen. She would fund running tabs at his local shops and began putting some money aside for his funeral fund. His headstone was eventually bought with these funds. A kindly woman in life, she was terribly missed after her death in 2001. Eight months later Arthur followed her.³⁵³

Terry Fulton

Terry Fulton, one of two sons of Ted and Florence Irene Fulton, contributed generously to our known history of his parents. Terry's brother Edward James Fulton Junior had been taken to live with his grandmother, known midwife Mary 'Sis' (as in a nursing sister) Sarah Fulton, simply known as 'Nurse Fulton', from an early age at Douro road, South Fremantle, while Terry lived at the hut his parents occupied at the Smelters from about age four and a half.

'Look, my history is of a little boy at South Beach, South Fremantle. I would visit my grandmother because I knew I would get fed there at 20 Douro Road.'³⁵⁴

'..it was difficult but at the same time, I have got no regrets because I think what you don't know, you don't miss. So, my life was free. As a child, I was everywhere.' Terry Fulton

Whilst Terry's aunty did attempt to keep Terry attending school at Beaconsfield Convent, he was 'in one door and out the other.'

'I had freedom. I did what I wanted to do, and I would be down Fisherman's Wharf. I would be up the abattoirs. I'd be at Robb's Jetty watching people fish. I would be down on the beach watching people pull in their nets which is just behind where we were at Smelters' Camps. It was a great life.'³⁵⁵



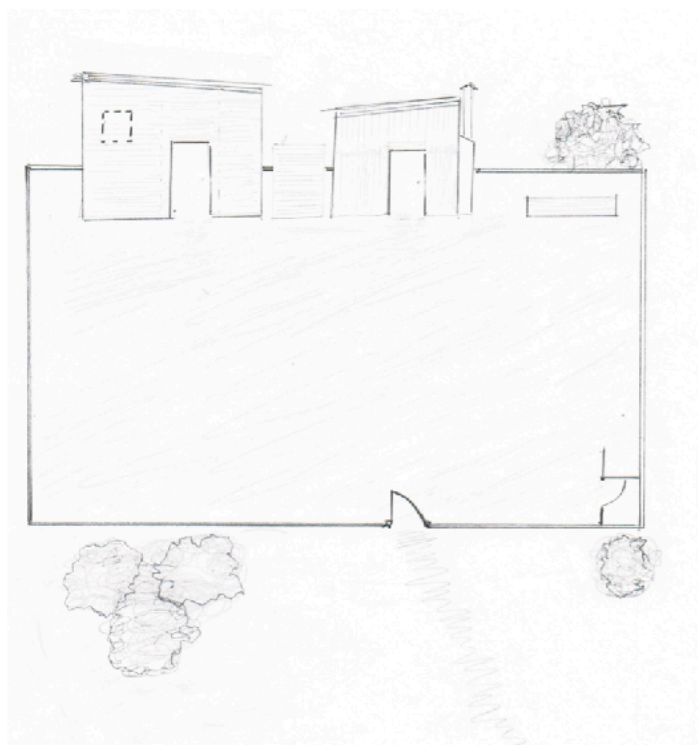
Terry Fulton (Right) and brother Edward
© T. Fulton

³⁵² <https://www.tbheritage.com/TurfHallmarks/racecharts/Australia/PerthCup.html>; <https://thecoloursofhorseracing.blogspot.com/2016/08/the-perth-cup.html> Accessed April 2024

³⁵³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/213426509/arthur-thomas-bowden#source>. Arthur Thomas Bowden, birth 1914 - 15 Feb 2002 (aged 87-88) Fremantle Cemetery RC-Mon C-0144. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/213426286/aileen-marjorie-bowden> Aileen Marjorie Bowden, birth 1917 - 8 June 2001 (aged 83-84) Fremantle Cemetery RC-Mon C-0144. Accessed April 2024

³⁵⁴ Terry Fulton Oral History, recorded by Dr Denise Cook, 11 November 2021, Cockburn Libraries

³⁵⁵ Ibid.



Terry Fulton's orientation sketch of his Smelters Camp home

Terry remembers his father instructing him the best way to scavenge food and resources from the local tip, and how money was tight. His father would often find work, at the Wool Stores or as a mechanic, but Terry recalls him spending his wage on alcohol as well. After roaming around during the day, he would ‘.. go down to the wine saloon or the Davilak Hotel and pick out my parents later on and we’d go home.’³⁵⁶

Terry and his brother spent time in care homes, just as his father Ted and his brother Robert (‘Bob’) had done when their own father William Robert didn’t return to their mother after WWI. This was the time that Terry’s grandmother Mary sought training in nursing, to raise her two boys. Eventually Terry and his brother’s time in Clontarf shaped his life in a positive way, providing the education that would set him on his life’s path away from the Smelters, all because his Aunt Gwen Dagg notified child welfare authorities. She continued to visit them regularly once in care as did her two daughters, who lovingly committed themselves to the boys’ mentoring.

Irene Fulton’s first husband Henry Hopkins had tragically died, after falling intoxicated from North Wharf and police recovered his body from under the traffic bridge.³⁵⁷ This left Irene alone with four children by Henry, and later she had another child with Stanley Wilson. These children, Terry’s half siblings, were transferred to various care homes or became untraceable. Irene and Ted’s lifestyle led to a rift

³⁵⁶ Ibid.

³⁵⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 9 November 1931, page 4

between them and Mary, and when Terry was born in 1943, 'there was just no way that she was going to take me on board. Alcohol had set in well and truly...'

Irene and Ted's hut was constructed of recycled materials and had a small corrugated iron fenced yard to try to keep the dugites out. The kitchen linoleum was laid upon the sand and nearby well provided water. Sheets of iron were weighted down for the roof and the inside walls were bag canvas, and the sleeping quarters and kitchen were separated by a water tank between them. All building material came from the nearby tip. 'The tip was the Bunnings of today.' Terry Fulton³⁵⁸

There was a kerosene lamp and a Coolgardie safe for storing food. The lavatory was in another small hut that also stored wood, and consisted of 'just a piece of wood with a hole cut in the top of it and a bucket with the phenyl'; and a vegetable garden. He says, 'Our house was pretty good compared to some of the others.'

Terry recalls lots of borrowing of food resources and family connections in the abattoirs that would supply meat. Everything in excess was shared. 'It was people coming and going so all very friendly-like until the alcohol really set in then you had swearing and carrying on.'

He remembers Aboriginal families living closer to the Smelters, living in tents, lean-tos and 'true shanties', with campfires, but that there wasn't a great deal of socialising.

'As you looked on the rise, which was like where the rail line went, as it dropped away down into the camping area, well, you've got these shanties which were dotted here, there and everywhere.'³⁵⁹

While at Clontarf, Terry was periodically in touch with his parents, and when in Fremantle, would go down looking for them. In 1970 he got a call from his Auntie Gwen, to find out his mother was in Hollywood Hospital. After his mother died, his auntie took in his father for a short while but he was uncontrollable. He went back to living rough, now simply under sheets of corrugated iron in the dunes, and wandering until the 1980s. He was once found in the sandhills at the back of the Bowden's sunburned, and was taken for a few weeks recovery at Fremantle Hospital.

'Look, they were great people, really kind. If I dropped in, they'd feed me. After my mum died, when she died in 1970, as I said, my dad was, he was lost. Totally. Not because it was his drinking partner. He was just lost because he'd lost my mum. And Aileen would feed him. He'd come in looking like death's door or whatever and she would feed him. She had a set of clothes for him. He had a shower outside. Cleaned him up and off he'd go again.'³⁶⁰

³⁵⁸ Interview Terry Fulton by Julie Raffaele 26 February 2021

³⁵⁹ Terry Fulton Oral History, recorded by Dr Denise Cook, 11 November 2021, Cockburn Libraries

³⁶⁰ Ibid.

Twentieth of March 1980, Ted went and bought a block of cheese at the shop now at 20 Douro Road, stepped out onto the road and was killed by a car. Terry thinks he was on the way to Aileen and Arthur Bowden's place, as they continued to keep an eye on him. Ted 'Ginger' Fulton was 71.³⁶¹

Frost, Wilfred John
Off Robb's Jetty 1922, 1926-1943
tanner/farmer 1926

John Frost was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll as 'Off Robb's Jetty' in 1922 as a tanner and later between 1926-1943 as a farmer.³⁶² John Frost has not been fully researched.

Gaibullini, Charles
Camp near Smelting Works 1907
labourer

When labourer Charles Gailbullini offered Angelo Carrera a place to sleep in April 1907, he did not expect to arrive home from his Jandakot job search at noon the next day to find he had been relieved of a mirror, a serge suit and two-dozen eggs. After 5.30pm, his unhappy neighbour James Cosgrove alerted him that his own hut had also been pillaged of a suit, a silver chain, some boots and other items.

When Carrera was presented at the camp by detectives from Perth, he was wearing part of the stolen suit and partially confessed to the crime. The detectives subsequently retrieved the trousers and the mirror, and later he showed them where he had hidden the boots. Carrera had form in petty thievery and was imprisoned a total of nine months.³⁶³

Charles Gaibullini has not been fully researched. See also entries for Carrera and Cosgrove.

³⁶¹ Interview Terry Fulton by Julie Raffaele 26 February 2021. Also Metropolitan Cemeteries Index: Edward James Fulton, Fremantle Cemetery, Roman Catholic, Mon - CC, gravesite 0799 includes date of death and age

³⁶² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

³⁶³ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 26 August 1902, page 17

Gallagher, Charles
Smelter's Camp 1928-1931
labourer

Charles Gallagher was listed in the supplementary section of the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1928 as a labourer living at the 'Smelter's Camp' and resided there until 1931.³⁶⁴ Charles Gallagher has not been fully researched.

Gentle, Dave and Grace
Meatworks Camp 1933
-

These names appear in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.³⁶⁵

Gentle, Simon
1893 –
Smelters Camp (date unknown)
stock agent representative

Simon Gentle was a stock agent representative and 'White City' rodeo rider, included in Dr. Denise Cook's research, with oral history provided by Cedric Jacobs, as a probable resident of the Smelters Camp.³⁶⁶ Gentle was employed by Emmanuel Bros. at Robb Jetty and Gentle Road in Kwinana was named for him. He was also the first employee of the Kwinana Road Board in 1938.³⁶⁷

Gentle was mentioned in a public information notice informing that his certificate of exemption, under the Native Welfare Act, 1905 – 1954 had been cancelled, due to

³⁶⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

³⁶⁵ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

³⁶⁶ Cook, Denise, "'That was my Home' Stories from the Noongar Camps of Fremantle and Perth's Western Suburbs,' UWA Publishing, 2019 <https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/products/that-was-my-home> Accessed April 2024

³⁶⁷ [https://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/council/documents,-publications-and-forms/publications-and-forms-\(all\)/plans-and-strategies/2020/boola-maara-baldja-koorliny-reflect-reconciliation](https://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/council/documents,-publications-and-forms/publications-and-forms-(all)/plans-and-strategies/2020/boola-maara-baldja-koorliny-reflect-reconciliation); <https://www.facebook.com/cityofkwinana/photos/a.162938487108981/2980623225340479/?type=3> Accessed April 2024

See also Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

the fact it was considered void since he was classified 'quadroon and not a native within the meaning of section 2 of the Native Welfare Act, 1905 – 1954.'³⁶⁸



Fremantle History Centre Image # 2486 Stock agent representatives c1935 –
[R] Simon Gentle (Emmanuel Bros)

Cecilia Lazenby remembered the Aboriginal Stockmen Simon Gentle, Black Paddy and Wandi Dixon, as her husband Alf worked at Robb Jetty.

'Oh, yes, Simon was lovely. Simon was taken... His people lived in South Fremantle... he told me all this. His mother used to drink and they came and took him away and put him in the orphanage, where he was brought up. And then he became a stockman. And Simon always looked clean, shiny clean. And he used to wear a white silk shirt. And I've met the woman who used to make his shirts for him, because I said he was my boyfriend and she said, "No he's not, he's mine."'

Gentle told her that he had tried to find his mother after leaving an orphanage, likely a Stolen Child, 'he tried to find out where his mother was, and she was at Narrogin, so he used to send some of his wages home to her. And then somebody told him, "Well, the more you send, the more she drinks." So he stopped sending them and he never, ever saw her again.'³⁶⁹

³⁶⁸ 'Government Gazette of Western Australia', No. 82, Friday 5 October 1956, page 2446. See <https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/gazettes.html> Accessed April 2024

³⁶⁹ Cecelia Lazenby Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/2, 1996

In his oral history, Clement Booth referred to Simon Gentle as a 'negro' but it's unclear if his origins were anything but Aboriginal: "I remember in the photo that I sent to the 'Countryman', there was a negro named Simon on a cattle horse, and he was well remembered." Clement Booth Oral History, SLWA: OH1564, page 89 of transcript

Fred Santich also names Charlie Symonds as a stockman employed at meat works but there is no evidence as yet that Symonds lived at the camp. Santich, Fred, 'A Battler's Experience', (self published), Western Australia, 1996, page 143

Though he barracked for South Fremantle, Gentle wasn't a sportsman, but he loved horses. After leaving his career as a stockman he lived with the Listeres and looked after their polo ponies, and when he retired, he lived in Rockingham.

'And when he died, there was a big write-up in the paper. Of the biggest funeral of an Aboriginal attended by all white people, that had ever been known. And they have named a street after him in Rockingham.'³⁷⁰

This is Gentle Road, as it was said his camp was situated beside the bend in the road, south of Chalk Hill lookout. Chalk Hill was a camping area in now Medina.

'The camp occupied a small area on the Northern side of the road (which has been named in memory of this old and respected fringe dweller)...'³⁷¹

Gibson, Robert William
Smelters Camp 1949
freezer hand

Gibson, Rosina Margaret
Smelters Camp 1949
home duties

Robert and Rosina Gibson lived at the Smelters Camp, perhaps until they got on their feet financially, in 1949. They are listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll, with Robert's occupation as 'freezer hand' and Rosina's as 'home duties.'³⁷² In the 1954 electoral roll they are listed at Arundel Street, Fremantle. It is possible that they spent some further time between 1949 – 1954 living at the camp. Robert and Rosina Gibson have not been fully researched.

Gillespie, Gerald AKA Sorrell
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See

³⁷⁰ Cecelia Lazenby Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/2, 1996, part 2, tape 9, side 1

³⁷¹ Continuing, 'The other area was a constellation of camps which were located in the open Banksia and Eucalypt scrub on the South-Western slope of Chalk Hill Lookout and Gentle Road, extended west for approximately 600 metres towards the Kwinana Marshalling Yards.' R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, 'Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions' (1985), page 88.

See <https://www.facebook.com/cityofkwinana/photos/a.162938487108981/2980623225340479/?type=3> for a photograph of Gentle. Accessed April 2024

³⁷² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.³⁷³

Gillespie, Maggie
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.³⁷⁴

Gillespie, Richard
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.³⁷⁵

'Gimme' and 'Charlie the Dip'
Smelters Camp c1950s

-

Bill Mark's entertaining book, 'South to Sillytown,' yielded two colourful new entrepreneurial residents in the Smelters Camp in the mid-1950s.³⁷⁶ Given that 'Gimme' often frequented Bill Marks' Henderson Street betting shop opposite the row of warden's homes in Fremantle, about 1954 might be the best residency estimate for Gimme and his best mate 'the Dip'.³⁷⁷

³⁷³ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

³⁷⁴ Ibid.

³⁷⁵ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>

³⁷⁶ Marks, Bill, 'South to Sillytown: Tales of battlers and larrikins', South Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1997

³⁷⁷ William Marks' betting shop appears here in Govt Gazette [https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/gazettestore.nsf/FileURL/gg1957_077.pdf/\\$FILE/Gg1957_077.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/gazettestore.nsf/FileURL/gg1957_077.pdf/$FILE/Gg1957_077.pdf?OpenElement) in 1954. Accessed April 2024

'Petty thieves, pickpockets, urgers, con men, card sharps, tale tellers and beggars plied their trade around South Beach. Two gentlemen living at South Beach during these years fitted into two of these categories: one was a pickpocket known as 'Charlie the Dip' and the other a plain, straight-out beggar, very well known to everyone living in the district as 'Gimme' ...'³⁷⁸

The true identities of these two men may still be discoverable in the WA Police Gazettes or court proceedings in the State Records Office, but for the moment the small snippets of first hand observations are priceless.

Bill Marks recounts that Gimme lived in the dunes near the old lead smelting works, which he judged about a kilometre beyond the tram terminus. At that time, 'Hollywood' was the nickname for this part of the camp.

'Gimme was the dirtiest man I've ever seen. His clothes were always filthy, his hair long and matted, his face unshaven, and flies followed him like bees around a hive. The only time he looked at all clean (apart from the time 'Fags' O'Donahoe pushed him off the end of South Beach jetty), was for a few days after he got out of prison.'

Bill Marks notes that Gimme's stints inside for a 'holiday and a cleanup' were mostly from vagrancy rather than any serious crime, but he plied his specialist trade with ingenuity and creativity.

'Gimme would use his filthiness to intimidate people, especially strangers. He would catch up to them and walk alongside them asking for money: "Gimme five bob and I'll drop back and leave you alone." Some people would gladly pay to get rid of him and his flies. Mostly he picked the right target, but occasionally he misjudged it and got a punch in the nose for his trouble, or the police would ride along on their bikes and catch him in the act. '

Gimme was a target for bullying, even when he was inside gaol, working cleaning the toilets and showers, or manning the laundry, fellow inmates would realise his worse fear of water, and hold him under the shower and force him to wash. A warden once shared this story to Bill, the dry warden wisely surmised that after said washes,

"I doubt if you or anyone else in Fremantle would recognise him until he's been back on the beat for a few days."³⁷⁹

³⁷⁸ Marks, Bill, 'South to Sillytown: Tales of battlers and larrikins', South Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1997, page 142

³⁷⁹ Ibid., page 147

First Class Investment - The Newmarket Hotel

In 1905 the Newmarket Hotel was advertised as offering sound opportunity.

'To those on the lookout for an hotel a chance is offered them by the owner of the Newmarket, Fremantle. Tenders are invited for a seven years' lease. The house is just nearing completion, and is in every way an up to-date building. It is situated on the Rockingham road, and adjoins the smelters. Robb's Jetty, and abattoirs, and should be a first-class investment.'³⁸⁰

Much later, sometime between 1945 and 1949, former Mayor of Cockburn Ray Lees remembered visiting the Newmarket Hotel when George Thompson was the owner, and the former Australian heavyweight champion was not shy of warning belligerent patrons of his achievements!

'..Friday night there was always a lot of fights there with the meat workers coming in and a few beers - because they'd knock off work at dinner time and by the time you got there at 3 or 4 o'clock they'd all be pretty full and there'd be a lot of fights and George used to jump the bar many a time and throw them straight out the door - and there was always a person who wanted to have a go at knocking the champion out but I don't know if... I never seen anyone do it.'³⁸¹

The Newmarket was also a hub for the local horse racing industry. Lees recalled the colourful activity around the relaxed but illegal betting activities there, with SP bookmaker Charlie Anning offering a good price. He was regularly picked up by the indifferent police and relieved of his bankroll. But because he often received advance warning from them, he could tuck away most of his float. After he was picked up he'd get fined 20 pound in Fremantle Court on the Monday morning, and then head out to work again.³⁸²

George Grljusich, broadcaster and later a bet runner himself for punters at the Newmarket Hotel, also had fond memories of the Newmarket, being 'a very popular watering hole. It was one of the first hotels with an outside beer garden, all lit up with coloured lights and to us at the time it was like a fairyland.'³⁸³

³⁸⁰ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 30 April 1905, page 1; see also <https://freotopia.org/hotels/newmarket.html> Accessed April 2024

³⁸¹ Ray Lees, J.P., Freeman, SLWA: OH2825/6 Audio (8 digital files), 1996, Tape 3, also at <https://history.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Archive/Audio/Cockburn-Pioneer-Oral-Histories/Interview-with-His-Worship-the-Mayor,-Councillor-R> Accessed April 2024

³⁸² Ibid. Tape 3, side 1

³⁸³ Life in the 1950s George Grljusich, 'Living histories: a compilation of stories by seniors, remembering Western Australia in the 1950s' Vol 1. Dept. for Communities 2003; also <https://heraldonlinejournal.com/2014/11/21/a-man-called-george/> Accessed April 2024

Bryan Atkinson highlights the dubious benefits of liquor for those living rough in all weathers, 'I mean the dunes were quite high so you could be on the... leeward side and you could avoid any of the cold perhaps... I'm sure if they were drinking alcohol that their bodies would've been quite warm.'³⁸⁴

But in the camp, alcoholism was clearly rampant, a debilitating and relentless addiction. Beyond the Newmarket Hotel, the wine saloon in Douro Road or up until license removal in 1927, the Coogee Hotel,³⁸⁵ further options were available inland. The many wine cellars on Spearwood Italian and Yugoslavian market garden properties could supply alcohol for payment, or by labour exchange, including picking crops or digging trenches.³⁸⁶

'...they'd take off on Saturday or Sunday and out they'd go out to Peraldini's to get their weekly supply... They'd probably drink it all in one day anyhow... Rough wine... a shilling a bottle.'³⁸⁷

Fred Santich described the alcohol as a crude, but powerful intoxicant. The grape juice, pressed from vines on the market gardens,

'was then placed in wooden barrels with the bung left out, in a sunken limestone cellar. There it foamed, fermenting as it settled down. It was heady stuff. "Spearwood Plonk" was well known for its capacity to knock one low. The pigs went stupid when they ate the waste.'³⁸⁸

Golding, Edward Henry Copley's Siding 1919-1922

-

Edward Golding was listed without occupation at Copley's Siding in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll between 1919 and 1922.³⁸⁹ As the following electoral roll was compiled in 1925, it is possible Golding lived an additional two years at Copley's Siding. Edward Golding has not been fully researched.

³⁸⁴ Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

³⁸⁵ <https://history.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Industry-and-Business/Hotels/Coogee-Hotel,-1898> Accessed 2024

³⁸⁶ See oral history from Thelma Bertucci (nee Bishop), SLWA: OH2825, 1996; Wallace Leslie Hagan OAM Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/3, 1996 - Part 2, Tape 8, side 2

³⁸⁷ Wallace Leslie Hagan OAM Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/3, 1996 - Part 2, Tape 8, side 2

³⁸⁸ Santich, Fred, 'A Battler's Experience', (self published), Western Australia, 1996, page 11. See also <https://croatiansinwa.com.au/market-gardens/> accessed April 2024

³⁸⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

Graham, Mitchell
South Fremantle 1914-1925
slaughterman

Mitchell Graham was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle electoral roll 'Off Robb's Jetty' between 1914 and 1925 as a slaughterman.³⁹⁰ Mitchell Graham has not been fully researched.

Graham, James
Smelters 1938
ship's fireman

Scotsman James Graham (52), a ship's fireman, was mentioned in connection with William Tully in *The West Australian*, 6 August 1938 while 'camping in a shed at the Smelters'.³⁹¹ He appeared to be living in poverty, and did not have a criminal record. But then the two men engaged in the risky endeavour of stealing seven lengths of belting, an endless chain, an emery wheel and a hammer belonging to the Fremantle Road and Pavement Company, that was being stored at the nearby smelter in South Fremantle, sometime between the dates of 30 July and 3 August. They appeared before Fremantle Court on the 5 August, where the goods were valued at £20, with Graham charged with stealing an additional four lengths of belting (£4). Detective J. Johnson explained that the belting had been cut directly from machinery and the lock broken on the storeroom to steal the other items, and then sold to a second hand dealer, 'under fictitious names'³⁹² where the items were later recovered by police. When arrested, Graham deferred blame to Tully.

He explained to Magistrate H. J. Craig that he had been eating only bread and dripping, to which Mr. Craig replied, 'I have done that in the bush before today. It is a terrible thing to destroy property like this.'³⁹³

Magistrate Craig, perhaps not known for his jocular originality, then asked Detective Sergeant Cowie, "'How much money did this man have when arrested?" Detective-Sergeant Cowie: Ten shillings. Mr. Craig: Then he's Scotch, all right. He had more left than the other man. (To accused): You will have to go to gaol for three months, the same as your companion.'³⁹⁴

³⁹⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

³⁹¹ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Saturday 6 August 1938, page 9

³⁹² *Ibid.*

³⁹³ *Daily News* (Perth, WA), Friday 5 August 1938, page 3

³⁹⁴ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Saturday 6 August 1938, page 9. The charge appears here in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1938. August 17, 1938, p346. William Charles Tully, @ J. Smith, at Fremantle on 3rd inst., by P.C. Harper, on the information of Det.-Sgt. Parker and Det. Johnston, charged by Det. Johnston; and Jame Graham @ John Hunter, at Fremantle, on 3rd inst., by Det.-Sgt. Parker and Det. Johnston; stealing. 3 months hl each, 5th inst.- 7049/38

Hardiman, Patrick
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

Patrick Hardiman was listed on the South Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.³⁹⁵ Patrick Hardiman has not been fully researched.

Harrison, Michael
Smelter's Camp 1929
labourer

Michael Harrison appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1929, working as a labourer, living at the Smelter's camp.³⁹⁶ Harrison has not been fully researched.

Shipwrecks and Rust

'Our History Marks The Coast Road – To the Editor. Sir,... Not even the Fremantle Harbour or the Goldfields water scheme can compare with the vast possibilities of the opening up of that magnificent stretch of deep water in Cockburn Sound for the future prosperity of this State.

Down the old coast road from Fremantle to James or Case Point a few old landmarks of the past are still to be seen. The Catherine Point jetty and the smelting chimney have vanished, but a rusty tin shed, slag heaps and camps remain.

Near the foot of Robb's Jetty a rusty tin shed is all that is left of a pressed stone factory. At the bacon factory the rusty battered 50-year-old wreck of the Omeo recalls the part that she took under Capt. Calder in the laying of the overland telegraph line in 1871 at the Roper River. A couple of still fruitful old mulberry trees mark the site of a decayed home and the honeycomb workings of the old burners. The pretty tree-shaded glade at Woodman's Point brings to mind the bygone dreams of the City of Clarence, and the white stone tower of Woodman's Point lighthouse looks down "to those who go down to the sea in ships."

Jervoise Bay revives the Henderson Naval Base, for here are the rusty hulls of the Dutch submarine K12, whilst the naval tug Alacrity and the old burnt-out wooden schooner Abbemamana lie close together. The white obelisk and the cliffs cut away form the groyne so beloved of fishermen. Farther south Mt. Brown or Booneannup, the highest point 224 feet, dominates the Naval Base. Case or James Point recalls the wreck of the brig James in

³⁹⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

³⁹⁶ Ibid.

May, 1830, and how P. N. Meares intended to form a jetty by using the wreck and the old settlement of James Town. -Yours, etc., I.B'³⁹⁷

Hart, Herbert Edward
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953

-

Herbert Hart (24) was named in *The West Australian* in 1953 in connection with being charged with assaulting a man named Morris Morgan. He was fined £2.³⁹⁸ Peter Ford says he remembers visiting Mr Hart at the camp, who was a stockman. William Herdigan remembers that Hart came from Collie.³⁹⁹ Herbert Hart has not been fully researched.⁴⁰⁰

Headland, William
Smelters Camp c1949-50
veteran

Val Martin lived in South Fremantle and remembers that many of the kids of the suburb played in the area around the Smelters Camp. She was one of the many, albeit related in an unconventional way. Val's mother married her sister's husband, after her sister had a stroke and died. So Val's cousins became her half siblings.

Her uncle William Headland, known as Bill, had a shack along with a dozen others in a little valley between the low dunes at the Smelters Camp. She recalls, 'You couldn't see them, they weren't an eyesore.'⁴⁰¹

Her Uncle Bill never married, but would live with her family on Parmelia Street. When he drank, her mum would not let him in the house. He wasn't a violent drunk, but she would turn him away and he would quietly go. He built a hut at the camp with scrap materials from the tip. It was about three foot wide, it had a makeshift bed inside and a lock on the door. She never went inside it, but she and her brother would go and visit. Sometimes his 'benders' would result in them not seeing him for six weeks. When he was on a bender, 'Mum wouldn't have him', and she would say to Val, 'The only person he's hurting is himself.'

³⁹⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 15 March 1952, page 4

³⁹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 28 January 1953, page 13

³⁹⁹ Peter Ford conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019; William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁴⁰⁰ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1959. Police Gazette photo supplement. Hart, Herber Edward @ Herbie. Stealing and receiving p67, prisoner discharge, page 101. At Collie 7/2/59, by Dets Walker and Crowe and Const. Ryan and White; stealing and receiving, 1 month 7/2/59 (59/2400)

⁴⁰¹ Val Martin conversation with Julie Raffaele, 6 December 2019

Val remembers the area around the smelters being very dusty. It wasn't fenced, and she considered the smelters unsafe for children - it was a big, old, rusty place that they used to walk past while meandering up the beach. She never saw people working there, but it was always the weekends so she wasn't sure if this was the reason, or if it was derelict. People would throw everything into landfill back then - 'dented tins and fruit, everything.' So the residents harvested this from the tip.

Val remembers that the people who lived at the Smelters Camp in the late 1940s, early 1950s all drank too much - 'No decent people lived there.' They always staggered a little on their feet. The part of the Smelters Camp her uncle lived at was erased by the early 50s.

Her uncle William Headland was born on 11 May 1899. He served in WWI and subsequently was called up for WWII, all the while complaining bitterly that he'd already fought the first one. She recalls that during WWII he spent more time in gaol or AWOL than serving.



Private Bill Headland, 1943,
NAA: B884, W53816

In fact Pte W. Headland (W53816), 13th Australian Infantry Training Battalion was court-martialled on 10 September 1943, found guilty and sentenced to be held in detention for 90 days, but 'the court recommend(ed) that the sentence be suspended after 30 days.'⁴⁰² The alleged reason for the offence was age, and weather.

'Went AWL because he thinks he is too old for present unit and does not like Northam climate...'⁴⁰³

His absence from the Northam barracks occurred from just before midnight on the 25 July 1943, as he left for leave, until just after midday on the 13 September. But he was obviously struggling,

'I am 44 years of age and have spent all my life in Fremantle until my call-up into the Army. I am present(sic) stationed at Northam. The climate...did not suit me and affected my health. I get pains in my chest and colds all the time. I was in hospital for a week with influenza. The work in my unit is too hard for me and I can't do it. I can't keep pace with the young men...'⁴⁰⁴

Headland had reported back to barracks of his own volition, but later incidences occurred in 1945, for another two weeks.⁴⁰⁵

⁴⁰² NAA: A471, 42229, barcode 8831026 Headland, William

⁴⁰³ Ibid.

⁴⁰⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁰⁵ NAA: B884, W53816, barcode 6501057 Headland, William

Val was never sure whether Bill Headland had experienced trauma in the Great War, or just liked to drink. 'He was a lovely man when he was sober.'⁴⁰⁶ ⁴⁰⁷

Hedland, Mary
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁴⁰⁸

Healey, Thomas
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

Thomas Healey was listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.⁴⁰⁹ Thomas Healey has not been fully researched.⁴¹⁰

⁴⁰⁶ Val Martin conversation with Julie Raffaele, 6 December 2019

⁴⁰⁷ Annie Baker (nee Davenport) Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/9, 1996, Tape 3, side 1. Has a detailed understanding of the wider Headland family who lived in Carrington Street, including a Jack Headland Snr who was a foreman of the Fremantle Roads Board during WWI, but any connection is not yet established.

⁴⁰⁸ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

⁴⁰⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁴¹⁰ There are a few Thomas Healey mentions in the Police Gazette, not confirmed but for reference: Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police.
1910. page 295. Thomas Healey, native of Victoria, a labourer, single, height 5ft. 8 in or 9in., medium build, light-brown hair, low forehead, blue eyes, large mouth, discoloured teeth, round chin, oval face, fresh complexion, light-brown moustache only; addicted to drink; associates with convicted persons; dressed in a dirty dark suit and light soft felt hat; may be at Youanmi [Murchison]; warrant of commitment to Perth Gaol for 3 days h.l. in default of payment of £1 4s., being fine and costs inflicted by the Perth Police Court on conviction for falsely representing himself as a bona fide traveller, at Perth, on the 12th April, 1910. Dated at Perth, 15th September, 1910. - W.705/1910.
1920. If John Thomas Healey, see page 113 prisoner discharged.

1938. (Half year ending 30 June). If Thomas Henry Healey, see June 8, for Apprehensions.
1938. (Half year ending 30 June). There was a Thomas Henry Healey 204a, 233s (photo) @ 'Hank' Healey at South Fremantle on 5th inst., by Det-Sgt Parker, Det. Johnston and PCC Turner, receiving stolen property. Fined £10 + costs, 6th inst. (1059/38)

Hearne, John Henry
1888 -
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1946-1947
labourer

John Hearne was named in two newspaper articles, on the 25 January 1946⁴¹¹ and the 31 March 1947.⁴¹² Both incidents were alcohol-related and involved damage to property and giving a wrong name to arresting police, a fine and costs applied. John Hearne has not been fully researched.

Herdigan, Effie Maxine (née Hume)
AKA Effie Mariene, AKA Effie Maclean
1924 - 2010
South Beach 1949-1953*

-

Herdigan, William
South Beach 1951

-

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language relating to race, quoted from a newspaper published in the 1940s.

Eleven year-old William Herdigan lived at the Smelters Camp with his mother Maxine in 1952. His mother was known as Maxine, but Effie to her family. William's grandparents Jack and Lorna Hume (née Narkle) were originally from Collie, and worked at the fruit orchards in Armadale before making their way down to Fremantle. The economic situation was quite unsettled in 1947, and it was difficult to find work. Men gathering at places like the Smelters Camp and the town hall awaited pick up to do piecemeal work. These casual labourers were known as 'seagulls.'⁴¹³

After a chance meeting with Paddy Troy, the communist and working-class 'celebrity' secretary of the Coastal Dock, Rivers and Harbour Works Union of Workers and later the Maritime Union, Jack Hume's fortune would change. One of Troy's favourite phrases, William recalls, was 'Trade wheat with Russia, not bullets.' A firm believer in Aboriginal emancipation, Troy offered work to William's grandfather, who remained

⁴¹¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 25 January 1946, page 5

⁴¹² Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 31 March 1947, page 6

⁴¹³ 'Strong men known as "bulls" were used to set the pace of work... Inexperienced casuals... became known as "seagulls"', Tull, Malcolm, 'A Community Enterprise: The History of the Port of Fremantle, 1897 to 1997'; International Maritime Economic History Association, Newfoundland, 1997. The Smelters Camp's connection with the Trade Unions (inc. Slaughterman's and Fremantle Lumper's Union were conclusive, with residents involved as 'bulls' or 'seagulls' and even at a founding and organisational level, framed by general Fremantle Wharf history.

fully employed for most of his life. Being part of 'Paddy Troy's mob' was beneficial for Jack Hume. He later bought a house at 21 King William Street in South Fremantle.⁴¹⁴

Sadly, with her struggle with alcoholism leading to problems at home, Maxine later left the family home to live at the camp. Ken Goodes, interviewed in 2020, remembered Maxine Herdigan, as a woman who 'used to like beer, and could fight like a man,' sadly noting that it was a hard life for women at the camp.⁴¹⁵ William says that Maxine was so well known in the camp, the sand dune they lived upon was known as 'Mackie's Hill' named after her. It lay between the sewerage area and the tip, encircled by a few little huts built from secondhand or discarded materials. William remembers the closely-knit Cox family living in those huts; and Pastor Ben Taylor was there sometimes.

A large fig tree grew at the base of the hill, next to the tip, which provided snacks for the local children, and missiles when thrown at each other for fun. Coal that had fallen from the wagons was 'magpied' from along the railway line to the smelter and used at the camp. The hill also had its own well, although much of the camp's water came from a well for cattle at Robb Jetty and a tap on the irrigation pipe that ran through the camp at the bottom of Mackie's Hill. Sanitation was a concern that periodically caused the Health Department to come calling.

The nearby cement factory eventually consumed the hill with their demands for sand resources. It was an area known to police for the locals' fondness for two-up games, and was a popular habitat for dugites.

William remembers the big steel industries in the area, the imposing structures, with noise and lights frightening him as a boy at night, when he would be sneaking off to, or returning from the movies.

William recalls how in the 1950s 'a lot of people were not doing well.' Times were difficult, and aboriginal people experienced the added pressure of tight restrictions on their lifestyle and movement. The size of the camp would fluctuate, growing larger in the warmer months as the 'summer squatters' arrived. Groups and families often circulated together, ending up at the camp. During the tourist season, camp residents such as one-armed Fred 'Wingy' Howard was making a modest income on the rental of his dinghies.

Brave Action

'If she had not stopped the U.S. Negro sailors, taxi-driver Daniel Harrison would have been killed... Effie Herdigan (21) told Detective-Sergeant D. Richardson when she was questioned.'

Herdigan appeared in Perth Police court in September 1945 charged with unlawful use of a Yellow Cabs taxi without consent, but Magistrate McMillan, after hearing

⁴¹⁴ See also an oral history by Patrick Hume, interviewed by Leonie Stella at Murdoch University, 2001. Held by Cockburn Libraries (306.089915) <https://cockburnlibrary.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/BIBENQ/79339520/12172920,1> Accessed April 2024

⁴¹⁵ Ken Goodes interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 January 2020

evidence, stated,

'I have come to the conclusion that the two native girls did not know that the negroes intended to assume control of the cab and take them out to the bush...'

The brave action taken by Effie Herdigan and her companion saw Daniel Richardson Harrison, taxi driver, recovering in hospital from a fractured skull, instead of dead. Harrison confirmed that at 8.45pm on September 5 he was signalled to pull over near the Swanbourne fire station by an American negro man dressed in dungarees, who was a sailor, accompanied by another sailor and two women, who wanted to go to South Fremantle. After stopping briefly at a house, he was advised they would now travel to Perth while they shared alcohol, but once in Swanbourne he was smacked in the back of the head, and wrestled to the ground outside the cab.

'The next thing he remembered was that the car was being moved away. He was lying in a ditch at the side of the road and his head and face were bleeding badly.'

The taxi-cab was later found on the York-Northam road by Detective-Sergeant Richardson, the petrol tank empty, and the occupants were found about ten miles from Toodyay, with one of the sailors holding the taxi-cab keys.

When Richardson questioned Herdigan, he charged her with 'having assumed control of the taxi', although this wasn't pre-planned by the women. Herdigan said 'that they both wanted to get away from them but were frightened, thought that the sailors would ill treat them.' She had tried to escape but was pulled back in.⁴¹⁶

Herdigan's residency at the Smelters Camp also unfortunately coincided with alcohol-related violence from other camp dwellers and transients including theft of cash and her few possessions of value.⁴¹⁷ She was also involved in a nasty accident in 1952, knocked down by a car in William St, Perth on a Saturday evening, resulting in a fractured left collarbone and concussion.⁴¹⁸

Colin Thompson, another resident of the Smelters Camp, established a defacto relationship with Maxine Herdigan. William remembers Thompson was from

⁴¹⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 20 September 1945, page 7; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Friday 21 September 1945, page 4

⁴¹⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 10 January 1953, page 12; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 14 February 1953, page 9; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 February 1953, page 7

⁴¹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 15 November 1947, page 21; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 16 February 1952, page 8; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 17 March 1946, page 4.

See also Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police. Herdigan, Effie Mariene, @ Effie Maglean, @ Hume (photo and description vide Police Gazette, 1946, November Group). Warrant of Commitment to the Coolgardie Gaol for a period of three (3) days in default of payment of the same of one pound ten shillings (£1 10s.) being fine and costs for a breach of the Police Act. Dated at Coolgardie on 3/4/58. -W.292; original Warrant filed at Coolgardie, CIB 58/8061 (N.P.R.) page 225

Queensland, and met his mother after travelling across Australia with one of the well-known circuses. Thompson was an aboriginal man from Rockhampton, whose Afghan heritage could be discerned from his impressive nose. He was a fitter and turner on the railway later, when William, his mother and Thompson travelled up to York, following the tracks and sleeping in a tent. They were together until William was 18 or 19, when alcohol finally caught up with them. Later Thompson returned to Rockhampton to die.⁴¹⁹

Effie Maxine Herdigan passed away in 2010 in Bayswater, at 86 years of age.⁴²⁰ Many thanks to William Herdigan and his daughter Hara Herdigan and family, who offered their hospitality and kindly shared these stories.

Hill, Teddy
Meatworks Camp 1933

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This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁴²¹

Heron, Thomas George
1888 - 1953
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953
war veteran

A public funeral notice for Thomas George Heron of the Smelters Camp appears in *The West Australian* on 16 April 1953. Heron was about 65 years of age.⁴²² The National Archives of Australia holds Heron's military, repatriation and medical files, indicating a long military career, substantial injuries, or both.⁴²³

Born in Hobart, Tasmania on 19 October 1888 to mother Josephine and father Thomas James, Heron was baptised in the Methodist faith at New Norfolk, Tasmania in December 1888. He enlisted aged almost 27 years of age at Kalgoorlie in July 1915.

⁴¹⁹ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁴²⁰ Metropolitan Cemeteries Board FB0023658 Fremantle Cemetery Lawn P, 1038

⁴²¹ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

⁴²² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 16 April 1953, page 28; See also BDM WA Fremantle Reg 113, 1953

⁴²³ Main military file is NAA: B 2455 Barcode 5476722, Heron Thomas George service number 2897; see also NAA: PP18/1, R11857 Barcode 31843712 – Repatriation file, NAA: PP2/8, H11857 Barcode 32653498 and 32653499 – Medical files and NAA: PP13/1, C11857 Barcode 30805651

His mother, Josephine White, was then living in Rosebury, Tasmania. He was 5 foot 5 inches, with a dark complexion and hair and brown eyes.⁴²⁴

Heron embarked from Australia on the 4 October 1915, and was transferred to the 48th Battalion in Tel el Kabir, Egypt. A brief AWOL in 1916 was cleared up with a forfeit of two days' pay, and then with the 12th Brigade Machine Gun Company he was sent to Serapeum, Egypt, then transferred to Alexandria and then a month later, Marseilles.

After recovering from the mumps in June 1916, Heron was promoted to lance corporal in France in August 1916 until gas poisoning in November resulted in his evacuation to England and an initial four months in various hospitals. Perhaps he was feeling confined – another episode of AWOL behaviour lost him four days' pay in February 1917. Heron was finally sent back to France in October 1917, a total of 11 months' hospitalisation, but by February 1918 he was again in hospital. A placement with the 4th Machine Gun Battalion ended with a bout in hospital suffering with VD. He returned to Australia on the 'Anchises' via Albany to Fremantle in February 1919, and was discharged in June 1919.

