

The Queenstown Courier

The Official Publication of the
Queenstown & District Historical Society

Fifty-First Issue - November 1993

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included in subscription.

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

Editorial Allan De La Mare - Profile

A Profile: Mr Alan De La Mare

Alan was born in 1920 in Matura, where his father was the Postmaster, and then moved to Wyndham where his schooling began. After moving to Invercargill around 1930, Alan's schooling continued at the Waihopai Primary School and then the Southland Boys' High School. In 1936 Alan commenced work with the Post and Telegraph Department in Invercargill as a Telegraph message boy, and also commenced his accountancy studies. World War 2 intervened and between 1942 and 1945 he served with the 2nd NZEF in North Africa and Italy. In 1947 Alan qualified as a chartered accountant and two years later became accountant to the Invercargill Licensing Trust. He married Una in 1950 and between them they produced a family of four boys. In 1970 Alan was appointed General Manager of the Invercargill Licensing Trust, and held that position until his retirement to Queenstown in 1981.

Alan's interest in history, particularly of the gold rush era, goes back almost forty years, and with his writing skills he has made a notable contribution. He became a member of the Queenstown Historical Society in 1972 and the Lakes District Museum in 1976. Books he has written include The Invercargill Chamber of Commerce, The North Invercargill Anglican Parish, Drink and Drought (Prohibition etc), The Wakatipu Anglican Parish, The Queenstown Masonic Lodge and Joseph Hatch and the Loss of the Kakanui.

Books shortly to be published are the History of the Shotover River and a Southland History by articles in the Southland Times. He has also contributed to the second volume of the New Zealand Dictionary of Biography.

This Society is deeply indebted to Alan for his contribution to it. Not only for his presidency over three years from 1984 to 1987, editing the 'Courier' over the last ten years and with many valuable articles, but for his continued good judgement in helping to run the affairs of one of New Zealand's largest historical societies.

Annual Report

I am pleased to present the Annual Report on the activities of your Society from 1992-1993. Membership has increased considerably - 50 new members this year, - and now exceeds 270 and when you consider that many of these are doubles and families the total membership must be greater than 500, which is quite a significant number. We are not a small Society.

During the year we have been involved in many activities which are relevant to our aims of preserving and promoting the appreciation of the history of this most interesting region.

Submissions, sometimes at our own instigation and sometimes in response to other organisations seeking support, have been prepared - the main focus being the Central Otago Walkway, the Golden Point Mine at McRaes, the Williams Cottage, the McNeill cottage.

The Society has also been closely involved with the activities of associated organisations. I have attended several meetings of the Federation of Historical Societies, the national organisation of which we are a member. The Federation's role is to assist all the small societies which belong and to co-ordinate ideas and publications. I have also with the support of the Federation organised a regional meeting of Southland and South Otago Historical Societies and small museums to explain the role of the Federation and to discuss problems. As well, we work in with the Lakes District Museum and our representatives on the Committee, Cicely Morrison and Duncan Wilson have a significant voice. We also have direct contact with the Otago Liaison Officer of the Historic Places Trust, Lois Galer and the local representative Max Wild and make use of their expertise. The Society attends meetings, by invitation, of the Upper Shotover Catchment which includes the Skippers Road and the remains of mining activities and settlement. Also I, as a representative of the Society am a Trustee on the newly formed Queenstown Heritage Trust.

Trips have been organised regularly during the summer season. These have been varied including Bannockburn and the Nevis Valley, St Bathans and Ophir, Old Cromwell, Bendigo Station and Welshtown, and a half-day local expedition to the Oxenbridge Tunnel, Ayrburn, Bendemeer and Kawarau

Falls. They were all very well supported. In August a most successful lunch function was held and we are grateful to Dr Dorothy Page for her address which made this occasion so worthwhile.

