

Far Northern

GOSSIP

LEIGH CREEK

LEIGH CREEK

5th August, 1971 Issue 6, Vol. 18

Price 3c

What a Storm!

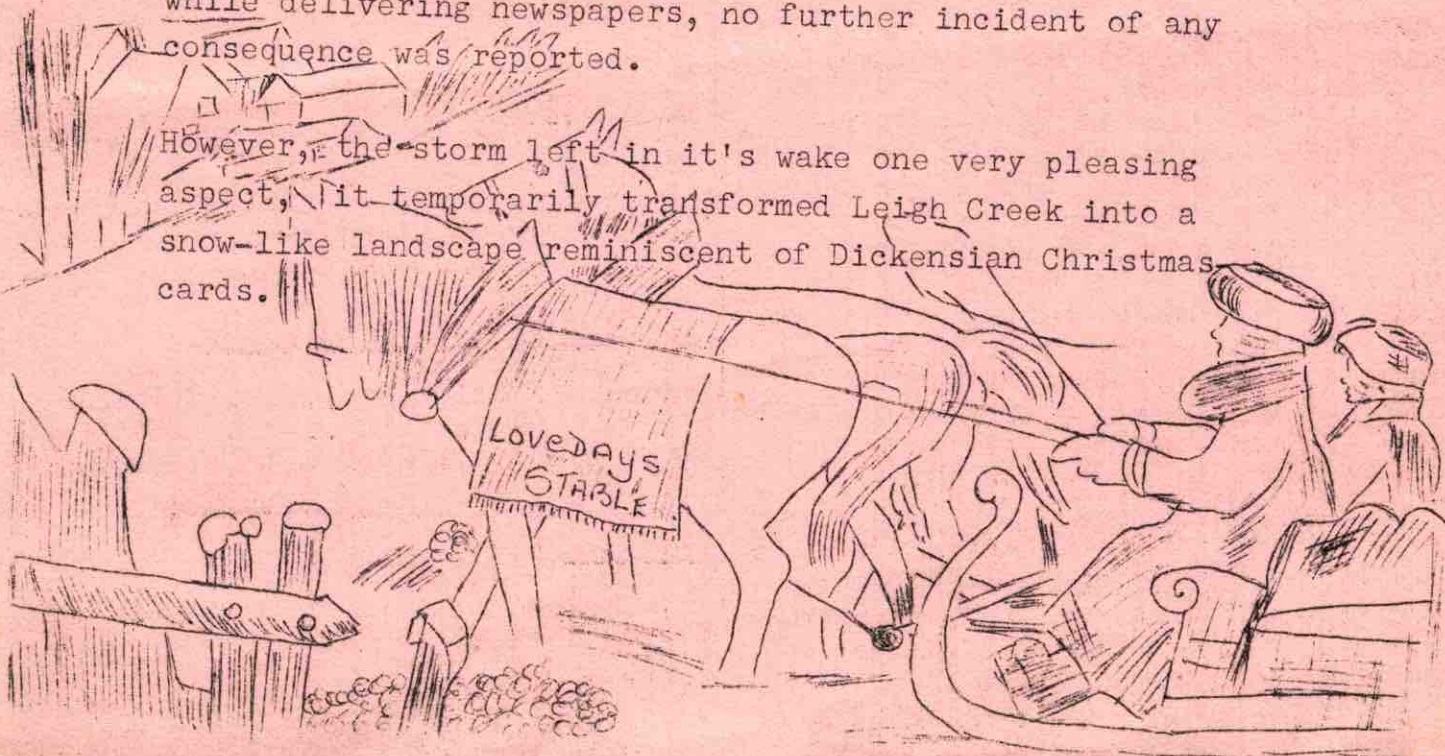
On the late afternoon of Thursday the 15th July, 1971, Leigh Creek experienced a freak hail-storm, the like of which has no precedent in living memory. Mr. Rufus Wilton, an old-timer, does recall a similar occurrence at Wooltana early in the 1920's.

Some indication of the size of the 'stones' may be judged by the egg-shaped one Constable McLagen measured - - it was $3\frac{1}{2}$ " long by $2\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter!

The storm, lasting half-an-hour or so, pelted down with such fury that the impact of hail upon the roof-tops was almost deafening. People who were caught on telephones, just had to apologise and hang up. Fortunately, considering the force of the downpour, damage incurred in the township was relatively small: blocked gutters; a few leaking roofs, and shattered window panes.

Excepting a boy who was slightly stunned by the hail while delivering newspapers, no further incident of any consequence was reported.

However, the storm left in it's wake one very pleasing aspect, it temporarily transformed Leigh Creek into a snow-like landscape reminiscent of Dickensian Christmas cards.





cinema

Sorry no publicity to hand on the following films.

SATURDAY 7th August

"MADIGAN" (A)

"JOURNEY TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN"

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WEDNESDAY 11th Aug.

"THE STRANGE AFFAIR" (A)

"WACO" (A)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FRIDAY 13th August

"THE ASSASSINATION BUREAU" (A)

"FEVER HEAT" (A)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WEDNESDAY 18th August

"BILLION DOLLAR BRAIN" (A)

Stars: Michael CAINE, Karl MALDEN.
Join the famous Harry Palmer in yet another adventure.

"THE VAMPIRE"

Stars: John BEAL, Coleen GRAY.
Refer to the sketch at the top of this column. (PARENTS - I don't advise this one for the children).
(Editress)

R.S.L. Bingo

The first session of the R.S.L. Bingo Club was held on Friday 9th July. A fair crowd assembled in the RSL Hall and though we only played 10 games a total of \$16.65 was handed out in prize money. Everyone, both winners and those who did not win, expressed satisfaction at a pleasant, enjoyable evening.

The next session will be on Friday 6th August commencing at 8 pm SHARP, doors close at 8.30 pm, and we hope to get in more games this time thus giving more people a chance to win. The more that come the BIGGER the prizes, so come along and have a go. Everyone is welcome and the bar is open on completion of Bingo for players to celebrate or commiserate. Don't forget...FRIDAY 6th August, 8 pm SHARP at the R.S.L. Hall.

'See you there'

PERFECT HUSBAND: Kind, considerate, loving, generous, gallant, handsome and a good provider but usually married to someone else.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Ads

DENTAL CLINIC....the clinic will be conducted at LC from WED. 25th Aug. to FRI. 27th August, 1971.
Appointments - Admin Office or Phone LC 182 Xtn 21.

