

5 NEWSLETTER

August 1973 20 cents

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's first Annual Meeting will be held at Caulfield Town Hall on Wednesday, 15th August 1973, at 8-00pm.

The business of the meeting will be to confirm the rate of annual subscription and to elect Office Bearers and Committee for the ensuing year; the present Committee all retire and are eligible for re-election.

In accordance with the Society's Constitution, all nominations for offices shall be in the hands of the Secretary at the beginning of the Annual Meeting and shall carry the acceptance of the person nominated.

At the conclusion of the business, Mr. Peter Staughton, Chairman of the National Trust Survey and Identification Committee will speak about
THE NATIONAL TRUST IN CAULFIELD.
His lecture will be illustrated with coloured slides of Caulfield buildings. Supper will be served.

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will be held on 17th October at the Town Hall. Further details to be announced.

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SOCIAL FUNCTION

A wine tasting will be held on 26th September at "THE GALLERY", Chapel Street, Prahran. Details will be forwarded at a later date. Remember to keep this date clear in your calendar.

NATIONAL TRUST CLASSIFICATIONS

The National Trust has advised that another building discovered on the Caulfield survey has been classified. It is:

"HALSTEAD"

23 Bambra Road, Caulfield.

Described as "a very pleasant single storey house with cast iron front verandah trim and a substantial three-storey tower with mansard roof."

DONATION

Mrs. A.P. Bell, who wrote the article about Early Caulfield which we are re-printing, for the City centenary in 1957, has presented the Society with a copy of a photograph of John Caulfield taken from the original in the La Trobe Library. Mrs. Bell had previously presented her research notes to the Society and we are grateful for this further donation.

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. A.P. Bell, Elsternwick
Mrs. L. Isaacs, Caulfield
Miss M. Stewart, Gardenvale

The Society needs more members if it is to remain a viable body. A membership application is enclosed with this NEWSLETTER and each member is requested to introduce a new member. Further application forms are available from the Honorary Secretary.

CAULFIELD'S EARLY SCHOOLS

CAULFIELD COMBINED SCHOOL No 162
CAULFIELD STATE SCHOOL No 773

by J. O'DONNELL, B.A., B.Ed.

To understand the story of Caulfield State School, it is first necessary to explain the historical (1) background of education in Victoria.

In 1851, shortly after the proclamation of Victoria as a separate colony from New South Wales, the National Education Board Incorporation Act was passed which created a National Board of Education. Included on the first committee was Charles Hotson Ebdon, later a Caulfield land owner, Regent Street originally having been named in his honour.

Existing at the same time, as a legacy from governance by N.S.W. was a Denominational School Board which exercised vague supervision over schools run by the various denominations for which government aid was received.

A Commission of Enquiry finally resulted in May 1862, in the passing of the Common Schools Bill which did away with the dual system of administration in education and replaced it with a single Board of Education. Despite the high hopes held for increasing the effectiveness of education through this Common Schools Act, sectarian rivalry resulted in the proliferation of schools in areas which would have been better served by one. Ultimately, the Education Act, 1872, otherwise known as the Free, Secular and Compulsory Act, was passed, which set up the present Education Department as a State instrumentality. The framer of the Bill was the Hon. James Wilberforce Stephen, then Attorney General for Victoria, who was a long term resident of Caulfield, living at "Merton", (N.E. corner of Glen Eira and Orrong Roads) neighbour of "Helenslea" (now Shelford Grammar), and prominent in the development of Caulfield.

As might be expected from the type of people who settled the area, Caulfield had a school very early in its history.

