

Casterton and District  
Historical Society Inc  
Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2013

# Historical Happenings



Casterton Community Museum

## Next Meeting

to be held on **Wednesday 18th September** at the **RSL** at **2pm**.

We will combine an **afternoon tea** with the meeting. If you wish, bring a *small* plate to share.

## Executive Committee

The 2014 executive committee voted in at the AGM is now:

President: Dawn Black

Vice President: Sandra White

Treasurer: David Coventry

Secretary/Public Officer: Ros Coventry



Nareen school c 1919

## VINTAGE CARS AND WEDDINGS

by Jim Kent

It is quite understandable that bridal couples wish to have something special to commemorate their wedding day - some go to extraordinary lengths to achieve this purpose and this article records some of the many weddings I assisted in with my 1926 Buick.

It is now quite fashionable for the bride and her attendants to arrive at the place where the wedding vows will be exchanged in cars that have some outstanding features. They may be veteran, manufactured before 1918, or they may be vintage, before 1930, or may be the more modern ones made before 1949.

In any case here in Casterton around fifty years ago the late Jack Dowling had a 1923 Studebaker tourer, the late Jack McCallum had a 1930 Model A Ford and I had a 1926 Buick tourer. They all had canvas hoods which defined them as tourers, or if you like, more correctly called phaetons. These vehicles were in demand as wedding cars and we were only too happy to oblige as these cars were allowed on the roads under a Club Permit Scheme. There could be no charge levied for their use but this did not trouble us at all as we enjoyed being able to use them in this manner.

Some of the nuptial affairs were colourful, some were humorous and some a little on the down side. I have lost count of how many weddings I assisted in, not quite into the three figure mark, but fairly close. Some still stand out in my memory like the one which had a Canadian bride whose family had come out from Canada for her wedding to a local chap. It seems in Canada the bridal cars are all decorated with coloured paper and the Canadian family spent a whole day hanging coloured paper and streamers all over our cars - they did look outstanding.

One wedding still sticks in my mind. I received a phone call from a girl in Hamilton, asking if would I bring my car over and take her to her wedding. She gave me the address of her bridesmaid and her own flat, so away I went to Hamilton in the Buick. I picked up the bridesmaid and the bride and then asked where dad was, as it is usual for the bride's father to accompany her to the wedding, She said he was down at the pub and to leave him there. I then asked what church and she said we were going to the Hamilton Gardens. Down to the gardens we went and when we arrived



**KENTS CORNER**

Due to the great interest in Jim Kent's book published November 2011, copies sold out immediately. A new printing is available at the Visitor Information Centre – we will publish a new edition of articles late in 2013. Price \$25.

Sacred Heart Pupils c 1911



Henty Street / Tyers Street corner  
Glenelg Inn 1873



The Logs gaol, Henty Street, demolished  
1907



at the gateway the bride asked me if I would give her away, and being always helpful I said ok. I waltzed her down the path to where a Salvation Army Officer was waiting and gave her away. After the wedding I had to take the newlywed couple to the wedding reception at Nareen and they invited me to stay for the celebrations, which I did until the early hours of next morning. From that day to this I have absolutely no idea of the name of the bride or groom.

Another amusing wedding was in Coleraine when I arrived to pick up the bride and she was so drunk she had to crawl up into the back seat of the Buick. I then asked what church and she said not to worry about the church, to just drive up and down Whyte Street blowing the horn. Eventually she decided we had better get to the church and again I was asked to take her up the aisle. This time I backed off as I thought I may have to carry her - at any rate somehow she got to the altar and was married. Then we had to go up to the Coleraine Racecourse for the wedding reception, to which I was invited, and another great celebration was recorded.

Looking back over these weddings I often get a giggle out of them, the lavish ones and the not-so-lavish ones. One episode with the old Buick sticks in my mind. The Buick was originally owned by Hans Rhodes from Henty who bought it new from my father in 1926, One day I took it back down to Winton, the Rhodes property, and gave some members of the Rhodes family a ride around their family home and on board I had three generations of the Rhodes family.

