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BY CORALIE STANTON AND HEATH HOSKEN

Authors of "Three Men Who Came Back," "Sword and Plough," "The Beaton Track," Etc., Etc.

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CHAPTER VI. (Continued.)

Tony and Velvet exchanged glances pregnant with many meanings. "My good man," Tony commenced excitedly, when a glance from Mr. Velvet silenced him. Without a spoken word the look in the detective's eyes said: "Leave this to me."

Tony took the unspoken hint. "But," said Velvet casually, "why have you never mentioned this before?"

"Dunno," replied old Tom. "Fact be I only just thought of it. Mr. Brian pulled up outside the house. I didn't notice much. I was coming back from the farm with the milk. They was talking to each other. Mr. Vickers was looking out of his window."

"Did they see you?"

"Don't think as they did."

"Well, and what then?"

"Nothing as I know of. I didn't notice. I suppose Mr. Brian was just passing and stopped to speak to Mr. Vickers."

"Are you sure of the time? And you are quite certain it was Mr. Brian Stanford and his car?"

"Why of course I am. Why shouldn't I be?"

Mr. Velvet stopped. "Look you here Tom, as you are looking at his watch, you can go and find that dog. I'm afraid we haven't the time to visit the excavations this afternoon. We'll go back to the Three Kings."

largely a couple of hours, but he has done quite a lot in the time. Scotland Yard is also at work and, personally, shall be glad for Vicer's sake and for the Champneys' to send the inevitable publicity. That is why I am here and talking to you in this way. Velvet is at this moment in Mr. Champneys' car. You can have a chat with him and leave me out of it altogether, if you prefer it."

"What are you driving at?"

"Mr. Stanford," said Tony, "what were you doing shortly after half-past seven this morning outside the Three Kings?"

"Oh, my dear fellow, this is positively priceless. What next? What in the name of all that is marvellous do you mean? You are not suggesting, are you, that I have kidnapped the errant bridegroom?"

"I am not suggesting anything. I am asking you a question, a very reasonable question under the circumstances."

"For the space of several seconds the two men looked at each other. It was as if, in that brief space of time, each were taking the full measure of the other. It was obvious that Brian Stanford was undergoing a series of mental processes. You could almost see his brain working."

"Look here, Rawson," he exclaimed at last with volcanic vehemence, "I am in a limit to answering. You've about reached it. When I was at Hottings at half-past seven this morning—"

"The question," remarked Rawson imperturbably, "is, were you?"

"No, I was not."

"Or your car?"

"Certainly not."

"So you deny it—you deny calling on Vickers this morning?"

"Emphatically. And if I may be permitted an observation I can only say that you and your amateur detectives must have taken leave of your senses. But let me tell you, sir, that I am not answering Rawson out of indignation, if I hear another word of this monstrous suggestion from you or anyone else, I shall make it my business to see that you are thoroughly punished. I wish you good-day."

With which the Right Honorable Brian Stanford swung on his heel and strode away, his head in the air, the swing of a dog's snout and the acceptance of his dismissal and swung away.

"Mr. Stanford," Rawson called out. "May I have a word with you? Excuse me, Miss Champneys." He strode over to Stanford. "Look here," he said, very quietly, "I've been going into this matter of the disappearance of my old friend Vickers."

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CHAPTER VII.

Dolly Champneys behaved very well under circumstances that might well have tested the nerves of a much older and more experienced woman.

She sat there her mouth open, her self was on the borderland of hysterics, by quietly slipping away to her room and changing her beautiful wedding dress for a simple white dress with a blue sash. Not every bride would have thrown aside her veil and orange blossoms with the quiet reserve of Dolly.

The little bridesmaids appeared to feel the disappointment far more than their sister. They made great fuss about it all, and asked innumerable questions and made manifold protests of indignation.

It was altogether a very unpleasant business for everyone concerned. It was in vain that Mr. Champneys explained to Dolly that something serious must have happened to Jack Vickers, and that it was humanly impossible for him to have sent the telegram she had received. Dolly smiled bravely and held her head high. The fact remained there was to be no wedding, be the cause what it might. In the first wave of disappointment and indignation she was not inclined to accept her father's second-hand version of Mr. Rawson's theory. She knew she was very wrong and very heartless, but she had to do the best she could. She consulted her father on the question of the necessary newspaper paragraphs to be inserted. She ate a good lunch and made light of the afternoon and played exceptionally well. It was as if she had deliberately forgotten that this was her wedding day.

A constant stream of visitors inundated the Mount House all the afternoon. The little over-crowded world of Hottings had never been so excited in all its history. Dolly, unique, stood aloof, smiling, careless, the least concerned of all.

There was the Vicar gently solicitous and sympathetic, and Mrs. Amies, the Vicar's wife, tearful and inarticulate; there were the indignant sisters and cousins and uncles and aunts. One gentleman succeeded in gaining an interview with the "Jilted Bride" described at the Alter. One gentleman succeeded in gaining an interview with the "Victim of a Cruel Fate," in which all that Miss Champneys actually said was "The matter is purely a personal affair, and I wish to make no statement."

Another gentleman representing the "Daily Reflection," surreptitiously took a snapshot of Dolly playing a fast set of singles with Mrs. Doubleday, the celebrated lawn tennis player, which appeared the next day called "Abandoned Bride Seeks Solace in Tennis."

Sir Luke and Lady Stanford, accompanied by their distinguished son, Brian Stanford, motored over about five, on a visit of condolence. Dolly, rather surprised them by the casual way in which she received their well-meant offers.

To Brian she was brusque almost to rudeness.

"Is there anything I can do for you in this unfortunate business?" he asked her.

"Nothing, except never to refer to it again," she answered.

