

# A Century of Child Care

The Story of  
Ballarat Orphanage

1865-1965

# Concern For Children In Need

Mercy was the mission and warm charity the spur of a small group of pioneers gathered about the fireside of a Ballarat East home on a bitter winter night in 1864.

Their talk was of children, of the orphaned, destitute and deserted waifs, growing in numbers and an increasing problem in the young developing city.

The subject was one of terrible urgency at that time, when Ballarat and the surrounding district were suffering a depression caused by changes in the mining pattern, after the alluvial mines were exhausted, and a reckless spirit of gambling that was the legacy of the fevered years of the gold rush.

Hundreds of miners, defeated in their quest for fortune, migrated to more promising fields, many abandoning wives and families to poverty and destitution.

The young city was a sadly unbalanced settlement with great wealth on the one hand and bitter want and hardship on the other. And in the midst of it all, the underprivileged children, some bereft of or forsaken by one or both parents, many no one's children, waifs from God knew where, misfits in a growing city — a pitiful, wretched band, wandering, delinquent, receiving only rare and casual charity.

Since its foundation in 1858 the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum had been a refuge for many destitute families and deserted children of the city and district, but after a time it became evident that the accommodation was inadequate for orphans, and the education of the children was another difficulty.

Thinking citizens realised that it was not good for the very young to be associated with the old and the sick, nor for an orphan child to have as companions waifs who were already delinquents and awaiting transfer to the Melbourne Reformatory of the local Industrial School.

And so it came about on that winter night, 100 years ago, in the house of Mr. W. P. Martin, that the first proposal for the establishment of the Ballarat Orphan Asylum was made and the idea was adopted by the Oddfellows in the North Star Lodge, with Mr. E. Steinfeld and Mr. W. R. Watson as the leading spirits.

It was realised that the lack of such an institution was a great drawback to the permanent usefulness of the Order, for there was no provision for children bereft of parents who had during their lives contributed to the funds of the various lodges.

In all Ballarat there was no building large enough or in any way suitable to provide a home where the innocent waifs and strays of humanity might be fed, clothed, educated and developed into useful and creditable members of society, and saved from careers of vagrancy and crime.

These views were shared by the members of the North Star Lodge, and it was decided to enlist the support of the Foresters, the Freemasons and the general public.

The other Oddfellows Lodges readily espoused the scheme, and no time was lost in organising efforts to raise funds to build the Orphanage.

A concert was held at the Mechanics' Institute, and similar entertainments were organised by lodges in the surrounding districts. The merchants of Ballarat raised a substantial sum at a ball, and a major effort, in which all Ballarat and district joined, was a great Christmas carnival — a "Fete Shampetre" — at the Botanic Gardens on Boxing Day, 1865.

It was a holiday for the whole city, and the greatest gathering ever seen in Ballarat up to that time.

Reports of the occasion tell of every street in the town alive with vehicles of every kind, from early morning, bringing the people to the fete. There were all sorts of entertainment, an oration by a leading citizen, and a grand procession. The fete continued on the following day and the grand total raised was £1137. Net profit amounted to £777.

With £1692 — real money in those days — the founders were ready to go ahead, plan a design, and call tenders for a suitable building.

The Government had granted an area of land at Warrenheip, but later two better sites became available, and the committee eventually selected and was granted an area of 19 acres fronting Victoria Street.

### FIRST MEETING

The first meeting of the committee was held in the Mining Board Room on February 14, 1865, and those present were the president, Mr. W. R. Watson, Messrs. Steinfeld and Peake (vice-presidents), Jones, Lovitt, Drake, Martin and R. B. Gibbs (trustees).

The first business was to define the secretary's duties and fix the amount of his salary, Mr. William Webster was the successful applicant at £50 a year, and five per cent, on all moneys collected by him.

Later Messrs. Clissold, P.M., Wardell, Adair, Carruthers and Baird were appointed a "committee of taste" to make arrangements for the building.

Competitive designs were invited for a prize of £20, which was won by Mr. H. R. Casselli. This was in October, 1865.

### FOUNDATION STONE

At the November meeting of the committee the tender of Julien Thomas & Co. for the erection of the building was accepted, and the foundation stone of the Ballarat Orphan Asylum was laid on December 8, 1865, by the Hon. J. McCulloch, Chief Secretary of the Colony.

The accepted tender price for the whole building was £8980/10/-, or pro rata at schedule prices, and it was decided to erect first the western wing, including a large part of the facade, at a cost of £3500.

This was completed in July, 1866, and as soon as the necessary furnishings and fittings had been provided, Mr. and Mrs. Finlay (both well-known public teachers) were appointed as superintendent and matron.

The institution was formally opened on October 1, 1866, prepared to receive twelve orphans of each sex.

Two children were admitted on October 2 and by the end of the year they were joined by 19 others. The delay in reaching the quota was due to public disfavour of methods previously adopted in drafting children to national institutions.

Injustices had often been done in the absence of judicious selection. Innocent waifs and strays were sometimes found among those sent to Industrial Schools, which were primarily designed for the reception of children with criminal habits or undesirable backgrounds. Sometimes, too, such types had been admitted to homes established for innocent little ones orphaned through illness or disaster, or children of honourable parents who were unable to care for them.

It was for these that the Ballarat Orphan Asylum was built, but it took time and much hard work on the part of the committee before the prejudice of guardians and parents was overcome.

With the home an accomplished fact the committee then faced a serious debt problem. Total expenditure incurred in the erection and equipping of the building reached £5388, with liabilities amounting to £1565.

There was only one alternative — a public appeal. There was a splendid response, and individual donors increased in one year from 33 to 354. More than £1809 was subscribed in donations, musical societies and various community groups organised entertainments, and with a Government subsidy of £1800, a total of £3609 was raised.

Churches of all denominations liberally supported the committee, from whose suggestion the established custom of Charity Sunday emerged in the late "seventies."

With the number of applications for admission increasing, the need to erect the centre portion of the building became urgent.

Planning began in 1857, and the estimated cost was £1925. The Government allocated a grant of £2000 and the building was erected the following year.

With expansion and rising maintenance costs, the debt on the home grew. Undeterred, the committee went on with the development of the home grounds. Twenty-three acres of additional ground was fenced, a portion levelled for a playground, trees planted, and the garden — in later years to become a noted feature of the home — was established.

A vegetable garden, piggery and dairy, established at the outset, were by this time proving valuable adjuncts.

In 1869 the farm, later to become famous for its Jersey herd, was founded, and its value and importance increased with the years.

The special fitness of the institution as a home for children was now widely recognised in the literal sense of the word.

In the pattern of development for the welfare of inmates of all races and creeds was special attention to their health and education; the training of character, inculcation of habits of industry and self-discipline and the teaching of husbandry, trades and domestic skills to enable the boys and girls to go out into the adult world with confidence, and well equipped to earn a livelihood,

The rapid development of the home and the wisdom and foresight applied to the welfare and training of the children, was a reflection of the integrity and devoted service of the men of the committee and their leaders.

The foundation president, W. R. Watson, served four terms as chairman, from 1866 to 1871. W. Scott was elected to head the committee in 1869, and succeeding presidents to 1873 were E. W. G. Chamberlain, R. Wreford, H. Levinson, J. W. Gray, D. Brophy and James Long.

The progress of the home, its setbacks and successes, are faithfully reflected in the annual reports covering 100 years, and also much of the history of Ballarat.

#### DEVELOPMENT

In 1869 the buildings were painted and repaired; military drill was introduced and a shoemaker was regularly employed, with two boys as apprentices. This was a necessity, as provision and wear and tear on boots was a heavy item of expenditure.

All clothing for the boys and girls was also made at the asylum from tweed manufactured in Geelong.

The per capita maintenance cost that year, including clothing and education, was £25/14/1.

The overdraft that year reached £1286. Further building- was impossible, but repeated applications to the Government for a grant were of no avail. Only £1200 was voted for maintenance.

1870. — This was a hard year for money, due to a continued depression, and an unprecedented season of wet weather. Funds were hard to collect, and by this time the home was providing for 99 children. Despite this, it was decided to complete the building, and the tender of Hiam Rose and party at £3183 was accepted for the erection of the east wing, comprising school rooms, hospital wards, officers' quarters, workshop, lavatories and verandahs for the front elevation and quadrangle.

A swimming pool (50ft. x 17ft.) was completed. It was the first of its kind in any charitable institution in the colony.

The committee again acknowledged generous financial support from the City, Ballarat East and district Councils, community groups and sporting clubs, but referred to the steady fall in donations from mining companies and the Mining Accident Relief Fund.

As in previous reports, reference was again made to the unremitting care and attention to the health of the children given by the honorary medical officer, Dr. Hudson.

A highlight of the year was the installation of a handsome iron gate at the Victoria Street entrance. This was the gift of the Cemetery Trustees.

1871. — The home was heavily in debt and there was great anxiety. Work on the east wing was stopped, but some committee members made themselves personally responsible to the bank and the work went on as far as roofing over the unfinished portion of the building, to protect it from the weather.

There were some compensations, however. With the admittance of more children per capita maintenance costs dropped; the farm flourished, the garden produced £140 worth of vegetables for the year, and the milk output was valued at £205, at the rate of 2d. a quart. The inmates were not only supplied with boots, but 89 new pairs were made and put into stock.

1872. — The report opened on a happier note, for somehow the east wing had been completed, with the exception of the front verandah, in conformity with the original design. The home now provided accommodation for 300.

Some older sections of the home were enlarged and new equipment purchased. The Government loosed its purse strings and the debt was reduced.