OPTOMETRIST Mr.D.S. JESSOP will be visiting LC on WED. 22nd & THUR. 23rd September, 1971.
Appointments as above.

FOR SALE - Surplus Furniture & Equipment at Leigh Creek and Oodnadatta Aerodromes.

Tenders closing with the Secretary, Regional Contract Board, Department of Civil Aviation, Morley Street, West Richmons, S.A. 5033 at 2 pm on 17th August 1971 are invited for the purchase of:-
Schedule No. S.158

LEIGH CREEK - 1 Table, 4 Mattresses, 23 Various chairs, 2 Beds, 1 Wardrobe, 1 Dressing Table.

OODNADATTA - 1 Battery Charger 1 Air conditioner 1 Washing Machine 15 Cable Poles 1 Water Heater.

For inspection and tender form, contact the Officers-in-Charge at the above aerodromes.

FOR SALE - Near New - 12v 70 watt 7" Quarz Halogen Le; Mans (Hella) DRIVING LIGHT and COVER - \$30.00 Save \$12.00.
Apply D. HAUSCHILDT - 16 East Tce.

FOUND - KEY in 7th Street. Lockwood No. 65445R.
Contact 'Topics'

CAKE STALL

Saturday 7th August, at 10.30 am on EARNSHAWS VERANDAH.
Proceeds - LC Pre-School Kindergarten Committee.

R.S.L. WOMEN'S AUXILLIARY

Cleaning Roster:-
W/Ending Aug. 21st ..Mrs. CORBELL
" Aug. 28th ..Mrs. BUTTON
Next meeting August 10th at 8 pm.
(S. Knott)

FOR SALE

1954 STANDARD EIGHT SEDAN.
Mechanically sound, body reasonable, 5 good tyres. Reg. & Insured./Nov. 1971.
Apply D. HAUSCHILDT - 16 East Terrace.



Sensational Savings

EARNSTHAWES

SERV-WEL

Fashion Sale

All our stocks of Fashion DRESSES, SKIRTS ... SLACKSUITS and CHILDRENS FROCKS HAVE ALL been DRASTICALLY reduced to clear. LOOK for RED SALE tickets on the garments. Plenty of cold weather left and plenty of smart WARM outfits to take advantage of - - BE EARLY.

Fathers Day

5th September

ITS CREEPING UP ON US TO START CHOOSING YOUR PRESENTS NOW. TOOLS.....ELECTRIC SHAVERS.....RECORDS RAFT TOILETRIES

LADIES BOOTS - Last few pairs - REDUCED to \$6.00
Real BARGAIN here.

LADIES Fluffy LAMBSWOOL SLIPPERS - REDUCED from \$3.50 to \$1.95

Noticed the new ranges of CLARKS CHILDRENS Fashion SHOES on show? They are beaut - in PALE CARAMEL, RED, and SHADED BROWNS. Slip ons, filled in sandals and lace up - have a look SOON.

MENS CAR COATS - Wide check wool - fleece lined; wonderfully warm on these cold nights - only \$21.50.

Have you seen our range of lovely CORNINGWARE cooking dishes? Can be used from REFRIGERATOR to OVEN or TOP of STOVE. Uses LESS heat than normal cooking utensils. An ideal BIRTHDAY or WEDDING gift. See the new SKILLET PAN at \$9.95.

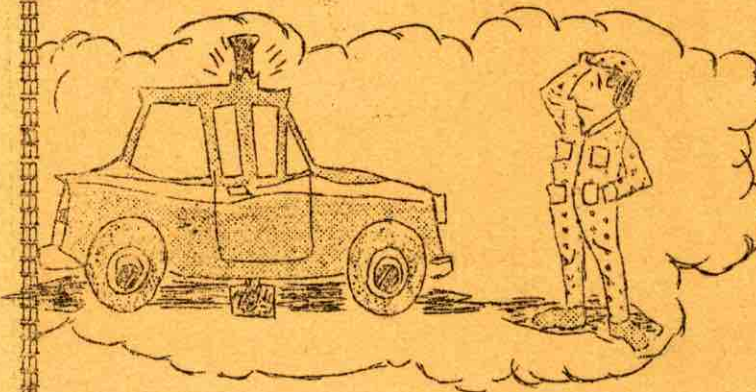
Just ARRIVED. LENNON/McCARTNEY record - TIJUANA STYLE, featuring 12 numbers made famous by the BEATLES \$1.99

NOVEL ACT

The theatrical agent, trying to sell a new act to a night-club manager, was raving about the girl's unbelievable 72-26-40 figure. "What kind of dance does she do?" the

Manager asked, duly impressed by the description of the girl's dimensions. "Well, she doesn't actually dance at all," the agent replied, "She just crawls out on the stage and tries to stand up!"

For HAPPY and TROUBLE-FREE MOTORING I'd better contact:



B. J. Hughes & Sons
QUORN

Also inspect the GUARANTEED O.K. used cars in stock

For particulars - contact our local representative:

K. PLUMB - 'Phone LC 5.

A+S+O+C+I+A+T+E G+O+L+F

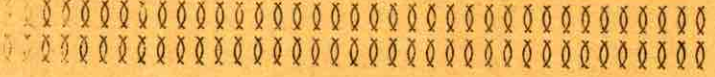
8/7/71 - The Associates played a stroke competition for the monthly medal. Mrs. GILLIES was the winner with 69 net. She also wore the weekly brooch. Best "off stick" score was Mrs. PENGILLY 101.

10/7/71 - The final round of MATCH play for the Championship resulted in Mrs. E. BEAL defeating Mrs. A. PENGILLY 3 up and 2 to play.
"CONGRATULATIONS AUDREY"

15/7/71 - The second leg of the "Bisque Stableford" was played by 10 Associates. Winner was Mrs. E. BEAL with 42 pts. She wore the brooch for the week and reduced her handicap by 3. Best "off stick" - Mrs. BEAL & Mrs. PENGILLY both 102. Mrs. N. LOVEDAY now holds a S.A.L.G.U. H'cap Certificate.

29/7/71 - Mrs. E. BEAL was the winner of the next leg of a "Bisque Par" Competition - 2 up. Best "off stick" score Mrs. PENGILLY 103.

