A Christmas Message from the Managing Director

This is the first occasion on which it is my privilege to express to you and your families my warmest wishes for the festive season now at hand.

The year coming to a close has been a most noteworthy one in the history of the Company, and we shall all look back on it and reflect that much has been achieved. Our status as an organization has improved dramatically, and our success as retailers is reflected in the record-breaking Christmas trade.

All this is merely evidence of the loyalty and energy of your personal effort which, when put together with those of your colleagues, creates what we choose to call our Company.

FOYS ROOF TOP FUN PARK.

It is a noteworthy achievement to visualize some project designed to give joy to countless children, to steadily plan, and work towards that objective, and to finally succeed in making the vision into a unique, and highly-successful, reality. When the launching of the venture takes place in circumstances that provide wholesome enjoyment — on its first day — for little children suffering from such disabilities as the loss of sight, or the effects of a spinal ailment, the sense of achievement is accentuated, and the introduction made in the highest spirit of Humanity. And — great achievement with worthy launching, have both been realized by the opening of Foy's Roof Top Fun Park at the Melbourne Central Store, in the heart of the City's principal shopping district.

The idea of a Park was originated by Sir Frank Saunders (kindly loaned for the occasion by the Tivoli Circuit) — in close proximity to the famous Roof Top Cafeteria and the passenger- lifts — constructed, and a huge steel girder, partially affixed to the parapet and building walls. The alterations were made! Maintenance staff, with some outside assistance, achieved the seemingly impossible! To give a completely-unobstructed area, obsolete air-conditioning ducts and ventilating shafts were completely removed, an all-weather lobby — passenger-lifts — constructed, and a huge steel girder, partially affixed to the roof itself, skilfully removed and, later, used to flank a wall. This girder then became the foundation for a huge umbrella-covered seat on the west wall for the comfort of tired parents.

When these dramatic structural alterations had been completed, the (now) unobstructed roof top was made thoroughly safe. Display artists, maintenance painters, carpenters and electricians worked in on the job. The high walls surrounding the area were skillfully treated with colorful reproductions of scenes from the Wild West, or with the familiar figures so beloved by children of all ages. Additional constructions moulded to the likeness of a Western town added their positive contributions to a gay scene. These constructions included a little school, a barber shop, a Chinese laundry and a livery stable (complete with nonchalantly-draped real Texan saddles) — in fact, all of the necessary "back-drops" to a Wild West and carnival atmosphere. A clever use of seven-half-bags converted the prosaic Maintenance workshop, and the balustrades, into a Fenimore Cooper pillared frontier fort — an illusion accentuated by wall paintings at the entrance.

The great idea of such a Park was originated by Sir Frank Richardson, Chairman of the Company, and many planning Conferences followed the initial conception of the thought. Its material presentation was the work of Display Maintenance, Advertising, Merchandising and Administrative specialists who gave their unreserved attention to the task.

Many difficulties had to be "ironed out" before the project assumed visible proportions. As adequate space was not available within the walled confines of the Store, proper, the possibilities of the open roof space were considered and finally selected as an appropriate location for the Park. In this area, it was calculated that 10,000 square feet of space could be made available, but only after certain essential alterations had been made. And the alterations were made! Maintenance staff, with some outside assistance, achieved the seemingly impossible! To give a completely-unobstructed area, obsolete air-conditioning ducts and ventilating shafts were completely removed, an all-weather lobby — passenger-lifts — constructed, and a huge steel girder, partially affixed to the roof itself, skilfully removed and, later, used to flank a wall. This girder then became the foundation for a huge umbrella-covered seat on the west wall for the comfort of tired parents.

With such a foundation, one can readily appreciate why the "unofficial" opening on Thursday, 26th November, went with such spirit! The feelings of justifiable pride were enhanced by the additional knowledge that the very first patrons of the Fun Park were 700 children from the Blind Babies' Homes, Kew, the Victorian School for Deaf Children, and the Victorian Association of Day Nurseries. These little ones were the guests of the Management, and to them — and to the many kindly people who assisted in their entertainment — the day was a memorable one.