The first school, and predecessor of Caulfield State School was Caulfield

Combined School No 162 "established in January 1860 --- under the Denominational Board of Education; and, there being no other available building in the district, permission was obtained from the Trustees of the Union Chapel for the School to meet in that building free of charge. Government aid was received from the Denominational Board from the commencement of the School in January, 1860, until the abolition of that Board by the passing of the Common Schools Act; and aid was subsequently received from the Board of Education until the 31st March, 1863, when it was discontinued, the average attendance at the School being below forty, the number required by the Act when the School is situate - as in this case it was, by a few hundred yards - within two miles of another school receiving Government aid. In August, 1862, --- a Local Committee was appointed, consisting of members of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Independant, and Baptist Denominations. Subsequently --- the Church of England member resigned his position as a member of the Committee.

"On the 30th July, 1863, notice was given to the Local Committee, by the Trustees of the Union Chapel, of an intended discontinuance of the permission to use the Chapel as a place of meeting for the School, by reason of the damage done to the building by the constant holding of the School in it, and the consequent expense for repairs, cleaning, &c. (4) It thereupon became necessary for the Local Committee to take steps for the erection of a building for the School, and they then determined that the new School-room should be erected beyond the limit of two miles from any other School receiving Government aid. In the meantime steps were taken by the members of the Church of England to establish a Church of England School in the district; and, feeling that it was desirable, if possible, to have one good School, rather than two inefficient ones, and that the resources of the district would not adequately support two schools, the Local Committee convened a public meeting for the consideration of the question generally. --- The overtures of this Committee having been rejected by the Church of England Committee --- immediate steps were taken for the purchase of land, and the erection of the present building in the Glen Huntly Road; and

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CAULFIELD'S EARLY SCHOOLS

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subsequently the members of the Church of England purchased another piece of land, and erected their School-house in the Glen Eira Road. The School was removed from the Union Chapel to the School-house in the Glen Huntly Road in October, 1863, since which time the number of children attending the School has continued steadily to increase."(2)

The situation leading to the establishment of Caulfield Common School was less kindly worded in the Committee's private correspondence,(3) "--- the school which had been carried on in the Union Chapel, Glen Eira Road having virtually become defunct" a Committee was formed as, "the increasing population of the district of Caulfield demanded the establishment of a Common (mixed) School." At the end of July 1863, a meeting was called at St. Mary's Anglican Church (then still

called All Saints after its mother church All Saints, East St. Kilda) the committee office bearers were appointed. "An offer made by Mr. Topp, a resident in Caulfield, to purchase an eligible piece of land and let the same on rent to the Committee (with option of purchase at cost price, at any time within that period) was accepted."

The site of Caulfield Common School is that which Caulfield State School No 773, as it was subsequently renamed, occupies today. An alternative proposed site which was relinquished at a loss of £44 (8) on the sale of the land was near the S.W. corner of Glen Huntly and Orrong Roads. (6)(7) The present site was most likely selected because of its closeness to the growing population of Camden Town (5)(6)(7) Elsternwick apparently at this stage having few school age children likely to attend the new school. The land cost £60. (8) (to be continued)

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EARLY CAULFIELD

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"fever ship", the barque "Glen Huntly", when it was quarantined off the Red Bluff (Point Ormond).

The discovery of gold brought great wealth to Melbourne, and soon, wealthy merchants, professional men and town-residing squatters were moving out to build magnificent mansion houses in the surrounding villages. Perhaps the oldest mansion house in Caulfield still occupied by the same family over three generations is "Rosecraddock", Hawthorn Road. In 1870, it was bought by Mr. H.J. Langdon, who for a short period was a member of the Road Board.
(to be continued)

FIRE STATIONS

Elsternwick Fire Station

4 Selwyn Street, now Esquire Motors a blue-stone building constructed in 1895, in service as a fire station until 1926; it was originally Station No 31 of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and was apparently a large station as it possessed a horse drawn carriage.

Elsternwick Volunteer Fire Station

mentioned in 1890, but where was it?

Caulfield No 1 Station

a reel station was built in 1891; in 1895 a new station, apparently quite large was built which was in service until 1911. The station was on the south side of Glen Eira Road, behind the Town Hall, roughly where the car park now is.