(Enid S. Pengilly - Captain & H'Cap Manager, LCG.Ass)



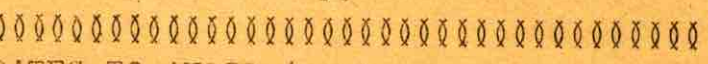
E U C H R E

The next euchre evening will be on Sept. 7th. Keep this date in mind please. TUESDAY - Sept. 7th. Admission 30 cents - Supper 20c.

Winners on 30th July evening were:-

- Lady - Miss P. WEYMOUTH
- Gentleman - Mr. G. WEYMOUTH
- Booby Lady - Mrs. DAVIES
- " Gent - Mr. J. NICHOLSON.
- Lucky supper - Mrs. A. PENGILLY
- Lucky door - Mr. G. WEYMOUTH
- Raffle winners were - Mrs. R. BARBER
- Sponge cake - Mr. J. McLEOD.

These evenings are held in the Supper room at the Community Hall at 8.00pm SHARP. Everybody welcome - CWA Ladies provide supper.



DATES TO AVOID (cont...)

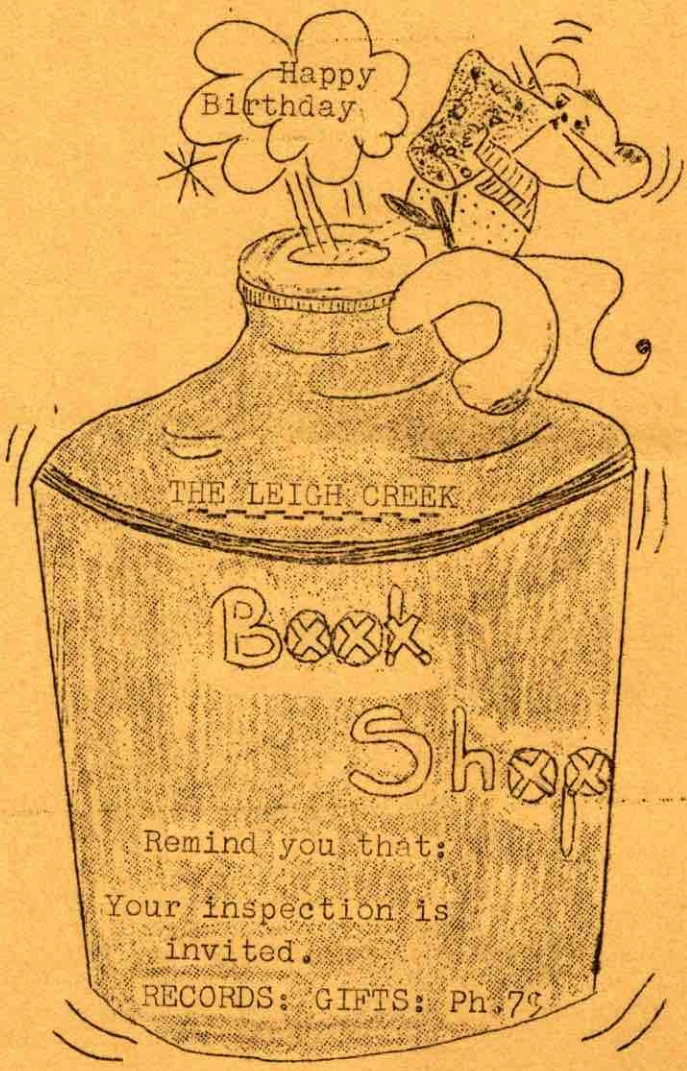
- 12/11 Ballet School Concert CH
- 27/11 Private (T) RSL
- 2/12 United Cong. Womens Xmas. CH

D+A+T+E+S T+O A+V+O+I+D

When arranging your function Avoid these dates:-

6/8	Bingo	RSL
7/8	Private	Golf C/h.
14/8	Private	CH
14/8	RSL Dinner	Copley
20/8	Bingo	RSL
20/8	Midget Breakup	CH
28/8	Basketball Cabaret	CH
11/9	Golf Social	Golf C/h.
17/9	Bingo	RSL
18/9	R.S.L. Social (Aux.)	RSL
19/9	Matinee (Sunday)	CH
25/9	Private	RSL
25/9	Kindy Fancy Dress (Aft.)	CH
2/10	Private	RSL
16/10	School Cabaret	CH
30/10	Football Club	RSL

(cont..)





FOR SAVINGS GALORE...
SAIL INTO MY STORE

FOUR SQUARE

GROCERIES .. SMALL GOODS .. HARDWARE .. DRAPERY
.. MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING .. etc.

Friendly Service

Agent for: POINEER EXPRESS Bus Service - Fully Air Conditioned -
Connects in Adelaide with Gold Star Services to Melbourne,
Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Perth, Alice Springs & Darwin

Also for: T.A.A. and ANSETT ANA Airlines

SOME IMPRESSIONS

".....Gee it's rough living in Leigh Creek. First take the weather, stinking hot in summer, freezing winds and hail in the winter - mind you we have air conditioned houses and plenty of coal laid on free of charge, but you can't sit in your house all day, besides there is no T.V. anyway. Then there is the cost of living, by the time everybody has made their bit, things are an atrocious price when we buy them. But it's the folk here that really get me down, an average lot I suppose but you can never get away from them. Whether its sport, social life, work, the same ones in your hair all the time. Even the church I went to once, early in the piece, was as lifeless as they come. I'm not saying I am too good for this place, it is just that I've had a skinful of it. So now the first 12 months are up I'm looking for a change...."

