

Nov 2000

Issue No. 65

The Queenstown Courier



Published by
**Queenstown & District Historical Society
(Inc.)**
Queenstown

Aims of the Society

- (1) *That we use our power to advise, concerning the saving of historical aspects of the district.*
- (2) *Preservation of and education in all aspects of historical research and interest.*

General Information....

President:	Rupert Iles	442 1976
Secretary:	Jocelyn Robertson	442 1468
Treasurer:	E C (Peter) Mills	442 7930
"Courier":	Duncan Wilson	442 7385
Trips:	Malcolm Boote	442 0004
	Cicely Morrison	442 1744

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All correspondence, accounts and subscription payments should be addressed to:

PO Box 132, Queenstown

The Courier acknowledgement

This issue has been produced by staff at the Lakes
District Museum.

Their quality work is hereby acknowledged

*The Official Publication
of the Queenstown & District
Historical Society*

The Queenstown Courier

The Official Publication of the
Queenstown and District Historical Society

Sixty Fifth Issue - November 2000

Officers of the Society

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Vice President:	Malcolm Boots (trips)	442 0004
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Clody Morrison (trips)	442 1744	Duncan Wilson (Courier)	442 7385
Margaret Templeton	442 8312	Wendy Ellingham	442 0036
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Annual Subscription	\$10.00 per person or family
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Life Membership	\$100.00 per person

The Courier is included in subscription.

All correspondence and accounts should be addressed to the Society's permanent address - PO Box 132, Queenstown.

QUEENSTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

3RD NOVEMBER 2000

It is pleasing to report that during the past year your Society has been engaged in many worthwhile projects, trips and representations on local planning matters.

Our Sesqui-Centennial project, the tile mural, designed and produced by Jan Morrison of Auckland, is in place in the Queenstown Public Library. A successful evening to mark the unveiling was enjoyed by all, with Mayor Warren Cooper receiving the mural on behalf of the people of the district, and a delightful talk given by Jan Morrison describing her work.

At this stage, we should acknowledge the efforts of Cicely Morrison and Joan Carswell for their guidance in this enterprise. Also of George Ellingham for his time and materials given so unselfishly in securing the mural to the wall, plus the making of the information sheet stand (displayed) with its descriptive legend, which is the final saga in this project.

Some copies of the "Courier" have now been scanned and put on disc by Karen Bouley. This project will take some time to complete.

We have also given to the Lakes District Museum and the Queenstown Public Library copies of guidelines for the restoration and preservation of buildings, as published by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. These can be used for reference by interested parties.

We are now investigating the feasibility of a guide plaque defining original buildings in the Queenstown Mall. Also, the possibility of expanding the microfilm library at the Museum.

During the year we have had six trips and outings organised by Malcolm Boote and Cicely Morrison:

- ◇ An Open Day at the Queenstown Public Library
- ◇ Christmas Barbecue
- ◇ Walkabout at Ophir (thanks to John Gaylor and Graham Anderson)
- ◇ "Living History of Arrowtown", and here our appreciation must be expressed to the Lakes District Museum and Ray Clarkson for all their help in research and information and to all the active participants.
- ◇ The trip to the Old Lindis Hotel, Polson's Hut and Morven Hills was memorable, thanks to Gordon and Leslie Lucas, Gerald Goodger and Max Snow.
- ◇ Dr Jill Hamel presented a very interesting and informative evening on the archaeological site in Church Street, Queenstown.

Early in the New Year a small group of volunteers, headed by Wendy and George Ellingham, assisted Peter Petchey and his team in an archaeological dig on the Casino site, Beach Street, Queenstown. A fascinating pattern of foundations was exposed, photographed and charted. Also, numerous artifacts and a large number of bottles were recovered.

Elizabeth Macdonald, Karen Boulay, Ray Clarkson and Ray Timmins comprise a sub-committee assessing and, where thought necessary, making submissions and representations on planning matters and consent applications where they affect historic sites or buildings.

Currently, representations are being made on the preservation of:-
Skippers Road, Eichardt's Hotel, Forrestors' Lodge, and the Kawarau Falls Bridge/Dam.

After representations from the Society, Council allocated funds so that the stone wall approach to the Edith Cavell bridge has been repaired and the Ballarat Street bridge repairs are about to begin.

The electrical transformers in front of St Peter's Anglican Church, Queenstown, are going to be moved. This Society can take credit in being the main mover, in that we made direct representations to the local Council and the Ombudsman, which resulted in the decision to relocate them.