"But that will be difficult, surely."

"Not necessarily. It will make it

easier, however, if you so contrive that you never have the opportunity of mentioning it with me. The greater kindness you can possibly show me is to make it impossible for me to see you again, on this or on any other matter."

Brian Stanford smiled his slow, confident smile. His manner was that of a man who was prepared to make allowances. The circumstances were exceptional, and Dolly might well have excused a certain display of irritation.

"I will send back your picture later on," she said. "Of course, all the presents will be returned."

"I hope," he said, "that you will do me the honor to accept the little 'Hond Lady with the Gull'."

"Certainly not. The occasion no longer exists."

"But it was meant as a gift to you," Stanford persisted. He spread out his hands and made a gesture of exaggerated politeness. When he permitted himself an action of this kind, the Oriental in his ancestry showed through the thin veneer of English twentieth century conventionalities. "It may be allowed to say so, it is still intended for you."

"Please don't be absurd, Mr. Stanford," said Dolly, with some show of indignation. "You know quite well that I should never dream of accepting a present from you, except under the circumstance which now no longer exists." And she pointedly turned away to speak to Tony Rawson, who had just arrived.

"For the space of an instant an evil light flashed into the dark, heavily-lidded eyes of Brian Stanford. His mobile, Hebrew nostrils quivered as he swung a dog's snout and the acceptance of his dismissal and swung away.

"Mr. Stanford," Rawson called out. "May I have a word with you? Excuse me, Miss Champneys." He strode over to Stanford. "Look here," he said, very quietly, "I've been going into this matter of the disappearance of my old friend Vickers."

"Most extraordinary affair—most amazing," said Stanford. "Whoever would have believed that the man would have jilted her in this dastardly fashion! A monstrous, cad—!"

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"I," said Mr. Stanford, with a sudden access of dignity, "do not feel at all inclined to take a stroll down the road with you. You have been gratuitously insulting to me. Anything you have to say can be said here. Forgive me, but I quite fail to understand your attitude, and I'll be hanged if I will stand it."

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"What are you driving at?"

"Mr. Stanford," said Tony, "what were you doing shortly after half-past seven this morning outside the Three Kings?"

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"Oh, my dear fellow, this is positively priceless. What next? What in the name of all that is marvellous do you mean? You are not suggesting, are you, that I have kidnapped the errant bridegroom?"

"I am not suggesting anything. I am asking you a question, a very reasonable question under the circumstances."

"For the space of several seconds the two men looked at each other. It was as if, in that brief space of time, each were taking the full measure of the other. It was obvious that Brian Stanford was undergoing a series of mental processes. You could almost see his brain working."

"Look here, Rawson," he exclaimed at last with volcanic vehemence, "I am in a limit to answering. You've about reached it. When I was at Hottings at half-past seven this morning—"

"The question," remarked Rawson imperturbably, "is, were you?"

"No, I was not."

"Or your car?"

"Certainly not."

"So you deny it—you deny calling on Vickers this morning?"

"Emphatically. And if I may be permitted an observation I can only say that you and your amateur detectives must have taken leave of your senses. But let me tell you, sir, that I am not answering Rawson out of indignation, if I hear another word of this monstrous suggestion from you or anyone else, I shall make it my business to see that you are thoroughly punished. I wish you good-day."

With which the Right Honorable Brian Stanford swung on his heel and strode away, his head in the air, the swing of a dog's snout and the acceptance of his dismissal and swung away.

"Mr. Stanford," Rawson called out. "May I have a word with you? Excuse me, Miss Champneys." He strode over to Stanford. "Look here," he said, very quietly, "I've been going into this matter of the disappearance of my old friend Vickers."

"Most extraordinary affair—most amazing," said Stanford. "Whoever would have believed that the man would have jilted her in this dastardly fashion! A monstrous, cad—!"

"I'm going to do, and so calmly, so smoothly," the man delivered a public flogging. Mr. Stanford gripped an imaginary riding whip, and his black eyes gleamed with fury. Tony Rawson, cool and massive and calm, smiled at the man's antics. Mr. Brian Stanford administering corporal punishment to Jack Vickers. The situation was not without humor.

"Mr. Stanford," said he, "Vickers is my oldest and dearest friend. Do you understand?"

"Oh, quite so, quite so," Stanford hastened to explain. "At the same time, my dear fellow, you must admit that his behaviour justified criticism. Mind you, I thought it was a most excellent fellow—bit of a crank if I may say so—but otherwise a really excellent fellow. The last thing in my world should have expected of him. Now this is a different matter. Bless my soul, can you imagine what it means to poor Dolly Champneys? What an awful predicament! What a tragedy! The wedding presents—"

"The wedding presents?"

"Yes, the wedding presents. What a waste! And the catering publicity! Oh, my dear Mr. Rawson, what an unthinkable catastrophe! Friend of yours or not, that the fellow must be an out and out cad."

"If," said Tony, "you care to repeat that remark I shall give you the biggest thrashing you've ever had in your life."

Then the fat was in the fire. Stanford took refuge in his best Parliamentary manner. Dabblingly alarmed, with colourless cheeks and eyes that looked everywhere, but into the stern gaze of Rawson. Who is to eat the dignity of the Front Bench? "Mr. Rawson, I'm afraid that you forget yourself. You threaten me with physical violence! Here! Under these circumstances, I don't think you are being a little too—"

"What shall we say?" His full red lips parted in an all-embracing smile, revealing two rows of white teeth. He would have made a good picture for an advertisement of a tooth paste.

