



# GUSTAV'S NEWSLETTER

From

THE EUDUNDA FAMILY HERITAGE GALLERY  
BRUCE STREET, EUDUNDA

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Have you paid a visit to the Gosling Cottage via the Heritage Gallery? In early June members of the Committee moved the Wedding dresses, vintage clothing, Kitchen paraphernalia and various items pertaining to a Bedroom, Sitting Room, Dining Room and Laundry into their chosen locations. It looks beaut! Not complete, but there is atmosphere! Items of furniture are still required. As they say – “All donations will be gratefully appreciated.” There are plans to re-arrange the entrance area of the Gallery and to create a Reference and Research Centre. **And**, as they say – “Watch this Space!!”

The Friends of the State Library, and the Friends of the Salisbury Library, thoroughly enjoyed their recent visits to Eudunda, plus the Thiele Tour – so much so, that The Friends of the State Library are returning in September!

### RIVER MURRAY SETTLERS

#### Gottlieb Schmidt

During the mid 1890's the news spread concerning the land east of the River Murray being made available to settlers. In July 1899 Carl Gottlieb Schmidt together with his younger brother Gustav and future brother-in-law August Kalisch, made a trip from Brownlow through Blanchetown, Nott's Well, New Well, Shepherds Well, Cockins Well, Walker's Dam (now Wunkar) and Myrla to Pyap Village Settlement. Then back to New Residence, Moorook, Wigley's Flat, Blanchetown and Brownlow. In this way they obtained first hand information as to what the country was like in those parts. In November 1899 Gottlieb took up a block of leasehold land in the Hundred of Holder, riverfront land situated 5 ½ miles east of Waikerie. In mid-January 1900 Gottlieb and his father, August and his father and Gottlieb's uncle and his son

made their way to the new block of land. In Gottlieb's words “We had trouble to get here, as the bush track was so sandy, and the horses were not used to sand. We arrived here on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1900, and after a few days the others went home while August and I went to work to put up a shed on the top of the cliffs and then started to clear the land (by axe). After a few weeks our fathers came up again, bringing a fresh supply of food, and also enabling us to use their wagon to get some straw from the Holder Village Settlement to put up a roof on our camp. Then they went home again. After we had about 50-60 acres ready for the plough we left one morning to walk to Morgan (about 30 miles away) and arrived there before sunset. On the next day we left by train for Sutherlands, where we were met by our home-folk. We prepared some seed wheat and horse-feed and left with three horses in the wagon and a two-furrow plough to put in our first crop. August and I camped together, but we each worked our own land. By the first winter I had 105 acres of mallee scrub cut down, and the first harvest yielded 5 bushels to the acre”.

#### August Kalisch

August started married life on his farm at Lowbank, and the family home was only a few chains from the River Murray, because at that time all trade was on the River. A boat containing a store would go past their place about once a fortnight. It carried large quantities of household goods. The wheat they grew was stacked on the River bank till a cargo steamer and barge would load it, and usually took it to Murray Bridge Mill. J.G. Arnold was the usual wheat buying agent, and the owner of many cargo boats. There was a big demand for flour; it would be taken upriver to all towns, settlements and

sheep stations right up the River Darling. As there were no pumping plants in the early years, the River was the only source of water for the stock, and their vegetable garden also had to be close to the River. The greatest disadvantage they had was that there was no doctor nearer than Kapunda, which meant, that to see a doctor, they had to catch a boat to Morgan and then the train to Kapunda. (From "J.C.Heidrich,C.G.Schmidt,J.C.F.Obst, G.F.Schmidt & descendants in Australia")

#### **FIRST EUDUNDA POLICE STATION**

There is a portion of the triangular piece of land bounded by Eyre Street and Morgan Road, adjacent to the South Terrace intersection, containing Warner's School Bus Depot, and the homes between, to the home of Val and Glen Goedecke at 17 Morgan Road, which was originally Crown Land. And on this portion of land stood the original Police Station and horse stables. "The Police Station was a slab structure which was erected in or about 1877. This was apparently only a "patrol Station" at first and was later a residence only, with no lock up. Old time residents tell us that prisoners were chained to a trunk of an old tree at the rear of the Station. During inclement weather we are also told that prisoners were confined in the stone stables at the rear of William Porter's Royal Hotel". (now the Light Hotel) The land, lots 15 – 25 inclusive, was put up for Public Auction 11<sup>th</sup> May 1948. Mr.C.O. Rawolle built his house on the site of the old Police Station , lot 18 (7 Morgan Road), he also purchased lot 17 which goes through to Eyre Street, and put both on one title. Lots 15 & 16 are the School Bus Depot. The iron from the Police Station was purchased by L.C. (Bob) Nicholson. During the building of the Rawolle home horseshoes were found. A painting in the Eudunda Council Offices, done in 1909 by Mrs. Mann from the Eudunda Hotel, clearly depicts the old Police Station.