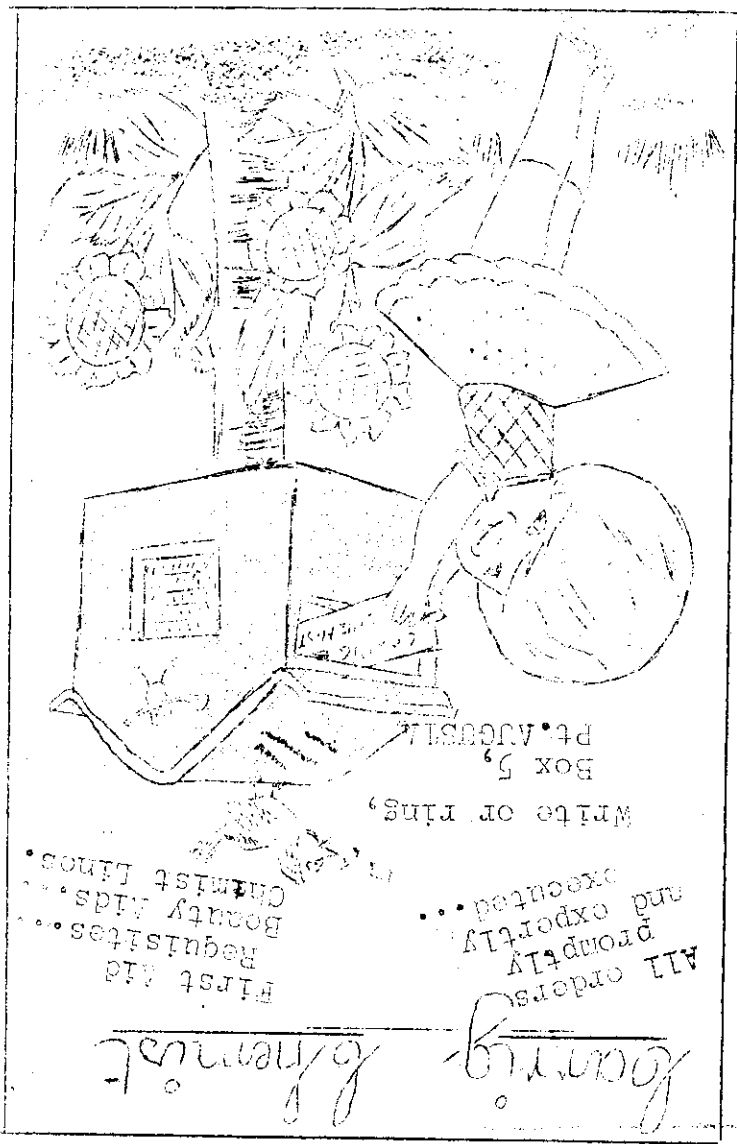
".....Leigh Creek has become a happy home for us. We had no intentions of staying here originally, but the fascinating landscape, harsh yet so beautiful has captured us. We have a comfortable home with ample facilities and low rent, the children have several clubs to choose from as well as a beaut gymnasium and swimming pool. The neighbours seem to change fairly often, but we have made some wonderful friends since coming here (we never had to in Adelaide because we watched TV all the time). It's nice to get away every now and again but it is not long before we are looking forward to going 'home' again. We have never been so well off financially as we are now. It makes us feel we should do our very best for the community and as long as we are allowed to live here that's what we are going to try and do"

Which of these voices most resembles yours? -

The favourite pastime these days is to 'get' all you can. You do not find happiness until you 'give' all you can to others and your community

If you do not get on alright with people here, where will you? Don't run away from your problem, face up to it, and happiness can be yours - -
even in Leigh Creek.

(Anonymous)



1st Semi-Final (reported by a spectator).
was played between the Matadors and the Dodgers. The Matadors shot away to a fast attacking game and at half time were 10 goals up. We then witnessed a few team changes by the Dodgers which proved to be the right ones but too late - the Matadors having tasted victory held on to their lead and finished the game 11 goals up at the final bell.
"Congratulations" Matadors. I gave best on the ground to H. Brand who put everything she had into the game for the full 4 quarters. Helen's approach to the game and her good sporting manner on the court is a credit to her. Others to hold position for their team were LORNAINE WALFORD (best for Matadors), ANNA TRISTAGROSSA (lovely game and some magnificent goals), LEONNIE WARD (fast and sure as usual), SHERBEE WARD (gave her best), MARY TRISTAGROSSA (a little less show of tempera- ment would enable this lass to become a Champion).
SATURDAY 7th Aug. - The two top teams fight it out for a definite position in the grand final.
PIRATES v DEMONS - match to commence at 3.00pm - "Goodluck" 14th August - 1934

FROM THE MAIL BAG
Answer to "Dizzy Mother,"
Your daughter may blow up tyres at the local service station but this doesn't make her an air-hostess.

1st Semi-Final - Robins v Canaries 36-10. ALL girls played very well.
2nd Semi-Final - Kookaburras v Galahs 28-25.
All girls played well once more, but KERRY CHAPMAN and JANE MUSSARRED were outstanding for their teams.

Results of matches:-
17th July: Pirates v Gremlins 42-19
Best: R. HATCH, V. RAPPOLD, B. HATCH.
Gremlins: C. THOMPSON, J. FUCHS, L. GILLIES.
Dodgers v Matadors 37-35
Best: M. TRISTAGROSSA, E. WEDDING, H. BRAND. Matadors: L. WALFORD, S.Mc WATNEY, A. TRISTAGROSSA.
Demons v Tornadoes 28-16
Best: K. WARD, L. HIRSCH, L. THOMPSON.
Tornadoes: O. HANMAN, J. HENLY-SMITH, J. BRINKINS.
24th July: Matadors v Tornadoes 41-29
Best: L. WARD, M. NICHOLLS, A. TESTA-GROSSA. Tornadoes: J. HICKY, K. HILL, P. BRAD.
Pirates v Dodgers 44-22
Best: P. RYAN, V. RAPPOLD, J. HICKY. Managers: S. WARD, H. BRAND, E. WEDDING.
Demons v Gremlins 20-17
Best: N. REID, J. CALLIS, L. HIRSCH. Gremlins: P. GILLIES, J. FUCHS, M. HANMAN.
Partnership list at the completion of major rounds:-
PIRATES 42 pts.
DEMONS 27 "
MATADORS 25 "
DODGERS 16 "
GREMLINS 10 "
TORNADOES 7 "

Widgels
(L. Gillies - Secretary)

21st August - Preliminary Final
Loser of 7th Aug to play MATADORS.
28th August - GRAND FINAL
Mrs. SHIRLEY COX (S.A.W.M.A.)
graded umpire to have control of the match.
Speaking of Umpires - we would like to say a big THANK YOU to Messrs. HATCH, BOULD, REID and Mesdames HAUSCHILD & WALFORD, for the work they have so loyally done this season.
CABARET - August 28th - It will be a beauty so make sure you book early.

Widgels



Church Diary

UNITED CONGREGATION
(Incorp. Meth, Presb., Cong & Others)
Next Service - SUNDAY 15th August
9.30 am.

This service will be combined with the Sunday School which will meet as usual on this day and time.

Rev. GEORGE next in L.C. - 14th and 15th August, 1971.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND - St. Lukes
8th August - 7.pm Evening Prayer
15th August - United Congregation



WARNING

Please keep your dogs home and off the streets. Numerous sheep have been injured and killed by dogs straying onto neighbouring sheep stations adjoining Leigh Creek.