As a practical gesture your Committee decided to make an examination of the possibility of preserving the small ruined miner's hut on the Sawpit Gully track - a popular picnic spot for walkers, above the Arrow River. We had support for this venture from the Department of Conservation, the Historic Places Trust plus a grant from Trust Bank Southland for the erection of a small sign. A pleasing turnout of members at a working bee resulted in the clearance of briar and scrub from the site. The Department of Conservation has indicated that they are prepared to help with the capping of the walls of the hut.

Our participation in local activities has involved us in assisting Mrs Jean Baker with the publication and marketing of her book 'MacKenzie' and I hope that we can do the same for Alan De La Mare's book on the Shotover which is due for release shortly. Our own publication 'The Courier' which has preserved an invaluable collection of recollections and research information is attractively printed and ably edited by Duncan Wilson. I have spoken at several community meetings which were organised to examine the proposed Resource Management Act, on the cataloguing of Historical sites.

The Committee wrote to the Queenstown and Lakes District Council offering to assist with the up-dating of listed buildings in the Basin. The offer was quickly accepted and Mrs Margaret Templeton is working on this. Bruce Hamilton has done valuable work on the companion idea of recording notable trees.

Plaques have been ordered for placing on the large boulder which marks the site of the old Frankton Wharf and also to identify the Plantations Reserve in Park Street. We have also been asked to provide information to various requesters on the restoration of the mining sluice at Wire Rope Terrace in Skippers, Thurlby, the McNeill cottage, Queenstown houses and the generating plant at The One Mile.

For the future we must as a Society be actively involved in the preservation of aspects of local history; the continuing compilation of items of historical

importance which give character to our region; accounts both written and verbal - of which the Lakes District Museum has in the past year collected an impressive amount and with which Clive Geary has assisted; and making our research services readily available to all those people in the community who would like to make use of them.

Trips are a practical way of appreciating local History - they are popular among members and provide enjoyment and considerable information. A half-day trip round selected sites is planned for later this month. Suggestions for future trips are welcomed by the Committee. The only concern we have is with accommodating the increasing numbers who wish to participate.

We will continue with winter functions - they are an important way of keeping our members in touch and of introducing a different style of activity and different speakers.

Finally, I would like to thank formally Ted Sturt for making Hulbert House available for our Committee meetings, Les McAndrew and David Clarke for assisting with all our booking arrangements and then a hard-working committee who have always been most willing to undertake all the tasks which have promoted the aims of the Queenstown and District Historical Society and made this a successful year.

R J Clarkson
President

<p>STOP PRESS STOP PRESS</p> <p>New Zealand Federation of Historical Societies National Conference</p> <p>18, 19, 20 March 1994 Paeroa</p> <p>Programme and enquiries to Ray Clarkson Phone 442 3681</p>
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Queenstown and District Historical Society
Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the Year Ended 30 September 1993

1992	Receipts	1993	1992	Payments	1993
4 696	Bank Balances Fwd	6 685.64	110	Subscriptions	92.00
1370	Subscriptions	1 440.00	0	Donations	381.50
69	Donations	71.00	0	Advertising	.00
500	Grant from Trustbank	500.00	65	Printing & Stationery	518.07
53	Art Society for PO Box	57.50	0	Pamphlet & Tolls	41.58
4	Sales of Couriers	4.00	20	Room Hire	26.00
4 222	Trips	4 953.00	105	Post Office Box	115.00
0	Luncheon	1 452.50	622	Couriers and Postage	718.80
0	White Horse Hotel		3 397	Trips	4 208.72
	Collection	71.00	0	Luncheon	1 512.50
272	Interest	323.32	80	Rees Memorial Prize	100.00
			0	Plaque	438.75
			250	Travel - R Clarkson	250.00
			2	Sundry	.00
			6 686	Bank Balances Closing	7 155.04
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
11 185		15 557.96	11 185		15 557.96

Bank Balances at 30 September 1993

Current Account	1 286.55
Term Deposit	5 868.49
	<hr/>
	7 155.04

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 my opinion the financial statements presented above give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Queenstown and District Historical Society for the year ended 30 September 1993.



