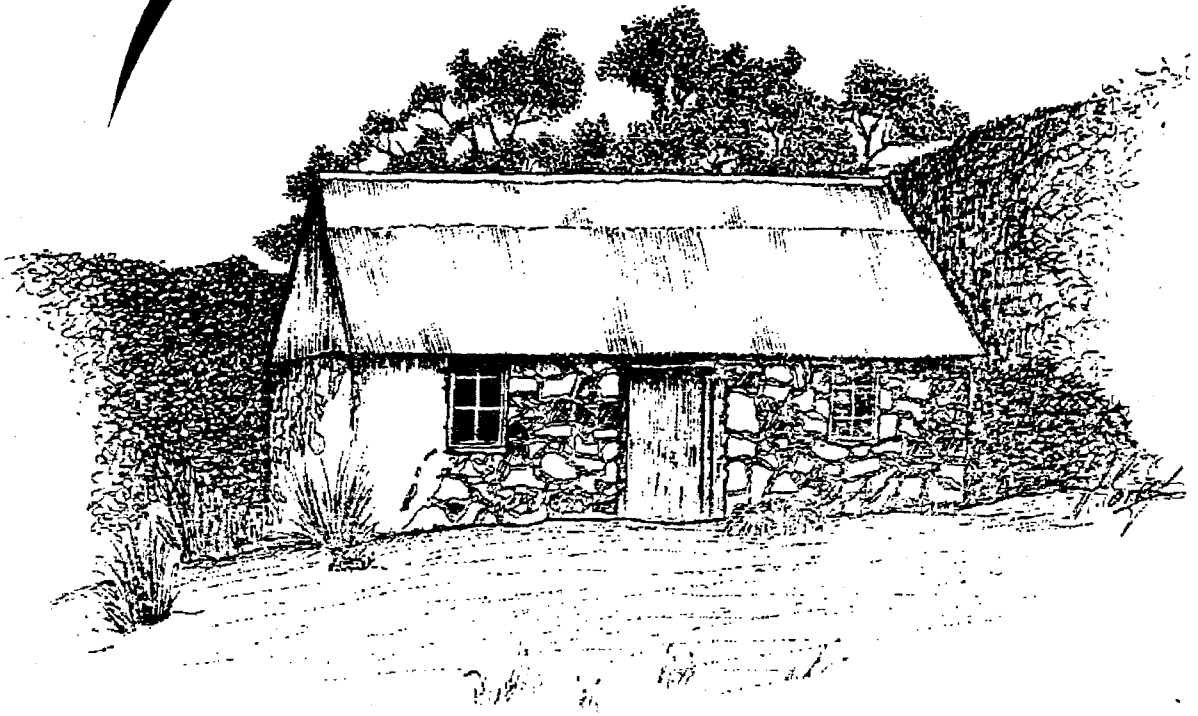


\$1.00

No:14 - June 1991

Stewart Island News

[Sub \$15 Posted in NZ]



Lewis Acker's Stone House

This building, on Peggy Wilson's property at Harrold Bay, was possibly built around 1834- 1836. It is the oldest building on Stewart Island, and was restored in 1989 - Story page 18.

- Sketch by Mary Conroy

[Regd. Publication]
ISSN: 0113-4477
PO Box 65
STEWART ISLAND
New Zealand

Stewart Island News is an irregular publication produced in Oban, Stewart Island. It aims to foster interest in the natural and human history of New Zealand's Southernmost community. It is computer typeset by a "sorta-editor", Sam Sampson, who isn't responsible!



Sam Says - "Gotcha!"

Hi Folks - It's gotta be the best "Gotcha" I gotcha on too. You thought you'd seen your last SIN, and look, here's another one!

There's been a lot of water pass through the Straits since the skinny Telethon special. I guess you know we beat Waiheke hands down in the Great Challenge. We raised in the order of \$11 per head down here, while they only managed a couple of bucks. Islanders know how to get the gorse out of their pockets - even if there's still plenty on the road-sides.

There's been new arrivals on the Island, a few matches and several have been dispatched to the other side of the Straits. Hopefully next time we'll have a relatively up to date Hatch/Match/Dispatch column.

Sadly there have been a number of deaths. Most recent is that of Maude Johnson, who died at Kew Hospital on Mon June 10th, after over a year there. She survived her husband, Archie Johnson, who died in February, by only a few months.

Other well-known identities who's obituaries haven't appeared yet include Max Kershaw, Olga Sansom and Roy Traill. They're on file for use at an appropriate time.

On a more cheerful note, some new arrivals have helped inspire the revival of SIN. Irish Colleen Mary Conroy is nanny for Bronny and Buck Tumataroa. She's a talented artist, as her sketch of Lewis Acker's House on the cover shows. If you want a sketch of your house contact Mary (Ph: 2191-370). Using her artistic skills and the computer, we can convert it into personalised stationary. Xmas cards or Calendars.

Other stalwart helpers for this issue incled Terri Gledhill, who's working for Fox, and "Aussie" (the Dozer) Pete Davis. Watch it folks, these three will harry you for articles!

A big thanks to regular contributors. As usual Peggy Wilson had her Past Notes delivered almost before I'd hung up the phone. DOC produced a Diagnosis at the drop of a hat and we've gained another artist in the shape of "Phred", too.

As I write this Ross is also putting pen to paper for his Rumbles. I don't envy him. Summarising the events of last week's big search will be no mean effort. We've got a new Golf Club correspondent in full swing, even if they take three putts to hole-out.

Yes, I gotcha! SIN is still up and running. I trust you enjoy the new print quality, thanks to our HP DeskJet Plus printer.

Cheers
- Sam Sampson,
"Sorta-Edita"

Contents

Sam Says2
 Ross Rumbles.....3
 Past News.....4
 Cinderella5
 Library Notes.....5
 Through the Hill6
 Hair today -.....6
 Basin Awards7
 Horoscope.....7
 Anzac Day 1991.....8
 Rhodes Re-tyres9
 Brownie News 10
 Brief Events 11
 Nature Notes..... 12
 Golf Club Newsletter..... 14
 Home Brew Contest 15
 Kagyak Hire..... 15
 DOC Diagnosis 16
 Crossword No: 1..... 17
 Acker's Stone House..... 18
 Todd Real Estate 19
 Whipp Place? 19
 Business House Hours . 20

Gerrard's

A Small Hotel, Centre Town

[Opposite Bus & Rail - only 5 min from H&H]

Stewart Island Travellers Specially Catered For

Leven Street
 INVERCARGILL Ph: 2183-406
 PO Box 380

Historic Island Buildings #1

Lewis Acker's Stone House

This small house on Peggy Wilson's property at Harrold Bay, is the oldest building on Stewart Island. Lewis Acker, built it of local stone and clay mortar. There's a rock on the beach which still shows the hole drilled for blasting. Perhaps this is evidence of his work. Tradition insists that he brought at least some of the stone from the New River (Oreti) area.

There is also some controversy over the original roofing material. Shards of brown slate have definitely been found nearby. This could well have been used for roofing, as American whale ships often carried slate as saleable ballast when empty at the start of a whaling trip.

Lewis Acker came from Charleston, New York State in the 1820's, and was a harpooner on a visiting whale ship. He settled on Stewart Island, and is believed to have built the house around 1834 to 1836.

