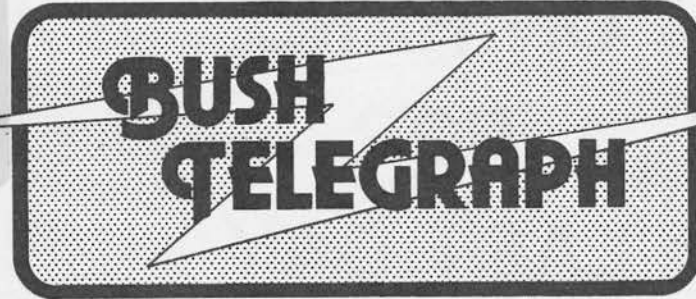


1(17) Aug 1984

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE



## COURAGE INDEED

Brave action by Alan Walker (Manjimup) has received recognition, nearly three years after he saved the life of a drowning Indian girl off Denmark's treacherous Ocean Beach.

Alan was holidaying in Denmark in December 1981 when he was involved in the incident in which three people drowned and four were saved from heavy seas.

Seven tertiary students were being swept out to sea when Alan and two other men made the rescue bid.

The two other men were Denmark Surf Life Saving club captain Syd Marshall and a former life saver, John Collier of Perth.

Last month Alan and Mr Collier received letters of commendation from the Australian Surf Life Saving Association. Mr Marshall, who saved two students on a surf ski, received the citation of merit.

This week, Alan recalled the tragedy: "We were on holidays - I've got a house there - and we had been on the beach for a few hours.

"This man (John Collier) ran up to me and asked could I swim. He said there were people in trouble out there.

"I found a girl about one foot beneath the surface, she was full of water.

"I had never been involved in anything like this before. I am not a qualified surf life saver, I don't even call myself a strong swimmer.

"It was fortunate for her that she had long hair, I grabbed her hair and was towing her through the water.

"I didn't know if she was alive. I suspected the worst. She was blue and full of water and felt heavy to tow.



Alan Walker with the letter of commendation from the Australian Surf Life Saving Association.

(photo supplied courtesy Warren Blackwood Times)

"I was just about at the stage where I was going to let her go so I could save myself.

"But I had managed to get her in far enough to shallow water where I could touch the bottom," Alan said.

The girl later recovered on the beach after members of the surf life saving club fought to save the swimmers' lives.

One man was never recovered from the ocean and two others were either dead before they were brought onto the beach or died on the beach.

CONTINUED P3.

"Bush Telegraph" is the staff journal of the Forests Department in Western Australia. Any views or opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Department and articles published should not be taken as statements by the Department or the West Australian Government.

All enquiries and comments should be directed to Ian Kay, the editor, phone Como HQ ext. 327.

# ON HAND FOR LAST DAY

As usual, Alec Edwards was 'on hand' on Friday, July 27 - his last official day with the Department. Debbie Greaves (L) and Cheryl Watters persuaded Alec to help them draw first prize in the new Como Social Club raffle (pictured).

Giving people 'a hand' has been Alec's trademark since he joined the Department almost thirty years ago.

In 1955, Alec transferred from Accounts at the Lands Department to Administration and Finance with Forestry at Dwellingup. After 20 years in the 'country' he moved to Kelmscott and Alec's last move was to the new Northern Regional Office at Como - in 1977. Alec helped get the region organized and lately he has been responsible for administrative training (in the region). "There are a lot of younger officers and staff in the field expected to learn and cope with Departmental procedure - usually on their own. Of course there are a 100 other things they would rather do, so it was my job to help them along and to make sure they understood what was required," said Alec.

One of Alec's most unforgettable experiences with the Department was the fire at Dwellingup, but you get the feeling Alec has generally been more concerned with people than events. In his 20 years at Dwellingup (the Department's centre for training) Alec saw a lot of our (now) senior officers take their early steps with forestry, and he was always there to keep them on the straight and narrow... Two that spring readily to mind are Bruce Beggs and Frank Campbell. Typical too of Alec's quiet behind the scenes approach are the 11 years he spent as secretary (after 2 years as treasurer) of the W.A. Forestry Field Officers Association.

## BARTH'S DISTINCTION

There are two types of people: those who divide people into two types, and those who don't.



On Friday night Alec and his wife Jo were farewelled. Alec was made an Honorary Life Member of the W.A.F.F.O.A., and, on behalf of the Department and the friends who came to see them off, Pat McNamara made a presentation.