Dogs should be kept on chain at night or they will be poisoned, trapped or shot on these stations. In the last 3 nights sheep to the value of \$140 have been killed.

Dog owners have been warned in previous issues of this paper to no avail.

NO further warnings will be given. Owners will be Prosecuted and damages awarded.

IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR DOGS -
DON'T KEEP THEM.

(Sergeant MAPLE)

Softball

On 18/7/71 MAGPIES were defeated by REBELS 24-20. Best for Rebels: E. WEDDING, S. WEYMOUTH. Magpies: C. HANNAN, P. LEPA The match for 25/7 was forfeited by Rebels to DASHERS. These two matches finished the minor rounds of softball. As the oval was declared unfit for play in the First Semi-final, this match will now be played on the 8th August. This means two matches will be played on this day. The first game will commence at 9.30 am SHARP - DASHERS v REBELS. Second game - 11.30 am SHARP between LOSERS of the first game and MAGPIES. GRAND FINAL will be on the 15th August at 10.30 am between WINNERS of both matches. Premiership table:-

Dashers	27 pts.
Rebels	15 pts.
Magpies	3 pts.

Trophies will be presented at the oval after the finals on the 15th Aug. Will all members please be present as this will be followed by a barbeque for those interested.

A CAKE & PRODUCE stall will be held on the 21st August.

As the response to the last one was very poor, will members please make a special effort to better this one.

(M. KING - Secretary)

SCHOOLBOY HOWLERS

- "Guerilla warfare means when both sides are up to monkey tricks."
- "Bona Fide is a type of dog food."
- "Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines."

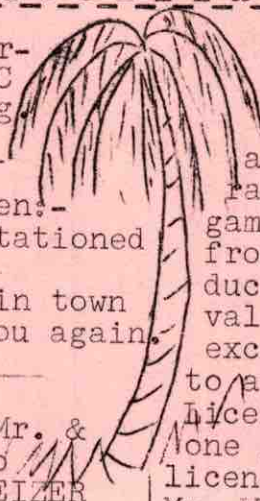
Take a Stroll to

GANGELLS

- NEWSPAPERS-----
- MAGAZINES-----
- COOLDRINKS-----
- SWEETS-----
- CIGARETTES-----
- TOBACCO-----

DRY CLEANING AGENT





Mr. KEVIN MATTISKE - CML Insurance Agent will be visiting LC on the 23rd, 24th and 25th Aug.

We have been shown a screed about Lottery Regulations and we understand that the regulations applying to the legalising of raffles (lotteries) and other games of chance come into force as from 1st April, 1971. For the conducting of raffles where the total value of the prize money does not exceed \$200 it will be necessary to apply for an Annual Licence. The Licence, if issued, is valid for one year and does not retriect the licences to only one lottery. Mr. W. KNOTT has further details for those who seek more information.

Recent visitors to LC have been:- Petty Officer BILL CHAPMAN - stationed at Moreton Base, Brisbane. Also see the MILLIGAN family in town for a few days, nice to see you again.

We say goodbye this issue to Mr. & Mrs. E. EDEN who have moved to N.S.W. and to Mr. & Mrs. C. KEIZER who are transferring to Adelaide. We say 'Congratulations' to the KEIZER family on the occasion of their Naturalization on the 19th July.

"CONGRATULATIONS" to Ron & Mary STOKES on the recent birth of their Son (DANIEL JAMES) 29/7/71.

"Congratulations" also to MICK ILTSCHIEFF on passing his "Quarry Managers" examination.

To Gus & Julie GANGELL on the recent birth of their Daughter (Qu.Vic)3/8.

Note of interest - JOHN MARTINS XMAS PAGEANT will be held on Saturday 13th November 1971.

To Mr. & Mrs. CLAUSEN on the recent birth of their Son, and to Mr. & Mrs. DEMELL on the recent birth of their Son.

We would like to say "Welcome" to Mr. & Mrs. N. BURGESS. Noel is Officer -in-charge for D.C.A.

21st Birthday wishes to JOHN GRAHAM (ex LC) who is holding his party in Adelaide on the 7th August. The key to the door at last John, best of luck from all your LC friends and buddies.

Nice to hear that NARDA DJERMAS has arrived safely in Yugoslavia, we all hope that her stay is a happy one, but look forward to her return.

On the Sick list this week we have:-
Mr. JACK COULTHARD (LC)
Mr. Peter DAULBY (Out patient)
Master Kieran BOCK (Childrens H)

We say "BON VOYAGE" to Mrs. MARIA THOMSON who departs today to spend 6 weeks with her family in Germany. We are certain whe will have a wonderful time and wish her a safe and happy voyage.

Nice to see Mrs Betty BIENKE and Reg GILL home again.

It appears that Adelaide Airport was very reluctant to accept the message that our Airport was closed because of the surface being covered by ICE. We believe the reply was "ho! hum!" tell us another."

A certain gentleman arriving at the Admin for a meeting, saw to his amazement a frog hopping across the road. Realizing that no-one would believe him, he caught this tailless amphibious animal and showed it to a witness.

"CONGRATULATIONS" to Susan Wooldridge and Bill Youngman on their recent engagement - wedding bells have been planned for the 25th September.

An INVITATION to ALL LADIES of LC. Morning Tea will be available for 20 cents on WEDNESDAY 18th Aug. at 10.am in the HOME SCIENCE CENTRE of the School. At the same time, High School STUDENTS will model garments made by themselves. Also on display, will be assorted handicrafts. Keep the date in mind and enjoy the outing. Sponsored by "The LC Area School Welfare Club."

RAINFALL for the year, up to and inclusive 1st August has been 5.9".

For information and brochures on the NEW HOLDEN, plus a quote on your OLD car - contact K. Plumb - phone Leigh Creek 5 or apply 10 North Terrace.

Confucius he say:- "CYRIL KENDRICK, he not only leave LC dam full; he keep dam full ever since. This year already he make 5 times spill-over." Keep up the good work Cyril, but go easy on

FAR NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

PO Box 50,
LEIGH CREEK
Sth. Aust. 5731



Following complaints by passengers of the "Ghan" a letter was sent to the Commonwealth Railways this and the reply to it are as follows :-

"Dear Sir,

Several complaints from passengers of the Ghan were discussed at the last meeting of the above Association, and are listed below with suggestions from the committee.

