

BYGONE DAYS: Geelong - 100 years ago

Week 33: August 14th to August 20th, 1923

Geelong's courts were very active in August. Mr Henry McDonald of Chilwell was charged with having driven his horse and vehicle 'furiously' in Latrobe Terrace. He pleaded "Not Guilty" to the charge.

"Basil T Drayton, storekeeper, at Torquay was the informant. He stated that soon after 4 o'clock on August 4th, he was standing in the vicinity of the post office. He afterwards was in Latrobe Terrace where he saw a jinker and pony being driven at a terrific pace. The vehicle contained 3 occupants. Witness was in a motor car and took care to keep out of the way. At the corner of Latrobe Terrace and Maud Streets he alleged the vehicle nearly ran down a child. The occupants of the jinker appeared to be under the influence of liquor."

The horse was apparently pulling the jinker from one side of the road to the other and the driver lacked control. Mr Drayton thought the jinker might have capsized.

Constable Kirkham said that about 6pm:

"He noticed the defendant driving a tall horse. He was not attempting to pull it up, but alleged he was urging it on. One of the occupants was lying back on the seat appearing to be intoxicated, while the defendant was lurching about as if he was drunk."

McDonald was fined 5 pounds and 10 shillings costs.

Police Magistrate (PM), Mr P.J. Conlon presided at the City Court over a case against Sydney Blair, the young man, who was charged with having insufficient lawful means of support, and thereby was deemed an idle and disorderly person within the meaning of the place offences act. Mr Blair had previous employment at the career freezing works over a number of years and had also worked overtime on many occasions. He also had employment as a Carter's assistant. The accused had a number of casual jobs, but was not employment when he was arrested. He claimed he gave most of his wages to his mother on the understanding that she would have to keep him if he was not working.

"The PM remarked that men anxious to obtain employment, and out of funds, had walked away, and sometimes for long distances in search of it. He did not consider that accused had made any attempts to get work, except that he or some other person went to States Art Company, but only called once. They had evidence he had been consorting with criminals. He would be sentence to 12 months imprisonment."

Dr Hyett was playing golf.

"When he had the August medal practically in his grasp, Dr Hyett on Saturday, had the misfortune to have his ball stolen. He was playing well, and made what is believed would have been the winning stroke, but when he went to play his ball again he could not find it. A boy was in the vicinity where the ball landed and ran away on the approach of the doctor. He gave chase, but was unable to

capture the lad. There was a bicycle close handy, and believing that it belonged to the youngster Dr Hyatt at once commandeered the machine, and took it to the golf house, where it was left, pending the owner claiming it and giving an account of his doings for the afternoon."

The doctor also intended to interrogate the boy. In recent times a number of ball thefts had occurred at the course.

"After midnight on the morning of Sunday, August 5th a telephone message was received at the John West watchhouse complaining of a disturbance in High Street where a number of youths were brawling out and keeping residents awake. At the corner of Pakington and Candover streets constable Wilson could hear the yelling full half a mile away."

William Moore, age 20 admitted his guilt two offensive conduct climbing we're only having a jollification. Constable Wilson said he was not said Moore was not drunk so far as he could see. Sergeant Zimmer said;

"He was singing in such a way that the whole neighbourhood was disturbed."

Moore's barrister said:

"... unfortunately, the case was one in which young lads thought only of their own pleasure. Defendant was a good lad and well conducted, but had got in with bad companions. The case would be a lesson to him....."

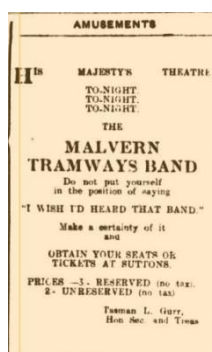
Moore said he was sorry ,agreed to give up alcohol and promised not to do a foolish thing again.

The case was adjourned until September.

"Recent robberies direct attention once again to the unlighted state of the rights of way in Malop Street and Little Malop Street from Yarra St to Fenwick St..... The darkness is a cover for thieves; a proper system of lighting these passages would act as a deterrent.. The police are handicapped by the absence of lighting in these right of way."

Police were not issued with torches and they had to check building and doors in the dark.

"Intruders with the evil intent could easily get in the first blow if they wished, or hide until the policeman had passed. It is pathetic to think that in these days a constable has to strike a match to ascertain whether all is well or not."



Source: Geelong Advertiser

Dilapidated government offices in Ryrie Street came under close scrutiny once again.

"Yesterday men were employed in an attention to clean the moss and weeds which had grown round the sandstone coping on the front of the Lands and Treasury Offices in Ryrie Street. They had a difficult task, as where they touched the sandstone crumbled, and fell in large pieces to the footpath below. There seems to be some justification for the opinion that the building is held together with the moss."

The state of the building was to be brought to the attention of the Minister for Public works during the week.

"According to reliable builders, the spending of money at present on cleaning or renovating the building is a waste and should not be tolerated."

Osborne House's future use was raised in Parliament, in North Geelong, was raised in parliament by Senator Guthrie. He asked three questions to the Leader of the Government.



Osborne House and stables 2023 (vacant) Photograph: Harry Roberts

1. How many officers and men were quartered there during its time as a submarine base?
2. What use is being made of the building?
3. Will the government use the building as a training facility for the army, navy or other government purposes?

*Although vacant today, the Geelong Council has committed \$8million to restore and redevelop Osborne House and its buildings.

New telegraph arrangements were to be made at the Geelong Railway Station because the present receipt and despatch of telegraphs were found to be inconvenient. For some time, the office had been on the ground floor, but it will be moved to an office on the upper storey.

"This, it is claimed, will give greater efficiency in the working of the staff, and not allow so many interruptions. All private telegrams received at the stationmaster's office by one of the clerks, and they will be sent upstairs to the despatch room by means of a pneumatic tube, the instrument for the working of which was placed in working order yesterday for the first time."

A plea to the authorities was made to light the 'rights of way' in Malop Street from Yarra Street to Fenwick Street because of the night crimes committed on various premises.

"Darkness is a cover for thieves: a popular system of lighting these passages would act as a deterrent. Deeds of darkness are not done under electric light, nor under other proper illuminant."

It was claimed police are handicapped by the absence of light and they don't have torches to assist them.

"Intruders with evil intent could easily get in the first blow if they wished, or hide until the policemen passed. It is pathetic to think that in these days a constable has to strike a match to ascertain whether all is well or not."



MORE WELCOME IMMIGRANTS.—There is nothing wrong with this family, which has just been transplanted to sunny Australia from the Mother country.

Once more, uncertainty prevailed regarding the clock in Market Square.

"Whether the clock in the Market Square, Geelong, should be removed is still undecided."

The latest suggestion was that it should be placed in Eastern Gardens near the statue of Queen Victoria.

“Although the tower is not interfering with the construction of the new buildings, it is believed that if left in its present position the object for which it was placed there, will be destroyed by the towering buildings around it.”

It was thought that to preserve the generosity of the clock’ donor, it should still be placed in the Market Square.

References:

All quotations and advertisements in the weekly accounts are sourced from articles published in the Geelong Advertiser during the designated week, unless acknowledged otherwise. Photographs are acknowledged below or in the text.