

**EXTRACTS FROM THE TRAFALGAR & YARRAGON TIMES (from 1908)
& THE TRAFALGAR & YARRAGON NEWS (from 1921)**

**AN INSIGHT INTO THE EARLY LIVES OF THE HOLDEN FAMILY
AND SOME SOCIAL HISTORY OF THORPDALE**

The Trafalgar & Yarragon Times established in 1902 and published weekly (Friday), is available on microfilm up to 1918 at the State Library. Due to poor paper quality, the 1919 and 1920 editions are so fragile that access is denied. From 1921 "hard" copies of the newspaper can be researched. Most extracts were published under the heading "Thorpdale", some had a sub-title "From our local correspondent". Occasionally an extract was found amongst the district news paragraphs. The irregular publication of Thorpdale items could have been because no volunteer was willing to write items for publication. All spelling, grammar and punctuation is as published. It is interesting to note that the spelling of this era favoured American spelling whereby the "u" was omitted from the English spelling of words such as "labour" (labor), "favour" (favor).

*****NOVEMBER 20 1908 - Page 7**

Mr. M. Holden has purchased the Wine Saloon and general business recently conducted by Mr. M. Hogan and is already becoming very popular in the district and should prove to be a good townsman.

APRIL 30 1909 - Page 7

Football is again in full swing. At the last meeting held, it was decided to join the Central Gippsland Association. The office-bearers for the ensuing year are:- President **Mr. M. Holden**, Vice-President Mr. M. Callanan, Secretary Mr. A. Budge, Treasurer Mr. A. Vroland.

MAY 28 1909 - Page 7

Football is now in full swing, the local team have won all their matches up to date, a highly creditable performance as the team have to pay all their own expenses and have twice the travelling expenses of any other team through insufficient train service.

JUNE 25 1909 - Page 7

Mr. Holden has everything nicely fitted up in his new hostelry, and is doing a nice little business. The genial proprietor is very popular and has already earned the good will of all who has had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

OCTOBER 15 1909 - Page 2

A meeting of the Cricket Club was held on Saturday night at the Travellers Rest Hotel. It was decided to form a new club and to join the Mirboo and Allambee Association. The following office-bearers were elected:- President **Mr. M. Holden**, Vice President Mr. J. Tomkins, Secretary Mr. H. de-Melker.

NOVEMBER 20 1909 - Page 2

The opening of the R.C. Bazaar took place on Thursday night, the ceremony being performed by Cr. McGregor, assisted by Crs. Branigan and Dickinson. The three nights proved a success despite the heavy rain on Friday. A profit of over £60 is expected. The stalls were well patronised by all denominations and the bazaar passed off splendidly, great credit being due to **Mrs. Holden** and her committee Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Nugent, Misses Hogan, Miss Demaresq, Miss O'Gorman, Miss Bantock and Miss Ryan for the success achieved. Mr. Nugent also did good business at the shooting gallery and other gentlemen rendered valuable assistance.

DECEMBER 21 1909 - Page 2

Evidently the bank institutions are flourishing here. The Bank of Victoria is building additional two rooms, while the Colonial Bank is also adding further improvements.

MARCH 18 1910 - Page 7

The balance sheet in connection with the recent MUIOOF sports meeting shows a balance of £15/5/- which is very satisfactory to the promoter. **Mr M. Holden** donated three guineas, while Mr. R.A. Bell obtained the logs (48 in all) and Mr. King carted them to the sports ground. Both gentlemen doing the work free of cost. All the above mentioned were forwarded letters of thanks by the Society.

APRIL 8 1910 - Page 7

There are some very fine potato crops in the district, and some very good samples are being obtained. A meeting of members of the Football Club is to be held tomorrow evening at **Mr. Holden's Hotel**. A good muster is expected.

SEPTEMBER 16 1910 - Page 7

At a meeting of the Progress Association held on Thursday, 8th inst. it was decided to try and obtain a Motor Tricycle mail service between Moe and Thorpdale on those days when a train is running. Such a service would prove a great convenience to the public. Messrs D. Gregg and **M. Holden** were appointed Trustees for the Cemetery. The membership of the Association is increasing, and from the work already done, it promises to become a real live body.

OCTOBER 28 1910 - Page 2 Districts News Paragraph

Mr. M. Holden has given the land for the new R.C. Church at Thorpdale, on condition that the Church is built immediately. The site is said to be a good one and particularly valuable.

NOVEMBER 11 1910 - Page 7

The Thorpdale Minstrel and Variety Company recently formed, will make their first appearance in the Thorpdale hall on November 30th when they are giving an entertainment in aid of the Football Club. The company has a strong membership of 20, and as each member is an accomplished artist and able to provide entertainment single handed, the residents of Thorpdale can look forward to something decidedly out of the common.....etc.

The local Progress Association have been considering for some time past, some course of action to induce the Postal Department to install a telephone service between this town and Moe.

DECEMBER 9 1910 - Page 7

The Concert and Ball in aid of the Football Club held on Wednesday the 30th ult. was exceptionally well patronised and was in every way a success. The hall was crowded to its utmost extent. The local Minstrel troupe made their first appearance and created a very favourable impression, thunders of applause greeting their efforts time and again.....etc.

MARCH 3 1911 - Page 7 Extract from Shire of Narracan Council Meeting.

J. Davis, Thorpdale pointing out the necessity for council to make the approaches to the Thorpdale Cemetery safe - To be attended to later on.

APRIL 7 1911 - Page 7 (The first Thorpdale column since December 1910)

A public meeting held at the Mechanics Institute to consider the question of erecting a new Post Office..... The Football Club has been reformed, and there appears to be every prospect of a strong team taking the field.

MAY 5 1911 - Page 7

The next important matter to be taken up by the Progress Association, is telephone connection with the main trunk line.

JULY 7 1911 - Page 7

At the last monthly meeting of the Progress Association dealt with....the question of telephone installation received a good deal of attention.....the necessity of having a local Justice of the Peace for Thorpdale.....the need for having a local Registrar of Births and Deaths appointed. (Each of

the foregoing was expanded upon.) The Progress Association is rising to a state of wakefulness, and is more than justifying its existence.

SEPTEMBER 1 1911 - Page 7

The annual meeting of the Mechanics Institute held on the 24th ult. was well attended and seventeen nominations were received for the nomination of a new committee, the final ballot resulting in the election of Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Moore, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Callanan, **Mr. Holden**, Mr. McLean, Mr. Moncur, Mr. A.Budge, Mr. G.Budge, Mr. Carter, Mr. Pickles.

Mr. Robertson was elected Secretary, Mr. Shackleton Chairman and Mr. Moncur Treasurer. Mr. G.Brock was appointed caretaker. The Hall is in debt to the extent of £80, but with the strong Committee appointed and by the running of a Bazaar, it is expected that it will soon be placed in a more prosperous position.

SEPTEMBER 8 1911 - Page 7 Extract from Shire of Narracan AGM - Correspondence

Secretary of Thorpdale Progress Association calling attention to insanitary state of the town, and asking that the Health Officer inspect and report on same.

SEPTEMBER 22 1911 - Page 5

An advertisement appears for the Railway Stores, Thorpdale conducted by A. E. Carter. It contains a photo or sketch of the stores that certainly seems to be on the same site where Holden's General Store was built in the mid 1930's. The same photo or sketch appears in subsequent weekly editions.

JANUARY 12 1912 - Page 7

A Working Bee was held on Saturday last in connection with the Mechanics Institute, and it has been placed on record to the credit of the community that there were no "drones". As a result of the "Bees" operations, a substantial picket fence now encloses the building, causing a marked improvement in its appearance. Luncheon was provided by Messrs Carter and **Holden** and greatly appreciated. The following gentlemen assisted either personally or by prox. - Messrs. A.Moore, Shackleton, Davies, Bell, A.Budge, Miller, G.Budge, W.Rodda, Sibly, Maples and the energetic secretary Mr. Turton.

JANUARY 19 1912 - Page 7 Extract from Shire of Narracan Meeting Correspondence

Secretary, Department of Public Works informing Council that the Governor in Council had approved of the allocation of the sum of £400 to be expended on Cemetery Road between Thorpdale and McDonalds Track £100.....then goes on to list other works at £100 each.

JANUARY 26 1912 - Page 7

Eight members of the railway standing committee will be driving from Mirboo North to Thorpdale on Monday next 29th inst. They will inspect a portion of the Allambee estate en route and expect to reach Thorpdale at 1.30 where they will lunch at **Mr. Holden's Hotel**. The visit is purely one of inspection, and consequently no evidence will be taken.

The whole of the district is wearing a prosperous appearance. One is inclined to think we are in the midst of a glorious spring than otherwise.

MARCH 22 1912 - Page 7

The Public Telephone is now installed in the local Post Office and anyone who wants the use of it will be attended to by our Post Mistress, Miss Price, in a most courteous manner.

Thorpdale is blessed with a bootmaker's shop, and all repairs will be executed as quickly as possible, the newcomer being Mr. Cartledge from the city.

JUNE 14 1912 - Page 7

It is rumoured that the Progress Association is going to be re-organised after a lapse of a few months, some pressing affairs having to be seen to in connection with the township.

SEPTEMBER 20 1912 - Page 7

A public meeting will be held in the local Mechanics' Institute on Thursday evening the 26th of September, when the new committee will be appointed for that body, the old one having resigned through effluxion of time. The balance sheet will also be read.

We have experienced a very wet and cold spell, it having rained for close on a fortnight. The oat crops are looking well and some of the farmers have finished putting their early potatoes.

OCTOBER 4 1912 - Page 7

A public meeting in connection with the Mechanics' Institute was held on Thursday night, when there was a very fair attendance. The following office-bearers were elected - President Mr. F. Shackleton, Vice-President Mr. E. Betts, Secretary & Treasurer Mr. C. Turton, Committee Messrs. A Moncur, C. Turton, F. Shackleton, **M. Holden**, R.A. Bell, A. Moore, J. Callanan, J. Davies, F.W. Hill, E. Betts and G. Phillips. It was decided to hold a bazaar early in January, and a euchre party and dance monthly in the meantime to raise funds for the bazaar. A meeting of ladies interested in the bazaar will be held shortly.

OCTOBER 25 1912 - Page 7

The first euchre party and dance was held in the local Mechanics' Hall under the management of the new committee, on Friday night last, and was all that could be desired. There was a bumper house, and the dancing space was taxed to its utmost, there being over 60 couples present. The catering was of the best, this part of the proceedings being solely in the hands of the ladies. The committee desire to express their thanks to the ladies for the excellent catering, and to the public for their patronage.

NOVEMBER 22 1912 - Page 7

Through the efforts of the Rev. Father Hayes, a Roman Catholic Church will be erected here inside a month. The old Catholic Church at Drouin has been secured and thoroughly renovated, and is ready for removal and re-erection. Nearly £100 has been donated towards the cost and another similar sum has been guaranteed.

NOVEMBER 29 1912 - Page 7

A euchre party and dance was held on Friday night last, in aid of the bazaar for the Mechanics' Institute. A goodly crowd put in an appearance, and a good time was spent by those present. The dance was well attended about 40 couples being present. The committee will benefit by a few pounds on the function.

A State School concert is to be held about the middle of next month in the local Mechanics Hall. The School committee has taken it in hand.

The new Roman Catholic Church which has lately been bought, arrived here last week.

DECEMBER 13 1912 - Page 7

A meeting of ladies and committee of the Mechanics' Institute Bazaar was held on Saturday afternoon, Mr. R.A. Bell being in the chair. It was decided to hold a three day bazaar, the dates being 13th, 14th and 15th March. (N.B. These dates were later changed to April.) The following were elected as stallholders:- Narracan fancy stall Mesdames Moore, Shackleton and Miss Young; Thorpdale fancy stall Mesdames Hill, Phillips, Caunter and Miss Cook; Flower stall Misses B. Budge and Winterhalter; Lollie stall Misses Price and Brown; Refreshment stall Mesdames **Holden** and Miller; Produce stall Mrs. Bell and Miss Condon; Ice Cream stall Mesdames King, Bell and Turton; Penny Dip (for children) Mrs. Davies. Subscription lists are issued and a liberal response has been made.

JANUARY 10 1913 - Page 7

One of the most successful concerts both from a financial standpoint and the quality of the items, was given in the local Mechanics' Hall on the 20th ult. under the auspices of the State School committee. Every available hall seat was called into requisition, and but for the kind offer of our well-known townsman, **Mr. Holden** to supply several seats, the situation would have been

awkward. Several items were given by scholars..... The Head Teacher, Mr. Moncur gave a short address and thanked the residents for electing such a strong committee..... Praise is due to the committee in a body and those to show out and work well were the correspondent, Mr. E. Betts and the chairman, Mr. G. Phillips who kept things going merrily. Messrs **Holden** and Hill, as doormen, and Mr. R.A. Bell in the ticket box, were the right men in the right place. The large staff of ladies.....

JANUARY 17 1913 - Page 2

The R.C. Church at Thorpdale, the details regarding which appeared in a recent issue, is rapidly nearing completion, and it is expected that it will be opened about three weeks hence.

MARCH 7 1913 - Page 7

Residents of Thorpdale will be pleased to learn that they are to have an old friend back in the town in the person of **Mr. F.W. Bantock** who with his Son, **J.F. Bantock** has purchased the butchering business of Mr. R.A. Budge.

APRIL 25 1913 - Page 7

The bazaar held in aid of the Mechanics' Institute turned out very successful, the gross takings amounting to £93, and a balance of over £80 is assured. Great thanks is due to the ladies who worked for the bazaar, especially the stallholders. Those most deserving of praise were Mr. C. Turton, the indefatigable secretary, Mesdames **Holden**, Miller, Bell..... The following were the prize winners:- Best pound cake, **Mrs. Holden**etc. It has been decided to spend about half the proceeds in painting the inside of the hall and installing an air gas plant for lighting.

Although the season has been against the farmers for potato growing, some good crops are to be seen in the district. On Mr. Thom's farm about 10 tons to the acre are assured.....(other farmer's crops). All potatoes are clean and free from any disease. If farmers go in for potato growing, for which the district is well adapted, Thorpdale should be amongst the best potato centres in Australia.

MAY 2 1913 - Page 7

On Sunday next, the 4th inst., the recently completed R.C. Church will be opening here. The building which is finely situated, presents a handsome appearance, due to its architecture and appropriate painting. The Bishop of Sale will be present on the abovementioned occasion, and will bless and open the Church at 3 p.m. It is expected that visitors will be present from the whole of the surrounding districts, and given the weather, the ceremony should be most successful. The Trafalgar R.C. choir, under the leadership of Miss Macdonald will be present and assist in the opening.

MAY 9 1913 - Page 2

His Lordship, Dr. Phelan, Bishop of Sale, journeyed to Thorpdale on Sunday morning last for the blessing and opening of the new Church, and was highly gratified at the progress the small congregation has made in erecting such a nice church, and selecting such a beautiful site. More than half the people present at three o'clock when the Church was blessed, did not belong to the Catholic body, but were there to show their sympathy with them. After subscriptions had been taken up, the indebtedness of the church was found to have been reduced to less than £100. The Trafalgar choir was present and greatly assisted in the ceremony.

JULY 26 1913 - Page 7

The first of a series of Euchre Parties and dances, that the committee of the local Mechanics' Institute has decided to run, was held on Friday evening last. Despite the bad weather that prevailed there was a very good attendance.....

SEPTEMBER 19 1913 - Page 7

The annual meeting of the subscribers to the local Mechanics' Institute is to be held on Friday evening the 10th inst. The committee has completed a very satisfactory year and the Mechanics'

has never been in a sounder position before. At the commencement of the year, the overdraft stood at £95. This has been reduced to £40. An air-gas plant costing £24 and roller skates to the value of £15 have been added to the property of the hall, and repairs and painting costing £25 have been effected. The old committee are all eligible for re-election.

Skating has been a much favoured pastime during the winter months, and the Mechanics' Hall has been crowded both on Thursday and Saturday nights. Some very funny spectacles are to be seen occasionally.

OCTOBER 3 1913 - Page 7

At the annual meeting of Subscribers of the Mechanics' Institute held on Friday evening, the following office-bearers were elected:- President Mr. G. Phillips; Vice-president Mr. A. Moncur; Secretary & Treasurer Mr. C. Turton; Committee Messrs. **M. Holden**, W.A. Moncur, R.A. Bell, Hill, Davies, Wilson, Gilbert, Shackleton and Moore.

OCTOBER 17 1913 - Page 7

Cricket is receiving attention here his season. A meeting was held on Tuesday, 7th inst. and was well attended by enthusiastic patrons of the game. About a tenner was collected in about ten minutes and a club was formed with the following office-bearers:- President Mr. Alex Moncur; Vice-president **Mr. M. Holden**; Secretary & Treasurer Mr. T. Snowball; Committee W.A. Moncur, C.W. Snowball, F. Gilbert, E.H. Torode; Delegates Messrs Moncur and Torode. The club is desirous of joining the Trafalgar association this year.

Bantock and Sons butchering premises have undergone an extensive renovation, and the juicy steak and prime beef that awaits you at this establishment will repay your visit.

NOVEMBER 21 1913 - Page 7

The Thorpdale skating carnival was held on Friday last and despite the bad weather, a fair crowd put in an appearance, there being about 24 couples skating. The public decided the prize winners by ballot - Best Gentleman Skater Mr. Lindsay Wilson; Best Lady Skater Miss May Wilson; Best fancy dressed gentleman Mr. C. Torode (Swagman); Best lady fancy dressed skater Miss Murphy (Swiss peasant); Potato Race W. Rodda 1st, Mr. Livison 2nd; Musical Cushions **Tommy Holden** 1st, E. Torode 2nd.

DECEMBER 5 1913 - Page 7

Bantock's for Bonzer Beef etc. everything up to date.

The matter of raising a loan for the construction of roads has been the subject of much favourable discussion in Thorpdale and district.

APRIL 17 1914 - Page 2

The opening of the skating season took place in the local Mechanics' Institute on Saturday evening, a very fair number being present.

N.B. Other Thorpdale entertainments mentioned from time to time were the local Dramatic Society and the Tennis Club.

SEPTEMBER 4 1914 - Page 7

Mr. G. Budge, an old resident of this town, has been appointed a Commissioner for taking Affidavits at Thorpdale.

SEPTEMBER 18 1914 - Page 7

Under heading:-The Patriotic Movement then sub-heading of Thorpdale.

A Patriotic meeting was held in the local Mechanics' Hall on Friday evening last, when nearly £20 was donated to the Patriotic Fund. The following were elected as a Patriotic Committee: Messrs. **Holden**, Moncur, Shackleton, Moore, Mills, Bantock, Pickles, Davies, McWhinnic, Cornthwaite and Bell. Secretaries: Messrs. Turton and Torode. It was decided to hold a Concert and Ball about the end of October to further supplement the fund. Anyone wishing to donate in kind are advised

that produce will be despatched to Melbourne the second Wednesday in every month, and livestock every trucking day. The ladies particularly interested in the movement held a meeting last night to consider the best means of lending assistance.

A lengthy article also published re proposed Thorpdale-Tarwin Railway via Mirboo North.

NOVEMBER 6 1914 - Page 7

The Patriotic Concert and Ball held here on Thursday, 29th ult. demonstrated in a marked degree the unquestionable spirit of loyalty permeating this district. The hall was packed to the doors and the brilliantly lighted room was gay with a blaze of patriotic colour. Those who arrived early were fortunate in securing seats, but later arrivals were prepared to display their patriotic enthusiasm in less comfortable circumstances. Many large audiences have graced the local hall, but this event easily eclipsed the previous best.....(followed by a further two paragraphs describing in detail the Concert and the Ball).

APRIL 9 1915 - Page 7

The Children's Concert held on the 31st ult. was a great success. There was a splendid attendance and the audience was treated to one of the best programmes ever heard in the town. The singing..... During the evening, a lamp valued at 10/6 donated by **Mr. Holden** to the Belgian Relief Fund, was sold and resold, until the bidding slackened. It was finally knocked down to Mr. Knobb of Sydney who kindly presented it to the State School.