The name rhymes with "Acres", and although the whole peninsula was once known as Ackers Point, now only the far end where the lighthouse is bears his name.

In 1844 Rev James Watkin visited the Island. Acker then formally married Mary Pui and their first child, Catherine, was baptised the same day. Catherine was 18 months old, the first child born in Halfmoon Bay of a European Parent. Lewis and Pui raised eight more children in the stone house. Living conditions must have been somewhat cramped. It seems at that time the house had a five-high tier of bunks, going up to the ceiling.

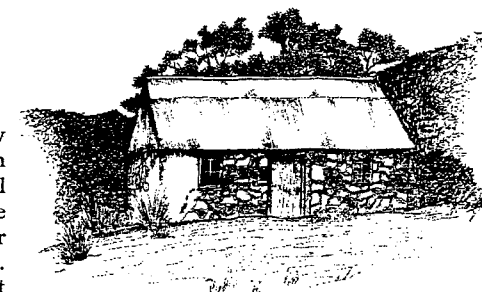
During his time on the Island, Acker was primarily involved in coastal trading and boat-building on the beach in front of the house.

When land claims were considered by the Government, Acker never bothered lodging a claim for his land, bought from Chief

Tuhawaiki. It cost him his home. In the late 1850's the Acker family left Stewart Island and settled at Otatara.

Frederick Walschlag occupied the house with his family for two

years, before moving to Lonnekens Bay. In 1860 Captain James Harrold and his wife moved into the Bay which now bears his name. He built a new house above the bay and used the stone house as a smithy, store room, and boat building workshop.



It was even used as a brewery for a time. It must have been a potent brew, for something exploded, injuring a man. After that, as the brewers said, "We felt like hauling in our horns."

Time and tide wait for no man, and weather will weaken the strongest house. The roof was undoubtedly replaced at least once, but by the 1980's had deteriorated to the extent where water was weakening the clay used to bind the stones together. Officialdom was reluctant to restore the building for various reasons, despite its undoubted age, and the efforts of Peggy and Alan Wilson. It began to deteriorate very rapidly.

Finally approvals and finance for the project came through. The stone building was restored by stonemason Tommy McDowell, from Invercargill, in 19???. Financial assistance came from the NZ Historic Places Trust, in association with DOC.

Evidence from archaeological investigations suggest that another building with a large stone fireplace once stood by the west end of the building. This may have been an outside kitchen, as the Maori people traditionally cooked outside the main dwelling room.

Research into the exact date of construction of the stone house is continuing. Historians are reluctant to give even an approxiamte date as they have no written records to go by. Perhaps they should go to the District Council Office and see if they issued building permits in the 1830's?

- Sam

Thanks to **Mary Conroy** for the illustration. She has already sketched a number of older buildings areound the Bay, which we will feature in future issues.

Remember, Mary is available to sketch your house. What better wayto get personalised cards or stationary? (Ph: 2191-370)

Past News

15 Years Ago

Fire Engine for Stewart Island

The "Wairua will this morning take charge of what could be one of its biggest loads, when it carries Stewart Island's first fire engine to its future base. The five ton four wheel drive Bedford will be taken onto the ferry at about 7:30 am. With a 1000 gallon capacity the engine will replace the trailer pumps the Stewart Island brigade has used in its seven years of existence.

Times, 5th April 1976

Island roads now worse than ever

MOW staff worked desperately this week to save the newly reformed roads from being scoured into the sea, while the sea at Halfmoon Bay became discoloured after heavy rains on Tuesday washed out road-fill material.

Times - 30th April 1976

Other April 1976 Times headlines included:

Island gravel wrangle

Another setback for roading

\$77,000 alternative for

Island roads

Islanders' plight worsens

The Seaman's Union has blacked the carrying of MOW equipment or materials on the ferry Wairua, providing yet another setback to the already seriously delayed \$240,000 roading programme on Stewart Island

Times - 11th May 1976



Compiled by - **Peggy Wilson**

10 Years Ago

Black Gold - Stewart Island

"gusher" hopes high

Hopes are high for a Stewart Island Oil strike. The Island has buzzed with speculation since local contractor and store keeper, Neil Conner struck a "gusher" while putting in a culvert. DSIR scientists have investigated and they say initial tests look promising. Truth described how Mr Connor and helper "Dusty" Duston suddenly found themselves ankle deep in petrol-smelling liquid while excavating a culvert in Leasks Bay, 2 km from Halfmoon Bay township. Samples have since been taken for analysis by Mobil Oil and DSIR petroleum geologist Richard Cook. Mr Cook told Truth initial reports indicated a "50-50 chance or better" of it being naturally occurring crude.

The Truth - 17th Feb 1981

(What a pity Arkwright can't play the banjo - he may have become Stewart Island's own Jed Clampert! - Sam)

5 Years Ago

Cartoned Fresh Milk on Sale

Anchor Merchants on Stewart Island is the first shop in New Zealand to sell cartoned fresh milk. Supplied by the Invercargill Milk Supply Co Ltd, in cartons imported from Australia, the milk retails at 77 cents a litre, an increase of 7 cents on the same quantity of bottled milk.

Times - 21st Dec 1985

(I for one was pleased to see cartons. Just before they arrived, the plane hit an awful big air pocket. All the tops popped off, and we had a real big milk-shake on board! - Sam)

Cinderella

- The Players

They're at it again - heading for the Hall on cold winter nights, and forsaking the pleasures of the Golf Course for the pain of trying to match up to Owen Gerrard's ever increasing demands for improved performance.

Yes, the Stewart Island Players are well into rehearsals for their 1991 spectacular. It's Panto time again. This year's version of 'Cinderella' is different to the Player's second production a decade ago. No folks, you won't see Barry Rhodes up Mrs B's skirts this time.

However, you will be assured of some good laughs, a dig at a few local worthies, and the high-class singing and polished performance that has become the Players' hallmark.

There will be a few faces missing this year, but most of the old stalwarts are still there. Once again, you'll also see a number of new faces in the cast. So keep at least one night of the mid-term break weekend (12-13th July) free. You'll be sure of a grand night out at the Ball with *Cinderella*.

Library Notes

- **Pat King**

In early May the Library was visited by District Librarian Linda Hodge, who was impressed with the book stock, but horrified by the conditions. Our small room tacked on to the side of the Hall certainly isn't conducive to leisurely browsing on a cold winter day. She went back to Invercargill with ideas of supplying floor covering and heating for the room.

Remember, the Library is now free for residents, and we have a continuing supply of new titles, covering Natural History, general non-fiction, crafts, mystery, fantasy, sea stories, general fiction and children's books.