Heron's medical case sheet indicates the graphic effects of the gas inhalation: Coughing, choking, vomiting, headaches and a raw sensation in his chest. He was the recipient of the 1914/1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.⁴²⁵

Thomas G. Heron married Gladys A. Hedge in East Coolgardie in 1924.⁴²⁶ He lived most of his life in the Kalgoorlie region, moving to Toodyay in 1943 and finally to Fremantle in 1949 and the Smelters Camp sometime between 1949 and 1953.

Centaurs Into Giants – The 10th Light Horse Regiment

'There is no doubt that the camp of the 10th Light Horse at Naval Base is the most ideally situated of all the military establishments. Built on a hillside by the Rockingham Road, the camp looks out on to the blue-green waters of Cockburn Sound, with Garden Island for a background.'⁴²⁷

Following Australia's entrance into WWII in September 1939, the first militia training camps began in early 1940 in Western Australia. Divided between Northam, the 25th Light Horse at Melville and the 10th Light Horse at Naval Base, new recruits were due to flood in at the month's end. Exercises occurred between 5 January and 3 April, with training moving from voluntary to compulsory, and allotment of these new troops commencing as soon as they were able, and favouring students who would need to return to university.

⁴²⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Births and Baptisms, 1792 - 1981* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. FHL Film number: 992650

⁴²⁵ NAA: B2455 Barcode 5476722, Heron Thomas George service number 2897

⁴²⁶ BDM WA, Registration no. 50

⁴²⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 23 November 1939, page 15



Camped east of the Naval Base-Rockingham Road, and south of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station, the impressive sight of the squadrons' picketed 600 horses in a 'shallow depression on the hilltop' east of the camp had been facilitated by special trains bringing troops and their own mounts (for which they received a small allowance) from country areas such as Toodyay, York and Kelmscott to Spearwood railway station. From there the soldiers, who were not only farmers, but also bankers and lawyers, rode their horses to just beyond Woodman Point, to the hutted camp.

Ken Goodes recalls that in 1941 when the Americans were in Fremantle, the grassed park known as Wilson's Reserve (named for Mr Wilson who lived at 11 Waller Street) housed the female service people's living quarters, inside a wooden picket fence. Up the back near where Ken lived in South Fremantle, there were huge 'ack-ack guns', five metres long, responsible for coastal defence. Went they fired these guns, their home in Walker Street would shake.⁴²⁸

⁴²⁸ Ken Goodes interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 January 2020

Joyce Freckleton (née Dadley) also remembered the 'large army camp at Woodman's Point' and soldiers from the camp arriving at the local dances she often attended, chaperoned by her mother, or later, her brother Vic. Shockingly, on one hot evening, 'the Lighthorse soldiers called in and danced without shirts.'⁴²⁹

'Sometimes it used to be quiet and all of us girls used to dance together, and sometimes you used to get a great crowd of soldiers there and they used to have a high old time there. And I can remember one very funny night when I was only about 15, I think, and the Lighthorse boys came and they were all on horses and they still had their blooming spurs on and everything, and they were dancing around and we had evening frocks, and I think it was Beryl Smith and one of them caught his spur in her evening dress and tore it, and all they had on was... I remember being embarrassed about it because some of them only had their trousers on and no shirt and you had to sort of put your hand on their bare back and I remember... I was most embarrassed...'⁴³⁰

Hi-jinks seemed to follow the high spirited lads, who were easily forgiven, as on another occasion during WWII Joyce remembered how a group of soldiers from the camp at Woodman Point 'borrowed' her father's wooden row boat, which the family used to just keep on the beach. It ended amicably, with her father leaving the oars with the boat so they could use it again, instead of rowing with slats of wood taken from apple crates.⁴³¹

The beach horse exercise area near the Smelters Camp was also used during WWI as the troops participated in training.⁴³²

'In a marked distinction from the old Light Horse that stuck a bayonet on the end of the Lee-Enfield rifle, these men carry their rifles in holsters and are armed with swords, as thus armed they proved their worth as cavalry in the Holy Land.'⁴³³

Concentrating on the Light Horse's role as a coastal defence, the 10th also consisted of a signals, transport and light car troop, serviced by the regimental tailor, sergeant-cook, bootmaker and saddler, after tough 12-hour days beginning at 5.45am with Reveille and the hoisting of the regimental flag, with occasional 'surprise' attacks -

'In one night attack the whole regiment was awakened at 2 a.m., instructed to dress and saddle up and move into allotted manoeuvres in a complete "black out".'⁴³⁴

⁴²⁹ Joyce Freckleton (née Dadley), SLWA: OH 2825/7, 1995, Tape 4, side 1 and 2

⁴³⁰ Joyce Freckleton (née Dadley), SLWA: OH 2825/7, 1995, Tape 4, side 2

⁴³¹ Joyce Freckleton (née Dadley), SLWA: OH 2825/7, 1995, Tape 4, side 1

⁴³² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 6 January 1940, page 12; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 15 November 1939, page 23; The Beverley Times (WA), Friday 19 January 1940, page 2

⁴³³ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), 17 December 1939, page 31

⁴³⁴ Ibid.

This gathering culminated, at least by scale, in the largest cavalry exercise in Western Australia since the Great War, during an annual four-day bivouac camp under the watchful eye of Lieut. Colonel A. H. Sweetapple, a Palestine veteran. The objective was to repulse an enemy landing at Safety Bay back into the sea – the enemy in this case being the ‘hostile cavalry’ of a 10th Light Horse Regiment detachment, with the main body of the Light Horse defending the coastline at Naval Base.⁴³⁵

“Horseholder” Bill Harding and Ray Piggot, of Brunswick, couldn’t stop to talk to us. They were busy handling machine guns as casually as Al Capone in his heyday would handle a “pineapple” or sawn-off shotgun.’⁴³⁶

After several outflanking manoeuvres – the 10th fought equally well as a dismounted infantry - and a ‘spectacular mounted charge with drawn swords against the enemy’s flank’, a staff officer responded that ‘this final operation was brilliantly controlled and carried out.’ Less complex tactical exercises were to follow the next day before which horses were watered, fed, and settled for tea by 5.30pm, with troops in ‘good health and the horses in fine fettle.’⁴³⁷



Western Mail 26 December 1940 p24 Horses of the 10th Light Horse Regiment being watered after morning exercises last March at Naval Base [FW Flood]

‘Did you hear about Wilf Warby! If you haven’t heard about him, visit the camp after lights out and you’ll certainly hear him; champion snorer of the 10th Light Horse.’⁴³⁸

His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Gowrie, on the occasion of visiting W.A. to inspect the defence forces, provided an opportunity for some epic photographs at Naval Base, taking the salute from the 10th Light Horse Regiment. Lord Gowrie watched an attack exercise as ‘the regiment, acting as an advance guard to a brigade of cavalry, moved north from Mandurah, encountered an ‘enemy’ force in the vicinity of the Naval Base. Twice checked by the enemy, the Light Horse gained its objective by outflanking movements each time. Lord Gowrie followed the manoeuvres from heights overlooking the valley through which the regiment was advancing.’

⁴³⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 8 March 1939, page 23

⁴³⁶ Mirror (Perth), 2 December 1939, page 13

⁴³⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 8 March 1939, page 23

⁴³⁸ Mirror (Perth, WA), 2 December 1939, page 13

‘Accompanied by Major T. Tweedie, commanding officer of the regiment in the absence of Lieut.-Colonel A. H. Sweetapple, His Excellency took the salute from the 10th Light Horse as they paraded along the beach. Those who had accompanied him on his tour of the defence forces were aware that Lord Gowrie had been greatly impressed with all that he had seen, and, in particular, that he was well satisfied with the keenness of all officers and men in the task in hand.’⁴³⁹

The original 10th Light Horse had departed for the Second Boer War in 1899 under Major H. L. Pilkington and numbered 130. This consisted of mostly infantry officers and soldiers, with 6 mounted men. Later contingents were mounted infantry men and the ‘Bushmen’s Corps’, and the fourth contingent or ‘Imperial Bushmen’ – which included the first Western Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry in action, Lieutenant Frederick William Bell. The men were famed for their riding skills – ‘It was a war in which the scouting and riding prowess of the Western Australians reached a high standard, just as it did in Palestine during the Great War.’⁴⁴⁰

They were also immediately identifiable by the emu feather adornments in their hats, although the original contingents often wore a decoration exclusively referencing their origin, magpie feathers or possum fur bands.⁴⁴¹

‘The war strength of this regiment has been reached and although it embraces some of the finest horsemen in Western Australia and some of the finest physical types, the fact is that there are several hundreds more young fellows on the waiting list to join the regiment.’⁴⁴²

The famed 10th as known today was formed around one existing squadron in October 1914, eventually having enough skilled volunteers to form a full regiment, consisting of, ‘headquarters, machine gun section, and three squadrons.’ Troops trained in ‘musketry, manipulation of the rifle, bayonet exercises, physical exercises, camp and regimental duties, horse mastership...solid drill and stern discipline’ supplement upon their arrival at Rockingham with ‘more advanced work, such as scouting, reconnaissance tactics, advanced, flank and rearguard work, outpost duties, attack and defence, and field firing.’⁴⁴³

⁴³⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 6 March 1940, page 12; Western Mail (Perth, WA), 21 March 1940, page 8

⁴⁴⁰ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), 17 December 1939, page 31

⁴⁴¹ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), 17 December 1939, page 31; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 16 December 1915; <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bell-frederick-william-5191> Accessed April 2024

⁴⁴² The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), 17 December 1939, page 31

⁴⁴³ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 16 December 1915, page 8

Incidentally, this training coincided with an increase of sharks sighted along the beach, with regimental regulations tightened regarding look-outs and the swimming of the horses, who were thought to be attracting the sharks.⁴⁴⁴

On the 8th and 17th of February 1915, HMAT A47 Mashobra and HMAT A52 Surada disembarked, headed to an unknown destination, that we now know as Alexandria, Egypt.

They joined the 3rd Light Horse Brigade and served dismounted at Gallipoli, the Nek and Hill 60 (with Lieutenant V. H. Throssell earning a Victoria Cross), then on to the Suez Canal, Sinai (Romani and Magdhaba); the capturing of Jerusalem, the John Valley and were the 'first formed regiment to enter Damascus.'⁴⁴⁵

'Our men were the pick of Westralia's manhood, chosen from the very best families of our State, and better, more manly, well conducted, physically fit and loyal fighting comrades, no officer could ever wish to command and be associated with. It fairly made one's heart lift with pride to belong to the emu-plumed 10th Light Horse Regiment.'⁴⁴⁶

Hof, Helena

1868 - 1937

Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1909-1914

married

Hof, Louis

1839 -

Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1909-1915

butcher

Louis Hof was born 8 August 1839 in Hesse Darmstadh, near Frankfurt, in the Grand Duchy, Germany. He arrived in Australia on 23 December 1861 aboard the 'Agincourt'.

After his arrival, Hof lived in Victoria (Beechworth), New South Wales (Tambernuka, Arraluen), Queensland and Western Australia (Collie and Fremantle), plying his trade as a small goods manufacturer and butcher; and in Queensland he prospected at Limestone Creek, Cawarral in the Hinterlands. He and his wife Helena had two daughters.⁴⁴⁷

⁴⁴⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 25 November 1939, page 11

⁴⁴⁵ <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51044> Accessed April 2024

⁴⁴⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 16 December 1915, page 8

⁴⁴⁷ The Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, QLD.), Monday 4 December 1893, page 5; NAA: A1, 1909/14976 Barcode 5867, Louis Hof – Naturalization 1909 - 1910

Once arriving in Western Australia, his time at Collie was not without colour, probably due to his proximity to the hotels of the town - he worked as the yardman at the Robinson's Hotel, and he was punched in a bar fight in November 1904, which erupted between patrons over the possession of a hat.⁴⁴⁸

Then when the Colliefields Hotel was completely gutted by fire in 1902, the Hofs were lucky to escape unharmed. Thomas Phillips, who was minding the hotel in the manager's holiday absence, '...woke a little after 3 o'clock; he judged the time by looking at his watch after the fire was in progress; he was awakened by the crackling noise of the fire; he went to his bedroom door...he saw there was a blaze in the passage in the direction of the bar and the place was full of smoke; the fire was in the walls...'

Philips awoke the occupants of the house, Anne the cook, Louis and his wife, Thomas Thomas the billiard marker and other guests in the adjoining building, later stating at the inquest, '...when he woke Hof and his wife the fire was almost all over the building...' There were some questions during the inquest that raised suspicions of multiple fire origins in different parts of the building, but no occupant of the building was suspected. The jury decided, 'there was not sufficient evidence to prove the origin of the fire, but that there was some grounds for suspicion of incendiarism.'⁴⁴⁹

The Election Day

The *Blackwood Times* describes Election Day at Collie with great vigour -

'A host of vehicles were kept very busy all day and almost every horse in Collie will have good occasion to remember the election of 1905.' Louis Hof's horse, judged the reporter, was embarrassed and insulted at his landau carriage being converted into a tandem, whereupon 'the poor jaded beast' decided to simply sit down, 'and had to be dragged along on his haunches to the great amusement of the crowd of boys which followed in the rear.'⁴⁵⁰

Louis Hof's application for certificate of naturalization was issued 13 January 1910, with his address as South Beach, Fremantle c/o Mrs Connell, 265 Mandurah Road. He was 70 years of age and had been in Australia for 48 years. Hof appeared before Edmund Power Dowley, Stipendiary Magistrate on the 2nd December 1909, presented his certificate and took the Oath of Allegiance.⁴⁵¹

Hof collapsed while crossing the intersection of High and Market streets, Fremantle on 25 February 1916 and was taken by ambulance to local hospital for treatment.

⁴⁴⁸ Collie Miner (WA), 1 November 1902, page 3; Southern Times (Bunbury, WA), Saturday 26 November 1904, page 5

⁴⁴⁹ Collie Miner (WA), Saturday 29 Mar 1902, page 3; Southern Times (Bunbury, WA), Saturday 29 March 1902, page 3

⁴⁵⁰ The Blackwood Times (Bunbury, WA), Wednesday 1 November 1905, page 3

⁴⁵¹ NAA: A1, 1909/14976 Barcode 5867, Louis Hof – Naturalization 1909 - 1910

Louis Hof died 26 May 1916 at age 76 in Claremont. He was buried in the Roman Catholic section of Karrakatta Cemetery.⁴⁵²

Helena passed away 19 September 1937 in North Fremantle at 69 years of age. She was buried in the Anglican section of Fremantle Cemetery.⁴⁵³

Horneman, John Clarendon
Robb's Jetty, South Fremantle 1909-1943
slaughterman

'People who may happen to be out late at nights should be very careful, as some very dangerous characters are at large in the community.'

This was the warning published in the *Kalgoorlie Western Argus* the weekend John Clarendon Horneman was mugged walking home early on a Sunday morning. Presumably not on his way to church, in 1903 Horneman was resident in Kalgoorlie working as a butcher. He was walking home past the racecourse when he was followed by three men, struck on the head and jaw with a stick and robbed of £13. He luckily lived to report the incident, but was dazed and could not describe his assailants.⁴⁵⁴

In 1917 the Slaughtermen's Strike was causing disruption in the metropolitan Perth area, with no early settlement in sight. Shopmen and carters were expressing their support mid-June, but refusing to handle prepared meat. Butchers shops were closed as they were forced to slaughter and prepare their own 'black meat' themselves, and deliveries were cancelled.

'The Amalgamated Butchers' Union, and now the whole strength of the butchering industry employees is marshalled in opposition to the masters,' warned *The West Australian*, with a mass meeting on Sunday 17 June, and although the decision not to handle 'black meat' was considered peculiar by pundits observing developments, it was most effective and crippled all progress.

'The men, it is stated, are standing well together, and are confident of their ability to come out on top.' It was hoped the railway men would be sympathetic and further make it difficult for 'black meat' to reach shops, and the Shop Assistants' Union was already in support, having 'pledged themselves to become vegetarians until such time as the trouble was settled.'⁴⁵⁵

⁴⁵² Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 25 February 1916, page 4;
<https://portal.mcb.wa.gov.au/name-search/> Accessed April 2024. Section FC, gravesite 0060

⁴⁵³ Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, Mon AA Gravesite 0610; certificate of naturalisation no. 8978

⁴⁵⁴ Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 18 August 1903, page 17

⁴⁵⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 19 June 1917, page 7



Anchorage Butchers workers in 1921

Courtesy of Azelia Ley Museum, City of Cockburn

The master butchers at the Fremantle abattoirs prepared 230 bullocks, 1420 sheep and 20 pigs to supply the metro area public, the military and government until the Thursday, and encouraged the public to pick up directly from non-Government shops as supplies, until that time were deemed satisfactory.

Nine union slaughtermen were prosecuted for downing tools, 'under the provision of the Masters and Servants Act.' The slaughtermen were in the employ of Messrs. McIntosh, Fry, and Mawley, and Messrs. J. Fell and C. I. King. master butchers, and these complainants were claiming £50 for breach of contract compensation from each of them. All of the striking slaughtermen, including John Horneman, would plead not guilty for absenting themselves.⁴⁵⁶

John C. Horneman died in 1944 at Fremantle. An article in the *Daily News* named him as a 77 year-old retired slaughterman who was found dead at the Smelters Camp, with his death attributed to old age. Fremantle Police asked for relatives to come forward. The Meat Industry Union published a public notice respectfully inviting members and friends to the funeral of Horneman of Robb's Jetty. Pending transferal of his estate to the Public Trustee was advertised as widely as Victoria, on behalf of his nephew, Clarence, suggesting a familial connection that that State. John Clarendon Horneman has not been fully researched.⁴⁵⁷

⁴⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁵⁷ *Daily News* (Perth, WA), Tuesday 12 December 1944, page 1; *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic.), Tuesday 21 May 1946, page 15. BDM WA, Registration no. 380

Enjoy Your Chop

The Western Australian Government was quick to publish a response to an article published in *The West Australian* on 14 November, where 'Politicus' describes a Government 'Union' abattoir in 1922.

'Ancient Filth, in which the rafters are festooned with the cobwebs and gathered dirt of years; in which the pillars supporting the ceiling are haggard and grimy with longing for the lime brush; in the floor channels of which a mixture of blood and water lies in stagnant offensiveness, unable to escape quickly; in which a writhing mass of maggots may be seen, was observed in decaying animal matter on the offal floor. Pah! Enjoy your chop, brother.'⁴⁵⁸

Admitting the description applied to the offal floor rather than the main killing floor, the writer was kinder to Copley's Abattoir, leased from the government and housing slaughtering and freezing facilities, with a quota of processing 419,800 lambs per season. He describes the facilities as 'clean and efficient beyond any comparison with the slaughter house directly operated by the government.'

Minister for Agriculture, Mr. H. K. Maley, responded thus, 'Let me say frankly at once our abattoirs are not as we would like them, but we have to do the best we can with buildings that are not modern. However, the public may rest assured that the meat for human consumption is under constant supervision by the Health Department inspectors, and the slaughtering floor is well above, and separate from, that portion of the premises used for treating the by-products.'⁴⁵⁹ It was decreed that with the completion of the Fremantle Freezing Works, the North Fremantle works could be closed, and the Anchorage and Union abattoirs could be favoured.

'I followed on behind again as the Gillian twins headed over to another building where "Samson" was working. We never did find out what his real name was but he never objected to us calling him Sampson. It was this meat worker's job to grab a sheep from the pen, drag it on to the killing stand, cut its throat with a quick slash of a knife then lift the dying animal on to a hooked gantry that took it up to the second floor. The constant lifting of animals gave the meat worker a physique that was the envy of a body builder. His chest and arm muscles were huge, and he looked like the biblical "Sampson".'⁴⁶⁰

⁴⁵⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 14 November 1922, page 6

⁴⁵⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 15 November 1922, page 10; also see The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 28 June 1898, page 4 for an editorial about the discussion around the original establishment of the public abattoirs. *Fourth column, article is headed 'The West Australian. Vigilans et Audax'*

⁴⁶⁰ Edwards, Carl, 'Giant Lettered Sheds: Life in the Port City of Fremantle in the 1950s', Bookpal (self-published), 2010, page 182



SLV H2004.89/35 Freezing works, Robbs Jetty, Fremantle c1922

'Case Study 2 The Coogee Noxious Industry Zone

The industrial revolution technologies in Fremantle led to the establishment of a noxious industry south of the city on the ocean front. The area was far enough away for most of the prevailing winds which blew over the tanneries, abattoirs, skin drying sheds and fell mongers, to disperse the rancid smells. However workers' cottages were located reasonably close in later years. The smell became well known to all of Perth as the southern coastal route goes through Coogee and all West Australians soon discovered the essential task of winding up car windows as the zone was approached. The liquid effluent was even worse going essentially untreated into the ocean from all the industries and leaving the beaches along that stretch of coast seriously polluted. In the 1980s a combination of outrage from local citizens and stricter application of environmental legislation seriously questioned whether this Stage 2 noxious industry should continue at its present site...'⁴⁶¹

⁴⁶¹ Newman, Peter W.G. (Associate Professor), 'The Noxious Industry Transition', Institute for Science and Technology Policy, Murdoch University, June 1991 [Paper 3/91] as part of Newman, Peter, 'Fremantle Papers', Institute for Science and Technology Policy, Murdoch University, 1991

Horton, William
Smelters Camp 1949-1954

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William Horton was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at the Smelters Camp in 1949-1954, without an occupation.⁴⁶² As the following electoral roll was compiled in 1958, it is possible Horton lived for additional time at the camp. William Horton has not been fully researched.

Hosking, John Nation/Hoskins, John
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

John Nation Hosking was listed on the South Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.⁴⁶³ Later in 1909, the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll he lives in Russell Street, but the spelling of his name is 'Hoskins'. He was still a slaughterman. John Hosking has not been fully researched.

Howard, Agnes Beatrice
Smelters Camp 1949-1958
home duties

Howard, Frederick 'Wingy' William
Smelters Camp 1949-1958
boat proprietor

Agnes Howard and her husband Frederick were listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at the Smelters Camp from 1949-1958. Agnes Howard's occupation was 'home duties' with Frederick a 'boat proprietor'. He advertised his services to fishermen, enticingly writing, 'Herring and Skippy are in at South Beach. Hire a boat from Fred Howard, Smelters Camp.'⁴⁶⁴ His boat was well-appointed and included netting for fishing.⁴⁶⁵ Sometime after 1958 the Howards resettled at 444 South Street, and they appear on the 1963 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll with Howard now working as a labourer. William Herdigan remembers Mr Howard's nickname as 'Wingy', named such because of his single arm.⁴⁶⁶ Faye Minnett, interviewed at 91 years of age, relates stories of her large and extended Goodes family living in the South Fremantle area in the 1950s, including her brother Graham, sister Valerie (later Powell), their parents, cousins Ronald, Nancy and Janet, and

⁴⁶² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁴⁶³ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 23 January 1947, page 17

⁴⁶⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 1 July 1948, page 23

⁴⁶⁶ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

uncles Harry and Ray. Her cousin Kenny lived in Walker Street and his father managed the camp ground. To travel back and forth they would walk past the Smelters Camp, but she personally never went there. Her dad had friends who lived there, including Wingy Howard. She couldn't remember if he still had the arm or not, but remembered him being a 'cripple'.

Faye doesn't remember any judgment toward the people who lived at the camp. She wasn't told not to go there because it was rough or anything. She just remembers it as a place where people lived because they couldn't afford to live anywhere else, they didn't judge.⁴⁶⁷

Kenny Goodes clarifies that Fred 'Wingy' Howard had one good right arm and the left hand taken off at the first joint. Wingy lived on the beach, but his corrugated iron hut was a little more modern than some of the other makeshift ones. He hired a half dozen rowing or 'clinker' boats - for two shillings he would give you a boat and oars to go fishing. You could be out all day, as long as you cleaned the boat when you got back and 'gave him a feed of fish.' Wingy later lived in the little narrow house opposite the park in South Fremantle with his wife. Mr Cliff Bennett, the big manager at Robb Jetty abattoir at the time, who Ken remembers as 'a lovely man,' kindly gave Wingy a job there that he could do with one hand, picking up the sheep skins off the ground and throwing them down the chute.⁴⁶⁸

Wingy was a mate of Graham Goodes' father and they would visit often. Generally, there were 'no hassles' down there when they visited, says Graham, with the place mostly occupied by people who 'didn't have two bob to rub together.'⁴⁶⁹

Hughes, Alice
South Beach 1903-1906
home duties

Hughes, William
South Beach 1903-1906
constable

William Hughes was not the only constable residing at South Beach 1903-1906, Peter Reynolds was also camping at the same time, but had moved before 1906. Both are listed on the Chesterfield Electoral Rolls.⁴⁷⁰ Alice Hughes also appears 1903-1906, with her occupation being 'home duties.'

⁴⁶⁷ Faye Minnett interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 January 2020

⁴⁶⁸ Ken Goodes interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 January 2020

⁴⁶⁹ Graham Goodes interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 January 2020

⁴⁷⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

Hughes AKA Quigley, Patrick Christopher
1863 - 1934
Smelters' Camp, near Robb's Jetty 1928, 1934
former miner

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language relating to race, quoted from a newspaper published in 1934.

'It was said of him that there was scarcely a line of reef from Norseman to Hall's Creek that he had not traversed and tested, but, like many others, he left the riches in them for those who followed after...he had a natural gift for rough oratory and a keen grip on political affairs, his outspokenness frequently constituting a barrier to his financial advancement.'⁴⁷¹

Pat C. Hughes was born in Ireland in 1863⁴⁷², but his liberal and iconic storytelling often supplemented the truth. Most accounts read that he came to Western Australia as a child of seven years of age with his mother and stepfather aboard the 'Orient', and had some limited schooling before setting off bush. The blessing of a rich understanding of Hughes is thanks to his fervent love of writing and activism, with many letters, columns and editorials published in newspapers throughout the State, gifting his humour and voicing an obsessive dislike for politicians and injustice.⁴⁷³

Born Patrick C. Quigley, Hughes took the surname of his stepfather, a sergeant in the Imperial Army.⁴⁷⁴ He had a half-brother, Tom, who had a little success prospecting around Dwellingup. Upon Hughes' death on 23 January 1934, he was warmly acknowledged as a pioneer and prospector in the mould of Carr-Boyd, Paddy Hannan, Dan Shea or Malachi O'Dwyer. He was an explorer, a supreme bushman, 'alluvial agitator and salmon-gum stump orator.' He even had a racehorse named after him. He was a man with an enormous range of skills, not always taught in school.⁴⁷⁵

'..ever since he was able to toddle he imbibed a wonderful store of knowledge that

⁴⁷¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 17 January 1934, page 17

⁴⁷² His tombstone reads 'Patrick Christopher Quigley 1863 - 23 Jan 1934.' He was buried in the Roman Catholic-Mon plot Cc-0152 at Fremantle, memorial ID: 213405612 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/213405612/patrick-christopher-quigley> Accessed April 2024

⁴⁷³ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7

⁴⁷⁴ Hughes was known as both 'Hughes' and Quigley, with 'Hughes' used as a preference, particularly by friends in the Murchison region. He also had at least one half brother Thomas, The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday, 24 March 1929, 'Brother Prospectors'

⁴⁷⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 1; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 17 January 1934, page 17; salmon gum, The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 23 April 1911, page 13; Tom, The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 24 March 1929, page 3; racehorse 'Pat C. Hall' May meet of the Gill Handicap, jockey Elwick F. Riley, Examiner (Launceston, Tas.), Friday 5 May 1950, page 12; prospectors, The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 5 January 1908, page 1

the average lad can never acquire, a lot of his worldly lore being obtained from a splendid old black and a gin attached to his mother's home at Beaconsfield, Fremantle, the bushcraft imparted to him, the actual study of the sun, moon, and stars as a guide, being a revelation in his case.'⁴⁷⁶

So advanced was his cosmic skill, on a voyage to New Zealand in a small boat, with instruments damaged, he was able to assist the skipper with his knowledge of navigation by the stars until help appeared on the horizon.

During his childhood he learned to swim early, and as a lad he rescued a boy who fell from the Fremantle old jetty in the excitement of hooking a large fish, then years later he almost drowned saving an 18-year-old youth from the same spot. Even more dangerously, whilst traversing the Great Australian Bight in a schooner, he fearlessly leapt into the sea to hold his skipper above water until rescued.⁴⁷⁷

'Pat has followed multitudinous avocations in his time of such a diversified nature as cattle-punching on the N'or"-West cattle boats, prospecting and mining, holding up fencing contracts, sailing the seas as a sailorman, and dozens of other kinds of jobs that tighten the muscles and stiffen the backbone.'⁴⁷⁸

Hughes arrived at Mt. Magnet during the rush started by the discovery of gold by William Watson. He situated his camp at Jones Well, which quickly ran dry due to the number of men arriving by 20-mile foot trek, 'carrying swags, picks, shovels, dishes, and the indispensable water bags.' He left to pursue rushes at Cue, Carey, Lake Austin, Peak Hill and the Horseshoe Bend, unfortunately without much reward.⁴⁷⁹

The Trouble at Ivanhoe

When the mighty Ivanhoe Venture Company braced against the righteous stubbornness of William Bray and Pat C. Hughes and their 'Alluvial Boys,' they perhaps didn't anticipate the chaos that would spark. Hughes had political form, Bray was a quieter man. But when both were arrested for disobeying an 1897 order by mining for alluvial gold on Ivanhoe's lease, Bray simply showed his license and questioned the legal validity of the order. Hughes suspected more unsound motivations. They were hauled before the Warden's Court.

'The warden spoke severely to the men and said he would commit them to the Fremantle gaol until they themselves considered that they had purged the contempt, and petitioned for their release. The sentence was, therefore, unlimited.'

⁴⁷⁶ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7

⁴⁷⁷ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 23 April 1911, page 13; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7

⁴⁷⁸ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 7 March 1914, page 4; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 9 July 1922, page 15; see also The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 20 December 1925, page 2

⁴⁷⁹ Geraldton Guardian and Express (WA), Saturday 3 February 1934, page 2; see also Evening Star (Boulder, WA), Thursday 5 July 1906, page 1; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 25 December 1932, page 12



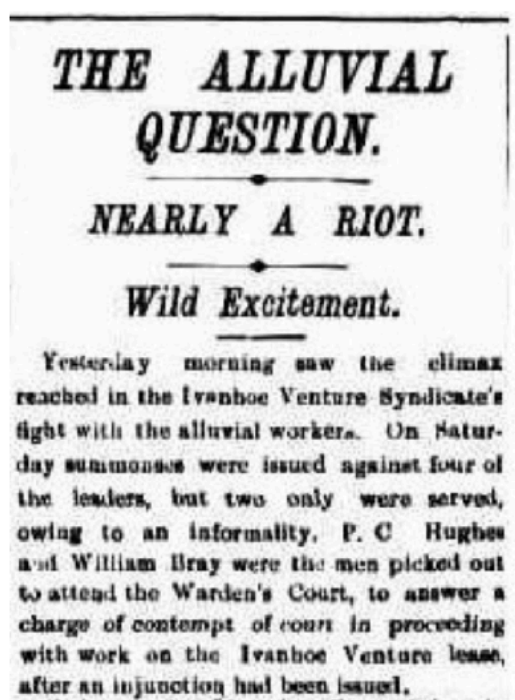
Alluvial Trouble Roll Up on Ivanhoe Venture 1899

SLWA 010227PD

After sentencing, Bray and Hughes were detained in a railway carriage connected to the evening's express train. An enraged mob of 400 diggers began to march the two and a half miles to the railway station, joined by an additional 200 along the way. A few among the mob threatened to break out their martyrs from the train, but were subdued by 'the more sensible' of the miners, who kept order and earned the respect of the police and reporters present.

The crowd surged into Maritana-street and an effigy of the Minister of Mines, Mr. Wittenoom, was publicly hanged. The men then returned to the mine to work, replacing Bray and Hughes in a final show of defiance. (See also Bray entry earlier).

Hughes lamented the possibility of justice in the Warden's Court or the Supreme Court; their only hope was Parliament. He maintained the protesting miners were 'unjustly and wrongfully' incarcerated and agreed with his comrade Bray that the Wardens



Goldfields Morning Chronicle, Coolgardie
Tuesday 8 March 1898, p 2

had 'grossly maladminister(ed) the Mining Act' and 'were acting under pressure of the then Minister of Mines, Mr Wittenoom, or...other influential personage.' It was an issue affecting thousands of people making an honest livelihood and he could not bear the injustice of Sir John Forrest's relationship with Mr Moran, M.L.A. and Moran's position as largest shareholder in the disputed lease, and so in a letter to the editor, he called for a Royal Commission to examine documents produced during the agitation, and to interview witnesses.⁴⁸⁰

Bray and Hughes only served a month, although some additional men followed them to Fremantle Prison from Ivanhoe from a later agitation. They eventually received a Government apology.

Hughes continued to campaign, believing there were plentiful resources for all, with alluvial available for the diggers and the 'reef or lode matter' left for the companies. He also refuted the claim the alluvial digger did not invest capital (citing poverty and sweat) into the fields and found errors in the application of the Goldfields Act.⁴⁸¹

Digger v. Leaseholder

Hughes was also critical of a practice bearing contemporary resonance in Western Australia. He saw the legal but morally corrupt example of Hannans Proprietary Company advantaging 300 acres of rich auriferous land to 'only contribute in the way of rent to the State £300 per annum, or £1 per acre, and employ one man for every six acres, or 50 men in all to comply with the labor conditions' with exemptions, as at odds with the requirements of the individual miner. If the alluvial digger wished to access 300 acres, 'he must pay the State £1333/ 10s rent' in miners' rights... and man it with 2667 men,' without exemptions.

'So much Mr. Editor, for the respective positions of the alluvial miner and the reefer and the rotten mining laws of West Australia.'⁴⁸²

Union Man

Hughes' commitment to unionism was legendary; he truly enjoyed the chairing, committee work and policy development. Key was his involvement the formation of the first branch of the A.W.A. in Coolgardie and the Alluvial Rights Association. Following Hughes' death *The Sunday Times* dryly reminded readers that prior to 1900, he also founded the Anti-Asiatic League.'⁴⁸³

He wrote letters when helping to set up a shearing union in W.A. to improve conditions – he enquired into a successful model in Queensland. He was president of the Darling Ranges Firewood Getters Union, and involved in organising workers at

⁴⁸⁰ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Monday 1 August 1898, page 3

⁴⁸¹ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Thursday 3 February 1898, page 2; see also Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Tuesday 1 February 1898, page 2

⁴⁸² Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Monday 10 April 1899, page 3;

⁴⁸³ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Tuesday 4 April 1899, page 7; *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7; *Anti-Asiatic*, *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 4 February 1934, page 8

Robb Jetty in 1900, resulting in the formation of the powerful Slaughtermen and Assistants Union of Fremantle. Meetings could be informal; he could turn up in the early hours with a bottle of whisky and the morning milk delivery.⁴⁸⁴

His leadership skills were also used benevolently, such as the desperate plan to combat a 'violent epidemic of enteric fever' sweeping through the mining camps at Cue, killing perfectly healthy men in their 30's.⁴⁸⁵ Another report from 1923 recalled Pat's role forming a committee when typhoid struck in the bitter Cue winter and dingoes were desecrating the bodies of the deceased miners.

'Pat made a fine, rugged speech of appeal, the result of which was an honorary committee and secretary. Pat then marked off a reserve and put up two big tents and bough sheds, and all the sick men were collected and put under shelter...' They were provided with volunteer miner-nurses until trained nurses were fetched, 'and a clamorous vote of thanks awarded to P.C.H. for his energy and forethought.'⁴⁸⁶

One incident enjoyed by the press was his attempt to begin an alternative Waterside Workers' Association to the monopoly of the Fremantle Lumpers' Union. A meeting was planned, which got out of control and resulted in a disappointing personal beating. When asked by the *Truth* newspaper if the workers attacked him, he declared – 'I never knew I had a solar plexus until I *stopped that punch*.'⁴⁸⁷

A kinship with the Secessionist Frederick C. B. Vosper, a passionate orator and anti-Federationist, lead to Hughes accompanying him and Mrs. Vosper in late 1900 on lecture tours of the goldfields. Whilst initially polite in Kalgoorlie, speeches at Boulder, where he spoke from the balcony of a local hotel, invited a shower of 'stones, fruit and jam tins' from the 'howling mob'. Later they were almost denied supper at a Kalgoorlie café due to the brewing trouble outside the premises, and Vosper left Kalgoorlie shouting to the angry mob,

'You fools! You are denouncing me now, but when it is too late, when you are bound and shackled to the Eastern States, you will come to me...but it will be too late, too late!' ⁴⁸⁸

⁴⁸⁴ Slaughtermen's, *Westralian Worker* (Perth, WA), Firewood Getters, *Swan Express* (Midland Junction, WA), Saturday 4 June 1904, page 2; Friday 14 November 1902, page 2; whisky, *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 20 April 1924, page 18

⁴⁸⁵ *Geraldton Guardian* (WA), Saturday 16 October 1926, page 1; *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 8 July 1923, page 2

⁴⁸⁶ *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 8 July 1923, page 2

⁴⁸⁷ *Truth* (Perth, WA), Saturday 7 March 1914, page 4; *The Sun* (Kalgoorlie, WA), Sunday 8 March 1914, page 5

⁴⁸⁸ *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 2 April 1933, page 7; see also *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), 15 March 1925, page 18; see also *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 2 September 1934, page 10

A Plea for Separation

But it seems Hughes saw that the vehicle of Federation could not be slowed, and endeavoured to throw his nemesis Premier Sir John Forrest into its path.

‘Now, Sir, as federation would in every way be of advantage to the residents of the goldfields — and nobody knows that better than Sir John — can it reasonably be supposed for a moment that even the southwest crowd would acquiesce to anything that would deprive them of the right to milk — aye, until they milk, practically speaking, the very life blood of the wealthy goldfields’ cow.’

Hughes’ own Federationist campaign for separation mirrored his distrust of city politicians, and what he described as their ‘baneful and tyrannical influences of that pestilent and festering sore on the body social - from Perth, the seat of the sand-groping conspirators...’ He admitted in a letter to editor of the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, ‘Sir, it may seem strange for myself - a working man and a unionist - to be supporting disintegration,’ but he keenly felt a rising union of the oppressed gave ‘battle to the oppressors, the tyrant or money-grabber’ and was ‘healthy, noble and moral.’⁴⁸⁹

He promoted further in letters to editors that a division of the colony and the banding together of sympathetic Western Australian provinces in earlier Federation would be beneficial, and warned of Premier ‘Sir John and his clique’s’ motives.

‘..let us get separation first from that incubus, that old man of the sea, that octopus that drains the very sap of our young life — Sir John, the prince of the south-west and their sandy district — and our prospects of becoming part of a federated Australia will be a hundred times more favorable.’⁴⁹⁰

Sly Groggeries and Frizzyhaired Proprietresses

Hughes had an opinion on the full spectrum of issues of the day, and a cheeky sense of humour. He lamented to the *Kalgoorlie ‘Sun’* newspaper in February 1900 about the unfair prosecution of hotelkeepers supplying refreshments on Sundays, claiming it was impossible to get even a drink of water without having to beg, and that the ban would drive people to illegal ‘sly groggeries’, and ‘unlicensed drinking dens’ run by ‘frizzyhaired proprietresses’. He railed against the problem of obtaining liquids ‘essential to a man’s health’ in the midday heat.⁴⁹¹

A Renaissance man with a love of the celestial, he took time to celebrate the passing of the Great Comet of 1901.

‘Sir,—I constituted one of all Coolgardieites, big and little, old and young, who rapt in admiration viewed our comet, which showed to such great advantage just after

⁴⁸⁹ *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA), Tuesday 5 July 1898, page 7; *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA), Friday 22 July 1898, page 6; *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA), Friday 5 August 1898, page 7

⁴⁹⁰ *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA), Friday 8 July 1898, page 8; see also *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA), Friday 23 September 1898, page 2

⁴⁹¹ *The Sun* (Kalgoorlie, WA), Sunday 11 February 1900, page 5

sunset last evening... But what beat all was an old beer-chewer soliloquising, 'Does it not look like the light in front of the Bed Bluff Hotel at 2 a.m. ?'⁴⁹²

And in 1923 it was reported that despite his years, Hughes was still drawn by this love, 'The old battler('s)... last address being as chef in one of the astronomical camps at Wallal.'⁴⁹³

The Ministerial Trip And the Bubonic Plague

One of Hughes' particular joys in life was to poke fun at politicians, hilariously drawing attention to the coinciding of both the visit of the bubonic plague, and the W.A. Premier to the goldfields region. Suggestions to stymie the disease included strict quarantine, burying all vessels used 'to guzzle the ratepayers' champagne' with, fumigating, or 'cremating' all buildings occupied by the political suspects, and having any rare grant money promised - if it indeed appeared - to be 'dipped in carbolic.' But his last proposition was most creative,

'..let there be large and commodious passenger dips provided the other side of Southern Cross, near, or at the goldfields boundary line and kept well filled with disinfecting solutions in which all passenger men, women, and children— a la sheep—shall be dipped; some rough and ready sheep farmers, from scab infected districts, to have control.' He later merrily suggested 'alluvial boys' do the dipping.

He signed off warning the goldfields authorities that without these controls, 'up goes the price of whisky ; for our ladies will have to make that special afternoon cup of tea—extra special—for fear of the bluebonic, God bless 'em.'⁴⁹⁴

A Splendid Soul

Reports that Pat Hughes was dangerously ill were published in mid January.⁴⁹⁵

'A splendid soul fluttered from its earthly tenement when last week died at Fremantle, Patrick Quigley (Pat



"Pat" Hughes.

Truth, Western Australia
Sunday 23 February 1930

⁴⁹² Dynamite, The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 9 February 1930, page 1; Coolgardie Miner (WA), Friday 3 May 1901, page 4

⁴⁹³ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 8 July 1923, page 2 'Peeps at People'

⁴⁹⁴ The Evening Star (Boulder, WA), Thursday 3 May 1900, page 4

⁴⁹⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 17 January 1934, page 17; An earlier report in The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 7 January 1934, page 14 names his death bed at a camp he intermittently occupied in Forrestdale, but this proves inaccurate as all other reports name the Smelters Camp, then Fremantle hospital. Actual date of death was 23 January 1934 (aged 70-71), buried at Fremantle Cemetery, Roman Catholic plot 152. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/213405612/patrick-christopher-quigley> Accessed April 2024

C. Hughes)... Of big and powerful stature, with a wonderfully kind and generous disposition.'⁴⁹⁶

He was remembered by many, including a public notice from E. G. 'Dryblower' Murphy, the poet and newspaperman, and reminiscing continued for years.⁴⁹⁷

'He was a rugged type, but a great heart. He never did a dirty action and stuck to his friends to the limit. For some time he had been living quietly in a little shack near Fremantle where the illness which took him off seized him. There are very many who will miss him. Vale Pat Hughes.'⁴⁹⁸

Huntley, Frederick

1878 - 1949

**Smelters Camp 1936-1949
yardman**

Frederick Huntley lived and worked in hotels in Fremantle and country Western Australia, before spending approximately 13 years as a resident of the Smelters Camp. In 1903 he was a bottler at the Terminus Hotel, then in 1909 at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, as a yardman. From 1912-1914 he was a labourer at the Exchange Hotel in Pingelly, then 1917-1934 he worked as a yardman at the National Hotel in Fremantle. He did not have an occupation while at the Smelters Camp approximately 1936-1949. In 1906 he was a witness in a court trial. Later he was a yardman at the Oceanic Hotel, and gave evidence as to the striking of Charles Cowain in the face with a glass by the female accused, Esther Warden.