"You may say what you like," said Tony. "But what you like, but I am not going to allow anyone in my presence to say a derogatory word against Vickers. Do you clearly understand that? I'd like to have a straight talk to you, Mr. Stanford. It's a little bit difficult here. There are so many people about. Shall we take a stroll down the road?"

"I," said Mr. Stanford, with a sudden access of dignity, "do not feel at all inclined to take a stroll down the road with you. You have been gratuitously insulting to me. Anything you have to say can be said here. Forgive me, but I quite fail to understand your attitude, and I'll be hanged if I will stand it."

Whereat Tony smiled grimly.

"Mr. Stanford," he said, "the fact that you are discussing this matter with me is entirely due to my respect for Miss Champneys and her family, and a desire to prevent any unpleasant scandal. Were things otherwise I rather fancy you would be enjoying an interview with the police."

"What the devil do you mean?"

Despite the vehemence of his manner, Mr. Brian Stanford was very much rattled. His face was as white as a sheet. His large black eyes that had blazed indignation were glazed and blinking.

"Ever heard of Toltertons?" asked Rawson in his cool, imperturbable way.

"Toltertons? The detective people?"

"Precisely. They have got charge of this matter, at my instance, Paul Velvet, of whom doubtless you have heard, and whom I consider one of the cleverest detectives of our time, is down here now. He has been here

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LECTIONS.—Learn to Estimate and Measure. Young Men of 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

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 Teacher of English and French. Miss Pascoe-Webb is a highly qualified teacher with many years of experience. She is currently teaching at the Northcote Grammar School.

SINGING, DANCING & LECTURE.
 MISS MAVIS YEOMANS. Miss Yeomans is a well-known singer and lecturer. She has given many lectures on various subjects and has performed in numerous concerts.

STUDENTS CAREFULLY TRAINED.
 For the purpose of providing the best possible education, students are carefully trained in all subjects. This includes not only academic subjects but also practical skills and personal development.

WESTLICK COLLEGE.
 DAYVIEW ST. NORTHOTE. Friends of the college are invited to attend the annual meeting. The college has achieved many successes in the past year and is looking forward to a bright future.

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.
 GARDNER HALL, CORNER HIGH AND TYLER STS., PRESTON. The firm specializes in all types of electrical work, including wiring, lighting, and power installations. They have a team of experienced electricians.

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 Load of concrete, 2 to 4 tons. Motor Lorries instantly available. The company has a fleet of modern lorries and a team of experienced drivers to handle all heavy carrying jobs.

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.
 GRAMMAR SCHOOL. IVANHOE. The school is a well-established institution that provides a high-quality education for boys. It has a long history and a strong reputation.

REGISTERED UNDER THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.
 The school is registered under the Board of Education and is subject to their regulations. This ensures that the school meets the highest standards of quality.

TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH.
 The school has a team of experienced teachers who are qualified to teach both English and French. They use a variety of teaching methods to ensure that students learn effectively.

STUDENTS CAREFULLY TRAINED.
 For the purpose of providing the best possible education, students are carefully trained in all subjects. This includes not only academic subjects but also practical skills and personal development.

SHORTHAND, TYPING AND MUSIC.
 Rooms. MORRIS SHOE STORE, PLENTY ROAD (Near Tram Terminus), EAST TOTTENHAM. The school offers courses in shorthand, typing, and music. These courses are designed to provide students with practical skills that are in demand in the workforce.

MAJOR INSTRUCTOR.
 RETIRED Salvation Army Officer. All kinds of Concertina and Accordion. The instructor is a retired officer from the Salvation Army and has many years of experience in playing these instruments. He is currently teaching at the school.

PHYSICAL CULTURE.
 For terms, etc., apply to Major Physical Culture, at the above address. The school offers physical culture classes that are designed to improve students' physical fitness and health. These classes include exercises, games, and sports.

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KENNEDY'S LUCK.
 The man's luck, however bad, is never so bad as it seems. Kennedy's luck is a testament to the fact that luck can change at any moment. It is a story of a man who was once very unlucky but then became very lucky.

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NORTHOTE C.Y.M.S.
 At last meeting a big number of members were present. The Northote C.Y.M.S. is a well-known organization that provides a variety of activities for young men. They are currently planning for their next meeting.

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 LADY'S DRESS. Of course it is the natural desire of every woman to look her best at all times. The ladies' dress is a testament to the fact that women are always looking for ways to improve themselves.

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RESERVOIR-SPENCER ST. BUSES.
 MON-THUR. INDICATION MEETING AT PRESTON. ATTENDANCE OF 1000 WANT BUSES TO CONTINUE. The bus company is planning to continue its services in the future. This is good news for the community.

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WHITTLESEA.
 Car Buses. A South coast motor car was totally destroyed by fire on Monday. The car was parked in a garage and the fire started in the engine compartment. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

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 THE BETTER BAKER. Preston and Heidelberg. Callander is a well-known brand of flour that is used by many bakers. It is known for its quality and consistency.

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THE COBBERS' CLUB Dear Cobbers—How do you enjoy Mrs and New Year days? Did Santa visit you all, and how about the plum pudding? Did you eat too much and get fat? ...

UNCLE PHIL. "I'll—Three new Cobbers this week all boys. Oh, aren't the pen pals doing especially well? ...

EXCHANGE NOTICES. What are the first two letters in "What are the first two letters in ...

LEATHER FROM SHARKS. The steamer "Leta," the fishing factory for the conversion of shark skins into leather and the ...

W. FERGUSON UNDERTAKER AND FUNERAL DIRECTOR. Special Preparation of Coffins. Corner High and James Streets, Northcote.

BIRTHDAYS. All the Cobbers, Uncle Phil and the Pen pals with Margie Jewett (Jan. 6), ...