Recent additions include:

If you need a set of clothes
Whether it's Jackets or Jocks
Or to Cover Your Toes
Just Give Us a Call
And We'll Post Them Quick
A Good Selection so You can Pick

Something Special From:

Sewing

Kwik Sews *Sweatshirts*
Kwik Sews *Sewing for Baby*
Kwik Sews *Applique*
Kwik Sews *Lingerie*

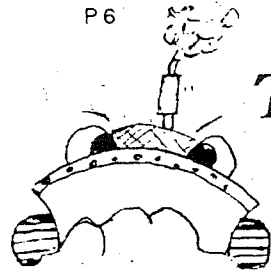
Non-Fiction

The Trials of Life - David Attenborough
The World's Worst Aircraft
Chronicles of the 20th Century
The MacMillan Encyclopedia

Fiction

Golden Fox - Wilbur Smith
The Russia House - John LeCarré
The Secret Pilgrim - John LeCarré
Memories at Midnight - Sidney Sheldon
The Burden of Proof - Scott Turow
The Gap into Conflict - Stephen Donaldson
Dazzle - Judith Kranz
Storming Intrepid - Payne Harrison
The Gillyvors - Catherine Cookson
Harvest - Belva Plain

M^CKENZIE
MENSWEAR
Phone: 2188-581



Through the Hill

- Dozer Pete

After lots of wrangling, everyone finally agreed that it was alright to move the hill at the end of Ryans Creek Airstrip, to make it safer for the planes and us. On March 11th I got the nod to start work with the bulldozer, "T-Rex", the green monster.

Well, after two years of collecting rust and blocking Arkwright's shed, plank by plank, the green monster finally made its way up the hill! Sam Sampson had another name for the machine on the day. His was the green snail, because of suspected delays to traffic between the airstrip and the Bay. Those delays didn't eventuate, thanks to those who helped. Some came too late, but the thought was there!

Grown men were running round like little boys with an exciting new toy, wondering what havoc they could create this time. Keith Smith had the biggest grin on - he was in the driver's seat. Planks were laid on the road in front of the bulldozer's tracks to avoid damage to the seal. As the dozer passed over a plank, it was rushed on up the road to the front again.

Finally the procession reached the hill, and the congregation stood by to watch what this green monster could actually do. Just five blows into the operation with the blade, the green monster burst an artery (spat out an hydraulic hose). After a little surgery I had her up and pushing rock every which way.

One day, as I was sitting there pushing this massive rock up to the edge of the road, I'm wondering why Keith's waving his arms round, even though I'm reversing. Suddenly outa nowhere appears Barry and a cargo of passengers. Thanks to Keith's fancy hand-work and Barry's footwork on the brakes, everything turned out OK. The rock, now known as "Barry's Boulder" toppled through the scrub onto the road, well in front of the bus.

On April 3rd the Stewart Island monsoon season started, so the green monster has gone into hibernation for a while. Right now we're making use of the break from pushing dirt to give T-rex a new set of feet to improve traction when the ground dries.

I'll keep you posted on developments.

Hair today-gone tomorrow



- Terri

Thank you Karen for spending a couple of days on the Island. No longer do we have the wild untamed look. Have you noticed people looking smart and trendy, with

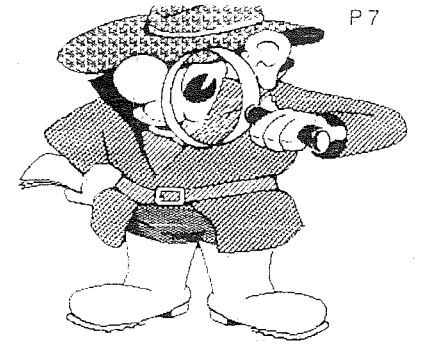
- New Curls
- New Colour
- Hair sitting in the right place and staying there.
- Look out John Kirwin

Handy Hint:

Sprinkle salt over dry hair for the easiest dandruff treatment. Massage it into the scalp well and shampoo thoroughly.

Basin Awards

- Cecil(ia) the Sleuth



Have you seen this shady character lurking round the Bay - all ears, eyes and nose, peering from behind a turned-up trench coat collar and a turned-down hat brim? Beware, this individual with a fishy look is Cecil[ia] the Sleuth, ace reporter for SIN, on the lookout for new *Basin Award Nominees*.

Are we all being predictably boring, or just too kind to zott our mates? Actually, with friends like ours, who needs enemies? So, C'mon all you sleuths of Stewart Island - let's all hear of the Community's minor *SINs*.

Basin Awards 1991

1 - Sam Sampson

The "sorta-edita" of SIN is well-known for a limited memory span, and has been known to forget to put out a paper for a year or more. The pressures of not producing papers left a vacuum in the "sorta-edita's" sorta-brain.

Not content with leaving *everyone's* mail at the Post Office, instead of putting it on the plane, he was seen to collect his own mail from the box, **post it**, then commence reading the letters brought for mailing.

For some strange reason they seemed familiar! Fortunately for the confused correspondent Innes the Post restored in-bound and out-bound envelopes to their rightful directions before sealing the post-bag.

Nominated By: "Cecil the Sleuth"

#2 - Who-Dunnit?

Maybe it will never be known who dunnit - or rather, who didn't dunnit, would be more to the point. And what didn't they do?

They didn't fill the fuel tanks, on a vessel that regularly plies the Straits - that's what. It must have been galling to be towed in by another vessel that also plies the Strait, and even more to have to pay Jack Frew's prices for fuel that had already crossed the Strait once in their own tanks!

Nominated By: Cecilia the Sleuth

Horoscope



- Terri [TIC]

Gemini
The Twins

May 22nd - June 21st

Gemini is the 3rd sign of the zodiac. Its symbol, or glyph symbolizes two children - The Twins. This represents a dual type of mind, someone who sees both sides of a question and jumps with interest to every new idea presented.

Famous Island Gemini:

Sue Johnson, Horseshoe Bay, who is in two minds about the number of twins that being a Gemini has brought her.

The coming Month:

This month will be rewarding and prosperous. Good news of a financial nature is indicated. A big social event will be the highlight of the week, there's bound to be a Party at Paula's!

You will meet a new style of person or get to know casual acquaintances in a more personal way while having coffee at the tearooms.

For those fishing, Blue Cod should be plentiful, also a lot of oyster shells caught in the pots, but crayfish will be crabby.

Driving conditions are good, so there should be no vehicles off the road.

Clothes to wear should be practical, but smart, loose fitting and very easy to take off in a hurry.

Anzac Day 1991

- H G Slingsby (ex Royal Navy)

Anzac Day 1991 dawned as usual on Stewart Island, for that time of year. That is to say, we didn't get to see it, because of the heavy cloud. However, though dark and chilly, there was no rain and no wind, and, thank heaven, no sand-flies! Some years it has been a torture to stand at the War Memorial listening to a long droning speech, whilst being bitten by sand-flies.

As usual we marched in smart military fashion, all the way from Anchor Merchants to the Memorial, where we stopped in our usual formation at each side of it - exhausted by the unaccustomed effort! Then the children and various groups laid wreaths, as did the RSA, and we all placed a poppy each on the wreaths and saluted our fallen comrades.

Airdry gave a short and moving address in her capacity as Anglican Minister, and then, most unfortunately, our recording apparatus proved faulty and we were unable to have the Last Post played. This was the eighth time I have attended the Dawn Parade at Halfmoon Bay, and it was the first time the machine failed to play the Last Post. I believe that our Dawn Parade really is the southernmost Anzac Day Parade in the world.

We the dismissed and went to the RSA Pavilion, where we enjoyed a lacing of hot coffee with our rum, and remained there for a couple of hours or so, when we adjourned to the South Sea Hotel, here our genial host, Bruce Ford, made available hot rum, plus buttered scones and strawberry jam, all on the house! Bruce's traditional Anzac Day gesture - may it long continue!

