

NEWSLETTER JULY 2018 NEWS AND VIEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 17th July at 2 pm in the Archive Room. There will be brief formal business and election of officers, and then we will be inviting our guest speaker, Roz Grant, to talk to us about Early Turakina. I am sure this will be a very interesting talk. This will be followed by afternoon tea and a general social get together.

If anyone needs a lift that afternoon please phone Pat on 327 6063. Looking forward to seeing you there.

RANGITIKEI WEEKEND

This year Rangitikei Weekend was held on the 20th and 21st May. This is the weekend when all five of the Rangitikei Museums are open all day Saturday and Sunday. Those being Bulls, Marton, Hunterville, Mangaweka and Taihape.

We saw a steady flow of visitors this year, especially on the Sunday. There were about 30 people which included a local family, which was really good to see. The children had been encouraged to take an interest in local history.

Many thanks to the group of volunteers who manned it that weekend. The theme for Heritage Weekend was "notable people in our communities' history".

The Society chose to do an article on the following people.

Miss Lucy Cooke, whose family home was Edale in Bond Street. Miss Lucy was a music teacher at Nga Tawa School. She formed the Plunket Society in Marton in 1912, and continued her service to our community until 1963, on her retirement. The Cooke family were very close friends of Sir Truby King, hence Miss Lucy's interest in Plunket.

Misses Mildred and Mavis Byers, nursing sisters. Both sisters were born in Marton and attended Crofton School and chose to make nursing their careers. **Millie** ran Strathaven Maternity Hospital from 1946 until 1954, then she became charge nurse of the new Marton Hospital. Her work was dedicated to the care of new babies.

Mavis, in 1940 took up the position of District Nurse caring for the needs of people in the community, under the code of Florence Nightingale. She continued this work until 1975.

Mr James Laurenson was born in Marton in 1940, the son of Stan and Amy Laurenson. On leaving school he attended Canterbury University and came under the direction of Dame Ngaio Marsh. This led to his passion for theatre and his going to London Academy of Dramatic Arts. This resulted in a lifetime of Live Theatre, Movies and TV Series. Many will remember his role in "Boney" the Australian TV series. Today he still continues in theatre and lives in Frome Somerset.

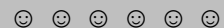
Full stories on these people can be seen at the Marton Museum.

CALENDAR OF 2018



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Miss L E Cook

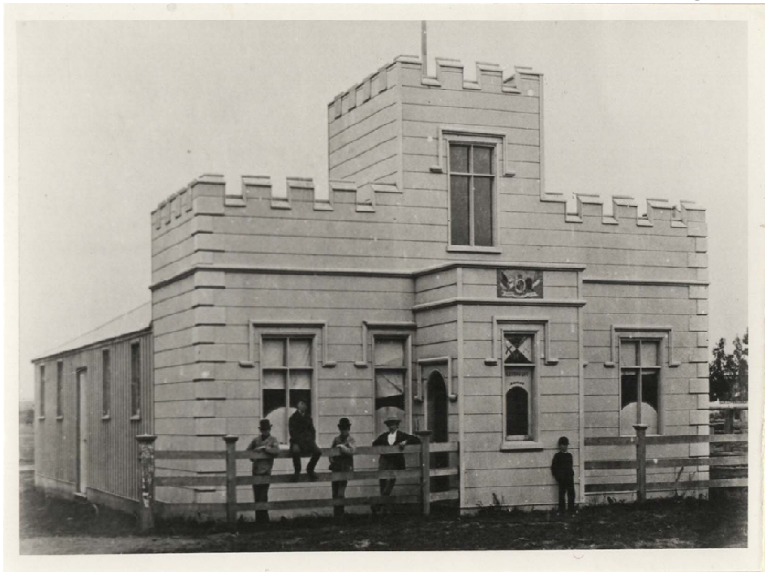


Mildred and Mavis Byers

HISTORY OF TRAVELLERS' REST/MARTON HOTEL 1866 to 1924 & HANNAN'S MARTON HOTEL 1925 to 2018.

A History, including the owners and lessees' names, maps and photos of the Travellers' Rest/ Marton Hotel is available to read at The Archive Room. Also included is the history of the new Marton Hotel which was built on the corner of Hammond St and Broadway in 1925, after the old hotel burnt down in 1924. The Travellers' Rest land was composed of approximately 9 acres. Today this is occupied by Marton Panel and Paint, houses west side of Totara Street as far as Lambert Street, Centennial Park, Cobham's Plumbing, Garden Centre and Hopping's. Marton Borough Council bought what was to become Centennial Park in 1940. This was paid for by public subscription. This is a very interesting piece of local history and so it is well worth a visit to find out much more about the many changes to this land. The research has only recently been updated.

