

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWS AND VIEWS

The Phantom

We were so pleased this month when we received a gift in our post box from The Phantom. It had a card attached with the phantom's photo and the message "To Marton and District Historical Society. We're so lucky to have people like you in our community. Thanks so much for your wonderful display. The Phantom".

We think we are really lucky to have "The Phantom" in our community.

Village Visits

Apart from the regular visits from people who want to do research, in August we had a visit from Nordic Tours. They travelled from Dannevirke, Woodville, Palmerston North and Feilding and spent time looking around the Cottage and Museum. They then called in at our WW1 display on their way to lunch in Marton.

Our next group is on Sunday 27th September, when we will be welcoming 19 members of the Wanganui Founders Society.

Research

Recently we have had interesting family research enquiries.

Issac Gibbs Family.

Henderson Flour Mill Family

Dillon and Horn Families

History of Centennial Park

CALENDAR OF 2015



The next members meeting will be on Tuesday 13th October 2015 at 2pm.
Speaker or theme to be arranged.

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You too could sponsor our newsletter! Only \$20 per issue.

The Settlers' Cottage garden is nicely taking shape. We are hoping to have a lavender garden, so any donations of lavender plants would be appreciated.

Anniversary Luncheon

We are planning to have an Anniversary Luncheon on Tuesday 17th November to mark our 50th year. This is still in the planning stage, but we would love to hear from any members who would be interested in attending this. The price will be approximately \$20 per person, to cover the cost of lunch and an anniversary cake. If you are interested please phone Pat on 327 6063 or Maureen on 327 6104.

Marton Market Day

We are having a stall at the Marton Market Day again this year. It is on Saturday 28th November and we will be grateful for donations of Cakes/Cookies, small nik-naks, plants and other suitable things that we can easily sell. If anyone would be interested in helping on the stall we would be very pleased.

“REMEMBERING WW1 MARTON SOLDIERS”

Our WW1 display was officially opened on Tuesday 4th August, by Andy Watson and Jim Howard, at Valhalla, and was a great start to our 4 weeks of being open to the public.

We were pleased with the interest shown during our open times and welcomed visitors from Marton, Wanganui, Dannevirke, Woodville, Bulls, Taihape, and many other places. We were also very pleased to have two groups in from Marton School. Well done to all those children who showed so much interest and who asked some great questions.

Even though the display is now closed, we are happy to open it by request. A great big thank you to Bruce Ward for the use of Valhalla and also to all of those people who helped us man the displays.

Many thanks to Pat and Joanne Simpson for the catalogues compiled of WW1 soldiers from the various areas of the Rangitikei.

A reference that will be very useful in the future.

We have compiled a list of local soldiers in WW1 Cemeteries in France for Carol Coleman who is visiting France on tour.

We are now working on making it a permanent accessible resource at the Marton Museum.

ROD'S REMINISCENCES

Sundays

On Sundays my Mother taught Sunday School at the little Presbyterian church in Kensington Road (St David's – Marton Junction, I think it was called). This church closed many years ago and eventually burned down. I attended St Andrews Sunday School, which started roughly an hour later than the Junction one; so – having travelled into town with my Mother, I usually had an hour to fill each Sunday morning.

So – I used to go into the Broadway Milk Bar in the centre of Broadway and buy a Sports Post newspaper. In retrospect, this was a strange thing to do, as I didn't then, and still don't have, the foggiest bit of interest in sports news. In fact it was quite a long time before I realised this publication was mainly about sporting news from the day before.

What it did have though was (usually) a front page cartoon by Neville Lodge, and a centre spread of various cartoons and comics – including the ongoing adventures of “Brick Bradford and his Time Top”. His Time Top could travel through time – both ways – and had a remote control facility that didn't always work properly, leading to all sorts of unexpected strife. In many ways, this character was an early version of Dr Who, who, I remember, often seemed to have similar problems.

The front page cartoon was usually quite topical and only sometimes sports related. At least once, it depicted Marton's infamous 1955 water shortage by showing a public bar in Marton having difficulty getting enough water to add to a customer's whisky.

Even I would usually know the result of an important Ranfurly shield or Springbok test match, and looked forward to seeing how Lodge would depict the result. On one memorable occasion, a match which everyone had assumed would be a walkover, turned out the opposite way. Apparently Lodge had not prepared a cartoon for that eventuality and his drawing just showed a roller blind being slammed down to hide whatever was behind it and a comment something like “Aw Heck”.

After sitting in a booth at the milk bar and reading my comics for an hour, I would trot off up the road to my own Sunday School. Sometimes, if there was still time to spare, I might play a favourite tune or two on the Sunday School pedal organ – I didn't know more than a couple of tunes.

Senior Sunday School was presided over by Mr Ball (a dentist in his day job). After counting up the collections money from each class, he would announce the results and say “All very good collections”. There's nothing like a bit of encouragement I guess.

Then it was off to church – at least the first half of the service – children were not expected to sit through the “sermon” part — presumably that could be pretty boring. Church was all hush-hush, no talking and dreary music. Somewhere, mid-proceedings, Grandmother Parkinson would embarrass us kids by digging around in the depths of her purse and handing out fluff covered peppermints. I always thought that caused more kerfuffle than we ever could if left to our own devices.

At one stage the church organ got an electric blower connected to it, meaning the increasingly elderly organists no longer had to pedal it. The blower was housed in a little box in the flower garden. If we were hanging around outside the church during the sermon, waiting for the adults to emerge, we could keep track of the progress of proceedings inside by noting the blower’s starting and stopping. Later still, a modern electronic organ was installed, which re-introduced footwork to the operation, but for playing chords, not for pumping air as in the original.

These days, of course, everything is electronic, music is mostly bright and breezy and organists have been effectively replaced by Disc Jockeys.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Recently some of The Marton Rotary Club members arrived and cleaned up the garden in the front of our Settlers’ Cottage.

This was a badly needed job, and we are so grateful for their hard work.

Rod and the committee.