We had a brilliant organist visiting us, who played many of the old tunes and we had a great sing-song. About lunch time I thought it would be wise for me to go home and have a rest, which I did.

In the evening we had our usual Anzac Day Pot-Luck tea at the RSA Hall. It was a great evening. Our organist of the morning was still with us, and he played the Hall piano for many a good old tune. On the slot machine gambling system I won a high quality joint of meat, so it was a lucky day for me.

Under great pressure I consented to sing "On Ikla Moor Baht At", with the audience lustily joining in the chorus. At the finish

they shouted for more. I knew they didn't really mean it, so sat down. The highlight of the evening was when the Stewart Island Players marched in and sang some of the good old wartime songs of the 1940's. This was greatly appreciated.

When we tried to play the Last Post the machine failed again. It looks to me like we need a real live bugler.

It was a very happy day for the surviving ex-servicemen of Stewart Island, but I must say that April 25th is a date which seems to come round quicker and quicker as each year goes by. I hope to live to participate in many more of them. Roll around Anzac Day 1992.



The original ANZACS

Aussie & En Zed - Here we are, Dad. If the Turk wants another scrap we're ready to do our bit.

In 1920, two years after the first ANZAC Day, this cartoon from the Free Lance showed Australia and N Z as dutiful colonials, all set to go out and help John Bull once more.

Rhodes Re-tyres

- Sam

We all know Barry Rhodes is a big wheel who's always tired, but now he's gone for a full re-tread. Having retired from teaching and imparting wisdom to the youth of the community, he's now joined the high flying world of Southern Air.

Fortunately, Barry hasn't got his wings, so we won't see him behind the controls of an Islander. His new title is Sales and Promotions Manager, which means if you've got any complaints, don't ring Keith, ring Barry!

Seriously (if you can be serious about the "wee Rodent"), Barry's background should stand him and Southern Air in good stead. He's always been interested in aviation, and was in the Air Force in 1973, before taking on teaching. His home on the Island is a crash-pad for exhausted private and commercial aviators. If they aren't exhausted when they arrive, they are when they leave!

Barry has been involved with Newman's fleet of rental vehicles, and as we all know has been a long-term part-time driver for Stewart Island Travel. He's also had considerable experience in the hospitality industry. Not just from both sides of the bar at the South Sea Hotel and Shearwater Inn, but also at various tasks in larger establishments in Queenstown.

Even before he went to Ireland for a year Barry had the gift of the gab. Whilst there he must have kissed the Blarney Stone! He's diabolical at getting folks organised behind pet schemes that seems hare-brained at the time, but are usually highly successful.

Barry's time as principal when "Tomorrow's Schools" became harsh reality gave him an insight into the workings of fumbling beurocratic minds. He can normally cut the web of red tape that surrounds the simplest operation these days.

Barry's most important attribute for the job though is his well proven enthusiasm for the Island and its people. The list of Clubs and organisations he's been involved with over the years would be as long as anyone's. He's been with the Fire Brigade, the Players, Lions, Promotion Association, REAP, 1990's Committee, and the Golf Club, as well as many formal and ad-hoc school groups and committees. In all cases he's been right to the fore doing his fair share of organising.

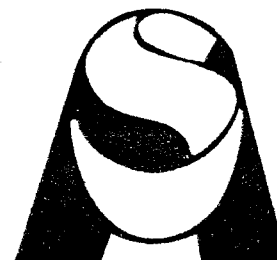
In between all this, he found time to be first a teacher and later principal of Halfmoon Bay School. He could be tyrannical, firm, fatherly and friendly with his charges, as need dictated. Little escaped his beady eye or even beadier beak. About the only thing Barry doesn't find time to do is sleep and eat, which accounts for his build.

Southern Air's basic philosophy has been "What's good for the Island is good for us", so though Barry's formal job is naturally promoting Southern Air and Shearwater Inn, there will be spin-off for all aspects of tourism on the Island.

It won't just be visitors who benefit either. I guarantee he won't loose his flair for dreaming up projects that make a dollar and are heaps of fun for all concerned.

He's not doing anything rash like selling his house, so we'll see Barry from time to time. That's provided the sun's shining of course. Keith will surely work what little there is of him to a shadow in no time flat!

Good luck in the new venture Barry. I'm sure I'm echoing the thoughts of many, when I say thanks for your contributions to many facets of our community over the years. Good luck too to the team at Southern Air - you'll need it to survive once Tonto get's wound up and into action!



Sheet Metalcraft Ltd

33 Bowmont St INVERCARGILL Ph:2186-315
[A/H Trevor Manson - Ph: 236-8042]

Specialists in:
* TIG & MIG welding * General sheet metal work *
* Stainless steel & aluminium fabrication *

Brownie News

- Brown Owl

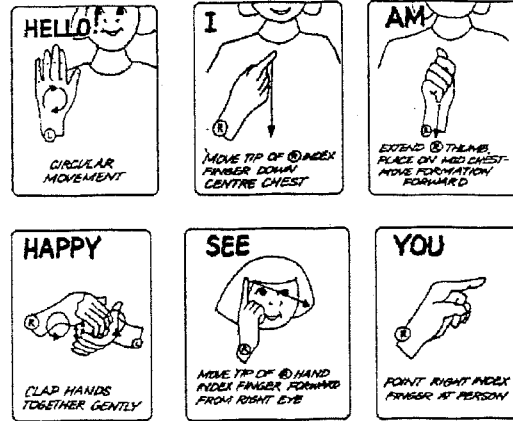
Delightful young group this term, with two tweenines working towards enrolment, which will bring our number to seven.

It would be good to have an adult helper, I haven't had a Tawny Owl for some time. They keep leaving to have babies.

Now the church hall has been shifted up the hill beside the Anglican Church, it's much drier and warmer, and with the added convenience of power and ablutions, it's excellent.

The girls have been working on sign language and thought we'd share this with you.

Carolyn Squires (Snr)



Peter's Pickled Mussels



Recipe provided by - Peter & Iris Tait

1 Gallon Mussels - Cooked, debearded & washed

Just cover Mussels with vinegar..malt, cider, spiced or mixture.

Boil water (1/5th volumn of vinegar) together with 2pkts pickling spice and 2 tsp ginger for 20 minutes, strain and pour over mussels and vinegar.

Add 500 gm to 1 kg brown sugar (to taste) plus sliced raw onions, green peppers etc.

Cover and keep in cool place for between 3 and 5 days before use. Taste every so often and adjust sugar, water or vinegar as needed.

Honey may be substituted all or part for brown sugar, as can a red wine or black sauce for up to 20% of the vinegar.

This recipe can be bottled by omitting onions and boiling ALL ingrediants for at least 20 minutes and then using the hot overflow method. Check that mixture is not too watery. As with any preserved shellfish -

Care is needed to avoid food poisoning

The BUSINESS CENTRE

Southland Ltd

117 Yarrow St INVERCARGILL Ph: 218-8043

CWI Golden Jubilee

The Stewart Island Country Women's Institute will be celebrating the Golden Jubilee on Sat 6th July, 1991, with a luncheon at the South Sea Hotel, at noon. About 40 past and present members hope to be there, two of them being present at the first meeting in 1941. Past members are most welcome, contact Margaret Rooney (2191-012) for details.