Earlier in the year we applied to the Southland Community Trust for funding for remedial work to preserve the oak tree on Frankton Road. However the Committee listened, on site, to the concerns of Transit New Zealand and the consulting arborist about the doubtful value of any work on the longevity of the tree and the drastic pruning of the canopy by at least one third. Taking into consideration the adverse visual effect, and in the interests of safety, we agreed, reluctantly, that the tree should come down.

Finally, I would like to thank the Editor of the "Courier", Duncan Wilson, our Treasurer, Peter Mills, our secretary, Pat Duff, and all the other members of the committee who have given so unselfishly of their time to make this past year such a success.

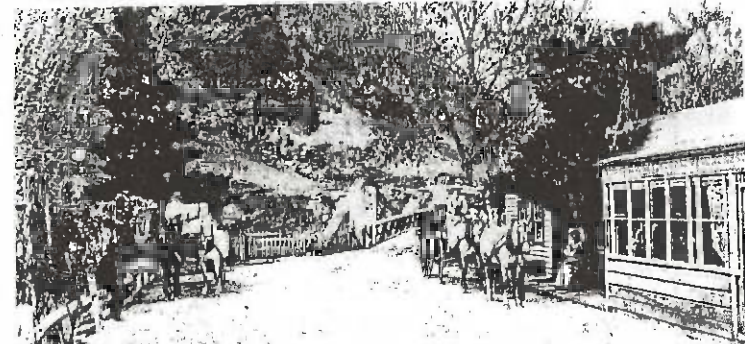
Rupert Lee
President

Victoria Bridge - A De La Mare

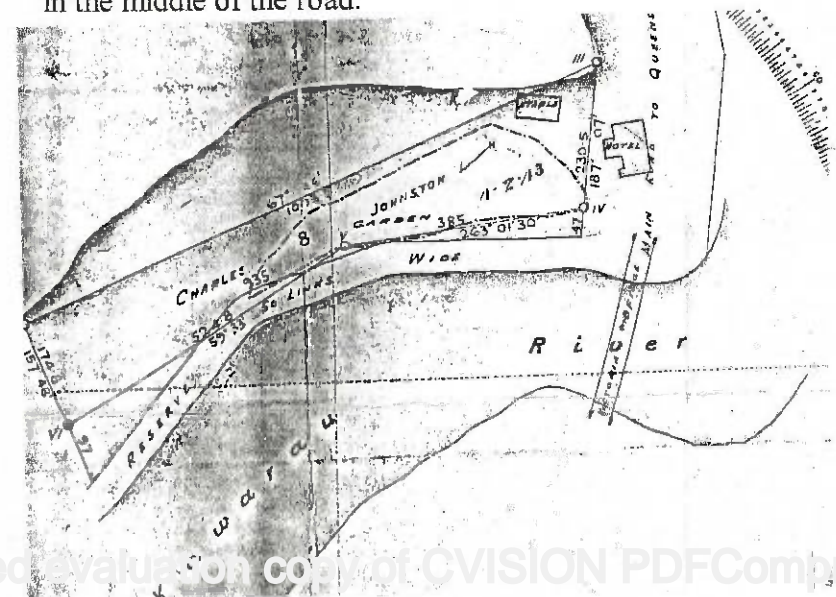
VICTORIA BRIDGE HOTEL

by Allan De la Mare

Most members will be familiar with the following illustration of the Victoria Bridge Hotel (courtesy Lakes District Museum) which looks as if it was designed so that travellers could be served by leaning out of their vehicles.



The next illustration is a survey plan of the area dated 1882 which shows the hotel was indeed plumped slap in the middle of the road.



The bridge and hotel were built by John McCormack in 1874 and he was probably free from any interference from the Provincial Government. Town planning was still far off.

The bridge which replaced a punt established by William Edwards in 1866 was a private venture by McCormack and cost 6000 pounds. It had a span of 59 metres, required 600 tons of masonry, 19 tons of iron and 28 11cm wire ropes. It was a good investment as McCormack charged 1/- a head to use the bridge and it was a busy road. The hotel too contributed to the profitability of the venture.

When the Provincial Governments were abolished in 1876 the bridge was purchased by the government from McCormack for 4000 pounds and handed over to the Lakes County Council. From that date 14th May 1878 the bridge was toll free.

In 1881 the hotel was offered for sale and came with a garden of over one acre, shown on the survey plan, well stocked with fruit trees. In addition there was a 16 acre lease from the government and the right to occupy a 70 acre farm with a large barn and buildings.

It was bought by Charles Johnston and his wife Mary who was to become publican in the area for the next 40 years. Known by all as "Mammy" her career has been told in "Plenty To Do", a museum publication written by Julia Bradshaw and Michelle Ruddenklau.