OUR MAIL BAG. Dear Uncle Phil—In writing to you I am sure you will be glad to hear that I am ...

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE. Ink stains—Clothing frequently becomes stained with ink. This can usually be removed by applying a ...

IN THE SWIM. A London artist called a picture to a very wealthy woman. The latter ...

"ECONOMIST" GAS COOKING STOVES. With Cast Iron Patent Casters and Porcelain Burners. Heats Instantly and Will Reduce Gas Bills Fully 50 PER CENT.

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WALTER A. WARNE UNDERTAKER. ESTABLISHED 1852. 259 HIGH STREET PRESTON. FUNERALS CONDUCTED AT LOWEST POSSIBLE RATES.

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Safety First ACETYLENE FLOUR. BE UP-TO-DATE AND HAVE ELECTRIC LIGHT INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME.

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D. W. RODGER. 219 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOE. For my EGGS, BACON, BUTTER and CHEESE. COOKED MEATS are a Specialty.

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USE YOUR SPARE TIME TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF YOUR HOME WITH PRIDGON'S PAINTS AND PAPERS. WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED AT PRICES WHICH YOU CANNOT BEAT.

THE COBBERS' CLUB. Please send me as a member of the "COBBERS' CLUB". Name Address Date of Birth: 6/1/1928.

WESTGARTH DENTISTRY. (Late Mr. McKeirnie's). 107 High Street, Northcote. For MODERN UP-TO-DATE DENTISTRY.

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E. W. BRIGHTON. ELECTRICAL ENGINEER AND CONTRACTOR. 697 HIGH STREET, THORNURBY. Phone—Northcote 1168.

THE MAN SHE NEVER MARRIED. BY CORALIE STANTON AND HEATH HOSKEN. Authors of "Three Men Who Came Back," "Sword and Plough," "The Broken Tree," etc.

It was well for Dolly Chappell, a young girl who had just turned 17, to have been engaged to a young man who was so good to her.

Only her mother saw her slip away from the house that night. She did not follow her, but she was not long in guessing what had happened.

It was not until three weeks after these strange happenings that the disappearance of Chappell was discovered.

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Garden Requisites. All those tools that make for pleasurable and profitable gardening are to be had here in the very best makes, at the very lowest prices.

INGLIS' SPECIAL LAWN MOWER. A 3-Blade 14in. Machine. ONLY 37/6.

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MORRIS CARS and Trucks. TERMS TO SUIT YOU. We will take your used Car as Deposit.

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL. I.V.A.N.G.E. REGISTERED under the Board of Education. THE HANDY CONVERTIBLE BED COUCH.

CRICKET. DISTRICT GAMES. COLLINGWOOD V NORTHCOTE. A COUCH BY DAY—A BED BY NIGHT.

WESTLICH COLLEGE. RAYVIEW ST. NORTHCOLE. MAJOR W.M. BLASKETT. MISS B. AMEE GIDDINGS.

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CALLANDER THE BETTER BAKER. PHOENIX AND HEIDBERG. BOYS' SHIRTS, of our own make; fast colors.

DRAPERY AND MERCERY. SMITH STREET (At Johnston St. Tram Stop). SOME SPECIAL LINES.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS. WHEN YOU CAN SEE US ABOUT YOUR NEW CAR? RHODES & HERON.

OR ECONOMIC TRANSPORTATION CHEVROLET. WHY WALK WHEN YOU CAN SEE US ABOUT YOUR NEW CAR?

MISS WINTER MILLINER AND LADIES' DRAPER. 619 & 675 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

W. E. LADNER Watchmaker, Jeweller & Optician. 282 SMITH ST., COLLINGWOOD.

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BOYS' SHIRTS, of our own make; fast colors. BOYS' BLUE HATS, Hoyer's Cambridge, 2/11.

BUICK SALES SERVICE. OLDSMOBILE SALES SERVICE. WHY WALK WHEN YOU CAN SEE US ABOUT YOUR NEW CAR?

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THE REGENT THEATRE THE GARDEN THEATRE BEAUTIFUL. NEXT MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY.

THE SPEED MARVEL OF THE YEAR! Denny wrote it, and Denny's in it, and it's loaded with Love, Laughter and Thrills mixed together with the real Master-touch of Denny himself.

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PROGRAMME—THIS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.
RICHARD DIX.
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ADOLPHE MENJOU in SERVICE FOR LADIES.

Westgarth Theatre
THIS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 & 14.
MADGE DELANEY in SANDY.
JOHN HENNESSY in PEOPLE V. NANCY PRESTON.

WATER SHORTAGE
CENTRAL PRESTON RESIDENTS
At a meeting of the recent Central Preston Residents' Association on Tuesday evening...

CYCLING.
PROT'S 1026.
PHOTO: M. C. GILLIES.
Overland GARAGE
PLENTY ROAD, PRESTON (Corner Murray Road).

MOTERING AND CYCLING NOTES
Recent Motoring Records
The year 1927 was a notable one for motoring achievements...

NORTHCOTE COURT.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16.
WEDDINGS
DUNNIE—MAMOH
The Rev. Father O'Grady officiated at the sacred altar...

More SAFETY
More COMFORT
More POWER
More VALUE
Westinghouse Vacuum Brakes, give the utmost and positive action on all road wheels.

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USUAL SERVICES.
Rev. A. C. Kellaway, M.A.
CHURCH OF THE EPHRAIM.
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USUAL SERVICES.

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Those who are already depositors in the State Savings Bank will be glad to hear that the receipt of deposits and opening new accounts only 7 till 3.30 p.m.

PAINTING THE TOWN
FLAME OF THE YUKON
SMILE, BROTHER, SMILE
CHAIN LIGHTNING
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 20, 21.