CWI meets on the 1st Thursday of the month, at 2 pm in the RSA Hall. New members are most welcome.

APW - AGM

The AGM of the Association of Presbyterian Women will be held on Thursday 20th June - Contact Joy Duston (2191-376) for details.

School Trip

Life will be quiet round the village from Mon 24th June to the end of the week. The 23 children from the senior class are off for a trip to Waiora Camp, just out of Dunedin. While there they will be visiting palces of interest in and around the City. I'm sure they'll have a great report on their activities once they get back to school.

Fernery Move

The Bay has lost a feature over the past few weeks. No longer can we see pottery penguins and Island mugs in the windows of the old Bake House. After months of hard work the new building opposite Traill Park is complete enough for Elspeth Tindal to move The Fernery to its new home.

With a light and airy new building, with different floor levels, alcoves and other display areas, Elspeth's flair for showing off plants, paintings and pottery to best effect will come into its own. It will be convenient for her to be able to run the shop side of the business from right alongside home, where most of the work raising Ferns in Eggs, and other plants is done.

The opening of the new Fernery is expected to take place by Labour Weekend. Best wishes for the move Elspeth.

New Craft Shop

The Bake House has had rather a chequered career over the past 20 years. Who can remember *The Scallop Shell Cafe*, run by Jack & Elsie Thornley in the early '60's. More would know Harry and Vina Feilds' Fish & Chip Shop. Then Fox and Beryl ran tea rooms there for a time. Since then it has passed through several hands as a craft shop.

Elspeth's tenure of the building must be one of the longest in recent times. Right at the moment it looks empty and forlorn, but that isn't to last long. Judy Dawson will be moving in to set up a new shop, selling clothing, crafts and plants in September.

Good luck with the new venture Judy. It's great to know the old building is still going to be in use.

Footrot Flats

Well, like dog, I'm not too sure about the definition of "flat", but we're all likely to get footrot with the dampness that's been round recently. I guess most folk saw the Murray Ball cartoons in the paper recently. He was down on holiday about a couple of years ago. Good to see us in the strip - even if we aren't mentioned by name.

For those who missed the cartoons, don't panic - they're safely tucked away in the computer, ready to be pulled out at an appropriate time.

Missing after Search

A green Hallmark day pack, borrowed during the search for Joe Freiman.

Would the borrower please return to:

Wally Hockley
c/o DOC

Wanted urgently:

One Cub Leader

The local Cub Pack is currently in recess, as they have no leader. There must be someone out there who can spare an hour or twoa week with the boys! If so, please contact:

Caroline Francis (Ph: 2191-490)

Nature Notes

Hérons and Egrets

Three species of herons and egrets occur quite commonly in New Zealand, none being restricted to this country. All three can be seen on Stewart Island. The white heron is the largest, around 90 cm tall. The others are much smaller, only 50-60 cm high.

Kotuku - White Heron

(*Egretta alba modesta*)

The kotuku was a Maori symbol for anything rare and beautiful. Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Visit to New Zealand in 1953, the first by a reigning monarch, was described as the Flight of the Kotuku.

This noble bird was chosen as the logo for the 1990's Commission. Although they are quite widely distributed throughout Australia and the South Pacific, there are only around 100 to 120 white herons in New Zealand.

Around half the birds are mature, breeding in kahikatea forest alongside the Waitangiroto River near Okarito on the West Coast. Adult birds arrive from all round the country in mid-August. They take part in elaborate courtship rituals before laying in late September or October. The pale bluish eggs hatch after about 25 days. Generally one or two chicks survive from the three to five eggs that are laid.

Breeding finishes in December, and by January the birds have departed from Okarito, to disperse all around the country. They are birds of shallow wetlands and are never far from water, roosting at night in trees. Most years one or two are seen at the head of Paterson Inlet.

Cattle Egret

(*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*)

At around 90cm tall, the white heron is almost twice the size of the white birds which were strutting round the village over the past few weeks. These are cattle egrets, migratory visitors from Australia. They have been visiting Stewart Island regularly over the past few winters. Why they pick this time of year fair beats me - maybe they need to cool off!

- Sam

Cattle egrets were first recorded in New Zealand in the 1960's. Bigger flocks appeared in 1972 and 1973, and it around this time that three or four birds were first noticed here on Stewart Island. By 1976 it was apparent that an annual migration was developing, and now hundreds of birds appear throughout New Zealand each winter. This year there were at least 20 cattle egrets round Oban.

They appear scattered around the country in May, congregating into larger flocks in June and July. Most birds migrate back to New South Wales and southern Queensland around mid-October, though a few birds linger until mid-December.

As the name implies, the birds are generally associated with cattle or other grazing animals. Egrets often follow at the cows feet eating insects disturbed by the grazing. They will even perch on cattle's backs when resting.

It must be a fair cow not having any cattle to perch on in the Halfmoon Bay School grounds, but the egrets seem pretty happy, probing the damp ground for worms and soil insects. They seem to take a wide variety of prey, adapting to local and seasonal variations in food supply.

The cattle egret is gregarious, living in loose flocks of mixed sex and age. They generally roost in trees close to water. The trees behind the museum have been a favoured site recently.

Overseas the egrets are said to be particularly tame. Here on Stewart Island they don't seem to mind passing vehicles, but are somewhat wary of pedestrians when they first arrive. After a few weeks they seem to adapt better to human presence, and allow you to approach quite close before they take wing.

Another heron, which can usually be seen at Mill Creek just a few minutes walk from the Bay is the white-faced heron.



White-faced heron

(*Ardea novaehollandiae*)

While the cattle egrets prefer dry ground (well, at least they don't normally have to paddle on the lawn outside the pub) white-faced herons prefer getting their feet soaking wet. You'll find the bird parading through the shallows in the Mill Creek estuary, pausing every now and then to rake a foot through the sand. This disturbs small fish and invertebrates which the heron then catches in its sharp bill.

Sometimes you'll see the birds with wings outstretched, shading the surface, so they can see through the water better.

White-faced herons were occasionally seen last century, but it seems these were wind-blown strays from Australia, as breeding in New Zealand was not confirmed until 1941.

In the 1960's there was a population explosion, and it is now by far the most common heron in the country. Pairs nest alone, or in small groups, building a rough platform of sticks in tall trees, often overhanging water.

The white-faced heron is about 60-70 cm tall, with a white face, dark-grey or black bill and yellow legs. The body plumage is light grey, with a slight chestnut tinge on the upper breast. The colouring distinguishes it from *matuku-moana*, the reef heron, which is less commonly seen round the Island.

Matuku-moana - Reef heron

(*Egretta sacra*)

The reef heron is the same size as the white-faced heron, but the plumage is a darker blue-grey all over. The bill is brown and yellow, and the legs greenish yellow.

They have a preference for rocky shores but also inhabit estuaries and mud flats. Feeding is regulated by the tides and they will commonly hunt by night as well as day. It is solitary and defends its feeding territory from its own kind, though it will tolerate birds of other species.

Nesting starts in late September, usually in gloomy sites such as crevices on cliffs. They will also sometimes build their nest of twigs, seaweed and grass in low overhanging trees, or under flax.

The birds are largely tropical in distribution, being found in the Southwest Pacific, coastal Australia, Southeast Asia and Japan. It seems the birds here on Stewart Island are at the southern-most limit of the distribution, which possibly explains why they are not more common.