D. G. Warrington B.Com ACA

Lewis Hotop

by A J De la Mare

Lewis Adolph Henry Hotop was born in Saalfeld, Germany in 1844. Son of an apothecary he followed the same calling in Queenstown for over fifty years.

As a young man Hotop went to sea for some four years, finally arriving in Queenstown to take employment with Bendix Hallenstein, a fellow countryman. His obituary indicates he arrived in Queenstown in 1867 and shortly after Hallenstein opened a dispensary, Hotop being placed in charge and that in 1870 he took over the business. The Queenstown Borough rate books for 1869/70 show a tobacco store on a site now occupied by Mount Cook's booking office in Rees Street owned by Hallenstein and occupied by Hotop.

It is not known when Hotop first occupied the shop on the corner of Rees Street and the present Mall but it is likely it was in 1870 when he took over the business. In addition to his dispensary work Hotop sold fancy goods, stocking items which would appeal to tourists. Most of these he imported direct from Germany, including postcards of local tourist scenes, locket, small knives, toothpicks, match boxes, serviette rings and paper weights. Another popular line was brelogues which are fancy pendants for watch chains, now museum pieces. In the big flood of 1878 Hotop's shop was severely damaged.

Hotop played an extremely active part in public affairs. He was defeated in his first attempt to gain a seat on the Queenstown Borough Council in 1875 but was elected in 1878. He was re-elected to the Council on a number of occasions and served as Mayor for seven years.

We learn from Salmond's 'Hearts of Gold' that Hotop and baker Francois St Omer were keen rivals for the mayoralty and tended to alternate in office. During one mayoralty contest a wag posted a notice on the portico of Eichardt's Hotel indicating that when ratepayers had been thoroughly purged with Hotop's purgatives they would be wise to return to St Omer's wholesome bread.

Hotop was Captain of the Fire Brigade and Inspector of Fires for at least two years. He was a member of the Acclimatization Society, the Greenstone Licensing Committee and was coroner for a period.

Hotop was a dedicated member of the Anglican church, being first elected to

Vestry in 1876. He was a lay-reader from 1885 to 1917 and served as Vicar's Warden for many years. When he retired to Dunedin in 1922 Hotop, who owned the section now occupied by the Presbyterian church, offered it to the Anglican church for £100 as an elevated site for the new church. He also donated £25 to the Organ Fund. The offer was accepted and the trees on the section were purchased by the Vicar for £15. At a later date the Anglicans decided to rebuild on their existing site and the Stanley section sold for £100 eventually came into the possession of the Presbyterian church. The hanging rood at the entrance to the chancel in St Peter's is a memorial to Lewis Hotop.

Hotop lived in a house on the site now occupied by St James Apartments in Camp Street, immediately opposite St Peter's church. The house, called Brook Cottage, had an ideal setting on the banks of Horn Creek surrounded with trees. Hotop was an enthusiastic tree planter with plantations in several parts of the town.

Hotop was married to Catherine Sproule in Queenstown and there were four children of the marriage. Both his wife and son Harold predeceased him. He was survived by Dr F R Hotop of Dunedin, Mrs A Helm of Germany and Mrs J Laing of Dunedin.

Hotop died in Dunedin on 29 September 1922 only a few months after selling his business and retiring.

The Seffers - Pat Bleakley

'A Seffer Recollection'

Reminiscences of Pat Bleakley and Lel Luckie

In February 1992, with a group of friends, I walked from Moke Lake to Seffertown and on to Arthur's Point. Although some of the buildings have gone, the small cluster of wooden structures still remaining mark the site of a remarkable family settlement. I first walked through there from Arthur's Point to Moke Lake with a friend when seventeen years of age. My memories of that trip are of crossing creeks thirty-three times, sunburn, and Matt and Johnny Seffer not at home. They always welcomed guests and had many books and stacks of newspapers, being great readers so we were told. In fact the small building astride the stream was regarded as the library.