OCTOBER 15 1915 - Page 2

The Main Roads Board contemplates inviting tenders at an early date for the construction of the Thorpdale-Trafalgar road.

DECEMBER 17 1915 - Page 7

Thorpdale is steadily forging ahead as an agricultural centre and close on 2000 tons of potatoes were grown and trucked from here last season. With anything like a fair season the output should easily be doubled this year.

MARCH 31 1916 - Page 7

Article published re Volunteers "Send-off" for Thorpdale recruits

N.B. From 1916 up until April 1917, this weekly paper ceased to publish social reporting. The earlier format was replaced by events associated with the World War 1, such as farewells for local volunteers, casualty reports etc. Every week a list of recruits was published under the heading of each district. In every edition, not only were the names of new recruits published but the list included the names of every recruit the first to the most recent.

JUNE 8 1917 - Page 3

Sale Hospital Social. Despite most unfavourable weather, the concert and social held in the local hall in aid of funds of the above worthy institution, on Wednesday evening, the 9th of May, proved a great social and financial success, and everyone associated with it has occasion to be pleased with their efforts. The amount forwarded to the treasurer of the hospital was £17/3/6. The following is a statement of receipts, expenditure etc:- Sales of tickets 68 at 2/- were £6/16/- etc..... Donations:- Messrs....(listed) 1 pound each, Messrs... (listed), **M. Holden** 10/- each, (then followed other lists at 6/-, 5/-, 2/6 and 1/- each.

JUNE 14 1918 - Page 2

A very successful carnival was held at Thorpdale on Monday June 3rd, in aid of the Australian Branch of the Red Cross Society. The untiring efforts of the popular secretary, Mr. J. Barrett and the enthusiastic response of the public generously in giving and assisting, resulted in a profit of £41/14/-. The Sport's meeting in the afternoon was well patronised, the different items furnishing keen competition. In the evening a concert, merrily contributed by the school children was held in the Mechanics Hall. The accommodation again proved to be inadequate. Visitors from

Melbourne and Trafalgar contributed items which were much appreciated. (Then followed a list of performers and their renditions.) The stage was tastefully arranged with draping kindly loaned by Mrs. Holden. A dance then followed the concert.....

N.B. Access denied to 1919 and 1920 editions. From January 1921 the format of the paper has changed. The masthead states it is a commercial and farming journal. It includes market reports and of course, football, with much less social reporting for the next few years. Some years on, social reporting recommenced.

N.B. From 1921 the **TRAFALGAR & YARRAGON NEWS** (In April 1937 changed to **THE GIPPSLAND NEWS**) has been incorporated, and will be identified by a 'N'. This newspaper was published on a Thursday, originally it contained of 4 pages and later on 6-8 pages. Articles were published either under "District News" - sub-headed "Thorpdale", or as separate articles with headlines. Prior to 1921 the newspaper was known as the "Yarragon, Trafalgar & Moe Settlement News", printed in Warragul. The handling of the fragile newsheets was a slow and painstaking job. No Thorpdale news was found in the early years, so I commenced my research as from 1921, the year the title was changed to the Trafalgar & Yarragon News, the printing being done in Trafalgar, and Thorpdale news began to be occasionally published. Once again, all grammar, punctuation and spelling is as published.

JANUARY 21 1921 - Page 2 - From a lengthy article on Potato Growing.

The soil in the Narracan and Thorpdale district is admirably adapted for potatoes, the culture of which is making appreciable headway.

FEBRUARY 3 1921 - Page 3 (N)

This district has been given a lot of publicity recently. The development of the land, and the success of the diggers has caused very favorable comment.

APRIL 22 1921 - Page 2

The Committee of Management for the new Recreation Group at Thorpdale have already effected considerable improvements. The ground has been plowed preparatory to sowing with grass, and application has been made to the State Nurseries for trees for ornamental purposes. The ground is situated within half a mile of the town and has an area of over seven acres.

MAY 5 1921 - Page 3 (N)

COAL AT THORPDALE

Interest in brown coal deposits in the Thorpdale district is being revived. At intervals during the past 30 years, the matter has been referred to and on each occasion soon forgotten. Meanwhile local residents find the coal excellent for household use. Samples sent to the Paris exhibition years ago by ex-Cr. Crisp gained first place, defeating the entries from Germany and other countries.

At one time brown coal was tried on the engines of the Victorian Railways and the same locality produced the best tried - in fact it was 30% better than any other brown coal. Mr. Whitelaw, from the Mines Department, visited the area a couple of years ago, and said that the place should have a great future. On various properties - notably Mrs. Hooper's and Mr. Lock's - there are many good deposits on the surface. Mr. A. Gunn has interested himself in the matter, and secured a promise from the Minister of Mines that a bore would be sent as soon as possible. Private enterprise will probably develop the field if the Government does not.

MAY 6 1921 - Page 2

The local branch of the R.S.S.I.L. held a social on Wednesday the 27th ult. in connection with the distribution of a number of general service medals and stars

MAY 13 1921 - Extract from the Narracan Shire Council Report.

Tatterson Bros. applying for a licence for the manufacture of sausages at Thorpdale.

AUGUST 19 1921 - Page 7

A public meeting was held here on the 10th inst. in connection with the Soldiers Memorial Stone. Several designs were examined and finally one was chosen to the satisfaction of all present. Arrangements are to be made to have the stone erected at the earliest possible date. The stone which is to be erected near the junction of the new and old roads will be inscribed with the names of between twenty or thirty of young manhood who made the supreme sacrifice.

DECEMBER 16 1921 - Page 2

The unveiling of the Thorpdale Memorial Stone takes place tomorrow

DECEMBER 30 1921 - Page 2

The I.O.R. excursion train from Trafalgar and Thorpdale to Walhalla, run on Monday last, was well patronised. Excursionists spent a very enjoyable day.

JANUARY 12 1922 - Page 3 (N)

Mr. A.A. Abotomey, the well-known eyesight specialist, will visit Thorpdale on Wednesday, February 8, and may be consulted at **Holden's Hotel** from 1 to 4 p.m.

*****FEBRUARY 10 1922 - Page 5**

An accident of a particularly severe nature happened to **Mr. T.Holden (son of Mr & Mrs Holden** of this town) on Saturday last. While on his way to town in the vicinity of Oakleigh, he met with a mishap on his motor bicycle, sustaining a heavy fall and rendered unconscious. He was taken to the hospital where it was found that his skull had been severely fractured, his condition being regarded as critical. **Mr. and Mrs. Holden** were acquainted with the facts and immediately journeyed to town. Although the patient is in a low condition, hopes are entertained for his recovery, and latest reports indicate that considerable improvement in his condition has taken place, an operation having proved successful. General sympathy is felt for the parents owing to their anxious time. The young man is a general favorite here and further cheering news is awaited from Dr. Reid's private hospital where he is receiving treatment

MARCH 23 1922 - Page 2 (N)

Mr. Abotomey, eyesight specialist will visit Thorpdale on April 5, and may be consulted at **Holden's Hotel** from 1- 4 p.m.

MARCH 30 1922 - Page 3 (N)

The Railways Standing Committee will visit Thorpdale tomorrow (Friday) March 31 to take evidence regarding the extension of the line from Thorpdale to Tarwin Valley.

APRIL 6 1922 - Page 2 (N)

(Repeat of notice re Mr. Abotomey - for appointments on June 7.)

APRIL 7 1922 - Page 2

The Thorpdale Flower Show takes place tomorrow. Entries close tonight at 10 pm. The Easter Monday Sports Carnival at Thorpdale..... A first class road connects Trafalgar with Thorpdale presenting attractions that will lend additional pleasure to the trip.

APRIL 13 1922 - Page 3 (N)

A distinct earth tremor was felt on Monday night, lasting a few seconds. Windows and crockery rattled and homes rocked perceptibly.

APRIL 21 1922 - Page 2

The seventh annual Flower Show of the Church of England.....nearly 400 people paying admission Easter Monday Sports Carnival.....followed by a concert in the evening.

JUNE 23 1922 - Page 2

Heavy traffic on the Trafalgar-Thorpdale road has rendered it almost impassable. Users are anxiously looking forward to the time when the last sections will be metalled.

SEPTEMBER 28 1922 - Page 2 (N)

Mesdames **Holden** and Bennett gave a very successful dance in the public hall last week. A box of cigars was raffled and won by Mr. G. Thompson, and a tin of tea was won by Mr. D. McCann. £9 was raised during the evening towards the cake stall for the bazaar in November.

***OCTOBER 27 1922 - Page 2

Mr. Thos. Holden who met with an accident while returning on horseback from Trafalgar some days ago, is in the Alfred Hospital. Reports as to his condition are very favorable. It is hoped that his run of misfortune has now ended.

A meeting with the object of forming a Brass Band in Thorpdale was held recently. It is hoped that support will be given this undertaking which has been launched..... It is likely that the institution will shortly be an accomplished fact.

NOVEMBER 16 1922 - Page 3 (N)

For eight acres £200 has been paid. An excellent trotting track has been sown with Kentucky blue grass and couch grass. Over 400 trees have been planted. Such is the record of enterprise of the Thorpdale recreation reserve committee. Further buildings are to be erected. Such effort is worthy of wide support, and the trotting carnival on Boxing Day should be a great success. Programs will be ready shortly.

DECEMBER 1 1922 - Page 2

News that the Ideal Pictures are showing here on the 9th inst. has caused quite a stir in the town and the management can rest assured that they will be greeted with a bumper house.

DECEMBER 8 1922 - Page 2

The Committee of the Thorpdale Carnival have arranged for a special train to return to Trafalgar after the Sports Meeting on Boxing Day. The ordinary train will convey passengers to Moe where they will transfer in the usual way to the Thorpdale train. A large number of Trafalgar residents attended the Sports last year, travelling across country, and many will no doubt avail themselves of a trip up the picturesque valley of the Narracan Creek, such as the trip affords.

***DECEMBER 8 1922 - Page 2

Another of our popular townsmen, **Mr. Tom Holden**, has recovered from the effects of his recent accident and seems none the worse for his trying experience. **Tom** has been so unkindly treated at the hands of fate lately, that he is hopeful that brighter times are ahead. It is a long lane that has no turning.

It is generally anticipated that the Ideal Pictures will be greeted with a big house on Saturday night, this being the first occasion that an electric lighting plant has visited the town.

N.B. Photographs have started to be published in the 'Times' also advertisements for Chevrolet Cars. By now many social entertainments are reported upon i.e. fancy dress balls, children's concerts, blind concert, bazaars, euchre parties, a Melbourne vaudeville show and films being screened at Trafalgar. Reporting of motor car accidents in the surrounding districts, start to appear in The Times from 1923, and more frequent reports as the years progress. In some reports the car ended up in a ditch at the side of the road, so accidents may well have been due to the poor road conditions at the time. Over the years many reports featured the poor condition of the Trafalgar/Thorpdale Road caused by wet weather, and demands for improvement to that road.

JANUARY 5 1923 - Page 8

Advertisement by Ideal Pictures at Thorpdale on Monday, January 8th - Film is Cecil B. DeMilles "The Affair of Anatol" Prices 2/6 and 2/-. (Later on prices are lowered to 1/6 and 1/-)

MARCH 8 1923 - Page 3 (N)

The Government bore has been shifted from Thorpdale to Moe South.

MARCH 9 1923 - Page 2

The Trotting and Axemen's Carnival to be held at Thorpdale on Easter Monday, promises to eclipse anything ever previously attempted..... (In later editions, an ad for this carnival states that it is to be followed by a Grand Concert and Ball at night in Mechanic's Hall.)

MARCH 22 1923 - Page 3 (N)

Several new shops have been opened in the town, including a boot and saddlery depot by Mr. Batten, a returned man.

APRIL 6 1923 - Page 2

Thorpdale proved the Sports Centre on Easter Monday despite counter attractions in neighboring towns, the great attendance easily eclipsing all previous functions of this kind held in this progressive district centre. The gate takings totalled over £70 exclusive of the sale of members tickets, and it is estimated that at least 1200 people were present. The long procession of motor cars, vehicles, equestrians and others presented a spectacle unique in the history of Thorpdale and fully endorsed the confidence of the promoters, who had sufficient confidence in the district's capability to launch the boldest and most attractive program of sports in this part of Gippsland. Visitors were present in large numbers from Yarragon, Trafalgar, Moe, Erica, Yallourn, Morwell, Mirboo and Leongatha.

MAY 3 1923 - Page 3 (N)

The well-known "Falls" property at Narracan has been sold to a buyer from Lorne, who intends to convert it into a summer boarding house.

MAY 4 1923 - Page 5

A committee meeting in connection with the Thorpdale and District Brass Band was held in the local hall on Tuesday evening last, the president, Mr. H. Mann being in the chair. Over £30 was handed in as donations, and it was decided to at once procure a number of instruments.....

*****AUGUST 3 1923 - Page 2**

Mr. M. Holden who recently had a shoulder dislocated states that the injury is making rapid improvement. Our popular citizen has chafed considerably under his enforced rest. The particularly bad state of the sand road at the Trafalgar end of the Trafalgar-Thorpdale road is the subject of much complaint.

AUGUST 17 1923 - Page 2

(The front page of the paper features a photo of Main Street, Thorpdale taken from the monument.) The Thorpdale and District Brass Band hold practices twice a week and are making exceptionally good progress with the tuition of Band Master Siddle. Over 25 players are attending regularly.

SEPTEMBER 7 1923 - Page 2

Mr. M. Holden is still suffering from his injured shoulder, which has proved to be unusually severe. The latest property to change hands in this district is that of Mr. A. Rodda which has been purchased by Mr. H. Bell. The price paid was £15 per acre.

OCTOBER 4 1923 - Page 3 (N)

A telephone line is in course of erection between Thorpdale and Thorpdale South post-offices; it will probably be further extended shortly.

OCTOBER 5 1923 - Page 2

Light falls of snow fell in the Thorpdale district on Monday last.

OCTOBER 12 1923 - Page 5

Mention is made of the forthcoming installation of electric light in the towns in the Narracan Shire.

NOVEMBER 23 1923 - Page 1

Influenza is prevalent throughout the district, and quite a number of adults and children are on the sick list.

Quite a large number of farmers are taking advantage of the telephone system and will realise its value when installations are complete.

Potato planting is in full swing. Potatoes grow prolifically in all parts of the district, and with improving road conditions, it will become one of our main industries. The extension of road construction work will tend to develop the district more rapidly than anything else.

DECEMBER 7 1923 - Page 5

Advertisement - full program of the Sports Carnival to be held on Boxing Day includes horse races, trotting races, draught horse trot, pony trot, best buggy horse, best gent's hack, best child's pony, potato race on horseback, Stepping the Chain, obstacle race, flag race, Thorpdale band (26 players), soft drinks, ice cream, hot water provided, dinner on ground 12-2pm, light refreshments all day, admission 1/6, children under 16 half price, members tickets 5/-, followed by Grand Concert and Ball in Mechanics' Hall.

DECEMBER 21 1923 - Page 2

There should be no misgivings as to where you should go on Boxing Day. Thorpdale is THE place. A splendid program is worthy of your attendance and here you have one of the best. (On page 5 is a photo of Narracan Waterfalls & a repeat photo of Main Street, Thorpdale.)

JANUARY 4 1924 - Page 2

Thorpdale Sports postponed due to wet weather. To be held on Saturday, January 5th 1924.

N.B. Over many months, articles appear each week about electricity, electrical appliances and building an all electric home.

MAY 1 1924 - Page2 (N)

A fire which may have ended disastrously occurred in R.B. Hawkins' shop. Mr. Hawkins was filling a lamp when some of the benzine overflowed and was ignited by the unprotected flame of a candle. It was owing to the prompt action of **Mr. M. Holden**, who arrived in time to carry the burning lamp outside, that the building was saved from destruction, only a little of the wood work and part of the verandah being burnt. Mr. Hawkins was severely burnt about the hands and face.

MAY 2 1924 - Page 2

While refilling a storm lamp a few days ago, Mr. Hawkins, one of our popular storekeepers, had an experience that caused some mild excitement for a time and but for the timely assistance rendered by **Mr. M. Holden** and others, might have borne serious results. By some means the petrol caught alight, and in a moment Mr. Hawkins was smothered in flames. His clothing, hands and face were scorched, and assistance arriving, the burning fluid was soon tossed into the roadway, but not before it gave indications of setting the store and verandah alight. Mr. Hawkin's injuries are only slight, but it is the general opinion of spectators that a big conflagration was narrowly averted.

N.B. The Trafalgar & Yarragon Times is now published on a Monday.

AUGUST 18 1924 - Page 7

Report of the Thorpdale Brass Band Anniversary Concert on Friday night last.

OCTOBER 20 1924 - Page 2

Mirboo has now the electric light, current being supplied from Yallourn.

JANUARY 5 1925 - Page 2

The National Bank is instituting a service twice weekly at Thorpdale. New regulations provide for additional protection to the bank official in his journey to and fro, following recent hold-ups in the city.

Page 3 This part of the world is becoming more and more popular as a holiday resort, and there has been a great influx of visitors for the holidays. Considering the beauty of the surroundings, it is not to be wondered at, and this year the hills and pastures look exceptionally well. But an unpleasant feature of the holidays this year is the introduction of the larrikin element. Provided that these "birds of only one feather" flock by themselves, no-one cares, but when the sleeping town is wakened, kids scared out of their wits, and all dogs tuned up to concert pitch by shrieking females and youths discharging firearms from 1 am. onwards, its time someone said or did something.

***APRIL 27 1925 - Page 2

While returning from the Allambee Sports last Monday, **Mr. T. Holden** of Thorpdale, had a narrow escape. In negotiating a sharp curve, the car turned over on its side, nearly turning a complete somersault. There were no passengers in the car, and fortunately neither Mr. Holden was hurt or the car damaged. (Obviously cars were much better built in the old days.)

MAY 11 1925 - Page 7

During recent years, entertainments held at Thorpdale have always to suffer the drawback of a public hall not large enough to meet the demands made on it. Recognising this, a number of public men are attempting to raise enough money to build a new and larger hall - one worthy of the town of Thorpdale. It is hoped that the round of entertainments now in progress will give the scheme an effective kick-off. On the 13 May a dance will be held. Prizes for a waltzing competition will be donated by Mr. Roper, president of the hall committee.

JUNE 15 1925 - Page 2

A very successful dance was held to raise funds for a new hall..... A very nice supper was served by the ladies committee, who are working hard in the interest of the new hall project. Among them are Mesdames **Holden**, Dalglish, B. Hawkins, Alex Gunn, J. Tatterson and others.

JUNE 22 1925 - Page 3

The president of the hall committee has associated with him, **Mr. T. Holden** who is capably undertaking the secretarial duties.....

AUGUST 24 1925 - Page 5

There have been two mild cases of Infantile Paralysis in this district.....etc.

NOVEMBER 9 1925 - Page 2

The ball recently held in aid of the Hall funds was well attended and proved successful from every point of view..... The Committee have been encouraged to hold another one on the 27th inst.....and arrangements are now in hand. **Mr. T. Holden** is again officiating as secretary, and no better guarantee is needed to assure patrons that the general conduct of the Ball will be highly satisfactory.

N.B. The Times now consists of 10 pages.

JANUARY 4 1926 - Page 3.

A further one of the series of balls at present being held at Thorpdale with the object of raising funds for a new hall, was held on New Year's Eve night. There was a very large attendance to dance out poor old 1925, and greet the New Year under pleasant conditions. The music was

supplied by the Miami Jazzers Band who made a hit with the dancers. A very excellent supper was served, and it was a happy throng which eventually broke up at a late hour. The enthusiastic new hall committee, of which **Mr. T. Holden** is secretary, is very pleased with the progress made, and intend to run another at an early date.

FEBRUARY 18 1926 - Page 3 (N)

AWFUL BUSH FIRES BIG-AREA OF GIPPSLAND REDUCED TO MASS OF RUINS
33 DEATHS - MANY INJURED
FUNDS RAISED TO ASSIST THE ARMY OF SUFFERERS

People in all parts of the British Empire, and indeed beyond its boundaries, have read with horror of the tragic results of the bush fires which swept through the country on Sunday last, taking a terrible toll of human life, and leaving in their wake a scene of desolation and ruin. The tales of the fortitude of women, children and men in all districts is such as to stir the pulse of Stoics. A magnificent response has been made to appeals for funds to relieve the suffering.
(Places named in the report were - Warburton, Noojee, Fumina, Erica. List of donations followed.)