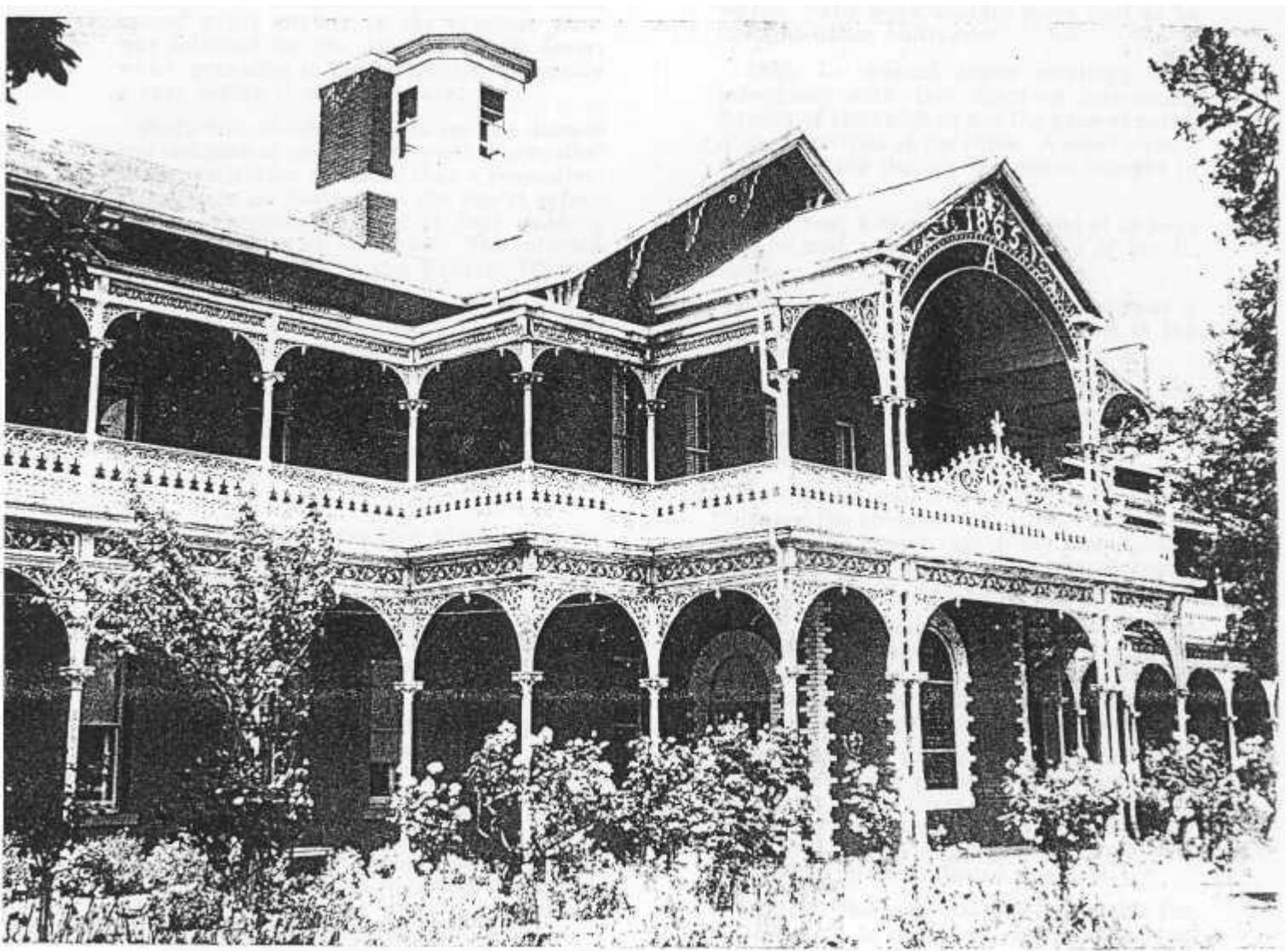
Assets were increased at the farm, which now boasted 7 milch cows, 5 pigs, 57 fowls, 7 geese and 8 ducks.

1873. — The institution was incorporated under the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, empowering the committee to make by-laws and frame regulations.

The home school became associated with the State by leasing two classrooms for a State school. Mr. L. H. Kildah was appointed head teacher.

1874. — The committee was heartened when the debit was reduced to £691. The number of children rose to 156 and the farm had a good year with the harvesting and stacking of 17 tons of hay. The dairy output for the year was 13,416 quarts of milk.

1875. — After two classrooms were leased to the State it was found that a number of outside children were attending the school, which was the only one in the vicinity.



MAIN BUILDING OF THE OLD HOME, BUILT IN 1865 — DEMOLISHED IN 1965

A deputation waited on the Minister of Education, and it was decided to lease only one room for the use of inmates of the home only.

1876. — The epidemic of measles, which caused great anxiety in the previous year, was followed by the dreaded scarlet fever, which prevailed in the institution for nearly a year before it was eradicated.

Sixty-five children contracted the disease and sickness of one kind or another prevailed in the institution for more than a year after. There were no deaths, but the report refers to the subsequent deaths of four children from congestion of the brain. The infected children were sent to the Ballarat District Hospital isolation wards.

A grant of £350 was received towards the erection of the front verandah, and the committee recommended that the work be done as soon as sufficient funds were in hand.

Chief work undertaken that year was the asphalting of the quadrangle and flooring of the verandah surrounding it with Lai Lai tiles.

Among children admitted that year were several whose fathers had lost their lives in mining accidents.

1877. — The inauguration of the Charity Sunday appeal is mentioned in the 13th Annual Report. Total collection was £515, and the home received £143.

In that year the iron verandah on the front of the building was erected. It is described thus: "For lightness of appearance and durability of construction, there is nothing like it in this district, and it at once forms an excellent specimen of the manufacturing capabilities of Ballarat, where all the castings and other materials used were produced." The architect was H. R. Casselli and the contractors, Taylor and Ellis.

The year 1878 was chiefly notable for a considerable increase in donations, and plans for erecting a large shed in the girls' playground with swings.

1879. — The garden of the asylum was becoming a show place, and in the 15th Annual Report the then president, J. C. Molloy, expressed the hope that it would be visited by subscribers. He pointed out that a visit would not be difficult as "a bus nlies regularly between the asylum and Lake Wendouree at a 3d. fare,"

Major works undertaken that year were the painting and renovation of the interior of the building, and the deepening and straightening of the creek running through the western reserve to discharge storm water. The work enabled more land to be brought under cultivation.

1880. — Annual soiree meetings were introduced with the object of interesting friends of the children and the general public in the activities of the home. A small charge was made and the opening soiree brought in £44.

That year a drum and fife band of 25 boys was formed, under the leadership of Mr. H. Rose.

The only bleak note in the report was a reference to a 20 per cent, reduction in the Government grant-in-aid.

1881. — The reduction of the debt on the home to £200 reflected the return of prosperous times to the city and district after a long period of depression.

During the year a thunderstorm severely damaged the shingled roof of the farm building and, the report regretfully stated, "our faithful and trustworthy man-servant, Michael McBride, was killed by lightning."

1882. — The home suffered a great loss in the death of Henry Davies, who was secretary and collector for several years. Robert Wreford, a former President and Committee member, was appointed to the vacancy.

Improvements to the playground for girls were effected and a new storeroom and dairy were built. A horse and dray were purchased for the farm for £46, and the total expenditure was £762. Scarletina broke out, and of 26 children infected, one died.

1883. — The year was chiefly notable for a falling off in donations, but a heartening gift was £50 from Martin Loughlin. The sub-matron, Mrs. Dickson, resigned.

1884-85. — The report covered the period January, 1884, to July, 1885, owing to alteration of the annual meeting from January to July.

It was an eventful year, as Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Sadlier, Superintendent and Matron, resigned after 16 years' service. Mr. Wreford, the secretary and collector, took over the duties of superintendent, and Mrs. Wheeldon was appointed matron,

Later the Committee decided to revert to the previous arrangement of having a husband and wife as Superintendent and Matron, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kenny were appointed. Mr. and Mrs. Kenny were to give outstanding service to the home for many years. Mr. Wreford continued as secretary and collector.

The Committee and officers were saddened during the term by the deaths of three former presidents (Robert Lewis, John W. Gray and David B. Macaw), and the architect of the home, Henry R. Casselli.

1885-86. — The iron fence in front of the institution was extended 116 feet and boundary brick walls were continued. The old creek was filled in on account of danger to the children, and Venetian blinds were installed on all front windows.

The period was notable for the visit of the Governor of the colony, Sir William Loch, who praised the Committee, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenny, for the splendid order of the home and the happy, well-cared-for appearance, of the boys and girls.

In the jubilee year of Queen Victoria, 1886-87, there was more reclamation of land for farming. A manure depot was built at the farm and fire-fighting equipment provided in the main building.

The continuation of brick walls on the boundaries, expansion of tree planting, and further improvements to farm and garden, were noted in the report of 1887-88. In that year the Committee, under the Neglected Children's Act, obtained full control over all children admitted until they attained the age of 18.

1888-89. — Highlight for the children that year was a trip to Melbourne to see the famous Centennial Exhibition. The trip was provided by the Ballarat East Board of Advice.

The high esteem in which the home was held far beyond Ballarat and district was reflected in a special article published in the "Argus."

The writer, "Telemachus," described the asylum as "a great, comfortable, home-like place singularly free of anything of the ordinary barrack or work-house or charity school sentiment. . . . There is no better place to see the children than at dinner at well-prepared, white-clothed tables with polished cutlery . . . the meal good, substantial /and ample; no rations, no stint. The children

are well clad, their rosy faces and their little bodies healthy and well developed. They are brought up as if the places of their parents were properly supplied, and when the time comes, will go out to fight the battles of the world, well-prepared physically, and armed with a store of useful, practical knowledge."

