An unusual diminution of news from the various Stores gives us an opportunity of propagating a Cause that should appeal to all readers of "News Service", and, indeed, to the whole Australian community.

That Cause is the National Heart Campaign. We are conscious of the fact that a number of references have already been made in these columns to the Campaign — we are also conscious that repetition can bring home a message that only passing reference might cause to be overlooked!

The story of this month's Personality of the Month is a simple one. Although it is not spectacular — nor does it promise wonder — it reflects credit upon itself, and advantage to the Company.

Company interest, and personal activity, inevitably prompts the question, "Why is such interest being taken in this nation-wide Campaign?" The reply to this question is embodied in a circular letter to all Section Chairmen, and we take the liberty of quoting extensively from that document:

"Dr. Paul White, M.D., a leading world authority on heart disease, and personal physician to the former President of the United States, has declared that 'Australians are riddled with coronary heart disease, hypertension, and strokes too early in life'. Statistics prove this alarming statement to be true. They show that—

(1) Heart and allied diseases are now causing more than 53 per cent. of all deaths in Australia,

(2) For every 100 persons who died of coronary heart disease in 1950, 150 persons died in 1959,

(3) Heart disease is killing hard at the vital 40-60 years age group, when men and women are at the most important phase of their lives,

(4) Australia needs to do much more to aid the rehabilitation of heart patients, and

(5) It is essential that we should retain our best medical researchers at home in Australia."

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Miss Haymes was born at Port Fairy, Victoria, and was one of a large family long resident in that small country town, where her father carried on a lucrative profession as a watchmaker and jeweller.

Although our history is not that of Miss Haymes' father, it is interesting to record some details of the life of our PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH. He was an English watchmaker employed as a skilled craftsman by the famous English Watch Company of that distant day. In the early '80's of last century, the Melbourne firm of Gaunts & Company — still located in Bourke Street, Melbourne — decided to expand its prosperous business by embarking on the manufacture of chronometers. There were certain trade secrets known only to English jewellers and watchmakers — secrets that were zealously guarded and not disclosed without the most rigorous examination of the applicant's credentials. Apparently, the gurb of Gaunts was a sufficient guarantee, for the English firm agreed to make the services of Mr. Haymes available to his Australian correspondents for a period of one year.

Our PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH's father duly came to Melbourne as the concluding decade of last century was ushered in. It was an entirely different Melbourne to the City we know, and love, so well. It was an "up-and-coming" metropolis of gas-lit streets, of horse-drawn carriages, of ladies and gentlemen gowned in gossamer — and the pace was more leisurely than in this frantic Age.

The contract between Gaunts and the young Englishman was for one year. This period was duly accomplished to the mutual satisfaction of both parties, and on its completion, Mr. Haymes decided to set up business for himself in the new land he'd come to like so well.

But — Fate intervened! A particularly virulent epidemic of typhoid fever struck Melbourne, and Mr. Haymes decided to translate his intention to what was then the thriving Western District port of Belfast (subsequently re-named Port Fairy). There he settled, and nearly four years later, was joined by his young wife.

In such an environment, Miss Haymes was born. She and the other members of her large family (all of whom are still living) were educated at the local State School receiving the prescribed
training of that day, and acquiring the Merit Certificate in the process.

The activities of the country port diminished greatly with the passing of the years, and business reasons compelled the removal of the Haymes family to the Melbourne suburb of Newmarket. The juxtaposition of the new location to the great Flemington Racecourse saw an accession of patronage from Melbourne sportsmen for the famous Haymes hand-made chronometers, and our PERSONALITY recalls her father’s proud boast that “his watches had accurately timed the working gallops of many Melbourne Cup and racing classics winners.”

Miss Haymes’ first employment was with the now-defunct firm of Craig Williamsons, of Elizabeth Street. As her later career substantiated, her duties consisted of clerical work, Burroughs machine calculations and — essentially — the reception of cash! Most transactions at that stage were in the now-departed sovereigns, half-sovereigns, half-crowns and other coins of the Realm. Hours of duty were: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Commencing salary was 10/- per week, with advancement to 15/- after two years of service.

Our PERSONALITY later advanced to Cashier, and, finally, she ceased duty to assume the domestic responsibilities of marriage to Mr. John Gillanders.

Foy's had built their new City emporium during this period, and, in 1908, Mr. Stan Moore, then General Manager, persuaded Miss Haymes to accept a position as Cashier of the Tuberoom with Miss Langdon as officer-in-charge. Later our PERSONALITY was transferred to the Cash Office, then on the Fourth Floor, and capably managed by Mr. Bob Alexander. Miss Langdon’s subsequent re-signation on her marriage meant a reversion to the Tuberoom as Officer-in-Charge.

During the régime of Mr. Tom Pettigrew as General Manager, Cash Office and Tuberoom duties were amalgamated as one Department in their present location on the lower Ground Floor, and the capable lady took charge of both activities. She has remained there ever since, and it is no exaggeration to state that the Company is indeed fortunate in having a lady of such calibre doing a job that entails so much responsibility, or is so vital to the smooth conduct of the accounting system.

