

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE-LETTER WEEK 4, SEPT. 1971MONDAY SEPT. 6

This morning we left Narooma heading for Mollymook. We stopped at an old church built by the Mort family in the middle of the early Mort estate. The pipes of the organ were the most beautiful any of the team had ever seen. They were all hand painted in white with beautiful designs. We met our new hosts and had "tea" at the Mollymook Golf Club. On the trip we saw a very old swagman and C. F. took his picture. He claimed to be a relative of Bat Masterson. The team thought he looked like a retired power transmission salesman.

Lunch was held at the Brighton Hotel in Kiama. Jim Pearce, the Manager, had a great meal for us. We made a quick trip to the Kiama public school with Mr. Neil McKay, the school inspector, and were very impressed with some of the reports which were prepared by the students.

The evening was spent at the Kiama Rotary Club meeting. A heart warming toast was given to the team by the club. Then Mr. Ted Crane, the president led the club into the singing of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow".

Ron was fined for telling a fish story about all the fish he caught in Narooma. He was reported to have said that he caught 900 pounds of Kingfish. C. F. gave the Mayor of Kiama, Mr. Paul Saphin, a key to the city of Houston. The meeting was very enjoyable.

TUESDAY SEPT. 7

The entire day was spent touring the Australian Iron and Steel facility at Port Kembla. This mill produces 3.7 million tons of steel annually. The iron ore is brought into the facility by ship and converted into iron ignots in a huge blast furnace. Our lunch at the mill was very good. The hospitality was great. We were shown two movies on steel production. Then we toured the open hearth in action. The molten steel flowing over the ladle was spectacular.

The evening meeting was in Fairymeadow, with the Rotary Clubs of Fairymeadow, Bulli, Corrimal, Wollongong, and West Wollongong. There were 180 Rotarians present. The main topic of interest was cost of living comparisons. Ron was on the floor to describe his profession and cut

the ice with a good Aggie Joke. The meeting was large, but we did have a wonderful time. The movie on Houston was once again a hit with the audience. We owe a vote of thanks to the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 8

The morning was spent on a tour of the Electrolytic Refining & Smelting Co. facility at Port Kembla. The tour was interesting, but the company took one look at C. F. and decided we would not be allowed to tour the gold refining facility. At the end of the morning we found a large scale and the entire team stepped on the platform. The total weight was 1083 pounds. This was a total gain of 61 pounds since we left Houston. Needless to say we have had all the food we can eat.

The afternoon was free, but Jim, Acey & Rich went to the home where Bob was staying. The mother of Bob's Hostess, is a very fine artist. The team has bought a number of her works. Bob was out with his host, Jack Wilson, playing golf. Jack was a golfer with a 22 handicap. But he shot a fine front nine of 39. It looks as though the Australians work their golf handicaps just like the American.

The evening was free and most of the team spent the time with their hosts. Although there was a group that played squash. This type of exercise is a necessity to keep the weight under control.

THURSDAY SEPT. 9

This day was a first for all of the team. We were taken to the bottom of the A.E.S. Coal Mine. The trip down was on a new high speed personnel carrier. When we reached the mining area all the crew was coming out because of gas that was present in the mine shaft. This did not deter the brave Texans. We proceeded to the face of the coal vein. After standing there for a few moments waiting for the crew to return, part of the roof caved in and the brave Texans almost trampled themselves in an effort to get out of the way. This tour was really enjoyed by the team.

Lunch was held at the Port Kembla Leagues' Club. The cost of belonging to this fine facility was only \$14-00 per year. But after looking at the annual report we found that \$36,000 worth of slot machines produced an income of \$369,000. If you are not prone to play on the machines you can get along very well.

The afternoon was spent touring the Metal Manufactures plant. This company makes copper tubes for piping and various other industrial uses. The plant shipped a total of 70,000 tons of copper products each year. It was disappointing to note that very few of the machines used by this firm were from the U.S. The manager said the cost was too much.

The evening was spent with the Shellharbour Club. The Dapto, Unanderra & Port Kembla Clubs were also present. This was a very fine meeting. The president of the Shellharbour Club, Mr. Ken Stuart, presented the team members with a plaque to commemorate our visit to their club. Mr. Trevor Dalla the leader of organising our tour for this part of the week was given a standing ovation by the team.

FRIDAY SEPT. 10

A tour of the Commonwealth Steel Co. was made this morning. The plant anneals approximately 20,000 tons of stainless steel annually. The team was filmed while on this tour and made the local news broadcast on channel 4 T.V. The company treated the team to "tea" and movies of the plant and the flower gardens that are maintained on the premises. The plant was truly an example of what can be done to beautify a manufacturing facility with a little work and concern.

After lunch the team had the privilege of visiting the Blue Metal & Gravel quarry. The blue metal is mined at a rate of 2,500 tons per day. Unfortunately, we did not see the blasting of the stone. This part of the operation was only done on Saturdays.

The evening was most enjoyable. The team had a progressive dinner in the homes of Rotarians other than our hosts. The evening went very well, but was too short. Jim had a great time with Mr. John Frasier's daughter. The girl joined the party late after riding the train from Sydney. She told her father that she was not interested in spending the evening with a group of old Rotarians from Texas. Much to her surprise we were all young and Jim was apparently good company for her.

SATURDAY SEPT. 11

This was a free day thank goodness. The strain is finally beginning to show. The golf played was enjoyed by all. Jim went to look for shiny rocks. It was an early night to bed for the team.

SUNDAY SEPT. 12

The weather was beautiful once again. A picnic was held as a farwell to the team at Minamurra Falls. This park was a picture to behold. The falls were about one mile up a trail through a rain forrest. One huge fig tree was estimated to be 1000 years old. Every type of tree native to Australia could be seen in this park. The time to leave Kiama and Shellharbour had finally arrived. The clubs were very kind and gave three cheers for the team. After such a warm relationship developes in only one week it is hard to say goodbye. So, we simply shook hands and said "See you in Houston in 1972".