



Eudunda Heritage
Committee

GUSTAV'S NEWSLETTER

Eudunda Heritage Gallery

19 Bruce Street, EUDUNDA. SA.



NUMBER 17 APRIL 2006

*&. **Hello Everyone,**

S.A. History Week runs from 20-28 May 2006. As part of this special week **Eudunda Heritage Gallery Committee** invites you to join us on **FRIDAY 26TH MAY AT 10.00 am in the EUDUNDA INSTITUTE.** We will be celebrating **80 years** since the **first electric light** was switched on in Eudunda. We will be having various displays etc and hope you will get involved and help share the celebrations. There will be a 're-enactment' of the flicking of the switch which brought light to the streets of Eudunda. Do you remember life before electricity and the impact electricity brought to your lives? Perhaps you had a 12 volt system first? Please could you write down these memories and drop them into the Heritage Rooms before the morning. We can then print them up and make them part of the display. We thank you for your anticipated co-operation to make this a fun and informative morning and something we can all feel part of. **Of course we will be having a really yummy morning tea as well. Please wear your 'Friends of the Gallery' badge.**

So please come along to the Institute on **FRIDAY MAY 26th At 10.00am.** We will look forward to catching up with all of you there.

MR. F.G.E. APPELT

Mr. Appelt was the man who switched the power on in Eudunda 80 years ago. Below - taken from the book "To My Family" The Story of Ernst David and Emilie Appelt and their Descendants - is some history on Mr. F.G.E. Appelt. "Friedrich Gotthelf Ernst Appelt b. 28.2.1853 d. 30.3.1938 Emmaus SA Friedrich, the only son of Pastor E.D. Appelt and his wife Emilie, was born on 28th February 1853 in Tranquebar India. When he was five years old his family travelled to Posen in Germany. When his father was called to Australia in 1861 Friedrich remained in Germany to complete his education at the Gymnasium (Grammar School) in Bromberg. At the age of eighteen he set out to join his family in Australia. Landing in Melbourne he went to South Australia on "the Murray" in September 1871. After working in Tanunda, Melbourne and Bendigo for a time in mercantile pursuits he

established a general store in Eudunda in 1874. When he brought his bride Emilie (a daughter of Friedrich Wilhelm Temme and Auguste Ottilie Sophie nee Hoelscher of Mitcham) to Eudunda in 1876 there were only seven houses in the settlement. Emilie was born in Adelaide on 10th July 1852.

Friedrich (Fritz, or F.G.E.) was a prominent member of his community for many years. After his naturalisation on 27th May 1878 he became a J.P. (1880), Chairman of the District Council (1880-1882 and 1886 - 1890) acted as Coroner as well as being Postmaster and chemist. In the latter role he became famous for his "Echte Magentropfen" (Appelt's Stomach Drops). From their early wedded days Friedrich and Emilie were most hospitable, providing accommodation for the first bank manager for two years and the first doctor for eighteen months, as well as Pastor Linke who lived with them for more than three years. They also accommodated from time to time numerous relatives, friends and employees. They were blessed with seven sons and six daughters. Five of these children died in infancy.

Fritz and Emilie were faithful members of the Lutheran Church. Not only was he organist and choirmaster for forty years but he also held positions as elder, lay-reader, Eudunda Lutheran School Establishment Committee member and member of the District Church Council from 1885. He was treasurer of the District and of the General Synod of the former E.L.C.A. for over thirty years. Emilie suffered ill health for many years and died in the newly-opened Eudunda Hospital on

13th August 1922 and was buried in Emmaus Cemetery. F.G.E. was then cared for by his daughter Clara in Eudunda until the shop closed in 1931 when he moved to Seacliff and then Gawler. His final years were spent with his daughter Auguste Mackenzie in Gawler. He died on 30th March 1938 and was buried in Emmaus Cemetery. He was a kind, gentle, witty man. Submitted by Fay Grosser What an interesting and important man for the development of Eudunda. editor

THE COTTAGE

The Cottage on Barwell Street is to have a new roof. After heavy rain, Terry Carter and Keith Dunstan checked the roof of the Cottage and found it unsafe and too big a job for anyone other than the experts - so a new roof will be going on during May.

DON'T FORGET PUT THIS DATE
IN YOUR DIARY.
MAY 26th - MORNING AT THE
INSTITUTE.

