

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

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Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondent: Peter Tamm

Sunday's Festival of Male Choirs in the Festival Theatre was an experience I'll remember for a long time to come. To sing on stage with a couple of hundred other men from six other choirs in front of a packed theatre was great. I can recommend this event for the future to those singers who chose not to take part this year.

The organisation was great, the guest artists (Thomas Edmonds and his wife Elizabeth Campbell) were superb and the Kensington and Norwood brass band was terrific. I hope this becomes a regular event on our calendar.

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Günter and Eva-Maria Linhoff will be celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary on April 15, 4:00 pm in the Bethlehem Church, 170 Flinders St. The Adelaider Liedertafel 1858 will perform for this occasion and after the service the Linhoffs would like to invite all singers and their ladies to the Bethlehem House next door for some drinks, finger food, coffee and cake.

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Reminders:

- *Tuesday 15th: half-yearly general meeting. If you're not financial you cannot vote, or be heard in discussions. "Not financial" members are those who owe any money for membership fees whatsoever on the night of the meeting, since all members should by now have paid their 2004/05 membership fees in order to be regarded as financial.*
- *Tuesday 22nd: No practice, since the club will host a concert from a visiting German band on that night.*

BvdW

Report from Committee Meeting

Discussions at the meeting on Tuesday 8th March centered around memberships (what are we to do with those men who

are still on the list and are not active?), and organisation for Perth in September.

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

6th: Horst Reichert (71)
7th: Kurt Salewski (90)
18th: Jan Spruyt (83)
21st: Manfred Grafton (65)

Singer Profile

Bruno Seifert (Bass 2)

Bruno's life changed significantly once he settled in Lauenburg/Elbe after the war, leaving his home in East Prussia behind. Here he married Ilse and decided in the mid 1950's to emigrate to Australia for a better future.

He arrived on board the Skaubryn on New Year's day 1956 with Ilse and his 3 children. After 3 months in the migrant camp Bonagilla (near Albury, Victoria), Bruno scored a job in Adelaide for the Hallett Brick Company on the site now known as the Brickworks Market. A man with many skills, he has tried his hand at a number of tasks including distributing magazines for "Petersens Leserzirkel", being PR man for Lufthansa Airlines, setting up delivery runs for Goldstar Bakery, working for Tip Top and finally running his own outlet.

Bruno joined the ALT about 1977 under John Roose, having being in contact with Karl Heinz Ohse who introduced him to the choir. Bruno has taken on the trying job of "Notenwart" (Music Warden) for a long time, constantly helping us out with music sheets and constantly trying to gain some co-operation.

The 1983 tour to Germany stands out in Bruno's memory and he is very much looking forward to the concerts in

Melbourne and Perth. Bruno appreciates the efforts made by the ladies behind the scenes, enjoys the company of the singers and puts in many hours with his 7 children and his extended family.

Bruno is a keen gardener, loves putting in time fishing on the Murray (fish or no fish) and relaxing with a cool beer. He is very fond of his pet chook "Christmas" faithfully laying an egg a day.

PT

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The city of Port Pirie's early connection with BHP, and its prime facilities as an important shipping port are well documented.

What may not be so well known is the multi-national mix of this town on South Australia's Spencer Gulf. It includes many arrivals from different parts of the world. The 1901 census gave the population as 8000, with many Norwegian and Swedish sailors trying their luck down under. There were also Chinese and much later Greeks and Italians. However, from the town's earliest days there had been a number of German tradesmen and workers in and around Port Pirie.

The advent of the Barrier trade (the railway transfer of ore from Broken Hill to its nearest port, Port Pirie) meant the arrival of an increasing number of ships with German crews, for Germany was one of the world's leaders in metallurgy. In 1890 a "Deutscher Verein" (German Club) was formed, thus becoming the first ethnic group to formalise its gatherings. The members met weekly for a social evening, to which the captain, officers and crew of any visiting German ships were invited. At times some 50 or 60 men would share these evenings. When a market gardener by the name of Holz died in 1894 all the flags of the Port were flown at half mast.

Port Pirie derived its name from the schooner "John Pirie", the first ship to

The Last Word:

PSYCHOLOGIST: *Someone who looks at everyone else when an attractive woman enters the room.*

STATISTICIAN: *Someone who is good with numbers but lacks the personality to be an engineer.*

navigate up the Pirie Creek, and as early as 1840 Edward John Eyre on one of his land expeditions had noted the Pirie Creek as an inlet from the gulf and therefore a possible site to land vessels.

As with many Port cities there was no shortage of hotels and good stories to go with them. The Pilot Boat Hotel opened in November 1877, and boasted every convenience and comfort with rooms handsomely furnished. Later renamed the Risdon Hotel and later still the Barrier Hotel it became a dubious mecca for nightly pilgrimages from the waterfront to partake of the "oldest profession in the world". The hotel was demolished about twenty years ago to make way for local Government offices.

Port Pirie at one stage was one of two places in the world (the other was Terowie, also in South Australia) where three railway gauges met. A broad gauge (5'3") railway came north from Adelaide, a standard gauge (4'8½") went north to Port Augusta and Marree and a narrow gauge (3'6") went east to various country areas. The town boasted not one, but three railway stations at various times, including the old station in the main street (now a museum) where steam trains pulled up after travelling the length the town's main street (again, the only place in world where this happened). Nowadays all railway traffic bypasses the town – such is the march of time.

Pirie's main claim to fame is, of course, the Smelters from where since the early 1900's millions of tonnes of lead, zinc, bismuth, copper, silver and gold have been shipped after being extracted from the once-rich mines of Broken Hill. The decline of the mines has meant a parallel decline in Port Pirie's fortunes, but the locals are confident of the future.

Source:

N. Robinson's 'Reluctant Harbour'.

PT & BvdW