1. Seating. It appears from most complainants that the train is generally over crowded making the use of the lounge car necessary to seat all passengers. Most passengers feel that the back rests of this vehicle are too low for long distance travel, and the lack of facilities to contain luggage add to this inconvenience. As a committee we feel that with the consistent need to use the lounge car, it is quite evident that more passenger coaches with conventional seating are necessary.
2. Luggage. The over-carriage, temporary loss and damage to suit-cases, etc., continues to recur from time to time. It is felt that if luggage parcels, etc., northbound were carried in the Guards' Van, passengers could always obtain their belongings on alighting. It has happened that they have had to wait for the next southbound train to receive same. This is particularly inconvenient when a person does not reside adjacent to a railway station, in some instances up to 100 miles are involved..
3. Timetable. Of the number of complaints received most were critical of the present timetable. The previous timetable allowed travellers to connect with interstate rail timetables, have a days' shopping or dental care in Pt. Augusta. The current timetable denies this privilege unless one is prepared, or financial enough, to stand the additional cost of an over night stay. The extra hours travelling time is criticised as a retrograde step.
4. Meals and Refreshments. There is some uncertainty as to what passengers can expect and whether costs of meals are inclusive or extra.
5. Bookings. Visitors are amazed that when they approach the Ticket Office in Adelaide, to book seats they are told that booking is not necessary. One passenger who requested a booking in Adelaide, and was eventually placed in a lounge car at Pt. Pirie complained to the Conductor who is alleged to have replied - "we're not particularly interested in passengers for intermediate stations".

Summary :-

This committee is of the opinion that the present timetable is most inconvenient to passengers and suggest that consideration be given to reverting to the previous timetable, whereby shortening the time travelled, allowing interstate connections and dental and business visits to Pt. Augusta. Concerning refreshments, meals and bookings, from questioning complainants it is evident that publicity is necessary.

It appears that information from the North Terrace office of the South Australian Railways is misleading.

Generally we feel that notices should be displayed, pointing out what passengers can expect with regard to seating, meals and charges.

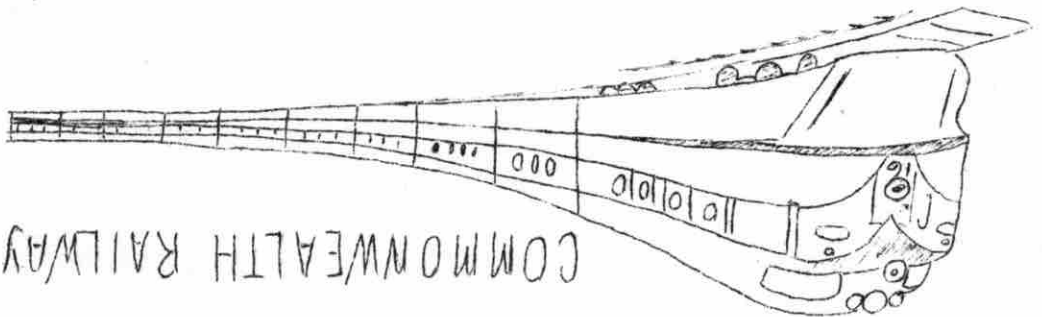
Please don't feel we are being over critical, as many people, including myself, are very happy to travel on the Ghan, the timetable being another matter, but unless these matters are brought to your attention, no reasons for, or improvements can be obtained.

Any assistance in local advertising we will be please to arrange. Your comments on this letter will be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Signed : R. Barber
(Secretary)

COMMONWEALTH RAILWAYS



PO Box 8,
PORT AUGUSTA,
Sth. Aust. 5700

"Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of 15th instant I have to advise that the circumstances which necessitated variation of the "Ghan" timetable from 1st March, 1971, was precipitated by serious deterioration in the condition of the track and imposition of speed restriction on the narrow gauge section of the Central Australia Railway between Marree and Alice Springs.

"The track condition is significantly affected by excessive summer heat and periodical flooding neither of which can be foreseen."

For several months preceding the introduction of the new timetable, 'on time' running of the "Ghan" service could not be maintained. In the Northbound direction besides transferring at Marree at an undesirable late hour on the first night, passengers and accommodation houses at Alice Springs were being subjected to considerable inconvenience with the train consistently arriving at Alice Springs well after midnight on the second night.

In the Southbound direction, connections with the "Overland" express from Adelaide to Melbourne were being missed necessitating emergency arrangements being made for the accommodation overnight, in Adelaide, of passengers for beyond Adelaide and the re-allocation for travel the next day. Where peak bookings prevailed, extreme difficulty was experienced in finding alternative allotments at the short notice presented by failure to connect. Passengers having shipping and airway connections from Melbourne and Sydney to Tasmania, New Zealand and overseas were obliged to complete their journey by air.

I am sure you will appreciate also that whilst all passengers were inconvenienced by late running, women travelling with young children and elderly persons, in particular, found conditions very exacting indeed.

Under the previous timetable the ideal situation which your Association is seeking was not being achieved and as the present arrangements have proved satisfactory to passengers travelling to and from Alice Springs, for whom the service is primarily operated, it is regretted that reversion to the old timetable cannot be approved.

So far as persons travelling to and from Port Augusta to keep dental appointments, etc. are concerned, due to late arrival of the Southbound train and 'on time' departure of the Northbound train, very little time was available for consultations, conducting business, shopping excursions, etc. therefore there would be no point in reverting to a timetable which could not provide these opportunities.

It is not proposed to acquaint you with the inconvenience and disruption of routine working suffered Departmentally on occasions of late running, other than to say that staff rostering and adjustment of locomotive and rollingstock working was consistently necessary, particularly in the latter respect where the locomotive and rollingstock on a Southbound movement was scheduled to provide the corresponding Northbound service on the same day.

It is ironical that to a certain degree, the revised timetable and car working arrangements were introduced to provide a better service and overcome most of the disabilities to which you refer. It has been general practice to provide a minimum of 88 seats in each first and economy class sections of the standard gauge train between Port Pirie and Marree. The connecting train between Marree and Alice Springs is limited to 144 sleeping berths, which is dictated by dining car capacity. It will be seen that even when accommodation for "through" passengers is fully booked, seating accommodation is available on the standard gauge section for 32 intermediate passengers.

Invariably the complement of through passengers is in the vicinity of 120 only, which means that more often than not, ample seating accommodation is available. Observations made at Port Augusta confirm that over-crowding has not occurred.