#### SILVER JUBILEE

1890 marked the silver jubilee of the home but there were no special celebrations. The report of 1889-90, in a passing reference to the quarter century, stated that through those years 586 children had found a home under the sheltering roof of the institution.

A great occasion that year was the visit of the Governor and his lady, Lord and Lady Hopetoun.

The Hon. J. P. MacPherson, M.L.C., and his wife, presented the home with a fine stained glass window which, until a few months ago, graced the entrance hall of the oldbuilding.

The 26th report, 1891, records that improvements included flagging of the scullery and plastering of the dining-room; completion of the channel to the south boundary, reclamation of 246 perches of land; erection of more boundary fencing and cutting 50 chains of drains. In addition 2423 loads of black soil, ashes, etc., were carted to improve the garden and farm, returns from which continued to be highly satisfactory.

An electric fire alarm, which placed the asylum in immediate touch with the Ballarat Fire Brigade, was installed.

There was a visit from the Royal Commission on Charities, whose members were favourably impressed with all aspects of the home, especially the industrial training provided for the children.

The Commission paid high tribute to the work of the Superintendent, Arthur Kenny, an expert in horticulture and agriculture.

That year the home girls won several prizes in the Juvenile Industrial Exhibition: the by-laws were repealed and a new set adopted.

1892. — Returns from the model farm and garden continued to rise. This was a proud achievement, brought about by continued work in enriching the soil, for originally it was naturally poor and for the most part the asylum grounds had been covered with mining debris. That year the farmyard was enclosed with a brick wall and the lavatories were remodelled.

1893. — Internal painting and other improvements were carried out by the boys, supervised by competent workmen.

Highlight of the year was a visit from the Premier, Hon. J. B. Patterson, accompanied by the Minister of Lands, the Hon. J. McIntrye. "This is an admirable institution," was the Premier's comment, and Mr. McIntrye promised to grant an additional acre of land.

The Board was saddened by the death of Emmanuel Steinfeld, one of the founders of the home, who bequeathed to it £100. This amount was welcome in a depressed period, especially as the Government grant was cut that year by £300 to £1500. The Board was also grateful to receive £96 from a Chinese carnival, at which the organisers paid all expenses, and in reciprocation added three Chinese names to the growing list of Life Governors.

1894. — Through the offices of the then President, J. N. Dunn, M.L.A., and the Town Council, a further six acres were added to the grounds. The Government grant continued to shrink and the home received only £623 that year. This was offset, however, by some good donations.

Two more former board members died that year — Charles Dye and Joseph Roff.

The institution entered its third decade in 1895. It was a quiet, but progressive year. An interesting social aspect was the reference to the staging of two Gilbert and Sullivan productions in aid of the home by George Herbert, R. L. Nicholl and Miss Julie Flegeltaub. Other assisting efforts were functions by the combined Masonic Lodges and the butchers and bakers' football match.

The band boys were supplied with new uniforms and there was a picnic to Queenscliff — precursor of the long annual holiday now spent there by the children.

During the year two former presidents and stalwarts of the board, died — Daniel Brophy, and his son-in-law, J. J. Fitzgerald, and the deaths occurred of two liberal supporters of the asylum, Martin Loughlin and E. Rowlands.

The 31st Annual Report, 1896, recorded an important visit, that of the Governor, Lord Brassey, and Lady Brassey, accompanied by other distinguished people, all of whom were favourably impressed by the institution.

Another fine member was lost to the board when W. P. Martin, one of the founders, retired through ill-health.

That year the per capita maintenance figure dropped to £14/6/3, but the debt was larger, due to the continued dwindling of the Government grant, which was £800 less than five years earlier.

The report pointed out that the low per capita cost was considered most satisfactory, and noted also that the Government had to pay 5/- a week to foster parents of boarded out children, to which sum other charges had to be added.

A hot water service was installed and gymnasium classes introduced, under the direction of Sgt./Major Brough, who, with Capt. Trahar, collected funds for the equipment.

A bid was made to increase donations by introducing sixpenny coupons as a means of reaching those who did not usually contribute.

1897. — Expenses increased with the need to replace the farm buildings at a cost of £390, and provisions were dearer. Still the average weekly per capita cost was only 6/-.

Machines for knitting stockings were installed and 236 pairs were made by the end of the year. Citizens gave a party for the children to mark the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, and the Town Council presented each child with a commemorative medal.

The sixpenny coupons brought in £115, and the donors' list mentions the Managers of the Rokewood Goldfields Common, Egerton and Gordon Amalgamated Miners' Association, and the Cabmen's Cricket Club.

In this, as in foregoing reports, tribute is paid to the great attention paid to the health of the children by the honorary medical officers, Drs. Hudson, Woinarski, Usher, Hardy, Salmon and Cussen, and to the honorary dentist, Mr. T. P. Wilson, honorary oculist, Dr. Gutheil, and the honorary solicitor, Mr. W. H. Morrow.

1898. — The garden and farm, expanding on reclamation land, continued to contribute substantially to the income of the asylum; the school received excellent reports, and letters from satisfied employers of boys and girls from the home were reprinted in the report.

A touching inclusion in the report of 1890 refers to a donation of £1 from a poor widow who set aside proceeds from the sale of eggs laid each Sunday by her few hens for the orphan children.

There were 151 in residence that year, and while the industry of the boys was reflected in good returns from farm and garden, the girls made 1059 articles of bedding and clothing.

#### NEW CENTURY

With the advent of the new century the asylum had become recognised as the leading institution of its kind in Australasia.

In the report of 1900 the Committee looked back with pride on the great progress made in 35 years, recalling the day the foundation stone was laid in a desolate old worked-out diggings area not worth a shilling an acre; seeing it in 1900 a showplace with a prosperous farm, flourishing orchard, beautiful garden and well-appointed home for scores of well-clad, healthy children.

But there were still money troubles, owing to the continual cutting of Government grants. Government aid averaged only 2/5 a week per child, whilst the cost per child in Industrial Schools was more than 5/- weekly.

In the hope of adding more contributors the Committee decided to appoint an assistant collector, and not one voice was raised in objection when it was suggested that a woman be employed. So another minor facet of history was made by Mrs. J. C. Fitzpatrick.

That year the drum and fife band gave place to the more modern brass band. Arthur Prout trained the boys, and the cost of instruments was met by many donations.

The Committee lost a stalwart member through the death of Edward Murphy, M.L.A., a genial and colourful personality who was among the city's best-known citizens at that time.

1901. — During that year William Robert Redfern, one of the founders and first President of the home, died. Another death was that of Robert T. Wreford, who was President in 1877-88, and served as Secretary of the home for 19 years. The Superintendent, Arthur Kenny, was appointed Secretary, and Miss Thompson became full-time collector.

The Committee reported with pride that six old boys of the home were fighting in the South African War.

1902. — Twelve children contracted diphtheria and were removed to the Ballarat District Hospital. All recovered.

Reclamation of land adjacent to the home continued, and indoor plastering was carried out in the main buildings.

1903. — The band expanded to 22 members and earned more than enough to meet its expenses. Plans were made to purchase new instruments and to provide new uniforms at a cost of £40.

Miss Thompson resigned and Andrew Swan was appointed collector.

1904. — Improvements made that year included replacement of the brick kitchen floor with wood, and installation of a new range.

According to the report, "41 new patent combined bedsteads have been installed with perfect woven mattress attached, and fitted with flax paliasses. These made the bedrooms very complete."

**Fortieth Report, 1905.** — An irrigation plant using waste water from the institution and the creek were installed; a horse-works and chaff-cutter were erected at the farm at a cost of £30.

Boot repairing instructions for boys were introduced.

Highlight of the year was a trip to Melbourne, arranged for the children by the Premier, Thomas Bent, through Sir Alex Peacock, M.L.A. It was a two-day whirl of sight-seeing, including visits to the Zoo, Exhibition, Town Hall, Houses of Parliament and a swim in the St. Kilda Baths. The youngsters stayed overnight at the Federal Coffee Palace.

The daily average of children in 1906 — 171.22 — was the highest since the foundation of the institution. The Government grant was increased and the Railways' Carnival Committee was prominent in the donors list, giving £180 to general funds, and £30 for new band uniforms. J. Dunn jnr., who was to serve on the committee for many years, joined that year, and Henry Josephs, a stalwart of the committee for 36 years, died. T. T. Hollway was president.

The Forty-third Annual Report, 1907, was quite an elaborate affair, with a picture of the Orphanage on the cover, and several views of the institution inside. This type of publication became the pattern for many following years.

A country collector, J. H. Peady, was appointed and from this new source of revenue £386 was collected. Plans were made for the installation of a septic tank and extensions to the lavatories.

A bad winter had thrown many men out of work, and the committee obtained a special grant of £200 to give employment to 25 men. They reclaimed another portion of the institution's land, which was immediately put under cultivation.

A considerable lift that year was £5,000 from the R. W. Holmes estate.

The coupon issuing scheme was revived to raise £250 for new instruments for the band.

The Forty-third Report (1908) was a cheerful one. There was financial uplift and a small credit balance, and many improvements were effected. A new gymnasium (70 feet by 34 feet) was built and equipped; the size of the swimming pool was doubled; verandahs in the quadrangle were raised to uniform height; play shelters were built and the dining-room windows enlarged, and a fire escape stairway was installed. All this cost more than £2,000.

The band boys gloried in a new set of instruments — Boosey's best. An experimental farm was established adjacent to the Orphanage grounds by the Department of Agriculture, and the boys attended classes and lectures there. A concrete silo was built at the farm and proved of great benefit in that year of drought.