As the children arrived at the Store in their chartered buses, willing hands escorted them to their destination on the Roof Top. There was an element of unforgettable beauty at the sight of blind, or crippled, little children being lovingly shepherded to the Park by many gentle helpers. There, the children were greeted by Father Christmas, by an internationally famous clown — Dan Saunders (kindly loaned for the occasion by the Tivoli Circuit) — by Miss Summer Festival, 1959, and by many representatives of the Management. All of the young guests sampled the fun of the Fair, pierced the roof to provide for crowd barriers and the operation of carnival equipment was another problem. Human ingenuity solved this, also, by means of utilizing heavily-weighted drums packed with sand to tip level. A realistic roof garden of potted plants and small trees was set in symmetrically-arranged and well-watered piles of tan bark.

On such an exposed elevation, the vagaries of high winds, or rough weather, could whisk light building materials over the high-enclosing walls on to the streets beneath. To offset this risk, all of the building materials used in the construction of the properties had to be of sufficient weight, and strength, to permit of proper shackling and fastening to properly resist any unusual strains, or stresses.

Problems did not cease with the completion of the Fun Park itself. The transportation to the roof of a 30-horse merry-go-round, a motor-drawn train, swing and water boats, and a small Cobb and Co.'s stage coach, posed many anxious moments. Safe transit of all equipment, however, was effected by taking the carnival equipment to pieces, bringing it to the roof in sections, and re-assembling all units on their arrival.

Needless to say, there was a feeling of universal satisfaction when all these tasks were safely, and efficiently, accomplished. Very many people played yeoman parts in what was, undoubtedly, a remarkable team effort, and special reference must be made to the stalwarts who designed, and planned, the completed work. In the forefront of these creators were the members of the Maintenance and Display Departments, all of whom completed their respective tasks with imagination, care, and marked ingenuity. It would not be inappropriate, moreover, to refer specially to the artistic effects achieved by Miss Jennifer Field, of Display, who skilfully executed the Western, and storybook, characters and scenes that adorn the parapet and building walls.

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and all were the recipients of ice-cream, sweets and balloons. A hovering helicopter added a touch of novelty to the proceedings, and the Press on the following day, was an effective souvenir of a great occasion.

The day concluded with bursts of spontaneous cheering for Foys from the little guests. Without being at all maudlin, there you did have a lump in many a throat" at the inspiring sound of children's voices. The day concluded with bursts of spontaneous cheering for Foys from the little guests. Without being at all maudlin, there you did have a lump in many a throat at the inspiring sound of children’s voices. "What’s wrong with that?” you'll probably say. "And is there anything remarkable in the fact that the Goddess of Chance, with her many aliases and be-

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM. (Continued)

The Goddess of Chance, or the pursuit of Lady Fortune, exer-

cises an irresistible fascination over many of Melbourne’s Char-
acters! No greater arena for observation can be found in the City than in that famous Flanders Street building that houses the world-

famed "Tattersalls" consignments. Within the confines of the ever-


Tattersalls is that individual who eagerly awaits, and avidly scans, the latest Stock Exchange share market fluctuations, as he passes brokers’ premises in his tireless perambulations. Where he lives, or how he lives, is of course, that YOU do not come within this category!"

Observe this elderly gentleman who goes around to all of the selling houses a minute or two early. Some weeks, he'll leave the building without pur-

chasing a ticket, but should his numbers show up — sign being written with the last two figures as "77", then he'll patronize that particular window for his investment.

There is also that other methodical investor who presents him-
self one window at the exact time each Thursday of the year. If he is a minute in advance, or a minute in arrears, before it be-

comes his time for purchase, he will walk out of the queue to come again on the following Thursday.

Perhaps the strangest of all the Characters who patronize Tattersalls is that individual who eagerly awaits, and avidly scans, each result slip as supplies are exhausted. If the numbers on the appro-

priate table. Watch the expressions on his face! Anxious hope is swiftly succeeded by keen disappointment and, invariably, the result-slip with that window for his investment.

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priate table. Watch the expressions on his face! Anxious hope is swiftly succeeded by keen disappointment and, invariably, the result-slip with that window for his investment.
Miss Beverley Creedman, of Cosmetics, recently celebrated her 21st birthday with a coming-of-age party at her home, at which over 100 guests were present. In addition to many gifts received on that occasion, her workmates presented Beverley with a most attractive cascade-of-pearl necklace. Good wishes for the future to the young lady.

The likeable Albert Schulzer, formerly of the Shirt Department, resigned recently to commence a mixed-goods business on his own behalf in an eastern suburb. All wish Mr. Schulzer the greatest prosperity in this new undertaking.