FEBRUARY 22 1926 - Page 2

The committee at Thorpdale which has been working towards a new hall has received good support from the public - enough to ensure the commencement of building. Tenders are at present being invited for its erection, particulars of which may be seen in our advertising columns. (Ad. page 8)

FEBRUARY 25 1926 - Page 3 (N)

WONDERFUL RESPONSE TO APPEALS FOR FIRE RELIEF

Thorpdale Help. A public meeting was held in Thorpdale hall last Friday night, to consider ways and means to raise funds to assist the sufferers who have been burnt out.

The meeting unanimously decided to start a Thorpdale list, the money to be passed on through the shire secretary (Mr. Shanahan) to the Moe fire relief Committee. A sum of £36 was collect in the hall in a few minutes..... Thorpdale : **Holden M.** £5/5/-, **Savige T.W.** £5/-/-, **Tatterson J.** £2/2/-, etc. etc.

APRIL 5 1926 - Page 7

The Annual General Meeting of the Thorpdale Mechanics' Institute was held on Thursday 1st, and the attendance was a large and representative one..... The main business before the meeting was the consideration of the advisability or otherwise of erecting a new hall, the meeting proving enthusiastically in favor of the new project..... Trustees to accept a tender approximately £1200. With up-to-date seating and lighting the amount expended will be in the vicinity of £1500. Extra money..... to be advanced from the State Savings Bank of Victoria.....£1000 at 6%, repayments of £50 or £100 p.a. optionally.

JUNE 7 1926 - Page 3

Potato digging is now fairly general, and yields of up to eight tons per acre are being obtained. The erection of the new hall is still being delayed owing to the old title for the land being destroyed by fire many years ago, necessitating the preparation of a new one. When this is completed a start will be at once made with the work.

JUNE 28 1926 - Page 2

A progress association has been formed at Thorpdale. Two of its objects will be the advancement of electric lighting for the town, either by the State Electricity Commission or private enterprise; and a better sanitary service that the town at present offers.

JULY 12 1926 - Page 5

P. Begelhole desires to announce that he is building an up-to-date Saleyards adjoining the Blacksmith's shop, Thorpdale, and intends holding regular sales on completion of same.

SEPTEMBER 13 1926 - Page 2

Mr. Begelhole, who has built saleyards at Thorpdale, conducted his first sale on Friday etc...

OCTOBER 13 1926 - Page 3 (N)

The footballers' fancy dress ball at Thorpdale on Wednesday night was well patronised. The fancy costumes were very good, prizes being awarded as follows: most original, Mr. T. Perriman (Charlie Chaplin); poster, Mr. Norman Gunn and Miss Gunn (Sun Pictorial); best dressed lady, **Mrs. T. Holden** (Eastern Lady). Special prizes were awarded to Mrs. L. Tatterson (Hawaiian Girl) and Mr. Wilfred Gunn (Departed Spirits)

OCTOBER 18 1926 - Page 7

The storekeepers here have formed themselves into the "Thorpdale Traders Association" and are out to adjust matters effecting their future welfare.

***NOVEMBER 15 1926 - Page 2

Mr. M. Holden and son left Thorpdale on Saturday last on a tour through East Gippsland, thence via Canberra to Sydney. The return journey will embrace Swan Hill and Mildura.

NOVEMBER 18 1926 - Page 3 (N)

Messrs. M. & T. Holden are away on a motor tour to Sydney via East Gippsland. They will return home via northern Victoria.

NOVEMBER 22 1926 - Page 2

New potatoes are commanding about £18 per ton at present.

JANUARY 17 1927 - Page 2

The competition for **Mr. M. Holden's** medal on Saturday attracted a number of enthusiastic fishermen - who were not so enthusiastic at the finish. Very few decent fish were caught. Mr. Jack Bayley won, and Mr. Bob Somerville was second.

FEBRUARY 14 1927 - Page 2

Following application made by Mr. Moncur, the hours of attendance at the Thorpdale Post Office have been increased by two hours daily - except Saturday. The 'phone is now available to 8 pm.

APRIL 4 1927 - Page 2

An enthusiastic kick-off was given at the annual meeting of the Thorpdale Football Club, and prospects for the season are good. A strong executive was elected, with Mr. J Tatterson president and **Mr. T. Holden** secretary. A number of donations were promised and the club has a very satisfactory credit to start off with. Members tickets 5/-.

APRIL 7 1927 - Page 3 (N)

A meeting of ladies which was very largely attended, was held on Wednesday last with the purpose of forming an Auxiliary for the West Gippsland Hospital. The Matron gave a very interesting address on what a great help these Auxiliaries are, and with her was the Sister, also Mesdames Silk and Copeland. A strong committee was elected, with Mrs. Bloom president, **Mrs. T. Holden** secretary and Mrs. Geo. Gunn and Mrs. Albert Rodda vice-presidents.

APRIL 21 1927 - Page 3 (N)

Thorpdale is becoming more and more popular as a tourist resort. Easter week brought more than the usual crowd of holiday makers, and although the weather had not been particularly suitable for camping, many camps are dotted in favorable spots along the river.

JUNE 2 1927 - Page 3 (N)

The Thorpdale branch of the Warragul Hospital Auxiliary is also doing good work and already a large number of useful articles has been forwarded to the hospital.

JUNE 9 1927 - Page 3 (N)

Mr. R. Tatterson, formerly of Trafalgar has opened a hairdressing business in the Main street, Thorpdale. It is a business that has been sorely needed here for some years, and very cordial support is being shown to the promoter.

JUNE 23 1927 - Page 2 (N)

At the Romsey potato show last week, first prize for 6 lbs. of Carmen No.1 round seed was won by Messrs. Young Brothers, of Thorpdale, who can feel proud of their feat in beating growers from all the leading potato districts of the State.

SEPTEMBER 19 1927 - Page 3

A very successful old time dance was held here last week, and a profit of over £9 resulted. The organisers, Mesdames **Holden** and Knight, have reason to feel proud of their success and have received many congratulations. The proceeds went to assist the funds for the bazaar to be held next month.

Residents are looking forward to the time the new hall will be completed. A start has already been made, and it is expected that the contractor will be finished in a couple of month's time. This is a big step forward in the town's progress.

OCTOBER 13 1927 - Page 3 (N)

The Thorpdale butter factory has been purchased by the Moe people and has been closed down. About 45 tons of potatoes are leaving Thorpdale every week. The price at the Thorpdale station is £8/10/- per ton.

OCTOBER 31 1927 - Page 2

A most successful bazaar was held at Thorpdale on Saturday afternoon and evening in aid of the new hall funds. The attendance and takings were very satisfactory, and will give the project a big lift along.

NOVEMBER 21 1927 - Page 2

Report of fatal car smash and subsequent inquest into death of Mrs. L. Tatterson aged 27.... Car driven by Mr. L. Tatterson was returning to Thorpdale from a dance at Childers. A passenger, James Ravenscroft stated..."he stopped a car being driven by **Mr. T. Holden** and with the assistance of passengers of another car, were able to lift the car from deceased....."

JANUARY 5 1928 - Page 3 (N)

A very enjoyable concert was organised by Mr. J. Knipe, to take place after the sports meeting on Boxing Day..... Music for the dance following was supplied by the recently formed "Black Cat" orchestra, and was voted by patrons to be equal if not superior to any yet heard locally. Performers consisted of Mrs. Moncur (violin), Misses Rhoden and Shackleton (piano), **Mr. T. Holden** (mandolin), Mr. C. Moore (cornet), Mr. W. Bloom (clarinet) and Mr. T. Perriman (drums). Mr. C. Moore, in the absence of the secretary Mr. E. Mann, on behalf of the "Black Cats" presented the leader with a handsome box of confectionery as a token of appreciation of her hospitality during rehearsals.

JANUARY 9 1928 - Page 3

The new hall now nearing completion will prove a monument to the enterprise of the town and district, and is something of which many larger towns would be proud. (This is followed by a full description including measurements, of the proposed building.

JANUARY 30 1928 - Page 2

The opening of the new Thorpdale hall will take place on Wednesday evening, February 15th. A grand concert and ball will be given.....

*** FEBRUARY 20 1928 - Page 8

Wednesday night was a Gala night at Thorpdale. It represented the culmination of many months of thought and endeavour on the part of energetic residents. Mr. W. Moncur MLA performed the opening ceremony..... The late Mr. Les Roper and **Mr. T. Holden** proved the two most energetic men in the movement, and it was their initiative and foresight which enabled them to have a hall now instead of still talking about it. **Mr. T. Holden** has proved himself a splendid secretary and the president (Mr. Mann) and members of the committee were also deserving of praise for the hard work they were doing..... At the conclusion of the concert, a presentation was made to **Mr. T. Holden**, the popular secretary. Mr. Mann referred to the great work that had been done, and they owed a lot to their enthusiastic and capable secretary. He asked him to accept a gold mounted inscribed fountain pen. **Mr. Holden** responded and said it had been a pleasure to work with such a fine committee.

***FEBRUARY 23 1928 - Page 3 (N)

ADVANCE THORPDALE NEW HALL OPENED
WELL BUILT, SPACIOUS & HANDSOME STRUCTURE

The largest crowd seen of an evening at Thorpdale assembled on Wednesday night last. The occasion was the official opening of the new public hall..... The excellent concert programme was encored, and the compliment was well merited. The concert was worthy of the occasion.

A TRIBUTE

During the interval, Mr. E. Mann, president of the hall committee, said he had a pleasant duty to perform. That was a recognition of the work of the hon.secretary, **Mr. T. Holden**. (Applause). The committee and the public realised that they were fortunate in having such a capable and painstaking official to carry out the excellent work. **Mr. Holden** had devoted a great lot of time to preliminary work, and right from inception had not spared himself. Mr. Mann then asked the secretary to accept a nice gold-mounted fountain pen.

Mr. Holden accepted a warm reception on stepping forward to respond. He paid a tribute to the advice and help rendered by a former president, the late Mr. L. Roper. The people of Thorpdale had a hall of which they could be proud, and they should now rally to any effort to pay off the balance. For the expressions of goodwill and for the nice present he sincerely thanked them.

After the concert, supper was served in the old hall adjoining. A dance was then held, and a large number of folk had an enjoyable couple of hours. The floor will be a splendid one for dancing. Music was supplied by the orchestra comprising Miss Jean Rhoden (piano), Mrs. Moncur (violin), **Mr. T. Holden** (mandolin), Mr. C. Moore (cornet), Mr. Bloom (clarinet), Mr. Perriman (drums etc.).

THE BUILDING

The building from the outside presents a handsome appearance, and a close inspection confirms all earlier impressions. The material and workmanship is of the best. (Detailed description of measurements, specifications etc.)

MARCH 8 1928 - Page 2 (N)

A great crowd is expected at the first ball in the new public hall, which is to be held on Tuesday evening next, the 13th inst. Music will be supplied by the popular Drouin Melody Makers orchestra and Secretary **Tom Holden** is confident of a huge success.

APRIL 2 1928 - Page 9

Thorpdale is to be regularly visited every Friday by the ideal Pictures, where, in keeping with Trafalgar and Yarragon, first class programs will be screened..... "Blighty" will be the first picture, with full support program.

APRIL 5 1928 - Page 2 (N)

All's well for the sports, concert and dance on Easter Monday. **Mr. T. Holden**, secretary has received a splendid entry for the various events, and the programme will start at one o'clock sharp, in order to get through. The prospects for a great day are particularly good, and all that is needed is fine weather.

APRIL 12 1928 - Page 3 (N)

THORPDALE SPORTS MOST PLEASANT EVENT

The Easter Monday sports at Thorpdale were conducted in aid of the public hall funds. There is still a considerable debt on the new hall, and the object was to reduce this. For many weeks the hall committee and supporters, led by Mr. E. Mann president and Messrs. **Thos. Holden** and J. Knipe, secretaries were on the job. Their efforts were well rewarded.....

APRIL 23 1928 - Page 9

The recent Sports meeting will result in a profit of over £10. The whole of the proceeds go to the new hall funds. **Mr. T. Holden** is the secretary, and he considers this highly satisfactory result constitutes something of a record for the town.

The town now boasts a weekly picture show, the Ideal company showing every Friday. The standard of this show is unequalled in any provincial town.

MAY 7 1928 - Page 2

Another of our business men, Mr. Keene, has disposed of his interests here, Messrs. Purvis & Co., of Moe, being the purchasers. This reduces the number of storekeepers in the town to two, **Mr. Holden** being the only other now operating.

MAY 24 1928 - Page 2 (N)

There is evidence of a revival in the land market in this district. Mr. Wilfred Young has acquired the farm property known as McDougall's. It is reported that there are enquiries for local farms from outside buyers.

JUNE 25 1928 - Page 8

An advertisement for Dances in aid of the Thorpdale Football club to be held every Saturday night in the new hall at Thorpdale. Admission Gentlemen 2/-, Ladies 1/-. D.A. Rhoden, Hon.Sec. Social Committee Football Club.

NOVEMBER 8 1928 - Page 4 (N)

SPLENDID CONCERT THORPDALE EFFORT FOR A WORTHY OBJECT

One of the most entertaining concerts, Thorpdale has seen for a long time, was staged on Monday, October 29. The event was organised by the local branch of the W.S.V.C.P. to raise funds to assist in improving the surroundings of the Soldier's Memorial Stone.....

Overture - Irish Melodies - "Black Cat" orchestra. Performers - Mrs. Moncur violin, Miss Shackleton piano, Mr. C. Moore cornet, **Mr. T. Holden** mandolin, Mr. W. Bloom saxophone, Mr. H. Shackleton trombone and Mr. T. Perriman drums.

NOVEMBER 26 1928 - Page 3

Tenders are invited by the Thorpdale Mechanics' Institute Committee for additions to the building, closing on December 10th, and full particulars may be obtained from the secretary, **Mr. T. Holden**. These additions are necessary in order to fully comply with certain regulations of the Board of Health.

DECEMBER 3 1928 - Page 3

The ball held here on Wednesday last in aid of the local hall funds, proved one of the most successful functions held here for some time..... A profit of over £9 will be realised, and following this success, the hall committee propose holding similar functions quarterly. **Mr. T. Holden** officiates as secretary to the movement in his usual proficient manner.

DECEMBER 24 1928 - Page 12

An inquest last Wednesday into death of Herbert Langstaff, 44, farmer..... One witness, **Mr. Michael Holden**, hotelkeeper, Thorpdale, deposed that he had known deceased between 10 and 12 years, when he came to the district, carrying his swag. He left after about two years, returning four years ago and remained ever since. Witness saw him frequently. Last saw him alive on Saturday

afternoon, when he came to the hotel and had two glasses of beer, taking two bottles of beer away with him. On the 13th (Thursday) he had complained to witness about people having him "set". He was very excited. He told witness he had killed his dog, which he said the neighbours had been trying to get away from him..... He (witness) didn't know of deceased having any enemies. The very folk he was suspicious of were always praising him for his industry and work. Inquest stands adjourned till January 16th 1929.

***JANUARY 3 1929 - Page 3 (N)

There was a remarkably narrow escape from a serious accident on the Thorpdale-Trafalgar road on Xmas night. **Mr. T. Holden**, accompanied by his mother, was returning home to Thorpdale per motor, and in endeavouring to avoid a horse-drawn vehicle, the car ran on to the soft earth formation on the side of the road. The two side wheels ran over the side of a big drop, and it was little short of a miracle that the car did not turn over. Mr. Arch McDonald, of the Trafalgar garage, with the aid of several men, soon had the car on the road again, and it was none the worse. Neither of the occupants was hurt, but the sudden shock considerably unnerved **Mrs. Holden**.

JANUARY 14 1929 - Page 10

The resignation of **Mr. T. Holden** as secretary of the Mechanics' Hall committee is generally regretted. In addition to proving a capable and painstaking official, he took a keen interest in the new hall movement and its welfare from its inception, and his place will prove hard to fill. Mr. E. Mann has been temporarily appointed and will carry on until a permanent appointment is made. Danger flags have been placed on either side of the land creep on the Trafalgar-Thorpdale road as a warning to motorists and others. Those who constantly use this road will be gratified to learn that this danger spot is to receive early attention.

JANUARY 17 1929 - Page 3 (N)

Mr. T. Holden who has rendered such excellent service as honorary secretary of the Thorpdale public hall has resigned the position. The splendid new hall in the town is due in no small manner to the ability and enthusiasm which **Mr. Holden** brought to bear on the secretarial duties. Mr. E. Mann is honorary secretary pro tem, and a permanent appointment will be made as soon as possible.

JANUARY 21 1929 - Page 9

The adjourned inquest, touching the death of Herbert Langstaff, a well-known Thorpdale farmer..... was reopened by the coroner Mr. F.W. Bond PM, at Moe on Wednesday.....The coroner found that Langstaff died on the 16th or the 17th December from strychnine poisoning, self-administered while in a depressed state of mind.

FEBRUARY 4 1929 - Page 6

That bugbear of motorists on the Thorpdale-Trafalgar road - the land slip on the road, has at last been adjusted. The road has been creeping out of its level for years and was the most dangerous spot on the trip. A smooth, straight section now stretches invitingly ahead.

MARCH 4 1929 - Page 7

Following the resignation of **Mr. T. Holden** as secretary of the hall committee a few weeks ago, Mr. G. Baker (the school head teacher) was elected to the position at a meeting during the week. The fine new hall is now complete. The additions required by the inspectors - the addition of some handrailing and making a couple of rooms fireproof - has been completed, and it is hoped no further complaints can be found. Thorpdale has one of the finest halls possessed by any country town, and the visits of officious faultfinders is not appreciated.

N.B. Many social functions include music provided by the Thorpdale Black Cat Orchestra for dances and as an orchestral item on the program for a concert. (**Tom Holden** was a member of this orchestra.)

MARCH 25 1929 - Page 9

A proposal is afoot to establish a swimming pool here, but the matter is yet in its embryo state. The State School grounds is mentioned as a suitable site as a creek runs through it. Should it be determined to carry on with the project, funds will be needed. Mr. Baker, who believes in a policy of progression, is negotiating with the Ideal Pictures to run a show for this purpose at a date to be fixed, and something may be heard of this later on.

The closing of the local railway station for three days of the week is the subject of much adverse comment among local and district residents.

The electric light question is again a leading topic amongst residents. Nearly every town in Gippsland, some of them smaller than Thorpdale, have the light installed, and it seems hard to reside within a few miles of the biggest electrical scheme in the southern hemisphere and yet be debarred any of the privileges attached thereto. It is considered that the Electricity Commission should be approached and asked to submit a modified scheme, such as would prove acceptable to residents. As a State enterprise, assistance in this direction would do something to assist the great decentralization movement which should be an integral part of the scheme.

MAY 2 1929 - Page 3 (N)

Report of a Children's Fancy Dress Ball at Thorpdale held on 26th April.....awarding of prizes etc. **Mr. M. Holden** donated money prizes to the value of 10/6..... The following is a full list of fancy costumes..... M. (Marie) Holden "Golden Butterfly".....

MAY 6 1929 - Page 7

Report of a successful Children's Fancy Dress Ball.....Cash prizes to the value of 10/6, the gift of **Mr. M. Holden**, and boxes of chocolates, gift of Miss. L. Bloom were won by..... The following appeared in fancy dress..... **M. Holden** "Golden Butterfly".....

JUNE 27 1929 - Page 5 (N)

On Thursday last a Radio Dance was held in the public hall. The evening was organised by Mr. G. Baker, head teacher of the Thorpdale state school, who is working hard for the establishment of a swimming pool in the school grounds, and the proceeds of the entertainment were for this purpose. Several local residents lent their wireless sets, and a thoroughly enjoyable night was spent by those present.

JULY 1 1929 - Page 2

Potato digging is now general in the Thorpdale districts. Last Melbourne report quotes from £10/10/- to £11/10/- per ton.