I well remember Matt, John, Jane and Kate Seffer. The men came down from the homestead for stores with the packhorses - a saddle bag on each side. The

women in their later years lived in town where the Alpine Garage is today. There were elderberry trees on the property as well as large lilacs in front of the house. The women kept a 70 lb bag of sugar above the range to keep it dry as they made a huge amount of wine. They gave it to the Doctor and Charlie Inglis the Town Clerk always had a store in his office. My parents had a local Drapery business and when the Seffers purchased anything too heavy to carry we delivered to them and to anyone else too. One day my Father was given a bottle of elderberry wine when delivering a parcel. Both Mother and Father sampled the wine and pronounced it very good; I wasn't allowed any of course.

The Seffers kept goats in their yard and milked them for their own use. They also kept hens, selling the eggs and when the men were down the horses were kept in the yard as well. Eventually, after many complaints from neighbouring property owners, the Council banned goats and horses from being kept in town. No doubt a by-law would have been created to do this. Then, in that street the air became fresh again!!

Both Kate and Jane loved 'Three Flowers' and 'Evening in Paris' perfume and 'Tangee' lipstick and rouge. All of these items I sold to them. They may not have had a suntan, but they sure had rosy cheeks and lips - Jane in particular. Kate in her younger days did dressmaking work around the town.

In April 1942 rationing of sugar and women's full-length hosiery was announced. Every female over the age of sixteen was allowed one pair of stockings to last for three months. I have a blank as to how long this lasted, but think the three monthly period lasted some time as we had to post the coupons away to some Government Department. Jane and Kate didn't wear silk or rayon stockings, these being the rationed ones, so I asked them if I could have their coupons. These they kindly gave me, but a bottle of perfume changed hands.*

Jane usually wore boots and long skirts and whatever was on her legs was anybody's guess. However, she had a very keen eye and used to shuffle her feet in the gutters and pick up all sorts of things. On one occasion a Mrs Milne who lived above the grocer's store (now a Chinese restaurant) in Rees Street dropped a lipstick out of the bathroom window and went down to retrieve it, but Jane was there first.

Matt Seffer had a wonderful collection of coins which he carried around in a canvas bag and sometimes showed to people. He was also reputed to be able

to predict earthquakes. Johnny, who came down once a week, used to give everyone a sermon in the grocer's shop where Lel and Tom Luckie worked. He talked about world events and Armageddon. It was difficult to halt the verbal flow. The lovely gold nuggets which he always carried were often produced, but they never left his hand - you just looked.

The Seffer family, of Russian origin I understand, were brought up in the area where their parents had settled. They were Roman Catholics, but only went to Church when there was a Mission on which occurred every two or three years. Presumably the parents and other children died in Seffertown or in Hospital at Frankton. The family tombstone in the Queenstown cemetery reads: SEFFER: Mary 1892, Annette 1893, Elizabeth 1894, Mary 1895, Masilic 1904, Anderianne 1925, Helen 1935, Matthew 1944, Jane 1956, John 1962, Kate 30 July 1964 Aged 89.

Perhaps there is someone out there who knows more about the family's past.

* What did I do with these coupons? Traded them for petrol coupons which was rationed too. What did I want the petrol for? To be able to borrow my father's car to go to balls at Lower Shotover Hall and Arrowtown.

Field Trips for 1993/94

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|---------------------------|--|
| 28 November 1993 (Sunday) | A half day to the Gibbston area |
| 31 January 1994 (Monday) | The Twelve Mile Creek to Sam Summer's Hut. This is a walking trip within the capability of most members, but reasonable fitness is required. |
| 27 February 1994 (Sunday) | The Manuherikia Valley, via Thomson's Track |
| 21 March 1994 (Monday) | Maori Point, Shotover River Valley (Skippers) |
| 24 April 1994 (Sunday) | Wanaka, Cardrona area |

Note: All trip bookings should be made at the Lakes District Museum in Arrowtown or at the Mall Mania, 12 The Mall in Queenstown. Only firm bookings can be accepted and payment made at the time. Any enquiries should be directed to the President (442 3681) or the Past President (442 7385)