At the beginning and end of schools vacation periods and whenever prior notice is received of the intention of a special group such as push-walkers, boy scouts, educational excursionists, to travel, additional accommodation is provided.

Unfortunately, sufficient rollingstock of the same type is not available to permit of seating arrangements corresponding in the two train sets utilised and, in consequence, lounge cars are provided on occasions in both first and economy class sections to ensure ample seating accommodation is available. These lounge cars are not actually provided as an amenity but to complement the recognised sitting up cars, when withdrawal of any of the latter is necessary for mechanical maintenance. The first class lounge car is considered to be delightfully comfortable. I am unable to subscribe to your remarks in relation thereto.

Due to the types of cars used and the seating arrangements varying in each consist, it is not possible to introduce a seat reservation system. In view of ample seats being provided, the need for this and which, in any case, would incur the traveler in additional expense, does not arise. Passengers holding first class tickets are merely required to join either Car 1 or 2. Cars 4 and 5 are designated for passengers holding economy class tickets. Number plates are displayed for this purpose whilst the trains are stationary at Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Marree. Platform public address announcements are made accordingly.

With revision of the timetable, opportunity was taken to schedule the "Ghan" via Port Augusta in each direction. This obviated shunting at Stirling North in joining or uncoupling of two sections and disruption of air-conditioning in consequence. Travel via Port Pirie permits of refreshments being obtained at that station as well as at Port Pirie. On the Southbound service a cafeteria car is provided from Port Pirie to Adelaide. Nevertheless, meals may be obtained in the dining car to the extent by which the number of "through" passengers, pre-ticketed for meals, falls short of 144. A passenger travelling to and from an intermediate location should enquire of the Sector Conductor or Senior Water as to whether a casual meal is provided, payment should be made to the Senior Water at the meal's completion. Liquid refreshments may also be obtained on request to the Drinks Steward at the doorway of the dining car kitchen.

One of the conditions under which passengers may travel on the "Ghan" to and from Copley, Telford, Marree and other locations as specially arranged in advance, to avoid disruption of the fast schedule, is that a minimum amount of hand luggage will be taken onto the train and carried in the passenger cars. The fast schedule applicable does not permit of delivery of 'booked' luggage from the sealed mailvan en route. Conductors are available to assist passengers in the handling of their luggage. There is really no necessity for passengers to allow any reasonable amount of luggage out of their possession. 'Booked' luggage is normally conveyed by alternative fast and slow mixed trains which stop at all locations.

Instructions to staff provide that parcels traffic for intermediate locations between Port Pirie and Marree excepting Copley and Telford, will not be conveyed on the "Ghan" unless specially authorised by this office. Consignments for Copley and Telford must be limited to luggage, medicines, bullion, newspapers, fresh flowers, etc. These items are carried in the power van which has limited storage capacity - not in the sealed mailvan.

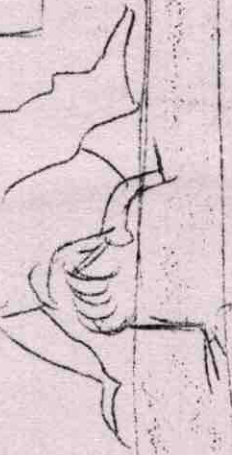
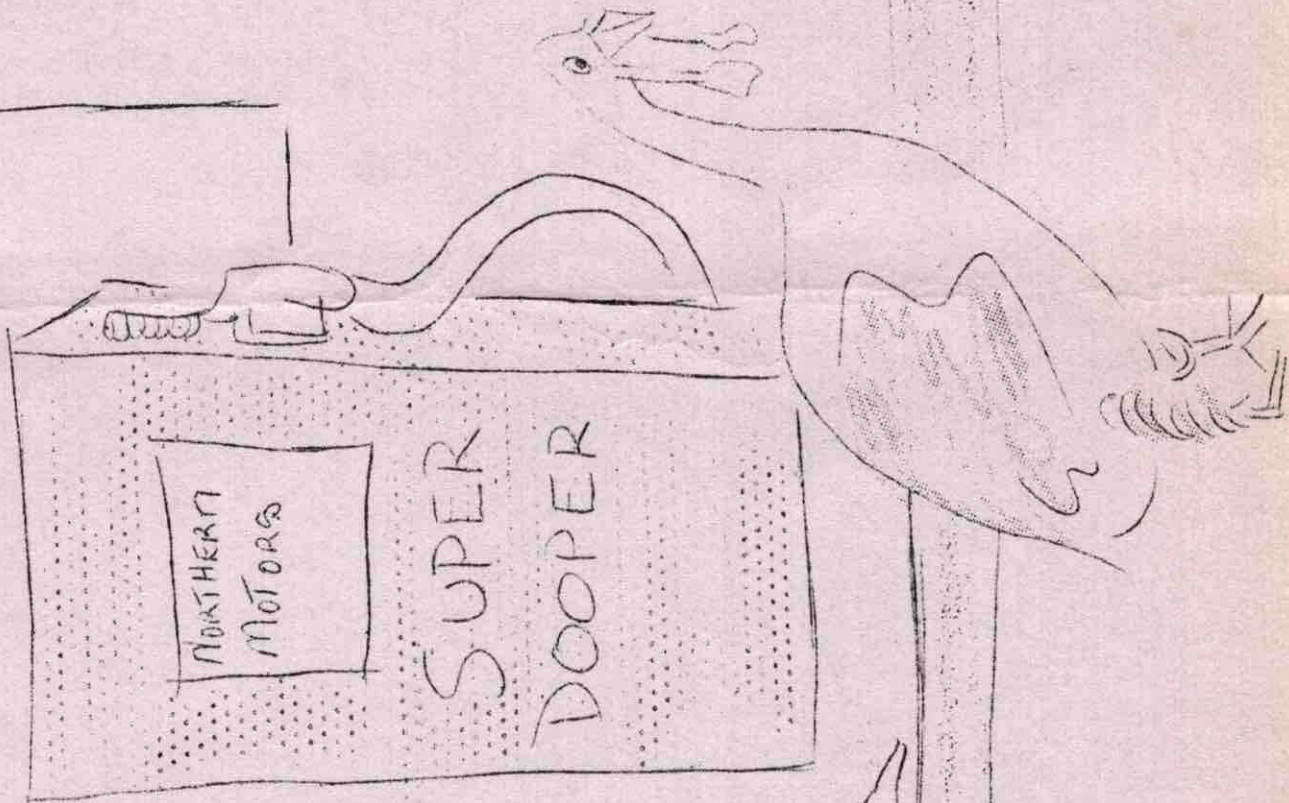
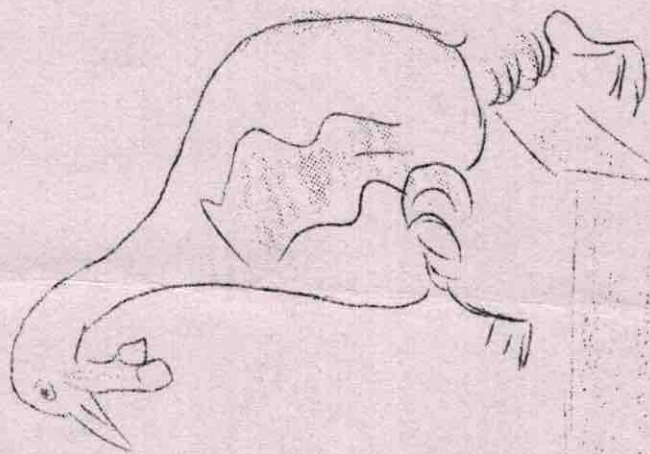
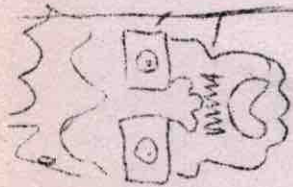
However, to arrange delivery earlier than otherwise possible of consignments other than those authorised it has been the deliberate practice, for many years, to take consignments through to Marree in the mailvan and return them by the stopping train which, under the present timetable, leaves Marree at 12.01 am each Tuesday and Friday. This is considered to be a far better arrangement than delaying dispatch for transit by the regular stopping trains in the Northbound direction. Mail contractors are not inconvenienced as they meet the slow mixed trains only.