BOWLING.
MERNDA
The Preston Club
Australian Carnival
The carnival match of many months, but a glorious one, and all concerned are very glad to see the result.

WASHING AND IRONING IS HARD WORK.
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HAPPY HOUR MEETINGS FOR CHILDREN ON FRIDAY.
Band Organ N.S.W. CHAMPIONS
Band Secures Thousands of Records

WEDDINGS
DUNNIE—MAMOH
The Rev. Father O'Grady officiated at the sacred altar on January 12, 1928, when Mr. Arthur Dunnie and Miss Mamoh were united in holy matrimony.

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Those who are already depositors in the State Savings Bank will be glad to hear that the receipt of deposits and opening new accounts only 7 till 3.30 p.m.

PAINTING THE TOWN
FLAME OF THE YUKON
SMILE, BROTHER, SMILE
CHAIN LIGHTNING
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 20, 21.

BOWLING.
MERNDA
The Preston Club
Australian Carnival
The carnival match of many months, but a glorious one, and all concerned are very glad to see the result.

WASHING AND IRONING IS HARD WORK.
MAC'S STEAM LAUNDRY
45 HIGH STREET, THORNBURY.
Phone—Northcote 2234.

NORTHCOTE AND PRESTON SCOTTISH SOCIETY.
HAPPY HOUR MEETINGS FOR CHILDREN ON FRIDAY.
Band Organ N.S.W. CHAMPIONS
Band Secures Thousands of Records

WEDDINGS
DUNNIE—MAMOH
The Rev. Father O'Grady officiated at the sacred altar on January 12, 1928, when Mr. Arthur Dunnie and Miss Mamoh were united in holy matrimony.

McEntee & Poole's
HOUSE DECORATORS AND RENOVATORS.
614 HIGH ST., CROXTON (Opp. Woolton Avenue).

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STOTT, SON & WATSON
Leopold Office—203 HIGH STREET (Car. Westbourne Green).
Head List of Properties in Districts of North, Central, and South.

Westgarth Theatre
THIS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 21 AND 22
SATURDAY MATINEE.
JACK MULLHALL AND DOROTHY MACGILL.

NORTHCOTE AND PRESTON SCOTTISH SOCIETY.
REGENT CENTRAL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.
At the meeting of the Regent Central Progress Association...

TOUR DE FRANCE FUNG.
TESTIMONIAL TO E. HAINBRIDGE.
A most enthusiastic meeting was held in the council chambers...

BOOSTER BARGAINS AT NORTHCOTE.
AT 10 O'GANGRILL'S—The best of what is now available...

PRESTON COURT CHURCH NEWS.
West Preston Baptist Church.
It is with pleasure that we have received into membership...

IMPROVING MERRI CREEK.
A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME.
An ambitious project for the beautification of a large area of country...

ARTISTIC HOME FURNISHERS.
STOCK CLEARANCE SALE.
REGARDLESS OF COST EVERYTHING MUST GO.
NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED.

CHURCH NOTES.
ALL SAINTS CHURCH.
NORTHCOTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (James Street).

CRADLE SNATCHERS FIGHTING LOVE.
THE DROP KICK.
THE GAY RETREAT.
A most interesting and amusing play...

JACKIE COOGAN.
A well-known and popular entertainer...

BOOSTER BARGAINS AT THORNBURY.
AT 10 O'GANGRILL'S—The best of what is now available...

BOOSTER BARGAINS AT CROXTON.
A GOOD range of Glass fittings, including...
NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL.
TENDERS TO BE INVITED THIS WEEK.

BOOSTER BARGAINS AT THORNBURY.
AT 10 O'GANGRILL'S—The best of what is now available...

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JOHN SHAW LICENCED CONTRACTING PLUMBER ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS. Car. Wemble and Business Sts., Northcote. Phone N'cote 96

W. FERGUSON UNDERTAKER AND FUNERAL DIRECTOR. Special Personal Attention Given to Widows of Friends. CORNER CAMPBELL AND VERN STS., COLLINGWOOD.

"ECONOMIST" GAS COOKING STOVES. With Cast Iron Patent Castings and Porcelain Enamel Tray. HEATS INSTANTLY AND WILL REDUCE GAS BILLS FULLY 50 PER CENT.

HOOPER'S NORTHCOLE AUCTION MART. Note Address: 336 High Street. Sale in Rooms Formerly "PRUDEN'S" 1230, Furniture, Poultry, etc.

WALTER A. WARNE UNDERTAKER. ESTABLISHED 1882. 259 HIGH STREET PRESTON. FUNERALS CONDUCTED AT LOWEST POSSIBLE RATES.

McALPIN'S FLOUR. The Most Perfectly Baked Flour in the World. BE UP-TO-DATE AND HAVE ELECTRIC LIGHT INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME.

D. W. RODGER. 219 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOLE. For my EGGS, BACON, BUTTER AND CHEESE. COOKED MEATS are a Specialty.

J. W. BLITZ, SURGEON DENTIST. (Late City). Only Address—244 HIGH ST., NORTHCOLE. All the most up-to-date methods of Dentistry.

IMPORTANT SPRING ANNOUNCEMENT. For the convenience of our Patrons, and to allow for a better display of our Millinery and Corset Departments.

NEWEST SPRING CREATIONS IN HATS. J. W. BLITZ, SURGEON DENTIST. MISS WINTER. THE JACKETS. The Jacksies suit upon a blouse, a tawksie in his eye.

THE COBBERS' CLUB. Dear Cobbers—Wasn't it a hot week-end! Jacko and I stayed in the sea so long our people thought we were surely drowned.