Huntley died in the Smelters Camp at South Fremantle in 1949 at age 71 and was buried in the Church of England portion of Fremantle Cemetery. Frederick Huntley has not been fully researched.⁴⁹⁹

⁴⁹⁶ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7; see also Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 27 January 1934, page 14

⁴⁹⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 1

⁴⁹⁸ Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 27 January 1934, page 14; See also Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Friday 26 January 1934, page 4; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 1; BDM WA [under Quigley, Patrick C] Registration no. 36, 1934

⁴⁹⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 5 April 1906, page 10; BDM WA Registration no. 255; MCB FB00017181, Section Mon AA, Gravesite 1493; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 22 August 1949, page 1

Hyland, John (Joannis) 'Matthew' Francis (Francisci)⁵⁰⁰

1831 – 1905

Robb's Jetty 1905

pensioner

John Francis Hyland (73) was found deceased in his camp at Robb Jetty in 1905. The domesticity of the discovery belied the fantastic adventures Hyland lived.

John Hyland's mother was Bridget Jones and his father's name was Matthew. He hailed from County Cavan, Ireland. John (Joannis) was at one time the husband of Mary Ann McCaffrey and had ten children, including daughter Violet Ellen and sons Philip Thomas and John Francis.⁵⁰¹

Hyland had been living at the camp at Robb Jetty for several years, subsisting on a pension. He seemed in his usual health when seen on the previous Thursday evening, and it was presumed he died in his sleep.

Hyland was a sergeant in the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers, serving under General Lawrence for the duration of the Indian Mutiny and subsequently, serving for two years under General Gordon at the Boxer Rebellion in China and held medals for each. He carried a letter of recommendation from Gordon, acknowledging his services and received an Imperial Pension.

After serving in China, he was sent to Yorkshire to instruct the 6th West York Volunteers in Musketry, and filled a similar role at Hythe. He was invited to Western Australia by the late Mr. W. Childers, and arrived in the ship *Naval Brigade* in 1874.

Hyland was buried in the Anglican section of Fremantle Cemetery. It was noted that he was 'a very old and esteemed member of the Lord-Warden Lodge of Freemasons, of Deal, Kent.'⁵⁰² John Francis Hyland has not been fully researched.

Hyland, Augusta Agnes

Unconfirmed, but c1891-

Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1951

-

Augusta Hyland's death in Perth appears in the Births, Deaths and Marriages Western Australia registry in 1964. Her age was 73, her father's name William F P and her mother's name Clare.⁵⁰³ Hyland was mentioned in *The West Australian* on 7 July

⁵⁰⁰ <https://www.ancestry.com.au/family-tree/person/tree/5187433/person/290118038447/facts>

Accessed December 2021 (Requires subscription)

⁵⁰¹ BDM WA Registration no. 1049; Violet Registration no. 22765 /1882; John Registration no. 18185/1877; Philip FHL Film number 1363695, 1879

⁵⁰² Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 16 June 1905, page 3; See also Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 17 June 1905, page 8; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 19 June 1905, page 4

⁵⁰³ BDMWA, registration no. 2794

1951 as a resident of the camp, when Doris Mippy was charged with assaulting her on the South Beach reserve on 16 June.⁵⁰⁴ Augusta Hyland has not been fully researched.⁵⁰⁵

Issacs, George
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁵⁰⁶

Inman, Arthur Stanley
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1946-1947
labourer

Inman, Mary Gladys
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1947-1948

-

Arthur and Mary Inman and their seven children occupied a hut at the Smelters Camp from approximately 1946 to 1948. The electoral rolls are not accurate in their case; they were also known to reside in a house in Douro Road South Fremantle, and had often moved around the State in order to be together.⁵⁰⁷ Life was very tough for the Inmans, and in the struggle of surviving camp life, and navigating their circumstances, Mary Gladys met with tragedy.

Arthur Inman had been a street sweeper in Melbourne, Victoria before arriving in Western Australia. When he met Mary, they were not permitted to marry, but they were determined to be together, and for many years played a game of cat and mouse with authorities around the State. But they were deeply in love and determined, and finally they achieved success after many remonstrations, and legally married.

⁵⁰⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 7 July 1951, page 7

⁵⁰⁵ Connection to the famous Agnes Hyland, of the famous Hyland circus family (SLWA b2006741-1 Agnes Hyland and her educated ponies c1905) as yet unproven

Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, unconfirmed:
1930. (Half year ending 30 June) pp 238w, 260a Apprehensions. Vide Police Gazette p238, w391 Agnes Hyland at Perth, on 9th inst. by PC Emberson; serving sentence 4378/30. That year a Charles (128a) and Thomas (144h) are also in trouble - unconfirmed as related

⁵⁰⁶ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

⁵⁰⁷ Dolores Fraser interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 11 May 2019

They had eight children together, Pauline, Beatrice, Bernard, Stanley, Mary, Dorothy, Margery and Vincent. These children joined their elder siblings, Margo, George and Phyllis to Mary's first husband whose name was Sargent. Beatrice, at 14 years of age, was sent by Welfare from Home of Good Shepherd to travel to Mt Vernon for employment as a domestic. Unhappy with life at Mt Vernon, she ran away, then was transferred to Belele Station, where she met Douglas Fraser, a Wadjari Yamatji who was working there. Douglas' mother Jiggabirri was a Wadjari Nyarlu and his father a Scotsman named David Gordon Fraser. Together they had seven children Dolores, Gregory, Stanley, Susan, Glenda, Bernard and Dennis. Dolores Fraser later lived at the Seagull Camp in South Fremantle.⁵⁰⁸

On Friday night, 13 December 1946, responding to camp residents requesting police protection, Constable Minnett and other Beaconsfield police found a drunken brawl in progress, with Arthur Inman (then 50 and working as a labourer), involved in the scuffle. When presented at court Inman told the court he had no memory of the event, but admitted to resisting arrest.⁵⁰⁹

'SEVEN CHILDREN. Parents Convicted Of Neglect' was an article in *The West Australian* that details the unforgivable living conditions of the Smelters Camp in the 1940s and 50s, and highlights the lack of basic assistance afforded the Inmans.

The article describes that the family is living in a 'three-roomed corrugated iron shack', which was cramped and difficult to keep clean. When advised that the parents struggled with alcohol issues, Special Magistrate Schroeder was a little kinder toward Mrs. Inman than her husband, stating,

"Your children have been getting into trouble." To Mrs. Inman he said: "You have conducted your defence very ably; if you looked after yourself you would be all right." The magistrate treated Mr Inman more harshly: "I don't think you have much sense. If you had as much as your wife and she used the sense she has got you would be a successful couple."⁵¹⁰

The Inmans were fine £10 each and put on good behaviour bonds for twelve months. But they were often the targets of police and were not afraid to defend themselves, on one court date following an encounter at the waiting shed of the South Fremantle tram terminus on Mandurah Road, Sergeant M.J. Riggs paraded a two-inch scar on his cheek as evidence.⁵¹¹

Found in Sea

When Mary Gladys Inman (42) was found floating in the sea near Robb Jetty on the 8

⁵⁰⁸ Dolores Fraser interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 11 May 2019

⁵⁰⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 14 December 1946, page 27; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 15 December 1946, page 13; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 16 December 1946, page 14

⁵¹⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 21 March 1947, page 3

⁵¹¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 5 September 1947, page 10

January 1948 at 11.45am, she could not be revived by artificial respiration, nor placement on a rocking stretcher for 45 minutes once rushed to Fremantle Hospital.

‘According to a report made to the police, (Inman) went paddling shortly before noon. Later she was seen to be in difficulties on a sandbank in shallow water some distance from the shore. Two women assisted her ashore.’

Coroner Mr. J. E. Oustafson J.P. gave his findings at the Fremantle Courthouse in late February, ‘that deceased met her death from drowning while suffering from the effects of an alcoholic carousal’. It had been evidenced that Inman had been drinking with companions the previous night and the morning of the tragedy, and disorientated, drowned when she went swimming.⁵¹²

Dolores Fraser, Mary Gladys’ grand daughter, is regretful she never had the opportunity to meet her. Dolores recalls that her devastated grandfather Arthur had told her mother Beatrice that Mary Gladys had been hit over the head with a bottle earlier during the fateful evening, by another person at the camp. Beatrice later shared this information with Dolores.

But Dolores remembers her grandfather Arthur well, describing him affectionately as a lovely old man, completely devoted to his wife.⁵¹³

With thanks to Dolores Fraser for her permission to share her family history.⁵¹⁴

In 2012 Dr Denise Cook interviewed Mary Kemenade (née Inman) and her daughter Rhonda. Mary was born in Narrogin and later lived with her family in Jean Street, South Fremantle and then moved to the Smelters Camp, near Robb Jetty where her father ‘got some tin from the tip and...bought a tent and put it up...’, living there for two years. ‘...and that’s where my mum could get nothing to live on...’

She described the other people camped nearby, naming Maud Westcott and her husband, who lived separately; the creative ways the family was able to feed themselves and the difficulty her father and mother experienced in a mixed race marriage, including the ability to work, and obvious discrimination. Mary herself suffered the consequences of her parents’ behaviour under the influence of alcoholism. But also, she recalls charmed elements of her childhood, fishing, swimming, fetching water from a tap at South Beach in a kerosene tin, attending school at Beaconsfield, riding horses, simple games and happy memories.⁵¹⁵

⁵¹² Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 8 January 1948, page 1; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 9 January 1948, page 17; also Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Saturday 10 January 1948, page 4; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 24 February 1948, page 13

⁵¹³ Dolores Fraser interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 11 May 2019 and 14 June 2019.

⁵¹⁴ For an oral history from Mary Kemenade (formerly Inman), interviewed by Denise Cook, 16 November 2012, see <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/mary-kemenade-nee-inman-oral-history-16-nov-2012> Accessed April 2024

⁵¹⁵ <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/mary-kemenade-nee-inman-oral-history-16-nov-2012> Accessed April 2024

Jamison, Frederick

Owen's Anchorage 1901, 1903-1906 slaughterman

Frederick Jamison was listed on the Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1901, and then between 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.⁵¹⁶ Frederick Jamison has not been fully researched.

Jetta Family Smelters Camp 1950s holidays

The Jetta family are included in Dr. Denise Cook's research, with oral history provided by Doreen Nelson (née Jetta) as residents of the Smelters Camp during holiday periods.⁵¹⁷ Doreen Nelson recalls spending time camping with her family; including grandmother Hannah Yarran, at the Smelters, swimming and older family members sourcing building supplies from the nearby tip and picking fruit from trees and fishing.⁵¹⁸

Kalyan, Albert and Myrtle and child Meatworks Camp 1933

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(Sometimes spelled 'Calyan')

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.⁵¹⁹

⁵¹⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁵¹⁷ Cook, Denise, "That was my Home" Stories from the Noongar Camps of Fremantle and Perth's Western Suburbs, UWA Publishing, 2019 <https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/products/that-was-my-home>

⁵¹⁸ Doreen Nelson Oral History told to Dr. Denise Cook, SLWA: OH4349, 1 November 2012, transcript page 1

⁵¹⁹ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

Kalyan, Edgar
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁵²⁰

Kelly, John William Thomas
AKA Bill, John William or William
Smelters Camp 1935
labourer

William Kelly, also known as John, generally lived a quiet life eking out a living labouring through the worst of the Depression. In March 1932 Kelly was arrested by plain-clothed policeman Constable Cox as a consequence of executing a search warrant and finding an unlicensed rifle under Kelly's bed. Kelly denied having used the rifle 'for some time'⁵²¹ and was only fined £1 with 4/6 costs. Then in May that same year, Kelly successfully sued and gained an order for payment of a balance of £2 wages in weekly instalments, ordered by magistrate Mr H. J. Craig R.M. in 1932, for Kelly's work carting pig food for Mrs. Alice Tanner at Hamilton Hill.⁵²²

But it was an unfortunate discovery that William Kelly made in the sand hills near his camp at Robb Jetty, Fremantle in 1935, which entwined his life forever with that of another man who struggled, but under completely different circumstances.

Kelly was 'cutting trees about 11 a.m. when he came across the fully clothed body,' a quarter-mile north of Robb Jetty. Kelly telephoned the police at Beaconsfield and 'Constable Simmons, who proceeded to the spot, found that death had occurred probably an hour or two previously.' Simmons found papers and a cheque in the deceased man's pockets. Curiously the report concludes with, 'There was no trace of the man's hat.' Perhaps this inferred a robbery with foul play, but as customary in such events, a post-mortem examination was scheduled at Fremantle Hospital.⁵²³

At the inquest in September, the tragic demise of William Percy Groves, a 39-year-old secretary to the Mundaring Road Board, was described. Groves, steadily and tragically unraveling, had methodically premeditated his own demise. Roy Alexander Anderson, supervisor at the road board, spoke of Grose's usually 'cheerful

⁵²⁰ Ibid.

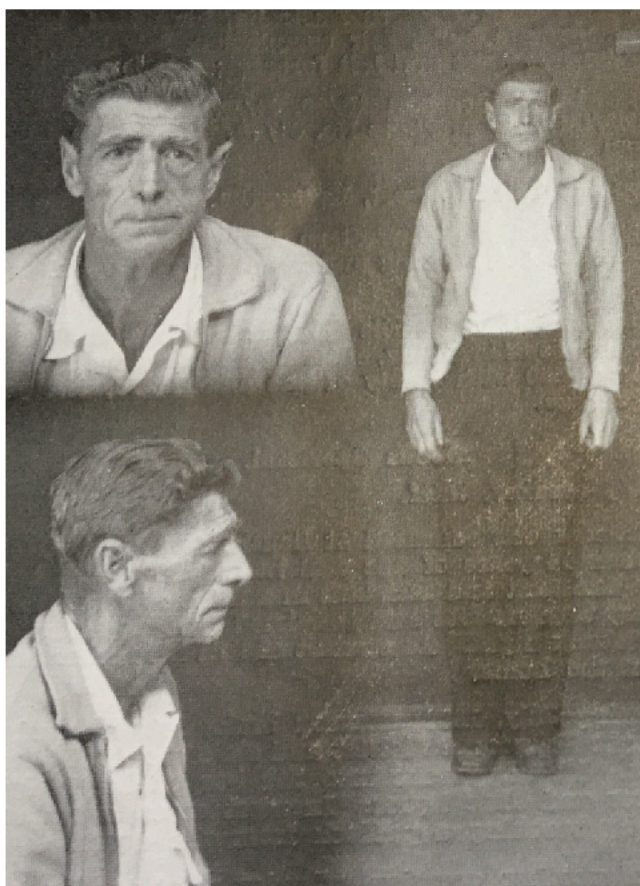
⁵²¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 22 March 1932, page 2

⁵²² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 26 May 1932, page 19

⁵²³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 17 August 1935, page 11; Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 16 August 1935, page 5

disposition', but 'he had been in a muddle for some time past,'⁵²⁴ citing recent difficulties at work, a car accident court case and additionally Grose 'had complained about his health, the state of which he attributed to being gassed at the war.'⁵²⁵

Anderson stated, 'I saw a bottle of poison in the strongroom on several occasions... Deceased was the only one who had the key.' It was thought to be strychnine and it was also stated that Grose was found carrying cigarettes laced with the poison, but in a thoughtful manner had included in the tobacco tin a note reading, 'These are poisoned,' as well as a small blue bottle.



John William Kelly.
Supplement to the *West Australian Police Gazette*
30 December 1959, no. 444

'Some time after Grose had failed to appear at the office on August 9, he was reported missing, witness continued, and on August 12, when the strongroom was opened, it was found that the poison was missing.' Grose had appeared at his Aunt's home on 12 August, 'looking very limp and with a vacant look,' after having been missing for four days. 'Thank God you have come back,' were her first words when she saw him at the door. She made him rest inside, and he told her that he had walked from Fremantle and had tried to take poison. Something had stopped him, and he was so cold that the poison had dropped from his hand. In the night he had a violent headache and could not sleep. A doctor was called, and said that deceased was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Later he became delirious. Next day he left for Mundaring, and that was the last she saw of him.'⁵²⁶

⁵²⁴ The *West Australian* (Perth, WA), Tuesday 17 September 1935, page 11

⁵²⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵²⁶ The *West Australian* (Perth, WA), Tuesday 17 September 1935, page 11

'The Coroner (Mr. J. H. Payne) found that death was due to poison, presumably self-administered, while deceased was suffering from mental depression.'⁵²⁷

The following electoral roll for Fremantle, South Fremantle, only includes a Supplementary list – it is possible William Kelly also resided at the camp in 1937 or that this was John using his second name, which he was noted to do.

John Kelly appears in the 1959 Western Australian Police Gazette Photo supplement no. 26, 30 Dec 1959. He was now living at Canningvale.

'444. Kelly, John William Thomas, @ Bill, @ John William, @ William. A native of England, born 1905, height 5 ft. 5 3/4 in., medium build, sallow complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, numerous tattoos on left forearm; snake, boxer, boat, also cavalier and swallow on right forearm; a labourer.

Fingerprint etc.

Address: Hughes St, Canning Vale.

Previous convictions in Western Australia for unlicensed rifle, stealing, unlawful possession and desertion and losing by neglect.

Last convicted at Perth, on 15/7/59, on a charge of stealing and receiving. Fined £25 plus 17s. 6d. costs, in default, 75 days' imprisonment.

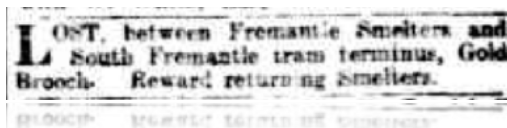
Modus Operandi

1. Thief
2. Offender arrived in this country in 1928 and has worked as a labourer and cook. In November, 1932, he was on sustenance work at Jarrahdale where he stole a horse rug from a saw mill.
3. In June, 1939, Kelly was convicted at Fremantle on 14 charges of stealing. Apparently he was still not in permanent employment and wandered about the district stealing goods from farm houses while the owners were absent. He also stole articles from parked motor cars on several occasions.
4. In July last, offender was working as a cook at Green Place Mental Home when it was found that over a period of about 18 months he had been stealing tinned goods from the storeroom. (N.P.R.)'

⁵²⁷ Ibid. See also Western Mail (Perth, WA), Thursday 22 August 1935, page 10

Khan, Mary
Smelters Camp 1955
domestic

Mary Khan was mentioned in *The Sunday Times* on 16 Jan 1955 as a resident of the smelters camp. She was arrested for an assault on Colin McPhail Bryce, which resulted in his admittance to Fremantle Hospital early in the morning. Mary Khan has not been fully researched.⁵²⁸



The West Australian, Monday 30 October 1916, page 1 'Lost'

Killeen, John
1863 - 1934
Smelter's Works 1926-1929
miner

John Killeen, a retired miner, appears in the 1926, 1928 and 1929 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls at the Smelter's Works.

Three years earlier, in 1923, Killeen was living in a Newcastle Street boarding house and attempted to cut his own throat with a razor. It's reported he 'struggled violently while being conveyed to hospital, where it was found that the wound was not very serious.'⁵²⁹

Killeen died in East Coolgardie and was buried in Kalgoorlie Cemetery in 1934. A probate of £1076 was left for Patrick Joseph Russell.⁵³⁰ John Killeen has not been fully researched.

⁵²⁸ Later searches of the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, yielded the following: 1959. Police Gazette photo supplement. 'Khan, Mary Jane (aboriginal native). Prisoner discharged, pages 99, 122. Drunk, idle, disorderly Folio 59/41. 2 months 7 days, dated 21/1/59 Collie. 11/3/59 discharged.' In 1959 there is also a mention of a 'Mathew(sic) Bert Khan. Breaking and entering, stealing,' pages 285 and 358

1955 (year ending 31 Dec). Mary Jane Khan (née Nebo*) page 47. 'Khan, Mary Jane (nee Nebo) at Fremantle on the 15th ult. by Det. Sgt. J Callaghan and Det. Olsen; unlawful assault. Fine £10 and costs or 30 days imprisonment: 18th ult. - 1435/55)'
(*This name perhaps misspelled from Nebro)

⁵²⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 9 July 1923, page 2; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Tuesday 10 July 1923, page 5

⁵³⁰ BDM WA Registration no. 169; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 19 March 1920, page 8; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Monday 6 August, page 4

Knight, John (Jack) Albert James
Copley's Siding/Smelters Camp 1943-1958
gardener

Knight, Lizzie
Copley's Siding 1943-1954
home duties

John and Lizzie Knight were listed at the Copley's Siding site on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll which was in close proximity to the camp. John Knight was listed 1943-1958 as a gardener, and Lizzie Knight's 1943-1954 occupation was home duties. They were firm friends of Jesse Manser, who resided in Snake Gully camp. John and Jesse Manser worked together as labourers for a time, but their bond was a lifetime commitment - they were raising one of Jesse's daughters, Elsie. Jesse's wife Elizabeth died and he descended into melancholy, and possibly complex post traumatic stress from the Great War, so John and Lizzie brought Elsie into their family, and made sure she had contact with her father. (See Manser's separate entry).

Bindi Baxter, great granddaughter of Jesse Manser, and her family remember that they all called John Knight 'Pop Knight' but after researching, she discovered that 'Knight' was his mother's name. 'His real name was John Hyman, he had a falling out with his father in England and legally changed to his mother's name.'⁵³¹



The Knights also advertised in *The West Australian* in 1947, 'For sale: Muscovies, 26 ducks and drakes, 10 wks old. Knight. Smelters' Camps, east of railway line, South Fremantle.'⁵³²

The Knights had a son, John (Jack) Jnr, and a daughter, Doris, as well as raising Elsie Manser as their own.⁵³³

John 'Pop' Knight at Jesse Manser's Smelters Camp hut,
post 1945 © Elsie Webb (née Manser) and the Baxter family

⁵³¹ Bindi Baxter email to Julie Raffaele 21 November 2023

⁵³² *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Thursday 25 September 1947, page 1

⁵³³ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Friday 13 May 1949, page 1 (mentioned in a public notice following the death of Jesse Manser)

The Steamer Venus, 1923

‘We decided on Sunday to accept the invitation of Messrs. J. Ball and Sons to journey to Rockingham from Fremantle in the steamer Venus... As the vessel proceeds along the line of buoys marking the Naval Base passage points of interest on land are pointed out. First come the remnants of the old sea jetty, which carried the heavy rush, of traffic in the early days, of the goldfields, and for long before that. Next the South Beach, its jetty, and the skeleton framework for the very commodious two-storied bathing house, which it is hoped will be ready in a month's time. A little further on are the smelters, which have sent several large consignments of ingot lead overseas recently. Then the huge freezing works, the abattoirs being nearby, with their sea approach, Robb's Jetty. On past the Woodman's Point lighthouse, and then the quarantine station, and the breakwater of the Naval Base is off the quarter...’⁵³⁴

Krueger, Carl Frederic August Robb's Jetty, Fremantle 1921-1922 sausage skin manufacturer

Carl Krueger announces his intention to apply for naturalisation in the *Daily News* in September 1921. He declares himself of German Nationality, born in ‘Norenberg, Pomerania’, but having lived in Australia for 31 years, and his occupation was ‘Sausage Skin Manufacturer.’⁵³⁵

In April, the Commonwealth Gazette lists Krueger as receiving his certificate of naturalisation on the 11 March 1922.⁵³⁶

The Commonwealth Gazette names Carl Frederic August Krueger, Robb's Jetty, Fremantle, Western Australia in a long schedule of German Nations with whom the Commonwealth of Australia is declaring peace under the ‘Treaty of Peace Regulations’ [Statutory Rules, post-dated to 10 January 1920, no. 25] in 1922. In the act, Henry William, baron Forster, Governor General is releasing, ‘from the charge so created all property, rights and interests’⁵³⁷ to these persons.

⁵³⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 16 January 1923, page 5

⁵³⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 19 September 1921, page 1

⁵³⁶ *Commonwealth Gazette*, no. 30, 6 April 1922, held by National Library Australia <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/25028037> Accessed April 2024

⁵³⁷ *Commonwealth Gazette*, no. 5, 18 January 1923, held by National Library Australia <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/25029666> Accessed April 2024

Carl Krueger has not been fully researched.⁵³⁸

Lambadgee, Vincent
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁵³⁹

Lewis, Allan John
Robb's Jetty 1910

-

From 1910, Allan John Lewis appears as a resident, thanks to the theft of his key-winding Waltham watch...black steel hands, engine-turned case, and a silver curb chain' from 'owner's residence, Robb's Jetty' on 11 November.⁵⁴⁰

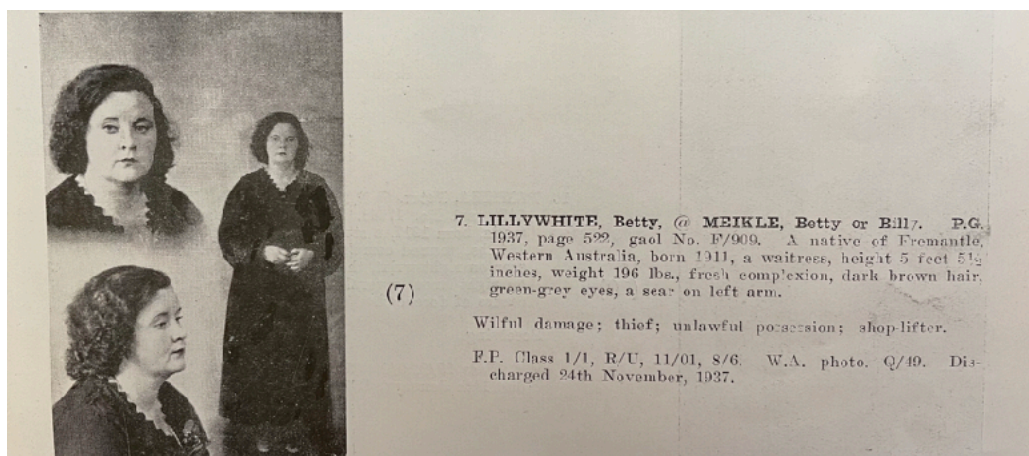
Allan John Lewis has not been fully researched.

⁵³⁸ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1903. 'Fremantle. -On the 23rd inst., from owner's camp, at Owen's Anchorage, - a gentleman's silver hunting stem winding watch, engraved case; a rolled gold small pattern double curb chain, about 14in. long, with silver German coin about size of florin, "Frederick the Great of German, 1667," on one side, 2 Prussian eagles on the reverse; and a 6-chambered Smith & Wesson's revolver, walnut butt with ring attached; the property of August Krueger. A3/4737, 26th October, 1903, p344' It's unconfirmed if this is an earlier recording of Karl August Krueger or a relative, but noted the possessions are extravagant for a humble sausage-maker.

⁵³⁹ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

⁵⁴⁰ Allan John Lewis, confirmed Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, Wednesday, 16 Nov 1910, page 329

Lillywhite, Julia Bertha (Betty)
Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle (Cypress Valley) 1937, 1954
unemployed



Lillywhite, Betty, West Australian Police Gazette 1937

Julia Bertha Lillywhite was born about 1888 in Fremantle to mother Jane Elizabeth Hudson and father Matthew Bateman. She married William Gordon Lillywhite in 1911 and they had children Dora Jane, Hudson, Lavinia and Bertha Jean between 1911-1918. In 1916 they were living in Sewell St, East Fremantle and Julia was working as a domestic and William was a motor driver. In 1917 they had moved to King William Street, Fremantle.⁵⁴¹

In 1917 the pattern that was to control Lillywhite's life began, with her receiving some stolen articles of clothing from a relative, Emily Bateman. It was proved to be an established behaviour, as the police found other items in her house when it was searched.⁵⁴²

Lillywhite's last daughter, Bertha Jean, was born in 1918, but Bertha was not to know her father very long. In 1919, William Gordon posted a public notice warning that he would not be responsible for any debts incurred by his wife, Julia Lillywhite. At this time he was living separately in Douglas Street, South Fremantle.⁵⁴³

In November 1921, Lillywhite was detected in the act of rolling a piece of fabric inside another, which was stolen from Freedman's store on the corner of Hay and William Streets, Perth. Emily Bateman was again involved in this theft. Lillywhite appealed that she had been drinking and was not responsible. Another charge for

⁵⁴¹ BDM WA Reg no. 688/67, no. 4084. Marriage in Fremantle Reg no. 55; BDM WA Children Dora Jane (Reg no. 776, 1911), Hudson G (Reg no. 851, 1913), Lavinia (Reg no. 145, 1916), Bertha Jean (Reg no. 408, 1918); Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁵⁴² Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 26 November 1917, page 2

⁵⁴³ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 12 November 1919, page 7

theft occurred in 1922.⁵⁴⁴ Lillywhite was arrested for vile language in 1923, under circumstances which required deeper consideration than that which the magistrate was prepared to offer. The arrest occurred in a vacant block off John Street, Fremantle. Lillywhite was missing one tooth after just being assaulted by a man, and her clothing 'was disarranged, and her blouse saturated with blood.' Her claim that she had been greatly provoked was discounted; she was fined £2 with costs or gaol.⁵⁴⁵

Lillywhite spent the next 24 years receiving fines, attending court or short sentences in Fremantle Prison for mostly petty theft of clothing or fabrics; on 9 July 1926 she was released from Fremantle on the same day as Lucy Skinner (see Lucy Skinner entry below).⁵⁴⁶

But theft was also a way of attending to costs and balances. Linen she was accused of stealing in 1929 she considered in lieu of £8 owed to her by Pearl McDonald. Lillywhite had assured the laundry shop proprietor that she had permission to pick up the bed linen and rug freshly cleaned for McDonald, but when the police came for the goods they also found a quantity of serge stolen from a tailor's shop in Fremantle

⁵⁴⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 9 November 1921, page 4; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 25 May 1922, page 9

⁵⁴⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 11 April 1923, page 5

⁵⁴⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 11 April 1923, page 5; Fremantle Prison Entry Registers, SRO Western Australia (44765_352486-00230) discharged 9 July 1926 with Lucy Skinner; see also 26 January 1929, 14 September 1929, 4 September 1930, 20 February 1931, 12 and 16 December 1931, 30 April 1932

Other reports in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police include:

1921. Julia Bertha Lilleywhite,(sic) Minnie Ethel May Jenkins and Isabel Vera Georgina Smith, at Perth, on 14th inst., by Det. J. Doyle and J. S. Cowie; stealing. Lilleywhite, 14 days hl; Jenkins and Smith, fined £2 and costs each. Property recovered

1922. Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, page 65

1930. Page 95 shows another photo, seven years younger, '(F909) Lily-white, Betty (Thief)'

1930. 12 February, page 101; 'Lillywhite, Betty, Reg. No. F909, a native of Fremantle, born 1911, height 5ft. 4 in., weight 126 lbs., dark brown hair, green-brown eyes, a scar left arm. Discharge due 13th February, 1930' and '649, 95x, 101n (photo), page 122 Discharged - F909 Lillywhite, Betty. Stealing Q149. Feb 1930 6 weeks hard labour, 13-1-30 (date of sentence) in Perth, 13-2-30 date discharged'

1930. (Half year ending 31 Dec 1930) page 509, 'Bertha Lillywhite alias 'Big Bertha' at Fremantle, on 3rd inst. by Dets. Nisbet and Bright. Stealing (shop lifting) 2 mths hard labour 8777/30'

1938. Betty Lillywhite @ Meikle was supplementing her waitressing tips with theft; Police Gazette page 7, 5th January 1938

at her house. Due to her numerous prior offences, Lillywhite was sentenced to three months.⁵⁴⁷

Meanwhile at least one of her children was in care. Bertha Lillywhite was mentioned in newspaper articles in 1932, attending a sports carnival planned by the Labor Women of WA, where she won a prize in a 'special race' and in 1935, when the Union Secretary visited Mt Lawley Depot where games were played, 'community singing was enjoyed and a competition was won by Betty Powell and Bertha Lillywhite' – with prizes and sing-alongs being high points of what must have been a challenging childhood for young Bertha, distanced from her mother.⁵⁴⁸

1932 was the same year Bertha's mother was receiving one month's imprisonment for using obscene language in a bus on Rockingham Road; she and her companion Weston Sutherland were ejected from the bus; and in 1934 Lillywhite stole two jars of fish paste from Charlie Carters grocery shop and gave one to her niece Rene, who luckily was dismissed from charges of receiving.⁵⁴⁹

Lillywhite was linked to the Smelters Camp in 1939, when Sergeant Lowrie heard swearing coming from the vicinity of Cypres(sic) Valley, an area where 'there were several camps in the valley, which is situated near the Fremantle Smelters.' Lillywhite, now 51 and described as 'middle-aged' and under the influence of liquor, later admits to the charge, and her honesty was well-received, 'Magistrate Craig, in fining her, said that the Bench had decided to be lenient, as Lillywhite had not been convicted since 1934.'⁵⁵⁰

Lillywhite's final years ended as they had begun, with a charge of 14 day's gaol for supplying alcohol to companion Doris Jarvis in 1943, who notably hexed the magistrate with the warning, 'I hope you choke with your Christmas dinner.' And in 1946, while already in gaol for habitual drunkenness, Lillywhite was charged with a further one month's imprisonment for stealing shopping, including stout, and a bag belonging to Gwen Warner. Some of the contents of the bag ended up with Lillywhite's sister in law, Mary Bateman, who was treated leniently as it was her first offence. Warner had noticed the bag missing after allowing Lillywhite and Bateman to nurse her baby after meeting in the street, then upon seeing Lillywhite the

⁵⁴⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 14 September 1929, page 6; NB: Lillywhite was listed as 34 years of age and actually would have been 41.

⁵⁴⁸ Westralian Worker (Perth, WA), Friday 6 May 1932, page 6; Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 11 Feb 1935, page 8; Bertha would have been 14 and 17 respectively.

⁵⁴⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 17 November 1932 page 7. Fish paste: Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 1 September 1934, page 4; (Rene May Lillywhite /Mellowship was Lillywhite's niece by marriage. Walter, Rene's husband Walter, was the son of Harold Lillywhite, William's brother, married to Bertha). Article states Lillywhite was 40 years of age, but was 46.

⁵⁵⁰ Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 26 May 1939, page 25; Another references to Cypress Valley: The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 30 January 1903, page 6

following day in Fremantle with the bag, approached her and was told, 'If it's yours, dearie, you take it.'⁵⁵¹

And finally, Lillywhite, then aged 57 and an unemployed resident of the Smelters Camp, was fined £1 in March 1953 for stealing one pint of milk valued at 9d.⁵⁵²

Lillywhite died in 1967 at 79 years of age and was buried in the Anglican section of Fremantle Cemetery.⁵⁵³

Locke, William Reuben

1861 - 1927

Robb's Jetty 1927

-

The *Daily News* recorded William Locke's passing as a 'Sudden Death' after his collapse at Robb Jetty camp that morning, and his transferal to Fremantle Hospital's morgue, 'where life was pronounced extinct.'⁵⁵⁴

The passing of Locke was also recorded in the 'Local Happenings' column of the tabloid *The Sunday Times* newspaper, as being the result of natural causes.⁵⁵⁵

Locke's death was confirmed by Births, Deaths and Marriages in Western Australia at Fremantle in 1927.⁵⁵⁶ William Locke has not been fully researched.

Lujo, Pietro (Lujo, Petar)

1857 - 1943

Robb's Jetty 1914, 1926-1943

labourer/nil 1926

Pietro Lujo arrived in Western Australia in 1889 from Dubrovnik, Croatia and lived in Boulder.⁵⁵⁷

Also known as Petar Lujo, Peter Lujo or simply 'Peter the Slav', Lujo also worked as a fireman in the mines. But in 1911 he received the results of an X-Ray and a diagnosis

⁵⁵¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 20 Dec 1943, page 7; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 14 February 1946, page 9; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 15 Feb 1946, page 12

⁵⁵² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 March 1953, page 10

⁵⁵³ BDM WA Registration no. 688; MCB FB000024051

⁵⁵⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 12 December 1927, page 1

⁵⁵⁵ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 18 December 1927, page 17

⁵⁵⁶ Births, Deaths and Marriages, Western Australia, registration no. 325

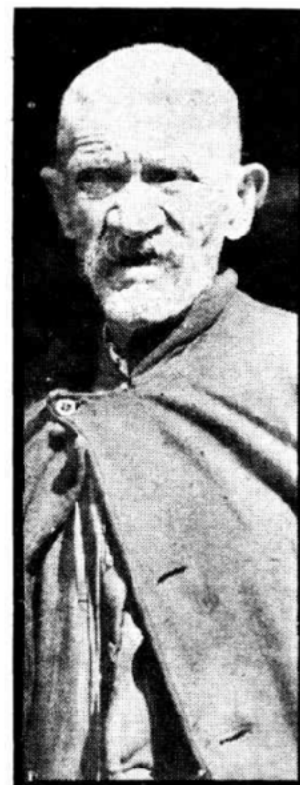
⁵⁵⁷ Šutalo, Ilija, Dr, 'Croats in Australia: Pioneers, Settlers and Their Descendants', Wakefield Press, South Australia, 2004

of miner's phthisis in the lungs and given only two months to live. He was advised by another doctor to drink bullock's blood to prolong his life, so Lujo moved to Fremantle and with Alec Watson, manager of Emanuel Bros' permission, set up a home in a shack near the hay shed of the abattoirs at Robb's Jetty, with his dogs Billy and Susie, 'where there would be a plentiful supply of the magic fluid.'

"'He (*Watson*) was a good man,'" Peter recalled today. "He let me have as much bullocks' blood as I needed. It was nothing for me to drink three or four pints a day. Other people could not take it...but I found the blood tasted like milk. For 16 years my diet consisted mainly of bullocks' blood, which I caught in a basin as the beasts were slaughtered. Doctors cannot believe now that I was ever a victim of miners' phthisis.'" ⁵⁵⁸

Lujo had left a wife and son in Yugoslavia but claimed he could never afford to bring them here, and could not afford to go home, fearing the European winter would send him to his grave.

Jack Bavich remembered a 'Peter' living near the hay shed at Robb Jetty, which was perhaps 'Peter the Slav'.⁵⁵⁹ He recalled Marin, his father, hitching up the horse and cart and visiting 'friends in the area, as far as Coogee and Robb's Jetty,' to socialise and in the summertime, have a swim; naming Marin Zuvells and 'some joint', where



Daily News 9 March 1939 p12

'There was this bloke, we used to call him old Peter, I don't know his other name, and he used to have a little hut down there near the beach. He was the caretaker of this hay shed, and we used to park there near his place, or go inside and talk to him. And then many a time later, when he got old, and crook, we used to take him a bottle of milk every Saturday on the way to Fremantle...' ⁵⁶⁰

Lujo was a resident of Claremont Old Men's Home from 9 February 1942 to 2 February 1943. He died in Perth in 1943.⁵⁶¹

⁵⁵⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 9 March 1939, page 12

⁵⁵⁹ Jack Bavich Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/10, 1996, Tape 3, side 1

⁵⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁵⁶¹ State Records Office WA: AU WA S1930 - cons5409 LUJO; BDMWA Registration no. 1513

COOGEE BEACH. *West Australian Correspondence*, 1950

Sir, - It was with grave concern that I read of the probable closure of Coogee Beach within three to five years owing to pollution by the discharge of effluent into the sea from offensive trade establishments on the foreshore between Robb's Jetty and the beach.

It is an amazing fact, but, alas, only too true, that this offensive trades area will commence approximately two miles from the Fremantle Town Hall, which is a distance similar to that between Crawley, Beach and Perth. Imagine the outcry should such a proposal be submitted to have a similar effect on Crawley Beach.

At the present time there are several offensive trade establishments in the area and the effluvium therefrom is carried by the prevailing winds to as far as Marmion Street, East Fremantle. The effect can well be imagined should these industries be increased and this effluvium intensified. What effect will it have on Fremantle and the residential areas adjacent thereto.

I maintain that the area between Robb's Jetty and the magazines should be retained for residential purposes as it would accommodate over 1,000 homes with an almost unobstructed sea view owing to the very favourable fall of the land. Such a residential area would be served by all essential public facilities with the added advantage of being in close proximity to Fremantle and with the elimination of the existing offensive trades would prove most desirable from a homebuilder's point of view.

Travellers whose destination is anywhere south of Fremantle almost invariably travel the coast road owing to the view obtained of the sea, but with the intensification of offensive trades, it will be necessary to take a considerable detour to avoid this area.

The logical site for an offensive trade area is at Jandakot or some other dry sandy district where such establishments should have little effect on general development. It does not make sense that the public should be driven inland and the most desirable coastal foreshore be left to pollution by offensive effluent. Coogee Beach as a public pleasure resort is extremely popular for camping and caravan parking, there being approximately 400 units there every Christmas holiday, and it is also a most popular site for large organised picnics when from 2,000 to 5,000 persons make use of this beach almost every Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer months. It is most suitable for children owing to the absence of surf and for persons who wish to swim and bathe in a calm sea.

--Yours, etc., ROAD BOARD MEMBER.⁵⁶²

⁵⁶² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 6 April 1950, page 12

**Lyndon, Tim and Jane
Meatworks Camp 1933**

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These names appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.⁵⁶³

**Manser, Jesse (Jerry) Thomas
c1879 - 1949
Snake Gully 1949
war veteran**

The *Daily News* recorded the discovery of Jesse Manser's body on 12 May 1949. Manser's age was approximated at 65 years, but was closer to 70, and he was found outside his camp at the Smelters at 6.45a.m., and moved to the Fremantle Hospital Morgue, where an autopsy was performed. Death was 'believed to have been due to natural causes.'⁵⁶⁴ Manser's death was confirmed by Births, Deaths and Marriages in Western Australia at Fremantle in 1949.⁵⁶⁵ But these facts seem too abrupt for the close of one soul's life. Bindi Baxter, Jesse Manser's great grandchild, and her parents Milton and Faye, kindly offered to share their family knowledge.