Charles Johnston, who died in 1889, besides being a publican and farmer, contracted at times to maintain part of the main road to Cromwell. Anne Cook in her "Gibbston Story" describes it was not an easy job because of a tendency for the road metal to fall into rock fissures under the surface. This must have been caused by the fault line which passes through the Waitiri Peninsula which Alex Millar told us about on one of the society's visits to the area. He said it took endless loads of gravel to fill a fissure which must have been extremely deep. There is now a slight bump in the road at this point affectionately known to some as "Alec's bump".

Cardrona Hotel - Sarah Scott

CARDRONA HOTEL, Cadrona Valley Road, Central Otago.

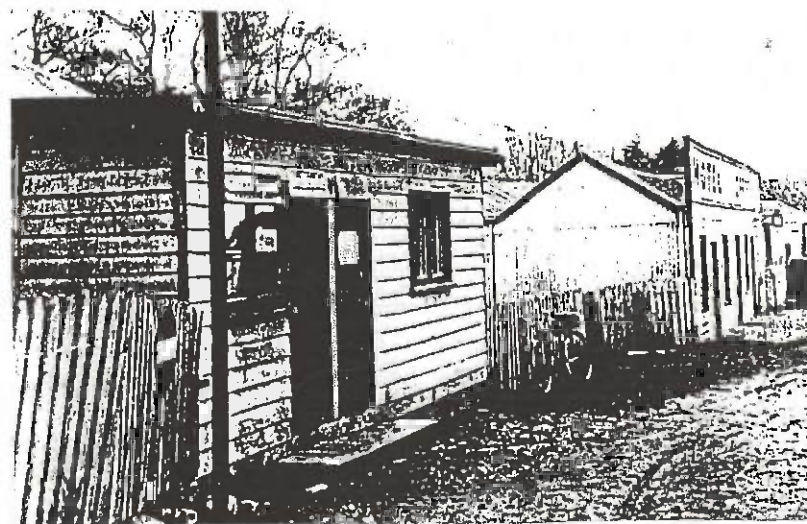
[Included in the application for Resource Consent by SARAH SCOTT, Architect, Wanaka, for additions and alterations to the existing Cardrona Hotel and associated buildings in October 1999, was a section on the historical and heritage perspective. With thanks to Sarah Scott, this section is reprinted as follows]:



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The road over the Crown Range provided one of the early routes from Pembroke (Wanaka) to the Wakatipu and was first crossed in 1860. In November 1862 gold was discovered up the Cardrona Valley and by 1863 a small settlement had been established. At this time Cardrona was mostly still a convenient stopover en route to the Arrow and Shotover Rivers.

The first publican erected a calico shanty in 1863. By the close of the sixties the area contained four hotels, a Post Office and seven stores. The first school was established in 1870. Although money was put aside in 1875 for a dray road over the Range to the Crown Terrace nothing was done for some time and the township of Cardrona declined during the late 1870's.



In 1876 Robert McDougall bought the land on which he built the Post Office and shop. The land and buildings remained in the family of the McDougall's and their descendants for 95 years, until they were purchased by John Lee and Dennis Pezarro in 1974.

By 1877 Cardrona was reduced to three hotels and the mixed population of European and Chinese inhabitants had dropped from 1000 people to about 200 inhabi-

tants.

The major flood of 1878 caused Lake Wanaka to rise almost four and a half metres above its normal level and at Cardrona most roads and tracks were entirely wiped out and every bridge was destroyed or badly damaged.

“Many buildings subsided, houses, gardens, paddocks and roads disappeared when swirling waters collapsed the honeycomb of tunnels which underlay the surface of the valley”, causing “widespread subsistence”.

In the 1880’s the road over the Crown Range was being travelled by coach between Pembroke and the Arrow, open during the summer season for limited use by wheeled traffic. By 1889 a passenger and parcel service was operating between Pembroke and Cardrona.

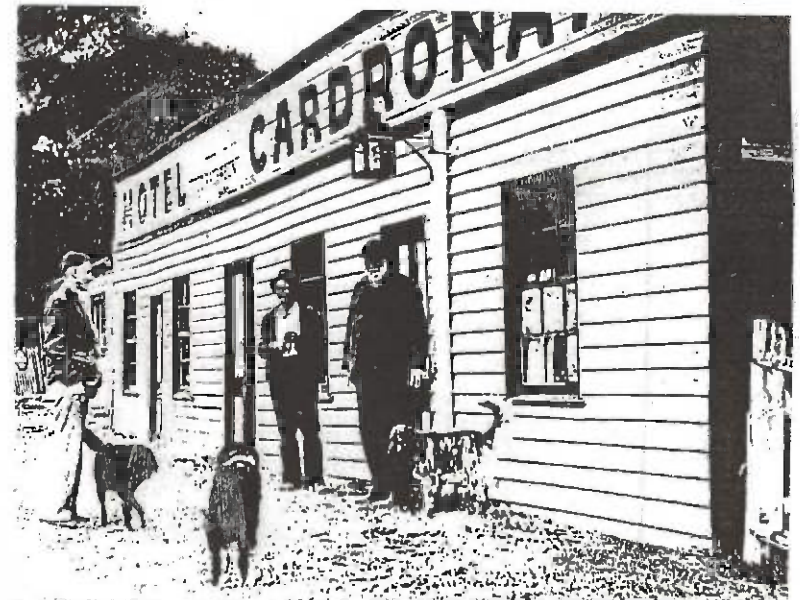
In 1927 James Paterson, who had come to Cardrona in 1890 and worked there on a gold claim for forty years, took over Willoughby’s Empire Hotel and changed the name.