Photo Below of the Marton Drill Hall which was on the original Travellers' Rest/Marton Hotel land.



NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL CARILLON BELLS

The Carillon Bells in Wellington were heard ringing again in June after four years of restoration work. In 1926 the Wellington War Memorial Carillon Society offered citizens the opportunity to purchase one of the original 49 bells as a memorial to their loved ones who died in WW1. The building of the Carillon commenced and on Anzac day 1932 the 50 metre high Carillon was dedicated to crowds of more than 10,000 spectators. One of these bells is dedicated to three sons of William Allenworth and Sarah Elizabeth Lewis who lived in High Street Marton, and then moved onto Wellington. These three sons' names are commemorated on one of the bells donated by their brothers and sisters. They were three from a family of eleven children. The sons on the bell were:-
22906 Samuel Eldridge Lewis – killed in action at the Somme on 5th April 1918.
10/2208 Watkin Eldridge Lewis – killed in action at Gallipoli on 8th August 1915.
6/283 Tom Eldridge Lewis – Died of wounds at Gallipoli on 9th August 1915.
In 1909 Mr Samuel Lewis had commenced a drapery business for Ladies and Gentlemen in Broadway Marton. The growth was exceptional and many extensions and refurbishments were necessary. In 1913 Mr H.Y. Cameron was taken into partnership, hence Lewis and Cameron continued to prosper. However WW1 changed life for Samuel, who departed overseas in 1914, and owing to his death in 1918 he never returned to Marton. Lewis and Cameron's drapery business continued until 1933.



MARTON'S SCOUTS VISIT

The Marton Scout Group visited on 14th June as part of their history badge. Twelve Scouts and their leaders enjoyed an interesting evening looking at Cook's Cottage and the other Museum Rooms. It is always so good to welcome young people to the Historic Village, and is something we really like to encourage.

ROD'S REMINISCENCES

Blowing Stuff Up (continued) – Stink Bombs.

Hydrogen Sulphide gas has a famous reputation for having a strong rotten egg smell. In fact the egg doesn't have to be rotten – opening a perfectly fresh school lunchbox with egg in it will often tell you that.

The problem with making stink bombs with Hydrogen Sulphide gas, is that when the gas gets above a certain strength, it becomes impossible to smell it (at this level it is also quite dangerously poisonous, hence the rules in Rotorua that anyone working down a hole in the ground must have a buddy up top keeping an eye on them.)

Still — mixing up some lumps of ferrous sulphide with acid (plumber's hydrochloric acid that we used for soldering, I presume it was) produced a certain interesting smell over the farm-yard. As noted above though, attempts to make it too strong were automatically doomed to failure; so that took the fun out of it a bit.

The original ferrous sulphide was probably pinched from school, but I think I may have also made some by heating iron filings together with yellow sulphur powder.

Continuing on with the theme of “stinks”, **ammonia gas** was my next project. This is somewhat unpleasant stuff, but still reasonably harmless in small quantities provided it is not in a confined space.

A common garden fertilizer was the main source of ammonia gas (probably ammonium sulphate). Mixed with (I think) caustic soda, this produced a steady stream of ammonia gas. This could be released into the air to basically stink the place out, or piped into a container of water where it rapidly dissolved to make aqueous ammonia, just like you buy in the shop for cleaning. It wasn't really much good for anything, but I had quite a lot of ammonia solution lying around looking for a use, for quite a while.

Finally — smoke bombs. Mixing a common garden weed-killer with sugar was reputed to form the basis of a powerful chemical reaction when ignited. Mixtures like that in large quantities and in a confined space can be pretty devastating (as the “Oklahoma City Bomb” – in April 1995, and the “Bali” bomb – in October 2002, showed us). I found though that substituting sawdust in place of the sugar, in a small unconfined quantity, produced an impressive quantity of thick black smoke (due to all the moisture, tar, etc in the sawdust).

The mixture was pretty safe in small quantities as it was quite hard to ignite, but didn't want to be near anything flammable once it got going, as the mixture soon became white hot, like a miniature volcano, with flames shooting out in several directions.

Placing a couple of handfuls of the weed-killer/sawdust mixture in an empty spaghetti tin and igniting it with a blow-lamp did the trick. The tin, of course, had no chance of surviving the ordeal.

That's all folks.

Rod and the Committee