JULY 4 1929 - Page 3 (N)

Report of Gala Night, C. of E. Sunday School Concert, held at Thorpdale on Saturday June 29..... The children were assisted by adult entertainers..... The overture was a trio for three violins - Mrs. Moncur, Mr. G. Baker and **Mr. T. Holden**, Miss Shackleton at the piano and Mr. T. Holden (I think this should have read Mr. T. Perriman) the drums.....

AUGUST 26 1929 - Page 4

Report of concert organised by Mr. G. Baker.....The concert was a success and the swimming pool funds will benefit to the extent of several pounds. The following artists contributed towards the program - Orchestral selection, Mrs. Moncur (violin), Miss. E. Shackleton (piano), Mr. C. Moore (cornet), **Mr. T. Holden** (violin), Mr. G. Baker (violin), Mr. W. Bloom (saxophone).....

DECEMBER 9 1929 - Page 2

The bazaar held here on Saturday, November 30th, proved very successful, and when everything is finalised, it is expected that the profits made will exceed £60. The proceeds go to the proposed swimming pool funds. The stalls were artistically decorated and the attendants experienced a busy

time during both afternoon and night sessions. The various stalls and their attendants were.....
Soft Drinks & Ice Cream - **Mrs. Holden** and Miss Ella Shackleton.....

*****FEBRUARY 17 1930 - Page 5**

No ill effects are apparently being felt by **Mr. M. Holden**, who had a peculiar experience a week or two ago. A knock on his hand severed an artery, and all efforts to stop it bleeding failed. He was hastened to Dr. Swain, who speedily effected the necessary stoppage. **Mr. Holden** had in the meantime lost a considerable quantity of blood. Although considerably weakened, he soon recovered and is now in his usual good health and spirits. Had the incident occurred on a Friday it would have saved the trip to Trafalgar, for the able medico visits Thorpdale on Fridays and has built up a solid practice.

JUNE 16 1930 - Page 11

Report of a R.S.S.I.L.A social dance..... Waltzing competition won by Mr. J. Knipe and Mrs. Bateson with Mr. T. Perriman and **Mrs. Holden** securing second honours.
N.B. During 1929/1930 a series of 'News' articles were published headed "How To Overcome Defects In Wireless Sets".

JUNE 19 1930 - Page 5 (N)

**LADIES HAVE NIGHT OUT RECEIVED HOMAGE FROM MEN
GRAND THORPDALE FUNCTION**

Report re Ladies' work for Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' League..... A waltzing competition created great interest. A very close contest was between Mr. J. Knipe and Mrs. Bateson, Mr. T. Perriman and **Mrs. T. Holden**, Mr. J. Patterson and Mrs. Stockdale, Mr. N. Gunn and Miss Shackleton and a couple of others. The judges had an extremely difficult task, but finally announced the winners as Mr. J. Knipe and Mrs. Bateson first and Mr. T. Perriman and **Mrs. T. Holden** a close second.

AUGUST 4 1930 - Page 1

Friday is always the busy day at Thorpdale, but the crowds seem to swell larger every day. Cars and horse vehicles cram each side of the road and crowds throng the footpath. The new settlement out Childers way has proved a great fillip to Thorpdale business people.

OCTOBER 20 1930 - Page 12

Thorpdale, Monday - A daily bus service to the city commenced here this morning, and will continue daily. Mr. Willis Bloom is in charge of the project, and handles the wheel of the comfortable car. The fare to the city is 1 pound.

OCTOBER 27 1930 - Page 10

Taxi Service. The daily taxi service from Thorpdale to Melbourne instituted by Mr. Willis Bloom is now definitely established. The fare from Thorpdale to Melbourne is 12/6, not 1 pound as previously stated. The fare from Trafalgar is 10/-.

NOVEMBER 13 1930 - Page 5 (N)

Report headed "The Children Danced - A Happy Throng - Thorpdale Hall Packed" re Children's Fancy Dress Ball..... Others who donated special prizes were.....**Mr. T. Holden**....

JANUARY 12 1931 - Page 9

The postponed Boxing Day Sports meeting at Thorpdale was held on Saturday, the 3rd inst., the weather conditions on this occasion being almost perfect. The sports loving public turned out for the occasion, and were rewarded by witnessing excellent sport. Log chopping and trotting events proved close and interesting finishes in nearly all cases, these comprising the main attractions. Various side shows, refreshment and licensed booths all had their busy periods, and all were satisfied at the close of the day. (Trotting events included District Handicap Trot, Flying Handicap

Trot, Open Handicap Trot. Chopping events - Underhand Chop and Standing Block. Other events - Bicycle Race, High Jump, Vaulting Pole, Bowling at Wicket and Sack Race.)

*****FEBRUARY 2 1931 - Page 2**

Marie, the young daughter of **Mr. & Mrs. T. Holden**, is making splendid progress from the result of her severe scalding by hot water. The burns were particularly severe, and it will be a week or two yet before she can leave the "Mavista" private hospital. **Mrs. T. Holden** also spent some time in the hospital with a poisoned hand. She recovered sufficiently to return home the other day.

*****FEBRUARY 9 1931 - Page 2**

Little **Miss. Marie Holden** who was the victim of a scalding accident is still an inmate of the hospital. The little sufferer is making good progress, but has been through a very trying time.

*****MARCH 9 1931 - Page 2**

Little **Marie Holden**, of Thorpdale who was terribly scalded some six weeks ago, is now out of danger and slowly improving. No hope was at first entertained for the patient's recovery, but the tireless attention of Dr. Swain and his nursing staff won through.

MARCH 23 1931 - Page 2

The annual meeting in connection with the State School Committee was held here on Monday last, the 16th inst., the attendance being easily the largest seen at a meeting of this kind. There were 14 nominations for seats on the committee, the election resulting as follows - Mr. F. Morris (Chairman), Mr. G. Savige (Secretary), Mrs. W. Moncur, Mrs. R. Stockdale, Mrs. A. Bennie, Mr. H. Powell, Mr. J. Tattersson. The meeting was preceded by a working bee in the schoolgrounds, and the attendance was very gratifying. The horse paddock was cleaned of bracken and blackberries, while there was also a catch of six rabbits (much to the delight of the boys), and one four ft. copperhead snake. A saddle house was provided to give cover for the saddles used by the many children riding to school. Arrangements are also in hand to provide the school with firewood for the year. The Head Teacher (Mr. Baker), expressed thanks to the retiring committee for their co-operation and valuable assistance during their three years in office, and also to all those who interested themselves in school matters, and likewise those who were present at the working bee and parents' meeting.

MAY 11 1931 - Page 11

A "Ladies Night" in connection with the local branch of the R.S.L. was held here on Friday night. The popularity of this event was evidenced by the large attendance, the hall being packed to its utmost limit. All present spent a most enjoyable night, the occasion being one of the many bright entertainments for which the district is noted. Excellent music was provided by Mrs. Ingleton and Miss. O. Morris (piano), Mr. F. Siddle (cornet), and Master R. Siddle (violin).....Honors for the circular waltz competition went to Mr. W. Kirkham and **Mrs. Holden**. A song by Mrs. Ingleton was a very popular item, while proceedings were further enlivened by community singing. A very happy assemblage broke up at a late hour, carrying away memories of a most delightful evening.

JUNE 18 1931 - Page 4 (N)

THORPDALE AND DISTRICT MAIL SERVICE WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

That Thorpdale has some "live-wire" citizens who are at all times ready to work for the rights of the people and the progress of the district, is proved by an endeavor to restore the full mail service. The withdrawal of the mail service to Thorpdale district was discussed some time ago by the branches of the Country Party in the districts affected.

(Then goes on to quote letter of reply of 30th May 1931 from P.M.G. to Hon. T. Paterson MHR.)

Sir, With reference to your representations in connection with a communication from C.F. Mills. Esq., Thorpdale, urging the restoration of the mail service on Wednesdays to Coalville, Narracan, Thorpdale and Childers, I am to inform you that it is regretted that, in view of the financial stringency, the Department is unable to incur the expenditure involved in the conveyance of mails to and from Thorpdale, either by railway postal motor or by road, to supplement the reduced train

service. If however, the residents are prepared to pay the total cost the Department would arrange for the mails to be forwarded. Yours faithfully, E. Parkinson - for Acting Deputy Director.
Enquiries in the district has elicited that local people would carry the mail at a very cheap rate and this fact will be forwarded on to the Department. It is considered that with public opinion behind it, a request for a better proposition from the Department would be granted

JULY 16 1931 - Page 3 (N)

THE NIGGERS WERE AT THORPDALE GOOD PERFORMANCE TOO

Thorpdale and district people were provided with a rare treat last week, when a large crowd enjoyed a performance par excellent. The Christy Minstrel Troupe visited Thorpdale to help the local hospital auxiliary, a large number of district people being entertained.

From the start of the show, when Harry Stephens was encored for a vocal yearning for his "Old Kentucky Home", until the final chorus, when the troupe solicitously yodelled "How-do-you-doodle-do" to Mr. Mick Holden, mine host of the Traveller's Rest, to Mr. Bill Moncur of the legislature, to Mr. Roy Robertson of C.O.R., and to Mr. Jim Scully who has so much money behind him, the show was a bright and happy one.(Then came a list of concert items and description of dance that followed the concert. Reference to Mr. Jim Scully - he was about a local bank manager. This concert may have been the inspiration for the Thorpdale Nigger Troupe that was formed the following year.)

OCTOBER 15 1931 - Page 3 (N)

WEDNESDAY TRAIN FOR THORPDALE

A LARGE DEPUTATION MR. CLAPP CAPITULATES

Great indignation was expressed in the Thorpdale district when the Wednesday train service was cancelled. Now a promise has been made to restore the service. Mr. Harold Clapp, Commissioner of the State Railways, accompanied by his staff arrived at Thorpdale on last Monday. Mr. W.A. Moncur MLA made a few introductory remarks in regard to what the people wanted and then introduced Mr. C.F. Mills who spoke on behalf of the residents. He made a very earnest appeal for the re-establishment of the Wednesday train during the Summer months. He emphasised the fact that unless this request was granted, people would be compelled to send their cream by road, and if suppliers were forced to send their cream by road on Wednesdays, in all probability they would do likewise on Mondays and Fridays. Mr. Mills also pointed out that Thorpdale and surrounding district was one of the best dairying and progressive parts of Gippsland, and was absolutely deserving of more consideration than the Commissioner had given to date. Mr. Clapp was very much impressed with the request, the prosperous appearance of the district, and the representative gathering, and willingly granted the request and in the very near future the Wednesday train will be again running.

On any great question for the welfare of the district, the Thorpdale people presented a united front which nearly always brings success. The restoration of the train service is a matter for congratulations to all. Good business.

OCTOBER 29 1931 - Page 5 (N)

THORPDALE LIKELY TO HAVE ELABORATE SWIMMING POOL IF UNEMPLOYMENT GRANT IS SECURED

If early action is taken, and an unemployment grant is successfully applied for, the Thorpdale and district unemployed will be given work on a structure that will be an acquisition to the district.....

NOVEMBER 2 1931 - Page 4

A move is afoot at Thorpdale to secure a government grant to provide work for the unemployed by improvements to the local swimming pool. A meeting is to be held soon.

JANUARY 11 1932 - Page 4

Report (2 & ½ full-page columns) on the death and funeral of Rev. Father Daniel Shanahan, parish priest at Trafalgar for 16 years. Bishop of Gippsland gave the eulogy..... "Every section of the community was represented. Leaders and ministers of other churches, district parliamentarians,

councillors, public men and residents from all parts were in the gigantic procession..... The coffin bearers were..... The pall bearers were Messrs. **M. Holden** (Thorpdale).....R. Harkin (Trafalgar)".....

JANUARY 18 1932 - Page 2

The new priest appointed to take charge of the Trafalgar parish is Rev. Father Gavin, who has been assisting at Morwell and Yallourn for the past year.

FEBRUARY 25 1932 - Page 8 (N)

THORPDALE CAR HITS HOTEL

With a loud crash, a car hit the front of the Thorpdale hotel last week.

Mr Jack Smith, contractor, had his car stationed in front of Tatterson's butcher shop, when the hand-brake became disengaged and the car moved off down the road. It quickly gained momentum and on reaching the corner, was heading straight for the hotel - which it made for with a speed of a "5 to 6" closing. **Mr. M. Holden**, proprietor, must have thought that the "Japs" and Chinese had transferred their little difference to Thorpdale - for the car crashed into the building, and hit the front door. **Mr. Holden** was nearby and made an inspection of the matter. Boards on the front wall were broken and a door knocked about. The car received a broken front axle and the front part was damaged.

MARCH 7 1932 - Page 4

Report of Thorpdale's fund raising efforts for the West Gippsland Hospital exceeding quota of \$30. Amount forwarded to the Hospital was £49/16/4 followed by the Receipts & Expenditure Statement "Donation for Waltzing competition per **T. Holden** Esq. Gents Watch, value one guinea, per W.A. Purvis Esq. Lady's Handbag, value one guinea.

***MAY 12 1932 - Page 7 (N)

CHILDREN'S ANNUAL BALL

On Friday evening the annual Children's Ball took place at Thorpdale. Although the attendance and the number in fancy costume was not as large as usual, those who did attend had a thoroughly enjoyable time. From 8 o'clock till 10.30 the children had possession of the floor.

The first prize for girls under six was won by Valerie Stockdale, "Bride", second **Pauline Holden** as "Fan". Girls 6-8 years - Enid Ingleton "Colleen" 1, **Marie Holden** "Colleen" 2.Best couple - Peggy Baldie and **Marie Holden** "Colleens".

MAY 26 1932 - Page 7 (N)

CONCERT SUCCESS THORPDALE EVENT

The Thorpdale hall was filled from end to end with a delighted audience on Tuesday evening last, when a concert de luxe was staged. Overture - Miss Olga Morris. Song "Plumstone" - Gwen Baker, Peggy Belling, Sybil Cobbie, Dulcie Hudson, Joan Rowlings, May Rowlings, **Marie Holden**, Enid Ingleton. Chorus: Winnie Kennedy, Dorothy Morrison, Rose Allen, Cissie Jennings, Joan Stockdale, Phyllis Tatterson..... "The Sergeant-Major on Parade" - Sergt Major: Douglas Stockdale; Company: **Marie Holden**,

SEPTEMBER 26 1932 - Page 5

The town is looking its best just now, a "cleaning up" process being carried out by unemployed labor under the sustenance plan. Pathways have been cleaned up and trimmed, gutters and drains attended to and roads straightened and regraded, while posts have been painted. The town now presents a spic and span appearance, only marred by the lack of paint on some of the old buildings.

OCTOBER 6 1932 - Page 5 (N)

THORPDALE TENNIS CLUB

With a credit of £2 and a large number of enthusiasts joining up, prospects for the Thorpdale Tennis Club are bright. The annual meeting was held on Wednesday 28th Ult., when a large number of people attended. Officers were elected as follows:- President - Mr. E. Mann, Vice-

president - Mr. W. Bennie, Secretary - Mrs. Barty. Mesdames Belling and **Holden** attended on behalf of the children, with a request that the juniors be allowed to play on the court. It was decided to permit juniors to use the court Wednesday and Friday evenings at a membership fee of 1/6.....

OCTOBER 13 1932 - Page 7 (N)

A SOCIAL EVENING AT THORPDALE

A successful euchre party was held at Mr. J. Tatterson's residence to help the Thorpdale hall funds. A bright moonlight night added in making a big crowd, somewhere about 40 card players, whilst others enjoyed a social evening amongst their friends Tea was donated by **Mr. Holden**, sugar by, bread by, **Mr. M. Holden** donated 10/-,

***NOVEMBER 7 1932 - Page 2

THORPDALE'S GALA NIGHT (2 & ½ full-page columns)

A night of nights in the annals of Thorpdale concert goes took place on Friday night, when citizens packed the large new hall to its utmost capacity to witness a gala performance presented by Mrs. Moncur's talented young people and Thorpdale's own Nigger Minstrels, who have been in hard and earnest training for the past three months. Their debut on Friday night fully justified the most sanguine expectations of the super-optimists, quelled the fear of the pessimists, and drew a big crowd together in gratified acclamation from the first item to the last. The concert opened with a Cantata "Dames Durden's School"..... After the curtain, the long awaited niggers came on and their performance equalled anything that has been heard in the hall. Their program was so excellently arranged by the directors (Messrs. G. Baker and A. Bennie) from start to finish, there was not a dull second. Old and modern songs and choruses interspersed with the usual and many unusual quips and jokes followed in quick succession. Although the house yelled for encores, they were not allowed - "Charcoal", otherwise Mr. H. Blackshaw, who gave such an intriguing display of jazzing, tambourine shaking and high kicking in his performance of "Dem Golden Slippers" that the crowd simply insisted on a repeat. The opening chorus "Ain't Gonna Rain No Mo'(goes on listing every program item)..... "Pete" (**Tom Holden**) who showed fine stage ability throughout, lent variety to the programme in rendering "Lily of Laguna" with banjo accompaniment...(more items listed)..... At the conclusion, Mr. F. Morris (Chairman) moved a vote of thanks to the artists and all who assisted, which was responded to by Mrs. Moncur and Mr. Baker. An excellent supper was provided by the Ladies Auxiliary. A prize donated by **Mr. Holden** for the boy or girl selling the greatest number of tickets was carried off by Betty Hudson with the sale of 40 to her credit.

NOVEMBER 24 1932 - Page 3 (N)

THORPDALE FOOTBALLERS' BALL

Thorpdale footballers achieved a brilliant social success when their ball was held last week Many beautiful dresses and frocks were worn, and we regret that a list of all could not be procured. Amongst those present were: **Mrs. T. Holden** (black satin),

NOVEMBER 28 1932 - Page 5

MOVING BACKWARDS.

Railway officials visited here on the 16th inst., and much interest is evinced in relation thereto. A report is current that the visit is the forerunner of a movement to deprive Thorpdale and Narracan of their train service, which would necessarily have a far reaching effect. The report has created a feeling of consternation, while indignation is rife and not a few express their feelings in vituperative terms. There is talk of a public meeting being called to discuss the matter when some forcible speaking may be expected.

TALK OF A NEW BUTTER FACTORY

There are persistent rumours that a butter factory will be established here in the very near future. One operated successfully for many years but the milk production was not nearly as great as during the present period. A business firm operating in a number of Gippsland towns is mentioned in connection with the proposed new venture.

DECEMBER 6 1932 - Page 1 (N)

FOR THE HALL FUNCTION AT THORPDALE

A very enjoyable euchre party and dance was held at Mr. Belling's residence on Saturday night. Quite a number played cards A very dainty supper was served, provided by the following ladies:- Mesdames Tatterson,, **Holden**, They are thanked for their special effort.

***DECEMBER 12 1932 - Page 11

THORPDALE SOUTH HAS RECORD NIGHT

The Fancy Dress Ball - organised by the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary - with Mrs. Hooper as president and Mrs. Matthews as secretary, was held here on Friday. A record crowd of children and adults attended, the children having full use of the floor till 10.30 pm when judging commenced. There was a fine array of children in costume, and the judges (Mrs. E. Mann, Mrs. Hooper and Mr. Shoebridge of the West Gippsland Hospital) had a difficult task in awarding the prizes. Their duties, however, were carried out to the satisfaction of all. Seen in fancy dress were the following..... **Marie Holden** (Eat More Fruit), **Pauline Holden** (Colleen),..... Prize Winners: Girls Best Dressed - Under 4 years 1. **Pauline Holden** (Colleen); 2. Wilma Gunn (Frivol). 4-7 years.....7-10 years **Marie Holden** (Eat More Fruit).....Dancing followed until to 2 pm.

DECEMBER 15 1932 - Page 3 (N)

FANCY DRESS AT THORPDALE SOUTH SUCCESSFUL BALL

(Repeat of report in the 'Times')

DECEMBER 19 1932 - Page 9

SUGGESTED CLOSING OF RAILWAY TRAIN SERVICE.

THORPDALE & DISTRICT PROTEST MEETING.

Report of meeting.....