Manser was badly injured in WWI. He enlisted in 1915 at almost 36 years of age. He was a native of Kilburn, London, in the parish of Willisden. At the time of his enlistment, he worked as a labourer and lived in East Cannington with wife Elizabeth Emma Nicholls (whose name appeared on a tattoo he had) and one child, a daughter named Maud.⁵⁶⁶

He served first in the worst of Gallipoli in 1915 in the 10/4 Field Ambulance Corp and then later the 12th; after the Gallipoli evacuation he spent a year in Tel el Kebir, the army camp between Cairo and the Suez Canal, and the location of the First Australian Imperial Force military training base and No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital.

He went to France mid-1916, contracted a lively collection of illnesses and accumulated a handful of seemingly foolhardy but most likely troubled AWOLs during a long service in the field, including one that Bindi was told was a pub visit 'to clear his head,' until a fractured leg had him sent to England in August 1918. He was

⁵⁶³ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

⁵⁶⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 12 May 1949, page 1; NAA B2455, 8214724 Manser, Jesse Thomas Military Record

⁵⁶⁵ Births, Deaths and Marriages, Western Australia, registration no. 132

⁵⁶⁶ NAA B2455, 8214724 Manser, Jesse Thomas Military Record; Elsie BDM WA Registration 1297

listed as being injured in the article 'Australians in Action, W.A. Roll of Honour,'⁵⁶⁷ survived the war, and was repatriated to Alexandria in 1919.⁵⁶⁸

In 1921 Elizabeth had another child, Elsie. She and Manser were both late second parents, being in their 40s. But then Elizabeth then died in 1927, nine years after Manser returned from war. Subsequently, Elsie couldn't remember much of her mother.

Bindi believes that her great grandfather Jesse never recovered after the death of his darling Elizabeth. He struggled through life and ended up in a little hut in Snake Gully, just near where the power station was later built. Old friends and neighbours at Copley Siding, John and Lizzie Knight, (see earlier entry) took little Elsie into their home. Elsie's sister Maud was born pre-war (1909) and so was 12 years older than her post-war sibling. Maud was aged 17 or 18 when her mother died, and had already left home and was living independently and working as a tailoress; and so in this time predating formal adoption, the Knights didn't think twice and decided to raise Elsie alongside their own young son John (Jack) and daughter (Doris). They kept a close eye on Jesse after Elizabeth's passing, and cared for Elsie until about 1941.

In 1937, Manser's first-born, Maud, married Reginald Thomas James Disley in West Perth⁵⁶⁹ and later had one child, Graeme, Manser's first grandchild.⁵⁷⁰

Bindi's parents have limited memories of the Smelters Camp visits but her father Milton remembers someone who lived at the camp who owed his uncle money, but couldn't pay, and so gave his uncle a boat instead, and 'he used to launch it from there somewhere for years.'⁵⁷¹

Elizabeth's death

"Elizabeth Emma Manser, late of East Cannington (died January 20.1927), to Jesse Thomas Manser, of East Cannington."⁵⁷² She was interred in the Anglican Cemetery at Karrakatta and Jesse's 'brothers' of the fraternal society, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity (M.U.O.F.S.), East Cannington Lodge, invited their members to attend and support him in his grief.

Manser was known as Jerry to his friends, including by lifelong friends John and Lizzie Knight. The Knight's explained Jesse's illness to Elsie, and kept her close to him.

⁵⁶⁷ Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 19 November 1918, page 11

⁵⁶⁸ Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 19 November 1918, page 11

⁵⁶⁹ Reg's father, also called Reginald, died at 67 years of age in Cottesloe in 1941, Births, Deaths and Marriages, Western Australia, registration no. 100840

⁵⁷⁰ Bindi Baxter conversation with Julie Raffaele 3 October 2023; Births, Deaths and Marriages, Western Australia, registration no. 100346/1937

⁵⁷¹ Bindi Baxter email to Julie Raffaele 21 November 2023

⁵⁷² The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 13 February 1927 page 7 'Wills of the week'. Bindi believes she died of kidney failure.



Jesse Manser at his Snake Gully camp hut, with grown daughter Elsie and her baby, Faye c1945
Faye is Bindi Baxter's mother © Elsie Webb (née Manser) and the Baxter family

On 1 March 1941 Jessie walked Elsie down the aisle in a military wedding to Private Arthur Alfred Adams (WX9828: 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion). But then when Arthur was presumed dead less than a year later, 11 February 1942 in Singapore; the family was told later by Private Albert (Sidney Austin) Webb, who was also serving in Singapore (WX17804: also 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion), that poor Arthur was slaughtered in his bed by the Japanese during the Alexandra Hospital massacre.⁵⁷³ 'Sid' Webb was Bindi's grandfather, and had also lost his mother when young. He had always fancied Elsie, but was recovering from three and a half years' incarceration by the Japanese. In 1966, Sid and Elsie married.

In the family notices of *The West Australian*, Elsie writes of her first husband Arthur's death, and also appearing are messages from Walter Edward 'Ted' and Doris A'Vard (née Knight, the daughter of John and Lizzie), and her parents, who wrote of poor, sacrificed Arthur, 'We will always remember you smiling.'⁵⁷⁴

Jesse's Death

Jesse Manser died young, when Bindi was six years old. Consequently she doesn't remember him well, but does remember 'Pop' Knight and the children. Very poignant memoriam messages for Jesse Manser appear in the family notices of *The West Australian* in May 1949. 'Jesse Thomas Manser, of South Fremantle, husband of the late Elizabeth Manser, and loved father of Maud (Mrs, R. T. J. Disley) and Elsie (Mrs A. Adams), fond grandfather of Graeme Disley and Faye Webb.' In a nod to Manser's lengthy war service in France, in their public notice the Knights bid

⁵⁷³ See Alexandra Hospital massacre <https://www.nlb.gov.sg/main/article-detail?cmsuuid=7d4fd9a0-7bd0-4533-b0ea-3aa559673b0e> Accessed April 2024

⁵⁷⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 16 March 1946, page 1

their friend, 'au revoir.'⁵⁷⁵ Their daughter Doris, her husband Ted and family simply say, 'Farewell, old pal.'⁵⁷⁶ Later tributes in 1950 and 1951 mention a new grandchild, Albert, whom Jesse sadly never had the opportunity to meet.⁵⁷⁷

RECRUITING OF MEN EMPLOYED IN MUNITIONS MANUFACTURE (1916)

'The following instructions have been received and are published for the benefit of all concerned: Men employed in the manufacture of munitions or in industries such as smelting or making steel incidental to the manufacture of munitions Australia, should not be enlisted if it is certified that their services cannot be spared. When such men are employed in the local manufacture of munitions their applications to enlist or the notification from them in the recruiting cards that they are willing to do so are to be referred to the Stale Munitions Committee, but where, or in the case of the smelting industry, the product may be used for the manufacture of munitions in the United Kingdom, it will be referred to the Camp Commandant for necessary action.'⁵⁷⁸

Later during WWII, the connection between residents of the camp and the surrounding Cockburn suburbs to the military/munitions storage nearby at Woodman Point is shown through reports of employment or theft.⁵⁷⁹

Casual employment could always be gained, unloading dynamite at Woodman Point. Ray Lees recalls the added bonus of an extra threepence an hour danger money. Many of the market gardeners were self-employed on their own small land holdings but to provide additional money

'..a lot of them used to go down to Woodman Point and work for Elders Smith when the dynamite ships come in, they may get two or three or four days that... I suppose half the Spearwood gardeners would go down there and work there as casual labour. Unloading the dynamite, the ships were unloaded by the waterside workers onto rail

⁵⁷⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 13 May 1949, page 1 (mentioned in a public notice following the death of Jesse Manser)

⁵⁷⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 13 May 1949, page 1. Family Notices

⁵⁷⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 12 May 1950, page 39. Family Notices also contain a notice in 1951

⁵⁷⁸ Camp Chronicle (Midland Junction, WA), Thursday 27 January 1916, page 4

⁵⁷⁹ Interview Terry Fulton by Julie Raffaele 26 February 2021; Francis Duff entry in Smelters Camp original report, Stephen Page entry (*Warning: disturbing content*)

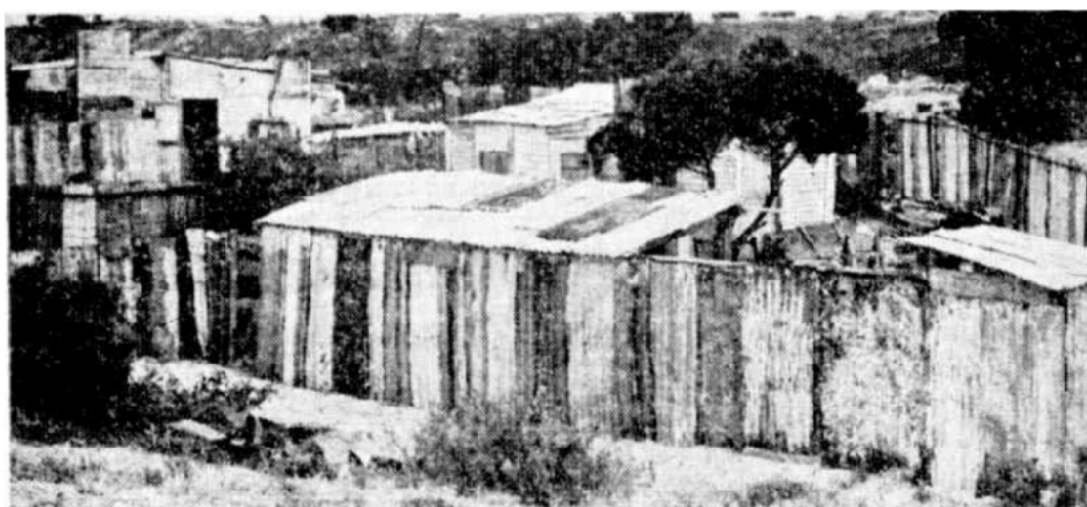
trucks, and the horses used to pull the rail trucks up to the magazines and these gardeners then... most of them would go down and unload the rail trucks...' ⁵⁸⁰

McCallum, Arthur Andrew
c1899 -
Smelter's Camp 1953 - 1954
invalid pensioner

Arthur McCallum (54) was accused of drawing a knife on fellow Smelters Camp resident, labourer Colin Thompson, to which Thompson retaliated by hitting McCallum with the buckle end of his belt. They both appeared in court in December 1953 to submit evidence. Thompson admitted the assault and was fined £10.⁵⁸¹

Magistrate Mr K. J. Dougall was losing patience with the residents of the Smelter's Camp appearing before him in Fremantle Police Court by 1954, warning invalid pensioner McCallum (then 55), and Andrew Walton, a labourer, "Things are getting serious. Any more assaults from Smelter's Camp dealt with here will be treated severely." Each received a 6-month personal bond of £20 to ensure good behaviour, after admitting assaulting each other.⁵⁸²

Andrew McCallum has not been fully researched.



Sunday Times 29 Mar 1953 p3

⁵⁸⁰ Mayor Ray Lees Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/6, 1996, Tape 4, side 1. For more information on the Woodman Point Explosives Reserve see <https://inherit.dplh.wa.gov.au/public/inventory/printsinglerecord/855c07b9-21c9-4207-9701-df9731cb4125> Accessed April 2024

⁵⁸¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 15 December 1953, page 16

⁵⁸² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 4 September 1954, page 11

McCallum, William
Owen's Anchorage 1910-1922
smelter

William McCallum was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll between 1910 and 1922, as a smelter at Owen's Anchorage. William McCallum has not been fully researched.

Fremantle Smelting works

'Mr. G. Aarons has returned from a trip to Europe and America, where he has been posting himself in the latest achievements in mining and metallurgy. During his stay in London, he successfully floated the Fremantle Smelting Works, and the company has a working capital of £75,000 with which to erect and fund the works. The site at Fremantle has been altered to a spot near the cattle jetty, beyond the town, and the new location is described as about perfect having both water and railway communication... Mr Aarons is satisfied the Fremantle Smelting Co has a very bright future before it.'⁵⁸³

Following this promising announcement in February, in July a reporter from the Kalgoorlie Miner accompanied Mr. G. Aarons, attorney for the W.A. Smelting Co., Fremantle, on a survey of northern mines that would supply lead and copper ores to the smelter. Travelling Northampton roads made of sparkling quartz ore, that were scented with sulphur and lead, the writer speculated upon the potential and promise of the vicinity, despite the mines of the region having fallen into disrepair – Gwalia copper mine and others had closed 30 years previously. He notes an abundance of water, horse feed and worthy, if neglected, equipment, and the driving necessity of a domestic smelters at Fremantle would more than justify the expense of repairs to the railway lines required.

Indeed, by 1899 the second smelter at the works was 'blown in' by the Western Australian Premier, members of Ministry, both Houses of Parliament 'and a large gathering of public men.' Specialising in the processing of various grades and tailings of gold ore from the Horseshoe mines of the Golden Mile, Northampton and the north east, processing lead, copper, sulpho-telluride ore and good-quality sulphides, companies such as the Associated Mines were supplying plentiful ore to maintain the two smelters at Fremantle, shipping over 120 tons daily.

The Western Australian Smelting Company was not only a processor of ore, but of dreams, with mines eagerly sending new 'parcels' and awaiting purity and percentage readings with anticipation.

Eighteen months after acting manager Mr. Pitblade ascended to replace the original manager Mr. Koehler, the Smelters was exceedingly successful, with a *Western Mail* article noting, 'RMA Oruba, which left Fremantle, homeward bound, on Monday,

⁵⁸³ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Thursday 17 February 1898, page 4

shipped at the Port, for London, 42 boxes of gold bullion, valued at £161,353 also 150 tons of base bullion from Fremantle Smelting Co., valued at £18,500.⁵⁸⁴

'MORE DAGOS. SACKING AND SWEATING

At Fremantle Smelting Works.

White Men Must Give Way to Foreigners'

An article published in the *Truth* newspaper in 1903 brandishes a problematic title and furnishes a brutal assessment of the changing labour market and the residents of the Smelters Camp. After a six-week closure, men awaiting re-engagement expressed grievances to wit the preference of management to the 'preponderance of alien labor over the white workers...' The matter extended beyond the smelters fence line, in that the men camping on government and some smelter property there, had in the past been permitted to do so if employed by the company, 'This concession was a matter of considerable importance to them, as any person can readily realise. After a shift at such laborious work as firing smelters a man is not inclined for a long tramp to his home...'

This created a benevolent atmosphere, until the manager 'issued instructions' that they needed to move on following dismissal 'at a moment's notice', and their subsequent replacement by foreign workers who *were* permitted to camp there.

'Free from the responsibilities of family ties... they live on the smell of an oily rag,' work copious overtime at low rates and allegedly are the first to report drinking infringements or infractions resulting in dismissal of the original workers, in a 'pimping' conspiracy rife at the works.⁵⁸⁵

But despite investing in their own mines at Narra Tarra, by 1907 the smelters cannot offset very high transit costs – even for a load of highly profitable copper ore, transport would still consume one-third of profits – and Fremantle Smelters management warned in May that they cannot source enough crude ore 'to keep the furnaces going' and will lose 300 men to a glutted labour market. Even the port is suffering as 'Daily one can see knots of workless men supporting the telephone and lamp posts about High-street.'⁵⁸⁶

In January 1907 the smelters was offered for sale in London and received no bids, and by 1908, 150 men are laid off, with Acting Premier Mr. H. Gregory stating that

⁵⁸⁴ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Saturday 23 July 1899, page 3; See <https://savesouthbeachfremantle.tripod.com/smelt.html> for excerpt from 'Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia,' 1901, The Library Board of Western Australia by The Education Department, P. W. H. Thiel & Co, Perth, W.A. 1901 Accessed April 2024

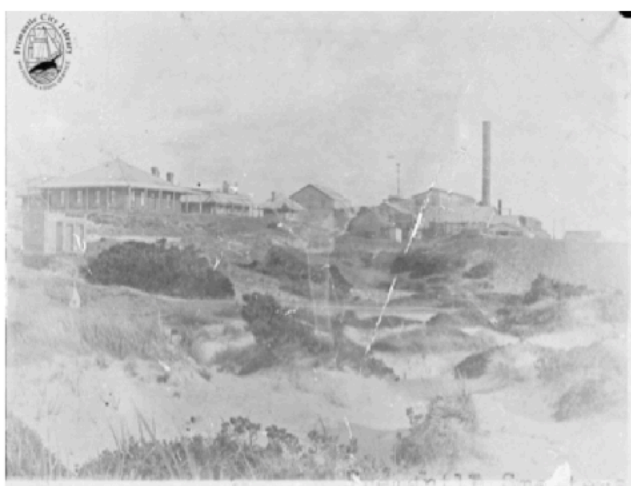
⁵⁸⁵ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 19 December 1903, page 2

⁵⁸⁶ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 10 October 1908, page 3

the Government 'had made every reasonable effort to get smelters started at Fremantle...had offered to advance a firm £3000 if they would establish smelters to cost £6000.' Jokes circulated that the works were now haunted by a ghostly 'spectre' such was the desolation.⁵⁸⁷

A bright light appears at the end of the tunnel in the form of Mr. W. G. Sutherland in 1910. Once of the Golden Horseshoe Mines and Broken Hill Proprietary Company, the innovative metallurgist was 'a hardworking, brainy man of brilliant parts.' He busies himself with the pumping out of flooded Northampton mines, which hold respectable employment through to 1916, with numbers of men only slightly declining through to the early 1920s.⁵⁸⁸

By 1922 international competition on wage market forces Sutherland to concede defeat, and the smelters was officially closed, staggering along in limited capacity until 1929, when the Smelters was employing an average of only 20 gang-men and mechanising horses and drays. At the commencement of WWI in 1941 the cutting up and removal of old metal from the Smelters begins, despite public submissions the facility should be used to manufacture munitions.⁵⁸⁹



Fremantle History Centre Image # 1662
The Fremantle Smelting Works c1920 [Arthur Saxon]

⁵⁸⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 14 Jul, 1898, page 3; Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), 1 June 1899, page 1; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 19 June 1899, page 6; Western Mail (Perth, WA), Saturday 30 September 1899, page 61; Western Mail (Perth, WA), Saturday 16 March 1901, page 40, Saturday 30 March 1907, page 30; Monday 25 March 1907, page 51 and Saturday 25 May 1907, page 20; Geraldton Guardian (WA), Thursday 16 January 1908; 150 men, Truth (Perth, WA), 15 August 1908, page 3; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 29 April 1908, page 3 and Thursday 25 March 1909, page 4; Spectre, Geraldton Express (WA), Friday 29 June 1908, page 2

⁵⁸⁸ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), 29 July 1899, page 3; Geraldton Guardian (WA), day 22 January 1910, page 2; day 23 November 1916, page 2 and Thursday 15 June 1922, page 2

⁵⁸⁹ Horses, Westralian Worker (Perth, WA), Friday 18 January 1929 and Friday 15 March 1929, page 5; munitions, The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 5 April 1941, page 16; Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 31 May 1941, page 5

'The smelter, which prospered during the First World War, roasting Northampton lead ore for the production of artillery shells and bullets, closes... The US infantry, which has a camp nearby in 1942, decides the smelter's chimney was too distinctive a navigation guide for enemy submarines and demolishes it in 1942, to the considerable safety concerns of those who live in the dunes, including a number of Nyungars waiting for relatives to be treated at Fremantle Hospital...'⁵⁹⁰

McCaskie, Ted
Smelter's Camp 1951
shearer

Ted McCaskie, shearer, was mentioned in *The West Australian* 18 May 1951 as a resident of the Smelters Camp.⁵⁹¹ He sounded the alarm when the makeshift well he was digging with fellow resident, William Westicott (53), outside McCaskie's shack, collapsed and trapped Westicott, almost smothering him. McCaskie, who lived only 100 yards from Westicott in the camp, had run to supply Westicott with a length of garden hose to breathe through, when in the following moments another sand avalanche covered him completely. More than a dozen men worked over four hours to try to free Westicott.

The well, about 4ft wide, had been dug to 12ft deep and struck water at approximately 2pm. 'Mr. McCaskie had his foot on the bottom rung of the ladder preparing to climb out of the hole when the sand surrounding them caved in. Both men were buried to their waists, but Mr. McCaskie was able to maintain his hold on the ladder and climb free. Mr. McCaskie worked hard to free his friend but, as he said, "the more I dug, the more sand came in."'⁵⁹²

After the arrival of additional men, lighting and a mobile crane, a 44-gallon drum shell was positioned to protect Westicott from the sand. 'A St. John ambulance arrived and the driver (Mr. E. Armfield) pumped oxygen into Mr. Westicott's lungs. He appeared revived. "Get me out of this, Ted," he said to Mr. McCaskie.'⁵⁹³

After the fall of darkness, a final supreme effort from the men resulted in them lifting the trapped man free from the quicksand. Cheering sounded upon Westicott's release. He was admitted to Fremantle Hospital alive but suffering from shock. Ted McCaskie has not been fully researched.

⁵⁹⁰ Davidson, Ron, 'Fremantle Impressions', Fremantle Arts Centre Press, North Fremantle, 2007, pp 333-34

⁵⁹¹ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Friday 18 May 1951, page 1

⁵⁹² *Ibid.*

⁵⁹³ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Friday 18 May 1951, page 1

A MOONLIGHT RIDE. (By Emily H. Pelloe, 1929) Part III

'It was delightful to canter along the damp sand in the cool, sweet night air, with the moonlit sea vividly blue near the shore, but deepening darkly in tone in the distance and merging with the misty out-lines of Garden Island against the skyline.

On the land side, the sand looked white and soft like snow, with the coarse vegetation of the low ridge beyond the tide-line in heavy contrast. Woodman's Point light was like an enormous emerald set in the dark hill of a gleaming ivory poniard, the long thin blade formed by the white sand of the point jutting far out to sea.

It was necessary on reaching the explosives' magazine barrier beyond Coogee pier to cross the sand ridge and take to the road. The whiteness of its rough limestone surface was blurred by the shadows of the great trees about the lightkeepers' cottages, and the green light suddenly changed to crimson as its sector edge was passed near the entrance to the quarantine station...

To dispel sad memories of a visit paid last year to the nurses' graves, and thoughts of the hermit of Woodman's Point of years ago, the mystery of whose tragic disappointment at the non-arrival of letters from England each time a mail arrived, for which he would walk to Fremantle, was never solved, and to make short work of an eerie part of the journey, I travelled fast along the old coast road, ghostly with its memories of the past.'⁵⁹⁴

McDonald, Ronald
Camp, Robb's Jetty 1919-1931
prospector

The Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll lists Ronald McDonald, prospector, as a resident of the camp, at Robb Jetty between 1919-1931, a time period of 12 years. Ronald McDonald has not been fully researched.⁵⁹⁵

⁵⁹⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 16 February 1929, page 4. Read more about Emily Pelloe (1877-1941), artist, botanist and journalist at <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/pelloe-emily-harriet-8012> Accessed April 2024

⁵⁹⁵ There is an unconfirmed mention of Ronald McDonald in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1925. (Half year ending 30 June 1925), page 105d

McInerney, Michael
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906, 1914
slaughterman

Michael McInerney, slaughterman, was listed intermittently on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll from 1903-1906 and again in 1914. After 1914 he moved to 314 Mandurah Road. In 1903 McInerney appeared as a corroborating witness in the charging of William Price, a foreman at Robb Jetty, for removing fodder from a quarantine area at night, when there was a risk of spreading ticks brought down from the Kimberley on the cattle.⁵⁹⁶ Appearing in court with him was Arthur Wood, also of the Smelters Camp. Michael McInerney has not been fully researched.



Fremantle History Centre Image # 2500 Unloading cattle from the SS Mindaroo at Robb Jetty c1920

McKenzie, Kenneth
Robb's Jetty 1912-1917
prospector/baker (1917)

Kenneth McKenzie, prospector, appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll between 1912-1916. In 1917 McKenzie moved to 88 Lefroy Road and became a baker. There is a possibility that he was rejected from AIF enlistment in 1917, requiring further investigation. Kenneth McKenzie has not been fully researched.⁵⁹⁷

⁵⁹⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 28 March 1903, page 1

⁵⁹⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; NAA MT1486/1, 9712432 KcKenzie Kenneth, military file

There is an unconfirmed mention of Kenneth McKenzie in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1903. 'Property Lost. Fremantle. - On the 9th ult., - a gentleman's gold ring set with 7 emeralds and diamonds, "B.A. 154 A.E." marked on the inside; the property of Kenneth McKenzie. P.L. 585/1903

McGee, James
Smelters Camp 1929
labourer

James McGee, a labourer, was registered on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll at the Smelters Camp in 1929. James McGee has not been fully researched.

McLaughlin, William
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
fisherman

Fisherman William McLaughlin appears on the Chesterfield Electoral Roll in 1903-1906. William McLaughlin has not been fully researched.

McLean, James
c1861 - 1932
Smelters 1932
pensioner

James McLean's death was reported by *The West Australian* on 8 August, 1932, in tragic circumstances, described sensationally as 'Indescribable Filth and Neglect.'⁵⁹⁸

'The death occurred in the Fremantle Hospital early on Saturday morning of James McLean (71), a pensioner, who was discovered in an unconscious condition on a reserve at South Beach, Fremantle, on Friday morning. When found, his clothing was soaked, and he had apparently been exposed to the weather throughout the previous night. A police report stated that the deceased lived in a humpy at South Fremantle at a locality known as the Smelters. The camp, the report stated, was in an indescribable state of filth and neglect. Four pieces of wood comprised a bed. The man had lived on bones, fish-heads and potato peelings, and rarely washed himself.' James McLean has not been fully researched.⁵⁹⁹

Nine feet long (1928)

Entangled in a fisherman's nets, a hammer-head shark almost nine feet long and weighing 4 1/2cwt [*Almost 240 kilos*], was caught about 30 yards from the shore between Robb's Jetty and the South Fremantle Smelters on Monday morning.⁶⁰⁰

⁵⁹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 8 August 1932, page 11

⁵⁹⁹ There is an unconfirmed mention of James McLean in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1925. May 27, page 193. Prisoners discharged from Fremantle Prison during the week ending Sat 23rd May, 1925. 12190 McLean, James, Stealing (6 charges) 2 mths hl; 21 days; 2 months; 2 months; 14 days; 14 days (cumulative). Date of Sentence 2-12-24; Perth, discharged: 23-5-25

⁶⁰⁰ Western Mail (Perth, WA), Thursday 29 November 1928, page 53

McMillan, Evander Cameron
Gage Road, Robb's Jetty 1914-1917
nil

The listing of 'Gage Road, Robb's Jetty' was an unusual description for a resident of the Smelters Camp, however Evander Cameron McMillan declares this his address between 1914-1917 in the South Fremantle Electoral Roll. McMillan's occupation simply reads 'Nil', and he disappears from the roll in 1919, so may have been a resident in 1918 also. Evander Cameron McMillan has not been fully researched.

McMillian, Ewin
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
butcher

Ewin McMillian, butcher, appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robb's Jetty in 1909 and 1910. Ewin McMillian has not been fully researched.

McNamara, Martin
Robb's Jetty 1931-1954
labourer

Martin McNamara was listed as a labourer and first appeared on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1931. He resides at Robb Jetty until 1954, a total of 23 years. Martin McNamara has not been fully researched.

McNeill, Neal
Robb's Jetty, near Smelters 1915-1917
traveller

Neal McNeill was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls, Robb's Jetty, near Smelters 1915-1917. His occupation was named rather exotically as 'traveller', and McNeill had some credentials, as an article in *The Observer* suggests:

'PAPUA EXPLORATION: The British Expedition. Fremantle, January 21. On their way to New Guinea, the advance party of the British Pacific Science Expedition arrived at Fremantle today on the steamer Ballarat... Mr. Connolly (Expedition leader)...states that the idea of the expedition had been conceived when he and another Australian (Mr. Neal McNeill) met in London. Both had been in New Guinea, and they were of the same opinion as regards the possibilities of the expedition revealing hidden wealth in the unexplored interior of the island. They took an office in London and invited a number of influential people and the press, and from that start the expedition had grown...' ⁶⁰¹ Neal McNeill has not been fully researched.

⁶⁰¹ The Observer (Adelaide, SA), Saturday 27 January 1923, page 15

Mears, Jack
Robb's Jetty (1930s)
stockman

Jack Mears was a Bardi man from Roebourne who worked as a stockman regularly on the Canning Stock Route and who often camped at Robb Jetty at the end of his long journeys. After one trip in the late 1920s-early 1930s⁶⁰² he met a young woman named Phoebe Newell from the Badjaling and Collie region who was camping with her partner there, and Jack Mears took a shine to her. He was so confident he could offer her a better life that he instructed her to put her things near his horse and sit there and wait for him, while he began 'negotiations' for her to accompany him. Mears dispatched her partner in a brief bare-knuckle fight and he and Phoebe Newell left Robb Jetty camp together.

The 'Red Star' in 1934 describes an attempt by George Clamp to not pay Jack Mears, Donald Nebro and Ray Davis the correct award wages for work completed shearing over 5000 sheep on his Mukinbudin property, arguing his case because they weren't officially A.W.U. members. The newspaper condemned Clamp, who eventually paid.⁶⁰³ Jack Mears later lived in the Collie area, working for a timber mill for over a decade.⁶⁰⁴ Many thanks to Mr Joe Northover Riley, who is the son of Kathleen Mears, for sharing his grandparents' story.⁶⁰⁵

Michael, Alf and Jean
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

These names appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.⁶⁰⁶

⁶⁰² Phoebe Newell died 1959 aged 61, born in 1898. Jack Mears died 1963 aged 78. <http://www.ozburials.com/CemsWA/Collie/collie.htm> Accessed April 2024

Jack had lived at the mill for 13 years in 4-room shack with his wife. So approximation is that he moved there in 1934, placing him at the camp late 1920s early 1930s.

⁶⁰³ Red Star (Perth, WA), Friday 19 October 1934, page 2; The West Australian (Perth, WA) Wednesday 11 Jun 1947, page 16; North-Eastern Wheatbelt Tribune (Wyalkatchem, WA), Friday 27 January 1933, page 1

⁶⁰⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 11 June 1947, page 16

⁶⁰⁵ Joe Northover Riley to Julie Raffaele, July 2019

⁶⁰⁶ Ibid.

Michael, Johnnie Snr. and Lily; and child
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

These names appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.⁶⁰⁷

Mindemarra, Paddy
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁶⁰⁸

Mippy, Alf
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched, but is the husband of Doris Mippy, below, and is also referenced by descendants.⁶⁰⁹

Mippy, Doris
Smelters' Camp, South Beach 1951
Domestic

Doris Mippy was mentioned in *The West Australian* on 7 July 1951 as a resident of the camp, when she was charged with assaulting Augusta Hyland on the South Beach reserve on 16 June.⁶¹⁰ The article reads that Magistrate Mr K. J. Dougall imposes a £10 six-month good behaviour bond on Mippy (30), whose occupation was domestic.

⁶⁰⁷ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

⁶⁰⁸ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

⁶⁰⁹ Ibid.

⁶¹⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 7 July 1951, page 7

Mippy pleaded not guilty. Augusta Agnes Hyland was also a resident of the Smelters Camp (see earlier entry). Steph Mippy advised that Doris (original Ronan) went on to marry her grandfather, 'Pop' Alfie Mippy and they had a large family, now with two surviving daughters, these daughters remember their father talking about the Smelters Camp. Many thanks to Steph Mippy for sharing some family memories.

Mitchell, Lavinia

**Lock's New House, near Smelter, Mandurah rd, South Fremantle 1917
home duties**

Mitchell, William Henry

**near Smelters, Mandurah rd, South Fremantle 1917
surveyor**

William and Lavinia Mitchell, whilst not strictly camping at the Smelters, are mentioned here for their proximity. The curious description in Lavinia's entry as 'Lock's New House' was different to that of her husband's in the 1917 South Fremantle Electoral Roll; whilst both can agree that they are living closely to the camp – perhaps this encouraged Lavinia Mitchell's more precise information. William Mitchell was a surveyor and Lavinia Mitchell was occupied with home duties during their residency. By 1919, and perhaps to Mrs Mitchell's relief, they have both relocated to 73 Douro Road.

William and Lavinia Mitchell have not been fully researched.

Mitchell, Phillip

**Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman**

South Fremantle Electoral Rolls 1903-1906 list Phillip Mitchell, a slaughterman as a resident at Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906. In 1903 Mitchell's dwelling was robbed of his gentleman's silver hunting watch and chain, which he had recently acquired.⁶¹¹ Phillip Mitchell has not been fully researched.

⁶¹¹ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 19 January 1903, page 20, Fremantle. -On the 16th inst., from owner's residence, at Owen's Anchorage, - a gentleman's silver hunting key-winding English lever watch, No. 10762, white dial, steel hands, and a silver curb chain about 20 inches long; the property of Phillip Mitchell.

THE BOY SCOUTS (1923)

'At South Fremantle we visited the abattoirs, where the technicalities of butchering were explained to the boys, and the Health Department inspector kindly showed how healthy meat could be distinguished from diseased. As Sea Scouts have before now had to be their own butchers, the knowledge will prove useful. On the way to Rockingham we paid a visit to the old wreck at Coogee, and the Kwinana, and at Rockingham by the kindness of the authorities we were shown over the new turtle canning factory, the boys being greatly interested in the fine machinery and the large pen of turtles awaiting bovrilisation. It takes eight hours to cook a turtle.'⁶¹²

Mocken, Florence Martha
Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty 1958-1963
home duties

Mocken, William David
Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty 1958-1963
labourer

William and Florence Mocken appears on the South Fremantle Electoral Rolls 1958-1963. After 1958 there are no entries in the electoral rolls referring to the Smelters Camp, and there is a gap of five years until the 1963 roll. The Mockens list their residential location as 'Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty.' William and Florence Mocken have not been fully researched.

Chris French, who gave an oral history in 2007 for the Rail Heritage WA project, described what being near the railway yards in a control booth adjacent to Robb Jetty was like, which might also describe life for the Mockens.

'My next signal box was Robb Jetty... and it was located three stories up in the air overlooking Cockburn Sound. And it had an absolutely phenomenal view. You could actually see the curvature of the earth from there just by looking out on a clear day...

..in those days, it was a very, very busy place. We had lots of shunting trains coming in from Fremantle, re-marshalling the trains, sorting out wagons and there was trains going into the parcel shed and other trains going to the abattoirs... right next to the abattoirs actually. That was the only bad side of it. Some of the smells from there were pretty horrible. And of course the sound of cows dying...'⁶¹³

⁶¹² Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 10 September 1923, page 6

⁶¹³ Rail Heritage WA OH3583/15 Interview with Chris French recorded for Rail Heritage WA by Denise Cook on 14 December 2007, transcript page 18

Monaghan, Bartholomew
Smelter's Camp 1936-1943
labourer

Bartholomew Monaghan, a pensioner and labourer, was a resident of the Smelters Camp for seven years, appearing on the 1936 and the 1943 South Fremantle Electoral Roll. As the 1937 electoral roll was supplementary only, it can be assumed his occupancy was relatively stable.⁶¹⁴

When Stephen Lee Page (70) commits suicide using gelignite, it was Bartholomew Monaghan who finds him in the bush not far from his camp near the smelters, South Fremantle.⁶¹⁵ Bartholomew explains Page's recent activity to the investigators and his later discoveries while searching the camp. (See Stephen Lee Page entry)

Monaghan, Martin Joseph
Smelters' Camp, Mandurah rd 1937-1943
-

Martin Monaghan was listed in the 1937 (Supplementary) and the 1943 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters' Camp, Mandurah Road; with no occupation.⁶¹⁶ There was a man with an identical name living in South Fremantle at 7 Louisa Street during this time period. Martin Monaghan has not been fully researched.

Monaghan, Patrick Cogan
c1855-1934
Smelter's Camp 1928-1931
labourer

Patrick Monaghan appears in the Fremantle, South Fremantle electoral rolls of 1928 (Supplementary) - 1931 as a resident of Smelter's Camp, his occupation was labourer.⁶¹⁷

While working at the Smelters on a hot January afternoon in 1930, Patrick Monaghan(sic) noticed a grass fire at the northern end of the old abattoirs at Copley's Siding. He ran to a small hut nearby and awoke fellow resident James

⁶¹⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁶¹⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 6 November 1937, page 17

⁶¹⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁶¹⁷ Ibid.

Rooney, who ran to a telephone to alert the fire brigade.⁶¹⁸ A dramatic scene then unfolded. (See James Rooney's entry).

A death notice for Patrick Cogan Monaghan of Mandurah Road, South Fremantle appears in *The West Australian* in April 1934. It names Monaghan as the 'husband of the late Ellen Monaghan, of Bendigo, Victoria, and loving father of Cyril, Basil and Gerald and the late John.' Monaghan had another son, Edward, who was killed in WWI, and one more daughter, Eileen. He was aged 79.⁶¹⁹ Patrick Monaghan has not been fully researched.

TREE DESTRUCTION

-To the Editor

Sir, -I would like to draw the attention of the Lands and Forest Department to the ruthless destruction of cypress trees fringing the beach between Robb's Jetty and the Smelting Works at south Fremantle. A number of Greek and Italian fishermen are camped along the beach, and the trees are being cut down by them for firewood. The Fremantle Roads Board and the municipal authorities are apparently powerless to take action in the matter, but surely the Lands Department has the necessary authority to prosecute these nomadic aliens for what must be an illegal practice. -Yours, etc., ANTI-ASIATIC.

Fremantle, January 29⁶²⁰

Moog, Charles

Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906 slaughterman

Charles Moog was listed on the South Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.⁶²¹ Charles Moog has not been fully researched.

⁶¹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 6 January 1930, page 15. The Perth temperature forecast was 27C.

⁶¹⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 6 April 1934, page 1

⁶²⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 30 January 1903, page 6

⁶²¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

Moran, John
Woodman's Point 1909-1910
fisherman

John Moran appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls 1909-1910⁶²² at Woodman's Point, but his exact residence was not known. It's possible he was a neighbour to the camp, or lived at the camp. His occupation was fisherman. John Moran has not been fully researched.⁶²³

Morden, Johnson/Johnston and Jean
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

These names appear in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.⁶²⁴

Morden, Maitland
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁶²⁵

Morden, Tunny and Mary
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

These names appear in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See

⁶²² Ibid.

⁶²³ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1903. Unconfirmed. There is an entry for a James Moran, by deserted wife and seven children. 'Special inquiry is requested by the victorian police for the whereabouts of JAMES MORAN, medium build, age 39 years, height 5ft, 2in. or 3in., dark hair, black moustache, dark complexion, barber's rash on face, a tailor, who deserted his wife and seven children at Melbourne on the 1st July last.' They are seeking him for family support and a warrant has been issued by the Criminal Investigation Branch, Perth

⁶²⁴ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

⁶²⁵ Ibid.

paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.⁶²⁶

Moroney/Maroney, John*
c1886 -
Smelters' Camp 1934-1949
labourer/lumper

John Moroney was listed in the electoral roll, but Maroney was not. Maroney was named in a newspaper article. With the low probability of two men with such similar names living at the Smelters Camp at the same time, and both working as lumpers, the assumption is made that there is a spelling error in the newspaper article and these two are the same man.

The Kangaroo Gang

A senseless accident involving two lumpers at Victoria Quay who fell into the uncovered No. 3 hold of the motor vessel 'Kangaroo' was examined in the Fremantle Court in March 1931 by the Deputy-Coroner Mr. G.W. Shepherd, J.P.. The Kangaroo gang was loading cargo bound for Singapore when John Maroney and William Wallace Wilson, a married man 41 years old from Beaconsfield, fell into an uncovered hold, with Maroney suffering shock and injuries, and Wilson later dying from a fractured skull. Alfred Hall, the Fremantle Harbour Trust Stevedore in charge of the loading operations when the accident happened, argued that the men 'had no business' working in No. 2 hold, and that a ladder had been provided.

Maroney explained that 'grids and pipes' blocked their routine transit to No. 2, necessitating a diversion, and the absence of a hatch on the No. 3 hold could not be seen.⁶²⁷ The *Daily News* verifies this fact, elaborating, 'Owing to the main deck hatch coverings being on No. 3 hold, the 'tween decks were dark, and the two men fell to the bottom of No. 3 hold. Wilson fell first, striking his head on the side of the hold, and on the cement floor. Maroney fell on top of him.'⁶²⁸

'I Did Wrong'

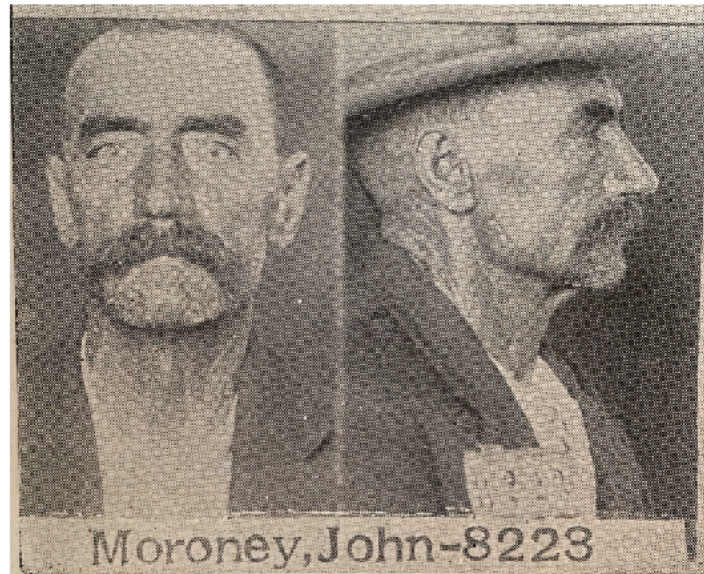
"These are going to be expensive tacks," said Magistrate J F McMillan to John Maroney*, labourer (64) before the Fremantle Police Court in 1950. Maroney, then a resident of the Smelters' camp, stole a packet of tacks to the value of 1/, property of the Fremantle Harbour Trust. A fine of £2 plus 2/6 costs was imposed. John Maroney was remorseful, musing in court, "I thought the tacks were going to waste so I took

⁶²⁶ Ibid.

⁶²⁷ *Daily News* (Perth, WA), Monday 23 March 1931, page 7; see also *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Friday 20 February 1931, page 15

⁶²⁸ *Daily News* (Perth, WA), Thursday 19 February 1931, page 1

them. I realise now that I did wrong."⁶²⁹



Supplement to the West Australian Police Gazette, 6th July, 1910
Photographs of Prisoners to be Discharged from Fremantle Prison
During the Month of July, 1910 p 199

John Moroney/Maroney was a resident of the Smelters Camp from 1934 to 1949, appearing in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls over that 15-year time period and listed as a labourer, but also worked as a lumper. In the 1954 electoral rolls he had moved to 63 Daly Street, Fremantle and resumed his occupation as lumper. John Moroney/Maroney has not been fully researched.⁶³⁰

*There are two spellings for Moroney.