Mr. Joe Criminin, Men's Tailoring, has returned from long-service leave, and we are pleased to state that he has obviously benefited by the break, and that Mrs. Criminin is considerably improved in health.

Miss Blair, formerly of Sportswear, was recently married to Mr. Bill Blair at Scots Church, Braybrook, and, prior to ceasing duty, received very many good wishes from staff on the (then) forthcoming event. Incidentally, it's not a printer's error to write "Blair to Blair" because Blair is the name of the young lady's proud husband.

Mrs. Urquhart, Men's Mercery, has returned from Queensland holiday and gives every evidence of having spent a most enjoyable vacation "sampling the sun" on the famous Gold Coast.

Several important executive changes, and promotions, have taken place during the month. They include the following:

- Mr. L. Hitchis to the position of Hardware Group Manager, and Mr. I. Jolliffe to that of Controller of the same Group.
- Mr. R. Hoyng to the position of Manager, Men's Business Shorts and Pyjamas.
- Mr. J. Blackwey, whose present managerial duties have been extended to include management of Men's Sports Shirts.
- Mr. C. Walker, to the position of Manager, Blinds Department.
- Mr. N. Wearne, whose duties as Manager, Miscellaneous Hardware, have been enlarged to cover Tools and Paints.

To all of these gentlemen, our good wishes for future success in their respective spheres.

The recent resignation of Miss Lolita Noli, Merchandise Control, was received with regret by this young lady's many friends in Foys organization. In addition to her likeable personality, Miss Noli was a vigorous member of Foys Social Committee, and it is the sincere wish of all that her future sphere of activity in a personal venture will be crowned with the success she richly deserves.

A presentation of a silver etreue dish was made to Miss Noli on the occasion of her departure.

Two recent supervisory appointments have been announced. They are those of Miss W. Ray and Miss B. Armstrong. Both members thoroughly deserve their advancement and all will congratulate them on the recognition of excellent service.

Miss Elane Ellis, Frock Department, has announced her intention of ceasing duty just prior to the Christmas vacation. Elaine is also one of our one Store Mannequins and enjoys the esteem, and affection, of many friends and fellow-employees. Our good wishes for a most successful future to an estimable young lady.

Hearty congratulations to Miss Barbara Armour, who was married to Mr. Anthony Skinner on 28th November. The former Miss Armour was previously employed as Secretary to the Footwear Controller (Mr. C. Harvey).

Miss Pat Bernardo, of Merchandise Control, is to become Mrs. Fay after her marriage on 19th December, and all unite in conveying to this young lady all good wishes for future happiness and prosperity.

Mrs. Joan Meikle, formerly employed in the Corset Salon, recently presented her husband with a fine son — Wayne. Both mother and child are very well, and our felicitations go to a very happy family on this great event.

PRAHRAN

The big event in a small budget of news from Prahran Store is the report of the Annual Christmas Party. This most enjoyable function was held on Tuesday, 1st December, and proved to be most successful. Honored guests included Mr. J. N. Watt (Managing Director), Mr. N. Neville (Merchandise Manager), Mr. I. Jolliffe (Hardware Group Controller and a former Prahran Store Manager), and Misses Cleghorn and Henshall (Roof Top Cafe-teria). An apology for unavoidable absence was received from Mr. A. J. Thomas.

All present agreed that the evening was a memorable one. One feature that gave additional pleasure to the night was Mr. Watts's announcement of the appointment as Store Manager of Mr. John Byrne — an announcement received with enthusiasm by the audience.

Great rejoicing in the Weir family. Mrs. L. Weir was fortunate enough to win a Christmas stocking valued at £50 in a recent Moonee Ponds raffle. Our hearty congratulations.

Another function listed for the near future is the Christmas Dinner, which is to be held at the Savoy Plaza on Thursday, 17th December. Over 60 persons have accepted invitations, and arrangements are well in hand for a great night.

The Prahran Store staff, whose children were recently the guests at the little ones' Annual Party, are loud in their praises of the programme effectively carried out on that joyous occasion. They have asked "News Service" to convey their sincere thanks to the organizers of the event, and this we do with very great pleasure.

COLLINGWOOD

Mr. "Ernie" Jones, Boys' Clothing, has been absent on sick leave since mid-November. The cause of Mr. Jones' illness is that growing malady called hepatitis. We are pleased to report, however, that Ernie is rapidly recovering and that he expects to return to duty within the next two weeks.