DECEMBER 22 1932 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE TRAINS.....BIG PUBLIC MEETING

(Repeat of report in the 'Times')

THORPDALE SANITARY CONDITIONS

Mention was made of a report by Dr. Swain to the council in regard to sanitary conditions at Thorpdale, which were unsatisfactory. Cr. C.F. Mills said that the subject had been mentioned to him, but he told those who appeared interested, that if they wanted anything to do done, to get people to sign a petition; this they refused to do.

Cr. McGregor said that water and sanitary matters rested with the ratepayers themselves, who should make the first move. Mr. Shanahan: It will cost £3 a year each. The subject was left in the hand of Cr. Mills for a report.

N.B. 'Times' newspaper has increased to 16 pages. For the past few months, the Thorpdale column has been headed "THORPDALE - NEWS & VIEWS - By our Correspondent". The heading was usually spread across two columns, and many more items are reported, each item with a sub-heading. This correspondent, whoever he/she was, was a top-class reporter and had a real flair with words. When/as appropriate, I'll start to include the sub-title. The many more items are published include Meetings of V.C.P., R.S.L., Clubs, Ladies Auxiliaries, Hall & School Committees, euchre parties, dances, tennis tournaments, weekly rainfall reports, farewells, accidents, fires, football, cricket etc.

FEBRUARY 6 1933 - Page 5

The rail-motor controversy is a thing of import to Thorpdale. Divergent queries have led to converging fists, and eminent townsmen have placed their respective probosi (probably incorrect spelling ie. Latin probosci = noses) firmly into the fray. There has been no dreadful carnage in the opening skirmishes, but one never knows, does one.

***MARCH 20 1933 - Page 11

GAY FANCY DRESS BALL. MANY BEAUTIFUL DRESSES AT GREAT THORPDALE BENEFIT. The fancy dress ball organised by the Ladies' Hospital Auxiliary was undoubtedly a great success, and is regarded as the best of its kind yet held here. This was due very largely to the efforts of Mrs. Barty in training the children and thorough organisation, and also to Mrs. Moncur for lending so many fancy dresses, supported by the efforts of the whole auxiliary. Some of the fancy dress costumes are appended, but there were many others.....(then follows list of surnames alphabetically).....**Marie Holden** - Fairy, **Pauline Holden** - Baby's Rattle..... All the children under 6 received a special gift through the generosity of Mrs. Rhoden.....(then goes on to list prizewinners).....

APRIL 3 1933 - Page 14

FAREWELL SOCIAL FOR MISS JEAN RHODEN.

All Thorpdale turned out on Saturday evening last, the occasion being a farewell social and presentation to Miss. J.R. Rhoden who is to be married shortly and will be residing in the Patchewollock district. (Many speakers reported upon **Mr. T. Holden** added his tribute to those of the previous speakers and spoke in glowing terms of the very real assistance he had received from Miss. Rhoden. He was glad to have had the opportunity of publicly thanking Miss. Rhoden for the help she has given in freely and willingly supplying music for dances, when he was actively connected with hall and football club matters. He wished her the best of health, wealth and happiness in her future life. Mr. D.A. Rhoden in responding, thanked the speakers.....

APRIL 6 1933 - Page 6 (N)

FAREWELL SOCIAL

One of the largest attendances ever seen at Thorpdale public hall was present on Saturday evening 28th Ult., the occasion being a complimentary social to Miss Jean Rhoden prior to her departure from the district to be married.

The hall looked beautiful from every aspect, the stage being set out in drawing room fashion with furniture and carpets kindly lent by friends, and the flowers arranged in a most artistic and graceful blending. The main hall with its beautiful floor was the scene of splendor. There were musical items, interspersed with dancing, and close on 200 friends of Miss. Rhoden and family enjoyed themselves to the full. On arrival of the guest of honor, the applause was whole-hearted, as two tiny tots (**Misses. Marie and Pauline Holden**) presented her with a beautiful posy of shell pink flowers and several personal friends of the family escorted her to her seat. The most pleasant event of the evening took place during the programme, when the Chairman paid a warm tribute to the respect and esteem in which Miss. Rhoden was held by all who knew her, and asked her to accept on behalf of all friends present a handsome gift of a case of cutlery..... Mr. Moncur's remarks were ably supported by Mr. G. Baker and **Mr. T. Holden**.....

***APRIL 24 1933 - Page 8

PACKED HOUSE GREET'S REAPPEARANCE OF THORPDALE'S OWN MINSTREL TROUPE

Who said there was a depression? There was certainly no sign of it at Thorpdale on Easter Monday night when the Minstrels made a welcome reappearance. The house was packed to capacity, every available seat was full and much of the standing room taken up. Takings amounted to just on £29, and as expenses were very light, hall funds will benefit to the extent of some £26 or £27 - a worthy effort and a deserving tribute to the efforts of all those young men (and middle-aged, some of them).

From start to finish the house was kept in a simmer of merriment and forgotten were the farm and cow yard cares and worries. What if butter fat is only 8½d. a lb., jokes were plentiful and nearly all local, and one never knew whom the next joke was to be on, which all added to the interest and enjoyment.

And the topical choruses! It was evident that in the persons of Messrs. **T.Holden** and D.McLeod, the troupe possesses poets of no mean order. Victims and others joined the merriment caused by the many excellent rhymes. The singing too, was of good standard, though results achieved in one

or two instances were disappointing to the minstrels themselves. However, these things will occur and with a little more stage experience, these defects will be overcome. Altogether a most enjoyable and entertaining program was presented and the whole troupe is to be complimented upon the excellence of its work. The program was as follows..... Opening chorus....(Then lists each item)..... Oh Susannah-Rastus (**T. Holden** and his banjo)..... Finale - Goodnight Thorpdale - The Company. Before the conclusion of the program Mr. Morris, chairman of the hall committee, moved a hearty vote of thanks to the minstrels, to the accompanists..... Mr. Baker responded..... Stage decorations were the work of Mrs. Bennie.....

After the concert the floor was cleared and one of the biggest crowds we have seen here for some time, took to the floor to excellent music provided by Mrs. Mann (piano), Mrs. Ingleton (violin) and Mr. G. Baker (piano) with Mr. J. Knipe as M.C.

APRIL 27 1933 - Page 4 (N)

THORPDALE MINSTRELS (Repeat of the 'Times')

MAY 25 1933 - Page 2 (N) - Personal

Mr. Holden, of Melbourne, is on a visit to Thorpdale.

Mrs. T. Holden has been visiting Melbourne.

MAY 29 1933 - Page 5

The rabbit industry seems to be the last to feel the effects of old man Depression. The local buyer is again operating, but though prices are meagre in comparison with more prosperous days, the hillside and township bunny is getting a great stir up. Ghostly lights are now seen at night time floating across the paddocks, disappearing and reappearing according to the formation of the country. The industry has extended to school boys who are proving enthusiastic and adept trappers.

JUNE 5 1933 - Page 15

The football ground is at last to have a fence, but at present only half of it. It will not be long, however, before the job is completed and players and umpires will not be annoyed by enthusiasts and children crowding the playing field. Expenses are being shared by the football club and the Recreation Ground Committee, while a working bee organised by the ground committee was responsible for the erection of the fence.

JUNE 19 1933 - Page 8

Another of their successful dances was held on Saturday night last when the Hall Committee, following the example of the ladies, held a Saturday night 'bob pop', with supper free. On this occasion the ladies were given a night off, the men folk attending to all supper details. Old and modern dances with vocal items kept the crowd in a merry mood. Songs were sung by Messrs. H. Blackshaw, J. Gordon, D. McLeod and G. Baker, and were well received. Mr. J. Knipe acted as M.C. in his usual capable manner while excellent dance music was provided by Mr. G. Baker (piano) and **Mr. T. Holden** (banjo), these gentlemen giving their services free of charge. (N.B. 'bob pop' probably means a dance and concert. 'bob' is a type of Scottish dance, while 'pop' is an abbreviation of 'popular concert'.)

JUNE 26 1933 - Page 4

It is rumoured here that a hiking club has been formed.....

JULY 24 1933 - Page 11

MINSTRELS IN NEW ROLE

Where have the minstrels gone? This question has, for sometime, been on the lips of patrons who enjoyed their entertainments. So all will be glad to learn that they have gathered again and are to stage a novel and interesting entertainment early in October. This is not promised as a minstrel concert, but something quite out of the ordinary of which further mention will presently be made.

AUGUST 3 1933 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE LADIES
TO HELP FOOTBALL CLUB

A well attended meeting of the lady supporters to Thorpdale football club was held on Wednesday of last week. The ladies have decided to hold a big novelty night on the 23rd of August. Office bearers were elected as follows:- President Mrs. Sterling, Joint Secretaries, Mrs. F. Gunn and Miss. O. Morris, Committee Mesdames Moncur, Bennie, **Holden**, Giblett, Tatterson, Savage, Bennett, **T. Holden**, Villiers, Belling and Rhoden.

AUGUST 3 1933 - Page 2 (N) - Personal Column
Mr. E. Holden of **Melbourne**, has been visiting Thorpdale.

AUGUST 28 1933 - Page 6
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Parents interested in retaining the staff at present at the local school would be well advised to see that their children attend school regularly. Under Departmental regulations an average attendance of 86 is necessary to retain a staff of Head Teacher, Assistant and 2 Junior Teachers, the staff at present at the school. Owing to removals from the district, the net enrolment at the school is now 92, the lowest for some years, and regular attendance of all pupils is essential in order to ensure the necessary average. A teacher once lost is not so easily regained. Parents, it's up to you!

SEPTEMBER 4 1933 - Page 10
PUBLIC MEETING

Convened by Cr. Mills on the advice of and after consultation with Health Officer (Dr. Swain) a meeting of townfolk was held here on Thursday night to discuss the advisability of improving the sanitation methods of the town. (Then follows a long report of the meeting including the disposal of night soil)... The question of securing a tip for disposal of rubbish was then discussed..... Thus ended what was, in the opinion of the writer, one of the best meetings held in Thorpdale from a business point of view. Not large in numbers, but productive of much free discussion and constructive criticism.

SEPTEMBER 7 1933 - Page 1 (N)
THORPDALE SANITARY SERVICE

A move has been made to improve sanitary conditions in the town of Thorpdale.

OCTOBER 9 1933 - Page 13
RAIN RECORDS

Most folk here are agreed that the season is an abnormal one but not all are quite sure as to how the year has differed to others, so to enable inquirers to answer their own queries. The following table is appended:- (The published table set out month by month rainfall records for the 9 months January to September inclusive for the prior six years. Below is listed only the total for the 9 months of each year.)

Year (9 months)	<u>1928</u>	<u>1929</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>
Total <i>points</i>	3305	2976	2370	3339	3207	2391

NOVEMBER 6 1933 - Page 15
TOWN LIGHTING

Thorpdale will probably soon have its own electric light system. Mr. W. Bloom, our energetic and progressive garagee, has the matter in hand and contemplates installing a plant powerful enough to supply the lighting needs of the town.

NOVEMBER 16 1933 - Page 2 (N) - Personal
Mr. T. Holden of Thorpdale, is visiting the metropolis.

NOVEMBER 16 1933 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE BALL AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS (Repeat of the 'Times')

A pronounced social and financial success, was the general opinion of the ball held at Thorpdale on Monday night last..... For a waltzing competition, two nice cups were awarded, the winners being Mr. F. May and **Mrs. T. Holden**..... Some frocks noticed were:- **Mrs. T. Holden**, Thorpdale - Black velvet trimmed with red lace,

DECEMBER 4 1933 - Page 4

ELECTRIC LIGHTING

The installation of the electric light in the town has advanced a stage further. Mr. W. Bloom now has the plant in hand and it will be in full working order at an early date.

BALL SUCCESS

The famous floor was in perfect condition and music supplied by Hunter's Orchestra was all that could be desired. Mr. J. Knipe carried out his duties as M.C. in such a capable manner that there were no dull moments, while the dresses on this occasion were particularly alluring. The hall was beautifully decorated.....

Four silver cups were awarded during the evening, two for the waltzing contest which was won by Mr. F. May and **Mrs. T. Holden**. For the fox trot competition, Mr. E. Brock and Mrs. Hunter carried off the trophies. There was a record number of entries for both competitions. Hunter Bros. of Traralgon, were the judges. An excellent supper was provided.....

N.B. Re July 24 1933 'Times' report on proposed Minstrel Show in October. I double checked the October editions of the paper in case I had missed it. Not there, nor could I find it up to end of the 1933 year.

*****JANUARY 11 1934 - Page 1 (N)**

THE BEST BABIES AT THORPDALE SOUTH

The Auxiliary to West Gippsland Hospital held a successful baby show at Thorpdale South last month, the judges, Dr. Swain and Matron Duffy awarding prizes as follows - One to six months Heather Matthews 1, Norma Gunn 2. 6-12 months - 12-18 months **Carmel Holden**

JANUARY 22 1934 - Page 3

ELECTRIC LIGHT - THE RAGE AT THORPDALE

AN ALARM CLOCK SWITCHES OFF THE TOWN SERVICE!

Mr. W. Bloom's electric light system is in full satisfaction. With his usual inventive genius, Mr. Bloom has made use of an ordinary alarm clock to turn the street lights off at midnight and since it has been in operation the scheme has not failed. Electric irons are not too popular with this gentleman, and this dislike is not alone connected with the amount of current drawn from the storage batteries. However, that's another story. The Hall Committee are considering installing the light and to assist in finance the Y.C.P. has arranged a ball to be held shortly.

N.B. Obviously this Thorpdale 'Times' correspondent had a unique sense of humor, using subtle wording to turn a remark into a private joke for Thorpdale readers. See also February 5 & 12!!

Page 14 **RAINFALL** Records show that last year was the driest for at least 15 years(report then gives monthly figures for last 3 years.) Yearly totals were:- 1931 - 3948 points, 1932 - 4418 points, 1933 - 3235 points.

N.B. Have included this rainfall report as an addendum to the one reported October 9 1933, as I have no idea what the annual average rainfall for Thorpdale is. Only know that it rains a lot!

JANUARY 26 1934 - Page 2 (N)

THORPDALE'S LIGHT (Repeat of the 'Times')

*****FEBRUARY 5 1934 - Page 13**

PRECOCIOUS INFANT

One often hears of infants cutting their teeth at almost unheard of ages but it is a very rare occurrence that an infant of 12 or 15 months has a complete set of teeth. **Baby Holden** last week got a complete set, but your record holder has no occasion to worry, for it was discovered that they belonged to his (obviously an editing error) mother, and that may be the reason why she was unable to smile on Wednesday night.

FEBRUARY 12 1934 - Page 5

VERANDAH COLLAPSES AT THORPDALE

A little mild sensation was created at Thorpdale on Friday afternoon by the collapse of a big verandah opposite Mr. Albert Rodda's. Fortunately no one was hurt although there were many people about at the time and children returning home from school passed under it a few minutes earlier. A horse tied to one of the posts did not move and gazed at the wreckage as if it were an every day occurrence. The length of verandah collapsing is about 60 feet and fronted the main street. It is owned by Mr. Budge, of Narracan, and was attached to a storeroom used by the Purvis Stores. Some of Thorpdale's verandahs have done excellent service through the years, but unlike the babbling brook could not be expected to carry on forever.

FEBRUARY 19 1934 - Page 11

Mrs. T. Holden and family have returned to Thorpdale after spending a holiday in the city.

N.B. About here, the 'Times' Thorpdale column has a change of name from 'Thorpdale News & Views' to 'Thorpy Doings' alternating with 'Thorpy Budget', and no longer do all items have a sub-title. Judging by the following extracts, the former humorous correspondent may have been replaced?

MARCH 19 1934 - Page 11

FAREWELL SOCIAL

Mr. and Mrs. A. Bennie were entertained by district folk generally on Friday night. The guests were received at the door by Mesdames Roach and Rhoden, while little **Marie Holden** presented Mrs. Bennie with a beautiful posy of flowers. Old time and modern dancing interspersed with musical items was the main order of the evening.....(listing of program)..... The Minstrels next provided a bit of fun farewelling Mr. Bennie in song and joke, and making him a little presentation. Then followed a banjo duet by Miss. Shirley Giblett and **Mr. Tom Holden**, who repeated their success of Boxing Night and were not allowed to depart without a second item..... (I re-read January newspaper but found no report on a Boxing Night event.)

APRIL 12 1934 - Page 3 (N) - Personal

Mr. Holden Snr., has returned from visiting relatives in Castlemaine. He returned by car with **Mr. & Mrs. T. Holden**.

APRIL 16 1934 - Page 4

PING PONG

The formation of this club has advanced a stage

APRIL 23 1934 - Page 8

ELECTRIC LIGHTING IN PUBLIC HALL

An offer has been made by the Thorpdale South hall committee for the present Thorpdale hall lighting plant. If this offer is accepted, and it is believed it will be, there will remain no obstacle for the installation of the electric light, power supplied by Mr. W. Bloom's plant. It is expected that the matter will receive immediate attention.

JUNE 11 1934 - Page 7

By the death during the week of Mr. George Brock, aged about 80 years, Thorpdale lost another of its old timers. Neighbors noticed that Mr. Brock was fast failing and as he was discovered on several occasions in a state of collapse on the floor of his hut, he was persuaded to enter the Warragul hospital, where he died a day or so after being admitted. In the days when Thorpdale was a town, Mr. and Mrs. Brock who died some years ago, were the owners of the coffee palace then in existence. Since those days the town has gradually slipped and there now remains only the remnants of its former glories.

N.B. Was this then, the start of the slide backwards for the town? Effects of the depression and/or the increased ownership of motor vehicles?

JULY 2 1934 - Page 14 (Complete full-page report of farewell to Mr. George Baker and his wife.)
THORPDALE LOSES CITIZEN DEPARTURE OF MR. GEORGE BAKER
MONSTER FAREWELL TO PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZEN

(I couldn't possibly sit and handwrite all the tributes written about George Baker, who is referred to 'as a great townsman, leader and had been a mainstay of the town'. The report goes on and on with glowing references to Mr. Baker being on so many committees. His list of interests was inspirational ie. football, cricket, concerts, dances, Minstrel Troupe, tennis; his musical talents - he sang and played the piano and violin; he kept the town's rainfall records; he ran sick people to hospital in his car. More importantly, the school children loved him; he dried the kid's clothes after their long ride to school on horseback in the wet weather - there would have been plenty of that; he ran children home in his car after they had seen the school dentist. I can well remember that annual suffering!)..... 'The chairman apologised for the absence of Hon. Martin McGregor (ill), Mrs. T. Holden and Miss Olga Morris. A number of strange, pale faced niggers then sidled on to the platform. They told a few jokes' (In his response, Mr. Baker paid a fantastic compliment to his wife who apparently was very quiet and shy person. Referring to his wife, he used the quotation - 'Man does not stand unto himself alone' A further half column on page 3 concluded the report.)

N.B. I can just remember George Baker (I was born in 1929 and started school at 4), and well remember hearing words of high praise about him from my parents and others, for years after. I read fully this published report on George Baker's communal activities and the concern he showed for his pupils. Now, note the contrast between George Baker and his replacement, Peake, as quoted in the following extract. Even today, I can't bring myself to give Peake the title of 'Mr'. I remember him too well as he was the head teacher of No.2966 until 1939, the year that the Holdens left Thorpdale. He was a b.....

AUGUST 9 1934 - Page 2 (N) - Personal

Mrs. Holden of Melbourne is visiting here at present.

SEPTEMBER 20 1934 - Page 7 (N) - Thorpdale Notes

Mrs. Holden Snr., visited the city during the week.

SEPTEMBER 24 1934 - Page 15

A meeting of the School Committee was held during the week, at which members met and welcomed the new head teacher, Mr. Peake. The committee was invited to inspect the shelter sheds which were found to be in a shocking state of disrepair, also the general school surroundings. A working bee is to be called and an attempt made to raise sufficient funds to effect improvements. Mr. Peake also expressed the hope that funds would be available for the purchase of a new school flag. For the present, the old one has been unearthed and is doing duty in a very tattered condition.

N.B. This extract well describes Peake - obsessed with his own importance, and inanimate objects taking precedence over humanity.