(From "Eudunda 1870 – 1970" and Lurline Freund (nee Rawolle), 11 Morgan Road.)

**The story of the Railway Dam will be in the September Newsletter**

#### **MARY THIELE (continued)**

Mary began school at Sutherlands at 6 years of age. Elizabeth Pryor was Mary's teacher,

and her daughter Dolly took the girls for Domestic Arts in the Pryor's own kitchen. Dolly taught Mary to play the piano in the lunch hour. Mrs. Pryor dealt with over 50 children in 7 grades and she had no trouble from the larger boys who were well disciplined from their strict upbringing. The schoolboys sometimes went for lunchtime dips in Salt Creek. Mary's uncle, Frank Meaney, was instrumental in having the Sutherlands Hall built and in having a Wertheim piano installed. Silent black and white films were shown there, complete with the pianist accompaniment. When Mary completed her 7 years of Primary Schooling, she became a Junior Teacher, teaching Grades 1,2, & 3 for 7 shillings and 6 pence (75c) per week. Mary went through Adelaide Teacher's College in 1933. Aubrey Lunnay who later taught at Mount Mary attended College at the same time. All the trainee Teachers had to sit for an entrance examination and from the 33 entrants Mary achieved the highest marks in the State! The teachers had to have extremely good knowledge of 22 subjects, and all of these subjects had to be passed, as they taught the 7 Grades in Primary School.

Mary's first school was at Arwakurra (Aboriginal for White Cliffs) near Booleroo Centre. She was met at the train with the ominous words "We only board the teacher to have someone to drive the children to school." Mary had never driven a horse and buggy before, and here she was, confronted with a buggy with a big black hood and "Bessie." The words on the first school morning were "Bessie doesn't bolt unless a car comes up behind her." However, Mary competently dealt with "Bessie", buggy and slippery wintry roads.

Her next school was Tarnma for 6 weeks. And then she was sent to World's End Creek School. It was conducted in the Methodist Church, a solid building with an organ for the church services (and for school music lessons). On Fridays the boys prepared the school for the Sunday Church service by moving the desks to the back of the room and bringing the forms to the fore. Mary boarded with the Jack Rooke Family and she rode her bike,(a Centenary) to school. Two of her pupils, Ted Schmidt and his brother Max, walked with Mary to school, pacing themselves with her. She taught children from

the Launer, Duldig, Phillips, Thomas, Schmidt and Duell families. While at World's End there was a Polio epidemic. All schools were closed, but the teachers remained on duty from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A time was allotted for each family and that family came for homework assignments (setting and checking thereof) each day. One hour per family. Mary was there 1936 to 1939. Her next school was Rosy Pine located on the Adelaide Road, about 6 miles from Pinnaroo. Mary was there 1939 to 1941, during the years of World War Two. The children collected bones and wool for the War effort. She had a wonderful social life there – dances, balls, parties. Mary boarded with a McCabe Family, relatives of the Miss McCabe who taught at Mount Mary 1916 to 1918. Freeling North was Mary's next school, it was 1942 and she boarded with a musical family. In every school there was an organ and it was a blessing for Music lessons. Mary often thinks of the lack of facilities and the vulnerability of the young teachers of those days – no telephone, the nearest doctor was miles away, the isolation, the improvisation, the way these teachers “just got on with the job.” Mary married Bert Thiele and they were parents to four children. From 1954 until 1979 she taught at the Eudunda Area School, and this was the first time that she had ever taught a straight or single grade. Mary was then a relief teacher until her Registration ran out, doing relief teaching at Brahma Lodge, Robertstown and Eudunda Area School. Mary resides in Eudunda.