Morrison, Wilfred **Meatworks Camp 1933**

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This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁶³¹

⁶²⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 13 January 1950, page 13; see also Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 12 January 1950, page 3

⁶³⁰ There is an unconfirmed mention of John Moroney in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1910. pp 87, 199, 326

⁶³¹ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

Mutton, Robert J.

1901 - 1948

Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle 1949

shearer/lumper/merchant seaman

"Robert James Mutton (46) was found dead at the Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle about 7.45 last night. Police found the door of his camp wide open. He appeared to have been dead about two days. The body was in a sitting position on a bed and was propped against the wall. On the floor near him was an empty quart wine bottle, and a pint wine bottle, which was almost empty. He was formerly a shearer and later a merchant seaman. An autopsy has been ordered."⁶³²

Incredibly sad, and disturbingly repetitive among the older, male residents of the Smelters Camp, are articles like this one in the *Daily News* concerning a recent death. Robert Mutton's passing was confirmed by Births, Deaths and Marriages Western Australia,⁶³³ but therein also catalogues a rich life lived - a marriage to Grace Buchanan,⁶³⁴ and the birth of son Neville.⁶³⁵ Mutton had a sister Phoebe, nephews and nieces and a high spirited and loving mother, Susannah, who curiously changed her name.⁶³⁶

Like Father

Robert G. Mutton (Snr) was a miner from Kent, England, born into a large family⁶³⁷. He and Susannah Ridley were in a hurry to start a family, with their son Robert James Mutton born at Northampton, Western Australia the same year as their marriage at Nannine in 1901.⁶³⁸ His sister Phoebe was born four years later.⁶³⁹

Susannah embraced the collapse of her marriage with an unconventional defiance. She published a notice in 1927 to warn her long-absent husband she intended to marry again. But following the notice was a witty four-verse poem entitled 'Signed, Susannah Mutton.' Susannah had decided that if the community wanted sensation – she herself would arouse it:

⁶³² Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 24 February 1948, page 7

⁶³³ BDMWA Registration no. 64. Death at Fremantle 1948

⁶³⁴ BDMWA Registration no. 153, Robert J Mutton marriage to Grace G Buchanan Fremantle 1932

⁶³⁵ BDM WA, Registration no. 125/80/t (information from death certificate)

⁶³⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 10 January 1942, page 1; Sister Phoebe May born 1905, died in January 1942, children Mervyn, Kenneth, Daphne, Ronald, Leslie, Colleen; Mother was Susannah Mutton (née Ridley), changed to May Patterson. No record of marriage found to date.

⁶³⁷ Class: RG11; Piece: 978; Folio: 95; Page: 17; GSU roll: 1341232; Original data: *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1881*. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO), 1881. Accessed Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *1881 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

⁶³⁸ BDM WA, Registration no. 3534 (birth); BDM WA, Registration no. 955 (marriage)

⁶³⁹ BDM WA, Registration no. 3338

*'She means to have a red-blood man
Not one like Bob, who dudded:
She means to do the best she can
Though once in life she thudded.
And so that he who runs may read,
From Southern Cross to Sutton,
She warns the absent-minded Robert-
"Signed—Susannah Mutton."'*⁶⁴⁰

In 1925 her husband had been hauled up before the Bunbury Police Court in arrears of maintenance, on behalf of an order from their Geraldton counterpart. He stated he had not paid the maintenance despite being in a position to do so, but was issued a warning only.⁶⁴¹ Susannah concludes her poem with her occupation – dryblower, a punishing, but necessary occupation for a single mother of two.

Like Son

Robert James Mutton was 31 when he married Grace Gladys Buchanan in 1932 in Fremantle.⁶⁴² In 1937 they were living together in Beach Road, Hamilton Hill.⁶⁴³

From 1938 to 1942, Mutton was testing the local constabulary with low-level infractions – drunk driving,⁶⁴⁴ participating in a South Fremantle two-up school run by a wayward juvenile⁶⁴⁵ and a small fine for the theft of 18 wireless valves that he denied stealing until they were found in his possession, an action taken while working as a lumper at Fremantle Harbour.⁶⁴⁶

But in 1944, his marriage to Grace had reached an impasse. She had petitioned for divorce as a result of her husband's adultery 'with a woman unknown.'⁶⁴⁷ Grace had been working at the Esplanade Hotel as a cook, to support herself and her son when, she claimed, Robert would not provide for them.

Immensely fond of a lurid headline, the *Mirror* newspaper devoted considerable column space to Grace Mutton's grief

⁶⁴⁰ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 21 August 1927, page 6

⁶⁴¹ South Western Times (Bunbury, WA), Thursday 12 March 1925, page 1

⁶⁴² BDM WA, Registration no. 153

⁶⁴³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁶⁴⁴ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 3 July 1938, page 3;
Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1938. (Half year ending 30 June). Mutton 'Bluey' 288a. Robert John 288a, 294c. at North Freo, 1st, driving drunk £10 plus costs.

⁶⁴⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 13 March 1941, page 5

⁶⁴⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 23 July 1942, page 6

⁶⁴⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 8 August 1944, page 6

‘COOK GRILLED HUBBY IN FREMANTLE ROE-DEO!

...On the face of it, Grace Gladys Mutton's story seemed a watertight one: hubby, she said, had thrown up his job as a lumper, gone to sea on a coastal steamer without the formality of leaving her any money. So, she said, she got a job at the Esplanade, was living-in with her child there. Tall, dark brunette, in a well-fitting tailor-made, Grace said hubby had previously been to sea in the *Aquitania*. She told the Chief Justice that she did not ask him for money when next she saw him, because she believed it was a man's place to offer it.’⁶⁴⁸

The Chief Justice was not convinced Grace had been abandoned, and chastised her for not asking for money; and the reporter adopted a derogatory tone, ‘Wife admitted that on 3 occasions hubby had turned up at her place of employment and had either left or given her a pound for the child's maintenance.’ But on 20 June, Grace received a shock. While walking with workmates in Fremantle, she saw her husband on Bannister Street.

‘We followed him, and saw him enter a house of ill-fame,’ she added. ‘I got my friends to wait for me, and when he came out about 20 minutes later I tackled him. He said: ‘Well, you left me, so I can please myself.’ I told him I should go for a divorce and he said: ‘Go ahead’.

Still, Chief Justice resisted, chuckling with lawyers about the ‘house of ill-fame... “I didn’t know Fremantle was sufficiently civilised to possess one!”’ and ‘adjourned the case for further consideration.’⁶⁴⁹ But Grace was eventually granted a decree nisi.⁶⁵⁰

Four years later, Robert Mutton was dead. Three months after his death was reported in the newspapers, a nondescript notice appeared in *The West Australian*. The Public Trustee was advertising a tender, with all the customary instructions, for the removal of all trace of Robert James Mutton at the Smelters Camp. He hadn’t lost his love of the sea; he possessed an 18ft clinker-built boat and a 16ft yacht. The remainder of the list is heartbreaking in its sparsity.

‘(a) Shack: A re-erected army building, 19ft x 12ft., asbestos roof, plain iron walls. (b) Contents consisting of 1 single bedstead, 1 dressing table, 1 stove, 1 cupboard, 1 kerosene stove...’ with sealed tenders to be received, ‘not later than 2 p.m. on Friday...’⁶⁵¹

⁶⁴⁸ Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 26 August 1944, page 17

⁶⁴⁹ Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 26 August 1944, page 17

⁶⁵⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 19 August 1944, page 3

⁶⁵¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 15 May 1948, page 26



Sunday Times 29 Mar 1953 p3

Following Robert J. Mutton's death in February 1948, the Fremantle Sailing Club acknowledged Mutton's passing as a 'respected member',⁶⁵² and the Fremantle Lumpers' Union assisted their 'late comrade' by arranging the funeral.⁶⁵³

Grace and her new family - she remarried to William Lumsden in 1947,⁶⁵⁴ and was then living at Hilton Park - remembered her 'Bluey' as a 'sincere friend'.⁶⁵⁵

Mutton's mother Susannah Mutton, now known as Mrs May Patterson of Victoria Park,⁶⁵⁶ published a thank you notice in *The West Australian*, thanking all relatives and friends for their kind thoughts,⁶⁵⁷ and in his death notice wrote that he 'died at home'.⁶⁵⁸ She also published an In Memoriam the following year, with 'sad thoughts

⁶⁵² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 26 February 1948, page 1

⁶⁵³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 25 February 1948, page 1

⁶⁵⁴ BDM WA, Registration no. 146

⁶⁵⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 25 February 1948, page 1

⁶⁵⁶ Susannah Mutton and May Patterson are proven the same person because May Patterson's death entry at 74 years of age in Perth (Registration no. 109) in 1958 lists her same parents, James and Isabella. On Phoebe's funeral notice published in The West Australian in 1942, Mrs May Patterson was the name also used. Patterson was living at 69 Kitchener Ave, home duties, Western Australia, Swan, Victoria Electoral Roll 1949

⁶⁵⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 6 March 1948, page 1

⁶⁵⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 25 February 1948, page 1

today, treasured memories of my beloved and only son, Bobbie, who was called away suddenly...his ever-loving mother.’⁶⁵⁹

Robert Mutton was only 46 years old at the time of his death.⁶⁶⁰

Grace Mutton survived the death of her first husband, her parents, her second husband, two sisters and her son Neville, living until 1993.⁶⁶¹

Nannup, Beatrice
Meatworks Camp 1933

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This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled ‘Sixty New Residents’). This resident has not been fully researched, but is mentioned in this file as the ‘wife of Johnny’.⁶⁶²

Nannup, Lionel
Meatworks Camp 1933

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This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled ‘Sixty New Residents’). This resident has not been fully researched.⁶⁶³

⁶⁵⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 23 February 1949, page 1

⁶⁶⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 25 February 1948, page 1

⁶⁶¹ Husband Robert died 1939 (no. 1478); Parents Anne Morrison McKeig (1872 - 1941), and Walker Pollock Buchanan (1868 - 1944), sisters Catherine Louise (Kit) Buchanan (1900 - 1973), Ethel Ellen Buchanan (1902 - 1981 – in USA), Neville Buchanan (1936 - 1980). Her own death, 30 August 1993 in Fremantle.

⁶⁶² SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, ‘Native Matters - Fremantle’; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

⁶⁶³ Ibid.

Nebro, Addil (Adelaide)
1886 - 1964
Smelters Camp 1952-1954
-

Nebro, Donald
- 1971
Smelters Camp 1952-1954
tracker, shearer

Addil Nebro⁶⁶⁴ was married to Donald Nebro⁶⁶⁵. The Nebro's are listed in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1954 at the Smelters Camp, but there are indications that they lived there longer, along with their son, Donald Peter.⁶⁶⁶ A newspaper court report in 1952 places Donald Nebro at the camp, and a later interview with their son Anderson claims they had lived there, 'for ages', despite not appearing on South Fremantle Electoral Rolls in 1943 and 1949.⁶⁶⁷

Addil and Donald's granddaughter is Sandra Rose Nebro, who was born in York in 1954. Sandra shared that the family name, when her grandfather lived in the Broome area, was Roe and he changed it after moving south, creating a joined name from 'Nipper Roe'. Addil's maiden name was Cowcher (but was sometimes known by the name Dyer) and that she had been born in Wagin lived in Darkan area where her father was a farmer.

It was here that she met Donald; she 'wasn't a young woman' and was caring for her mother. At first the family did not approve of Donald, but after her mother died, Donald returned for Addil. Sandra described her as having 'long red hair, rolled around her head,' and believes her background was Irish. They moved to Collie, and then the Smelters Camp. There was a general movement of people at that time to the area, with work available as the younger men set off to fight in WWII. Donald was familiar with the camp, having stayed there during his time travelling around Western Australia as a member of a boxing troupe.⁶⁶⁸

Donald Nebro was a skilled tracker, and in 1932 he led a police search and found Jack Spencer (24) and Alice Mervell (16) near a bush camp outside Collie. There had been

⁶⁶⁴ Addil's name was sometimes spelled Addel or Adele. Sandra Nebro provided the Addil spelling 25 May 2019, from the original *Adelaide*. Addil was granted her Certificate of Citizenship under the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act in 1947 in Busselton. South-Western News (Busselton, WA), Thursday 7 August 1947, page 1

⁶⁶⁵ BDM WA: Reg 34 1941, Sussex

⁶⁶⁶ Donald Peter Nebro was born 2 Aug 1933 - 14 May 1980. Aged 46 years. Donald was the brother of Mary, Andy, Laura (dec), Yvonne (dec), Roma, Susie (dec), Peter (dec) and Harold. <http://www.ozburials.com/CemsWA/Collie/collie.htm> Accessed April 2024

⁶⁶⁷ Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 26 April 1952, page 1; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

⁶⁶⁸ Sandra Rose Nebro conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019

several difficult breaks in the trail and some pressure to locate the girl, as Spencer had alleged abducted her and had left a note in his camp stating that they 'were going to die together.'⁶⁶⁹

Donald was also a qualified shearer. A report in the 'Red Star' in 1934 describes an attempt by George Clamp to not pay Nebro and his colleagues Mears and Davis the correct award wages for work completed shearing over 5000 sheep on his property at Mukinbudin, because they weren't officially A.W.U. members. The 'Star' advocated for the men. Clamp and his brothers appeared to have found gold in Mukinbudin in 1933, giving no excuse not to pay a full wage.⁶⁷⁰

After the Smelters Camp was closed Addil and Donald Nebro were listed on the Canning, Williams Electoral Roll 1958 with the address, c/o F. T. Hardie, 'Braefield', Narrogin, Addil's occupation was home duties and Donald was not working. In 1963 they are residing at Collie. Anderson Nebro (see entry following) was Addil and Donald's son. Addil passed away in East Coolgardie in 1964, aged 68.⁶⁷¹ Compiled with kind assistance and permission from Sandra Nebro.⁶⁷²

Nebro, Donald Peter
1933 – 1980
Smelters Camp 1952-1954

Don Peter Nebro (born 1934) was another son of Donald and Addil Nebro. Sandra Nebro confirmed that Don Peter Nebro lived at the camp, and there is evidence of his being in the vicinity.⁶⁷³

Nebro was a boxer, fighting in popular South-West tournaments with the Busselton and District National Fitness and Amateur Sports Club. A review of his bout against W. Crowe in 1946 stated that he was 'showing plenty of aggression but his punches were somewhat wild and did not register to any extend(sic) on his nimble opponent, whose good footwork was a factor which no doubt influenced the judges in making

⁶⁶⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 9 February 1932, page 7

⁶⁷⁰ Red Star (Perth, WA), Friday 19 October 1934, page 2; North-Eastern Wheatbelt Tribune (Wyalkatchem, WA) Friday 27 January 1933, page 1

⁶⁷¹ BDM WA Registration no. 170

⁶⁷² Goode, Brad and Harris, Jacqueline, *Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey of Lots Associated with the Glen Iris – Moorlands Structure Plan, Bunbury, Western Australia 2013*; <https://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/planning-services/structure-plans> and Building/South Moorlands Structure Plan Appendix 5 Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey.pdf; also Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; Sandra Rose Nebro conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019

⁶⁷³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 February 1953, page 7

the decision in his favour.’⁶⁷⁴

Donald Peter Nebro died in Perth in 1980, aged 46. He was buried at Collie General Cemetery.⁶⁷⁵

Nebro, Andy (Anderson)

1931 -

Smelters Camp/Poverty Point 1953-1954*

-

Nebro, Rose (Rosaleen)

Smelters Camp/Poverty Point 1953-1954*

-

Rosaleen Nebro’s maiden name was Ford and her husband Anderson Nebro was born in Collie and was the son of Donald Nebro and Addil Cowcher/Dyer.⁶⁷⁶ Andy Nebro was listed in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1954, and he and Rose were occupying the camp in 1953. He was described in a newspaper article about the possible demolition of the camp as aged 22 and married. He was a ‘golden gloves’ boxer who also worked as a railway ganger and later as a porter.

The reporter identifies Nebro as Indigenous, and announces the place as having, ‘all nationalities, including New Australians.’ Nebro informs him, “‘We’re moving out of this shanty shortly. I don’t mind so much but my wife has just got nothing here. Anyway, I think we’d have to go sooner or later – some big buildings are going up and some bulldozers are coming through in some area they tell me. We’ve been here for ages: I think Mum bought the joint for £50.’”⁶⁷⁷

After leaving the camp, Andy moved for work to Kalgoorlie and then he and Rose settled back in the South West. In 1963 Andy Nebro was listed on the Kalgoorlie, Dundas Electoral Roll at Daniels Siding, working as a repairer. Anderson and Rose Nebro are listed in the Forrest, Bunbury Electoral Roll 1968 at Carey Park with Rose occupied with home duties and Anderson’s occupation railway porter. They remained

⁶⁷⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 23 October 1946, page 5; South-Western News (Busselton, WA), Thursday 24 October 1946, page 1

⁶⁷⁵ BDM WA Registration no. 1856/80/1; Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1959. Police Gazette photo supplement. Nebro, Peter Don. MDL 473 Bruce Rock; MDL Nil. To file No. 59/1591; convicted at Tambellup 17/10/59 unauthorised use Motor vehicle (3 charges); disqualified from holding or obtaining MDL 5 years. Born WA

⁶⁷⁶ Goode, Brad and Harris, Jacqueline, *Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey of Lots Associated with the Glen Iris – Moorlands Structure Plan, Bunbury, Western Australia 2013*; <https://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/planning-services/structure-plans> and Building/South Moorlands Structure Plan Appendix 5 Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey.pdf

⁶⁷⁷ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

at this address in the 1980 electoral roll with an additional family member, Daniel Rowley, who was a labourer.⁶⁷⁸

Anderson Nebro was also an amateur boxer. His daughter Sandra remembers he fought regularly at the Royal Show at Claremont, and how popular the matches were. She and her siblings were allowed to enter the show free of charge, and they would enjoy rides and visit the boxers' tent. Anderson also travelled to Fremantle and country tournaments and competed in exhibition matches.⁶⁷⁹ When the Busselton boxers travelled to Narrogin, Nebro fought A. Derepae 'exceptionally well and after having his opponent on the canvas on two occasions, gained a T.K.O. in the second round.'⁶⁸⁰

On another occasion, 'A. Nebro (Busselton) 7.7 and C. Hastie (Bunbury) 8.0 provided a very spirited contest, but Nebro was too quick for his opponent and after a strenuous three rounds led on points.'⁶⁸¹

His fighting spirit extended to politics, with a later newspaper recalling his activism. 'In April 1980, protestors carrying banners and slogans marched down Parkfield Street in Bunbury in protest against mining on sacred sites in the South West. The Bunbury Aboriginal Progress Association predicted that about 100 people would march, but only 30 took part. President Andy Nebro said he was pleased with the march, saying it had achieved the purpose of showing that South West Aborigines supported the Noonkanbah people.'⁶⁸²

Awareness of Anderson Nebro's community service extended to Government House. On 18 August 1998 the Hon. Dr. Chrissy Sharp addressed the Legislative Council, telling the council about a newspaper article she had read concerning Nebro.

'An interesting article appeared in *The West Australian* of 11 August about a new security force called Nyoongah Security Services that has been established in Perth by Nyoongah people. That service will be run by Aboriginal elders and older Aborigines, and is led by a former boxer from Collie called Andy Nebro. The article states that - His remedy for repeat troublemakers is to speak to their parents to gain permission to take them to their families' traditional lands. There, they could learn new skills including horticulture and farming, and their own language and culture

⁶⁷⁸ Goode, Brad and Harris, Jacqueline, *Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey of Lots Associated with the Glen Iris – Moorlands Structure Plan, Bunbury, Western Australia 2013*; <http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/pdf/Planning> and Building/South Moorlands Structure Plan Appendix 5 Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey.pdf; also Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁶⁷⁹ Sandra Rose Nebro conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019

⁶⁸⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 10 July 1951, page 11; South-Western News (Busselton, WA), Thursday 17 June 1948, page 1

⁶⁸¹ The South-Western News (Busselton, WA), Thursday 19 June 1947, page 1

⁶⁸² The South-Western Times (Busselton, WA), Thursday 21 April 2016

under guidance from elders. I found it interesting that the Nyoongah people make a connection between Aboriginal offenders and the lack of connection with the land.'⁶⁸³

Andy Nebro was the One Nation candidate for seat of Girrawheen in the 2001 Western Australian state election. The Labor seat was won by Margaret Quirk.⁶⁸⁴

Anderson Nebro passed away at Bunbury Nursing Home on 19 September 2012, with affectionate newspaper notices posted by his many children.⁶⁸⁵

Nebro was buried at Collie.⁶⁸⁶ Sandra Nebro says her mother Rose was an 'East Perth socialite' who shared an enduring love with Andy. She had a 'good life with mum and dad' and after Rosaleen passed away and Andy was affected by Alzheimer's disease, he would often look for her.⁶⁸⁷

Many thanks to Sandra Nebro for her permission to share her family memories.

*'Poverty Point' article⁶⁸⁸ reports residence by Andy and his wife 'for ages' prior to 1953.

Neilson/Nilsen, Issac
c1849 - 1933
Smelters 1933
pensioner

Issac Neilson was mentioned in the *Daily News*, 9 March 1933, after his harrowing death, and was described as a resident of the Smelters camp. Neilson had been struck by the Fremantle Jandakot train sometime after 9pm on Wednesday night and was discovered at 7.35am on Thursday morning by Alfred Britton, a railway ganger and his team who were travelling on a trolley past the South Fremantle Smelters when they noticed the critically injured man lying beside the track. The report titled, 'All Night Ordeal', reads

⁶⁸³ Hansard Historical Search. House: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Date: 4.43 PM TUESDAY, 18 August 1998, Member: Sharp, Hon Dr Chrissy, Subject: MOTION, Page: 304 / 1. [https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Hansard/hansard1870to1995.nsf/83cc4ce93b5d4e0b48257b33001cfef6/44FAE680B6ECA79E48258435001EFB3F/\\$File/19980818_Council.pdf](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Hansard/hansard1870to1995.nsf/83cc4ce93b5d4e0b48257b33001cfef6/44FAE680B6ECA79E48258435001EFB3F/$File/19980818_Council.pdf) Accessed April 2024

⁶⁸⁴ Adam Carr's Election Archive <http://psephos.adam-carr.net/countries/a/australia/states/wa/wa2001assembly1.txt> Accessed April 2024

⁶⁸⁵ <https://www.westannouncements.com.au/search/all?query=anderson-nebro&time=all> Accessed April 2024; BDM WA Registration no. 87 Debbie Nebro; Registration no. 18 Andrew Peter Nebro

⁶⁸⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180804042> Accessed April 2024; Memorial ID 180804042

⁶⁸⁷ Sandra Rose Nebro conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019

⁶⁸⁸ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

'He was Isaac Neilson, 84, a pensioner, and one of the camp of old men who live in tin shanties close to the Smelters. His left leg was fractured in several places, and his other injuries included a broken arm and lacerated head.'⁶⁸⁹

Neilson recognised a fellow pensioner and asked for a drink of water, but was unable to relate any details as to the cause of his injuries.

'It was concluded that he had been struck by a train while walking along a narrow path at the side of the railway line on his way to a camp in which he lived nearby. He was apparently injured before midnight as only two trains passed the spot where he was found during the night — one about 9 o'clock and the other shortly before midnight.'⁶⁹⁰

Neilson lapsed into unconsciousness died at 10 a.m. in Fremantle Hospital.⁶⁹¹ Charles Siddons, a fellow resident of the camp, identified the body.⁶⁹² A report from the inquiry, involving the Acting Coroner, police and Western Australian Government Railways outlined that they had heard from Alfred Britton, the employee who found Neilson, Dr. N. L. Cass from the Fremantle Hospital, Charles Siddons and Charles Hargrave, who was a fireman on the train which struck Neilson. There had been some indication of a minor collision, and a hat found, but despite lights to the front and rear of the locomotive 'burning brightly', the driver Joseph Coombs confirmed nothing irregular had been found.⁶⁹³

Issac Neilson has not been fully researched.

Nellie, Lizzie **Meatworks Camp 1933**

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁶⁹⁴

⁶⁸⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 9 March 1933, page 1

⁶⁹⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 11 March 1933, page 11

⁶⁹¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 9 March 1933, page 1; see also Western Mail (Perth, WA), Thursday 16 March 1933, page 18

⁶⁹² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 5 April 1933, page 10

⁶⁹³ Ibid.

⁶⁹⁴ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

Newell, Phoebe
Robb's Jetty (1930s)

-

See entry Mears, Jack. Phoebe Newell has not been fully researched.⁶⁹⁵

Nolan, Maurice
Camp, Robb's Jetty 1919-1921
labourer

Maurice Nolan appears in the supplementary section of the 1919 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll. Nolan was a labourer who stayed at the Smelters Camp until sometime before 1922, when he is no longer listed. Maurice Nolan has not been fully researched.

O'Connor, William
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

William O'Connor was listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield roll between 1903 and 1906, as a slaughterman. William O'Connor has not been fully researched.

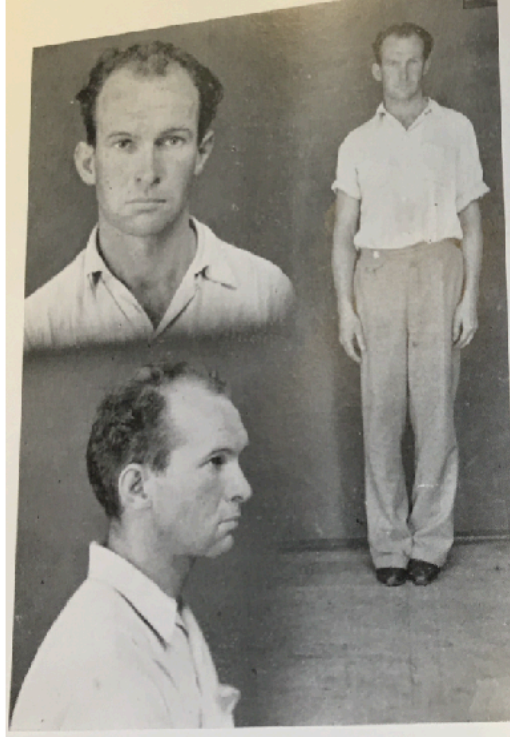
O'Halloran, John William
Smelter's Works Camp 1949
labourer

The Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1949 lists John O'Halloran at Smelters Works Camp. O'Halloran was a labourer, who left the camp some time before the next electoral listing in 1954. John O'Halloran has not been fully researched.⁶⁹⁶

⁶⁹⁵ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1958. 19 Feb 1958. Newell, Phoebe, at Merredin, on 2/2/58, by Const. Smith; (1) drunk, (2) idle and disorderly. (1) Sentenced to 7 days' imprisonment, (2) sentenced to 2two months' imprisonment con.- 3/2/58 page 74
1958. page 139. Prisoners to be discharged. F1465 Newell, Phoebe. No visible means of support. Folio 46/7. 2months Merredin. Date of discharge 19/3/58
1958. 16 April 1958, page 159. Drunk; no means of support 46/7. 2 months. Merredin. 19/3/58

⁶⁹⁶ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1958. Unconfirmed. There's a John William O'Halloran p49. Idle and disorderly (3) discharged p56, prisoner discharge p78

**O'Reilly, Jack Noel
@ Jack Riley @ Jack Harley
Woodman Point 1957**



Jack O'Reilly. Western Australian Police Gazette
29 Jan 1958, photograph no. 38 in supplement

Jack Noel O'Reilly⁶⁹⁷ was found in the 1957 Western Australian Police Gazette, stated as residing at Woodman Point. He is included here for his proximity to the camp.

He was named with his aliases as 'native of Hobart, Tasmania, born 1926, height 5ft. 91.2 in., well built, fair complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, scar on forehead above left eye, scar on left ankle, a labourer.' REF

He also temporarily resided in East Perth, with a litany of prior convictions in Tasmania and South Australia: stealing, common assault, defilement, breach of bond, damage to property and larceny, and his last conviction in Perth on 1 November 1957 resulted in a sentence of four months' imprisonment, discharged in 1958.

'Modus Operandi.

1. Thief, sex offender.
2. In Tasmania, between 1944 and 1952, offender was convicted of offences shown about at at Port Adelaide, South Australia, in June, 1955, he was sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment for larceny. Details of these offences are not available.
3. Offender arrived in this State in August, 1957. For a time he was residing at Woodman's Point. On the 21st October, 1957, O'Reilly entered a house at East Perth whilst the occupier was absent and stole a box containing jewellery, a camera and an electric shaver. He sold some of the articles to a dealer.
4. Little is known concerning offender since his arrival in this State. He has been associating with one, Noel George, proprietor of a "Wild West Show."⁶⁹⁸

Jack O'Reilly has not been fully researched.

⁶⁹⁷ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 29 Jan 1958, photograph no. 38 in supplement

⁶⁹⁸ Ibid.

Page, Stephen Lee
c1867 - 1937
Smelters' Camp 1934-1937
Prospector

This entry contains disturbing content

In the early hours of 22 October 1937, Stephen Page, a prospector of 70 years of age, decided that taking control of his fate would involve the tools of his trade, a detonator and plugs of gelignite.

In an inquest before Mr. C. Christie, J.P. at Fremantle Courthouse, Sergeant Growden and Bartholemew Monaghan, a fellow pensioner living in the camp, described the gruesome scene that Constable Simmons of the Beaconsfield police investigated which was, ultimately, Stephen Page determining his destiny.

The blunt headline of *The West Australian* that Saturday morning is no less shocking today:

'HEAD BLOWN OFF. "Sufferer from Miner's Phthisis." That deceased had suffered considerably from miner's phthisis was mentioned in evidence during an inquest before Mr. C. Christie, J.P., in the Fremantle Courthouse yesterday concerning the death of Stephen Lee Page (70), a pensioner living in a camp near the smelters, South Fremantle. He was found not far from his camp with his head blown off and several fingers missing on the afternoon of October 22.'⁶⁹⁹

It was determined the damage was self-inflicted, as after the terrible discovery, Bartholemew Monaghan had found further plugs of gelignite and a detonator in Page's camp. This, as well as Page's previous expression to him that if he owned a revolver he would 'blow his brains out'⁷⁰⁰ rather than endure an enforced return to the Claremont Old Men's Home, was offered as testimony.

Monaghan came to Page's camp looking for him at 5.30pm when he had not been seen, as he had promised to assist him with transporting his luggage. In the acting-coroner's hearing, Dr. A. R. Bean, police surgeon, gave his professional assessment noting that there was 'no sign of any struggle.'⁷⁰¹ Other pensioners in the camp had heard an explosion around 2.30 p.m. but 'nothing was thought to have been amiss, as blasting operations were in progress.'⁷⁰²

Stephen Page, after prospecting on the Kalgoorlie goldfields, had lived at the Smelters Camp for the past four years and had a brother at North Fremantle.⁷⁰³

⁶⁹⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 6 November 1937, page 17

⁷⁰⁰ Ibid.

⁷⁰¹ Ibid.

⁷⁰² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 21 October 1937, page 17

⁷⁰³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 21 October 1937, page 17; see also The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 24 October 1937, page 11; BDM WA, death registration no. 282; also South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1934

Parfitt, Barney and wife (Not named)
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

These names appear in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.⁷⁰⁴

Pedro, Don
c1904 -
Robb's Jetty, Smelter's Camp c1950s

William Herdigan recalls the enigmatic Don Pedro being so legendary around Fremantle and at the Smelter's Camp, that 'songs were written about him.'⁷⁰⁵

Pedro was a tall, thin aboriginal stockman from the north of Western Australia, around the Roebourne or Kalgoorlie area. He held a cheeky disregard for authority. A newspaper in 1953 describes his arresting policemen being so surprised to find him exactly where they'd put him, in the back of a police car - but now enjoying a bottle of wine, that they charged him.⁷⁰⁶

Don Pedro has not been fully researched.⁷⁰⁷

⁷⁰⁴ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

⁷⁰⁵ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁷⁰⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 22 August 1953, page 14

⁷⁰⁷ Don Pedro also appears in the following: Dept of Native Welfare notices Perth 19th July 1955. Approval of issue of Certificate of Exemption:- A962 Pedro, Don; East Perth; 7/6/55

Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1938. 180666 Pedro, Don (ab. nat.) stealing. Folio 13/118 Jan 1938, sentence 1 mth, date of sent 8 Dec 1945. Where committed: Perth. Date of discharged, 24 Dec 1945 (from Police Gazette, Wed 2 Jan, 1946)
1955. 9 February, 180666 Pedro, Don (ab. nat.) page 49 (also pages 100 and 251). Prisoners to be discharged from Fremantle Prison for Month of February, 1955. Drunk, stealing and receiving 13/118 Date of group photo Jan 1939, 3 months add. 1-12-54. Where committed: Midland Junction. Date of discharge 6-2-55 [Perhaps he was also at Midland camp]

1958. 16 April. p 159. 18066. Pedro, Don (ab. nat.) Unlawful possession. Folio: 13/118 Date of group photo: Jan., 1939. Sentence: 1 month. Date of Sentence: 19/2/58 Where committed: Perth. Date of discharge 12/3/58

Idle and disorderly, 1 month page 199, p230 7/5/58 - 30/5/58 Perth

1959. Photo supplement. Pedro, Don (ab. nat.), begging alms 56 at Perth 21/1/59 begging alms 1 month 30/1/59 discharged. (18066) discharged p710, begging alms p316, at Perth 29/7/59 by PCCs Pike and Stamp, begging alms 1 month 30/7/59-22/8/59 (18066) discharged 329

Peirce, Alfred John
Robb's Jetty 1943
caretaker

Alfred Peirce was listed in the supplementary section of the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1943 at Robb's Jetty as a caretaker.⁷⁰⁸ He does not appear in the next roll in 1949 at that same location. Alfred Peirce has not been fully researched.

Perry, Henry
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1949
labourer

In January 1949, Henry Perry of the Smelters Camp, South Fremantle, was working at the refinery of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. in Bateman Street, Mosman Park when his leg was fractured,

'He was struck by a bag of sugar weighing 160lb. which fell from the top of a 15ft. stack.'⁷⁰⁹

Within minutes, fellow worker Arthur Bosward (43) was struck to the lower back and foot with another bag, also causing fractures, but luckily he avoided a deadly head injury. The men were transported to Fremantle Hospital by a St. John ambulance. There does not appear to have been any workplace safety investigation ordered, although advertisements appear requesting a house to rent for a visiting 'senior officer' throughout late June.⁷¹⁰

Despite nationwide factories, CSR Co. Ltd. was experiencing some stress as a company in 1949. Mr. J. L. Tucker, manager, was under siege. In a January article in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, he explains that it is the Federal Government's sugar quota ration of 1946 that was causing shortages, and so he was unavailable to offer immediate relief to housewives complaining there was 'not enough sugar for jam making.' Whilst the general quota was higher, 'not all of this was the refined sugar housewives wanted,' and supplies had dropped by a quarter. He readily assured them, 'They would be the first to benefit if more refined sugar became available.'⁷¹¹

Perhaps of little consolation to Henry Perry and Arthur Bosward, who were recovering from their injuries. Henry Perry has not been fully researched.

⁷⁰⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷⁰⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 11 January 1949, page 9

⁷¹⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 13 January 1949, page 26; Tuesday 18 January, 1949, page 19; 25 January 1949 *et al.*

⁷¹¹ *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA), Thursday 27 January 1949, page 4

Phillips, Thomas
Meatworks Camp 1933

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This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁷¹²

Pickett, Margaret
c1916 -
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1954

-

Margaret Pickett was mentioned in a newspaper article in 1954 as being a resident of the Smelters Camp; she does not appear on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll.⁷¹³ Margaret Pickett has not been fully researched.⁷¹⁴

Gallantry Award from Governor-General

A telegram from His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Gowrie) stating that, as Chief Scout for Australia, he had approved of awards for gallantry in saving life at sea to five West Australian sea scouts, was read by the Chief Scout for the State... at the annual display of the boy Scouts' Association last night. The five scouts formed a party which rescued Mr. and Mrs. K. Drake-Brockman from a sinking dinghy in Cockburn Sound in April last. Mr. Drake-Brockman's launch had caught fire during a night trip to Garden Island and he and his wife abandoned the launch in a small dinghy, which filled with water in a heavy swell. After the rescue the scouts helped extinguish the fire on the launch.⁷¹⁵

⁷¹² SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

⁷¹³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 9 December 1954, page 21

⁷¹⁴ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police, 1955. 7 Dec. p406 F1469 Pickett, Margaret. Escaping custody; resisting arrest; idle and disorderly 2 months agg. 9-11-55 where committed: Perth, date of discharge 24-12-55

1958. Police Gazette pp 53, 158, 170, 243, 270, 369, 464, 479 idle/disorderly

1959. Photo supplement, Margaret Pickett (ab. native) Idle 47, 89, discharged 171. @ Indich suppl. 1 photo Perth, Idle and disorderly 3 months 24/1/59 (59/1348) dis 8/4/59

⁷¹⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 21 August 1936, page 18

Power, Alice
Robb's Jetty 1910
married

Power, Thomas Joseph
Robb's Jetty 1909-1913
labourer

Both Alice and Thomas Power lived at the Smelters Camp but according to the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll,⁷¹⁶ Alice did not join Thomas until 1910, and then appears to have moved to 37 Commercial Road in 1911. Thomas, a labourer, stayed on at the camp but then moved to the same Commercial Road location in 1914, reuniting with his wife. Alice and Thomas Power have not been fully researched.

Preston, Elizabeth
South Beach 1903-1905
domestic service

Elizabeth Preston was listed as a resident of 'South Beach' in the 1903-1905 Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Rolls.⁷¹⁷ Preston was employed in domestic service and has not been fully researched.⁷¹⁸

Pritchard, Tom Stanley
South Beach 1919-1931
coach builder

Tom Pritchard requires further research, as he is enigmatically listed at 'South Fremantle' in the Fremantle Electoral Rolls over an extended period of time. Since he was not using the location 'South Beach', there is a possibility he was not camping.⁷¹⁹ It was noted that Bolton's was the primary coach building and importing business in Fremantle until 1936. The company later moved to West Perth.⁷²⁰

⁷¹⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷¹⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷¹⁸ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: There is a Bessie Preston in the Police Gazette 1910 page 250, which may be Elizabeth, she has been freed from Fremantle Gaol, discharged on 3 August after spending two weeks incarcerated; she was serving 21 days hard labour for stealing

⁷¹⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷²⁰ <http://bcsv.org.au/vm/boltons/> Accessed April 2024

Reed, William Thomas
Smelters' Camp, Mandurah rd 1937- c1940

-

William Reed, of no occupation, appears on the supplementary Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters Camp, Mandurah Road in 1937. He was absent from the 1943 roll. Reed's name appears with partners in Notices of Application for an Auriferous Lease in 1896 at Broad Arrow near Kalgoorlie, and later in 1901 near Norseman, Western Australia.⁷²¹ Births, Deaths and Marriages WA show a William T. Reed dying in Perth in 1940.⁷²² William Reed has not been fully researched.

Reilly, Leslie Norman
South Beach Camp 1950
labourer, prospector, veteran

Leslie Reilly was born in North Coolgardie (Menzies) in 1916.⁷²³ He was a labourer who lived briefly at the South Beach camp in 1950,⁷²⁴ but had also been a prospector.

Reilly enlisted in the Australian Army on 23 October 1940 in Claremont, Western Australia. He was a private in the 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion but was discharged after only four months, on 7 March 1941.⁷²⁵ The discharge followed Reilly being fined £5 and being asked to repay £3 by Magistrate Mr W.J. Wallwork for 'having imposed upon the Commonwealth Government by an untrue representation...'⁷²⁶ While in the A.I.F. and stationed at Claremont, Reilly was told about a woman who lived in New South Wales by his friend Lance-Corporal Brian Martin; Reilly later wired her requesting money using Martin's name.

Reilly was also fond of a punt on the ponies. In 1940 at about 25 years of age,⁷²⁷ 7 months before he enlisted, the Kalgoorlie plain-clothed detectives arrested and fined him £60 plus costs 'in connection with premises at 123 Hannan street, Kalgoorlie.'⁷²⁸ The police were targeting unlicensed SP or 'Starting Price' bookies (bookies who offered average odds on a horse that was corrected later to match the

⁷²¹ The Broad Arrow Standard (WA), Saturday 19 September 1896, page 2; The Broad Arrow Standard (WA), Wednesday 23 September 1896, page 2; Norseman Times (WA), Tuesday 4 June 1901, page 3

⁷²² BDM WA Registration no. 1107

⁷²³ BDM WA Registration no. 2, however his military record lists his birthdate as 20 December 1914 (NAA: B883, WX8697, item barcode 6456298)

⁷²⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷²⁵ <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=744981&c=WW2#R> Accessed April 2024

⁷²⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 4 March 1941, page 8

⁷²⁷ Reilly's age was listed incorrectly in the below Kalgoorlie Miner at 25

⁷²⁸ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Monday 15 April 1940, page 4

trackside price). These commonplace illegal bets made in locations other than the racecourse raised the ire of the government as they were untaxed. A cockatoo, or 'cocky' would look out for police in urban or neighbourhood settings, and raise the alarm. Perhaps unsuccessfully in 1947 while Reilly was living in Leederville, as he was again fined £20 among a group of other men, by Police Magistrate Moseley for obstruction, a charge of convenience that literally meant the men were blocking the public's way while betting. The group was warned that gaol time would be the punishment for any further offences.⁷²⁹

In 1950, while living at the camp, Reilly was sentenced to three months in Fremantle Prison. He admitted that in February he had kept money from a charity collection for the family of a girl killed in Jandakot. He was gaoled in light of the previous October 1940 offence. Magistrate Mr K. I. Dougall judged, "It was a despicable thing to do."⁷³⁰ Leslie Reilly has not been fully researched.

Richards, Alan Humphrey

1901 - 1970

Robb's Jetty 1934-1936
cement worker

Alan Richards appears in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls of 1934 and 1936, and in the supplementary roll of 1937, at Robb's Jetty. He was employed as a cement worker. Richards died in 1970 at age 69.⁷³¹ Alan Richards has not been fully researched.