OCTOBER 18 1934 - Page 7 (N)

AT THORPDALE SUCCESSFUL BALL

A most satisfactory profit resulted from the Centenary ball held at Thorpdale last week..... The hall was tastefully decorated, among those who assisted in this work being Mesdames Rhoden, Manning, T. **Holden**, Barty, A nice tasty supper was provided, those who helped with this including Mesdames Rhoden, Wells, **Holden**,

OCTOBER 29 1934

MONEY IN POTATOES HIGH PRICES TEMPT GROWERS TO SELL SEED POTATOES.

The sudden turn of the potato market during the month has induced many farmers to dispose of potatoes which were originally meant for seed purposes. Less than a month ago, the top price for tubers was about £6 a ton..... There was a rush to sell. Since then, however, the market has appreciated considerably and agents have toured the districts in search of supplies. At £14 a ton some growers refused to sell, anticipating still higher prices..... Prices are now steadily declining.....

DECEMBER 3 1934 - Page after page of huge headlines about Central Gippsland Flood

WORST FLOOD IN DISTRICT HISTORY DELUGED IN DOWNPOUR DEVASTATING DAMAGE

..... Roads leading to Thorpdale..... where a wooden bridge failed to stand the strain.... and Willowgrove where the road looked like Bass Strait..... Telephone and telegraph services to Melbourne were cut off. There were therefore no mail, no newspapers, no telephone, no trains, no cars and no passenger or goods services of any description..... Land slips have occurred on the Moe-Thorpdale railway line and several bridges have been so badly damaged as to be unsafe.....

DECEMBER 6 1934 - Page 1 (N)

CENTRAL GIPPSLAND'S MOST APPALLING FLOOD (Repeat of the 'Times')

N.B. Paper is now called the Trafalgar, Yarragon & Yallourn News.

DECEMBER 24 1934 - Page 9 (Two full-page columns)

BIG SOCIAL EVENT SUCCEEDS FIRST ANNUAL BALL AT THORPDALE

One of the biggest events in the whirlpool of Thorpdale social life was the first Catholic Ball on Monday night. The ball was held solely for the purpose of entertainment, with mundane matters such as money a secondary consideration. The principal idea of the organisers was to institute a social function that would live in the memory of dancers and mark the annual ball as an outstanding event. In this they fully succeeded. Of course, a nice profit was made as well and this, like all small contributions - as the dustman said on Xmas eve - was gratefully received..... (Followed by description of orchestra, hall decorations, the floor and the supper that followed.) Many people behind the scenes lent willing assistance, and the committee with Rev. J. Gavan as president, were pleased to see that their efforts had turned out so successfully. The principals were Messrs. Fred Kelly and **Tom Holden**, who worked for weeks beforehand to have everything just right as it turned out to be, too. The committee were particularly impressed with the magnificent assistance rendered by non-members of the faith, and they express full appreciation of the help so cheerfully rendered. It shows an excellent spirit in the district.

The frocking was one of the features of a colorful ball and appended are descriptions of the dressing. (Then follows a list of about 50 ladies, stating their name and a description of their evening gown)Mrs **T. Holden**, black velvet trimmed with silver lame and black lace

JANUARY 7 1935 - Page 5

Instead of the usual picnic sports, the Thorpdale State School held an impromptu concert for their break-up on December 19th..... (Listing follows of items performed by children) (1).....(2)..... (3) Song, 'Dream Boat' **Marie Holden** and Marjorie Taylor.....(10) Song, 'The Crow's Story' Marita Ingleton, **Marie Holden** and Marjorie Taylor.

JANUARY 14 1935 - Page 6

Mrs. Holden Snr. is away on holidays at Inverloch taking with her **Marie** and **Pauline**.

FEBRUARY 4 1935 - Page 5

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY CONCERT

On Monday night last, a Grand Concert in aid of the West Gippsland Hospital was presented in the local hall. Sponsored by the Hospital Auxiliary and excellently produced by Mrs. Moncur, it attracted a large audience which fully appreciated the variety of the entertainment and the versatility of the large company of local artists. Every item went off with a precision and swing which spoke volumes for the untiring zeal and steady rehearsal of both producer and performers. The gay costumes of gypsies, jesters and soldiers gave quite a musical comedy effect, while serious and humorous items were judiciously interspersed. The program was as follows:- 1..... 2..... 7. Dialogue 'Entertaining Sister's Boy Friend' - Enid Ingleton, Marita Ingleton, **Marie Holden** and Peter Moncur... 8..... At the conclusion of the spectacular grand finale, which included no less than forty performers, a bouquet was presented to Mrs. Moncur and boxes of chocolates to the musicians - Miss. O. Morris, Miss M. Savige..... Supper was then served by the ladies of the Auxiliary and an enjoyable dance followed.

***MARCH 14 1935 - Page 7 (N)

THORPDALE'S INITIATIVE EXAMPLE TO TRAFALGAR A SWIMMING POOL

The little township of Thorpdale is fortunate in possessing citizens with progressive ideas. When a movement at Thorpdale is mooted, the people carry on till it is completed. They certainly show Trafalgar a lead in regard to a swimming pool. At the latter town, this has been talked of for years. A public meeting was held at Thorpdale on Tuesday night in connection with a swimming pool. A large and enthusiastic crowd attended. It was decided to go right ahead with the idea. A place will be selected right near the town, and the services of Mr. Ross, engineer, will be obtained.

A good start has been made for the new committee, as £125 is already in hand. Another £100 will be needed. Mr. F.W. Morris, who retired as president, was warmly congratulated on his splendid services. Officers elected were:- President Cr. C.F. Mills, Secretary Mr. W.F. Kelly, Treasurer Mr. G.K. Savige, Committee Messrs. Peake, E. Calvert, T. Savige Jr., G.R. Savige, **T. Holden**.

It is hoped that next summer the pool will be in full use. Swimming carnivals will be held, and the proceeds from these will go towards beautifying a little park around the pool.

MARCH 18 1935 - Page 9

Away back in the dim past - 1929, to be exact - some progressive members of the community decided that the young folk and school children of the district should have a swimming pool and learn to swim. The idea was a popular one, and in a very short time over £100 was raised for the project. Then clouds of dissension arose on the bright horizon of swimming pool affairs and the vexed question of a suitable site for the pool arose. Was it to be inside the school fence, or outside the school fence?

One body of reputable citizens said 'inside the fence'. Another equally reputable body, which included many of Thorpdale's Bright Young Things of that past era, said most decidedly - 'outside the fence'. No one dared to call the numbers and the project was let stand in abeyance until a new generation has arisen which doesn't care where the pool is as long as they get a swim, and at a well attended meeting held last week, a committee was elected with Mr. Mills president, Mr. Kelly secretary, to proceed with the construction of the pool, and at the request of Mr. Peake, head teacher of the Thorpdale State School, it will be outside the school fence.

*****Marie Holden** is at present an inmate of the Eye and Ear hospital, having sustained a very serious injury to her eye. Her parents have spent a very anxious time as it was feared that the sight of the injured eye would be lost, but later reports have been more reassuring.

APRIL 4 1935 - Page 4 (N)

THORPDALE DOINGS

Despite the landslips etc., Thorpdale is still on the map, and the weather has been beautiful.....

Miss. Marie Holden spent some weeks in the Eye and Ear hospital and is now doing well.

MAY 2 1935 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE TRANSPORT INDICATION OF RAILWAY CLOSING (Repeat of "Times")
..... **Mr. T. Holden** said he supported Cr. Mills. It seemed that the mind of the (Transport) Board was made up before hearing evidence.

MAY 6 1935 - Page 4

THORPDALE RAIL SERVICE

(A lengthy report of a meeting about the impending closure of the train service..... This report includes figures quoted by Mr. Phillips, Chairman of the Transport Board, stating that the line was running at a loss, the annual running costs and interest were £7000, the line had cost £118,000 to build and now £10,000 was immediately required for line repairs..... Outward consignments of farm produce now amounted to only 200 tons yearly, so it was obvious that the majority of farmers favoured road transport..... Statement by others included..... 'Transference of the whole of the transport to the road, it is estimated, would mean at least £1000 yearly extra in maintenance costs on the Trafalgar-Thorpdale road and mean an additional burden to the shire'.)

MAY 13 1935 - Page 9

THORPDALE WANT TO KEEP RAILWAY LINE

BIG MEETING DECIDES TO FIGHT AGAINST DISCONTINUATION.

DEPUTATION TO INTERVIEW THE RAILWAYS COMMISSIONERS.

(Another near full-page report of meeting chaired by Cr. Mills, states that at last week's meeting, the figures quoted by Mr. Phillips were incorrect..... Statements by many locals giving their opinions, some for the closure (Mrs. Rodda), and some against.) **Mr. Holden** said he felt very strongly in favor of a deputation going to Melbourne. Without the line it would be a great hardship to the farmer and business people. Once they take the transport away, people will get into the habit of going to the nearest railway head - it would mean a drop of 50 percent in business turnover..... A vote of thanks to the chairman moved by Messrs. **Holden** and Penn was carried.

JUNE 3 1935 - Page 14

A ball organised by Mr. Joe Redmond in aid of hall funds proved most enjoyable even if the attendance was not all that could be desired from a monetary point of view. After being taken in hand by the Ladies Auxiliary, which organised a working bee for scrubbing and cleaning, the floor is once again assuming its old brilliance. Mr. Tony Rhoden and Mesdames Moncur and **Holden** were appointed judges for the competition. Prizes being awarded to

Thorpdale functions are becoming famous for the excellence of their suppers, credit being due to Mr. Stoneman, our local baker, who spares neither time, trouble nor ingredients in the variety of goods supplied, the Ladies Auxiliary, and Mr. Villiers, whose coffee always speaks for itself.

JUNE 6 1935 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE BALL HALL FUNDS BENEFIT

Organised by the Thorpdale ball committee, a ball on Wednesday night proved successful and enjoyable. Prior to the ball there was a working bee. The floor was scrubbed and polished and the result was most satisfactory..... Some of the frocks worn by the ladies included:-
Mrs. Holden, black velvet,

JULY 11 1935 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE DOINGS LADIES AUXILIARY

The annual meeting of the Thorpdale Ladies Auxiliary to the West Gippsland hospital was held on Friday, June 28, when there was a large attendance of members. The following officers were elected for the ensuing years:- President Mrs. C. Bloom, Vice-president Mrs. Smith, Secretary Mrs. McLeod, and Mrs. Belling and **Mrs. T. Holden** extra for a committee.

JULY 29 1935 - Page 12

(Report of Tennis Ball held on prior Wednesday night)..... 'Door crashers' and 'supper snatchers' had a trying time waiting in the rain to avoid the vigilant eyes of the doorkeepers (Mr. G. Savige and Mr. A. Barty). The little coterie, the members of which are unfortunately mostly locals, and which likes to enjoy its amusement at other peoples expense, is becoming too well known for it s own comfort.....

SEPTEMBER 23 1935 - Page 11

Organised by the Thorpdale Mothers' Club, a very pleasing function took place on Friday night, the occasion being a farewell evening tendered to Miss. H. Green, the infant mistress of the Thorpdale State School, who has been transferred to the relieving department..... A high class program of musical items was submitted by Mesdames Willis, Moncur and Ingleton, Misses M. Gunn and M. Bloom, Messrs. **T. Holden** and J. Gordon, and Peter Moncur, the accompaniments being capably carried out by Miss. O. Morris.

OCTOBER 24 1935 - Page 7 (N) - Personal Thorpdale

Mrs. Tully (i.e. Tulloch), sister of **Mrs. T. Holden**, returned to town after spending a holiday here.

DECEMBER 23 1935 - Page 6

THORPDALE RAILWAY LINE NOT TO BE CLOSED

Residents of Thorpdale and district made a large gathering in the Thorpdale Public Hall on Monday last, where they met to voice a protest against the closing of the railway line as announced to take place from January 13th next year.

The meeting was convened by Mr. Moncur MLA, who officiated as chairman and explained what action had to be taken. He mentioned that, following a petition presented to him by **Mr. T. Holden** and signed by 50 residents, he had laid the matter before the Cabinet, and a decision had been arrived at to keep the line open for another six months trial. He had telegraphed **Mr. Holden** of the result.

Following a lengthy discussion, the following motion was moved by Cr. C.F. Mills and seconded by Cr. Hunter and carried:- 'That the Railways Commissioners be asked to visit the district, meet the people and inspect the road connection between Thorpdale and Trafalgar.

Appreciation was expressed at the prompt action given the matter by Mr. Moncur, and there is a general feeling that everything possible should be done to keep the line open.

DECEMBER 24 1935 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE NEWS

Much sympathy is felt for **Mrs. T. Holden**, whose brother died on Friday morning, December 20 of heart failure. Deceased was only 26 years of age and had only been married six months. The funeral was at Daylesford. (Refers to Larry Ahern)

POSTPONENT OF CLOSING THE THORPDALE LINE (Repeat of the 'Times')

JANUARY 6 1936 - Page 5

THORPDALE LINE GETS FRESH CHANCE

NON-PAYING RAILWAY LINES GIVEN FURTHER TRIAL

Five railway lines which the Railway Commissioners had determined to close after January 13 will remain open until the end of the financial year. The Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said on Monday that the Ministry had decided that the lines should remain open for six months to give the people in those districts an opportunity to show what support they would accord the railway.

The lines affected are:- Upper Ferntree Gully-Gembrook, Clarkefield-Lancefield, Moe-Thorpdale, Kyneton-Redesdale, Ballarat-Linton (goods services only). Mr. Dunstan added that it was desirable that the lines should remain open for some time so that the products of the harvest and the summer tourist traffic might be dealt with. The date fixed seemed to be a most inopportune time to close the lines..... The losses on the lines concerned for year ended June 30, 1935 were as follows:- Upper Ferntree Gully-Gembrook £7,457, Clarkefield-Lancefield £2,600, Moe-Thorpdale £6,542, Kyneton-Redesdale £4,246, Ballarat-Linton £6,101.

JANUARY 13 1936 - Page 3

The number of visitors has been unusually large and holiday attractions have been well patronised.

JANUARY 16 1936 - Page 2 (N) - Personal Thorpdale

Misses **Marie Holden**, Peggy Belling and Peggy Baldie are amongst recent holiday makers to the city.

FEBRUARY 3 1936 - Page 3

THORPDALE-MOE RAILWAY LEAGUE COMMITTEE APPEAL FOR UNIVERSAL SUPPORT

The committee appointed at the recent public meeting held in Thorpdale in connection with the Moe-Thorpdale railway line, held their first meeting last Thursday evening, and unanimously elected Mr. W.A. Moncur MLA chairman, Mr. G. Gunn vice-chairman and Cr. C.H. Mills honorary secretary. The committee elected provide for the above office-bearers ex-officio, and Messrs. T. White, H. Ransome, G. Auchterlonie, J. Ingleton, J. Tatterson, **T. Holden** and J. Bradbury. The committee resolved to canvass the whole district for the purpose of securing more support for the railway. The secretary was instructed to write to the Railway Commissioners and ask that the time schedule be altered from 1.50 to 4.20 as formerly, as the existing service is inconvenient for passenger traffic. The committee is particularly anxious for everyone to avail themselves of the train service as much as possible, for unless revenue is increased, the service will cease on 30th June. It is felt that this would prove disastrous to the whole district, and cause a reduction in land values on every farm of from £3 to £5 per acre. The committee earnestly appeals to all landholders to support the railway and in that way keep their own district prosperous.

FEBRUARY 10 1936 - Page 5

The new hall committee is fired with an ambition to reduce the debt on the building and with that end in view a "Back to Thorpdale" is being organised..... The project at present is for a one day "Back-to" picnic sports meeting on Easter Monday, but there have been so many interested inquiries already from past residents that it is thought that other public bodies may be interested in extending the celebrations over the weekend.

FEBRUARY 17 1936 - Page 10

MONSTER "BACK TO THORPDALE" PLANNED

Extra accommodation had to be requisitioned to seat the large attendance at a public meeting held to discuss the "Back To" project..... (Many more paragraphs follow with suggestions for the "Back-to" including)..... Should a suitable landing ground be available, arrangements are being made to have aeroplanes to convey passengers on Easter Monday.

*****NEW BUILDING WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT TO THE BURG**

*****BIG THINGS PLANNED**

For some time a dilapidated old building on the corner of the main street has been a blot on the landscape. Residents are now rejoicing at the prospect of its demise and the erection of a fine new shop in its stead, for it is rumored that **Mr. Thos. Holden** has bought the site together with the adjoining building, for that purpose.

*****FEBRUARY 24 1936 - Page 7**

The vacant corner shop opposite the local hotel has been purchased by **Mr. T. Holden** who has re-building in view. A more up-to-date establishment should be quite in keeping with the district's progress. The proprietor of the local hotel and general store (**Mr. M. Holden**) is not having the best of health these days. For years **Mr. Holden** has paid close attention to business and is due for a well earned holiday which, it is believed, has been recommended by his medical adviser. Every farmer in this district, and business men too, should play their part in the present fight to retain the railway service. Mr. Clapp (Chief Railway Commissioner) is emphatic that it has got to pay or be closed, and his warning should under no circumstances be disregarded. The existing service is on trial until June, and if the service goes it may take years for the district to recover from such a set-

back. An appeal is made for all to assist, and if all stand loyally together, the fight should be as good as won.

MARCH 2 1936 - Page 8

The Thorpdale swimming pool is nearing completion and should prove an added attraction to the town. The annual meeting on Monday night was largely attended, and was presided over by the president (Mr. C. Mills) who traversed the work in connection with same in detail. Proceedings at times were somewhat animated. Officers elected were:- President - Mr. C. Mills, Vice-presidents - Messrs. **T. Holden** and F. McClure, Secretary - Mr. F. Kelly, Committee - Mesdames Drury and Kennedy and Mr. T. Savige, Auditors - Messrs. A. Moore and W. Carr. Arrangements for the official opening of the pool are in the hands of the committee, the meeting deciding to ask the local district Member Mr. Moncur MLA, to perform the opening ceremony. An invitation is to be given to Mr. Baker, former head teacher of the local State School, to be present.

***MARCH 5 1936 - Page 2 (N)

THE FIRST IN THE NARRACAN SHIRE THORPDALE'S SWIMMING POOL

People over Thorpdale way very seldom talk - they act. When they want a thing, they get it. In this respect, so far as a swimming pool is concerned, they leave the bigger towns of Narracan shire standing.

A MODERN POOL

The pool is one of the best in Gippsland being 285 feet long and 50 feet wide. The children's end is constructed with a reinforced concrete wall at the top, and each side, with a very solid concrete floor - depth of water being 20 inches to 3 feet. The adults' end will be 3 feet 6 inches to a depth of 8 feet. Concrete pipes have been placed under the bank, with flood gates attached, so as to drain the pool when required.

TO BE BEAUTIFIED

Up-to-date dressing sheds for ladies, gents and children are being erected. The approximate cost of the pool and buildings will be £400. During the winter suitable trees and flowering shrubs will be planted, and flower beds laid out.

OFFICERS ELECTED

A public meeting convened by the Thorpdale Swimming Club took place in the public hall there on Monday evening for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing 12 months, the elections of which resulted:- President Cr. C.F. Mills, Vice-presidents Messrs F. McLure and **T. Holden**, Secretary and Treasurer Mr. H.F. Kelly, Committee Mesdames Kennedy, Drury and Mr. T. Savige.

THE OPENING

The opening carnival will take place on Saturday March 14th at 1 p.m. A programme consisting of 20 events will be competed for, and the majority of events will be noteworthy for silver sups to the winners. The committee agreed to make no charge for admission, and extend a hearty invitation to the general public. Hot water will be provided and visitors are requested to bring their own basket. Members of Parliament, Councillors and officers of the Narracan shire, and representatives of the press will be present. The committee is negotiating with the Morwell band to be present and render selections during the afternoon. A decorated boat will be on the water and an exhibition of fancy sculling will be demonstrated.