#### CHANGE OF NAME

It was decided to change the name of the institution in 1909 from the Ballarat District Orphan Asylum to the Ballarat Orphanage (Incorporated).

The Ballarat School of Mines provided lectures to teach the boys the scientific side of farming, and a chemical laboratory was established.

The septic tank and channel through the grounds was completed.

The Band entered "C" Grade at the South Street competitions and tied with the Footscray Band for third place. They looked well in smart uniforms and straw boater hats.

The father-son tradition of service on the committee began with the appointment of A. J. Pittard, whose son, Cr. Alan C. Pittard, is a member of the present Board of Management.

1911. — Plans were made to change the site of the pig-styes, which were too close to the main buildings. The cost was estimated at £1000 and a grant was sought.

That was the year of the coronation of King- George V. and Queen Mary, and during the coronation the children had a grand time,

There were special dinners and high teas, school holidays, a school gathering at the Coliseum, and a bonfire and fireworks display in the grounds as a final treat.

The report of 1912 records that the committee was considering an irrigation system by which all effluent from the septic tank would be raised and distributed over the farm land. Cost was estimated at £300.

The report also included a warning: "The septic tank works well, and sewerage of the institution is a great advantage, but unless something is done to the outer channel running through the grounds, which carries the drainage and washings from the municipal sanitary depot, it will endanger the health of the children."

That year the laundry, sloyd and boot repairing rooms and other works were completed at a cost of £1346, and the Government allocated a subsidy of £500.

A donation of £250 from the Railways Carnival Committee, to which the committee added £80, made possible the erection of the "Edwin Baker Glasshouse" which was stocked with valuable plants. The Railway group also gave the use of a gig, an unclaimed raffle prize, a harmonium for the Methodist Sunday School, and later on, a cabinet organ for the Catholic Sunday School at the home.

1914 was notable for a summer epidemic of measles and pneumonia. Sixty children were infected and one died. Progress in the school continued and by this time a kindergarten class was added. Physical culture and singing classes were formed and the former won a second prize at South Street.

The objectionable creek from Mt. Xavier sanitary depot was stone-pitched for £151, the Town Council sharing in the cost. The committee also planned to stone-pitch that portion connecting with the channel going towards Stawell street at a cost of £60.

It was decided to add six new pig-styles to the farm (cost £50). and a balcony on the east side of the main building, opening on to the hospital, was also envisaged.

The band covered itself with glory that year. Conducted by Percy Code, who succeeded Arthur Front the year before, the boys were second in the "C" Grade quickstep at South Street, were champions at Beaufort and won two seconds at Daylesford,

### GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Golden Jubilee year, 1915, was dark with the shadow of World War 1, which broke out at the beginning of the financial year. In his report the President, Norman Clark, pointed out that every effort must be made to keep down unnecessary expenses.

Expenses were higher all round, with bread, meat, groceries alone costing £100 a month. Subscriptions fell away; two of the institution's doctors went to the front. The names of 40 old boys who enlisted were listed on an honour board erected in the main dining-room. A cheerful note was the winning of the South Street "C" Grade championship by the band. The physical culture class, which included a girls' folk dance team, also won first prizes at the competitions.

A special souvenir brochure was issued to mark the jubilee, and this stated that to that date the buildings had cost £28,000 and furniture and fittings, £4,000. The inmates' daily average that year was 227.

The Jubilee was celebrated, but in a modest way because of the seriousness of the times. Features were a special church service at St. Paul's Church, at which Bishop Green was the preacher, and the Orphanage Choir sang, and a garden party attended by the Premier and Lady Peacock.

The 52nd Report of 1917 records a busy year and varied activity. The floors of the buildings at last gave up the fight against the continual passage of thousands of pairs of feet, and repairs were imperative.

The Government granted £250 for repairs and replacements, and a new storeroom for potatoes was erected. The building measured 40 feet by 18 feet and was equipped with a loft.

The Band was again in the news as winner of the marching contest at South Street, beating the Ballarat City and Prout's Bands by 12 points. The prize was £40 and a silver cup.

Those dependable friends, the committee-men of the Railway Carnival Committee, held a carnival in the home grounds and a concert at night, and raised a goodly sum.

Other notable items recorded were a welcome home to Dr. Hardy, a medical officer of the home, after military service abroad, and visits of foreign consuls.

The Board of Management embarked on an ambitious afforestation programme that year, and the institution was visited by the

Minister of Forests, Mr. Livingston, who donated 2000 trees for the Mt. Xavier plantation. Mr. Whatmore, of Smeaton, also contributed to the project, with 1000 more.

Mr. Livingston recognised the possibilities of portion of the home grounds for a nursery and promised that if six acres were set apart he would donate 250,000 seedlings and subsidise the institution for the project.

August 3 was a red letter day when the Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, and Lady Ferguson, visited the home to open Mt. Xavier Park.

The Governor planted the first tree in the avenue of honour, dedicated to the memory of 100 old boys who served during the war. This section was named the "Arthur Kenny Avenue," in tribute to the superintendent.

Taking part in the Arbor Day and the planting of 2000 pines, were the Premier, Sir Alexander Peacock, Cabinet Ministers, representatives of Government departments, the Mayors of the City and Town, and many prominent citizens.

A special brochure issued for the occasion lists the names of all who planted trees, and includes a map and directory of the plantation area.

1918. — The need for a new school, detached from the main building, was considered, and Major Matthew Baird, M.L.A., Minister of Education, was approached.

It WPS planned to make the space then available the site of new dormitories for the girls. That year the Ballarat egg-laying competition was held at the institution, under the supervision of a Government poultry expert, and a special shed was erected for the purpose.

Heating of the Edwin Baker glasshouse was carried out with a further donation from the Railways Carnival Committee.

The 54th Report of 1919 refers to the ending of the war a few months earlier. To celebrate the signing of the Armistice, the Premier gave the children a social dinner, and a similar treat when the Peace Treaty was signed. The children also shared in the rejoicings of the city, and the band was prominent in processions associated with the celebrations.

The Government decided to build a new school, and the foundation stone was laid on July 26, 1918, by the Minister for Public Instruction, the Hon. W. Hutchinson,

The Spanish influenza epidemic was raging at the end of 1918 and the early months of 1919. Because of this the annual clay's outing at Queenscliff was cancelled, but Ballarat citizens, with 40 cars, took the children to Wilson's reservoir, where the Water Commissioners provided them with dinner.

1920. — It is recorded in the 55th Report that the annual holiday for the children at Queenscliff was introduced. The children stayed *a. fortnight*, the girls sleeping in the Church of England Hall, and the boys in tents lent by the military authorities. A marquee was used for a dining hall. The bill was footed by the people of Ballarat, Melbourne and Queenscliff.

The change so benefited the children that the committee decided to buy a seaside house so that smaller and delicate children could have several weeks holiday every year.

"Clifton," a house near the beach, became available for £750. A total of £400 was in hand and plans were made to raise the balance.

The new school was ready for occupation at the beginning of that year. The Government allocated £350 towards the cost of renovating the kitchen of the institution, estimated at £1000. Other items of interest reported were special dinners for the children on Peace Day and the Prince of Wales' visit.

Financially, 1921 was a most successful year, ending with a credit of more than £200. This was due to the efforts of the women of Ballarat, who organised a fair which raised £2662 for the home. This splendid sum enabled a new kitchen to be built and equipped, and other improvements to be effected. The total cost was £2179.

The 56th Annual Report mentions the first occupancy of the Queenscliff Rest Home by 20 younger children, the erection of a girls' dormitory in the grounds, and the formation of the Queenscliff committee. The Railways Carnival Committee gave generously for furnishings and equipment.

Bandmaster Percy Code resigned, owing to his leaving for the United States, and he was succeeded by Mr. Alfred Rowell.

Mrs. Kenny retired as Matron, but consented to act as Lady Superintendent. Her position as Matron, which she held for 35 years, was filled by her daughter, Sister Lulu Kenny. Another daughter, Miss/Jean Kenny, became assistant secretary.

1922. -- The popular band had to be re-uniformed at a cost of £60. The first move to provide secondary education for the children was made when four pupils of marked ability were sent to the Ballarat High School. Mr. R. G. Caddell, later to serve on the home committee for many years, was appointed secretary of the Railways Carnival Committee, which provided a steady flow of donations. Mr. J. L. Bodinnar became physical culture instructor. The kitchen was finished and the Government increased its grant for the work to £900.

The 57th Report recorded the deaths of committeemen W. D. Hill and T. C. Miller.

The 58th Report of 1923 reflects a worried committee of management, with financial problems looming darkly. Costs of clothing and provisions rose sharply and the daily per capita maintenance figure was £26/13/7.

The re-slating of the roof of the main building was a matter for urgent consideration, and heavy expenditure in general repairs and improvements, also the sewerage of the Queenscliff Rest Home, had to be considered.

According to the 59th Report, of 1924, the re-slating was postponed until returns from a special appeal planned for the Diamond Jubilee year (1925) were in hand.

The architect reported that in general the 60-year-old structure was showing the effects of the ravages of time, pointing out that it would be false economy to continue repairing when structural alterations and a thorough overhaul were more necessary. He estimated the cost at £10,000.

Mrs. Kenny died on January 29 that year. She had served the home for 38 years.

#### DIAMOND JUBILEE

1925, and the home was a veteran institution of 60 years. To mark the anniversary a special building appeal was launched, and it took the form of a campaign for direct giving, with the target at £8,000. Citizens and district residents rallied to the support of the home and a little less than £9000 was raised.