Paterson’s predecessor John Willoughby, was an English blacksmith and also the Sunday School teacher. At the time that Willoughby took over the hotel early in the century, he was so appalled by the amount of liquor consumed by the diggers that he had bought the hotel to control the drinking.

James Paterson married Ettie, daughter of Albert La Franchi, former publican and owner of the All Nations Hotel. Ettie died in 1936 and Patterson continued to run the hotel on his own. By the end of the fifties the hotel still remained as it had been at the time of Ettie’s death.

In 1950 the Licensing Control Commission summonsed Paterson to Cromwell with the intention of revoking the license. In a historic verdict the Commission “recognised the principle that a hotel, though practically falling to bits,” - “might be a necessary social centre.”

Paterson and his niece Lily McDougall, “who lived in the Post Office next door, and cooked his meals, went back to Cardrona where he continued to serve a travelling public from a bar room which seldom contained more than three crates of beer at any one time”



He didn't like serving women and limited patrons to two drinks if they were travelling over the Crown Range road.

In 1958 a further cancellation hearing took place, but Paterson had loyal support and in another unlikely decision the commission ruled that the license of the Cardrona Hotel was not to be cancelled or transferred.

Having remained in the ownership of the present licensee for more than 32 years the Commission decided that they would not disturb the almost ninety year old Paterson in his desire to retain the hotel. James Paterson died in 1961 at the age of 91 and for all intents and purposes the license should have died with him, but the license was mistakenly renewed and six months after Paterson was buried, the license was still in place. In June 1961 the furniture was auctioned and the bar room closed. Eventually the license lapsed.

Following Paterson's death the hotel was purchased by a local farmer Jack Galvin, a descendant of the legendary Irishman Paddy Galvin, whose recently restored cottage still remains further up the road. Jack paid two hundred and fifty pounds for the hotel. From 1970 to 1977 the property was owned by John Lee and Dennis Pezarro

In 1977 the property was purchased by Eddie and Rosemary Jones. At this stage it had been closed up since Paterson's death in 1961. From 1977 to 1983 Eddie and Rosemary carried out major renovation and restoration

work and in 1983 the building was once again open to the public primarily as a restaurant.

Eddie and Rosemary remained in the hotel until 1988 when it was purchased by Steve and Julie McKnight.



From 1993 until 1999 the buildings were owned by Brian Gilbert who continued to upgrade the facilities.

• Heritage

The Cardrona Hotel occupies a strong place in the history of Central Otago, the buildings remaining on the site, providing a strong and visible link to the earliest days of goldfield settlement. The historic buildings are contained on the site as follows:

The Post Office and shop are located on Section 7, The Hotel on Section 8 and the Annex on Sections 9 and 10. All these buildings front on to the highway. Also located on the site are; the loose boxes - Sec 8, the barn - Sec 9/9 and the miners cottage - Sec 6/7.

The proposed District Plan, (July 1998, Appendix 3 - Inventory of Protected Features), lists the Cardrona

Hotel Facade, Secs 4, 9-10, Block VII. The listing is QLDC Category 1 and Historic Places Trust, Category II.

When Eddie and Rosemarie Jones purchased the building in 1977, the entire place was in a state of advanced decay, having sat empty since the death of Paterson in 1961. The level of the road had meant the water from the hill behind was trapped along the front of the hotel resulting in major decay of the floor structure and the bottom plates and studs of the walls. The building was completely reconstructed behind the facade and then the entire Baltic Pine timber facade was lifted half a metre up out of the ground and reattached.

The original timber floor boards had previously been removed and a new concrete floor slab was laid through the new kitchen, restaurant and bar area. This floor slab was then timber battened and wooden tongue and groove flooring was relaid. The timber for these floors came from the High Street School in Dunedin and Onslow House, previously the Grand Pacific Hotel in St Clair.