### **POINT PASS HOTEL**

The wine store owned by Georg Jansen was relinquished when the hotel next door was built in 1876, and on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1876, Charles Thomas Rowett was issued with a publican's licence for the new premises. Charles Rowett owned the Prince of Wales and Morning Star Hotels at Kapunda before coming to Point Pass. Rowett's Hotel kept boarders and served meals. Wooden kegs of beer were stored in the cellar until needed, then were brought up and placed on the bar, a tap was hammered through the cork bung on the side of the keg and a damp bag covered the keg to keep it cool. Wine was sold from 5 gallon kegs. Haydon's cool drinks were brought from Kapunda. The Licensee was compelled by the

Licensing Court to have a sufficient number of hitching posts for horses in front of the Hotel. A hitching post complete with ring was still situated across the road from the Hotel in 1986. The Rowett family held the Licence until 1906, then Messrs. Smith, Alexander, Edith Bright, and 7<sup>th</sup> February 1929 Oscar Heinrich. Oscar and Mandy Heinrich had the Licence until 1980 – 51 years. Holding the record for the longest serving Licensees in one place in South Australia. Oscar Heinrich catered statewide at Shows, races and trotting tracks with a total of over 300 booth stands. At Point Pass oval, Heinrich catered at Easter Monday's Sports Day with bicycle races a highlight of the day. They also catered for car and go-cart races in the 60's. Oscar died in 1968 and his wife Mandy and daughter Dorothy carried on the business until February 1980 when Phil and Joy Stolz became Licensees of the hotel.  
( From “Emmaus to World's End”)

### **“COME AND HAVE A NOBBLER”**

Tea may fairly claim to be a national beverage. A large majority of the population drink it with every meal, and you find this even with the metropolitan middle classes. Next to tea may be ranked beer, English or colonial, which I have come to think is a necessity to the English-speaking races. But no colonist drinks much at meals. He prefers to quench his thirst at every opportunity that may occur between. In all country towns, if you go to see a man on business, out comes the whisky-bottle. If you meet an old friend, his first greeting is, “Come and have a nobbler!” No bargain can be concluded without it. If it is a warm day, you must have a nobbler to quench your thirst; if it is freezing, to keep the cold out. Beer, or more frequently, spirits, form the favorite “nobbler”, the price of which varies from fourpence to eightpence in Sydney and Adelaide according to the drink. A good deal of sherry and port – even more brandied than for the English market – is drunk. A wealthy man will never give you colonial wine, not because it is necessarily worse than the imported stuff on his table, but because it is colonial. But the native wines which are generally preferred by the colonists themselves are the South Australian. In spite of a duty of 10 shillings per dozen, large

quantities of Adelaide wine are drunk in Melbourne. I have drunk a wine made from a Verdelho grape, and grown near Adelaide by a Mr. C. Bonney, which contained no less than 36 degrees of natural spirit, without a drop added: 32 and 33 degrees are quite common, and the average percentage on South Australian wine is about 28. (From "Twopeny's Town Life in Australia" – 1883)

### **ERIC DULDIG**

Eric's grandfather, Friedrich, migrated to South Australia from Tauer, Prussia, with his family in 1856. His family settled at Peters Hill, and in time Friedrich married Louise Schuppan in 1876 in the Wesleyan Chapel, Black Springs. They settled at World's End and established a farm that included a dairy and creamery. Milk was collected from neighbouring farms, churned into cream and butter, and taken to Burra for sale. The World's End Store and Post Office was also located in Duldig's World's End Creamery. Eric's family, father Alfred and mother Emilie Maria (nee Pfeiffer) and their 5 sons lived on a farm at Brady Creek. In school holidays Eric came to Eudunda from Robertstown by train, to visit his cousins. On one occasion he was returning to Robertstown after one of these visits and on arrival at the Eudunda Railway Station stepped into a carriage drawn by one of the **two** steam driven passenger trains which were waiting at the platform. He was about 8 or 9 years old (about 1925). Fortunately, the guard entered Eric's carriage. He asked "Where are you going, son?" and Eric replied "Robertstown." The guard then advised Eric to change trains as the one he was on was going to Morgan! This occurred at about 11 o'clock in the morning. The family moved to Eudunda because of Eric's father's ill health. Eric worked in Eudunda for a few years in the late 1930's. During those years he rode his bicycle to work at the South Australian Farmers' Co-operative Union Ltd. Cream Factory in Gunn Street. The factory was built of galvanized, corrugated iron in 1893 and was located on the vacant area of land adjacent to Taplin/City Discount Tyres, south of that building. Steps into the factory were behind the existing tree; the building was demolished in 1956. When he rode past Dr. Thomas' residence in Gunn