Other herons

Other, less common species of heron seen in NZ include the little egret, the white-necked heron and the Nankeen night heron.

Why's the Prince Charming?

Who Fits the Crystal Slipper?

Who are the Ugly Sisters?

Find the answer to these and other world shaking questions at:

Cinderella

County Hall

Fri 12th - Sat 13th July 1991





Golf Club Newsletter

- 3-putt



Our thanks to SIN for allowing the Club to make a contribution to this issue.

The first tournament of the year was the annual Electrix Tournament, held on 23rd March. Although entries were down on last year, those participating had a great day's golfing. Like the guy who had never played golf before driving the green on the No 2 par four hole over the hill. Nice one Jim.

Electrix Tournament

Big Glory Salmon made no race of the competition, with a nett total of 35.8 points. Congratulations to Stu Bayne, Simon Marwick, Greg North and Dean Gibb. Second, on 38 points, was a previous winner, NZ Salmon, with the Fisherman's Co-op team third.

"What happened to the infamous Gun Club Team?"

The 12 hole competition was won by Bay Take-aways, with 26 points. Well done Elaine. Next year try and do 18 holes.

Winner of the Senior Championship was new-comer to Stewart Island, Nick Marshall, beating Ian Sinclair.

Intermediate Men's was won by Alistair Eade, over Terry Moorcraft.

"Who said old age and treachery could never overcome youth and skill?"

The men's Junior Championship was won by Karl Hansen, over Ian Munro.

"You just proved me wrong Ian!"

The Ladies Champion this year is Brenda Hicks, winning her match over Tina Kershaw.

The Penn Smith Cup for Voluntary Work was awarded to Ian Munro, and the Patron's Trophy, donated by Lorna Hitchcock, was won by Wally Hockley.

Annual General Meeting

The March AGM saw the following officers elected:

- President Ross Dymock
- Vice President Tom Learmonth
- Club Captain Ian Sinclair
- Sec/Treasurer Wally Hockley
- Handicapper Ted Rooney
- Committee Sue Munro, Ek Lewis

Main points of business were a small increase in subscriptions and improving methods of gaining green fees from non-members.

Bluff Trip

On the 29th of April 20 members travelled to Bluff to play. This being Ringa Ringa's first off-shore venture, even the wet and muddy conditions did not deter everyone from enjoying the hospitality of the Bluff Golf Club. The match was won by Bluff, but more importantly, the seeds have been sown for regular reciprocal visits.

A wooden carving of a mollymawk, created by Greg North, was presented to the Bluff Club as a trophy for future matches.

Finally, congratulations to Sue Munro for obtaining her handicap. Well done Sue!

I.T.C. Home Brew Competition

- Iris Tait



No, not the Homebrew contest in full swing, but a Minhinnick cartoon of the 6'oclock swill of the 1950's - From N to Z. by C V Smith

This competition is run as a fund-raising venture by Stewart Island International Training in Communication (ITC). This year it was held on Saturday 1st June, at the RSA Hall. A total of 27 bottles of home brew of varying types were entered by ten aspiring brewmasters.

Overall Champion Trophy:

WinnersJane & Sam Nichol

Stout

First Ian Sinclair

Lager

FirstJane & Sam Nichol

Draught

First Jane & Sam Nichol

Traditional (non -Kit)

No Entries

Wines & Others

First Iris Tait

Congratulations to all prize winners, and thank you to all participants and members of the public for their support.

Thanks must go to the three Judges - Ian Carter from Speights Brewery, Bruce Ford and Keith Smith. Thanks must also go to Tom Learmonth for his decanting expertise.

The Judges awarded marks for presentation, clarity, head retention/carbonation, aroma, flavour/taste and finish. If any contestant would like a copy of their evaluation sheet, please contact Colleen Dawson or Iris Tait.

Stewart Island ITC will probably organise another contest about Easter next year, so keep on brewing.

Kayak Hire

- Innes

Stewart Island can provide the ideal Kayaking experience, at the same time enabling Kayakers to enjoy the Island's beautiful beaches, vegetation and wild life on excursions ashore.

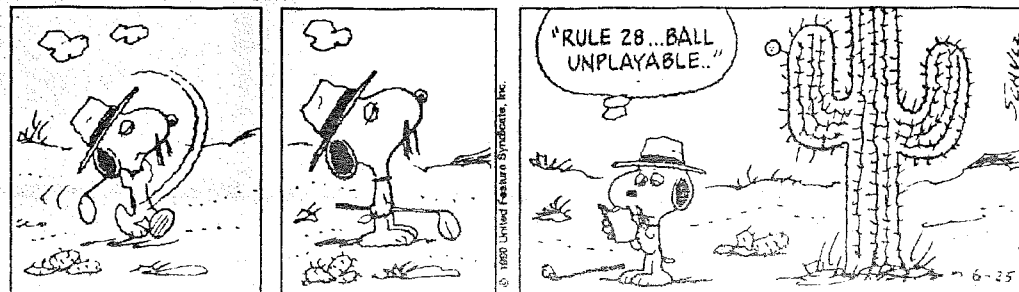
Kayaking is, in fact, is an ancient form of sea transport. Construction materials may have changed, but the basic design of today's kayaks is the same as those used by the Eskimos thousands of years ago.

One of kayaking's key advantages is that anyone can do it. High levels of fitness are not necessary and apart from some basic paddling and safety instruction, no previous experience is necessary.

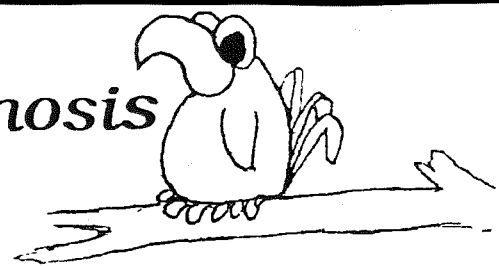
In these days of heightened environmental concern, it is regarded as an environmentally positive activity. It is non-polluting, using no energy, apart from the paddler's own.

I am initially testing the water with three kayaks for hire, next to the Post Office. They will be available on hourly, half-day and full-day rates. As experience and demand increase, so will the range of equipment, kayaks and options offered.

S
N
O
O
P
Y



DOC Diagnosis



- Andy Roberts

In the last twelve months our kakapo management programme was designed to cover as much of southern Stewart Island as possible, to find any birds left. This all kicked off in mid-January, with two teams of two searchers checking any areas where male kakapo may have set up tracks and bowls to attract any passing females.

This first phase of the operation worked well, with sign of a male bird being found near Deceit Peaks (between Port Pegasus and Doughboy Bay). Our dog handler was brought in and the new male bird was caught before 10 o'clock in the morning. When he was brought back to the tent to have his transmitter fitted, the boys decided it was time for a brew, so the bird was called "Smoko".

By the end of February all of the potential track and bowl areas had been checked, so we moved into phase two of this season's plan. This was to search as much of the rest of the kakapo area. (about 40,000 ha or 98,000 acres) for any other kakapo sign. The plan was to start in the south and move north.

By late February a new female bird was located, "Ruth" from near Cooks Arm. The team continued with the searching and towards the end of March another female bird, "Fuchsia" was found in the upper Pegasus Creek area.