The current area occupied by the bar was previously the billiard room and housed a full sized bagatelle table. Originally the whole of the wall on the North East side was hinged to allow the table to be moved outside to make way for dances and other functions. This wall is now gone and the bar has been extended to the North East. The billiard table remains in the possession of the Jones family. Windows for the extensions to the bar and the restaurant area were gathered from early farm buildings around Wanaka. Adjacent to the Hotel on the

Wanaka side is the original annex which provided the accommodation for the groomsmen who attended the coach horses as they over nighted at the Cardrona. The horses were housed in the loose boxes (stables) which are located to the rear of the hotel.

The original bar, formerly covered in leather and complete with depressions in its surface for the gold dust, is now located in the front waiting room adjacent to the restaurant and the wooden top has been covered with hand beaten copper sheet.

In 1984 the newly restored complex was opened as a restaurant following eight years of painstaking reconstruction and restoration, best described as "a labour of love".

In 1987 this work was acknowledged by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, when the building was awarded the David Cox Memorial Award, an annual award which recognises and encourages restoration of historic buildings in the Otago area.

During the eleven years that the Jones's worked on the buildings and surrounding sites, there was very little in the way of artefacts unearthed. Over the previous many years that the buildings had sat derelict and empty, they had been well scavenged.

QUEENSTOWN AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TRAVEL TRUST ACCOUNT
 Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 30 September 2000

1999	Receipts	2000	1999	Payments	2000
2288	Bank Balances Fwd	2763.53			
5092 45	Travel Receipts Interest	5356.82 31.67	4649 6 7	Travel Payments Copying Bank Charges	4627.81 27.70
				Transfers to Q & D Hist Socy	3362.50
7426		8152.02	2764 7426	Bank Balances Closing	134.01 8152.02

Bank Balances @ 30 Sep 2000

Current Account	134.01
	134.01

Auditor's Statement

I have examined the financial records of the Society which in my opinion have been properly kept. I have obtained the information and explanations I required. In common with other similar organisations, control over income and sundry donations prior to its being recorded is limited, and there are no practicable audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control. In my opinion the financial statements presented above give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Travel Trust of the Queenstown and District Historical Society for the year ended 30 September 2000.



D. Warrington BCom CA

QUEENSTOWN AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 30 September 2000

1999	Receipts	2000	1999	Payments	2000
10919 3720 195	Bank Balances Fwd Subscriptions Donations	12157.01 2920.50 280.00			
0	Grant from Trustbank	0.00	95 0 55 0 599 115	Subscriptions Grants and Donations Postage and Tolls Advertising Printing, Stationery, Typing P.O. Box	95.00 0.00 165.66 0.00 673.05 0.00
0 0 1596 0 273 583	Sales of Couriers Trips Luncheon Book Income Sundry Interest	0.00 3362.50 1392.00 0.00 60.00 657.77	1844 0 1556 50 0 651 165 12157	Couriers Trips Luncheon Prizes Mural Gifts and Vouchers Sundry Bank Balances Closing	1585.63 0.00 1405.00 50.00 5666.85 207.30 251.69 10729.60
17287		20829.78	17287		20829.78

Bank Balances @ 30 Sep 2000

Current Account	1196.98
Term Deposit Westpac	8242.09
Term Deposit Bldg Socy	1290.53
	10729.60

Auditor's Statement

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D. Warrington BCom CA

The Early Days of the Queenstown Borough Council

by Allan De La Mare

The first meeting of the Queenstown Borough Council was held on 8 August 1866. The members of the council were J.W. Robertson, Mayor and Bendix Hallenstein, M.J. Malaghan, John Turner and David Weaver Councillors. They were all young men, the oldest being Robertson at 40. Robertson was a timber merchant and sawmiller, later to become a ship owner. Hallenstein and Malaghan were both merchants in a big way selling a large range of goods. David Weaver too was a merchant but on a smaller scale. Turner was a builder and architect.

They started from scratch without cash, premises or plant of any kind. There were some urgent matters requiring attention but first of all a clerk and an office were needed. An advertisement produced two candidates who were required to tender their own salary. They were F Falck, the local Postmaster at 80 pounds and Henry Manders at 100 pounds. Manders was appointed. Manders was a mining agent and journalist.

To overcome the complete lack of cash the Mayor offered a loan of 25 pounds which was accepted. A month later Central government gave a grant in aid of 500

pounds which solved the cash problem until rates could be levied.

Bendix Hallenstein solved the office problem by offering the Provincial Hotel at 5/- per week. It would appear that Hallenstein owned or had an interest in this hotel which was situated on the south side of the present mall, the third section above Eichardts, now the National Bank.