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**THE MARKS OF MYSTERY**

by Jim Kent

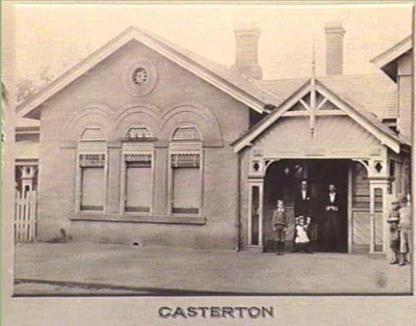
Along life's pathways there are many things to puzzle my simple mind. Among the numerous objects, both earthly and astrological, are the sometimes marks of manufacture on articles by the makers. In general these marks are grouped by two definitions, namely hallmarks and trademarks, yet both have a quite different meaning. So, we will take the explanation of the meaning of hallmarks first as it is more complex than that of the trademark. And to do so we will use a very commonly used item of your household and should you find after reading this observation that your household items have the same identification marks as described here you may be in possession of some valuable artefacts.

These hallmarks may be found on cutlery, candle sticks, drinking vessels, religious icons and any other item where the main ingredient is silver - so put your gear on the table and have a magnifying glass to help you confirm whether or not you have items of value.

Sadly, in a lot of cases all you will have may be only stainless steel or electroplated articles. But should you have items of English origin then you are off to a good start as Australian-made items have no duty marks, but it is also much rarer than the English. So, presuming your items are of English origin, the first thing you look for is a lion symbol in a box as this



Post office 1897



CDHS is located at the **Casterton Visitor Information Centre**  
e-mail: [castertonhistorical@hotmail.com](mailto:castertonhistorical@hotmail.com)

PO Box 48  
Casterton 3311  
Phone: 5581 2070

**To visit the Casterton Community Museum:**  
call **David Coventry** on **5581 2475** or email at  
[davidcoventry@yahoo.com.au](mailto:davidcoventry@yahoo.com.au)

To contribute to this newsletter,  
please contact Ros at the Visitor  
Information Centre on 5581 2070  
or e-mail at  
[roscov48@bigpond.com](mailto:roscov48@bigpond.com)  
H tel 5581 2875



indicates that your article is of ninety or more percent silver. The next mark you want is a sovereign's head, as in royalty. A guide to the time of manufacture would be if it has Queen Victoria's head as it would then have been made approximately between 1830 and 1900. Next you can establish where it was made by the various marks occurring, such as London which uses a leopard's head, Birmingham has an anchor and Sheffield is a crown. The types of marks indicate that at this particular city the duty applicable was paid.

Then a letter of the alphabet will be inscribed which tells you the year the duty was paid and finally there will be the initials of the firm, or person, who made the article. It seems a complex form of code but, when explained, is rather simple and takes away the mystery of the symbols and letters. If you only find the letters EPNS, or nothing at all, then that is what you have, something which is silver plate, electro plate or stainless steel.

Now we move on to the other mark, namely trademark. These are used as a protection against copying or counterfeiting of the article and the mark becomes the registered property of the maker and is used on these articles to distinguish them from other similar articles. A prime example of this can be seen on automobiles.

The other interesting mark sometimes seen on written articles is a C in a circle. This mark indicates that the article so written is copyright, which means that it is an offence to copy that article and publish it under your own name - another word to describe this action is plagiarism. Lawsuits sometimes occur through the misuse of hallmarks, trademarks and copyright issues. Generally speaking the defendant has quite a lot trouble in gaining a successful outcome as identification of the offender is sometimes hidden. In the fields of copyright, most times the articles written about come from general knowledge of the subject so written. An example of trademark is a local one used on the bottles of our former cordial factory, once the busy domain of the Jeffrey Brothers.

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**CDHS WEBSITE: we are the Web - visit us at**  
<http://www.swvic.org/castertonhistoricalsociety.htm>