MIN-MIN LIGHTS -

Ida Materne nee Kernich 1930

Firstly, while I was about 16 or 17 years old I saw a rather dim light only a few feet above the ground a couple of chains 6-7 down towards the East between my parents house and the main road. I was outside under the front verandah, it was very dark out there and I saw this light moving across the paddock towards the south. I thought it was some one on pushbike riding along, but who would ride across the rough paddock on pushbike so late? It eventually just

disappeared after a few minutes. Then I saw it again a few nights later, same time, same speed etc. Brother Ben came and looked, he too thought it could be a pushbike, but hardly would be! We didn't bother about it any more. Then one night as he had been to visit his girl friend (Alma Steinborner) on horseback (as usual) he saw a light about 2 or 3 chains over on his right, keeping up with his speed until he got close to Heidrich's horse stable, it landed right close on the middle of the stable and was very bright! (You may remember the horse stable was built quite close to the road and the Narcoota creek which was close to the horse stable). As he rode past the stable the light lifted up and followed his horse, still to the right side, same height and kept up that speed until he was home. Then it just disappeared. This same thing happened many times, it was usually about 1 a.m.

One night there was a party at Steinborner's place (Alma's birthday) so brother Ben took me to the party in a sulky. On our way home the light appeared again in the same manner, just as we were driving towards Heidrich's stable and again the light was there and very bright. I felt scared. Ben did too. It lifted off the stable and floated over the creek and did the same disappearing trick.

One Sunday night Frank Woithe came to our place for tea, he came on horseback. At about 11 p.m. he left for home. A day or so later he spoke to Ben and he said he had this light following him. It started coming along his left side and then suddenly it shot across his path right in front of him and followed him

along the right side, then back to the left again. He had crossed the paddock from corner to corner and had to cross a creek. He said he had never been so scared in his life and did not know his horse could run so fast. He reckoned he may even enter the horse in the Melbourne Cup. One night I had to go and see my sister Clara on horseback and I stayed later than I intended. It was very dark when I left for home. I had not even thought about "that light" until I crossed the first creek about 1/3rd mile down the paddock.

Just after I crossed, suddenly a - bright light appeared a short way in front of me. It scared me and the horse, as well, which bolted and I could not hold it, so I clung to the saddle with both hands for dear life. I knew there was a ditch across the paddock 'somewhere about 2.1/2 ft deep and about 3 ft. wide, but I had no idea where the horse was taking me. Suddenly the horse took a mighty leap and I managed to 'stay put' I trusted the horse would find its way home. Further along there were two more creeks to cross, which came to a forked road with a gate on the right. I was terrified to get off the horse, as I had to open a gate by the first creek. Luckily I saw no light there. I was so relieved to be home at last.

My Mum did not believe there was such a phenomenon, but said it is all imagination. One Sunday night she was invited to Hugo Huckauff's 80th birthday party. He was a former neighbour for many years and was now living at St. Kitts with his daughter, Vera. Ben and Clara Materne arranged to pick Mum up at 6.00p.m. She got ready in good time and was

waiting at home under the verandah, and was getting quite anxious because they were running late. Suddenly she sang out to us "they are here now". A bright light stopped by our horse stable gate and she thought it was them, but why through the rough paddock, when they would normally come along the road? It seemed so strange and the light was very bright. There was no movement and nothing to be seen or heard, it was sort of eerie as the gate had to be opened. That light was just there so so long, no movement there at all. Then she said to Norman "go and see why they are there so long, perhaps they are having trouble". Norman went towards the light and suddenly it shot off to the scrub. In the meantime Clara and Ben arrived along the road and knew nothing about 'that light'. Then they all drove off to the party. When they left, a light suddenly appeared to their left and that light followed along with their car from home to St. Kitts, a distance of approximately 20 miles and was quite bright. On the way home they didn't see it. Mum said "now I believe what you were trying to tell me". They were all scared!

In the Advertiser it was called the Min Min Light. In the German language it was called "Das I hr Licht" which means "a light that turns one seemingly mad or crazy with fear".

CONTACTS

Jim Reese Ph. (08)85811268

President & local historian

Fay Grosser Ph.(08) 8581 1326

Secretary

Maxine Carter Ph.(08) 85810 684

Newsletter Editor

Email: phoenix@rbe.net.au

Heritage Gallery

Email: heritage@eudunda.net Web:

www.eudunda.net/heritage