These results were totally surprising and have again lifted the chances of eventually restoring the kakapo population.

The searching carried on to early May, with two areas noted where some follow up searching may be needed. By this time the decision had been made that the three birds on Stewart Island should be transferred to Maud island in the Marlborough Sounds, where an intensive programme of supplementary feeding and nest manipulation is planned.

The transfer of these birds was extremely difficult. Our radio transmitter signals, the weather, flight schedules and the birds all disrupted our best laid plans. "Smoko" had shifted nine kms and both "Ruth" and "Fuchsia's" transmitters were giving hard to copy signals. After a second attempt, the last two birds were picked up and flown north.

As of last week, all birds had settled in well on Maud Island, and were enjoying a range of extra food.

On a more local note, the birds on Codfish Island are doing well. The rimu trees look set to produce a good crop of fruit next season, and this should give us a kakapo breeding season. Our aim will be to continue our low level monitoring, and let the birds here get on with things by themselves.

This season kakapo recovery has progressed well, with chicks raised on Little Barrier Island, a new population on Maud Island and everything set for a breeding season on Codfish Island next year.

On a somewhat sadder note, we will very soon have a new kakapo (stuffed) on display in our Visitor Centre. "Ngawaka" was unfortunately killed last year. He is the only preserved Stewart Island Kakapo in the world and the display will be unveiled when completed. The old bird is moth-eaten, to say the least!

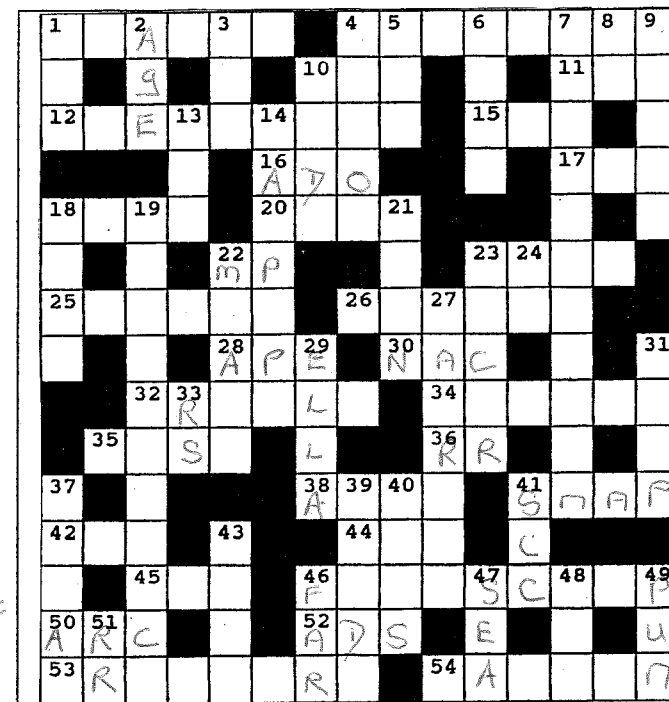
X-word

Well, folks, feel like a challenge? Here's the first Island crossword. A copy of the Stewart Island map is handy for place names. Maori words are plant and animal names or common words you'll find in a basic Maori Dictionary, such as *Reeds*. Some clues are cryptic - no apologies. Have fun!

Across

1. She's the only named lake on the Island [6]
4. It's just "The Bay" [8]
10. There's a North Head this colour [3]
11. A short 53 across, related to 15 across [3]
12. Friederick had his pub here in the 1880's [9]
15. Little sister [3]
16. Much ___ about t, nothing [3]

SIN Crossword No: 1



17. You can catch this at Waituna [3]
18. Religious Group [4]
20. Island at Golden Bay [4]
22. Geoff Grant is our ___ [Abbrev] [2]
23. It's muddy in ___ Toi Swamp [3,3]
26. You won't find this big flower growing at 54 across [6]
28. A big monkey - like some folk I know [3]
30. Nic-___ or our old National Airline [3]
32. The Postmaster at 23 across. [6]
34. Dwell, live etc [6]
35. He built at the Neck in 1836, but didn't burn incense [4]
36. Go away for _&_ - or a very short railroad [1,1]
38. She's a low singer [4]
41. Break with a crack [4]
42. US intelligence - only good for crosswords [3]
44. Arkwright found the dinkum stuff at Leask Bay [3]
45. 22nd Greek letter [3]
46. Hut at the head of the Inlet, named after one of the Traill's [5,4]
50. Segment of a circle's rim [3]
52. They help pay for SIN [Abbrev] [3]
53. Family group - it's near Easy [8]
54. A nearby Mound [6]

Down

1. Our local airline who employs Tonto [3]
2. A very long time- "Jake was a baby ___s ago" [3]
3. Bay where the cable came ashore - near 54 across [3]
4. The 1990's white bird and a river near Port Adventure [5]
5. They help pay for SIN [Abbrev] [3]
6. Rock off HMB - bought at Potty's Pie Cart [4]
7. Don't knock this Rock - the view's great! [11]
8. Used when there's an alternative [2]
9. An aristocratic island, or the "Flying Judge" [5]
10. Do it again Sam! [2-2]
13. Used to catch fish or for a ball game at HMB school [3]
14. A good spot in the Inlet for a feed of shellfish [7]
18. A place - or Fox's firm with an E [4]
19. Most folk smoke it, but a guy at the Neck had another habit [4,7]
21. Gray at Ferndale [4]
22. Early Maoris ate a big feed of ___ Native Island [3,2]
23. A stomach complaint I got building this crossword [5]
24. A Chinese measure of distance [2]
27. Lewis Acker's house is in this Bay [7]
29. The Fitzgerald who sang with Satchmo [4]
31. Ringaringa golfers would go off the end if they drove to this bay [4]
33. Please reply - two before VP [2]
37. Rowers try not to catch one [1,4]
39. Ladies, meet hubby at this river [5]
40. Neck-wear seldom seen on Stewart Island [4]
41. ___C is now the Community Board [Abbr] [3]
43. A tall Point may be the answer! [4]
46. Definitely not near [3]
47. It's all round Stewart Island [3]
48. It's a great little word when there's more than one [3]
49. A play on words [3]
50. Go away for _&_ - or a very short railroad [1,1]

[Solution - p20]

Ross's Ramblings

- Ross Dymock

It's been a while Sam, keep it up.

Joe Freiman.... the name everyone knows by now.

Joe came to the Island, with his three companions, to hunt whitetail deer.

On Thursday, 30th May at 1.00pm, he went hunting behind his camp and on Friday the 31st May at 4.00pm his companions made the phone call that triggered one of the biggest land search operations in the Island's history.

During the next seven days an intensive search took place of the probable area bounded by Big Glory Bay, The Heron River and the East coast from Little Glory to Port Adventure. This area covers over 50 sq km on the map and those involved in the field know how big the area is on the ground.

Possible areas were also searched and these included Lords River, coastal areas from South West Arm to Big Glory Bay and land search from Hapatuna and Abrahams Bay to Big Glory Bay.

There will always be differing opinions on whether the right area was searched or the right methods used but information given and gained during any operation dictates the direction it will take and this includes resources, methods and personnel.