Recent additions to the staff of the Store have been suitably welcomed. The new-comers include:

- Mrs. Enid Molley, Receiving Room.
- Miss Madlene Ferguson, Underwear, and
- Mr. D. Martin, Men's Mercery.

We add our welcome, together with the sincere hope that employment with Foys is prosperous and protracted.

Mr. Clive Gathercole, Men's Mercery, has returned to duty after his recent illness, and we express the hope that his recovery is permanent and highly beneficial.

Congratulations are extended to the former Miss Louis Pearce, of the Town staff, who became Mrs. Ted McCasker after her marriage on 24th October. Every good wish for future happiness and prosperity.

Readers will be pleased to learn that Miss Sandra Grivas, Blouses, is making an excellent recovery after her recent operation for appendicitis. May the improvement continue until the lady is completely restored to good health.

When Miss Denise Mahon, Entry Office, resigned recently, her friends presented her with a handsome tea service. This popular ex-officer takes the good wishes of all with her into her new sphere of activity.

Another recent presentation was that made to Miss Beverley Moore to mark the occasion of her marriage to Mr. Eric Lacey. The gift took the form of a self-chosen set of saucepans. Good wishes to a very fine young couple.

Readers will regret to learn that Mr. Charles, father of Miss Nancy Charles, Auditor's Office, was recently involved in an accident, and is, at the present time, an inmate of Royal Melbourne Hospital. Sincere good wishes to the unfortunate gentleman for a speedy and permanent recovery.

Another item involving the conveyance of commiseration is to express to Miss Harding, sister of Miss E. Harding, Invoice Office, our highest hopes for good health after her recent indisposition.

A welcome return to duty is that of Miss Huliea Di Salvo, of Hire Purchase, after three weeks' sick leave. Congratulations to this lady on an excellent recovery.

COLAC

At this time of the year our thoughts naturally turn to Christmas, Christmas displays, but, most of all, to Father Christmas. Police had a busy time recently controlling a crowd of more than 2,000 parents and children who flocked to see Santa arrive on the roof of our Store.

Few children missed Santa's arrival. A rear of "Here he comes!" greeted a black boot as it spurred for a run on the ladder which led from the Store roof to the verandah. He had "hitched up" his reindeer over the Grocery Department. Down the ladder he came and balanced on the edge of the verandah, he passed on seasonal greetings to both kiddies and adults, and promised to come back to the Store in a few days' time.
He had made the special trip to perform the “lighting up” ceremony of murals depicting Nativity scenes, which had been designed and set up by our Display and Maintenance teams, with the assistance of Miss Heather Dobell, of the Colac High School (no relation to William). Special window displays have been completed as well as a most attractive interior lay-out, designed and executed by the Display team.

As a special boon to our lady customers, we are proud to announce the opening of a modern beauty salon. Mr. Gordon Hall, of Geelong, a leading hair stylist, has control of this new venture, and his extremely talented staff are proving a great success. The salon itself has incorporated many ideas which Mr. Hall brought back from overseas which are completely new to hairdressing in Australia.

On the opening night, Mr. Hall held a very interesting hair fashion parade. One of our local girls was sufficiently enamoured as to make her unrecognizable to the local populace.

During the course of the evening a parade of sportswear and fashions were shown by Shirley Heffernon, Margaret Wilson and Rae Spence, and added much to a very interesting and informative evening.

Two recent engagements amongst the Staff are those of Mr. Ian Carr, Manager of the Furniture Section, to Miss Betsy Rose, a well-known beautician, and Miss Dorothy Smith, of our Toyland, to Mr. Murray Sutherland, of Larpent. To all of the parties concerned, we offer our sincere congratulations.

On Saturday, 5th December, at St. Mary’s, Church, Colac, Loretta Holland, of Colac West, became the wife of Trevor McKenzie, salesman in our Menswear Department. Every good wish for the future to an estimable couple.

Although Christmas is usually a time of rejoicing, for three members of the Staff and their families it is not so; Mr. W. Coush, a Staff member of long standing, was stricken with a severe illness, as was Miss Edith Reeve, of Menswear, and Mrs. Joy Emmum, of the Office staff.

We extend to these three our best and sincere wishes for a speedy recovery and hope that they will soon return to us in better health.