'ARTISTIC' CHRISTMAS CAMP IN SANDHILLS

'When children playing "Cowboys and Indians," stumbled across a camp in the South Fremantle sand hills beyond the Smelters plant, they did not expect to see a half-naked Aphrodite... "Doubtless she was a lovely lady, but from the distance all that could be distinguished was that she was a lady." Reported by The 'Call' is a diverting account of a young woman draped only in a towel, her moustachioed gentleman photographer and a bunch of slightly embarrassed kids, who in the innocent act of "a blast on a scout whistle" in their game, started an instant stampede of adults enjoying the portrait session. Upon their departure, the naughty children descended to the tents in the gully and tied as many knots as possible in the bathing suits and clothing found there. Returning the next day, the tents and clothing had disappeared, all except for "...a dainty garment, very prettily monogrammed," in shades of blue, and then the prize was held by the newspaper office, "if the owner cares to call for it."⁷³²

⁷²⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 11 August 1947, page 8

⁷³⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 3 March 1950, page 24

⁷³¹ BDM WA Registration no. 3527

⁷³² New Call (Perth, WA), Thursday 31 December 1931, page 4

Richards, Edith Lillian
Robb's Jetty 1936
home duties

Richards, Frank Parry
Robb's Jetty 1936
cement worker

Richards, Walter
Robb's Jetty 1931
manufacturer

In the 1931 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll, Walter Richards and his wife Edith Lillian and son Frank Parry were living at Robb Jetty. Walter Richards was a manufacturer and Edith was listed as 'home duties', while Frank was a cement worker. Walter and Edith were married in Perth in 1917, and in 1925 were living in South Street, Fremantle. At that time, Walter was working as a draughtsman. In 1954 Edith was living in Claremont with Frank, a fitter's assistant, and his brother, Arthur George, and later she and Frank lived in Attadale, then Palmyra.⁷³³

Walter did not live to see the wedding of his 20-year old daughter Florence Laura in 1944.⁷³⁴ Walter, Edith, Frank Parry and family have not been fully researched.

Robertson, William John
Smelter's Camp 1943-1949

-

William Robertson was listed in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1943.⁷³⁵ He was living at the Smelters Camp and does not have an occupation. He appears again in the 1949 roll at the same location, but was absent by 1954. Births, Deaths and Marriages WA lists a William J. Robertson dying in Perth in 1953.⁷³⁶ William Robertson has not been fully researched.⁷³⁷

⁷³³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] BDM WA Registration no. 448, Walter and Edith L Richards married Perth 1917

⁷³⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 12 February 1944, page 1; BDM WA Registration no. 3449 Florence Laura Richards birth

⁷³⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷³⁶ BDM WA Registration no. 542

⁷³⁷ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1903. Unconfirmed. Prisoners Discharged. 2510 Robertson @ Robinson, Wm., @ "Boxer" Offence: Disorderly; resisting; vagrancy. Sentence: 14 days h.l.; 2 months h.l. (cumulative); 2 months h.l. (convicted)

Roddam, Thomas
Near Smelting Works 1928
prospector

Thomas Roddam was a prospector who lived near the Smelting Works in 1928.⁷³⁸

Undaunted

Roddam and Stephen Martin were part-partners in mine lease 1562, impressively named the *Undaunted* in the Marvel Loch district on the Yilgarn goldfields, from 1900 to 1912. The 1888 discovery of gold in the hills behind Southern Cross was second to the discovery in the Pilbara in 1885, but Yilgarn was already in a depressed state by 1892, when the larger, legendary discoveries rocked Coolgardie and Mt Charlotte at Kalgoorlie and sparked the gold rush in Western Australia.⁷³⁹

Despite some early disagreements about expenses in February 1911,⁷⁴⁰ undaunted they were, and proceeded with sensible expectations, until 'Messrs. Thomas Roddam and party, cleaned up at Howlett's Donovan's mill a parcel of 90 tonnes which yielded by amalgamation 98ozs. of bullion worth £3/17/6 per ounce.'⁷⁴¹ This total would have today been the equivalent of \$61,300.⁷⁴²

In November, Baliff of the court in Southern Cross was asking for the claim to be satisfied or all titles and interests in 100 shares for the Undaunted to be sold. An announcement in the same local newspaper reveals this action was occurring after the death of another partner, Samuel West.⁷⁴³ Roddam moved on to other claims, at the 'Cambrian' in 1914, and the 'Ironsides North' with Clarrie Smith in 1923.⁷⁴⁴

In 1928, Thomas Roddam moved to the Smelters Camp at Fremantle; he was listed as a late Supplementary entry in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll.⁷⁴⁵ He disappears from this area in the 1929 and 1931 rolls, but by 1934 he was living in Fremantle and working as a watchman.

⁷³⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷³⁹ <http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/wa-goldfields/rush-gold>

⁷⁴⁰ The Southern Cross Times (WA), Saturday 4 February 1911, page 5

⁷⁴¹ The Southern Cross Times (WA), Saturday 30 November 1912, page 3

⁷⁴² Approximation <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Accessed April 2024

⁷⁴³ The Southern Cross Times (WA), Saturday 23 November, 1912, page 2; Saturday 7 December 1912, page 2

⁷⁴⁴ The Southern Cross Times (WA ; 1900 - 1920), Saturday 20 June 1914 page 3; Monday 22 October 1923, page 4

⁷⁴⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

A report about his involvement, or more precisely, his non-involvement in a sensational murder places him living in 'an ancient cottage near the Fremantle end of the Traffic Bridge.'⁷⁴⁶ Sitting by the doorway in an armchair that night between midnight and 1a.m., Roddam failed to notice the cries of young Albert Mollor, aged ten, being brutally murdered.

Albert's father Lawrence had been living at the Richmond Hotel nearby and involved in intimate relations and an unannounced engagement with Mrs Olive Harper, the licensee. When the engagement ended acrimoniously, Mollor plunged into a desperate depression, lead his son into the dark bushland and stabbed him to death. Later the poor boy was found in Olive Harper's car. With no memory of events of that night, Mollor was deemed to be temporarily insane, and eventually locked up in the Claremont Mental Hospital. Fifty yards away from the scrubby location of the murder, Thomas Roddam retired for bed, none the wiser, a newspaper reporter helpfully noting 'Mr Roddam is hard of hearing, and that may account for the fact that he heard nothing.'⁷⁴⁷

Thomas Roddam has not been fully researched.⁷⁴⁸

Rogers, Edward Manton
Woodman's Point 1914
labourer

Edward Rogers may not have been a direct occupant of the Smelters Camp. He was employed at the Coogee limekilns, but his actual place of residence is not confirmed; he may have been camping nearby. In the 1914 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll his location was Woodman's Point, and his occupation was labourer. There are other employees of the limekilns in the electoral rolls, but their residences are listed as Coogee, or Rockingham Road (Jeffery, Jenkyn, Stook 1909).⁷⁴⁹

Rogers had recently arrived in Fremantle from Elaine, Victoria, near Ballarat. He had declared himself insolvent in October 1895, due to lack of employment.⁷⁵⁰

On a Thursday evening in August, 1897, Edward Rogers was partaking of liquid refreshments at the Cleopatra Hotel in High Street, Fremantle, when in his inebriated

⁷⁴⁶ Western Mail (Perth, WA), Thursday 12 April 1934, page 12

⁷⁴⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), 10 April 1934, page 15; Mirror (Perth, WA), Saturday 7 April 1934, page 1; Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 13 July 1935, page 12

⁷⁴⁸ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1909. Unconfirmed. p 136. Thomas Roddom [Roddam] is reported missing by his wife Rebecca from NSW; this 40 year-old Durham tin-mining native is of almost 6 foot height with a 'dark ginger heavy moustache' and blue eyes: 'blind in one eye, which is very much sunken', with 'gruff voice, addicted to drink.'

⁷⁴⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷⁵⁰ The Ballarat Star (Vic.), Thursday 31 October 1895, page 3

state, was taken advantage of by two predatory patrons, John Love and William R. Bard. Luckily James Dunbar, the barman, was not a fellow to tolerate injustices or fools and was sympathetic to Mr Rogers' condition; he noticed the men accessing Rogers' pockets, and some coins tumbling on to the floor. He flagged down a constable who happened to be passing, who charged Love and Bard.⁷⁵¹

THE STABBING AFFRAY AT COOGEE

Rogers unfortunately repeated this pattern of alcohol-induced vulnerability on a Saturday evening in September 1904. While imbibing at the Coogee Hotel with his workmate, lime-burner George Beresford, Beresford took violent exception to Rogers' opinions, followed him and stabbed him in the back with a small penknife.⁷⁵²

After the elderly victim managed to transmit a message to the Fremantle police, Constable Brady arrived and arrested Beresford with intending to do Rogers grievous bodily harm, and remanded him for eight days. The charge was later reduced to alleged assault with intent.⁷⁵³

Rogers survived and later lived in Arundel Street, Fremantle. Husband to 'beloved' wife Sarah, she died aged 52 in 1912.⁷⁵⁴ In 1914 he moved to Woodman Point. Edward Rogers has not been fully researched.

There is a tantalising snippet of a story of Aboriginal warrior Yagan rowing all the way from Carnac Island to Woodman Point, approximately 4.5 nautical miles.⁷⁵⁵ After being held captive on Carnac Island by Robert M. Lyon, overseer of the Swan River Colony's Indigenous prison, and two soldiers, 'Yagan and his two companions made their escape to the mainland by stealing an unattended dinghy and rowing to nearby Woodman Point.'⁷⁵⁶

⁷⁵¹ Rogers, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Thursday 12 August 1897, page 4; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 20 January 1898, page 3; Dunbar, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Friday 21 Jan 1898, page 7

⁷⁵² *The Mail* (Fremantle, WA), Monday 26 September, 1904, page 3; *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Monday 26 September 1904, page 4

⁷⁵³ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 26 September 1904, page 10

⁷⁵⁴ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Thursday 7 March 1912, page 1; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board application no. FB00004149

⁷⁵⁵ WA 001 Ocean Reef to Point Peron nautical map https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/imagery/coastaldata/nauticalcharts/pdfs/WA001_ocean_reef_to_cape_peron.pdf Accessed April 2024

⁷⁵⁶ Darroch, Ian, 'Fremantle Tales', [Publisher not identified], Western Australia, 2013, page 18

Rooney, James
Owen's Anchorage/Smelters Camp 1903-1943
labourer

James Rooney was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage from 1903. He appears in every successive electoral roll until 1936. Rooney remained at the camp until some time before 1943, when he was absent.⁷⁵⁷ He was the longest serving resident of the camp with occupancy of up to 40 years; a modest and civic-minded gentleman who donated to poor appeals run by the United Irish League and lived in a makeshift cottage.⁷⁵⁸ In his small community, John Clarendon Horneman was the second longest resident of 34 years, then John Costello (27 years) and Joseph Cronin (25 years) – all neighbours who would have known each another. Rooney was a labourer and in the 1930s he worked for the Fremantle Slag and Paving Company.⁷⁵⁹

Prior to his moving to the Smelters, Rooney was working as a quarryman and camping at Rocky Bay, Mosman Park. In 1899, the mayor of North Fremantle, Mr J. Pearse, brought proceedings against Rooney, whose defence, Mr Barker, doggedly took exception to many technicalities of the proceedings in Fremantle Police Court. North Fremantle Municipal Council was resolved to remove non-rate paying tent dwellers who had occupied the riverside and it was determined Rooney could only stay with a license for the erection of the hessian dwelling in place.⁷⁶⁰

'Fremantle Blaze'

It was a hot summer afternoon in January 1930⁷⁶¹ when James Rooney was aroused from slumber around 4.30pm by Patrick Monaghan, who was working at the Smelters. A grass fire at the northern end of the old abattoirs at Copley's Siding had sparked, and by the time Monaghan and Rooney left his cottage, dense smoke was billowing from the fodder store roof. Two units from the fire brigade arrived within nine minutes after Rooney's telephone alert, but the closest water main was all but dry, and another, 'emitted a feeble stream of water, which was useless against the flames rapidly growing in volume.'

One fireman narrowly avoided death from a falling beam as the brigade struggled against the fire for over four hours, the reporter noting, 'they acquitted themselves admirably.' Only a strong southerly wind, the men removing contents from the store and manually cutting away linking rafters saved the whole building from destruction.

⁷⁵⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷⁵⁸ The WA Record (Perth, WA), Saturday 25 November 1916, page 11

⁷⁵⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 6 January 1930, page 15

⁷⁶⁰ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 5 October 1899, page 3; Mayor J. Pearse, The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 4 August 1899, page 6. See also Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 24 November 1899, page 1

⁷⁶¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 6 January 1930, page 15. The Perth temperature forecast was 27C.

But the ramp, 200 feet of feed bins and the fodder store, once filled with three tonnes of hay and other equipment, burned for several hours and was 'reduced to a mass of charred sheet iron and heavy beams.'

The owner of the building, banker Mr S. W. Copley, had insured the contents but not the building. It had been occupied by the Department of Agriculture but luckily no stock occupied the yards, as they had been decommissioned in favour of new works at Robb Jetty. Damaged was estimated at £2000.⁷⁶² James Rooney has not been fully researched.⁷⁶³

Ryan, Dennis Leonard

1880-1959

Fremantle Smelters 1912-1914

assayer/metallurgist

Dennis Ryan was born in 1880 to father Patrick, and mother Elizabeth in Kingston, Victoria, Australia.⁷⁶⁴ He was the husband of May Turner, and father of William Ryan (see entries below). From 1912 to 1914 he lived at the Smelters Camp, then moved to Mandurah Road, South Fremantle, and by 1922 had relocated to 67 South Street. From about 1931 the Ryan family were at 21 South Street.⁷⁶⁵

78 OUNCES TO TON

Dennis Ryan was working at the Fremantle Smelters as a licensed gold dealer in August 1941 when prospectors Charles Egan (55) and his son, Daniel Joseph Egan (33) brought to him a small parcel of concentrates to the sale value of £511/12/3, to be assayed, that he suspected had been obtained illegally.⁷⁶⁶

The Egans appeared before the Perth Police Court, separately charged. Daniel had bought gold from Ronald Hamilton Fox in Kalgoorlie, who did not own a licence to deal in the precious metal. The Egans then bought this matter to Dennis Ryan and due to the usually high concentrate of 78 ounces of gold to ton within, it was thought the matter had not come, as claimed, from refractory tailings hand sorted by the Egans at the Big Four Lease at Canegrass, 71kms north-west of Kalgoorlie, in full view of another two men who were working there.

'Egan told the Bench that he had bought the right to treat tailings from the Big Four mine and had picked them carefully, taking only those which looked promising.'

⁷⁶² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 6 January 1930, page 13

⁷⁶³ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1920. 'Beaconsfield. - On 28th ult., from South Beach, - a small anchor made of forged iron, 30ins. long, 40lbs. weight, the property of James Rooney.' A7/16649.

⁷⁶⁴ BDM Vic Reference no. 23474

⁷⁶⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷⁶⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 28 August 1941, page 8

Agreements signed were shown to be genuine, witnesses presented, and the magistrate determined, 'There was no evidence that the tailings Egan had picked were from illicit gold treatments.' He dismissed the charges against both men, but Daniel Egan was issued with a £2 fine with £3/7/ costs for buying the gold matter from an unlicensed dealer.⁷⁶⁷

Dennis Leonard Ryan died in 1959, aged 79.⁷⁶⁸

Ryan, John
Smelter's Camp 1928-1943
labourer

John Ryan was a labourer listed on Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls of 1928 (Supplementary) and 1943. Since the interim 1937 electoral roll was a Supplementary listing only, it is presumed John Ryan's occupancy bridged this gap. John Ryan has not been fully researched.⁷⁶⁹

⁷⁶⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 2 September 1941, page 21

⁷⁶⁸ BDM WA Registration no. 2535. Also Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1938. (Half year ending 30 June). 432s, 474s, 454s photos on first two. Bound over 6 months and to pay costs. released on bond 29th ult. 8911/38

1938. October. Fremantle.- Between 11th and 19th inst., from the assayer's room, Smelting Works, South Fremantle, -one brass pulp balance set of scales on a wooden stand, about 10in. high, the plumb bob is missing; and nine glass beakers; the property of Denis Leonard Ryan 9505/38. p432 Oct 26, 1938

1938. 9 November. Fremantle.-About 20th ult., from the Smelters, South Fremantle, -one Burette, 100 c.c. capacity; five beakers, 100 c.c. capacity; 2 beakers, 250 c.c. capacity; one Elliot Brothers chemical material catalogue; three measuring glasses, 100 c.c., 50 c.c., and 20 c.c. capacity; one litre flask; three glass funnels and three test tubes; the property of Denis Leonard Ryan. -9539/38

1938. 30 November, p474, Fremantle.-On 26th inst., from a weigh bridge, South Fremantle smelters, near South Beach, - one brass graduated weigh bridge beam, about 3 feet long, marked up to 10 cwt.; the property of Dennis Leonard Ryan.- 10699/38

⁷⁶⁹ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police:
1903. Unconfirmed, page 359, Prisoners Discharged. From Fremantle Prison, during the week ending Saturday, 31st October 1903. Condition: Free... Reg. No.: 4249. Name: Ryan, John. Offence: Unlawful possession... Sentence: 1 month h.l. ... Where committed: Perth... Date of Discharge: 26th Oct

Ryan, May Gertrude
Fremantle Smelters 1912-1914
married

Ryan, William Denis
Fremantle Smelters 1912-1914

-

May Gertrude Turner was born in Odmit, Victoria, in 1879 to father William and mother Mary. In 1906 Turner married Dennis Ryan, who was an assayer then a metallurgist at the Fremantle Smelters. Ryan lived at the Smelters Camp from 1912 to 1914 with Dennis, and their small son William (Bill), who was born in 1908.⁷⁷⁰ They moved to 119 Mandurah Road, South Fremantle, and by 1922 had relocated to 67 South Street. Prior to 1931 she and husband Dennis were at 21 South Street.⁷⁷¹ It was here their son William came of age, listing his occupation as Articled Law Clerk.⁷⁷² After the customary two years, May and Dennis must have been proud to see their son attain the position of Law Clerk, but unfortunately he was unanimously disbarred by the Supreme Court in 1942 for unprofessional conduct.⁷⁷³

Ryan enlisted for the Australian Army 4 March 1941 in Collie; he was a trooper in the 25 Australian Army Cavalry Commando Training Squadron.⁷⁷⁴

He died from an illness as a result of his war service in Hollywood Hospital 23 January 1944.⁷⁷⁵ He was the husband of Beryl (Lewin) and father to Kerry and Kay. They lived in Kalamunda, Western Australia. Ryan had siblings, Bec (Mrs Trobe) and John. He was buried in the Karrakatta War Cemetery.⁷⁷⁶ The last line of his family obituary addresses May as, 'Our darling'.

May died one year before her husband, in 1958, aged 78.⁷⁷⁷

The Ryan family has not been fully researched.

⁷⁷⁰ BDM WA Registration no. 673

⁷⁷¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷⁷² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 17 November 1932, page 1; Thursday 1 December 1932, page 1

⁷⁷³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 25 April 1942, page 4

⁷⁷⁴ <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P10302642>; <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1699340>
Accessed April 2024, Service no. W41456; NAA: A8231, 32/Ryan William Denis, Barcode 21517940; NAA: B884, W41456 Barcode 6497010

⁷⁷⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 24 January 1944, page 1

⁷⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷⁷ BDM WA Registration no. 3248

Scott, Violet
Smelter's Camp 1929-1943
home duties

Violet Scott was listed with an occupation of 'home duties' in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1929, 1931, 1934, 1936. 1937 was only a supplementary roll, and she was not listed in the 1943 roll.⁷⁷⁸ Violet Scott has not been fully researched.



Fremantle Lumpers c1910

Courtesy of Azelia Ley Museum, City of Cockburn

Shearer, William John
c1874-1949
South Fremantle 1912
lumper

William Shearer was born in Campbell's Creek, Victoria, in about 1875; his father Alexander and mother Annie Auld.⁷⁷⁹ He was living at the Smelters Camp in 1912; he would have been 38 years of age.⁷⁸⁰ He was a labourer and lumper who rode a British Beardmore Precision motorcycle and seemed to find himself constantly involved in mischief with paramours – first for an incident with Violet Hyland (the

⁷⁷⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁷⁷⁹ BDM Victoria, Registration no. 7590.

⁷⁸⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

daughter of John Francis Hyland, a past resident of the Smelters Camp who died in 1905). Guilty of indecent behaviour in Alma Street, he was fined £1.⁷⁸¹

In 1911 Shearer married Margaret Norah Davidson in Fremantle.⁷⁸² They lived mainly in the East Fremantle area, in Glyde Street (1917) and Point Walter Road (1922), and Tamar St (1931), but must have enjoyed a brief spell in Grey Street, South Fremantle in 1927, because they had returned there by 1943. Unsurprisingly, at most addresses Margaret was occupied with home duties (they produced children Florence, Muriel, Dorothy, William and Mena), but in 1943 she was also listed as a lumper!⁷⁸³

Apart from some minor pillaging of cargo in 1914 - items of clothing from a docked steamer - for which he was fined £25, Shearer kept out of trouble.⁷⁸⁴ But an incident in 1928 could have had terrible consequences.

When Harold Hitchcock successfully gained a divorce from his wife Lucy Cleo Jean, it was because of her involvement with Shearer. The mother of five children, aged 14 months to 8 years, was crucified in the press as a woman who, from 1924, decided married life and children would be cast aside when she 'succumbed to the enticements of frivolity...' and became 'a wife allegedly run wild with liquor and the lads of the village.' It was even claimed Shearer and Mrs Hitchcock were living together at Arundel Street, Fremantle.⁷⁸⁵

But a bullet put an end to any possibility of preserving the Hitchcock family. Enraged by an apparent succession of dalliances at the family home, the mysterious presence of open beer bottles hidden behind the front door, wayward children and perhaps most infuriatingly, unattended housework, Mr and Mrs Hitchcock frequently quarrelled. A separation order temporarily cooled matters, but Mr Hitchcock returned home in November 1927 'for the sake of the children.' This only lasted a month and in March 1928, Mrs Hitchcock informed her estranged husband 'she was in a certain condition to a man named Shearer.'

'She dared him to come to the house that night at 8 o'clock, as Shearer would "clean him up." Ascertaining that Shearer was 6ft in height (Hitchcock) secured a revolver.'⁷⁸⁶ Hitchcock visited the house and showed the gun to his wife,

⁷⁸¹ Beardmore Precision registration in *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 15 May 1927, page 31; *Daily News* (Perth, WA), Monday 16 January 1905, page 11

⁷⁸² BDM WA Registration no. 223, 1911

⁷⁸³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] All residences except 1927: *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 15 May 1927, page 31

⁷⁸⁴ *The Sunday Times* (Perth, WA), Sunday 31 May 1914, page 15

⁷⁸⁵ *Truth* (Perth, WA), Sunday 16 September 1928, page 9; *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 12 September 1928, page 10

⁷⁸⁶ *Daily News* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 12 September 1928, page 2

'He pulled it out of his pocket and the thing went off, the bullet grazing his wife's cheek. In true wifely haste she had him arrested for trying to shoot her.'⁷⁸⁷

Hitchcock was acquitted but their behaviour ruined their family – the State took their children, and the divorce was granted. Shearer was awarded court costs.

'Dearly beloved' William Shearer died on 6 June 1949 in Fremantle, aged 74. Listed are his wife, five children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren. Also listed was his brother Alexander (Curly) Shearer, who incidentally was a talented footballer in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder region.⁷⁸⁸ William Shearer has not been fully researched.⁷⁸⁹

Siddons, Charles Harry
1889-1942
Smelters' Camp 1931-1942
labourer

Charles Siddons was a labourer living at the Smelters Camp from 1931. The 1937 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll is Supplementary only, and a listing in the 1943 electoral roll suggests his name wasn't immediately removed after his death.

In 1933, Siddons had the sombre responsibility of identifying the body of Isaac Nilsen/Neilson (see earlier entry), a fellow pensioner living at the Smelters Camp who had died after been struck by a train. Siddons assured police when he had seen Neilson a few days before, he had been in good spirits, but that perhaps his deafness contributed to the accident.

Charles Siddons died 10 June 1942 at 53 years of age.⁷⁹⁰ Friends and family of Siddons are notified in the *Daily News* of the Church of England service to be held at the Crematorium Chapel in Karrakatta. It mentions that he is of 'Messrs. J. Gadsden Pty. Limited, North Fremantle and of 68 Palmerston Street, Mosman Park.'⁷⁹¹

Gadsdens was a company started by Jabez Gadsden in Melbourne which by the 1930s had approximately one dozen nationwide factories producing tins, bags, sacks

⁷⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸⁸ BDM WA Registration no. 173; Obituaries, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 8 June 1949 page 1; Curly Shearer: *Truth* (Perth, WA), Saturday 16 June 1906, page 6; *The Sun* (Kalgoorlie, WA), Sun 10 June 1906, page 3

⁷⁸⁹ *Police Gazette*, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1920. Page 209. Thomas Buckingham and William McKeig @ Shearer, at Perth, on 13th ult., by Sgt. M Normoyle and P.C. J. McDonald, charged by Det. J. S. Simpson; stealing. 4 months hl each. Property recovered.

See second entry in 1920, says William HENRY plus a description

⁷⁹⁰ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Thursday 11 June 1942, page 1

⁷⁹¹ *Daily News* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 10 June 1942, page 9

and fabrics, and later, canvas goods, in Australia and New Zealand.⁷⁹² In 1941 the newly-relocated North Fremantle workshop had received a Defence contract for the manufacture of mattresses to the value of £153, and soon after an order for pillows to £187.⁷⁹³ The Gadsden staff, on the same day as Siddons' notice was published, had inserted a notice for Sgt.-Observer Scott Macliver (RAAF), another fellow employee, who had been shot down and was missing in the Western Desert, Libya/Egypt since 19 November and was now presumed dead.⁷⁹⁴

On 24 June 1942, Mrs Charles Siddons published a message of thanks for the sympathy expressed and cards received from friends.⁷⁹⁵ It appears Charles and Eva Siddons may have separated, but she had published his death notice with her own address at 68 Palmerston Street, (mentioned alternately as Cottesloe and Mosman Park), so it is possible she cared for him in his last days. There is no indication of him dying at the camp. He was also well-remembered by friends the Aberles, Mortons and Wrights.⁷⁹⁶ Eva Siddons, an excellent cook who was fond of making fig pickle, died five months later, aged 52, and many tender remembrances were published by her close friends.⁷⁹⁷

Charles Siddons has not been fully researched.

Skinner, Lucille Hilda AKA Smith

c1879 - 1940

Robb's Jetty 1920-1921

-

Lucille Skinner appears to have lead a spirited and defiant, albeit fraught life. She wed William Smith in 1908 but the marriage did not last.⁷⁹⁸

But it was her union with Frank Every in particular that led to trouble, the handful of years that they were together were filled with misadventures. Every and his friend Alexander Winder were considered not only 'very queer fish indeed', but 'dangerous and dishonest',

⁷⁹² <https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/186922728?q&versionId=203473150>

⁷⁹³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 22 August 1941, page 6; The West Australian (Perth, WA), today's value over \$11,000; Friday 11 September 1941, page 6, today's value over \$13,000 <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Accessed April 2024

⁷⁹⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 10 June 1942, page 1

⁷⁹⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 24 June 1942, page 1

⁷⁹⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 11 June 1942, page 1

⁷⁹⁷ Pickle, The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 14 September 1924, page 32; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 30 November 1942, page 1

⁷⁹⁸ BDM WA Registration no. 451

‘while the third Lucille Skinner, is, or has been an able aider and abettor of her male companions in crime.’⁷⁹⁹

When sought by the police in August 1920, Skinner, her partner Every and Winder were ‘found occupying an old dilapidated camp near Robb's Jetty.’ They were familiar to the police, and on this occasion pleaded guilty to the charge of ‘being persons of ill-repute.’ Skinner would shepherd drunken men away from hotels for her companions to fleece (see also entries for Every and Winder) and were seen to be ‘nuisances’ to such an extent that they would be given a choice between gaol time or a fine.⁸⁰⁰

But not without a fight - it was a particular pleasure for Every to cross-examine detectives; Skinner was a little more ambivalent, and often Every would inadvertently destroy her alibi. When accused in court in August 1920 of having Every for a ‘bludger’- or pimp – she righteously stated, ‘I have no man living with me. I never have.’ When Every proceeded to tell the court they had been occupying the same humpy together, the reporter judges her unkindly.

‘Lucille made no attempt to disprove the charge. How could she? She didn't know what it was all about. Anyone can be pinched under the "evil fame," and once they have "got you snouted" they'll say anything. What was the good of her saying anything. She wouldn't demean herself-not her, indeed!’⁸⁰¹

In a litany of charges demonstrative of Skinners tempestuous relationship with Every, in February 1921 Skinner and Every were fined again, for the use of obscene language in High Street, Fremantle.⁸⁰² She would not be limited to robbery in company either, and freelanced to the point of being considered ‘a dangerous character, and her presence in Fremantle... a menace to the Port,’⁸⁰³ and she sometimes solicited solo or as a mentor.⁸⁰⁴

But aspects of Skinner’s risky lifestyle deserve sympathy. She had charges of being a ‘rogue and vagabond’, sometimes under the tutelage of older men, as early as 1907,

⁷⁹⁹ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 14 August 1920, page 3

⁸⁰⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 12 August 1920, page 10

⁸⁰¹ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 14 August 1920, page 3; Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 11 August 1920, page 7

⁸⁰² Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 21 February 1921, page 7

⁸⁰³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 21 February 1924, page 13; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 17 August 1922, page 10

⁸⁰⁴ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 30 May 1908, page 8; Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 4 December 1911, page 2

and spent time institutionalised.⁸⁰⁵ Caught fiercely in the grip of alcohol, this addiction seems to have prompted many of the arrests, as it perpetuated violence, even among friends and companions.⁸⁰⁶ This profile led to a mention in a court proceeding in 1924 as being her 25th appearance in court (she was then about 45 years old), and on that occasion she was charged with being, 'an idle and disorderly



Lucy Skinner. Western Australian Police Gazette 1930

person, having no visible means of support.' Unfortunately the court's standard solution for socio-economic inequality was imprisonment for three months.⁸⁰⁷ Her vulnerability was exacerbated by gender – she was often counter-robbed by men, sometimes with violence. Once this happened twice in a month.⁸⁰⁸

⁸⁰⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 23 July 1907, page 3; Tutelage: Newspaper article 'The Weekly Herald (Fremantle, WA), Friday 22 Feb 1924, page 3, a by-product. Loafer and thief, gaoled for three months. 'A well-set-up young fellow, Frank Eric Roy Cole, was brought before...on Thursday morning on a charge of being an idle ad disorderly person... Briefly, the young chap with all the fancy front names will not work but prefers instead to hang about the town shepherding drunks. Recently, with a female counterpart, one Lucille Smith, he inveigled a confiding drunk into a secluded spot and relieved him of £5. Lucille as the temptress, and Frank Eric Roy as her bully. A pretty pair! After Mr. Murphy's caustic tongue had trimmed the degraded young ruffian up to some purpose, the refreshingly frank opinion of such social by -products closed with a snap-three months.'

⁸⁰⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 28 June 1913, page 10; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 16 July 1907, page 6; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 9 May 1933, page 10

⁸⁰⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 21 February 1924, page 4; see also The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), The Sunday 18 November 1934, page 16

⁸⁰⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 8 February 1907, page 4; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 22 February 1907, page 2

Even in her older years, when society should have been taking more care of Skinner, she was a vagrant sleeping rough, drinking and begging for food.⁸⁰⁹ She was described in a 1932 article, when arrested with two companions, as 'metho madams' and 'three aged sisters of sorrow...' witnessing in court that, 'they hobbled forward, just pieces of feminine flotsam on the tide of life...'⁸¹⁰

Skinner died in 14 June 1940 in Perth at age 61.⁸¹¹ She was buried in the Anglican section of Fremantle Cemetery. Lucille Skinner has not been fully researched.⁸¹²

Spratt, Jack **Meatworks Camp 1933**

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁸¹³

⁸⁰⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 6 December 1935, page 13

⁸¹⁰ New Call (Perth, WA), Thursday 1 December 1932, page 5

⁸¹¹ BDM WA, Registration no. 176; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board FB00013767

⁸¹² Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police,
1920. Frank Every, Alexander Winder, and Lucille Skinner, at Fremantle, on the 10th inst., by Let.-Sergts J. Porter and A. Molloy, on warrants; evil fame. Bound over for 6 months, in default 6 months imprisonment.
1921. Prisoners Discharged from Fremantle Prison during the two weeks ending Saturday, 8th January; Also Reg. No.: 474 Skinner, Lucy, Evil fame. 6 months imp. Committed at Fremantle 3rd Jan.
1923. Lily Doyle and Lucille Hilda Smith @ Skinner, at Fremantle, on 22nd inst., by P.C. H. Dimond; obscene language. 6 months hl each.
1924. Lucy Skinner and Frank Eric Roy Cole, at Fremantle, on 20th inst., by Dets. H. Jackson and J. Nisbet; idle and disorderly. 3 months hl each

Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police:
1930. Group photo Nov; evil fame, etc.; p 667. 26 November 1930, page 653. Lucy Hilda Smith @ Lucille Skinner; at Perth, on 24th September last, by Sgt. Cassidy and P.C. Lightly; rogue and vagabond. 3 months hl. 1189/30 mug shot page 667. 26 November 1930, page 671 'Skinner, Lucille Hilda, @ Smith, Lucy Hilda. Reg. no. F/474, a native of Mt. Egmont, New Zealand, born 1884, height 5 feet 2 inches, weight 130 lbs, very dark brown hair, dark brown eyes, dark complexion, operation scar on left breast, a small scar on back of left hand, a black mole on left side of mouth, a mole below the right nostril, a mole on right jaw. Discharge due 1st Dec, 1930. Also 1930. 'In default of fine payment; Fulton for stealing; Lucille Skinner - rogue and vagabond, but also information about her origins, Mt. Egmont, New Zealand, born 1884.'

⁸¹³ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

Spratt, Lena
Meatworks Camp 1933

-

This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁸¹⁴

Stewart, Amelia Mildred Mary
Smelters' Camp, Fremantle 1954
domestic

On Wednesday, 3 November 1954, Amelia Stewart (35), a domestic, who resided at the Smelters Camp, was gaoled for 21 days 'for having been disorderly in Russell Square.' Also gaoled for one month was Andrew Walton (46), a labourer who was a fellow resident of the Smelters Camp.⁸¹⁵

Amelia Stewart has not been fully researched.

Stewart, John George William
Sandhills near Robb Jetty 1944
naval deserter WWII

'STOLEN GOODS. Deserter's Hide-out Found.

A naval deserter since January, 1943, John George William Stewart (22), admitted in Fremantle Police Court yesterday before Messrs A. Orloff and J. Gustafson, J.P.'s, four charges of having stolen a quantity of timber, iron, tools and surveyor's instruments, the property of the Public Works Department. Accused was sentenced to four months' imprisonment. Inspector G. Findlay prosecuted. Det. W. Nielsen, in evidence, said that, accompanied by Det. C. Cresswell, he found a quantity of timber and iron in the sandhills that had been missing from a job near Robb's Jetty. He watched the spot and on, Tuesday at 4 am accused was seen carrying a sheet of iron, which he deposited with the timber. When he attempted to apprehend accused he ran away. A search was made, of the premises which accused frequented and a quantity of tools, 'valued at £29, were found, also a quantity of surveyor's instruments, valued at £70, which had been removed from a lock-up shed. The loss of the tools and the surveyor's instruments, said witness, had meant that vital work had been held up for some days. Witness said that accused removed the material and hid it in the sand hills, and during the night again, removed the goods to a camp which he had built with the stolen timber: and iron. Accused then covered the camping site over with sand.'⁸¹⁶

⁸¹⁴ Ibid.

⁸¹⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 3 November 1954, page 20

⁸¹⁶ West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 22 December 1944, page 3

Sutton, Ada
South Beach 1903-1906
home duties

Sutton, Anthony Francis
South Beach 1903-1906
labourer

Ada and Anthony Sutton appear on the 1903 through 1906 Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Rolls.⁸¹⁷ They were married and had a son, Ernest Leslie, who died at age 16 in 1921; and a daughter, Vera Ellen, who became engaged to George William Green in 1927,⁸¹⁸ when the Suttons had moved to Collie. Ada and Anthony Sutton have not been fully researched.

Tapper, John Arthur
North of magazine 1926-1954
fisherman

John Arthur Tapper was listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls of 1926, 1929, 1931, 1934, 1936, 1943, 1949 and 1954. His occupation was fisherman, and the precise location listed was North of magazine, which would not have been far from the Smelters Camp. John Tapper has not been fully researched.

Fremantle Fish.

Evasion of the Regulations. Some Salient Suggestions. (The Editor, "Truth.")
Sir,—I beg to ask that you will be good enough to allow sufficient space in your paper to bring under the notice of the public and the authorities who are paid to carry out the Fisheries Act, that...

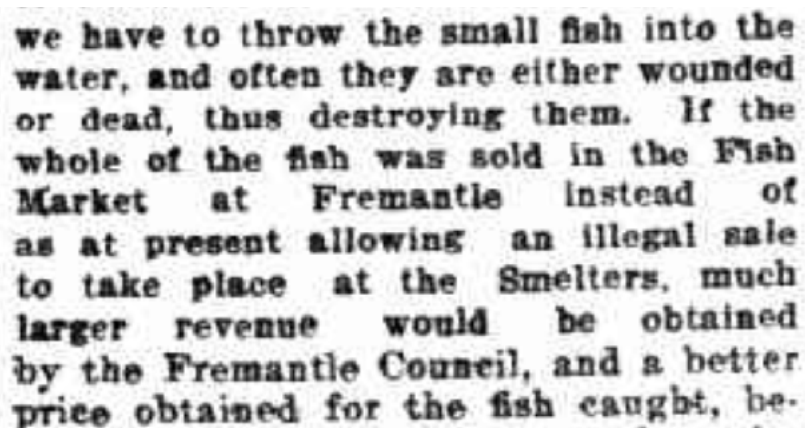
almost daily a large number of small fish "underweight," are being sold at the Smelters and along the South Beach, as far south as Woodmen's Point, to certain buyers "who retail them again" at Fremantle. These fish consist chiefly of mullet and whiting; thus a breach of the Fisheries Act is daily taking place

..under the very nose of those inspectors who are supposed to stop such practices and prevent the destruction of our fisheries. If something is not done

⁸¹⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁸¹⁸ Western Mail (Perth, WA), Thursday 1 December 1921, page 27 (Ernest Leslie); The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 7 January 1927, page 7 (Vera Ellen)

it will not be very long before such fish as mullet, whiting, etc., will disappear from our waters...



we have to throw the small fish into the water, and often they are either wounded or dead, thus destroying them. If the whole of the fish was sold in the Fish Market at Fremantle instead of as at present allowing an illegal sale to take place at the Smelters, much larger revenue would be obtained by the Fremantle Council, and a better price obtained for the fish caught, be-

..because only fish that have to bear inspection could be obtained by the retailers who now hold out an encouragement to fishermen principally of foreign birth to break our laws and destroy our future fish supply... These foreigners pay only the licenses, no rent, no taxes, but camp either on Crown land or on their boats, and bear no part in the upkeep of our Government, etc. I have no fault to find with the Inspector of Fisheries generally, but I think the chief inspector should wake up and see that the waters of this State are not denuded of its fish by illegal means, caused by foreigners who do not intend to remain here a day longer than is necessary for them, intending to take their savings away to a foreign land.

—Yours, etc.,

EDWARD LEWINGTON.⁸¹⁹

Taylor, John (Jack)

c1878-1948

**Owen's Anchorage/Smelter's Camp, Robb's Jetty 1903-1909, 1948
labourer/ganger**

John (Jack) Taylor was listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Rolls from 1903-1909 as a labourer and ganger. There is no evidence available yet of his residence location between 1909 and 1948, it is possible he had a very long-term occupancy at the camp.⁸²⁰

'DEAD IN HUMPY. An old man was found dead in a humpy at the Smelter's Camp, Robbs Jetty, about 9 a.m. today. The body has not been positively identified but is

⁸¹⁹ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 15 January 1910, page 4

⁸²⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

believed to be that of John Taylor (about 70). An autopsy will be held.’⁸²¹

Robert Charles Boswell, a fellow camp resident (see earlier entry) had raised the alarm for his neighbour on the 22 December 1948. Taylor had not been seen since nine days prior. Constable W. J. McFadyen was tasked with breaking into the four-roomed shack and found Taylor’s body, which had been ‘dead for some time.’⁸²²

Six days later, a report entitled DEATH SHACK BURNT DOWN went to press describing Taylor’s shack burning down at 8.26 pm. The fire was fierce and the lack of water made it impossible for the Fremantle Fire Brigade to fight it effectively. The cause was unclear.⁸²³

Since the hut was unoccupied, it seems unlikely the fire was accidental. Speculation suggests a land-resumption or quarantine operation was instigated, or perhaps a Norse-styled tribute, for those of the camp to respectfully send off John Taylor’s spirit to his chosen Valhalla.

Forty One Years Earlier

The *Daily News* notes that on the first weekend of September 1907, ‘Outside Fremantle a tremendous sea was running, and just about 5 o’clock in the evening the severest squall of the day came up, and the wind blew at the rate of 75 miles per hr.’

John Taylor, after enduring a stormy night in his hut at the camp, was ‘strolling’ along South Beach on 9 September afternoon when he came across an ‘ordinary’ beer bottle in the sand. ‘His attention was riveted on the object owing to the fact that the top was sealed and what appeared to be a slip of paper was inside.’ Evidently the reporter did not believe Taylor, ‘who describes himself as a labourer working at the Fremantle Post-office’, and his discovery of a ‘message from the sea’. On the note was written,

‘3-8-07. Drifting about. Five of us in a boat close to Fremantle. William Wells, Liverpool; Bill Bates, Liverpool; H. Saunders, Birmingham; apprentice boy, Kelly, Dublin; John Olsen, Norway. My fingers are numbed.’