This section was purchased by Miss Elizabeth Griffiths in the first sale of land in Queenstown by the Provincial Government in February 1864 for 12 pound and 15 shillings. The price indicates Miss Griffiths had a pre-emptive right to the section and she must have squatted on this prime site in the very earliest days of Queenstown's settlement to qualify. She must have been one very tough lady to have footed it with the men in a gold rush atmosphere. Presumably she established the Provincial Hotel which in a photograph of 1864 shows as a small wooden building with a large sign to identify it. By 1867 the heady days of the rush were over and the number of hotels had dropped dramatically including it seems the Provincial Hotel which was then probably a small ramshackle building and unoccupied.

In March 1867 the council decided to buy the property which cost them 60 pounds and later in the year made arrangements to fit up the building, the room used by the council to be reserved and the rest made into a large room. In 1870 the council gave consideration to building a new Town Hall to replace what was essentially a

town clerk's office and council meeting room, but settled for making the existing building suitable for its purpose.

In the following year, 1871, the council received an unusual offer by a company called the Queenstown Athanaeum and Town hall Company to provide accommodation for the council for 21 years in return for Council conveying to them the property. At first council declined the offer but later, probably because it saved the cost of a new building, accepted subject to their having the right to purchase back within 21 years at full cost of the building.

The company was incorporated on 9 October 1871 with a capital of 300 shares each worth 5 pounds and an elaborate building in stone and concrete commenced. It was finished in 1872 with the date and company name in large plaster letters across the top of the building. The date still remains on the parapet and some fragments of the facade have survived but all the rest of the building has vanished.

The library must also have been accommodated in the building as there were moves in 1875 for the council and library committee to buy the building. Nothing came of this proposal and the library moved to the new building in Stanley Street backing on to the court House.

In 1878 the Athenaeum and Town hall Company was

wound up being purchased for 600 pounds by George Atkins, Bendix Hallenstein, Thomas George Betts, Thomas Hicks, Michael John Malaghan, James Douglas and William Warren all being prominent and affluent citizens. The new owners took over the obligation to supply free accommodation for the council.

It is not known how long the council chambers remained in the Mall building but presumably they, at least, saw out the term of the free lease. Later the council chambers were shifted to occupy parts of the Court House and library. Long term residents can only remember the Town clerks of office being in this position and possibly the office was relocated when the original agreement expired. In a report of the gas works explosion in 1923 it refers to damage to the Town Hall but it appears the building was commonly known by this name long after the Town Clerks office had been relocated.

The "Town hall" was used for many purposes over the years, including retail shops and from about 1911 as a picture theatre. The Tomkies took over the pictures in 1913 and ran them for many years. One who ran the pictures in more recent times was G D Cochrane, who was Mayor of the town from 1940 to 1953 and played a prominent part in the town. One feature of the picture theatre was a roof which could be folded back to open the auditorium to the open skies.

For some years before the building was demolished it was known as the Trading Post.

LAKE HAYES, AS IT WAS

(In the current scramble to develop land surrounding Lake Hayes, one-time lake Hayes resident Jim Childerstone reminisces on earlier days of subdivision - HALF A CENTURY AGO)

Subdivisions around Lake Hayes are not a new phenomenon. Long before Howard Paterson, John Guthrie, John Martin et-al had even thought of purchasing land around this idyllic patch of water Ken Hagitt of Bendemeer and Jim Dennison, contractor and longtime lakeside resident had hived off bits of land. We were one of the first to erect a new house on the lake front off the Arrowtown road, nearly half a century ago.

It was on the first subdivision since the end of World War 2. We, with the Jones' and Dunlops', must have started something. The year was 1954. The unpretentious bungalow style home on two levels cost the family three thousand five hundred pounds sterling, mostly from Grandpa Fergy's coffers. (The late Dr WBO Ferguson who was the local GP at the time.)

The family, through uncle Kim and Aunty Jean (Ferguson), bought the two quarter acre sections off Jim Dennison a couple of years earlier. The Dennison family had subdivided their lake front paddock as it was considered not much use for grazing.

The price was two hundred and fifty pounds sterling for the two sections, although I believe Jim threw in the extra section as Kim was a pretty handy bloke to have around. But the price was far too much according to many locals.

Some 30 years earlier grandpa had speculated on buying 20 acres of the north facing slope above the lake from the Baird family, then owners of Bendemeer Station. They wanted one guinea per acre. But he later turned it down. He reckoned that it was only fit for rabbits and did not grow enough tucker for his horses. My parents missed out on the move as they were over in the Far East growing tea. But uncle Kim and Jean wanted to move out of the rented stone-walled miner's cottage in Arrowtown with its old coal range and a thermet that had to be fired with kindling to fill the tin bath. My bedroom in those days was on the front veranda, summer and winter.