CUPS GALORE

The following are some of the principal events to be competed for:

MARCH 9 1936 - Page 8

(Long paragraphs about organising various events for the "Back To" sports, etc.) Considerable discussion ensued on the advisability of letting a Publican's booth and running a special train. The publican's booth was voted out. **Mr. Thos. Holden** offered to donate £2 towards the cost of the train, and it was decided that the train be chartered to run from Melbourne, picking up passengers en-route. Interest in celebrations is being evidenced by the number of unsolicited donations being received by the secretary, donors being Dr. A.B. Swain, Mr. Maurice Taylor (formerly of Thorpdale), W.A. Moncur MLA, **T. Holden** and T. Savige. Mr. Willis Bloom is donating the

whole of the proceeds of one picture night, buses for same being provided free by Mrs. A.E. Rodda and Mr. John Kennedy.....

*****MARCH 16 1936 - Page 2**

THE POOL WAS OPENED

The Pool was opened on Saturday. No need to ask which pool. It was the famous pool, the notorious pool, the best in Central-Gippsland-pool - THE Pool. And it was opened on Saturday in spite of the bleak wind and a tendency to rain. Whenever Thorpdale needs fine weather, it never gets any. But although the wind was piercing, it did not freeze the enthusiasm of the people. And the slight drizzle in no wise damped the ardor of the promoters. A remarkable crowd attended. Visitors were there from as far afield as Yarragon and Warragul on one side, and Morwell and Traralgon on the other - while Trafalgar folk were present in force. Nestling in a neat pocket by the road, the pool is splendidly situated. An excellent pond, it seemed almost like a combination of the Albert Park lake and the Olympic baths. Served by running water all the time, and complete with every modern convenience from concrete landing steps to a boat, it is a credit to the enterprise of Thorpdale's citizens. The pool was officially opened.....

MARCH 16 1936 - Page 7

TREES THAT WERE TREES

**FAMILIES LIVED IN THEM AND HELD CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BUTT
THORPDALE'S EARLY DAYS - By An Old-Timer**

(Three-quarters of a page written about early history of Thorpdale.)

N.B. Week after week items are published in the 'Times' about organisation of the Back-To.

MARCH 19 1936 - Page 4 (N)

SHIVERING SWIMMERS THORPDALE'S SPLENDID POOL

OFFICIALLY OPENED ENTERPRISING COMMUNITY (Repeat of 'Times')

MARCH 30 1936 - Page 14

Organised by the Back-To ball committee a very successful dance was held in the Thorpdale South Hall on Tuesday night, many novelties being introduced. Mesdames **T. Holden** (president), R. Stirling and F. Gunn (secretaries) and their energetic committee are to be congratulated in their effort, the old South hall being packed to capacity. The floor having be prepared beforehand by the committee assisted by Mr. J. Redmond, was in excellent order and music supplied gratuitously by Mrs. Mann, Misses Morris and Savige, Messrs. Blackshaw, Kennedy and Perryman, was much appreciated. Free transport was provided by Mr. J. Kennedy and Mrs. A.E. Rodda. Mr. Barty officiated as M.C.

APRIL 6 1936 - Page 3

POEM - "I'M COMING BACK HOME" (By Old Timer)

I'm coming "back-to" Thorpdale this coming Easter time,
To peaceful little Thorpdale, to meet old friends of mine;
To give a kindly greeting to everyone I know,
And listen to the stories they told long years ago.

I'm coming "back-to" Thorpdale, that town among the hills,
With its cool and shady gullies and sparkling little rills;
Where giant blackbutt reared aloft towards the azure blue,
With shady blackwoods underneath and drooping fern trees too.

Here wild clematis intertwined each musk and hazel tree,
While gloomy shadows seemed to make a shady canopy;
Where lyre birds in mimicry were dancing on their mound,
Each wondrous note re-echoing in bushland all around.

I heard the whip bird in the bush at close of every day,
It's crashing note resounding as the sunlight slipped away;
While overhead koalas growled, in throaty guttural tones,
And pretty squirrels romped about their little leafy homes.

I have pleasing recollections of those happy days of yore,
When timber trucks were loaded at the little Childers store;
Where axes keen resounded and trees crashed to the ground,
And stacks of six feet palings were dotted all around.

The pack tracks are no longer seen along the big divide,
For roads go winding through the hills and motors swiftly glide;
The tourist views the landscape as grand and something new,
Where dairy herds are grazing and sheep and horses, too.

The timber tall has vanished, the bullock teams are gone,
And every grassy glade and slope is good to gaze upon;
The lyrebird is silent, for now a peaceful scene,
Has settled over Thorpdale where bushland once had been.

The pioneers are passing on, their life work nearly done,
And long should we remember the task they had begun;
The golden gates have opened for some I knew so well,
And my thoughts are often saddened far more than I can tell.

I'm coming home to Thorpdale from a city far away,
Where memory sweetly lingers and my thoughts so often stray;
I fear the thought of parting and my eyes may not be dry,
When we meet to part so quickly in a sorrowful goodbye.

Page 5

THE GIANTS OF A GIGANTIC FOREST

(Three-quarters of a page on Thorpdale trees of old.)

Page 7

THORPDALE'S EARLY DAYS MEN WHO WERE MEN

(1 full-page column:- A Letter to the Editor re article in March 16th issue of 'Times' - 'Trees That Were Trees'.)

***APRIL 13 1936 - Page 3

RECORD CROWD CAME FROM EVERYWHERE FOR THE RED LETTER DAYS IN THORPDALE'S HISTORY PIONEERS & YOUNG PEOPLE, VISITORS & RELATIVES ALL MADE THE HILLS BUBBLE WITH LIFE

(Three-quarters of a page on the "Back-To" from Good Friday's church services to Easter Monday.... Just over 50 years since timber feeling days ceased.... Articles were also published in other Gippsland and city newspapers)..... Particulars of events to be published in next issue.

***APRIL 16 1936 - Page 1 (N)

BACK TO THORPDALE SUCCESS HAPPY FUNCTION ENDS IN A BLAZE OF GLORY

In the early history of Central Gippsland, Thorpdale is in a foremost position. Situated at the head of the famous Narracan Valley, it was an established community before Warragul was on the map at all. The passage of time has seen many alterations, and whilst Thorpdale does not now occupy such a prominent place as some other towns, it is still a virile little centre. Its stability is

undoubted. What is more, there are hopes that if Childers is re-settled on a sound basis, the place will go further ahead. Thorpdale has a public spirited sense of citizenship. Its civic pride might well be the envy of much larger towns. In view of the foregoing, success from the inception was assured for the "Back to Thorpdale" movement launched a couple of months ago. The culmination of a wonderful united effort was from Friday to Monday last. The advance guard of the invading army of "back-to's" began to trickle in some days previously, and the climax was reached on Monday when well over 1000 people assembled at the recreation reserve, where a sports meeting was held.

OPTIMISM

Visitors were much impressed by signs of progress. The fine new premises being erected for **Holden's**, the splendid swimming pool, the electricity installed through the enterprise of Mr. W. Bloom - these and other features aroused favorable comment.

APRIL 20 1936 - Page 6

THEY WENT BACK TO THE OLD HOME TOWN AND LIKED IT

A ROUND OF FESTIVE GAIETY

TOWN PEPPED ITSELF UP IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF THE HALYCON DAYS OF

YORE Specially written by Mrs. Laura Moncur

(This full page report on the fantastic events during the "Back-To" makes great reading.)

.....Among the visitors was 90 year old Mr. E. Stranger who was introduced by Mr. Moncur MLA and the "Father of Thorpdale". Mr. Stranger was the first teacher in the district at a little bush school at Narracan South with a class of 10, five of whom were Saviges but not the wild variety.....

(Separate paragraphs were written under the following sub-headings:- Early Scholars; Racquet Brigade; Hey Kids - School's In!..for the past pupils, in short pants, with Mr. Elijah Stranger acting as head teacher; A Big Night; The Churches; A Hearty Welcome; The Sports; Packed Crowd At Ball; A Good Revue; And They Enjoyed It!.....)

(Balance of Report was on Page 11..... It listed the names of former residents and visitors together with their current place of residence.)

MAY 7 1936 - Page 1 (N)

BIG DAY AT THORPDALE TOMORROW'S PROGRAM

Accompanied by Mrs. Bissau, the Minister of Railways, Mr. Bissau will arrive at Thorpdale tomorrow (Friday) and arrangements for the visit have been completed. A meeting of ladies of the districts convened by Cr. Mills was largely attended and enthusiastic. The convenor briefly outlined the itinerary submitted by the men's committee and approved of by the Minister. The ladies present were asked to arrange the social part. **Mrs. T. Holden** was elected president and Miss. M. Drury honorary secretary. The meeting resolved to hold a dance, and to have musical items and songs by leading artists of the district, to be followed by a nice supper. The hall will be especially decorated under the supervision of Mrs. & Miss. Drury. Admission to dance and supper one shilling. Excellent music and a good floor. Free bus from Narracan, Childers, Narracan East. The meeting unanimously elected Mrs. T. White, of Narracan, to accompany Mrs. Bissau during the round of inspection.

MAY 7 1936 - Page 4 (N)

THORPDALE RAILWAY TRANSPORT MINISTER'S VISIT TOMORROW

MAY 11 1936 - Page 6

(Another full page report re railway service)

.....It was a procession of inspections - a grand tour by the visionary mouthpiece of the State government of the day. Mr. Bussau, Minister for Transport, was viewing the territory; gauging its potentialities as a train user - by car!..... Luncheon was awaiting at the Traveller's Rest Hotel. Here, **Mr. Thos. Holden** told the Minister that his firm procured everything by rail. They were at present building an up-to-date shop across the road, and he would also erect a new hotel. He felt that the closing of the line would be a loss to him.... (Continued on page 11 - another 3 pages)

MAY 14 1936 - Page 1 (N)

BACK TO THORPDALE SPLENDID FINANCIAL RESULT IS REVEALED

(Repeat of 'Times')

MAY 18 1936 - Page 6

On Monday night last a public meeting was held to receive the balance sheet and finalise matters in connection with the "Back-To-Thorpdale" celebrations. Mr. W.A. Moncur MLA, who occupied the chair, paid a fitting tribute to secretary T.J. Savige..... Mr. Moncur also extended the appreciation of the committee for the invaluable aid given by the ladies of the town and district, who, without exception, had all stood loyally behind the project and in true Thorpdale spirit given unsparingly of their time, their energy and their goods to the benefit of this district. Mrs. Stirling, Mrs. **Holden**, Mrs. F. Gunn and Mrs. Barty attended the meeting and handed in £52 from the Ball Committee. Mr. T.Savige, honorary secretary, submitted the final balance sheet.....a profit of £114/14/- was shown. Special donations were received from the following..... **Thos. Holden** The whole of the proceeds were voted to the Hall Committee. A Complimentary Social is being arranged by the Hall Committee to be tendered to the ladies of the Thorpdale district in recognition of their help during the celebrations.

JUNE 1 1936 - Page 5

NON-PLAYING RAILWAY LINES FURTHER EXTENSION OF TRIALS

JUNE 4 1936 - Page 5 (N)

INCIDENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THORPDALE AND DISTRICT

By a Pioneer, for the 'News'.

(Full page article on history of Thorpdale and district, but far too lengthy to copy by hand.)

JULY 16 1936 - Page 7 (N)

THORPDALE DOINGS PROGRESS

Several new cottages are to be built shortly and Mr. Stoneman, the local baker, has put up a new residence and shop. **Mr. Holden's** fine new shop on the corner is something to talk about; its modern fittings and finish are a credit to the owner. Thorpdale is getting along nicely, what with its swimming pool, the talkies, electric light, free buses to all pictures. There is no place to compare with it. We boast a beautiful hall, picturesque scenery and quite good roads.

***AUGUST 13 1936 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE ENTERPRISE

Messrs. C.F. Mills, **T.J. Holden** and Maclure have been appointed trustees of the Thorpdale swimming pool, and the shire council received advice to this effect on Monday, with a request that the action be ratified. The appointments were confirmed.

SEPTEMBER 28 1936 - Page 4

A school concert organised by the Head Teacher (Mr. F. Peake) and Mrs. Peake, proved very successful especially from the financial point of view, there being a profit of £11 to be divided between the Mothers' Club and School Committee. The program was:- Overture - "Robin's Return" - Miss Joan Stockdale, Action Song "Little Gardeners".....Pianoforte Duet "Humpty Dumpty" - Marjorie Taylor and **Marie Holden**.....

Minties & Q.T.'s - Peggy Belling, Mary Skinner, Mavis Peake, Joyce Rowlings, Winnie Smith, **Pauline Holden**

NOVEMBER 2 1936 - Page 7

Organised by the Social Committee of the ladies of the township, the carnival ball held at Thorpdale South proved highly successful both socially and financially. Prize winners for the novelty dances were:- Miss Kewming, C. Greenwood, **Mrs. Holden**, Miss B. Smith and S. Calvert. Excellent music was supplied.....

DECEMBER 3 1936 - Page 1 (N)
THORPDALE LINE TO CONTINUE (Repeat of 'Times')

DECEMBER 7 1936 - Page 13

THORPDALE RAILWAY LINE NOT TO BE CLOSED

Due to the awakened interest in the Thorpdale railway line, support has increased. The prospects of extra revenue from the increased planting of potatoes is another factor which has been placed before the transport authorities. Residents in the districts served by the Moe-Thorpdale railway line - which has been on an extended trial - will be gratified to learn that the service is to be continued. The second trial ends with the close of this year. The rapid development taking place in the districts served by the line, is sufficient to warrant its retention.....

DECEMBER 14 1936 - Page 15

THORPDALE SWIMMING CARNIVAL BIG ENTRY EXPECTED

Full particulars in connection with the Thorpdale Swimming Carnival on Boxing Day, appears elsewhere in this issue. (on page 2)

DECEMBER 14 1936 - Page 16

Letter to Editor:

Dear Sir.

Thorpdale

8th December 1936

SERVICES APPRECIATED

(Public letter of Appreciation)..... to Cr. C.F. Mills, of Thorpdale for his untiring and unselfish work..... His efforts for the Recreation Ground over many years, as prime mover in establishment of Thorpdale's fine Swimming Pool, retention of the railway service, District Hospital, relief of unemployment, Dairyman's Association etc.

(Letter was signed by 25 Thorpdale district residents including **Thos. J. Holden**)

JANUARY 7 1937 - Page 2 (N) - Personal Thorpdale

Thorpdale was overcrowded with visitors during the holidays, and although the weather was bad, local entertainments were well patronised. The visitors were:-
Mrs. Tully (i.e. Tulloch) was the guest of **Mrs. T. Holden**

JANUARY 18 1937 - Page 2

TRIBUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICES MR. C.F. MILLS HONORED

A tribute for public service was paid to Cr. C.F. Mills at Thorpdale on Wednesday evening. Organised by a committee with Mr. F. McLure as president and **Mr. T. Holden** secretary, a complimentary social was tendered to Cr. Mills as a recognition of his services, particularly in relation to the retention of the railway line.....

JANUARY 18 1937 - Page 5

For its first performance the Thorpdale Dramatic Club achieved quite a success in the humorous play entitled "Pearly Pearls", which was presented to the public during holiday week.....

FEBRUARY 15 1937 - Page 7

BIG BALL AT THE 'DALE

Memories of the previous success evidently actuated the disciples of the dancing world when the Thorpdale Catholic ball was announced for last Monday..... (Lengthy report on packed hall, the floor, decorations, supper.) Many beautiful frocks were worn. Among those noticed were:-
..... **Mrs. T. Holden**, black lace trimmed with black fur

FEBRUARY 22 1937 - Page 11

POTATOES DOWN

The Melbourne potato market is depressed, prime sorts selling from £4 to £4/10/- with medium and inferior at £3/10/- to £3/15/-.

MARCH 8 1937 - Page 5

THANKS ARE IN ORDER AT 'DALE (Letter published by request of writer)

Dear Sir,

As secretary of the Testimonial and Social Evening recently tendered to Cr. C.F. Mills of Thorpdale, I have received from Cr. Mills the enclosed letter. As it is practically impossible for me, of my own efforts, to make known the contents of this letter to each and all who contributed towards making the function the success it was, I am taking the liberty of asking you to kindly publish Cr. Mills' letter in the columns of your valued paper.

Thanking you in anticipation and with best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

Thos. J. Holden

(Followed by Cr. Mills' lengthy letter)

MARCH 18 1937 - Page 1 (N)

SWIMMING

Thorpdale Annual Meeting Office Bearers:Committee **T. Holden**

APRIL 22 1937 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE SOCIAL CLUB

Meeting was held at Mrs. J. Tatterson's residence on Monday evening, to arrange a social club of ladies and gents, willing to assist the football club. It was decided to form a club and those elected were:- President - Mrs. L. Belling. Secretary - Mrs. Frank Gunn. Ladies' Committee - Mesdames Tatterson, Sterling, Barty, **Holden**, Kennedy, Misses. Elva Gunn, Phyllis Tatterson, Joyce Belling, Winnie Kennedy

MAY 20 1937 - Page 5 (N) - Personal Pars Thorpdale

Mr. & Mrs. J. Holden, of Melbourne, with their son and daughter have been paying a visit to **Mr. M. Holden**.

JUNE 10 1937 - Page 4 (N) - Personal Pars Thorpdale

Mrs. Holden has returned from a trip to the city.

Mr. T. Holden and his mother motored to Castlemaine during the week.

JUNE 28 1937 - Page 3

NOT PAY TO DIG CHEAP POTATOES

Owing to the big slump in the potato market, growers in some districts consider that it will not pay to dig. Prices are quoted from £2 to £3 according to quality. There is practically no demand at present.....

N.B. During the following months, the "Times" published many reports concerning the Infantile Paralysis epidemic, with Dr. Swain advising three weeks minimum isolation for all children and adults who had been in contact with a diagnosed patient. Many district schools were closed for varying periods of times. Social reporting was minimal, probably due to a cutback of social events. Thorpdale was probably connected to Yallourn electricity during this period. Although I found nothing published to that effect, the reporting of Shire Council meetings stated that the council was required to continue paying £30 p.a. towards the cost of the street lighting supplied by Yallourn. Refer also to February 28 1938 issue reporting farewell to Willis and Mrs. Bloom.)

*** **AUGUST 26 1937 - Page 4 (N) - Personal Pars Thorpdale**

Mr. Holden, snr., is still in a bad state of health, causing anxiety to his people. Sister Ramsey is in attendance.

SEPTEMBER 16 1937 - Page 1 (N)
LIGHT THORPDALE EXTENSION

The cost of street lighting at Thorpdale is now £30 yearly and the State Electricity Commission has notified the Narracan shire council that when it takes over the area the following lights could be provided for this money:- seven 100 watt lights with 3 ft. brackets or one 200 watt light (at corner of Robinson and Station Streets). These lights would remain on until midnight. The Commission has asked for certain information re location of street lights, also re residential area. Cr. Mills and the engineer will furnish a report.

DECEMBER 6 1937 - Page 7
POTATO MARKET

The potato market remains dull. Old potatoes are almost unsaleable at £1/10/- to £2 per ton. New potatoes are selling in Melbourne at 1/6 to 2/- per case.

N.B. No report was published in either the 'Times' or the 'News' re the opening of the new Travellers' Rest Hotel on 7th January, 1938.

JANUARY 24 1938 - Page 12

Thorpdale, as regards local functions, has been unusually "dead" during the holidays, all the big events being held in other centres.

FEBRUARY 7 1938 - Page 11

THORPDALE FIRE BARBER'S SHOP BURNT

A hurriedly formed bucket brigade was instrumental in saving a number of shops, when fire demolished the barber's shop in Thorpdale on Thursday night last. The alarm of fire was given about 2.30 am. and the large crowd who quickly gathered at the scene soon got to work.

Mrs. Rhoden's newsagency shop received a scorching, but otherwise the damage was confined to the building destroyed. Had the effort to keep the fire under control not proved successful, some of Thorpdale's leading shops including Tatterson Bros. butchery, Anderson's garage and **Holden's** general store might have been destroyed. It was a splendid save.

FEBRUARY 28 1938 - Page 4

There was a large and representative gathering at a public send-off tendered to Mr. & Mrs. Willis Bloom.....

MARCH 24 1938 - Page 4 (N)

THORPDALE SCHOOL

A very largely attended euchre party was held by the Thorpdale Mothers, in aid of the school funds on Friday, March 18. Mrs. Barty and Mr. Roach won prizes. A very nice supper was served this being provided by Mesdames F. Gunn, Barty, Sterling, **Holden**, and Mompson.