Obviously these are the instances of over-crowding to which you refer but nevertheless, this practice will be reviewed to ensure that the most advantageous practices are employed and that damage is avoided. Nevertheless it is desired to thank you for your comments and assure you that the interests of the residents of your area will receive due consideration in the overall planning. Signed (N.F. Brealey) CIVIL ENGINEER MARREE.

SNOPY

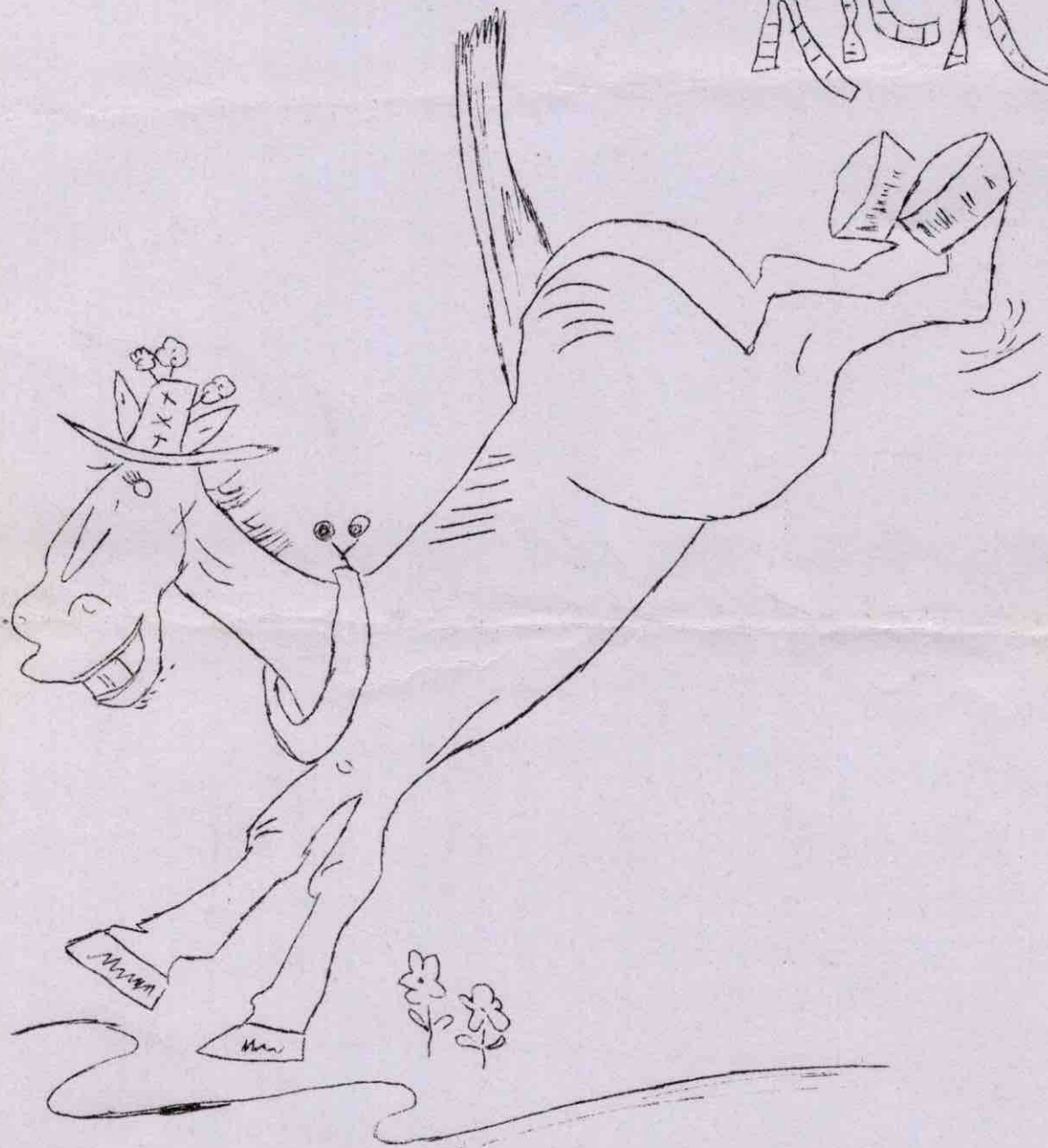
SAYS

watch out! the
Silver City turkeys
are on the loose
again



there's a big

KICK



at

"HOUSIE"

SUPPER ROOM

AUGUST 16th, 1971

Licensed 8.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.

(In aid of Guides & Brownies)