Caulfield No 2 Station

a reel station in existence from 1892 until 1897, on the west side of Orrong Road near Glen Huntly Road, where a baby health centre now stands. The stone cross-overs still remain.

Information supplied by Mr. F.G. Penny, Secretary, Historical Fire Engine Assoc.

Are there any photographs of these buildings, or of the fire fighting equipment used in Caulfield, remaining? Does any one have further information about these fire stations or their personnel?

EARLY CAULFIELD

by Mrs. A.P. BELL

continued

NAME OF CAULFIELD

In 1853, the Road Act set up a Central Road Board with power to divide the Colony into Road Districts. By this time, the name of Caulfield was well established as seen on the map of that year (Plan Office, Lands Department, Melbourne), when the Caulfield Road District was already surveyed and the Crown grants of land marked off.

Authorities on names in Victoria claim that Caulfield District was named after John Caulfield, a well known builder who came to Melbourne from Liverpool, England, in 1837. Records show that at the time Caulfield was named a Road District, there was no other John Caulfield of Melbourne. In public life he became treasurer of the Melbourne Union Benefit Society, whose members felt they should combine locally to help each other in sickness and adversity. This society consisting mainly of master-builders, played a leading role in organising the Mechanics' Institute and School of Arts (now Athenaeum) in Collins Street (1839).

John Caulfield, as shown in the first minute-book held by the Athenaeum, was a regular attendant at the Committee of Management meetings. Later his signature appears, with other early pioneers, in a book of signatures presented to the Duke of Edinburgh when he laid the foundation stone of the present Melbourne Town Hall.

John Caulfield died in 1879 at the age of 71.

CAULFIELD ROAD BOARD

When the Road Board was elected in 1857, its first struggle was with nature, a struggle that had been beyond the power of the aborigines. The Crimean War was over and names like Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman and other roads commemorate the success of Britain as an ally in the war. An early settler walking from the corner of Alma and Orrong Roads to the race-course describes the scenery as downs of fern and scrub, and notes that he passes only one house. As he reached Paddy's Swamp (now Caulfield Park), ducks,

coots and divers swarmed on this public reserve marked as a watering-place for stock passing along the Great Dandenong Road.

The Racecourse Hotel stood alone at the junction of Dandenong and Balaclava Roads, and beyond that, opposite the site of Caulfield Technical College was a smaller lagoon, also a watering-place and overnight-stop for live-stock.

The first big job tackled by the Road Board was to clear the roads of trees and stumps, but the lack of money was a great drawback. The members of the Board resolved that their secretary write to the representative members of the legislature for the district in both Houses, drawing their attention to the "size and importance of Caulfield"-an importance seen in the fact that within two years the population had grown from about 300 to over 500. The Road Board asked for a grant of £5,000, and eventually got £2,000. Coaching days were soon in full swing, one coach service passing daily along Dandenong Road to Dandenong, to and from the city, and an express waggon running daily along Glen Eira Road via St. Kilda, also to and from the city.

Mr. Bevan, reputed to be the first coach proprietor in Victoria, sold out to the famous Cobb & Co. coaching firm, and built possibly the first mansion house in Caulfield, "Grosmont", Bambra Road. When Mr. Bevan was drowned in the ship-wrecked "London" (Bay of Biscay), the property was bought by the Hart family. Mr. John Hart was the second secretary to the Caulfield Road Board, and the members of the Hart family were identities in the district, a son (recently deceased) became Bishop of Wangarratta. Individual people cleared, or partially cleared their blocks of land of 20, 40, 100 or 200 acres, and Caulfield, emerging from primitive wild forest, took on a rural appearance.

When the railway to Brighton was opened, it passed through Balaclava and Elsternwick, and brought rapid development of village settlements extending along Inkerman and Balaclava Roads to the fringe of Caulfield. This also happened at Elsternwick, where Glen Huntly Road, running through the village had derived its name from the

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