An eventful year is recorded in the 61st Report, submitted at the annual meeting of 1926. Arthur Kenny, the beloved superintendent for 50 years, died, and was deeply mourned by all at the home.

Mr. H. C. Ludbrook was appointed as his successor, with Mrs. Ludbrook as matron, and both were to give unforgettable service to the home.

The Board lost two noted members in the deaths of Norman Clark and Edwin Baker, who were replaced by C. P. A. Taylor and James Henry. Andrew Swan, the Home collector for many years, also died during the term.

A Scout troop was formed, and singing classes, introduced under the direction of Will Sampson, and later Cedric Gower. Mrs. Joy Mather took over the girls' physical culture training.

The election of John Dunn as president emphasised an interesting family service to the Orphanage. His father, J. N. Dunn, M.L.A., who had been a member of the committee for some years, was still serving on it at that time. Years later there was to be a third generation representative of the family, when Mr. John M. Dunn joined the committee. He served as president and retired when he moved to Melbourne in recent years.

The farm was in the news in the 62nd Report of 1927. It refers to the building up of the Jersey herd on the one hand, but disaster in the piggery on the other. An epidemic of swine fever attacked the valuable Yorkshire pigs, and wiped out the whole herd.

An important event was the establishment of the Boys' Hostel to house Orphanage boys apprenticed to various trades. A brick residence in Victoria street, fully furnished, was bought for £3500. The Charities Board gave a grant of £1000, the H. V. McKay Charitable Trust £300, Edward Wilson Trust £500, Alfred Felton Estate £100, and Sir W. A. Teale's estate £10, leaving £1600 for the Board of Management to find.

The board considered also the establishment of a modern system of kindergarten, as a memorial to the Kennys, to accommodate 60 children under six years. A women's committee was formed to raise funds.

Works in progress that year were a modern laundry and improvements to the farm. Through the Railways Carnival Committee a sitting room with a piano was provided for the older girls.

1928. — The 63rd Report refers to a change in plans for the kindergarten pavilion. It was decided to erect a Toddlers'

block to accommodate children from three to six years of age, and the women's committee contributed £400 toward the cost.

The depleted pig herd was built up; a light car was purchased for the use of the country collector; a library and other amenities were provided for the older children; a brass tablet as a memorial to the Kennys was placed in the main entrance. Mr. W. Brazenor joined the board.

1929. — Main interest of the 64th Report was reference to the laying of the foundation stone of the Toddlers' Block by the Inspector of Charities, Mr. R. J. Love. The wing cost £3241, and a Government grant of £1500 was received for the building, which was named the "Kenny Memorial."

The women's committee, sided by many organisations, contributed £1741.

A stalwart of the board, J. N. Dunn, resigned that year, and new board members were M. W. B. John, J. I. Graham, Cr. A. J. Darling and Dr. W. A. Spring. Two valued members, A. W. Hager and Dr. A Levy, died during the term.

The 65th report of 1930 records a quiet year. The Toddlers' Block was proving its value in assisting in general control, and among donations to the furnishings was £105 from the Ballarat Travellers' Social Club, which was to give the home invaluable support in the following years.

A point of interest was the establishment of a test rose garden by the Horticultural Society, and the reconstruction of the garden.

There were 216 children in the home in June, 1931, and the 66th report mentions that the number taxed accommodation to the fullest. There was heavy expenditure during the period and the year ended with a debit of more than £1500. Returns from the farm, at £767, added a cheering note, and the home cattle won many awards at Ballarat and district and the Geelong shows.

Mr. William White, a prominent citizen, was president that year. The committee lost a valuable member through the death of Mr. T. T. Hollway.

In 1932 Australia was in the midst of the depression and the home board was seriously concerned at the drift in finances. Revenue shrank and the increase of the overdraft to £2,937 was part of a dismal picture.

A special appeal was planned, and was launched at a public meeting late in 1931.

The report mentions the favourable reputation being built throughout the State by the home's pedigree Jersey herd, which was established five years earlier, and several prizes were won at the Melbourne Royal Show.

The 68th Annual Report of 1933 records the success of the special appeal, which raised £8000. The major effort was a queen carnival, and the Ballarat Travellers' Social Club, with Mr. Wilfred King as organiser, contributed £600 from a "Golden Apple" gala day. The appeal resulted in the wiping out of the overdraft and a substantial credit balance.

1934. — The 69-year-old committee, at its annual meeting, reviewed a year of steady financial recovery. The farm continued to prosper and there was all-round progress in the home.

1935. — Expenditure totalled £10,810 and essential works were undertaken at a cost of £2400, to which the Charities Board contributed £1600.

To extend farm work 76 grazing acres were taken over at Bungaree. John Glasson, a committee member for 30 years, died during the year.

The 71st report reflects a quiet year. Chief interest was the provision of a septic tank at the Queenscliff Rest Home by the Railways Carnival Committee, which by that time had been a steady supporter of the home for 44 years.

The Ladies' Appeal Committee met the cost of lockers for the girls' dormitories. The president that year was Dr. W. A. Spring.

The 72nd Report of 1937 mentions the refurnishing of the diningroom by the Railways Carnival Committee, which also donated a bread-cutting machine. The name of Mr. J. H. Davey (now retired) appears on the committee for the first time.

1938. — The 73rd Report refers to plans to extend the Toddlers' Block, which that year accommodated 45 children between the ages of three and six years.

There was an epidemic of infantile paralysis that year, and to safeguard the health of the children the home was closed to visitors, and the annual holiday at Queenscliff was cancelled.

Mr. R. G. Caddell, secretary of the Railways Carnival Committee, was elected to the board of management.

A donation of £4000 from Mr. James Kerslake, towards costs of extending the Toddlers' Block, was a big lift in 1939. The Ladies' Committee donated £200 towards the furnishings.

Messrs. G. Netherway and R. Westcott formed the Query Club, a special auxiliary to work for the Toddlers' Block, and £100 was donated for a playground.

The home received a gift of £600 from the Ballarat Travellers' Social Club. The 74th Report, published that year, is signed by the president, Mr. C. W. Westcott, the first representative of the Ballarat Travellers' Social Club, to serve on the board.

During the period reviewed in the 75th Annual Report of 1940 the Second World War was declared, and it was proudly recorded that more than 60 old boys of the home had enlisted.

The Query Club gave £30 towards a paddling pool for the toddlers. President that year was Mr. J. H. Davey.

1941. — A stud flock of Dorset Horn sheep and large and middle Yorkshire pigs were added to the farm stock, the 76th Report stated. By that time old boys' enlistments in the armed services totalled 85. Two were killed in action and two were reported missing.

It was mentioned that in 49 years the Railways Carnival Committee had donated £13,000 to the home.

Reference was made to the deaths of Dr. J. K. Richards and Mr. W. T. Humphreys, who were members of the board, respectively, for 26 and 19 years. Mr. J. F. Kittson, still serving on the board, was elected that year.

The 77th Report of 1942 refers to the election to the board of Alan C. Pittard, who succeeded his father. Mr. A. J. Pittard (the second example of family service in the history of the committee).

The farm was prominent in the report, which mentions the gift of a valuable bull by Mr. Gordon Lyon, of Banyule, and Dorset Horn rams from Mr. F. E. Selwyn Scott, of Scotsburn, and Mr. J. W. Dawkins, of Gawler Run, S.A. The home herd held the greatest number of commended and highly commended cows in Victoria, and the average of 38 cows under Government test for butterfat was 429 lb. per head a year. The farm surplus for the year was £1120.

Several old boys were killed on active service, and among missing prisoners-of-war was Albert Leach, who left his estate to the home. His memorial is the Albert Leach Cottage, a residence unit which was opened last year.

In 1943 the institution was feeling the effects of war. More than 200 of its old boys were on service; restrictions resulted in transport difficulties and country collections had to be curtailed; the Rest Home at Queenscliff was taken over by the military authorities and other accommodation had to be found for the children during their three-weeks' holiday.

Mr. C. P. A. Taylor, a former board member, died during the year reviewed in the 78th Report. Earlier his place had been taken by his son, Mr. K. A. Taylor.

An interesting item in the 79th Report of 1944 refers to the graduation of two old girls of the home as nursing sisters. Two other girls began their general nursing training that year.

The farming acreage of the institution by this time totalled 210 acres, including 70 acres at Millbrook — a bequest to the home.

Other items of interest were: Mr. F. E. Selwyn Scott (a present member of the board) joined it that year; the Charities Board introduced a standardised form of accounting at institutions, which proved most satisfactory; the collector, Mr. E. H. Todd, was commended on collecting a total of £2200 for the year; collection boxes were placed in factories and hotels, with beneficial results; good returns were received from the sale of pine timber from the Mt. Xavier plantation.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

Nineteen forty-five, and the home was 80 years old. The board took pride in claiming that the objectives of the founders had been followed and maintained at the highest standard.

Up to that time 4000 children had passed through the home, and imbued with the highest ideals of good citizenship, had gone out into the world to make their own way.

For some time the board had realised that the existing main block, erected in 1865, should be replaced by the erection of buildings on the "cottage" system, in which children, grouped according to age, would be housed in numbers of about 30, in cottages equipped with necessary facilities for

their welfare, and providing a "family" atmosphere.

The Charities Board approved the committee's proposals and plans prepared by the home's architects, Messrs. Clegg and Morrow, were submitted to the board for approval as a post-war work.

During the year a section of this reconstruction scheme was approved and £5000 allocated for the building of a domestic science block for the girls, and a farm hostel for boys engaged in farm work at the home.

The hope was expressed in the 80th report that current building difficulties would be overcome and the essential work of reconstruction rapidly carried out.

During that year Mr. W. Titheridge, now treasurer of the home, succeeded his father on the board of management.