As in all stores at Christmas-time, we have had an influx of casual staff, too numerous to mention, and we wish them a happy sojourn with us for a few weeks. Many are well known to us because of previous school holiday periods, and we are confident that the Management will receive their full co-operation and that they will be an acquisition to the Store.

GEELONG

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Des O’Donnell, of the Engraving Shop, at the announcement of his recent engagement to Miss Mary Williams, Marina Restaurant.

In the same happy sphere, similar good wishes are expressed to Miss Valerie Bright, Schoolwear Department, on her recent engagement to Mr. Max Beath.

May the future for these four young people be indeed happy and prosperous.

One of Brights staff, in the person of Mr. David Clayton, Carpet Department, has been extensively featured with his Rock n Roll combination on Bert Newton’s GTV9 show. Let’s hope that this is the prelude to even further successes.

Two new members of the staff have been appropriately welcomed, and to those already given, we add our felicitations. Newcomers are:

Mr. McGann, Electrical, and Miss D. Thompson, China.

This year’s Christmas decorations at Brights have attracted the admiration of both customers and staff. One of the highlights of a most attractive Store-wide display is the glittering, gold-covered and huge chandelier prominently displayed on the Ground Floor. The whole display is a worthy triumph for planners and technicians.

The popular Miss Norman recently returned from a Snowy Mountains holiday and is vehement in her praise of what has been achieved on this national project by the Snowy River Authority. To quote the lady: “It has to be seen to be believed.”

An event of outstanding importance in the long history of Brights took place on 3rd December, when Geelong’s first escalator was set in motion by the Store’s oldest customer and friend — Miss King. Prominent features of the ceremony were the cutting of the blue ribbon by Miss King, and the speech delivered by His Worship the Mayor of Geelong, a speech that made many flattering references to our long-established Firm. Amongst the many distinguished guests at the function were: Sir Frank Richardson, who was accompanied by representative Directors of Foys and of Cox Bros. A buffet luncheon was later served in the Marina Restaurant. To further mark this great occasion, gifts of sweets and hall-point pens were distributed to many fortunate customers.

In common with many other great Stores, the ever-present Santa Claus is present in the Store at this present juncture, and is proving — as always — a most popular institution. The popularity is not confined to the very young, but embraces all ages and types.

BENDIGO

Readers will be pleased to learn that Miss Dawn Merrifield, of the Office staff, has now returned home from Hospital after her recent illness. She expects to resume duty prior to Christmas, and all staff members can assure this popular young lady of a hearty welcome on her return.

Congratulations have been suitably conveyed to Miss Linda Lane, of Children’s Wear, to appropriately mark the occasion of her recent marriage. Management and staff combined to present the young bride with a fine electric clock.

A newcomer to our ranks is Miss Una Ryan, who has assumed charge of the Hosiety and Underwear Departments. Every good wish for the future to a very competent addition.

A most enjoyable function was held at the Masonic Hall recently, when the Annual Christmas Staff Party was held. An excellent occasion was graced by the presence of leading organization executives in the persons of Messrs. J. N. Watt, A. J. Thomas, N. E. Neville, and A. Houghton. The former two of these four gentlemen fittingly responded to an enthusiastic toast of Foy & Gibsons organization.

The completion of the new Store in Hargreaves Street is regarded, locally, as a graphic example of the progress and prosperity of our Store. The sense of achievement is accompanied by one of great pride on the part of all staff on the worth-while completion of a healthy, and vigorous, enterprise.

Mr. Jack Synoms is again filling the role of Father Christmas to the satisfaction of countless numbers of children, and grown-ups, also. His adequate performance in this capacity leaves no doubt as to his ability to convey the seasonal spirit to all customers.

OBITUARY

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the relatives, and friends, of those whose deaths we record hereunder:

Mrs. Welch, mother of Miss S. Roche, Ladies’ Suits, City.

Mrs. E. Newton, sister of Mrs. S. Woods, Manchester, Prahran.

Mrs. Bedgood, mother of Mr. Kevin Bedgood, Furniture, Bendigo.

Mrs. Conolan, mother of Mr. Ron Conolan, Electrical, Bendigo.
Library Digitised Collections

Author/s:
Foy & Gibson

Title:
Foy & Gibson newsletters

Date:
1947-1967 (incomplete)

Persistent Link:
http://hdl.handle.net/11343/21262

File Description:
Foys News Service v.1 no.8 Nov. 1959