Alec and Jo will soon leave on a couple of 'warm - up' runs to the North-West and South, before they tackle the Grand Tour by car and caravan - departing in May. They have made the trip around Australia before... "but we only had six months", said Alec. "This time we'll do it properly, and check the fishing and the golf as we go".

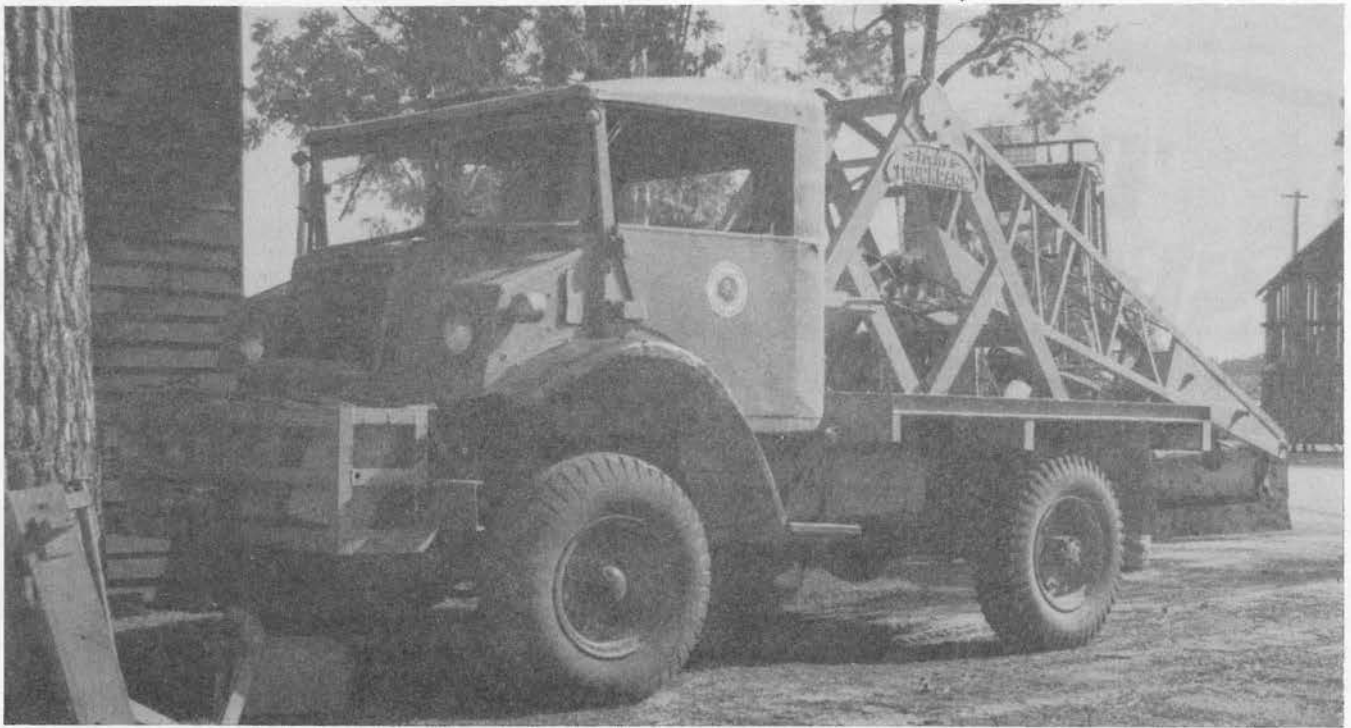
## RAFFLES

The Como Social Club plans to introduce regular raffles as part of it's new activities programme for Headquarters staff and members.

On pay days tickets will be sold (one ticket 20c - seven tickets one golden coin) for a quality prize drawn the following day.

Drew Griffiths, the new President, said that the raffle should be self supporting. Winner of the first prize - a pocket transistor and stereo headset - was John Dunn (mapping)

Each member of the Social Club will also be allocated a membership number and on off-pay weeks a lucky number will be drawn using the CSIRO random number selector. The lucky member (hopefully this will encourage more to join) will win \$10.



## LOYAL LADY

Old UQD 667 (nee WAG 1631) has lead a very easy life according to her guardians Steve Grenfell and Stan Gallager (Engineering, Como).