BIRTHDAYS. Dear Uncle Phil—Would you please send me as a member of the Cobbers' Club. I am 11 years of age, and I am interested in the club.

WIMMERA WILDFLOWERS. Watercress and cowslips. I have been collecting these flowers since I was a boy.

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PRESTON COUNCIL CARS. The Preston Council, at its meeting on Monday, received a letter from Mr. Morris Barrow & Co., regarding the purchase of cars.

OUR MAIL BAG. Dear Uncle Phil—Would you please send me as a member of the Cobbers' Club. I am 11 years of age, and I am interested in the club.

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W. H. BYSOUTH ASPHALTER AND CONCRETE PAVER. STONEGRUBBER AND TARPAVING WORKS. Merri Creek (Near Arthurton Road Bridge), Northcote.

J. FERGUSON UNDERTAKER. (LATE W. FERGUSON). 660 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOLE. FUNERALS CONDUCTED AT LOWEST RATES.

SPORTS SUPPLY CO. (W. G. SONE). 140 FLINDERS ST., MELBOURNE. ALSO AT 308 HIGH ST., PRESTON. CRICKET TENNIS RACQUETS.

CRICKET TENNIS RACQUETS. Large Range of CRICKET BATS and TENNIS RACQUETS. Prices from 2/6 to 10/6.

MONEY FOR PRIVATE LOANS. Any Person in Constant Work can obtain a Loan of £50 to £100. JAMES SMITH, 42 GORDON ROAD, NORTHCOLE.

PRIDGEOON'S PAINTS AND PAPERS. WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED AT PRICES WHICH CANNOT BE BEATEN. 391 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOLE.

THE ASTOR 5-VALVE SET. BEAUTIFUL CABINET JACOBEN FINISH. All Inter-State Stations on Loud Speaker. Just Turn Dial to Station Required.

ROBERTSON & O'DONNELL. 463 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOLE. PHONO-NORTHCOLE 468. THE HST IN THE WORLD.

Overland FROST'S GARAGE. PLENTY ROAD, PRESTON (Corner Murray Road). WHIPPET 5215. WHIPPET SEDAN £299.

WESTGARTH DENTISTRY. (Late Mr. McKerrin's). 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 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For the convenience of our Patrons, and to allow for a

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to notify that we have removed same to High St., Thornbury.

It will be our aim at all times to give the same careful

attention to our clients as we have endeavored to give in the

past.

Our new display, which includes the

LATEST DESIGNS IN CORSETS

AND THE

NEWEST SPRING CREATIONS IN HATS

Is now on view in our highly improved and modernly fitted

shop. We specially invite old patrons to give us a call, and

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MENT will still be carried on at our old address, High Street,

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Messrs. Len, Harrison and Fred

Carroll, of the Northcote Baptist

Band of Hope, will represent that

society at the annual convention of the

Victorian Band of Hope Union, to be

held at Ballarat over the Foundation

Day week-end.

Mr. Ern Lamming, of Northcote,

has consented to act as leader of the

Fitzroy Congregational Band of Hope.

This society is a difficult one, and it is

necessary to get outside help.

The Band of Hope is a real factor

in the life of the children resident in

the Children's Welfare Home, Royal

Park. Mr. Fred Thomas, of North-

cote, who was for some time associ-

ated with the Northcote Baptist Band

of Hope, is now the secretary of this

society.

C.Y.M.S. ACTIVITIES

The Northcote C.Y.M.S. will hold

their third series of hamper picnics to

Yarra Glen on Monday next, January

30 (Foundation Day). Bathing, tennis,

cricket and a big sports pro-

gramme will be available to picnickers

making the trip. In the evening a

dance will take place at the local hall.

Buses will leave the town hall from

9.15 a.m., the last bus definitely leaving

at 9.45 a.m. A hearty invitation is

extended to all members and friends

to be present.

Maps to the number of 90,000 and

25,000 boxes of papers are collected

at the History Section (Military

Branch) of the Committee of Imperial

Defence. They are for use in com-

pleting the official history of the Great

War, which is not expected to be

completed for about twenty years yet.

THE COBBERS' CLUB

Dear Cobbers,—

I suppose school starts again for most of you on Monday or Tuesday. How will you like to go to these long holidays? Cobbers, have you forgotten about the Tongue-Twister Competition? I want heaps more entries, so I am leaving it open for another week. Now each one try and send me an entry. It isn't the most words beginning with "N" I want; it is the best sentence with as many words as possible beginning with "N." Jacko and Fluffy were at tennis again last Monday, and some clothes were hanging on the line alongside the court. Well, nothing seemed to please the pets more than when their balls accidentally (on purpose) hit those nice white clothes and made black patterns on them. Oh, they are imps! Well, Cobbers, we all send our love to you all, from

THE PETS AND UNCLE PHIL.

P.S.—We are welcoming three new cobbers this week—Joyce, Joan and Les McMenamin. Bravo for the girls: they are still ahead.—U.P.

COBBERS' BIRTHDAYS

All the Cobbers, Uncle Phil and the Pets with Mary Antonson and Joyce McMenamin (Jan. 28), Betty Ryan (Jan. 31), Douglas Hoggood, Allan Love and Keith Wakefield (Feb. 1) and George Gorr (Feb. 2) a happy, happy birthday.

NEW COMPETITION.

Use as many words beginning with "N" as possible in a sentence, and send in not later than Jan. 28. Prize winner announced on February 3.