The weather during the search was arguably some of the worst the Island has had in recent times, at least during the first three or four days. The average temperature, in the Bay, was about 5 deg C. Joe Freiman was not dressed to withstand these elements and combined with his age and lack of food it is unlikely he survived these first days. There have been some remarkable tales of survival but I doubt Joe Freiman will be one.

The result, after seven days, is frustrating to say the least and to leave someone, dead or alive is against our nature.

Other methods of search were considered, infrared detectors, dogs and contact search.

The response from the community was nothing less than outstanding and special thanks must go to everyone from those people who came into D.O.C. and left their name in case they were needed, the ladies

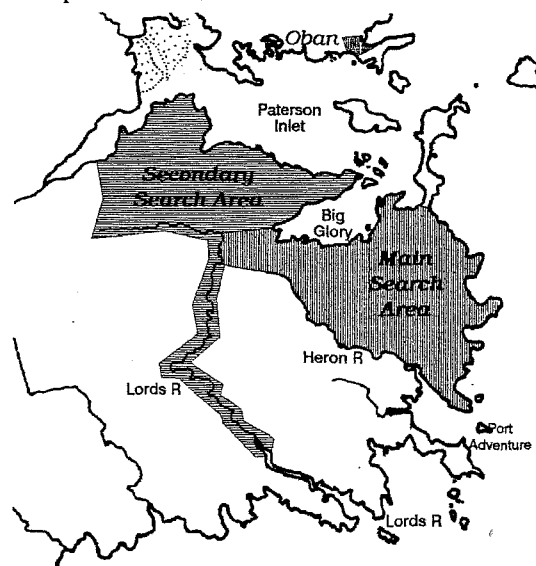
who co-ordinated the meals, accommodation, transport and cups of tea etc ... Those who stood by on reserve for hours. Shearwater Inn, South Seas Hotel, Stewart Island Travel and Tearooms. Southern Air, the helicopters and their pilots - how much leg work did they save? The boat owners, fisherman who spent hours combing the coastline and ferrying the troops. To the paid, the unpaid, the volunteers, and the conscripts and to those I've missed, thank you.

The search was a very well run operation and all credit must go to our three advisers who worked long hours planning the day by day running, well done Greg Lind, Fritz Jury and Philip Smith.

Now for other things.....

A big plus for the Island's honesty particularly the children. The amount of property handed in to me, especially cash, is very encouraging. Cash is one item that people, if they lose it, seldom check to see if it's been found and consequently 99% of it goes back to the finder.

Conversely there is a lot of property reported as lost and as much as 80% is never recovered. I do not think that it stays lost in the same locality as the owner dropped it. Remember that you can be charged with theft by finding if you do not hand it in or report it as found.



Todd's Real Estate

- Stewart Island Properties for Sale

Our range of listings has never been better!

- Cottages in secluded bush settings
- Holiday homes beside the sea
- Modestly priced family homes
- Near new homes - one bedroomed to four bedroomed
- Prestigious family homes with magnificent Bay and Ocean views
- Homes on large blocks of land with development potential.
- Plus a great selection of building sites and larger blocks of land.

We have something to offer every purchaser.

- Cottages from \$30,000
- Sections from \$2,000

For all Stewart Island Real Estate enquires and sets of listings, please contact local rep:

Mrs Diane Smith

Ph: (03) 2191-144

or write:

PO Box 104
Stewart Island

"Whipp?" Place

Reliable waterfront sources report that "Stumpy", Stewart Island's answer to "Precious" McKenzie, is involved in dubious activities. His mate, Merv "The Whipp", has imported a set of lifting weights.

There are suspicions that "Sarg" may be involved too. We know the "Glory" boys are secret admirers of the South Sea Bar Belles, but these bar-bells put their weights up.

It's a *Snatch*. They'll have to come *Clean & Jerk* out some excuses or we'll *Split* on 'em. They're *Dead - Lift* 'em up from their *Squat* and get 'em in front of the beak on the *Bench - Press* charges now!

Other gym gear has arrived on the Island recently, too. Our "Spy in the Sky" suspects that a rowing machine flew in for another Big Glory employee. If the boys want to keep fit you would think they'd row to work rather than catch the *Azural*, wouldn't you?

No, the plot thickens. Clandestine meetings have been observed outside "Sarg's" garage, and there have been crashes, thumps and bumps from inside. Some observers even suspect they are setting up a "Whip" Place of the less desirable sort!

All this barging around points to something even more sinister. What are the "Glory Boys" getting up to out there on their barge? It's real fishy, they can't concentrate on salmon any more. No, all this get-fit activity isn't preparation for a bumper salmon harvest in 1992.

More evidence is needed, but everything at the moment points to the probability that what they're really up to is turning the whole Big Glory operation into a "Muscle" Farm.

- Cecil(ia) the Sleuth

Clubs List

Did you know we have nearly 100 clubs, organisations and businesses recorded for the Island. There's bound to be some we've missed too. There's a list of clubs included this month. Please let me know of any updates/corrections. We'll look at businesses next issue.

- Sam

Business House Hours

Anchor Merchants

Ph: 2191-069
 General Store - Papers
 Meat/Milk/Bread
 9:00am-5:30pm Mon-Fri
 10:00am-Noon Sat/Sun

Bay Takeaways

Fish & Chips etc
 Sun/Mon 5:00-8:00pm
 Wed Noon-2:00pm
 6:00-8:00pm
 Fri/Sat 5:00-11:30pm

Co-op Chandlery

Ph:2191-163
 Basic Clothes/Meat
 10-11:45am Mon-Sat
 1:30-5pm Mon/Wed/Fri

Co-op Fish Shed

Ph: 2191-164
 Fresh & Frozen Fish
 9:00am-5:00pm Mon-Fri

Post Office

Ph: 2191-090

9am-1pm/2-5pm Mon-Fri

Stewart Is Travel

Ph: 2191-269
 Sthn Air Agent - Taxis
 Souvenirs - Tearooms
 8:30am-5:00pm Mon-Fri
 9:30am-5:00pm Sat/Sun

Rakiura Riders

Ph:391-011 if closed
 10am-5pm most days

Shearwater Inn

Ph: 2191-114
 Dinner 6-8:00pm
 [Casuals please book]

South Sea Hotel

Ph: 2191-059
 Public Bar:
 11am-10pm Mon-Thur
 11am-11pm Fri/Sat
 Lunch Noon-1:00pm Dinner
 6-7:00pm
 [Casuals book by 4:30pm]

Southern Air

Stewart Is Library

2-3pm Wed
 11am-Noon Fri/Sat

Rakiura Museum

Open by appointment over
 Winter

DOC Info Centre

Ph: 2191-130
 Displays - Hunting Permits
 Track Information
 8am-4:30pm Mon/Fri
 [Other times see notice on
 door for Duty Officer's Phone
 No.]

Nurse's Clinic

10:30am-Noon Mon-Fri
 [Phone: 391-098]

Police

[Phone 391-020]

EMERGENCIES

DIAL "111"

Stewart Island Charter Service

PO Box 50 Bluff Ph: [021] 37-8376

Winter Timetable

Tuesday/Friday

Bluff STEWART ISLAND Bluff

Dep Arr Dep Arr

9:00 - 11:15am 1:30 - 3:45pm

Ticketing: 30min before Sailing

Boarding: 15min before Sailing