Mr. Eric R. Morton (later to become superintendent of the home) was appointed accountant.

Typical of the spirit of the board of management was the phrase, "We give thanks to Almighty God," in reference to the end of World War II.. in the 81st report of 1946, submitted by the president, Mr. J. F. Kittson.

It mentions that 10 old boys lost their lives in action. One (Albert Leach) left the whole of his estate (£1200) to the home, and it was proposed to spend this on a hostel for farm boys, as a memorial to the fallen old boys.

Chief items in the report were plans for the erection of a domestic science block; many generous donations received included £741 from the production of "Katinka" by the Soldiers' Hill Musical Society; the Charity Community Singers gave radios for the senior sitting rooms.

The deaths of three past presidents (William Brazenor, William White and Henry Shaw) were recorded. In another father-son succession, Mr. Gavin Shaw was elected to the board.

1947. — Post-war shortage of labour and materials, and rising costs, delayed building proposals. The need for expenditure of £1200 on renovations to the boys' hostel also became urgent.

The 3BA Bluebirds, who were, and still are, among the home's most consistent supporters, presented a sound film projector, enabling the children to enjoy weekly picture shows.

In the scholastic field two brothers gained distinctions. One obtained a university scholarship to study electrical engineering at the School of Mines, and the other a Junior Technical School scholarship.

About this time the home's band, which had become almost a legend in Ballarat, ceased to function.

This was due to the lack of older boys suitable for training, and difficulty in obtaining a conductor, following the resignation of Mr. A. Rowell.

New instruments and uniforms were also essential and could not be replaced without great cost, owing to prohibitive post-war prices. A tentative move was made to form a bugle band, but this did not develop.

1948. — The financial outlook, with the overdraft at £8,000, was gloomy. It was decided to make a public appeal, the first since 1932, for £15,000, to enable the domestic science block to be erected. Lack of this amenity for the girls was deplored by the president, Dr. W. A. Spring, in his report.

The Ballarat Sportsmen's Club presented the home with a swimming pool. James Henry, a past president and a stalwart of the Railway Carnival Committee, died in the year reviewed.

1949. — In his report to the 84th Annual Meeting, the president, Cr. A. C. Pittard, referred to the direction of the Hospitals and Charities Commission that the financial year of all charitable institutions should end on 31st March.

The public appeal realised £17,180. Maintenance costs that year were almost £20,000. The Child Welfare Department was still paying only 10/- per head weekly against the actual cost of 37/10. Move made for a Government grant.

Toddlers' paddling pool (gift of the Query Club) dedicated to the memory of Flight/Sgt. Bob Westcott, who was killed on active service. Kitchen tiled and the front fence of the home removed. Election to the Legislative Council of H. C. Ludbrook, superintendent of the home.

The 85th Report, 1950, records a brighter financial position. Mr. Percy Baxter, of Geelong, donated £5000, which brought the building fund to £7,299. There was a surplus of £1346 that year. The farm profit was £3468, and the pedigree Jersey herd

continued to win prizes at major shows. The paddling pool was officially opened.

Three board members gained distinctions. Cr. Pittard was elected to Federal Parliament, Mr. J. C. Rowe was appointed chairman of the Water Commission and Sewerage Authority, and Mr. J. H. Davey received the Order of the British Empire.

Mr. Ludbrook, M.L.C., resigned his position as superintendent and Mrs. Ludbrook as matron, after 24 years' service. Mr. Eric R. Morton was appointed superintendent, Mrs. Morton nursing sister, Miss R. M. Sharp matron, and Mr. F. N. M. Petch accountant.

In his report the president, Mr. C. W. Westcott, referred to the death of Mr. A. J. Pittard, a past president and treasurer of the home for many years.

1951. — The 86th report of 1951 stated that the Child Welfare Department increased weekly per capita payments to 12/6 and though child endowment was also available, the home was still short of the 54/3 required. Salaries and costs rose, and it was imperative to seek Government assistance.

During the term, when Mr. W. Titheridge, junior, was president, hostel alterations were completed and £5000 was received from the William Gilmore estate. It was decided to spend this legacy on fitting the playroom as a boys' recreation centre.

The 87th Report of 1952 was notable from the educational angle. Increasing numbers of children were receiving secondary education. A new pre-fabricated unit was opened at the home State school, and the Ballarat District Council of Mothers' Clubs adopted the school and provided equipment. In line with modern advances in education the psychology branch of the Education Department tested the scholars and gave vocational guidance.

The 3BA radio appeal for the home brought in £8,057 and the farm profit was £4,073. Mr. E. H. Todd, collector, resigned after 10 years' service, during which he collected a total of £15,716. Mr. H. L. Whykes succeeded him. Donations from the Ballarat Travellers' Club that year totalled £1,032.

In his report the president, Mr. J. C. Rowe, referred to the deaths of board members (Dr. W. A. Spring, past president and honorary medical officer; Dr. W. A. Capell, and Mr. Ken Taylor),

The 88th Report of 1953 records an important event -- the acquisition of a 1400-acre property at Trawalla, willed to the home by the late Peter Grant. The home also received £5,000 under the will of Augusta Blanche Potter, of Cressy. The 3BA Bluebirds gave a further donation of £355 and also presented a washing machine for the laundry.

Frank Golding, an inmate of the home, was selected to be a member of the "Sun" Coronation Tour. Of the five finalists chosen for the tour, three were boys from the home.

Mr. D. B. Tunbridge was the retiring president that year. Three past presidents (J. N. Dunn, William Titheridge senior, and O. N. Tulloch) died during the term. Mr. Dunn served on the board for 47 years and was three times president. Mr. Titheridge, who was also treasurer for a long period, served for more than 20 years.

1954. — Reference to the Royal Visit, in which the children of the home took part in the school children's huge guard of honour for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, is made in the report of the president, Mr. Gavan Shaw.

New names on the board were Dr. C. E. Richardson (the honorary medical officer), Cr. K. C. Webb, Mr. D. L. John and Mr. J. M. Dunn.

More children were attending secondary schools; four obtained State post-primary bursaries, and one boy received the diploma of electrical engineering.

The home farm had a record surplus of £4,604; pasture and general improvements were made at the Peter Grant Farm.

The Ballarat Travellers' Social Club donated £2,195 towards the objective — a recreation ground, the area for which was prepared to accommodate tennis and basketball courts, a football arena, playing area and small rotundas.

Other gifts were 150 modern diningroom chairs from the 3BA Bluebirds, and stage curtains and a movie screen from the Railway Carnival Committee. The William Gilmore gymnasium and project room was constructed.

#### 90 YEARS OLD

The home was 90 years old in 1955. The report of the president, Mr. E. H. Davis, at the 90th annual meeting, referred to a new ruling of the Hospitals and Charities Com-

mission that the financial year would henceforth end on 30th June.

During the term, £15,873 was raised by the 3BA radio appeal. The recreation ground was officially opened by Mr. J. J. Sheehan, M.L.A. The Mayor, Cr. A. C. Pittard, opened the Gilmore gymnasium and library, for which the Ballarat Apex Club collected 1273 books and gave £75 for bookshelves.

The Ballarat Rotary Club installed a chlorination and filtration plant in the swimming pool at a cost of £800.

The Minister of Health visited the Orphanage and discussed a plan to rebuild the home. As a result the board confidently expected an early start on the project. In the meantime the whole home was re-wired electrically and urgent repairs effected.

A notable occasion was the visit to the home of the Governor-general, Sir William Slim.

The Peter Grant Farm report stated that the property was carrying 1000 Merino sheep and stud rams had been purchased. An old boy gained a teaching studentship and one of the girls graduated as a trained nurse at the Ballarat Base Hospital.

Mr. K. A. Chalmers joined the Board of Management.

1956 — Negotiations with the Hospitals and Charities Commission regarding the new building development are referred to in the 91st annual report submitted by the then president, Mr. J. C. Rowe. Investigation of the cottage system of accommodation was undertaken by the board.

Early that year Herbert C. Ludbrook, M.L.C., died, and high tribute was paid to his memory and the notable work he did for the home during his 24 years as superintendent.

Highlights of the year were: The first home-coming of old boys and girls; new brick farm cottage and office facilities for the farm manager, Mr. E. Taylor, erected; profitable year for home, Dungaree and Peter Grant farms; 48 boys and girls attending secondary schools equipped with uniforms to the cost of which the ladies' auxiliary of the home contributed; part of £250 donation from Railways Carnival Committee spent on furnishings for the boys' hostel; Bluebirds 25th anniversary gifts included an electric clock for the quadrangle and chairs and tables for the children's diningrooms,

1957. -- Progress in re-building proposals is recorded in the 92nd report presented by the president, Mr. W. Titheridge. The board submitted to the Hospitals and Charities Commission sketch plans for a new services block, comprising kitchen, laundry, dining-room, boiler house, offices and an intermediate cottage to house 24 children.

Progress was reported at the three farms and the Jersey herd continued to win prizes at major shows. It was decided to erect a new dwelling for the manager, Mr. C. Lewis, at the Peter Grant farm to enable a training school to be established for boys taking up farming as a career.

Meanwhile the adverse drift in the finances of the hostel became more pronounced, but the establishment justified its existence in providing accommodation for 18 boys apprenticed to various trades.

The Ladies' Auxiliary met the full cost of providing 72 senior girls with gabardine coats and berets, and also furnished the new cottage at the home farm.

The children shared in the excitement of the Olympic Games in November, 1956. An anonymous donor paid for their transport on a day trip to the games, and the C.O.R. Co. provided them with reserved seats. They also saw the rowing events at Lake Wendouree.