So we built the Lake Hayes house at the western end of the subdivision, in what much later became known as "Millionaires Mile" through to Bendemmer Bay. We were certainly not millionaires. And never likely to be. Uncle Kim and I worked for the two Dutch builders as labourers. My uncle was the local Mr Fixit. He could make car aircleaners out of biscuit tins, and had a way with getting broken down generators going again. It meant frequent trips across Lake Wakatipu. After helping the couple move in I packed up my dogs and headed back down Central for the Autumn muster on the Dun-

stan range. Our earliest Lake Hayes neighbours were the Dennison family, Jim and Maggie and sons, Alan, Morris, Colin, young Jim and daughter Dorothy.

Jim's yard was full of machinery, which included a thrashing machine and Burrell traction engine. There was also a line-up of Case tractors of various vintages, header harvesters and a variety of implements. He hated wasting time changing belts on machines while on the job. He preferred to do this while the machine was in action. It was said Jim lost part of his last finger on one hand when young Jim, aged about 8, backed the tractor for Jim to hitch on the trailer. It is believed they salvaged the detached finger and shot off to Frankton hospital where the medical staff attempted to do what must be the first attempt in medical (unrecorded) history to re-attach the finger - not very successfully. Jim Dennison was affectionately known as the mayor of Lake Hayes.

Our only other early neighbour was Invercargill shoe shop owner, the late Arnold MacDonald who with his family restored the 100 year old Bendemeer Bay cottage and used it for many years as a holiday home. He also had an interest in a copper mine somewhere in the backcountry beyond the Moonlight, in partnership with local builder Jock Boyd. But he never let on exactly where it was. However the Lake Hayes property still remains in family hands.

In the late '50s it was the beginning of the end of Lake

Hayes tranquility. A mini-boom was underway. Expensive holiday homes sprouted both sides. The Dunlops, Dunbars, Speights, Raymonds, Grants, Jones', mostly Southland and Otago families, and some from further afield established holiday homes.

In the meantime the owners of Bendemeer, Ken and Cristabel Haggitt, had carved off a section for Ken and Sally Marsh, the area wildlife ranger. They built a house on the terrace above us. It meant I had to make sure I had a fishing licence from then on and Uncle Kim, a keen fisherman, had to be very careful about putting out trawl lines. Limit catches were down to 12 each. During the season we lived on trout and kept up supplies to neighbours and friends.

Apart from the ranger's boat I recall only three other permanent boats on the lake. The Jolly's at Mill Creek and ours, a flat-bottomed row boat rigged with a mast and lugsail. Kim would row out to the Threepwood (west) end of the lake first thing, fish along the banks then set sail to catch the regular afternoon westerly breeze. Come dinner time Aunty Jean would close the curtains on one corner of the front living room to indicate the dinner was on.

Jim Dennison's boat leaked. Jim couldn't swim. But that did not deter him from jumping in the boat when a topdressing pilot ditched his plane mid-lake. It became a question of who was going to rescue whom if the boat did not make it to shore. They made it, and Jim was

given recognition for his bravery.

Growth of both buildings and vegetation continued into the late '60's and '70's, and the bare rabbit infested slopes above the lake took on the appearance of well tended parklands.

Grandpa Ferguson died in his 97th year, and the Arrow practice died with him in 1961. Uncle Kim died shortly after and Aunty Jean kept going for a few more years. The house sold for seven thousand five hundred pounds. It was a quick sale. Jean died intestate. A few years later its value reached the \$100,000 mark. Currently, and after changing ownership a couple of times, a potential buyer may have to fork out \$300,000 to \$400,000 to acquire this plain weatherboard home. It has had additions and some improvements, and is almost invisible from the road. But progress is progress. And if a high profile suburb spreads around the lake, so be it..... For us it is the end of the golden summer, but memories linger on.

POLSON'S HUT - MORVEN HILLS STATION

BY MAX SNOW

John Polson was born in Helmsdale, Sutherlandshire, Scotland. He came to N.Z. in 1864. When he arrived at Port Chalmers he found a flock of sheep being unloaded - consigned to Morven Hills and a call was put out for someone to deliver them to their destination. Although Polson had no experience whatever of shepherding, he was desperate for work and eventually delivered the sheep to the station. This performance must have impressed "big Jock McLean" and he gave him work as a shepherd. Eventually he rose to the position of head shepherd with over 130,000 sheep under his care. We don't know if Polson built this hut, or if it was built for him. There were sixteen shepherds on Morven Hills at this time and they all came from the Highlands of Scotland, so it could be assumed they all pitched in. Once Polson was settled in this little stone hut he wrote to Helmsdale and invited a longtime friend Christina Ross to come and join him. This she did without delay and immediately after her arrival at Lyttelton, they were married in St Andrews Church, Christchurch. So it was to this little hut that Polson brought his bride. Their first born was a son. Not long after this, Christina found herself pregnant again and, in the winter of 1869 she bore premature twins, which, without the proper care and attention later died. Polson carried them over

the gully and buried them on the side of the hill; out of sight of Christina, and marked the spot with a willow stick. he then covered the grave with a large flat slab of schist rock and wrote the name and the date on it.