The determination was made it was a hoax, without a boat named, nor reported missing, the scribbling of children on the back of the penny note book page in the same kind of pencil, and the scientific estimation that castaway bottles generally took many months to reach the shore, despite the recent heavy weather - but it was surmised by all concerned, ‘At present, the message must certainly be regarded as very mysterious.’⁸²⁴

⁸²¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 22 December 1948, page 7; also BDM WA Registration no. 378

⁸²² The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 23 December 1948, page 5

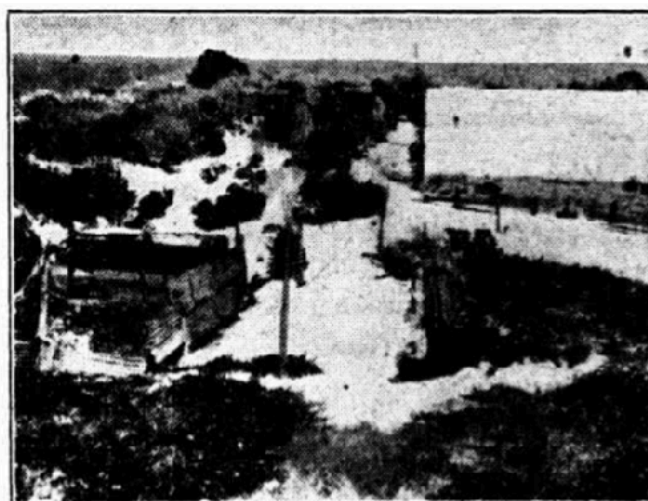
⁸²³ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 29 December 1948, page 1

⁸²⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 9 September 1907, page 1

Grizzled and weather-beaten

‘His name is Taylor, and he is a grizzled weather-beaten man, courteous and contented.’⁸²⁵

Taylor had been living at the camp for twenty years when he was interviewed in 1928 by the reporter from the *Daily News*, who described his one-room hut as ‘smothered with gay flowers of the ivy Geranium...’ and ‘enclosed within a quaint fence built of odd bits of fencing material, and the gate of ordinary pattern has obviously seen service some day at the entrance to a much more pretentious home.’



A TYPICAL SAND DUNES HOME

Daily News 13 Nov 1928 p6

But the reporter notes the honest Taylor was quick to correct him that his residency was intermittent,
‘When the smelters were working he found employment there; since they have shut down he has gone afield, as far as Albany, in search of work. But he always ‘homes’ back to the sand dunes of South Fremantle,’
with Taylor’s simplicity, resourcefulness and pride best described in, ‘A boarded floor has been laid with timbers retrieved from the sea, and these indicate that the twenty-years’ resident is not unacquainted with the use of a housebroom.’⁸²⁶ John Taylor has not been fully researched.

⁸²⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

⁸²⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

Thompson, Colin
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953, 1948
labourer

When Colin Thompson, a 23-year-old labourer whipped fellow camp resident Andrew McCallum with the buckle end of a belt, little thought was given to Callum's condition as a 54-year-old pensioner. Appearing in court in December 1953, Thompson pleads guilty, but notes the action was a counter-attack to avoid 'getting the knife between my ribs,' drawn by McCallum in the heat of the disagreement.⁸²⁷

Thompson appeared in court again in 1954, for the theft of five fowls from Leslie Richard Whiteford on the evening of Tuesday 18 May. Thompson was ordered by Mr. R. P. Roderiguez, magistrate to 'make restitution of the fowls' value' - £6/5/0.⁸²⁸

Colin Thompson was from the Rockhampton, Queensland area and was of Afghan – Aboriginal heritage and later the partner of Maxine Herdigan.⁸²⁹ (See entry for Herdigan). Colin Thompson has not been fully researched.

Tremellen, Charles Thomas
Owen's Anchorage/Robb's Jetty (1909) 1903-1913
labourer/smelter (1909)

Between 1903 to 1906 Charles Tremellen was listed on Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage as a labourer; then between 1910 on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robbs Jetty as a smelter; and between 1912 and 1913 at the Smelters Camp as a labourer. In 1927 he was employed by WA Government Railways casually at Northampton, 300 miles north east of Geraldton. He was a corroborating witness in a truck accident trial in Geraldton in 1935.⁸³⁰ He died at Northampton in 1948.⁸³¹

Charles Tremellen has not been fully researched.

⁸²⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 15 December 1953, page 16

⁸²⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 20 May 1954, page 21

⁸²⁹ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁸³⁰ The Geraldton Guardian and Express (WA), Thursday 30 May 1935, page 3

⁸³¹ BDM WA Registration no. 3

CURIOSITY LEADS TO CAPTIVITY

THIS SEAL which came ashore at South Fremantle early today, had its curiosity aroused by a racehorse being trained on the beach. While its attention was distracted Mr. Harold O'Brien lassoed it and now it is in the seal pool at the Zoo.



Daily News 12 March 1937 pg 1

Coming ashore, evidently for a sun bathe, at South Beach in the vicinity of the Fremantle smelters about 9 a.m. today, a young seal was captured by a camper, Mr. Harold W. O'Brien, of Park-street, Subiaco. For the past two or three days Mr. O'Brien had noticed two seals swimming in the vicinity and today he saw one coming towards the shore. He watched it flop on to the beach and stalked it for a quarter of a mile.

While the seal's attention was focused on a racehorse, which was being exercised along the beach Mr. O'Brien succeeded in lassoing the seal. 'It nearly got away,' the captor said later, 'for it slipped through my fingers and also bit me slightly on the wrist.' The seal, although secured by a rope, seemed quite contented as long as it remained in the water. Once it was taken on to the beach, however, it showed its disapproval. The Zoo authorities were communicated with and arrangements were made for the seal's transfer to the South Perth Zoo.⁸³²

⁸³² Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 12 March 1937, page 1

Trinidad, RE
Smelter's Camp, South Beach 1949

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In *The West Australian* on 18 May 1949, R. E. Trinidad was listed as a resident of the Smelters Camp, South Beach, and was amongst other successful applicants for home allocation in the Western Australian metropolitan and countries areas by the State Housing Commission. Trinidad was granted occupation of a converted army hut in Naval Base.⁸³³ R. E. Trinidad has not been fully researched.⁸³⁴

Tully, William Charles
AKA J. Smith
Smelters 1938
miner

William Charles Tully (45), a miner, was mentioned in connection with James Graham (52), ship's fireman, in *The West Australian* 6 August 1938 as a result of an appearance in Fremantle Court charged with theft. Up to that point, Tully did not have a criminal record.

The two men stole seven lengths of belting, an endless chain, an emery wheel and a hammer belonging to the Fremantle Road and Pavement Company, stored at the nearby smelter in South Fremantle, sometime between the dates of 30 July and 3 August. They appeared before the court on the 5 August, where the goods were valued at £20, with Graham charged with stealing an additional four lengths of belting (£4). Detective J. Johnson explained that the belting had been cut directly from machinery and the lock broken on the storeroom to steal the other items, and then sold to a second hand dealer, 'under fictitious names'⁸³⁵ where the items were later recovered by police. When arrested, Tully admitted the theft but stated the storeroom had not been locked. Graham deferred blame to Tully.

Tully told Magistrate Craig 'that he had been jumping trains for some time past looking for work in the country.' He only held 5/ when arrested. The bench sentenced both men to three months in Fremantle Prison.⁸³⁶

⁸³³ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Wednesday 18 May, 1949, page 10

⁸³⁴ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1938. (Half year ending 30 June) page 419a. Trinidad Robert @Emmanuel 419a Oct 12. Stealing. Bound over, 6 mths and to pay costs. Released on bond 29th ult. 8911/38
1955. There is a Bernard Ivor Trinidad MDL page 159. also guilty stealing and receiving p434, see also pp 414, 432 and 434

⁸³⁵ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Saturday 6 August 1938, page 9

⁸³⁶ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1838. August 17, p346. 'William Charles Tully, @ J. Smith, at Fremantle on 3rd inst., by P.C. Harper, on the information of Det.-Sgt. Parker and Det. Johnston, charged by Det. Johnston; and James Graham @ John Hunter, at Fremantle, on 3rd inst., by Det.-Sgt. Parker and Det. Johnston; stealing. 3 months hl each, 5th inst.- 7049/38'

Turner, Archibald
Robb Jetty 1903
drover, stockman, labourer

Archibald Turner was a drover and labourer working on the construction of the Meat Freezing Works at Copley's Siding and camping at Robb Jetty when he was an unfortunate witness to the magazine explosion that killed caretaker Thomas Whelan. See separate entry regarding Whelan under Francis Duff.

'Archibald Turner, a stockman, said he lived at the stockyard at Robb's Jetty, with a man named Frank Duff.'⁸³⁷

Archibald Turner has not been fully researched.⁸³⁸

Vaggs, 'Deafy'
Smelters Camp c1952
wanderer

William Herdigan recalls that Deafy Vaggs was known as a 'wanderer' – people who would come and go as they pleased among several of the camps. Deafy Vaggs, who kept to himself, had, as the name suggests, a hearing disability. He apparently came from a well-off family, 'but was a bit of a reject'. As easily as he arrived, he would leave, with a hessian bag slung over his shoulder.

There appears mention of a Vagg family in the Cockburn region, possibly descended from Private Edward Vagg, pensioner guard, born about 1821 in Islington, London, who married Curedale and died 24 November 1896 in Fremantle. Jack Bavich remembered the Vagg family assuming ownership of a property beyond the Medlin family moving south along the track that is now Rockingham Road, 'taken over later by Nick and Rosie Milos, where the Shopping Centre is now,' in about 1929.⁸³⁹ Further tracking of this family would be necessary to identify 'Deafy'.⁸⁴⁰

⁸³⁷ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Saturday 18 July, page 7 and Monday, 20 July 1903, page 5

⁸³⁸ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police. Several Archibald Turners appear, unconfirmed. 1909. Photograph Archibald Turner, native of England, a miner aged about 25 years, but looks older. 1930. An Archie Roy Turner mentioned, born 1908 with a description and photograph, page 101

⁸³⁹ Jack Bavich Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/10, 1996

⁸⁴⁰ <https://www.ancestry.com.au/family-tree/tree/27357732/family/familyview?cfpid=2045542755&fpid=12118667351&usePUBJs=true> Vagg/Hall family tree constructed by Janel Hall on Ancestry.com, Accessed April 2024 (Requires subscription). Pte Vagg was given land in Cockburn after serving as a pensioner guard '5/1885, 15 DG Willagee Swamp'. Listed in Research Notes Index 651-759, SLWA.

A number of Vaggs appear in the electoral rolls of the South Fremantle area in 1959,⁸⁴¹ beyond the life span of the camp, with James Aubrey, a driver living in Silver Street, and again in 1963 at Silver Street as a labourer.⁸⁴²

Deafy Vaggs has not been fully researched.⁸⁴³

‘..in the 1950s the down-and-outers from the Smelters Camp or Beverly Hills were admitted at Christmas for a few days’ respite from their hard lives. The holiday season was a time when there were spare beds at the hospital and the unhappy campers came in for a clean bed, Christmas dinner and some TLC...’ Ron Davidson⁸⁴⁴

Vasseur, Amelia
AKA ‘Mignonne’ AKA Adele de Montigny
Camp near Smelting Works 1903

-

Amelia Vasseur AKA Mignonne, AKA Adele de Montigny, died as she lived, among violent men. At least two events - an indirect association with the murder and dismembering of an unknown man whose bones were found in a mine shaft; and the suicide of Ernest Salvator in Mt Magnet, which was suspected as a murder committed by the bludger Peter Fontain, set up the ominous portent of her demise.

Vasseur was interviewed at her hut at the Smelters Camp in early June 1903; but her intermittent occupancy of the camp may have begun earlier in 1901, when a number of fowls were allegedly stolen from her by neighbour Philip Hyland. Philip Hyland was

⁸⁴¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁸⁴² Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: Lists an Aubrey Vagg on two occasions: 1955. (Year ended 31 Dec) has a photograph of a James Aubrey Vagg, page 293
1959. For failure to support and unlawfully being on premises, for which he served 6 months between 6 April - 21 August 1959, but the identity of the hearing impaired man known as ‘Deafy Vaggs’ or ‘Vagg’ has not yet been established.

⁸⁴³ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁸⁴⁴ Davidson, Ron, ‘Fremantle Impressions’, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, North Fremantle, 2007, page 273

the son of John Hyland, a confirmed resident of the camp in 1905. Hyland was dismissed due to insufficient evidence, but he had a track record for petty thieving.⁸⁴⁵

In 1903 she was helping authorities with her knowledge of a much more serious crime - she had seen events and heard information from several sources and shared these to assist Constable Joseph Creeper, then of Geraldton Police, but who was later a Sergeant at North Fremantle.⁸⁴⁶

The temptress Vasseur, also known professionally as Mignonne or Mignon, was providing information about Peter Fontain's connection to a notorious Mount Magnet murder - where dismembered human bones were found down a mine shaft. Papers for the prosecution against Peter Fontain state that after the gruesome incident in Mount Magnet, Fontain had written a letter to Vasseur saying that he had given the two male witnesses to the crime cash to 'clear out of the State'. Subsequently one man, 'the Belgian,' escaped but the other man was regretful and serving as a witness for the police. She claimed this letter was still in her possession.

'Mignon(ne) further confessed that Fontain had murdered a camel drover... The man was shot inside the brothel and afterwards removed by Fontain to the closet where he was placed in a position while the body was warm and a revolver placed either in his hands or alongside him in a position indicating suicide.' Suicide was the focus of Fontain's story to the police, after he had pocketed £100 from him. The 'suicide' victim was Ernest Salvator.

Vasseur had subsequently travelled from Mount Magnet to Suffolk Street, Fremantle, arriving at midnight on January 12. Constable Joseph Creeper (Policeman no. 539) continues to write by hand in 1902, 'this woman is in terror and I believe that if taken carefully both would give evidence...' The word 'both' refers to Vasseur, and Fontain's wife, known professionally as 'Sweet Marie'. Creeper believed that Peter Fontain was responsible for more than one murder in Western Australia. Colleague, Detective Condon later disputes some of these statements, denying the existence of Mignon's letter and the amounts paid to witnesses.

But in 1902, Creeper was very focussed upon his pursuit of information, and Vasseur claimed,

'That Marie Fontain alias Sweet Marie, French prostitute and wife of Peter Fontain, a well known trench bludger, had told her that she was frightened that her husband Peter Fontain would some day murder her as he had done to a man at Mount Magnet years ago. She, Marie Fontain, then described the murder stating that the man had been first hit over the head and when found to be seriously injured had

⁸⁴⁵ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA), Friday 21 June 1901, page 2; Thomas, The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 6 February 1896, page 3; The Northam Advertiser (WA), Saturday 17 August 1907, page 3; The Northam Advertiser (WA), Wednesday 29 June 1904, page 3

⁸⁴⁶ State Records Office of Western Australia; Western Australian Police Department; Crown Law – remains found, Mount Magnet; Reference: AU WA S76 - cons430 1902/5032; Menzies Miner (WA), Saturday 7 October 1899, page 16; Menzies Miner (WA), Saturday 7 October 1899, page 4; (with additional thanks to Jessica Barrett and The Dusty Box website, <https://thedustybox.com>)

been murdered and his body cut up and distributed in the old shafts in the neighbourhood,' including the shaft of the 'Rose Pearl' mine, and that if provided police protection she could tell them of three other murders. But Sweet Marie denied that she said these things to Vasseur, the following year, in 1903.

In another letter in the police file, Det. Condon (38) states 'I will keep an eye on Sweet Marie for I am told that she is in the habit of talking a good deal when in liquor and she has become very much addicted to Vermouth lately. Fontan knows well that he is suspected of this murder - and laughs at the idea.'

A Woman of Low Character

'Frenchwoman' Vasseur later appeared in Boulder Police Court in October 1903 to answer the charges of occupying a premises and conducting business for an 'unlawful purpose' - a polite description for prostitution. Whilst much discussion concerned the illegal, not contracted blind agreement pertaining to the home she occupied and claimed was hers; the focus was actually Vasseur using the real estate agreement to avoid being removed from the property. Her lawyer Mr. Jones noted the court's preference she pack up and move on from the town, and this was reiterated by the captain of the barracks of the nearby Salvation Army, who was annoyed by 'women of the kind' in the neighbourhood.⁸⁴⁷

The Castagnan Murder

The good residents of Richardson Street must have thanked their lucky stars when a fight between 28-year-old Italian, Guiseppe Piazzola and Louis Castagnan broke out in Amelia Vasseur's new Brookman Street house of ill-fame one month later, on 6 November 1903. Coming to blows and struggling for possession of an axe, Piazzola drew a knife and stabbed Castagnan seven times, yet no one saw the fatal blow. There was no clear evidence linking the Italian to the crime, or if so, whether it was self defense. There were also initial court and attending police concerns that witnesses Vasseur and another French woman named Marie Josef Pauline Guelet were concealing evidence. Guelet had arrived with Castagnan from France and travelled to Kalgoorlie at the end of October. There were several witnesses from the street, who saw a scuffle and the flourishing of a knife, but could recount very little detail. Castagnan, an ex-convict, died from 'heart failure due to the wounds on the chest.' It was eventually revealed that 22-year old Guelet, formerly a waitress in Lyons, had been brought to the brothel by Castagnan, coerced to work for him, and Vasseur and Piazzola attempted to procure her for their own economic devices. When Castagnan realised the plan, he objected and was done in. The jury returned a

⁸⁴⁷ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Thursday 29 October 1903, page 4; The Evening Star (Boulder, WA), Wednesday 28 October 1903, page 3; Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 3 November 1903, page 16

verdict of manslaughter, and Piazzola was taken to the lock-up.⁸⁴⁸

Meanwhile, the xenophobia harboured amongst some residents was inflamed,

‘National policy of Australia for the Australians gets a fine advertisement from the Kalgoorlie tragedy. Consider the principals, Louis Castagnan, Guiseppi Piazzola, Marie Joseph Pauline Guelet, and Amelia Vasseur. Also the three outsiders, a French youth, a fruit hawker and Michael O’Dea!’ ..actually ignoring the fact that there were also Anglo Saxon witnesses.⁸⁴⁹

Mademoiselle Mignonne

Vasseur was brought before court in February to answer the charge of keeping a ‘disorderly house’, in relation to the Castagnan murder case. Counsel assured the bench that Vasseur would leave town. Vasseur AKA ‘Mignonne’ was named by prosecution as ‘undoubtedly one of the worst characters in the state,’ and her involvement in Guillet’s trafficking noted:

‘She had... been fined for her disorderly conduct during her residence in Fremantle. She had a fat banking account, and there was reason to believe that she had been instrumental in importing from France the young woman Marie Pauline Guillet, whose acquaintance with Louis Castagnan led up to the murder of the bludger by the Italian Piazzola, now in Fremantle Gaol.’

Vasseur’s continued residence in the town was tolerated during the course of the trial, and while it was reported in October that she had left, when she simply moved next door following the trial and then began plying her trade outside on the street. All tolerance from the authorities, and polite restraint from the reporter, was lost.

‘She is a known brandy fiend, a dirty vicious - tempered harlot when soddened with her favorite spirits, and has figured in numerous rows since re-opening business in the Run. On one occasion she caused a free fight among Dagos (for whom she evidences an extra-extraordinary passion) in a hotel in Hannan-street.’⁸⁵⁰

A Fire in France

‘BLAZES IN BOULEVARDE BROOKMAN. MDLLE. MIGNONNE’S MAISON GUTTED’.

⁸⁴⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 25 November 1903, page 7; The Observer (Adelaide, SA), Saturday 28 November 1903, page 36; Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 24 November 1903, page 18; Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 17 November 1903, page 28; Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 1 December 1903, page 13; The Sun (Kalgoorlie, WA), Sunday 8 November 1903, page 1; The Evening Star (Boulder, WA), Saturday 7 November 1903, page 3.

See also Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1903. (Year ending 31 December). ‘Inquests. Kalgoorlie.-On the 12th inst., at the Court House, before P. Whelan, J.P., Acting Coroner, on the body of Louis Castagnan, who was killed by a stab inflicted by Guiseppi Piozzola, at Kalgoorlie, on the 6th inst. Verdict-“Death by stabbing.” - B2/5626, pp 47 and 55

⁸⁴⁹ Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 21 November 1903, page 1

⁸⁵⁰ The Sun (Kalgoorlie, WA), Sunday 14 February 1904, page 1; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA), Friday 30 October 1903, page 4

On the evening of Wednesday 6 April 1904, flames behind the shutters of the Brookman Street brothel were sighted; Vasseur had earlier been taken to hospital 'suffering from paralysis.'

'The fire must have been smouldering for some time prior to its actual discovery at about 7.45 p.m. by some passers by, one of whom 'phoned the alarm to the Fire Station, and promptly the female French occupants of the neighbouring houses of ill-fame became excited almost to the verge of hysterics...'

The Sun took great delight in describing the street's (as many brothels lined its length) 'soiled doves' taking shelter on the street in the darkness, when electric lights had failed, with chattels of furniture and household goods. Some of the ladies were infamous in the town, and seeing them lined up all together sent the reporter into a dizzy fit.

'It was well on to 9 o'clock before the brazen minxes domiciled next to Mignonne's [Vasseur's] house, which was completely gutted, made a start to remove their effects inside again and Resume Business. Mignonne lost all her furniture and personal belongings, the others suffered nothing.'

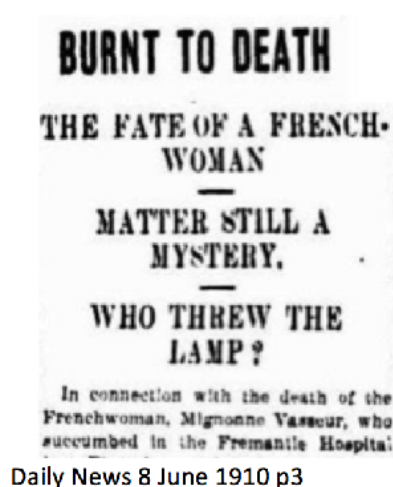
The unpopularity of the women plying their trade in the street set the reporter's glib tone, who, despite the human impact of the dangerous event, continued, 'Upon the real owner of the premises, and all other such houses that may meet with a like fate, no atom of sympathy for monetary loss sustained need be wasted,' and did not question any origin or possible motivation for the fire.⁸⁵¹

Who Threw the Lamp?

Superstition would call the fire an omen, as Vasseur would soon meet her end.

'Mignonne Vasseur... succumbed in the Fremantle Hospital last Thursday to injuries caused by burning, the Fremantle police are yet unable to elucidate the causes of her death, although they have some pretty strong clues. They are satisfied to this extent that the deceased's clothing was set on fire by the explosion of a lamp, and that the lamp was thrown by a late male visitor to the home of Vasseur.'⁸⁵²

Vasseur had moved, and was living in a house of ill-repute in Norfolk Street, Fremantle. Via the court case following her death, an additional alias for Vasseur - 'Adele D'Montigney' is revealed. This is the name by which she kept her Savings Bank, when fish hawker Scurri Alessandro withdrew money and pawned jewellery and a clock. The pawnbroker



⁸⁵¹ The Sun (Kalgoorlie, WA), Sunday 10 April 1904, page 9

⁸⁵² Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 1 June 1910, page 3

recognised him and the items, and was a witness for the prosecution.⁸⁵³

Alessandro was described as, 'a handsome young Frenchman, being but 19 years of age, and has the olive complexion and the dark brown eyes of the inhabitant of Southern Europe. A slight stoop and a careless gait greatly detract from his otherwise smart and goodly appearance.'

Constable Richardson also identified the young man, he had been surveilling the brothels as a plain-clothed officer and had ascertained that Alessandro was a bludger with no means of support.

Questioned around his movements the previous days and evening – Alessandro claimed to have been at the Norfolk Street house between 3 and 4 o'clock on the 30 May, but did not return until 10pm in the evening.

That evening, neighbour Mrs. Collins sighted a young man not being able to enter the locked front door of the home, and as he went to the rear to enter, she heard a woman's screams; Alessandro then broke down the back door, discovered Vasseur with her skirts smouldering, tipped a bucket of water on her and ran to Mrs. Collin's house; he was urged to seek a doctor.

But apparently the youth made a detour. Sergeant Smythe, via an interpreter, asked Alessandro why he had gone to the wine shop instead of the doctors after he found Vasseur, and concluded,

'If you find him guilty, I hope you make an example of him. He had been living on the woman for months, and yet the callous wretch left the woman burning to death, while he repaired to a wine shop.'

Vasseur was taken to hospital suffering shock, with severe burns on the lower half of her body and legs. She was weak and confused, and could not offer any clues, except that an Englishman, not a Frenchman, had thrown the lamp. She died the following day.

Alessandro was not charged with murder, only for living on the proceeds of Vasseur. He shouted (presumably in French), 'They are all liars!' as he was taken from the witness box to serve three months in Fremantle Prison. The identity of Vasseur's murderer was never solved.⁸⁵⁴

⁸⁵³ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 13 June 1910, page 4; Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 8 June 1910, page 3; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 9 June 1910, page 6; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 9 June 1910, page 6; Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 1 June 1910, page 3

⁸⁵⁴ Vasseur's Will reads 'MONTIGNY, Adele de - also known as Mignon Vasseur - Fremantle. Probate No. 161/10 Supreme Court of Western Australia.' Her probate does not exceed £200. She died on the 2nd day of June 1910 and the order to collect the estate by the curator of Intestate Estates was made on 28 July 1910, consisting of 'money in bank, cash and jewellery,' stating that 'It is advantageous to sell to pay funeral expenses.' Affidavit by Gervase Clifton (Curator of Intestate Estates) signed 28 July 1910. State Records Office AU WA S2323-cons5790 1910/161

Wallis, Ernest Edward
Smelters Camp 1943
labourer

Ernest Wallis was listed on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1943 as a labourer living at the Smelters Camp. Ernest Wallis has not been fully researched.⁸⁵⁵

Walsh, P and family
Near the Smelting Works 1906
-

An article in *The West Australian* in May 1906 describes the destruction by fire of a seven-room galvanised iron home near the Fremantle Smelters, occupied by Mrs. P. Walsh and family. Luckily the family were not at home on the Saturday evening at the time of the fire. A more substantial structure than others at the camp, the Fremantle Fire Brigade was unable to save it due to low water pressure, but it was insured, with a policy by owner Mr. J. W. Thompson on the building to £250 and Mrs Walsh's furniture to £50.⁸⁵⁶ P. Walsh and family have not been fully researched.

'At Robb's Jetty a nine-pounder schnapper and a couple of dozen large garfish fell to the rod of Chris Johnson, who also hooked a big shark, which straightened the hook after a ten minutes' fight, and silently stole away.'⁸⁵⁷

Walton, Andrew Joseph
c1908 -
Smelter's Camp 1954
labourer

Magistrate Mr K. J. Dougall was losing patience with the residents of the Smelter's Camp appearing before him in Fremantle Police Court in 1954, warning Andrew Walter (46), a labourer, and Andrew McCallum, an invalid pensioner, "Things are getting serious. Any more assaults from Smelter's Camp dealt with here will be treated severely." Each received a 6-month personal bond of £20 to ensure good behaviour, after admitting assaulting each other.⁸⁵⁸

⁸⁵⁵ A listing of an Ernest J. Wallis was found in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1930, with a photograph, and the same man reported having lost his Rolex watch at the beach in the same year, but there is no proof this is an alias.

⁸⁵⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 21 May 1906, page 4
The Pilbara Goldfields News (Marble Bar, WA), Saturday 26 May 1906, page 3

⁸⁵⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 10 February 1912, page 14

⁸⁵⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 4 September 1954, page 11

Walton appeared before the court again for punching Elizabeth Bryce, a resident of the Smelters Camp, over the right eye. The assault occurred only seven days after the earlier warning from Magistrate Mr K. J. Dougall. He received one month's imprisonment.⁸⁵⁹

Two months later, almost to the day, on 3 November 1954, Andrew Walton was gaoled for one month for disorderly conduct in Russell Square, along with Amelia Stewart (35), a domestic and fellow Smelters Camp resident who was gaoled for 21 days.⁸⁶⁰

Later Western Australian Police Gazette entries show Walton charged with supplying liquor and serving three months in July 1958, and various charges of begging alms, being idle, and disorderly drunkenness in 1959. The Gazette describes him as medium build, 5'8", 'brown eyes, black hair and dark complexion (part native) labourer of (N.P.R.) - no permanent residence.'⁸⁶¹

Andrew Walton has not been fully researched.

Wandi
Smelters' Camp (Late 1800s)
boxer, stockman

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language relating to race

Wandi was an Aboriginal welter-weight boxer, a log-chopper, stockman and much-loved identity in the Fremantle area, who worked for local families the Atkinsons, who co-owned Anchorage Butchers and ran racehorses, and later the Dixon family. Wandi was employed to drive the northwestern cattle arriving by sea from Robb Jetty to the abattoir holding paddocks, and also drove sheep in the Cockburn Sound area. He was one of the earliest recorded residents of the Smelters Camp, and also lived with the Atkinsons in their racing stables and a custom built hut at Anchorage. He had an enduring friendship with 'Black Paddy,' another famous boxer whom he fought in competition, and entertaining exhibition matches for over 20 years, and was the first 'cobber' to greet him when a charity effort brought Black Paddy home

⁸⁵⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 23 September 1954, page 14

⁸⁶⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 3 November 1954, page 20

⁸⁶¹ Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1958. 30 July, p307. 23117 Walton, Andrew Joseph, Supplying Liquor. 11/148 Date of Group Photo: Nov., 1948. Sentence: 3 months. Date of sentence 19/5/58 Where committed: Perth. Date of discharge: 27/7/58

1959. Police Gazette photo supplement. beg 6, disorderly 184, idle page 317, at Freo 6/12/58 by PCCs Scott and Segal, begging alms, 6 mths 18/12/58 // page 184 23117 Idle and disorderly drunk. Date group photo Nov 1948 6 mths. 18/12/58 Freo 3/5/59 at Perth. Idle and disorderly 3 mths (59/11708)

after his Eastern States boxing commitments came to an end and he was languishing on Palm Island.⁸⁶²

In his athletic career, Wandi was a cheeky showman in exhibition matches, and a fighter ranging from average to inspired in competition, with Wandi's fight against an opponent named the 'Robb's Jetty Man-Eater' proving a spectacle - 'At the end of less than five minutes the aboriginal sprang into the air with a howl of delight. In the process of wading into the 'man-eater' the smoke-colored gladiator managed to hit the other fellow on the chin and it was a limp pug they dolefully carried from the 'magic square.'⁸⁶³

Wandi's employer George Atkinson, received a rap over the knuckles in 1916 for employing without a permit, 'an aboriginal native of Australia without the permission of the Protector of Aborigines.' George Atkinson's grandson, also called George, was born in Fremantle in 1951⁸⁶⁴ and remembered this charge, calling it a 'little misdemeanour'.

'..because in those days Aborigines had to be registered with people if they worked for those people, so there was a court proceeding where Wandi was taken to court because he hadn't been properly registered as an Aboriginal worker and my grandfather was fined but Wandi in the court refused to say anything.'⁸⁶⁵

Apart from a few alcohol⁸⁶⁶ and betting infringements, Wandi was a hard worker in the community for over 35 years.⁸⁶⁷

William Herdigan, who lived in the camp in 1952, recalled a story of Wandi and his good friend 'Collie' Paddy, which shows the sense of humour the men shared. When they would meet up in town, the plan Wandi always suggested was, 'I'll meet you

⁸⁶² R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, 'Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions' (1985); Permit, Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 8 September 1916, page 8; Palm Island, Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 26 Feb 1924, page 8; Westralian Worker (Perth, WA), Friday 29 February 1924, page 16

⁸⁶³ Cheeky, WA Sportsman (Perth, WA), Friday 26 March 1915, page 2; Average, Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 12 September 1917, page 6; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 7 January 1912, page 19; Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 16 September 1916, page 5

⁸⁶⁴ Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

⁸⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶⁶ Atkinson: 'Also later on, it was illegal for Aborigines to drink alcohol. I mean, in those days, everyone drank alcohol so I can't see why Aborigines couldn't do it, but he was caught a few times drinking and there was always a Western person that was fined in the court for providing him with alcohol.' Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

⁸⁶⁷ Two up, Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 17 July 1925, page 6

Friday at the town hall. If I get there first, I'll leave a stone (*as a sign he was there*) – if you get there first, you take it away.’⁸⁶⁸

Patrick Hume was not aware of Wandi's origins, but believed he had come down from up north, and became a stockman at Anchorage abattoirs.⁸⁶⁹ Ray Lees believed that Wandi came down from Wyndham, assisted by the Dixon family.⁸⁷⁰ Annie Baker, whose family ran the Clontarf Dairy, concurs in her oral history recording, 'Wandi was the one who was brought up by either Tosser Dixon or Coley Dixon from a boy...'⁸⁷¹ According to his death registration his year of birth would have been about 1879.⁸⁷² From Atkinson's own research, since he was a very young child when Wandi arrived, he determined that Wandi may have worked for his grandfather George Atkinson since 1896, at about 16 or 17 years age, 'at Anchorage Butchers with the the cattle... the sheep as well, and the racehorses.'⁸⁷³ This age roughly aligns with other papers.⁸⁷⁴

'Wandi actually lived with my grandfather in the racing quarters of the house and the property that they had was quite large and at some stage my grandfather had about 46 racehorses which is enormous by any time date. Wandi would ride these racehorses and he would also be responsible for managing the stock that came down from the ships from the north-west and berthed at Robb's Jetty and I've got a feeling that they just pushed them off the side of the ship into the water and they swam ashore and Wandi would have to take these cattle and put them in the holding yards. It wasn't only Wandi; there were probably other stockmen as well, but he was a great stock person and he was well loved by everyone.'⁸⁷⁵ Bryan Atkinson

⁸⁶⁸ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁸⁶⁹ See also an oral history by Patrick Hume, interviewed by Leonie Stella at Murdoch University, 2001. Held by Cockburn Libraries (306.089915) https://cockburnlibrary.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/BIBENQ/79339520/12172920_1 Accessed April 2024

⁸⁷⁰ 'Wandi, he was a town boy when he came down from Wyndham...' Mayor Ray Lees Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/6, 1996 (reference at about 02:55:40); this is confirmed at Moore River Native Settlement burial register, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Western Australian Government https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/docs/default-source/aboriginal-history/moore-river-native-settlement-burial-register.xls?sfvrsn=3fba1c70_1 Accessed April 2024

⁸⁷¹ Annie Baker (née Davenport) Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/9, Tape 2, side 1

⁸⁷² BDMWA registration no. 15, stating Wandi was 76 years of age at death

⁸⁷³ Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

⁸⁷⁴ Moore River Native Settlement burial register, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Western Australian Government https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/docs/default-source/aboriginal-history/moore-river-native-settlement-burial-register.xls?sfvrsn=3fba1c70_1 Accessed April 2024

⁸⁷⁵ Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

Wandi lived with the Atkinsons, but frequented the camps in the area and later lived in a brick hut built by Anchorage on their grounds, which had his name 'in brickwork letters' above the door.⁸⁷⁶ Annie Baker remembered it as 'a little one room place on the property just near the slaughter yard,' and eating meals at the Dixons with another stockman, Ned Brown.⁸⁷⁷ Bryan Atkinson remembers as a four year old, he and his brothers 'knew Wandi' and 'he came to our house for breakfast and he was well received into the house and we all loved him...'⁸⁷⁸ Ray Lees also remembered him as, 'a very pleasant person' and 'a very nice fella.'⁸⁷⁹

But professionally, by all accounts, Wandi was a formidable stockman.

'Wayne, my second born [brother], he said that these cattle did have long horns... and they were quite brutal to look at and to manage and it took an expert stockman, and Wandi himself sat on his horse with his huge stock whip and was able to control these cattle....'⁸⁸⁰

Sometimes some of the cattle would be quarantined for ticks or diseases, but most were destined for 'quick kill.'⁸⁸¹ Stray wild bulls who escaped onto the reserve in the chaos of moving them were often a problem, and another of Wandi's tasks. He would warn the children to stay clear of the reserve. For Doreen Brown (née de San Miguel), who lived behind the paddocks that extended from Douro Road to Robb Jetty, they relied upon these warnings from Wandi before cutting through the scrub.

'Now again you'd hear Wandi turn around, he'd come up and say, 'Freddy, don't you boys go swimming today, there's a wild one over there in the bushes. And that pine tree was thick, you couldn't crawl... it was very, very thick. And he'd [the bull would] get in there, he might be in there for two days... Turner would come down and Paddy would come down and Wandi would come down, until they found him, and they'd shoot him. And then Wandi would come up and say, 'Freddy, already dead, him.'⁸⁸²

She also remembered Wandi keeping them safe in other ways.

'..when I was about 10, Eileen and I went down to the beach one morning, very early in the morning, about 9 o'clock, and we were just going to go in to swim. And we heard all this shouting and there's old Wandi the black fella racing down on his horse

⁸⁷⁶ Mayor Ray Lees Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/6, 1996 (Timecode ref 02:55:40)

⁸⁷⁷ Annie Baker (née Davenport) Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/9, Tape 2, side 1

⁸⁷⁸ Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

⁸⁷⁹ Mayor Ray Lees Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/6, 1996 (Timecode ref 02:55:40)

⁸⁸⁰ Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

⁸⁸¹ Ibid. For more on the slaughter yards history see this oral history from Bryan Atkinson, and Annie Baker's oral history

⁸⁸² Albert Powell/Doreen Brown SLWA: OH2825/1, 1995, Tape 1, side 2. Also available at: <https://history.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Archive/Audio/Cockburn-Pioneer-Oral-Histories> Accessed April 2024

and stopping us. And there was about 14 sharks - there was a terrible lot of sharks out there, in Coogee at the time, and we were just about to go in, and they were only about 100 feet out...'⁸⁸³

Brian Atkinson, whose family co-owned Anchorage, helps step out Wandi's later life timeline based around his grandfather's death in 1938, 'From 1938 till his death in '55, is a bit of a mystery.' At that time the family property was only occupied by the last of the family, 'young girls that needed to be looked after by an elder sister until they were old enough to inherit' their share. At this stage, he feels that Wandi was still working for Anchorage but 'drifted off' and 'became attached' to the Dixon family and took their surname.⁸⁸⁴

Ray Lees explained that he only knew Wandi in his later years.

'You'd get on a bus, the Spearwood buses to go into Fremantle and Wandi was on the bus and everyone would call him Uncle Tyrell. That was his name, he went under the name of Cyril Dixon... because the Dixon family actually helped to bring him down and look after him. But all the kids used to get on and they'd call him Uncle Tyrell, because he couldn't say Cyril, he'd say Tyrell...'⁸⁸⁵

Annie Baker states that Wandi died in the Woollaroo Hospital.⁸⁸⁶

Wandi, who took the surname Dixon after his employer, died in 1955, aged 76. He was buried at Moore River, but is well-remembered throughout the Fremantle region.⁸⁸⁷

(See also separate entry for Black 'Collie' Paddy, as he and Wandi were firm friends).

Warmdean, Joyce Meatworks Camp 1933

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This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not

⁸⁸³ Albert Powell/Doreen Brown SLWA: OH2825/1, 1995, Tape 2, side 1

⁸⁸⁴ Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024

⁸⁸⁵ Mayor Ray Lees Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/6, 1996

⁸⁸⁶ Annie Baker (née Davenport) Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/9, 1996, Tape 2, side 1

⁸⁸⁷ BDMWA registration no. 15; Moore River Native Settlement burial register, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Western Australian Government https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/docs/default-source/aboriginal-history/moore-river-native-settlement-burial-register.xls?sfvrsn=3fba1c70_1 Accessed April 2024. Wandi died at 76 years of age 6 October 1955 and was buried at Moore River, grave 12A

been fully researched, however in this file it states that she is the sister of Edgar Kalyan, listed earlier in this report.⁸⁸⁸

**Watson, Roderick
Smelters' Camp 1943**

-

Roderick Watson appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1943, and whilst missing on the next roll in 1949, longer residence at the Smelters Camp is possible. There is a death listing for Roderick Watson, a male of unknown age, in Fremantle in 1944.⁸⁸⁹ Watson does not have an occupation listed and has not been fully researched.

**Wellington, Herbert Leslie
c1882 - 1925
Near SF Smelting Works 1922-1925
war veteran**

This entry contains disturbing content

Herbert Wellington lived at the Smelters Camp between 1922 and 1925. In September 1925 at 3.30 pm, a fisherman found a deceased man on a camp bed in a tent near the South Fremantle Smelting Works. The police pieced together the jigsaw of Wellington's identity, finding in his clothing three medals, one bearing the inscription, 'H. L. Wellington. Number 725, 28th Battalion, A.I.F.' According to information from another pensioner in the camp, Wellington had been living there the past three years, 'and suffered from shortness of breath due to his having been gassed at the war.'⁸⁹⁰

Whilst echoing the stories of so many returned veterans from the Great War, Wellington's demise was particularly tragic when his whole history is known.

Herbert Wellington enlisted at Boulder, Western Australia on 11 March 1915. It was the same day Britain announced a blockade of German ports but the ANZACs had not yet landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula.⁸⁹¹ Wellington was single, just over 33 years of age, compact at 5'4" with a 34 1/2 cm chest, a dark complexion with grey eyes and dark hair, and a scar on his left palm. He had excellent teeth. He declared himself Church of England and a miner; his mother Elizabeth was his next of kin, living in Beaconsfield, Tasmania. He was born in Moonta, South Australia.

⁸⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁸⁹ BDMWA registration no. 177

⁸⁹⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 16 September 1925, page 8; BDM WA Registration no. 257

⁸⁹¹ <https://www.firstworldwar.com/timeline/1915.htm> Accessed April 2024

Initially a Private in D Company of the 28th Battalion (7th Brigade), he trained at Blackboy Hill at the base of the Darling Ranges, Western Australia, and embarked from Australia onboard the HMAT 'Ascanius', 9 June 1915. Within six months he was marked to be promoted to Corporal. But he was often ill, being admitted to hospital in Malta, straight from the hospital ship Dunluce Castle in August 1915, with enteritis. In August 1916 his influenza was so serious he was embarked from Rouen, France for admittance to London General Hospital, and again in June 1917, he was returned to England with tuberculosis. Just before Christmas he was accidentally wounded in a training accident by a grenade, barely recovering before contracting trench fever. In a slight black mark to his record, he was deemed AWOL on 21 August 1918 but then rejoined his company.

And then in February 1919, Wellington walked into a peaceful, wooded area near the A.I.F. Depot in Fovant-Hurdcott, and cut his own throat. A lightly penciled note in his file dated 14 March 1919 reads, 'I do not know what happened or how it was done until I found myself in the Fovant Hospital.' He signed the note. The self-inflicted laceration of his trachea was documented sombrely. The signing officer places the blame squarely on Wellington and recommends disciplinary action as soon as he is well. After the family 'anxiously' requests information by letter, they are advised that he is on his way home aboard HMAT 'Borda', 'as a mental case.'

Papers from the proceedings of the board of enquiry into Wellington's injury include witness accounts of searching for and finding the emaciated Wellington injured in the Compton Park Copse, with a bloodstained razor in his pocket and a piece of paper with his name written on it. When asked by Captain Penruddocke what had happened, he said, 'I am rotting away with syphilis' (sic). The determination of the enquiry was that Wellington's identity should be fully confirmed, and that he undergo a Wasserman test for syphilis as soon as well.