OUR MAIL BAG

249 Raleigh St., Northcote. Dear Uncle Phil.—Will you please enrol my sister and me as members of the Cobbers' Club. I will be nine on January 28, 1928, and my sister Joan was seven on September 19. I have two little brothers. I was in the fourth grade last year, and think I will be put up. My sister and I learn Highland dancing, and have danced at many concerts at the Northcote town hall. We have won several prizes. We are going to learn music this year. We have been at our Grandmother's home for a fortnight. This is all for the present, with love from (GOOD) Joan and Joyce McMenamin (Welcome, Joan and Joyce. We are pleased to have you. Are you going to see who wins the 100 marks first? Have a shot at the tongue-twister. Love from the pets.)

249 Raleigh St., Northcote. Dear Uncle Phil.—My little brother Les wants to know if he is too young to join. He is six years old and he goes to school. This is all now, with love from (GOOD) Joyce McMenamin. (Welcome, Les. As long as you send in things for the Corner your sister can write them for you if you can't do it. Jacko specially greets you as a Cobber. Cheerio.)

96 Clarendon St., Northcote. Dear Uncle Phil.—I am sending in a few riddles and jokes which I hope you will be able to use. I'm sorry to say that the holidays seem to be going very quickly. I have been down to the beach quite a lot lately and can swim and float. I got very brown and sunburnt and after I felt all the better for it. I would like to see the pantomime, but have not been yet. I am hoping to go before I go back to school. I am not much good at tongue-twisters, but I think I will have a try at the competition. I hope Jacko has been behaving himself lately. I will now close with love to you and the pets. Allan Love (Did the sunburn hurt, Allan? Would you like holidays all the time? I don't think so, as the beach is very cold and bleak in winter time. The pants are very funny, and you will laugh a lot. Thanks for the contris. Try the twister.)

Dear Uncle Phil.—We have a puppy named Fido and we took him to Frankston with us at Christmas time. We have a cat named Dick, but we left it at home with a neighbor. Fido likes the sea and he went in swimming every day. With love to the pets. Neal Duncan. (Neal, will you send me your address, then I'll be able to send your certificate to you. Is Fido a fox terrier? He sounds like one. Are you trying the "N" competition?)

Enid Love.—I'm glad you liked the story book, Enid. The days do pass all too soon when one is happy and you have been sea-bathing. That is the best sport of them all. Are you going to try the twister? Andrew Antonson.—You have sent in a riddle-me-ree. I can't make out how you get the answer. I will send it back to you. In a riddle-me-ree each line contains one letter of the answer in a certain word. Have another try.

Edward Smith: What kind of car is it? Jacko is very jealous, as his car is out of commission at present, and is taking rather a long time to fix up. He hates travelling in our big one, but has to, of course. Olinda is a pretty place. Belgrave is something similar, and a good run for a Sunday trip.

Marjorie Stevens.—I received your "N" competition. Do you feel better now? We went for a holiday at Christmas time. Jacko and I and the family had a lovely time going for walks and bathing. Beryl Mabbett: Are you just finishing your holiday, Beryl? We had a good time and were quite ready to come back, but then we can go to the sea any Saturday or Sunday, so it's all right. Melbourne people are lucky, but the country people can't come down any week-end they like; it's too far. Try the tongue-twister competition.

Phyllis Murphy: Will you call for the 2/6 at the "Leader" Office. I will leave it there on Thursday for you. Congrats, on getting the 100. I don't think I'm often sad for want of letters. Several come each mail for me. Jacko opens each one and spreads it out. He can't always read them, but I can. What about the competition?

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A son at a college wrote to his father: "No moon, no fun, your son." The father answered: "How sad, too bad; your dad." (GOOD) Harry Mabbett.

Little Boy: "Please, sir, have you seen a man without a little boy? 'Cos if you have, I'm that little boy!" (GOOD) Jack Power

A man, having an auction for a shilling, said: "How much am I offered for this shilling?" Smart Boy: "Sixpence, sir." The man: "You're a smart lad! Hand over your sixpence." Smart Boy: "Haven't got it, but take it out of the shilling and give me the change." (GOOD) Keith Wakefield.

John: "Professor Brown has given me a ticket for a lecture, and I don't quite know what he means by it." Joe: "Why, what's the trouble?" John: "The lecture is on 'Fools,' and on the ticket it says, 'Admit one.'" (GOOD) Ian McDonald.

Father's umbrella was missing, so he asked the family about it. "I think Mr. Benson took it last night," said Jerry. "When I was in the hall I heard him say to sister: 'I'll have to steal one.'" (GOOD) James Aghan

Who always sits with his hat on before the Queen?—Her coachman. When is coffee like the soil?—When it is ground. (GOOD) Ona Humphreys. Two ducks in front of a duck, and two ducks behind a duck—how many ducks are there?—Three. (GOOD) Nellie Pfeil.

Where can you get duck for nothing?—In the sea, of course. How long did the oldest man live?—Till he died. (GOOD) Mavis Antonson. How many sides has the Bank of England?—Two—the outside and inside. (GOOD) Irene Wiley.

There was an old man from Peru, Who remarked: "I shall visit the zoo." But when he got near He trembled with fear, And ran for a mile, if not, two! And now for a tongue-twister— Sheila's selling shelled shrimps." (GOOD) Beryl Mabbett.

It's all very well to be happy and gay. When the world goes round like a song; But give me the one that can wear a smile. When everything goes dead wrong. (GOOD) Ed Love.

Photography Hints.—When printing do not use the solution that was used for developing or that was used for printing the last time. When developing, do not let the least ray of light come in contact with the film, as the film will have streaky lines on it when finished. Do not let your finger touch the film when developing, as the mark will be seen on the snap when it has been printed. When developing do not have to light a light, as this also will cause it to go streaky. Do You Know?—Soak a piece of string in salt water all night, and when it is dry, hang it up and tie a string article, such as a ring, to it. The string can be lighted at the foot, and may be burnt right to the top, but the ashes will be sufficient to support the ring. (GOOD) Ed Bridger.