POLSONS HUT

Up until 1954 you could read the writing quite clearly, but alas, the willow has grown to such large proportions (as you can imagine in 100 years) and the stone has been completely obliterated. Later, the Polson family moved into the homestead and kept house for Jock McLean. In 1879 John Polson, after enduring the hardship of a shepherds life decided to move to surroundings more congenial for the upbringing and education of his growing family.

Spare a thought for the loneliness Christina must have endured; coming as she did from Scotland to an isolated gully in the backwaters of New Zealand.

He acquired a section between the road and the river

and was the first small farmer in the Bendigo area. He was succeeded by his son Roderick who in the course of his 36 years occupancy enlarged it quite extensively by acquiring neighbouring sections. In 1918 he sold out to Jack Oliver, who after a few years disposed of the property to Dick Stacpoole. Jack Mead acquired the property in 1953.



MAX SNOW
(PREVIOUSLY OF MORVEN HILLS STATION)

English Oak at site of Antrim Arms Hotel

ENGLISH OAK FELLED ON FRANKTON ROAD



6th June 2000

The old oak near Frankton, which arched the Frankton Road, was brought gently to ground on 21-22 June this year, before it could come crashing down onto the highway in a high wind.

Estimated to be 125 years old, 25 metres tall, and weighing 40 tonnes, an arborist said it was the biggest example of an english Oak he had seen in New Zealand, but that it was seriously flawed and needed to be felled.

It is understood that our Society will benefit from the sale of some of the usable timber, and seedlings that were collected from under the tree will be planted elsewhere. As the tree was

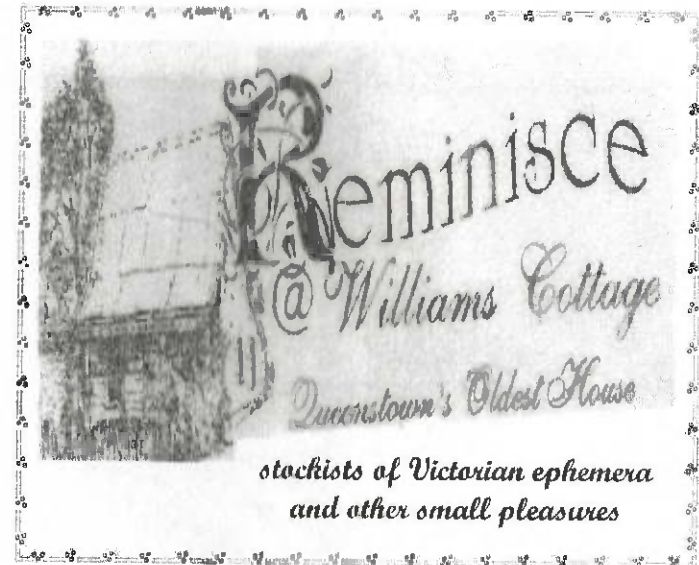


22nd June 2000

planted on the site of the former Antrim Arms Hotel, a suitable memorial should be erected.



The stump of the oak tree, measuring 1700mm in diameter. 24th June 2000



TICKET TO RIDE
TOURISM PIONEERS
OF THE WAKATIPU
1930-2000

LAKES DISTRICT MUSEUM - ARROWTOWN
 NOVEMBER 3 2000 - FEBRUARY 25 2001

A PRIZE PACKAGE
 OF WAKATIPU
 TOURIST ACTIVITIES

**LAKES DISTRICT
 MUSEUM
 BOOKSHOP**

FOR A GREAT SELECTION OF CHRISTMAS
 GIFTS

- ◆ BOOKS
- ◆ CARDS
- ◆ CALENDARS

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QUEENSTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
FIELD TRIPS 2000/01	
2000	
November 20th Monday	Half Day Gibbston (bring tea)
December 20th Sunday	Christmas BBQ at Yacht Club
2001	
January 22nd provided	Half Day at Millbrook, tea provided
February 18/19 Sunday/Monday	2 day tour to Catlins, overnight at Balclutha
March 19th	Day visit to Gore & District
April 16th Sunday	Half Day in Queenstown - Living History