A medical officer's report made on the 28 January 1920 acknowledged suicide attributed to 'melancholia', but that he was 'markedly improved, quiet and sensible. Now apparently recovered. Considered fit for discharge.' This occurred on 28 March 1920.

Wellington was issued with his 1914/15 Star, his Victor medal and British War Medal – the medals later found with his body in a tent among the dunes at the Smelters Camp.⁸⁹²

⁸⁹² NAA: B2455 Barcode 8380628. Herbert Leslie Wellington

Westicott, Maud
1889 - 1965
Smelters Camp 1946-1953
home duties

Maud and William Westicott, who married in 1922,⁸⁹³ are listed in the South Fremantle Electoral Rolls⁸⁹⁴ between 1949 and 1953, but in a 1953 newspaper feature in *The Sunday Times* Maud Westicott was interviewed and states that her and her husband had been residents for seven years.⁸⁹⁵ At the time she was surviving on an invalid pension.⁸⁹⁶

The same newspaper article, part of a self-declared, targeted campaign of *The Sunday Times*⁸⁹⁷ with the objective of having the camp removed, quotes Maud Westicott. She was pragmatic about the living conditions

“‘We’ve GOT to be satisfied with the conditions. We haven’t the money to go elsewhere.” Maud Westicott was described as ‘a half-deaf but still cheerful old lady, showing signs of the suffering she has endured over the past few years’, and notes that she was once the ‘Queen of Coogee.’⁸⁹⁸

The Queen of Coogee

Maud Westicott experienced some of her husband William’s behavioural issues after a separation in 1947, when she sought refuge with Alexander George Winter and his wife in Attfield Street, Fremantle. Describing William Westicott, the article reads,

‘A man dragged his wife out of bed and around the floor by the hair at Fremantle today, abusing her in filthy language.’⁸⁹⁹

William Westicott, then 49 years of age, also threatened Winter and was given a warning by police, which he disobeyed, and was arrested later in a nearby park.

But the ‘Queen of Coogee’ was a reference to Maud’s finest triumph, winning the Coogee horse racing cup twice in a day. In oral histories from Cockburn there are

⁸⁹³ BDMWA registration no. 88, maiden name Maud Tozer

⁸⁹⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁸⁹⁵ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

⁸⁹⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 12 November 1947, page 8

⁸⁹⁷ The Sunday Times campaign: The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 24 October 1954, page 5

⁸⁹⁸ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

⁸⁹⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 9 January 1948, page 5; see also The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 10 January 1948, page 9

multiple references to accomplished horsewoman Maudie Tozer/Towser later Westicott.⁹⁰⁰ Norman Bishop refers to her as 'a real country and western girl', and Wally Hagan says, 'in her early days apparently she could break a horse well as any man.'

The Coogee Cup was held on a course next to the Coogee Hotel and sponsored by them. Jack Bavich remembers one race held when he was 12 or 13, and Maudie Towser was 30 or 40 years of age, 'Maudie Towser is on record as winning the Coogee Cup twice on the oneway. It was claimed she cheated, so the race was run a second time, confirming her mount's superiority.'⁹⁰¹

Albert Powell and Doreen Brown recorded in their oral history, 'Maudie Towser won the Coogee cup twice on one Saturday afternoon. She turned around and run a race, a jockey reckoned she cheated so she turned around and she said, 'Well, we'll run it again.' So they all got ready to start the race. And she turned around and give them a bit of a start and she won the race. She won the cup twice in one Saturday afternoon.'⁹⁰²

Ray Lees recalls, 'There was Maudie Westicott... Maud was a well-known woman of the town, around South Beach, always see her in a horse and cart, carting a bit of wood around the place.' Wallace Hagan remembers that later in life Maudie made her living using a horse and cart selling blackboy chips for firelighters and resin for a shilling a bran bag. 'The resin was used for French polishing and the chips were in demand as firelighters because the resin was highly flammable.'⁹⁰³

Maud Westicott died in 1965, aged 76.⁹⁰⁴

Derby Westicott

Whilst not a resident of the camp, Derby also lived rough and is remembered in relation to Maud. Often referred to as Maudie's brother, it appears Derby (real name David) may have been her brother in law, not her brother as sometimes believed.⁹⁰⁵

⁹⁰⁰ Including in Albert Powell and Doreen Brown's Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/1, 1996; Thelma Bertucci (nee Bishop) and Norman Bishop Oral History, SLWA: OH2825, 1996; Mayor Ray Lees Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/6, 1996; Wallace Leslie Hagan Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/3, 1996

⁹⁰¹ Jack Bavich Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/10, 1996

⁹⁰² Albert Powell and Doreen Brown's Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/1, 1996

⁹⁰³ Mayor Ray Lees Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/6, 1996; Wallace Leslie Hagan Oral History, SLWA: OH2825/3, 1996, Tape 2, side 2.

Bryan Atkinson oral history, by Denise Cook, 30 October 2012. <https://soundcloud.com/cockburnlibraries/bryan-atkinson-oral-history-30-oct-2012> Accessed April 2024, mentions a possible Atkinson connection, a man named Tozer who was also a very good horseman. 'Well, at a later stage of his life in '38, it was a bloke called Tozer who married one of George Atkinson's daughters; Jean, I think it was Jean that he married.'

⁹⁰⁴ BDMWA, registration no. 3918

⁹⁰⁵ Hagan mistakenly believes Derby was Towser's sister, but she was possibly his sister in law

There are multiple references to a Derby Westicott, living near Watson's, who was disabled and related to Maudie.⁹⁰⁶

Hagan remembers him as an intelligent man,⁹⁰⁷ and that he lived opposite the office entrance of Watson's in Spearwood 'in a little old flat roofed tin place' there. A relative, perhaps his mother's brother, Ted Dyer lived there too. Westicott's legs didn't work and he would move about on his hands. The Triplett boys would keep an eye on him and supply him with offal and meat that they'd get from Watson's when fulfilling their contract removing pig manure from Watson's stalls.'

Fred Santich wrote, '...a cripple by the name of Darby Westicott. He had deformed legs. The kids loved to tease him but at times, with his crutch, he made retribution. He loved his liquor.'⁹⁰⁸ *The West Australian* reported Derby's tragic demise,

'ACCIDENT TO CRIPPLE. Struck in Back by Motor Truck. While moving on his knees along a road in Spearwood last night David Westicott (about 30), a cripple, was struck from behind by a motor track and sustained abrasions to the head and feet. The truck was being driven by Horace Dannock, of 48 Fremantle-road, Victoria Park, along Hampton-road, Spearwood. It struck Westicott who was on the left hand side of the road, in the back, throwing him face forward. His feet, dragging behind him. were struck by the front part of the truck. The driver took Westicott to the Fremantle Public Hospital where he was admitted for treatment. His condition was not serious. Westicott usually has the aid of crutches, but near his home he sometimes moves along on his knees. His legs are crippled from the knees downward.'⁹⁰⁹

Fred Santich recalls that, 'One morning on my way to work I saw him lying under a duck and drake tree not far from the Watson's Bacon Factory where I worked. At dinner time he was still alive, but by knock off time the ambulance had taken his body away.'⁹¹⁰

⁹⁰⁶ Wallace Leslie Hagan in his oral history SLWA: OH2825/3, 1996, states that Derby would sometimes crawl along on his hands; Santich refers to Derby's real name being David: Santich, Fred, 'A Battler's Experience', Lamb Printers Pty. Ltd, East Perth, 1986 (There's a poem about him on page 25); Santich again, page 143

⁹⁰⁷ 'FUNERALS. The Late Mrs. Elizabeth Tozer. The funeral of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Tozer; of Russell-road, Coogee, widow of the late Mr. George Tozer, took place in the Roman Catholic portion of the Fremantle Cemetery yesterday afternoon. The Very Rev. Father. J. Neville, O.M.I., officiated at the graveside. The late Mrs. Tozer was born at Toodyay, Western Australia, and had lived in the Fremantle district for the past 60 years. She was of bright and genial disposition, and always ready to deny herself in the interests of others. Mrs. Tozer was a constant exhibitor at the Spearwood, Coogee and Peel Estate Agricultural Shows, and won many first awards. The chief mourners were Mrs. W. Westicott (daughter), Mr. W. Westicott (son-in-law), Nurse E. Baldwin (sister), and Mr. G. Baldwin (nephew)...' *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), Friday 17 August 1934, page 25

⁹⁰⁸ Santich, Fred, 'A Battler's Experience', Lamb Printers Pty. Ltd, East Perth, 1986

⁹⁰⁹ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA), 16 October, 1935, page 17

⁹¹⁰ Santich, Fred, 'A Battler's Experience', Lamb Printers Pty. Ltd, East Perth, 1986

Westicott, William
1898 - 1954
Smelters Camp 1946-1953
labourer

William Westicott was born 13 December 1898 in Fremantle.⁹¹¹

Maud Westicott describes her husband William as 'a war pensioner suffering with a lung complaint.'⁹¹² William Westicott enlisted at Claremont in 1939,⁹¹³ and was discharged 17 December 1940. At the time of discharge he was posted at 5 Garrison Battalion and held the rank of Private.⁹¹⁴ He enlisted again at the close of 1942 as a Driver, and was discharged on 29 September 1944.⁹¹⁵

Five years later, labourer Westicott (49) was living in the Smelters Camp and fighting a court charge of being a 'vagrant', claiming that he was expecting money from an inheritance, despite spending another £264 over a three-month time period from money left to him in May from the same source. Westicott was gaoled for a month.

'Constable L. Watts said that during the past three months Westicott had done no work apart from "a bit of fishing"' and claimed Westicott, 'was almost continually under the influence of liquor'⁹¹⁶ and was living on a small military pension.

The following year Westicott was hit by Edward Warner's car whilst walking along Mandurah Road at 8.45 p.m. in March – luckily the hospital declared his injuries were not serious.⁹¹⁷

But whether through coincidence or recklessness, his dilemmas continued. Westicott, in the spirit of improving conditions using their own initiative, decided to do so with Ted McCaskie, a neighbour and shearer in the Smelters Camp in 1951, by digging a makeshift well in the dunes. The article in *The West Australian* on 18 May 1951⁹¹⁸ described McCaskie suddenly sounding the alarm when the well walls

⁹¹¹ Department of Veterans' Affairs World War Two Service – Veteran Details Westicott, William <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=811381&c=WW2> Accessed April 2024

⁹¹² The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

⁹¹³ NAA B884, W90954 Westicott, William Military Service Record 1939 - 1948

⁹¹⁴ Department of Veterans' Affairs World War Two Service – Veteran Details Westicott, William [service number W26277] <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=811381&c=WW2> Accessed April 2024

⁹¹⁵ Department of Veterans' Affairs World War Two Service – Veteran Details Westicott, William [service number W90954] <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=823617&c=WW2> Accessed April 2024

⁹¹⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 12 November 1947, page 8

⁹¹⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 11 March 1949, page 14

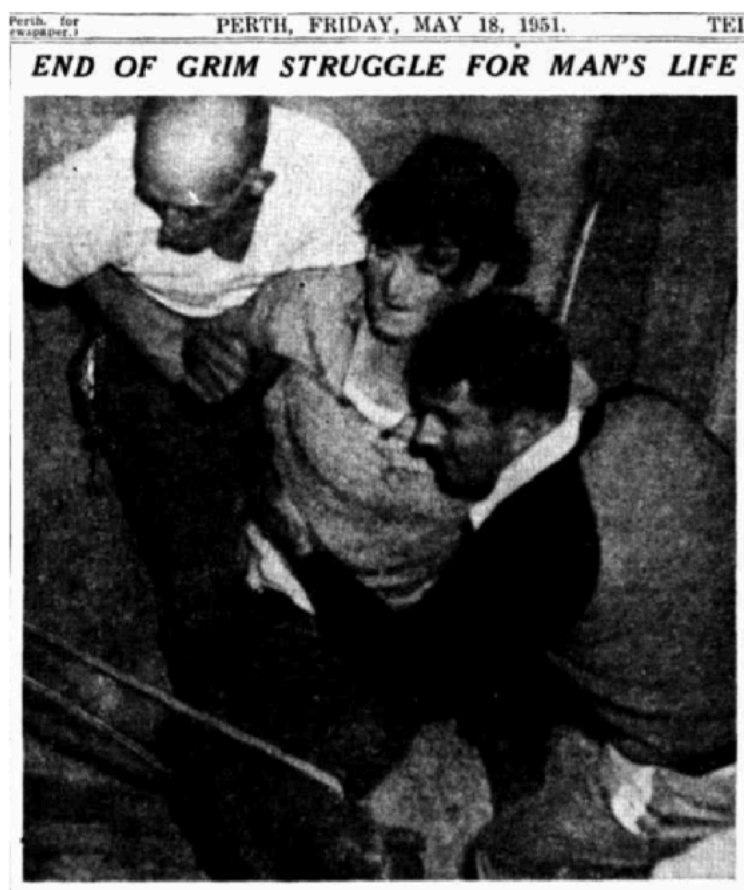
⁹¹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 18 May 1951, page 1

collapsed and trapped Westicott, almost smothering him. It was a terrifying ordeal for Westicott.

‘Mr. McCaskie had his foot on the bottom rung of the ladder preparing to climb out of the hole when the sand surrounding them caved in. Both men were buried to their waists, but Mr. McCaskie was able to maintain his hold on the ladder and climb free. Mr. McCaskie worked hard to free his friend but, as he said, "the more I dug, the more sand came in." He placed the piece of hose in his friend's mouth and summoned assistance. Shortly afterwards another fall of sand covered Mr. Westicott completely.’

The rescue bid took over four hours, the St. John ambulance, a mobile crane and lamps borrowed from the Fremantle Fire Station; until Westicott was lifted from the sand, ‘...pulled free by the brute strength of 15 men giving a desperate heave on a rope fastened round his body.’

‘Cheers greeted his release.’⁹¹⁹



West Australian 18 May 1951 p1

William Westicott was discharged from the Fremantle Hospital the following day. He considered himself lucky to still be alive. “I was nearly drowned some years ago when working on the shark-proof net at South Beach,” he said. “However, that was

⁹¹⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Friday 18 May 1951, page 1

nothing compared with being buried by sand.”⁹²⁰

William Westicott died in 1954, aged 55.⁹²¹ William Westicott has not been fully researched.

White, Tom
Near Smelting Works 1928-1931
butcher

Tom White was living ‘near smelting works’ in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1928, and he subsequently appears in the 1929 and 1931 rolls. His occupation remains ‘butcher’. Tom White has not been fully researched.

Whybrow, June Ellen
Robb’s Jetty 1949
home duties

June Whybrow appears on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1949.⁹²² She does not appear on the following roll in 1954.

At 27 years of age in 1944, Whybrow was charged in the Fremantle Police Court with ‘having attempted to kill herself’, for which she was placed on a six-month good behaviour bond.⁹²³ Whybrow, who was estranged from her husband, had been arrested on the Friday night previously for creating a disturbance. She had attacked arresting police with a knife and a piece of wood, upset furniture and injured her mother in a home in Josephine Street, Fremantle.

The suicide attempt occurred later in prison, but ‘a doctor had since certified that her mental condition was satisfactory.’ Whybrow herself blamed the events upon alcohol. It was reported that, ‘At this stage, a woman relative arrived, breathless, in court, said that she had reared Mrs Whybrow but the mother had gained custody. “She was a sweet child and I am prepared to give her a home,” the woman said.’⁹²⁴ June Whybrow has not been fully researched.

⁹²⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Saturday 19 May 1951, page 2

⁹²¹ BDMWA, registration no. 296

⁹²² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁹²³ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 4 April 1944, page 5

⁹²⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA), Monday 3 April 1944, page 5

'Girls required.'

Robb's Jetty. Girls of up to 20 years of age are required by the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board at its Robb's Jetty Egg Grading Floor, to be trained in grading and packing eggs. Forty-hour week, worked in five days, morning and afternoon tea breaks.⁹²⁵

Williams, Sarah
South Beach 1903-1906
home duties

Sarah Williams was listed in the 1903-1906 Chesterfield Electoral Rolls at South Beach.⁹²⁶ Her exact location was unknown, her occupation was noted as 'home duties'. Sarah Williams has not been fully researched.

Williamson, John Caskey
1859 - 1934
Smelters Camp (a sandhill camp) c1922
sawyer/labourer

Cottesloe expat Douglas Williamson, now living in Nottingham, UK, shared information about his father Campbell's family who lived in the family home in Lefroy Street, South Fremantle in the 1920s. 'Cam' was one of eleven children, including a brother also named Douglas, who would accompany him on his adventures -

'We were sent by Dad and Mum to take all types of food etcetera to a sandhill camp between South Beach and Robb Jetty where a John Caskey lived. He had only one arm and was very fond of the Drink and we were told he had been receiving money from North Ireland which helped him to live. How he lost his arm we did not know. After we had done this, we had to run down for a swim because of all the flies we got on us at the camp.' *Douglas Williamson, as told by his father Campbell Williamson*⁹²⁷

Douglas estimates that the approximate time period for these visits would have been 1922. He recalls that, as a boy hearing these stories from his father, his response was

'I thought this was sad as the relation must have been living in the sand dunes by himself,' but now understands there must have been others in the vicinity. He says that John Caskey Williamson was a northern Irishman who came to Western Australia to join family who worked in the timber mills, including his cousin Thomas James, the father of Cam and Douglas.

⁹²⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 28 August 1950, page 26

⁹²⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁹²⁷ Correspondence Douglas Williamson and Julie Raffaele April 2020 to March 2021

‘so I think this John also did work in those and may have lost his arm at one.’ *Douglas Williamson*⁹²⁸

The knowledge of John Caskey Williamson’s disability comes from family history; there are no known photographs. He lost his arm in an industrial accident prior to the 1920s.

John’s grandparents were Thomas James Williamson (c1804-1875) and Mary Annie Glass (c1807-1892), of Londonderry, Northern Ireland. They were tenants of a family farm rented from the London Ironmongers’ Irish estate, a tenancy later inherited by their eldest son Joseph.

Joseph married Mary Caskey, who was born in 1836.⁹²⁹ Their wedding was celebrated on the 27 January 1857 in Coleraine, Londonderry.⁹³⁰

They would have only fifteen years together. Their eldest was Thomas James Bertram born in 1857, John Caskey on 17 April 1859 (near Aghadowey, in a townland of Ballyclough, 8 miles south of Coleraine, Northern Ireland), along with William Alexander born in approximately 1861 and Joseph in 1863. Young mother Mary was to die at age of 36 in 1872, during a very challenging year for Joseph, as it was the same year they also lost their three year old son, Robert Bicket. Mary and he had already mourned the loss of one year old daughter Martha in 1865. Their youngest, David, was barely two when his mother passed.⁹³¹

Joseph remarried twelve years after the death of his wife, in 1884, to Rachel Archibald Glass.

Thomas James Bertram married in 1896 to Annie Rogers,⁹³² and together they managed a farm at 5 Ballyclough Drumcroon, Londonderry. In 1901 Thomas’ brother Joseph was living with them. All were literate, and practised the Presbyterian faith.⁹³³

Douglas Williamson related that the family were deeply associated with the nearby Aghadowey Presbyterian Church, and their grandparents Thomas and Mary Annie

⁹²⁸ Ibid.

⁹²⁹ Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index 1864-1958, Vol 11, p 286, FHL 101586, Ancestry

⁹³⁰ Ireland, Select Marriages, 1619-1898, FHL 101385, Reference ID 194

⁹³¹ Martha (Born 14 Aug 1865 in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, died one year later) [Ireland, Civil Registration Births Index, 1864-1958, Vol 11, p435 FHL 101042], [Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index, 1864-1958, Vol 16, page 276, FHL 101583]; David W. (28 Sept 1870) [Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911, FHL 101215]; also Robert Bicket Williamson (16 July 1868-1872) at Aghadowey [Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911, FHL 101170]. Family tree supplied by Douglas Williamson.

⁹³² Ireland, Civil Registration Marriages Index, 1845-1958, 1896 Apr-May-Jun, Coleraine Ireland, Vol 1, page 612, FHL 101258

⁹³³ Web: Ireland, Census, 1901. <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Londonderry/Drumcroon/Ballyclough/1516356/> Accessed April 2024

are buried there. This strong devotion to faith continued to the succeeding generations in Australia, who attended Scots Church Fremantle (next to South Fremantle football ground) to worship. T.J. Williamson was a superintendent at Scots, overseeing Sunday School class in the hall and church - kindergarten through to seniors, under various instructors and volunteers, including Paddy and Wandí, stockmen from the Smelters Camp. (See individual entries).⁹³⁴

By 1911 Thomas was 53⁹³⁵ and has moved his family to 7 Killeague, Drumcroon, Londonderry. Their home at number 7 has a stable, cow house, calf house, dairy, piggery, fowl house, a barn and a shed.⁹³⁶ John Caskey was 51 and living with them. John was an unemployed, single sawyer.

John Caskey's Australian adventure

Details relating to John Caskey's reasons for feeling drawn to emigrate are unclear, but it was known that his brother Joseph shared his adventurous spirit, as he was in Western Australia at Jarrahdale Mill in April 1889. Joseph, who never married, later returned to Northern Ireland to die in 1904, bequeathing an amount of his estate to John. Great-nephew Douglas believes they followed extended family, as their uncle Thomas James (from a family of eleven) had grown up around a number of timber mills where his father, John Brown Williamson, worked (also from Northern Ireland and uncle to Joseph and John).

An article in 'The Belfast News-Letter,' in 1888 describes a hearing at the Coleraine Presentment Sessions one day prior. When William J. Doherty claims £1,700 damages 'by reason of a flax mill and stores being maliciously burned at Collins, in the parish of Aghadowey, on the 25th September 1883, John Williamson was listed among the claimants along with Thomas James and Joseph, asking, respectively, £30, £35 and £30.⁹³⁷ This suggests John Caskey Williamson was still in Ireland at this time, though he was not necessarily in the courtroom, represented by Mr Proctor.

In May 1912 John Caskey Williamson completed the long voyage from Liverpool via Capetown to Albany, Western Australia, aboard the 'Persic' of the White Star steamship line.

⁹³⁴ Paterson, J.G. (ed) 'Stories of Scots Church (with the spire and the bell), Fremantle W.A.', Chapter: Sunday School History, J. G. Paterson, 1982

⁹³⁵ Thomas James Bertram (1858-1911) [Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index, 1864-1958, Oct-Nov-Dec 1911, Coleraine, Vol 1, page 328, FHL 0101605]; Thomas died later that year, 18 December 1911 in Coleraine with Anne as his beneficiary. Also Ireland, Calendar of Wills and Administrations, 1858-1920 <http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/details.jsp?id=1639341954> accessed April 2024.

⁹³⁶ Web: Ireland, Census, 1901. <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1911/Londonderry/Drumcroon/Killeague/652284/> Accessed April 2024

⁹³⁷ The Belfast News-letter (1738-1938) Thursday 24 May 1888, page 3, Irish Newspaper Archive via National Library of Australia (requires log-in)

An alternative reading of John Caskey's movements were mentioned in personal correspondence between Campbell Williamson and Douglas Williamson.⁹³⁸ Joseph appointed Thomas James the executor of his will. With the Fremantle-based family living at 10 Quarry Street, Campbell writes that John Caskey, 'could have been living with JBW's family when the Joseph W will was made,' and that this certainly was John's mail address after leaving Ireland. This places the shipping register entry, and the 1911 census into question, but further research will need to be conducted in this regard. Also, Douglas speculates whether John Caskey was a 'remittance man', sent abroad to save the family embarrassment and still receiving money from the family, or whether this was support assistance sent due to his disability.

In 1916 and 1917, John Caskey appears at Ajana, Northampton, working as a sawyer.⁹³⁹ Ajana was the terminus of the railway line 33 miles beyond Northampton, Western Australia. This line opened in 1913, replacing old stock routes to the rural community, and was intended to carry lead from the first lead mine in Australia, and the first metal mine in Western Australia, but it also allowed the opening up of land to north-east of Northampton. Ajana (named for an Aboriginal location) was a small townsite with a number of families and a school of twelve children. The new station permitted the transportation of grain for shipping.⁹⁴⁰

In 1931, following his residence at the Smelters Camp, John Caskey Williamson was listed as a labourer now living at the Old Men's Home in Claremont, and he died therein aged 74 in August 1934. He maintained his devotion and was buried in the Presbyterian section of Karrakatta Cemetery.⁹⁴¹

Written with kind assistance and including research from Mr. Doug Williamson, Nottinghamshire.

⁹³⁸ Personal correspondence 25 June 1991 from Campbell Williamson to his son, Douglas Williamson

⁹³⁹ Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980 Dampier, Greenough - (1916) Williamson, John Caskey, Ajana, Northampton, Sawyer; Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980 Dampier, Greenough - (1917) Williamson, John Caskey, Ajana, Northampton, Sawyer

⁹⁴⁰ <https://inherit.dplh.wa.gov.au/public/inventory/details/03958e91-8aaa-490c-957d-d9a470f61652> Accessed 21 May 2020; see also <https://www.midwesttimes.com.au/news/midwest-times/crumbling-lead-mine-ruins-are-steeped-in-history-ng-b881208429z> Accessed April 2024

⁹⁴¹ Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980 Fremantle, Claremont - (1931) Williamson, John Caskey, Old Men's Home, Claremont, labourer; Died: 30/8/1934 (Reg no. 1797 BDM WA), aged 74, as resident of Nedlands Old Men's Home (Perth) Western Australia; Gravesite GA 0266 Metropolitan Cemeteries Board.

Wilson, Wilfred Theodore James
Smelters Camp 1949

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Wilfred Wilson was listed in the South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1949.⁹⁴² He is absent in the 1954 roll. An occupation was not listed and Wilfred Wilson has not been fully researched.

Winder, Alexander George
AKA Jackson, James AKA Jackson, Charlie
Robb's Jetty 1920-1921

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That Alexander Winder occasionally fell on the wrong side of the law may have caused wrinkles of consternation in the forehead of his grandfather, Jackson Winder, who was a proud Western Australian Pensioner Guard.

Sergeant Jackson Winder, of the HEIC Bombay Fusiliers and the 103rd Foot Regiment was born in Preston, Lancashire, England in about 1826. Married to Eliza Ann Jacobs in Bombay, Maharashtra whilst serving,⁹⁴³ they travelled with two-year-old daughter Elinor as cabin passengers aboard the convict ship *Vimiera* to Australia in 1865. The *Vimiera* left Portland, England on 30 September and brought 99 passengers and 279 convicts to Fremantle. Until his death on 7 June 1881, Winder and wife Eliza Jane happily welcomed more children in to the world, including Alexander Winder's father James.⁹⁴⁴

Alexander was born to mother Charlotte and father James in 1896.⁹⁴⁵ His misadventures with his mate Frank Every began early, he was only 20 when in 1916 he was brought before the Fremantle Court on a serious charge of stealing the sum of £1/18s in company with violence, with Every and a third man, David Joslin.

It was Winder who approached an unwitting Charles Thomas Anning, a baker, stumbling home in the dark along the South Fremantle foreshore after a night at the pictures and a few beers. He simply wanted a match, Anning recounted to the court. He was shocked when 'two others rushed up and pinioned him,' and Winder rifled through his trouser pockets, before they threw him to the ground, pinned him down with their knees and completed the search. When he attempted to cry for help, they threatened to strangle him. Sergeant Pilmer had earlier seen the men sitting on the

⁹⁴² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁹⁴³ *India, Marriages, 1792 - 1948*. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013. (Marriage 23 Sept 1859)

⁹⁴⁴ <https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/epf-profiles/w/winder-winter-jackson-heic-1st-bombay-fusiliers-and-103rd-regiment/>; https://slwa.wa.gov.au/dead_reckoning/government_archival_records/n-s/pensioner_guards Accessed April 2024; also The Herald (Fremantle, WA), Saturday 11 June 1881, page 2; also BDM WA Registration no. 321 (Death James)

⁹⁴⁵ BDM WA Registration no. 307

sea wall, and now approached the scene on his bicycle, unsuccessfully giving chase when they ran. They were remanded for eight days and paid bail; in the hearing, all denied the charge.⁹⁴⁶

Winder, later a labourer, applied to enlist in 1918 aged 21, but he did not serve.⁹⁴⁷ Whilst not publicly listed as a resident of the Smelters Camp, he was tightly bound with companions Every, and Every's partner Lucille Skinner, who were living there – inevitably they were all using the camp as a safe house to retreat from the numerous robberies they committed in 1920, and it was from there they were all arrested in August.

Half-shickered

In the *Truth* newspaper they were described as 'dangerous and dishonest' and they were so well-known to police that there was no resistance before the Fremantle Police Court on 12 August; all three pleaded guilty to being 'persons of ill-repute'. Winder and Every were the ringleaders and Lucille Skinner the honey-trap, robbing 'half shickered' bar patrons into the shadows where they are 'eased of whatever portable wealth they may have in possession.' Winder exerted his right to cross-examine witness detectives, telling them in response to their comment that he had just left gaol; that he was much-wronged, 'He was never idle if he wasn't working; he was always looking for work.'

It was decided the trio were a 'nuisance to the community' and each pleaded for an opportunity to leave the town. The magistrate balanced the option of two very expensive sureties each against imprisonment; the choice was theirs.⁹⁴⁸

After the sudden death of his mother Charlotte in 1922, Alexander, his father James and sister Florence lived at 5 Yilgarn Street in Beaconsfield,⁹⁴⁹ but his infractions continued⁹⁵⁰ and the following year he spent time in Fremantle Prison in February

⁹⁴⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA), Tuesday 11 January 1916, page 8; Daily News (Perth, WA), Friday 10 March 1916, page 8; Daily News (Perth, WA), Thursday 9 March 1916, page 6; Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 22 January 1916, page 3

⁹⁴⁷ NAA: MT 1486/1 Winder, Alexander, barcode 60233166

⁹⁴⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Thursday 12 August 1920, page 10; Truth (Perth, WA), Saturday 14 August 1920, page 3

⁹⁴⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 15 March 1922, page 1; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁹⁵⁰ Fremantle Prison Entry Registers, SRO Western Australia - (9584) discharge 11/12 Feb 1923; (9584) on Rottneest – discharge 28 June 1923

Alexander Winder also appears in the Police Gazette, Western Australia, W.A. Police: 1916. Alexander Winder, David Joslin and Frank Every, at Fremantle, on 10th inst., by Dets. J. Porter and A. Molloy, on warrants; stealing with actual violence. Committed for trial on 20th inst. page 32

and June.⁹⁵¹

Alexander Winder married Margaret E. Lewington in Fremantle in 1934.⁹⁵² He managed to keep himself in order except for, at age 46, an unexpected and painful meeting between his head and a fence post whilst avoiding 'a west bound train at the Spearwood level crossing.' At the time he and Margaret were living in Yangebup Road, Coogee, and later, in 1943, they were at Attfield Street and he was working as a freezer hand. It was there in 1948 he was arrested and fined for using obscene language to the annoyance of his neighbours.⁹⁵³

Alexander Winder died in Perth on 20 June 1952, aged 56 years. His wife Margaret, brothers James, Charles and Florence are all mentioned in his death notice.⁹⁵⁴

Windi, Charlie Smelters Camp c1950

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William Herdigan remembers Charlie Windi living at the Smelters Camp not far from his mother Maxine's shack, in the early 1950s. Windi was a stockman originally from Darwin, who would round up cattle when they were transporting them from the

⁹⁵¹ 1920. Alexander Winder, at Fremantle, on 7th inst., by P.Cs. W. H. McNeill and E. A. Lambert; unlawful possession. Fined 40s and costs or 14 days h.l. Prisoners discharged from Fremantle Prison during the week ending Sat 5th June 1920. [9584 Winder, Alex] Unlawful possession Fremantle 1920. F. Every, A. Winder, and L. Skinner, at Fremantle, on the 10th inst., by Let.-Sergts J. Porter and A. Molloy, on warrants; evil fame. Bound over for 6 months, in default 6 months imprisonment.

1921. Apprehensions. Alexander Winder, at Fremantle, on the 14th inst., by Let.-Sergt. J. Porter, on warrant; evil fame. Bound over for 6 months or 2 months imprisonment.

1922. December Police Gazette mentions Winder on page 371

1925. Apprehensions on 28 January. Vide Police Gazette, page 388. W. 583/1924. Alexander Winder, at Fremantle, on 17th inst., by P.Cs. H. Diamond and W. Canning, charged by Det.-Segt. J. Cowie. 2 months hl on 19th inst. Page 31

1925. On 18 March, prisoners discharged from Fremantle Prison during the week ending Saturday, 7th March, 1925. 9584 Winder, Alex. Unlawfully on premises Photo book no. 72M. Date of Group photo. Jan., 1915. 2 months hl. 19 January. Where committed: Fremantle, discharged 4th March, page 100
1925: On 25 November, stealing from person, 3 mths. Property recovered. Alexander Winder @ James Jackson @ Charlie Jackson, at Fremantle, on 15inst., by P.C. J. Campbell; unlawful possession. 2 months hl, 16th inst., page 440

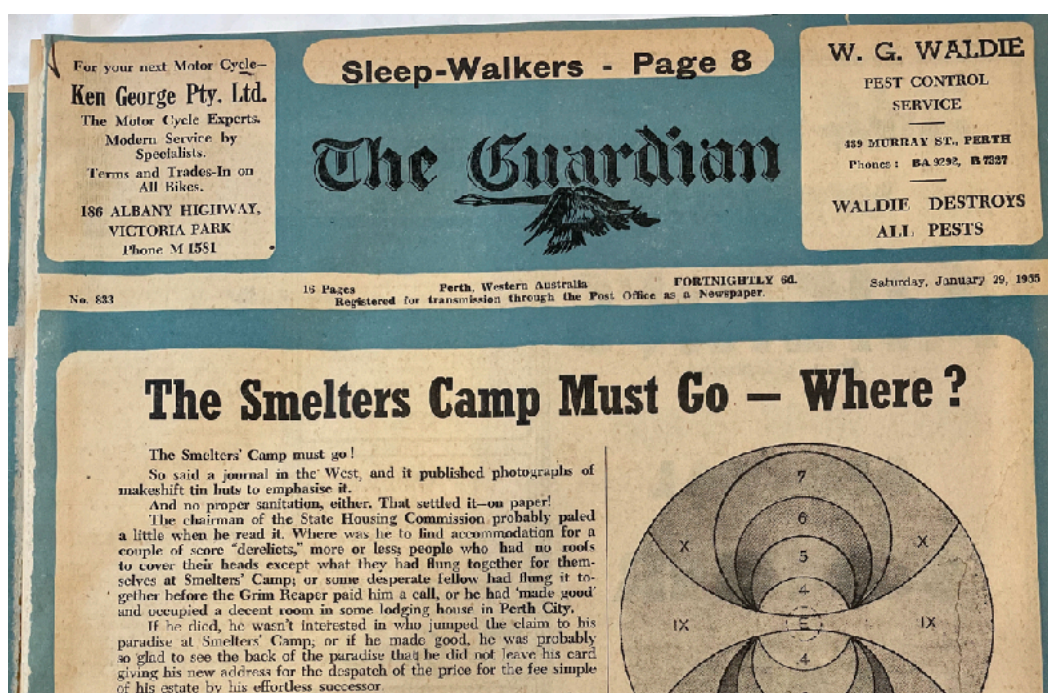
⁹⁵² BDM WA Registration no. 172

⁹⁵³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wednesday 24 December 1941, page 2; The West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 13 April 1948, page 17

⁹⁵⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 23 June 1952, page 20; BDM WA Registration no. 1460

paddocks into the slaughteryards.⁹⁵⁵ Cockburn Mayor Ray Lees recalled Wandí, Black Paddy and 'Charlie, the Aboriginal stockman who lived at Anchorage.'⁹⁵⁶ Patrick Hume also spoke about Wandí, Black Paddy and...

'..And oh, there was also another one, old Charlie Windi, he was at Robbs, so there was only three. ... And Charlie Windi, he worked over at Robbs [jetty] as a stockman. I have seen them all come and go...' ⁹⁵⁷



The Smelters Camp Must Go - Where?

In a late January 1955 philosophical piece titled, "The Smelters Camp Must Go - Where?" in 'The Guardian', a grim forecast is made regarding the demise of the Smelters Camp. The essay criticises fellow publications and delves into the harsh societal judgment faced by camp residents but with some politically incorrect comparisons and vocabulary. Most creatively, it offers a peculiar interpretation of the itinerants' world within the framework of 'The Spheres,' a geometric concept akin to Dante's journey after death, as envisioned by British spiritualist Robert James Lees.

⁹⁵⁵ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁹⁵⁶ Ray Lees, J.P., Freeman, SLWA: OH2825/6 Audio (8 digital files), 1996, Tape 3, side 2 also at <https://history.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Archive/Audio/Cockburn-Pioneer-Oral-Histories/Interview-with-His-Worship-the-Mayor-Councillor-R> Accessed April 2024

⁹⁵⁷ <https://history.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Archive/Audio/Aboriginal-Oral-History/Interview-with-Patrick-Hume> Accessed April 2024

The article describes the residents as not having a decent suit, 'and the faces of some of them would be hard to dent with a chisel.' After an observation that a selection of the residents have a close association with Fremantle Gaol, it nonetheless describes them as wise.

'They know they can't live in the outside world, because the outside world won't have them... The average employer wouldn't "feel safe" with the type of man whose trouser-ends the rats have eaten...'

And observes the peculiar state of limbo they exist within, with many having forgotten how regular employment feels, 'Like the very religious man or woman, they are in the world, but not of it...'⁹⁵⁸

The newspaper idealistically suggests a solution not dissimilar to tiny homes for the public housing sphere:

'What about little one or two-room homes, maybe, with verandah and garden plot, that they can call their own, and with a spruce-up and the morale of a job, call for the constructive good within themselves and find their way back to the civilisation they lost touch with.'⁹⁵⁹

Wise, Emily Smelters' Camp, Fremantle 1913-1914 widow

Emily Wise was a resident of the Smelters Camp on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1913 – 1914.⁹⁶⁰ She was listed as a widow. Emily Wise has not been fully researched, but there is some indication that her husband was Robert Wise of Fremantle's Central Emporium, who experienced bankruptcy in 1892 and died in 1903.⁹⁶¹

⁹⁵⁸ The Guardian (Perth, WA : No. 29 [310] (11 September 1937) - no. 892 (October 1957)), Saturday, 29 January, 1955, pages 1 and 4. Held by State Library of Western Australia

⁹⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁶⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁹⁶¹ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 19 Nov 1892, page 4; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board lists Robert Wise, at Mon A, gravesite 0977 Fremantle Cemetery; also probate published in Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA), Tuesday 27 January 1903, page 44

Wood, Arthur James
Robb's Jetty 1912-1926
labourer

Arthur Wood, in addition to being a labourer, was the caretaker at Robb Jetty. He was a resident at the Smelters Camp for at least 14 years; from 1912 to 1926 he was documented in the South Fremantle Electoral Rolls.⁹⁶²

In 1903 Wood appeared as a witness in a court case against William Price, a foreman at Robb Jetty for Messrs Forrest, Emanuel and Company, charged with 'having ordered the removal of a load of fodder from the quarantine area without a certificate from the stock inspector.'⁹⁶³ Michael McInerney, the collaborating witness and a slaughterman at the company, was also a Smelters Camp resident. Wood confirmed the removal of the fodder happened at night. Prosecutor Moss was on form, using such phrases as 'cattle found to be a seething mass of tuberculosis'⁹⁶⁴ to discredit the company, and the defendant was fined £25 with costs.

Wood died in April 1928 at Fremantle Hospital.⁹⁶⁵ Arthur E. Davies and Co, the undertakers, published an advertisement in *The West Australian* on the 11 April, inviting his friends to follow his remains to the Church of England Cemetery in Fremantle.⁹⁶⁶ No family is mentioned. Arthur Wood has not been fully researched.

Worrall, Alfred
Meatworks Camp 1933
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This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁹⁶⁷

⁹⁶² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁹⁶³ Daily News (Perth, WA), Saturday 28 March 1903, page 1

⁹⁶⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

⁹⁶⁵ The Sunday Times (Perth, WA), Sunday 22 April 1928, page 5; BDMWA Registration no. 92

⁹⁶⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Wed 11 April 1928, page 1

⁹⁶⁷ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370>
Accessed April 2024

Worrall, Olive
Meatworks Camp 1933

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This name appears in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). This resident has not been fully researched.⁹⁶⁸

Worrall, William and Dorothy; and two children
Meatworks Camp 1933

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These names appear in a Western Australian State Records file describing a visit by authorities to campers at the Meatworks Camp, close to Robb Jetty, in 1933. (See paragraph in opening summary entitled 'Sixty New Residents'). These residents have not been fully researched.⁹⁶⁹

Yarran, Tommy
Smelters Camp/Robb Jetty Late 1940s

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Tommy Yarran was mentioned in Bodney and Little's report but has not yet been fully researched.⁹⁷⁰

⁹⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁶⁹ SRO WA Cons 993, Item No. 1933/382; Department of Native Affairs, 'Native Matters - Fremantle'; for a description of the department see <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00370> Accessed April 2024

⁹⁷⁰ R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, 'Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions' (1985), pp 83-85



BO HEA'S OF "FATS" FROM THE RICH PASTORAL AREAS IN THE NORTH WEST.
Photo by C. Walker.

Western Mail 5 August 1911 p26

WINTER WALKS. SEASIDE EXCURSIONS by Emily H. Pelloe, 1929

'A tram may be taken from Fremantle to South Beach, and a fine walk begun from there. A cursory inspection of the smelters can be made, and the quaint camps of the old men pensioners beyond its lofty, rusting smoke-stack in the lee of the sand hummocks, are worth seeing. Then if possible damage of sea water stains to footwear is not feared, the firm sand at the water's edge will prove delightful going. Robb's Jetty, a rusty wreck, piles of buildings more picturesque than architecturally beautiful, sometimes unsavourily scenting the atmosphere in their immediate vicinity, will be passed. Approaching Woodman's Point, wire fences and warning notices at the explosives' reserve, just past the Coogee jetty, suggest a detour inland. A short passage across low, scrub-covered sand hills brings one out on to the coast road leading to the quarantine station, the naval base, and Rockingham. Extensive lime-burning kilns might perhaps be inspected before turning back towards Fremantle. Refreshments may be obtained at Coogee, and the homeward way continued along the white road — at first with coast scrub bordering it on the ocean side. All along these are desolate, stony, paddocks, where patient-eyed sheep and cattle await the happy despatch at the slaughtering and boiling-down works now between the walker and the sea. A native stockman usually may be noticed rounding-up, watering or shifting stock from one arid paddock to another, with the assistance of several intelligent, silent working kelpies.⁹⁷¹

⁹⁷¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA), Monday 29 July 1929, page 20

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