"Sure, she has 'danced' around the Gngangara compound a fair bit in her time, but she hasn't put in half the work that her sisters have", said Steve.

"UQD 657 (also resting now at Gngangara) and UQD 666 were both Jib trucks in their day and really served the gangs well.

"In the late 50's and early 60's those girls were the forerunners of the modern-day logging forwarders.

"They pulled logs from the bush to the landing, stacked them and later used the jib to load the logging trucks."

"It was a hard life - eight hours a day - and they show it", said Steve.

Stan went back through his records to get some details.

"The good looking one, UQD 667, (picture) was brought from the Agricultural Department in 1953 for 50 pounds. She started as a gang truck for (the late) George Reynolds and was made a crane truck in 1957", he said. "I see here that she has had four engines - life can't have been as easy as I thought".

For the record, Steve and Stan plan to preserve the 4 x 4 C15A Chevys (1942) as part of the Department's parade fleet.

One will probably be a fire unit with a Coventry-Climax pump - the other as an original Jib. The third will be used for transplants to keep her sisters going.

Operations are underway at Mundaring on the body of UQD 666 and the students at Carlisle Technical College are taking the wrinkles out of her cab with yet another face lift.

"It is a worthwhile operation", said Steve, "and good training. Besides a lot of the better lookers were lured overseas to SINGAPORE when things settled down, so it is the least we can do to repay their service and loyalty."

COURAGE INDEED  
CONTINUED FROM P1.

Alan believes the tragedy began after two of the students got into difficulty and others went out to save them. Another member of their group remained and managed to raise the alarm.

WASLSA administrator Bob Welch said the awards were the first to be presented in this State in more than 10 years.

He said the three men had made the rescues at great risk to their own lives, in horrific seas.

**TOP  
SECRET**

BEFORE YOU READ THIS - BURN IT!

Over the past few weeks, those of an inquisitive nature passing on the sunny side of the Computer Services Module may have noticed a mysterious bearded boffin and a suspicious character in a guernsey of many colours crouched conspiratorially over a computer terminal. Were they hi-tech nihilists bent on blowing up the Perkin-Elmer? Or frayed collar crims adding a few noughts to their pay-cheques?

Before anyone calls in ASIO we should reveal that this dastardly duo consisted of Martin Clifton and Phil Rebakis, they were developing an information retrieval system for Research Branch.

Computers can be slightly useful as intelligent filing cabinets which can retrieve in a few seconds information that might take several hours or days to retrieve by present manual methods. Due to Phil and Martin's work it will soon be possible to find all the Research Working Plans over the past 30 years on, say, fertilization in Karri, or Jarrah silviculture, or the mating habits of naughty Nifty Numbat.

But sssshhhh!!!!...dont tell everybody, or they'll all be using the computer to make their own work easier. Who knows, some half-baked nincompoop may even have the effrontery to suggest that a net-working micro-computer on every forest manager's desk may ease decision making and improve productivity by a trifling 98% or so.... don't forget, this is all sub rosa. If the hoi polloi find out we're sunk....

MARTINO FONI  
(Secret Agent)



Annette Eastcott is pictured with Gary Van Burgel, the President of the Harvey Agricultural Society. (Photo supplied courtesy Elders Weekly.)

## Showgirl

The cheerful voice you get on the phone when you ring HARVEY office belongs to Annette Eastcott.

A local girl, Annette has been with the Department for two years and impresses everyone with her outgoing personality.

Not surprizing then, that Annette was announced the winner and local representative for the Miss Showgirl 1984 competition, at the recent Agricultural Society's Gala Ball.

Annette will represent HARVEY (and the Forests Department) at the Busselton Regional Final. One girl will go forward to represent the region at the State final, held at the Royal Show Ball on 28 September 1984.

Best of Luck, Annette!

## ADVANCE NOTICE

It is time to start thinking about this year's 'Blackwood Marathon' - being held at Bridgetown on Saturday, 27 October. (Hopefully some of the Olympic Spirit has rubbed off).

Every year the Forests Department participates with a \*star\* team and two or three other 'place-getters!'

Greg Strelein (Manjimup Research) is helping to organize the Departmental effort and he would like to hear from anyone interested in joining a team.

Each team comprises a runner (12 K); a canoeist (7.3 K); a swimmer (1 K); a horserider (16 K), and a cyclist (20 K).