Reference is made in the report to the death of Mr. M. W. B. John (a past president), and a member of the board for 23 years.

1958. — The long-cherished dream of the board to rebuild the Orphanage began to come true, and the 93rd Report, submitted by the retiring president, Mr. J. M. Dunn, referred to the calling of tenders for the first stage of the rebuilding scheme. Plans were prepared by the board's architect, Mr. L. H. Vernon.

The project was the outcome of the 3BA radio appeal of June that year, which brought in more than £25,000. Another lift was £5,000 in Government bonds, the result of the liquidation of Novar Hospital.

The good story of the children continued with successes at the home and secondary schools in education and sporting activities, with progress in industry, trade and the professions for several old boys and girls, the introduction of an art and handicraft class by Miss J. Merritt and Mrs. Wightman.

There were heavy financial demands, with higher maintenance costs, renovations to the toddlers' block, and electrical re-wiring of the old buildings.

Reports from the home, Bungaree and Peter Grant farms were good, as always. There were building improvements in these sections and a further 100 acres adjoining the Peter Grant property was purchased.

Local organisations were faithful and generous in support. The Rotary Club of Ballarat donated a suction plant for the chlorination of the swimming pool and the Travellers' Social Club gave further equipment for the sports ground.

#### RE-BUILDING BEGINS

In January, 1959, the long-planned re-building of the 94-year-old home began, under the presidency of Cr. K. C. Webb.

The tender of John Nolan and Sons for £37,114 was accepted for the building of a new services block, and the foundation stone was laid by the Minister of Health, The Hon. E. P. Cameron, M.L.C.

At the same time plans for the second stage of the building development scheme were already under consideration by the Hospitals and Charities Commission.

In the 94th report the names of Mr. J. L. Plummer and Mr. E. Farley appear for the first time among board members. Reference is made to the death of Mr. E. H. Davis, who was president in 1954, and to the resignation of Mr. McGregor, manager of the hostel for 20 of his 32 years of service to the home, and his daughter, Miss I. McGregor. Mr. J. M. Dunn resigned from the board owing to his departure from Ballarat.

The year 1960 was one of great activity, with the building programme moving fast.

Focal point of the report of the president, Mr. K. A. Chalmers, to the 95th annual meeting, was the official opening of the new services block in December, 1959, by the Mayor, Cr. F. W. Oliver.

The block, comprising an assembly hall, kitchen, diningrooms, food storage and sewing rooms, laundry with the latest equipment and boiler-house providing hot water, steam and radiation to all the buildings, was a dramatic transition from the old to the new for children and staff.

The transfer from the old building to the new on February 14, 1960, was a red letter day in the history of the home.

While all this was going on the east wing, which for nearly a century had been a benevolent shelter for countless children, was being demolished to make way for the second stage of the re-building scheme — a residence unit for 54 boys, plans for which were approved by the Hospitals and Charities Commission.

The Ballarat Travellers' Social Club gave the home £1,082 that year. The year, too, was one of the best in the history of the home farm, and excellent sales of stock included 200 guineas for a young bull. An additional 145 acres, the site of the old Beaufort racecourse, was purchased for the Peter Grant farm.

The report referred to the death that year of Mr. Norman Begg, secretary of the Travellers' Social Club, and organiser of the record radio appeal of 1958.

Dr. C. E. Richardson, 1960-61 president, reviewed a year of increasing building activity in the 96th report of 1961.

By that time the first stage of the re-building scheme, the central services block, was fully operative, and the second stage, a unit residence for 54 boys and three house-masters, was completed.

This new residence comprised three potentially independent units, readily adaptable to the cottage system of home management.

It was named the 3BA Bluebirds' Cottage in recognition of the generous support of this young group, and was officially opened by Sir Ewen Cameron, M.L.C., on 27th August, 1961.

The re-building programme continued with the calling of tenders for the demolition of the old dining hall and laundry buildings to make way for the third phase of development of the "new" Orphanage, a unit residence for senior girls.

The report referred to plans for a 3BA radio appeal to be held later that year, and it was stated that since 1948 these triennial appeals had resulted in a total of £67,924 being donated to the home.

Despite reduced accommodation due to re-building operations and general rises in expenses, the daily per capita cost of 18 9 was only fourpence higher than the previous year.

An important event that year was the purchase of the boys' hostel in Victoria St. by the Social Welfare Department.

The building was opened on 3rd July, 1961, as the Ballarat Reception Centre, and branch office of the Department of Social Welfare.

This followed changes in child welfare administration in Victoria after proclamation of the Social Welfare Act. From July, 1961, the Children's Welfare Department ceased to exist and the Family Welfare Division of the Social Welfare Department began to operate.

The closing of the Orphanage Boys' Hostel meant that in future boys working at various organisations in the city had to be found accommodation by the Department of Social Welfare, as had always been the practice with girls leaving the home.

During his term Dr. Richardson suggested to the board of management that the title of the institution should be changed from Ballarat Orphanage. He took the view that as few of the children in the home were orphans, and most came from broken homes, the word "orphanage" was no longer applicable.

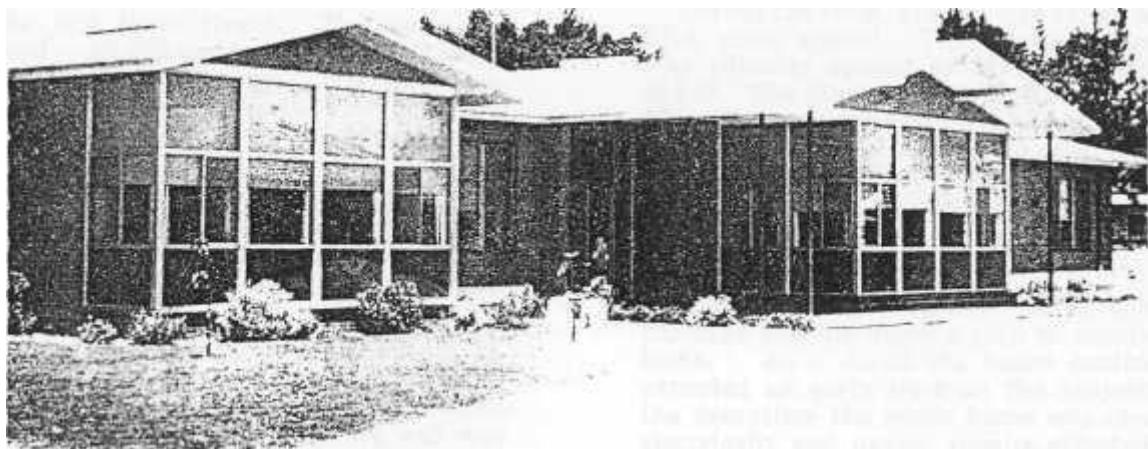
The Peter Grant Farm at Trawalla continued to develop into a valuable asset and that year there were 2000 sheep on the property.

Assisting committees maintained their strong support of the home. The ladies' auxiliary spent £516 on the children, the amount including the cost of uniforms for 40 girls and boys attending secondary schools.

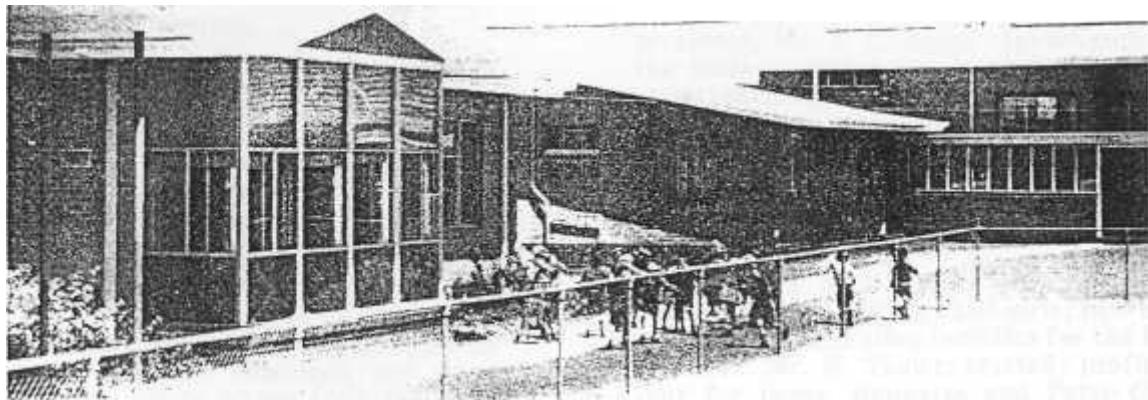
The Ballarat Travellers' Social Club donated £848 and a television set for the library, and went ahead with plans for the extension and improvement of the toddlers' playground.

The 69-year-old Railway Carnival Committee contributed its annual donation — £250 — that year. Owing to the resignation of the secretary, Mr. R. G. Caddell (who held the office for 47 years) through ill-health, and reduction in membership, the committee decided to go into recess. Mr. Caddell, a member of the board of management for several years, and a past president of the home, resigned in September that year.

The outstanding success of the boys' unit residence was the subject of comment by the president, Cr. A. C. Pittard, in the 97th Report to the 1962 annual meeting.



THE ALBERT W LEACH COTTAGE, ONE OF THE NEW BUILDINGS



BOYS UNIT RESIDENCE AND SERVICES BLOCK.

Cr. Pittard stated that the design had minimised problems of administration, and the obvious pride of the boys in their new surroundings had been a source of great satisfaction to the management and staff.

In view of the experience with this residence it was unlikely that any substantial modification in design would be needed in the girls' residence, planned for erection the next financial year.

Reference was made to levelling of the site of the demolished old dining hall and laundry, and submission of plans for the girls' unit to the Hospital and Charities Commission.