Camelia, loveliness; carnation, disdain; daisy, innocence; deadly nightshade, falsehood; fern, fascination; forget-me-not, remember me; ivy, friendship; pansy, thoughts; rose, love. (GOOD) P. L. Kerr.

Sally with the soft shawl selling shells by the sea shore. This shop sells silk shot socks with spats. The crow flew over the river with a piece of red raw liver. (GOOD) Marie Herlihy.

Once a bobbie met a bobbie in a bag of beans. Said a bobbie to a bobbie, "Tell a bobbie: Can a bobbie tell a bobbie what a bobbie means?" Mother: "Now, Bobbie, don't go on the wharf, because your boots will tell me if you have been there." Bobbie: "But, mother, I've cut their tongues out." (GOOD) Marjorie Stevens.

Land, charred wood, rodent, other. A C R E C O A L R T S E L S E (GOOD) Freda Wiley.

In this word square the letters have been jumbled up. Can you puzzle them out? (Correct solution on right) S L A C O C O A L S T O W E L O W L E T A V E I L A L I V E F E E L L E V E R E N E T S L E V E R N E T S (GOOD) Joyce Maes.

Caramel Toffee.—4oz. treacle, 3oz. butter, 3oz. sugar, 1 tin Nestlé's milk. Melt butter and sugar in saucepan, add treacle, and when boiling add milk. Stir well half an hour, when it should be thick. Put into wet tin and when nearly cold mark off into squares. (GOOD) Marjorie Worfolk.

Fig Preserve.—6lb. figs, 6 cups water, 4lb. sugar, 1lb. green ginger (slice very fine); boil sugar and water together, then put in figs and ginger and boil two hours. (GOOD) Marjorie Worfolk.

Nancy: "Don't you think that a woman is clever enough to do anything that a man can do?" Percy: "Oh, yes; but a woman generally gets a man to do it for her." (GOOD) Allan Aghan

Suspicious.—"Have you read this poem to anyone?" "Not a soul." "Then how did you manage to get that black eye?" "Does your dog get plenty of exercise?" "Oh, yes; now and again he goes for a tramp." (GOOD) John O'Connell

Going to Roost.—Father: "Aren't you up very late, Billy? When I was a little boy I went to bed with the chickens." Billy: "Really, daddy? Did you have to sleep in the hen-house?" (GOOD) Alec Murphy.

BOY SCOUTS.

1ST NORTHCOTE TROOP

The second monthly troop social and dance was held in the Gunyah on January 14, and proved just as big a success as the first. The next dance will be held on February 11, and will be followed by another on the 25th, held by the patrol leaders to raise funds to furnish their desks.

Last Saturday the troop programme was a trip to Middle Brighton beach, but as it turned out cold a visit was paid to the museum where an interesting afternoon was spent. In the evening a series of games was held in the Gunyah, including indoor hand tennis. Next week-end, Monday being a holiday, a camp will be held on the Yarra at Heidelberg.

More interest is now being taken in troop work, and a display will be given in March on the troop anniversary. A class has been started for the Ambulance Badge by a gentleman who holds a St. John Ambulance Association's award.

In regard to the patrol competition during the Xmas camp, the Lion Patrol proved successful by two points from the Bulldogs.

Troop Leader A. Johnston and Patrol Leader L. Laver have been elected honorary members of the troop. Three new members are studying the mysteries of the Tigerfoot badge, and will soon be drafted into patrols.

THE PRESTON TROOP

We had a working bee at the scout hall last Saturday afternoon, when further progress was made with the erection of our new canteen. We are having this fitted with shelves and seats, with a large counter in centre. The leaders spent a busy time last Monday and Tuesday cleaning and repairing. The Court of Honor sat last Sunday, all leaders being present.

About 20 of the boys are having a week-end camp at Janefeld under A. C. M. Hamby. The party will leave the scout hall this Saturday afternoon and return on Monday evening. There will be no cubs' parade this Monday on account of the holiday. It has been decided to hold two annual concerts in the town hall during March. The annual meeting of the troop will be held on February 11, and all old scouts of the troop are invited to same. Nomination night for new leaders and office bearers will be Saturday, February 4. It has been decided to hold the Easter camp at Janefeld. The troop commenced cricket against the Excelsior team last Saturday and will conclude same this Saturday. It has been decided to call a meeting of all parents and friends for Wednesday, February 15, for the purpose of electing new office bearers for the parents' committee and making arrangements for many social activities. We are considering joining a scout football competition. The members of the band will meet on February 4 to arrange for the coming year. The Cub Sixers and Seconds will meet next Monday week to arrange fresh appointments for the year. Several of the older cubs will transfer to the scouts. Arrangements are well in hand for the prince and princess carnivals and socials at the scout hall will soon be commenced. We still have outstanding accounts on our scout hall, and we would be pleased if other friends took up debentures. The mayor (Cr. Adams) kindly took up £25 worth, which is a great help.

Women play a big part in the broadcasting of programmes from 2LO; the only department still exempt from them is that of the engineers.

You have 100 marks. Then send to Uncle Phil, and say if you prefer a cash prize of 2/6 or a book. If a book, say the title.

How to Join the Cobbers' Club. Fill in form at the bottom of the page and address to UNCLE PHIL, "The Leader," High St., Northcote. In due course you will receive a beautiful certificate to say that you are a member of the club. Join now, and tell your friends to join too.

THE COBBERS' CLUB Please enrol me as a member of the "COBBERS' CLUB." Name Address Date of Birthday Present Age

Look for "Cobbers' Club" next week.

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