Street the pretty little housemaid there made sure that she was sweeping the Doctor's garage so that she was able to catch his eye! And catch his eye, she did! Wilma Post and Eric married in 1940. Then in 1942 Clarrie Daniels, the Manager of the Cream Factory, invited Eric to work full time there. Eric began his employ with S.A.F.U. by unloading cans of cream from the trucks, but he was very slight in build and this work soon played havoc with his back and he was placed in the Willows Hospital, Light Pass, for 6 weeks. He was given lighter duties. Eric studied by Correspondence lessons and qualified for his Boiler Certificate and Cream Grader and Tester Certificate. Each Certificate took 12 months of lessons, Eric traveled to Gawler for the Cream Grader Certificate. Three cream collecting trucks, with canvas tops and sides on the tray, departed the Eudunda factory, Monday to Friday, in all types of weather, between 6 and 7 a.m. They collected cream and eggs from Lowbank near Waikerie, Brady Creek, Emu Downs, Neales Flat, Dutton, Truro, St. Kitts and Kapunda, and returned to the factory at various times during the afternoon. Many of the farmer/suppliers left their cream and eggs at the roadside, covered with a wet bag to protect them from the sun. During the World War Two years of petrol rationing the trucks ran with the aid of Gas Producers. On return to the cream factory the cans were weighed, the weight recorded, a sample of cream was taken and then the cans were emptied into 10 gallon cans. These were loaded onto the Gawler truck for the factory there. Dairy farmers utilized 3 gallon, 5 gallon and 10 gallon cream cans. To remove the cream from the cans, steam from the Boiler (a huge apparatus approximately 10 feet high) was jetted via a nozzle into the can. The cream sample was placed in test tubes, the tubes were placed in a steam driven centrifuge, the butterfat rose to the top and this was measured with calipers. Taste played a part in testing. Cream came in 3 Grades – Choice, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Jersey cows milk was richest in butterfat –6% to 7% fat. Other breeds of Dairy cattle had 3% butterfat in their milk. In those days cows were fed pure pasture feed, no supplements. (To be continued)

**Margaret Rogers - Editor**

He also remembers Bert Aesche, who lived at 57 Bruce Steet, remarking how wet the Aesche backyard became underfoot, from a subterranean source, after heavy rains.

After the cream was emptied from the cans they were rinsed with hot water and this water was drained into a well behind the cream factory. The water soaked away and in time the greasy residue gradually clogged up the porous capabilities of the walls and then another well was dug. The usual depth of each well was 18 feet, three wells were brick lined, some were not.

The Boiler in the factory was meticulously maintained. It was cleaned out regularly with steel brushes . Eric had to climb inside it, and to get in, the door had to be removed.

Inspectors came round every 12 months to check maintenance of the Boiler, because if it became corroded it was in danger of exploding. Some cream came to Eudunda by train (Mount Mary was one source), this was left at the Railway Station for the S.A.F.U. men to collect. Eggs went to Gawler on the daily cream truck, and then were sent to Mile End for grading and testing. The well known carrier, Otto Post (father to Clem), took the butter from the Eudunda factory to the Railway Station. The butter was packaged in boxes for the train trip. In the early days butter was made at the Eudunda factory. Eric recalls seeing the wire apparatus used for cutting these blocks of butter into One Pound sizes. Eric started as a driver and other drivers were Clem Helbig, Robert Pfitzner, Leon Williams, Percy Radloff, Arthur Jenke, John Jenke, Paul Geister, Herb Anderson, Ken Jaeger, "Shrimp" Gerlach, Malcolm Schiller, David Loechel, Geoff Devlin. After almost 40 years with S.A.F.U. Eric retired. He then did relieving work behind the counter at Eudunda Bakery, Long Service Leave relief as barman at the Eudunda Club, Hospital gardening and became the much admired and respected Secretary/Treasurer of the Eudunda Agricultural Society for 7 years )in this he was lovingly assisted by Wilma.

#### EUDUNDA CAVES

When Eric Duldig walked home at night after work at the S.A.F.U. cream factory (no light on his bike) his heavy work boots echoed hollowly on the pavement adjoining Wiesner's Emporium, re-inforcing his feeling that there was a huge cavity beneath his feet.