The 3BA radio appeal, held during the financial year under review, raised a total of £13,800. The home also received £913 from the Ballarat Travellers' Social Club from the November and Begonia Festival gala efforts.

These contributions were welcome in a difficult year, when new facilities and greatly improved service and amenities for the children increased maintenance expenditure. Also, during re-building the number of children in residence had been temporarily restricted, thus increasing the daily cost per child to 21/2.

There was generous financial support from many other groups and subscribers, and, as always, the children received numerous treats and entertainments through the interest of a number of organisations and individuals.

#### F FARMS FLOURISH

The original decision to plough back profit for developmental purposes was reflected at the Peter Grant Farm in the increase in land being sown down and the mounting stock numbers.

During the year a further 80 acres was sown down and 150 acres prepared for similar treatment.

A successful lambing season of 600 raised the stock number to more than 2500 — a creditable total in view of the fact that there were only 700 sheep on the property in 1953, and no sheep had been purchased since.

The aim was to carry 5000 sheep on the property to ensure a financial return to the home and to provide training for the Orphanage boys,

The report also recorded progress at the home dairy farm, with concreting of the cow yards and the installation of a new chaff-cutter.

A new tractor and trailer were purchased, replacing the horse and dray formerly used. Under the direction of the farm manager, Mr. Ted Taylor, the boys were instructed in driving and maintenance of the new equipment.

Mr. J. T. Eckersley was appointed to the board of management during the year.

#### HOME CHANGES

A further change in the face of the old home came about in May, 1963, when the third stage of the rebuilding scheme began. This was a second residential unit, to accommodate 40 children and two staff.

The president, Mr. D. B. Tunbridge, in the 98th Report to the annual meeting of 1963, stated that completion of the building was planned for March of the following year. Costs increased all round in the period reviewed, but the generosity of subscribers enabled the board to hold finances in a sound position.

Mr. Eric R. Morton retired from his position of superintendent, which he held for 13 years, and high tribute was paid to him, and to Mrs. Morton in her office as sister, for their valuable and self-sacrificing service.

Mr. H. D. Sedgman, formerly of Melbourne, was appointed superintendent.

A new and generous supporting group came into the home picture during the period. They were officers and crew of H.M.A.S. Yarra, who visited the home in October, 1962, and promised to provide annually an extensive collection of overseas toys for the children.

This move was initiated by a member of the crew, Alan Addison, an old boy of the home.

Other items of interest in the report were the addition of a new cowshed and modern bails to the home farm; a 92 per cent, lambing at the Peter Grant Farm, lifting the sheep total to more than 3,000, and the appointment of Mr. Harold Beatty, an ex-Orphanage boy, as manager of the property. Additions were also made to the residence at this farm.

Major donations were £800 from the Orphanage ladies' auxiliary and £793 from the Ballarat Travellers' Social Club.

The year reviewed by the president, Mr. J. L. Plummer, at the 99th annual meeting in 1964, was packed with incident, and the overall picture is one of steady progress towards the new era.

The third stage of the rebuilding programme, the Albert W. Leech Cottage, was opened on 29th February, 1964, by His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe, who was accompanied by Lady Delacombe.

This unit residence, providing accommodation for 20 boys and 20 girls of the 9 to 12 age group, was named after an old boy of the home who died in a prisoner-of-war camp in Malaya, and left his estate to the Orphanage.

#### CENTENARY APPEAL

The Centenary Appeal was launched on 21st May, 1964, at a public meeting convened by the Mayor, Cr. K. C. Webb.

It was organised to raise sufficient funds to enable the final stages of the development of the home to be completed to coincide with the Centenary celebrations of December, 1965.

Board members, Messrs. K. A. Chalmers and A. C. Rizzoli, were appointed joint chairmen of the appeal, and Mr. Vic. Stafford, organiser. The report refers to the loss suffered by the board in the death of Mr. D. B. Tunbridge, who served on the board for 19 years. He was treasurer for six years, and twice president.

Messrs. J. C. Rowe and C. W. Westcott resigned, and the vacancies were filled by Mr. A. O. Rizzoli, Mr. R. H. Hollioake and Dr. J. R. Cousins.

The home farm committee set a fine example to the community by donating a prize bull calf to the Community Aid Abroad project, for breeding purposes in the State of Bangalore, India. The journey of the animal by ship to India was followed with much interest and publicity.

Forty new calf pens of special construction were installed at the farm, and at the Peter Grant property the flock was increased by 800 in a good lambing season.

A slight variation was made in the annual summer holiday at Queenscliff with the introduction of segregated camps. A group of 75 boys had their holiday first, and the girls' vacation followed.

The Ballarat Apex Club made many improvements to the Qusenscliff buildings in two working bees.

Assisting committee continued their practical support. The ladies' auxiliary provided winter coats for all the girls and paid for two children on a school excursion to Canberra. The Ballarat Travellers' Social Club presented the home with a cheque for £611, and donated electric clocks for the Albert W. Leech Cottage.

Among the many entertainments given for the children by various groups, the annual Christmas treat provided by the Midlands Golf Club was again a highlight.

#### CENTENARY YEAR One Hundredth Report

The centenary president, Cr. K. C. Webb, had the honour of presenting the 100th Report of the home at the annual meeting on 8th September this year.

At the meeting Dr. C. E. Richardson was elected president, an appointment combining leadership of the home in the closing phases of the first century and the beginning of the second.

Cr. Webb reviewed an historic year when the last of the old buildings, with their gracious old-world balconies and lacy iron-work, embellishment, were demolished to make way for the buildings which will complete the development scheme.

There was reference to the proceeding of detailed plans for the final stage in readiness to call tenders for the erection of a new unit residence for senior girls, an additional wing to the Albert W. Leech Cottage, to house 20 more children, and an administration building which will include medical, dental, visitors and board rooms and office accommodation.

With the final stage completed the home can care for 200 girls and boys from five to 15 years of age.

The success of the Centenary Building Appeal, launched the previous year, under the patronage of Lady Delacombe, was a focal point in the history of the century-old home.

At the end of June this year the total was approaching the target of £30,000, the board's contribution to the £80,000 final stage of the re-building scheme. By September it had passed this mark by £1,000.

This remarkable achievement was made possible by generous citizens, groups, firms and the State school children of Ballarat and district.

A Popular Girl competition raised £10,368, and closed with a colourful crowning ceremony at the Civic Hall.

The contribution of the school children totalled £1,867, and a substantial amount was raised in raffles conducted by the Ballarat Travellers' Social Club.

The report referred to the board's plan to make permanent recognition of the generous support given to the Centenary Appeal by many citizens and groups.

The new unit residence will be named the William Farrell Cottage, in memory of an old boy who willed his entire estate to the Orphanage. One of the new wings will bear the name of the Ballarat Orphanage Ladies' Auxiliary, and another will be called the Ballarat Travellers' Social Club Wing, in recognition of the outstanding support of these groups.

Two study and recreation rooms will be mementos to the wonderful support given by the State school children. The medical room will be endowed by the Apex Club of Ballarat, the dental room by the Management and Staff of Morshead's Pty. Ltd.

The appointment of Mr. R. J. Jenkins, B.A., Dip. Ed., as superintendent-secretary, was recorded. Mr. Jenkins began duty in March and pending his appointment Mr. Eric Morton returned to manage the home.

A new brick residence for the superintendent in the home grounds was completed in September.

Mr. L. J. Gower, who was accountant at the home for 10 years, left in April to become manager of the Ballarat Home for the Blind.

The resignation of Mr. J. H. Davey, O.B.E., was received with regret at the September meeting of the board.

Mr. Davey was a board member for 28 years and served a term as president.

For many years he acted as Santa Claus at the home Christmas tree party.

And so ends the first century, with a year of change, development and achievement.

Believing that nothing is dearer to the heart of God than a child, those associated with the home step into another era with the same faith and courage that inspired the pioneers who planned for the bereft little ones so long ago.

Gone are the buildings the founders fought so hard to achieve, replaced by a village-like pattern of attractive cottage units, smart and functional, with light streaming through their wide, landscape windows on gay interior decor and modern furnishings and equipment. And each with its cheerful garden setting.

All part of the home scene they would not recognise are the fine sporting ground, with its tennis and basketball courts, cricket pitches and football ovals, the tiled and chlorinated swimming pool, the modernised farm, with its splendid Jersey herd and mechanised equipment.

And the children of 1965. How could the planners of 1865 have foreseen that the day would come when the girls and boys would step out to school as smartly uniformed as any at the most expensive colleges, trimly dressed and equipped for sports, on party and formal occasions the girls like flowers in their pretty frocks, the boys smart and immaculate in tailored suits.

These children of the new century know all about what goes on in their fast-moving world, as they watch television and listen to the radio in their recreation rooms, and browse through the books in their well-equipped libraries.

They know the touch of fine linen and soft blankets in their cosy pastel-quilted beds, and the comfort of gentle space-heating as they move about their cottage homes.

The girls delight in bedside tables of their "very own," and the gay crinoline lady dolls that sit on their beds and hold their dainty nightwear.

Best of all, they "belong," in smaller groups under the care of house "mothers" and "fathers."

In 100 years the face of the home and the old order have changed to meet the trends of modern society, but the need for the Orphanage is as urgent as it was in 1835, despite the social advances made in the intervening years.

And as the pioneers of 100 years ago embarked on their mission of mercy, so go the custodians of 1965 into the new century, imbued with the same spirit ! Full circle !

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

To Miss Ethel Morris, who has compiled and written this history from records of the Ballarat Orphanage, the President and Members of the Board of Management express their sincere gratitude.