***MARCH 24 1938 - Page 4 (N)

OBITUARY

MR. M. HOLDEN

The death occurred yesterday (Wednesday) of **Mr. Michael J. Holden**, of Thorpdale at the age of 76 years. Deceased had been in bad health for some time, and the best of care and attention proved of no avail. He occasionally rallied in a manner that was a tribute to a remarkable constitution.

After serving for many years in the police force, **Mr. Holden** went to Thorpdale over 30 years ago, and became licensee of the Travellers' Rest Hotel and a storekeeper. New premises for both these businesses were recently constructed, and they are now the best buildings in Thorpdale.

General sympathy is extended to the **surviving widow and son, Mr. Tom Holden.**

The funeral will take place today (Thursday), leaving Thorpdale for Castlemaine, a former home town of the departed resident.

***MARCH 28 1938 - Page 2

OBITUARY

MR. MICHAEL HOLDEN

With the passing of **Mr. Michael Holden** on Thursday last, Thorpdale has lost one of its best known residents. Death occurred after some months of failing health. Deceased was 76 years of age and was born in Castlemaine. Twenty nine years ago he became a resident of Thorpdale, and over that period carried on business as a licensed victualler and general storekeeper. Recently a modern brick edifice has taken the place of the old "Traveller's Rest", while prior to that, new general store buildings tell their own tale of progress. The remains were conveyed to Castlemaine and laid to rest beside those of his parents and relatives, the Rev. Father Power, of Castlemaine taking the burial service. Mortuary arrangements were conducted by Mr. Roy Robertson, of Trafalgar. Much sympathy is expressed for his widow and only son, Thomas.

APRIL 11 1938 - Page 2

SUCCESSFUL BALL AT THORPDALE

A very successful function on Monday night set a further seal on the high standard attained at the annual Catholic ball at Thorpdale. Visitors were present from a number of centres for the ball, and the hall presented an animated scene when filled with the well-dressed throng.

The floor was very fast, while the music was just to the liking of the crowd. There was vigorous applause for encores. Blain's band from Dandenong was in form. Possibly the supper was one of the features of the night. This had been catered for in lavish fashion, and the hungry dancers showed their appreciation in no uncertain manner. Mr. J. Knipe kept things moving along with a swing, and there was a jolly atmosphere about the ball.

Financially, the function was successful, and the joint secretaries (**Mr. F. Hester** and **Mrs. T. Holden**) were congratulated on having all arrangements well in hand.

The committee desire to thank all those who helped, particularly several non-members of the faith, **Mr. & Mrs. A. Barty**, **Mrs. J. Tatterson**, **Mrs. L. Belling**, **Mr. W. Carr** and **Mr. K. Patterson**, whose assistance is appreciated. The fast condition of the floor was due to the polishing efforts of **Mr. F. Kelly** and **Mr. F. Hester**.

APRIL 25 1938 - Page 13

POTATO MARKET

Towards the weekend deliveries in Melbourne were light, followed by keen demand. Prime redsoils sold at £6/15/- to £7, greysoils £6 to £6/10/-. There is export demand at present and prices are expected to remain high.

JUNE 2 1938 - Page 4 (N) - Personal Pars Thorpdale

Mrs. Knipe has been holidaying in Melbourne, also **Mrs. Holden** and her two grandchildren **Pauline** and **Marie**.

JULY 11 1938 - Page 11

(Lengthy report of public meeting to make arrangements for concert featuring Irish tenor, **Mr. James Foran**. Proceeds to go to the West Gippsland Hospital)..... **Mrs. Moncur** was appointed honorary organiser and offers by **Mrs. Holden Snr.** for free accommodation for half the artists and use of her dining room for supper, and **Mr. Moncur** for free transport for artists, were gratefully acknowledged.

AUGUST 1 1938 - Page 10

FAREWELL AT THORPDALE

On the night of 21st July, the residents of Thorpdale and surrounding district tendered a farewell social to **Mr. & Mrs. Stoneman** and their young son, **Jackie**, on the eve of their departure from Thorpdale, having disposed of their business. The attendance was great, every district being particularly well represented.....

At 9.30 the guests arrived and were received by the hostesses, **Mrs. Calvert** and **Mrs. T. Holden**.....

SEPTEMBER 19 1938 - Page 3

PACKED HOUSE AT 'DALE

September 8th was Thorpdale's big night when the eagerly anticipated James Foran concert was presented to a packed house, every seat available being full..... Through the courtesy of **Mrs. Holden Snr.**, supper was served to the artists in the lounge of the Travellers Rest Hotel, the hostesses being Mesdames Moncur and Barty. Thanks were expressed by Mr. Moncur to **Mrs. Holden** for her valuable help.

SEPTEMBER 19 1938 - Page 3

Very much to the regret of Thorpdale residents, the popular Frank Hester, manager of **Holden's** Store, is leaving to take a similar position in Mirboo North.

NOVEMBER 10 1938 - Page 5 (N) - Personal Pars Thorpdale

Miss Joyce Belling has left the **Holden's Stores** and gone to the city to take up hairdressing and beauty culture.

JANUARY 9 1939 - Page 9

SUNDAY'S HEAT WAVE BUSH FIRES

JANUARY 16 1939 - Pages 3 & 14

FIRE DEMON'S FEARFUL HAVOC

Buoyant with hope for a year of greater prosperity, the early weeks of 1939 have brought with them a story of tragic happenings unparalleled in the history of the State, for once again our forest areas have been ruthlessly swept by the fire demon, leaving in its wake grim tragedy and stark desolation. Over three scores of lives lost tells its own sad story, while destruction of property in settled areas and damage to immense forests may never be accurately estimated. The tragic story of Noojee some twelve or thirteen years ago has been repeated, while within the boundaries of this shire, the toll of human lives has shocked and held the community spell-bound with its staggering frightfulness..... Thermometers jumped to record heights, true shade temperatures reaching 110 degrees, unknown previously in local records, while the sun reading was 118 but, with that stoicism incidental to those who know the trials and troubles of settlement life, they bore their lot cheerfully and are prepared to begin life anew, with the hope that the awful fire visitation of January 13th, 1939 may never recur again to suddenly blot out the work of a lifetime or more.

FEBRUARY 2 1939 - Page 4 (N) - Personal Pars Thorpdale

Carmel Holden has returned home after a holiday at the seaside.

FEBRUARY 13 1939 - Page 14

Mrs. Moncur wishes to acknowledge with thanks the following contributors towards the C.W.A. Bush Fire Appeal from Thorpdale:-10/-2/- 1/- . Per Mrs. Whibley (baker):-5/-2/-1/- . Per **Mrs. Holden** (Travellers Rest Hotel):-1/-**P.Holden** 1/- .

MARCH 16 1939 - Page 4 (N) - Personal Pars Thorpdale

Miss Marie Holden is now at school at the Notre Dame de Sion Convent, Sale.

Mrs. Whibley accompanied **Mrs. Holden snr.**, on her visit to Sale.

MARCH 27 1937 - Page 14

Mr. Peake, Head Teacher, has received notice of his promotion to Monbulk. (N.B. He left in May 1939 and Mr. Newman became the next Head Teacher.)

MAY 1 1939 - Page 16

At a meeting held in the local hall on the 26th April, with Mr. Joe Redmond presiding, it was decided to form a social committee to co-operate with the football committee in the arrangement of various functions proposed to be held during the season. On a motion by Mr. Redmond,

seconded by Mr. G.A. Gunn, all ladies present were elected as members of the social committee. Office-bearers were elected as follows:- President **Mrs. T. Holden**, Secretary Mr. J. Redmond, Treasurer Mrs. J. Knipe, Committee Mesdames Smith, Rowlings, Whibley, **Holden**, Maher, Knipe, H. Blackshaw, R. Blackshaw and Miss. A. Jennings.

It was decided to hold fortnightly Saturday night dances, and application has been made to the hall committee to secure the hall.

For the Grand Ball to be held on the 2nd inst., lady members of the social committee are providing refreshments. This is a guarantee that the catering for this much talked of event will be of a high standard of excellence.

The organiser (Mr. Redmond) reported that arrangements for the Ball were now completed, and if weather conditions were favorable, success was assured.

MAY 8 1939 - Page 3

FOOTBALLERS BALL SUCCESS AT THORPDALE

The Grand Ball.....

Thanks are due to the social committee - the ladies section particularly - for their splendid work, and also to the organising secretary (Mr. Joe Redmond) who spared no efforts in having arrangements complete in every detail.

A good profit will be shown when the balance sheet is presented.

MAY 18 1939 - Page 4 (N) - Personal Pars Thorpdale

Mr. W.H. Newman has been appointed head teacher of Thorpdale State School. He will commence duty after the May vacation.

MAY 22 1939 - Page 5

The Plain and Fancy Dress Mask Ball organised by the Ladies Hall Auxiliary which was held on Monday 15th, proved an unqualified success.....(then lists prize winners).....

A special prize was also awarded by Mr. Moncur to a **very charming Dutch Girl**, and a special prize of \$1 was awarded by Mr. H. Dickinson to Snow White and her Prince with the Seven Dwarfs, whose entrance and antics, especially those of Dopey, Happy and Sneezzy was the coup de main of the evening..... (Note: The Dutch Girl referred to above was **Pauline Holden**.)

JULY 31 1939 - Page 5

Organised by the Thorpdale Ladies Hospital Auxiliary, the combined Annual Meeting, Birthday Party and Fellowship afternoon, proved a great success.....

Pauline Holden was the fortunate holder of the lucky number amongst the caps on the children's table.

AUGUST 14 1939 - Page 3

Members of the Social Committee of the Thorpdale Football Club have reason to congratulate themselves upon the success of the Footballers Ball held last week. There was a record attendance from all parts of the district.....

The finals of the Waltz and Fox Trot Competitions were held..... Other competitions were won by **Miss Carmel Holden** and Mr. S. Brown.

A successful gift afternoon was held by the Mothers' Club on Friday afternoon. A nice array of useful gifts was received and sold, and a programme of vocal items..... A cookery competition was held for school children, the successful entrants being:- Irene York 1st for scones, **Pauline Holden** 2nd,

AUGUST 31 1939 - Page 5 (N)

THORPDALE Personal:

Miss. Marie Holden is home from the Notre Dame convent, Sale and is doing remarkably well, having high marks in all her subjects. **Miss. Holden** is also a very brilliant pianiste for her age.

SEPTEMBER 4 1939 - Page 3

THE HOUR HAS STRUCK (Outbreak of World War 2)

OCTOBER 16 1939 - Page 12

On Friday evening a social presentation was tendered to Miss Annie Jennings, who is shortly to be married.....

On entering the hall, Miss Jennings and party were met by Mrs. Abell, official hostess for the evening, and posies of spring flowers were presented to the guests and hostess by little **Carmel Holden**.

OCTOBER 19 1939 - Page 1 (N)

THORPDALE TENNIS CLUB BALL

The tennis club ball held on last Wednesday night was most enjoyable. Among the attractive frocks noticed were:- **Mrs. Holden**, black with sequin trimmings.....

Personal: **Miss. Marie Holden** had a very successful pass at her music examination. Her next exam will be the 'cap and gown'.

***OCTOBER 26 1939 - Page 5 - Personal - Thorpdale

Mrs. Holden, licensee and owner of the Travellers' Rest Hotel has leased the hotel to Mr. Kiss, of Mirboo North. **Mrs. Holden** and **Mr. & Mrs. T. Holden** will be leaving the district in the near future. Mr. Kiss will be welcomed to the district but it is going to be hard to part with our very faithful friends in the **Holden** family. **Mrs. Holden** is in need of a well earned holiday, having ever been absent from the place for more than a day or two. **Mr. Tom Holden** has always taken a keen interest in the district, but through business duties has not been able to devote as much time to public affairs as he did some years ago. **Mrs. Tom Holden** is among our best social workers for any function connected with the welfare of the district.

***NOVEMBER 6 1939 - Page 9

THORPDALE HOTEL CHANGES HANDS

The Thorpdale hotel has been under the care of the **Holden** family for so many years that its transfer seems unusual. The hotel has been leased to Mr. Kiss, of Mirboo North, who enters the business life of Thorpdale with excellent credentials.

The late **Mr. Holden** conducted the Travellers Rest Hotel for a great many years. Sometime ago, a splendid new building was erected on the site of the original rambling building, which had served its purpose for half a century or so.

For the past year or two, **Mrs. Holden** and **Mr. & Mrs. Thos. Holden**, have conducted the business. They have always been tied down to the job, and have decided to have a break away from the long hours.

***NOVEMBER 13 1939 - Page 7

FAREWELL TO THORPDALE
TO MEMBER OF HOLDEN FAMILY

A large and representative gathering of Thorpdale and surrounding districts, as well as visitors from Warragul, Trafalgar, Mirboo and other districts, attended a farewell on Saturday night. A presentation was made by Cr. C.F. Mills. A report will appear in the next issue.

***NOVEMBER 16 1939 - Page 1 (N)

THANKED THORPDALE FAREWELL

There was a large representative attendance at the Travellers' Rest Hotel at Thorpdale, on last Saturday evening, when a sherry party was tendered to **Mrs. Holden snr.**, who is leaving the district after a residence of over 30 years.

The reception was held in the lounge of the hotel, and was gaily decorated with vases of flowers, and had a nice warm fire.

Mrs. Holden was frocked in floral georgette, with a sash of red and blue, and wore diamond earrings and necklet. She carried a posy of violets, made by Mrs. Barty and presented by Miss Enid

Ingleton. On arrival in the lounge, the guest of the evening was greeted with musical honors. During the evening Mrs. Ingleton sang a very sweet song, 'Goodbye'.

Cr. C.F. Mills, in the course of a very able speech, spoke in a highly eulogistic manner of the departing guest. He said that **Mrs. Holden** would be greatly missed, as during their residence in Thorpdale the **Holden** family had rendered splendid service to the district. He conveyed the kind wishes of the public to **Mrs. Holden** for her future happiness, and asked her to accept as a token of goodwill, a nice navy blue leather blouse case, with her initials engraved in gold lettering. **Mrs. Holden** suitably responded.

Cr. Mills also welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Kiss and family, and Mr. Kiss responded.

A few of the many present were Mrs. Barty (black satin), Mrs. Newman (green), **Mrs. T. Holden** (black and sequin trimming),(as per 'Times' report).

Mrs. Holden intends going on a tour abroad but owing to the war will not travel for a while.

***NOVEMBER 20 1939 - Page 10

THORPDALE RESIDENT FAREWELLED EVENING TO MRS. HOLDEN

The lounge of the modern Travellers Rest Hotel was the fitting scene for a very nice evening tendered to **Mrs. Holden Snr.**, who is leaving the district after a residence of 30 years.

Floral decorations were a feature. The guest of the evening was greeted with musical honors on her arrival in the lounge. Miss. Enid Ingleton presented her with a posy made by Mrs. Barty. Appropriately, Mrs. Ingleton very sweetly sang "Goodbye".

The many good qualities of the guest were referred to by Cr. C.F. Mills. He said that **Mrs. Holden and members of the family** had been an integral feature of Thorpdale's public life for the past thirty years or so. They had performed many duties to assist in the public sphere, and there were many other little acts of kindness which were not made public. He conveyed the best wishes of the general public to **Mrs. Holden** for the future. On behalf of the gathering, he asked her to accept a navy blue blouse case, with her initials engraved in gold. **Mrs. Holden** responded very nicely.

A welcome was then extended by Cr. Mills to Mr. & Mrs. Kiss and family, who would be an asset to the district. Mr. Kiss responded in a few well-chosen words.

Mrs. Holden chose floral georgette, with sash of red and blue and diamond necklet and ear-rings. Among those present were: Mrs. Barty (black satin), Mrs. Newman (green), **Mrs. T. Holden** (black and sequin trimming), Mrs. Whibley (gold), Mrs. Knipe (floral crepe de chine), Mrs. Ingleton (black georgette), Mrs. Rhoden (black and black velvet bridge coat and white gardenia), Mrs. Knowles (black and white), Mrs. A. Smith (navy), Mrs. Kelly (green), Miss Rhoden (black satin and white fur), Mrs. Maher (red), Mrs. Rowlings (navy), Mrs. Belling (black georgette), Mrs. Apted, Warragul (lime green), Mrs. Millar (black), Mrs. Kiss (wine), Miss Kiss (grey), Mrs. Baldie Snr, Melbourne (black).

Among the visitors were Mr. C. Davine, Mr. K. Davine, Mr. H.A. Aldag and Mr. W. Apted.

A very pleasant function closed with Auld Lang Syne.

***NOVEMBER 27 1939 - Page 8

A farewell evening is to be tendered to **Mr. & Mrs. T. Holden** in the Public Hall on Saturday evening, 2nd December.

***DECEMBER 7 - Page 5 (N)

FAREWELL THORPDALE FUNCTION

There was a big attendance at the Thorpdale public hall on Saturday evening, the occasion being a farewell social to **Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Holden and family**, who are leaving the district.

Mrs. Whibley and Mrs. Rowlings were hostesses to **Mrs. Holden**, while Mr. Whibley and Mr. Baldie met **Mr. Holden**.

Mrs. Holden was attired in a graceful black frock, and was presented with a posy of orange nasturtiums. **Pauline** and **Carmel** were presented with baskets of pansies by Winnie Smith and Kath Ingleton.

During the evening, Mr. W.A. Moncur MLA., spoke in glowing terms of **Mr. and Mrs. Holden** and their work in the community interest. **Mr. Holden** has resided at Thorpdale for over 30 years, and had rendered grand service to many worthy causes. Their departure was sincerely regretted, but they had general good wishes for their future happiness and prosperity. Mr. Moncur then asked them to accept an inscribed case of cutlery. **Pauline** and **Carmel** received boxes of handkerchiefs. **Marie** who is a student at Sale convent, was unable to attend on account of measles, and a gift, a mulga serviette ring and large bunch of sweet peas were sent on.

The remarks of Mr. Moncur were supported by the Rev. Father Gavan, Mr. K. Davine and Mrs. Rodda, each of whom eulogised the good qualities of the guests.

Mr. Holden responded in a most capable manner, thanking the speakers for the kind sentiments and the nice gifts. It was a pleasure at all times to work with the Thorpdale public, and he wished them and the district all that was good in the future.

The Top Hatters' bank supplied music for dancing which was enjoyed by all. A tasty supper was provided by the ladies. **Mr. and Mrs. Holden** will reside in Ballarat.

***DECEMBER 18 1939 - Page 3

A farewell social tendered to **Mr. & Mrs. T. Holden** before their departure from the district was well attended. Mrs. Rodda, organiser, and Mrs. J. Knipe, had the stage tastefully furnished and decorated with gum-tips for the occasion.

On entering the hall, the guests of honor were greeted with acclamation and escorted to their seats by Mesdames Whibley and Rowlings and Mr. R. Baldie, where floral presentations were made to **Mrs. Holden, Pauline** and **Carmel** by Margaret Gowlands, Kath Ingleton and Winnie Smith. During the evening, dancing was enjoyed to music supplied by the Top Hatters orchestra of Yallourn, and before supper **Mr. & Mrs. Holden** were presented with a handsome case of cutlery as a token of esteem from those present. Small gifts were made also to the three children, **Marie, Carmel** and **Pauline**.

Mr. Moncur MLA who made the presentations, spoke very highly of the qualities of good citizenship displayed by the departing couple during their residence in the district. He particularly mentioned the service rendered by **Mr. T. Holden** to the public of Thorpdale during his term as secretary of the Public Hall, stating that it was very largely due to his efforts that the new hall proved a reality. Supporting speakers were Rev. Father Gavan, Mrs. A. Rodda and Mr. K. Davine. Speaking on behalf of himself, his wife and family, **Mr. T. Holden**, in thanking the public and speakers for the fine gifts, expressions of goodwill and kind sentiments, **made one of the most capable responses yet heard from the platform at a function of this nature**. He particularly stressed the fact that it was the duty of everyone to do their best for the community and district in which they lived, and for that reason felt that he was undeserving of all the kind things said about him that night, but which he nevertheless appreciated.