In private life, Miss Haymes — or to give her the proper title of Mrs. Gillanders — lives with her husband at Caroline Street, South Yarra. They have a married daughter (Mrs. John Davis), and a granddaughter. Mr. Gillanders’ health is not of the best as the passing of the years, and business reasons compelled the removal of the Haymes family to the Melbourne suburb of Newmarket. The juxtaposition of the new location to the great Flemington Racecourse saw an accession of patronage from Melbourne sportsmen for the famous Haymes hand-made chronometers, and our PERSONALITY recalls her father’s proud boast that “his watches had accurately timed the working gallops of many Melbourne Cup and racing classics winners.”

Although it is somewhat belated, we take advantage of the opportunity to express thanks to the 12 staff members who constituted two “flying squads” for the recent door-knock operation of “Red Cross Calling”. To the gentlemen who volunteered for this service it is fitting to state that the general success of the Operation was the best repayment that could be proffered.

And — whilst on the subject of Public Service — we invite the attention of our readers to the Editorial. As will be noted therein, the forthcoming Heart Campaign gives a further opportunity to public-spirited employees to assist in a very worthy Cause.

As a general rule, “Service” does not publish farewell messages from former members of the Company who have ceased duty. Be-cause of the specific request, and because of the sentiments expressed, however, we publish a letter received from Mr. Clem Rowe, Hosiery buyer, City Store.

The Editor, News Service.

Would you please say ‘Good-bye’ to my friends at Foy’s City Store, and at Collingwood, Prahran, Chadstone, Brighton of Geelong, Myers of Bendigo, Bowrings of Mildura, etc., for me in your wonderful staff paper. I am leaving the Company with a sad heart, as everybody from the Directors down to the youngest junior have been friendly, and kind to me, during the period of nearly three years that I have been with the organization. My own staff has been most loyal and with a wonderful capacity for work. Any success I may have had must assuredly include them.

Kindest regards,

Clem Rowe.”

Many thanks for the sentiments, Mr. Rowe, and all the best to you in the future.

Apropos of Mr. Rowe’s resignation, we offer a hearty welcome to his successor — Mr. F. Stennett. “News Service” expresses the sincere hope that this gentleman will find his new position congenial, rewarding, and very happy.

Mrs. M. Berry, formerly of Cosmetics, has also asked “News Service” to convey her warm appreciation to all staff for the many messages of goodwill, floral gifts and visits received by her during her recent illness.

It will be an interesting exercise for amateur sleuths to discover the name of the staff member, whose recent exertions at a seaside resort were summarily, and violently terminated. The gentleman concerned volunteered to clear some scrub at the rear of the holiday home at which he, and his family, were sojourning. Wielding a mattock with remarkable vigor, our friend had the misfortune to decapitate a bull-ants’ nest. The first intimation of this Homeric feat was noted when several score indignant ants fastened themselves to his unprotected legs. The result — many painful nips, and a job of clearing STILL to be done!

All staff are glad to see Miss Gillard, Ladies’ Knitwear, back at duty after her recent illness. “News Service” expresses the thoughts of all when it assures the lady of the hope that her obvious recovery is permanent in every way.
During its history, "News Service" has frequently referred to the fortunate staff members who have had the dramatic joy of sharing, or winning, first prize in the famous Tattslotto sweeps. Only last month, we referred to Messrs. Meyers and Kidd, of Collingwood, who shared First prize in a recent consultation. In a victorious way, we’ve done it again! Mrs. Lowe, mother of Miss Lowe, Farrer-Price Department, was successful in securing the coveted major prize in the next consultation to that won by our Collingwood friends. The coincidence of these successes prompted Mr. Tipping, of the "Black and White" column of the Melbourne "Herald", to write a special paragraph on the sequence of well-deserved wins.

Senior members of the Company will regret to learn that Mr. Dick Wright, a former well-known officer of the Display Department, is an inmate of Prince Henry’s Hospital at the present time. Mr. Wright would appreciate a visit from any of his former colleagues.

A recent Roof Top function was that held late in March, when representatives of British Nylon Spinners (Australia) Ltd. addressed an appreciative audience on the subject, "Let’s Clear the Confusion on Synthetics". A good attendance was present, and many illuminating facts were capably presented. Buffet Tea preceded the function.

The ranks of Supervisors have been unavoidably depleted during the month. Miss Baird, Supervisor, Connet Salon, has been absent on account of her mother’s illness, while Mr. McClusky, Supervisor, Hardware Group, suffered a recurrence of a former illness. We’re pleased to state, however, that both have since returned to duty; Mrs. Baird having recovered very satisfactorily, and Mr. McClusky having thrown off the effects of his indisposition.

Whilst on the subject of illness, all staff are sorry to learn that Mrs. Lewis, of Millinery, is on sick leave at the present time. The hope is expressed that this popular lady will speedily recover from her present malady.

Genuinely overhead on the escalator:
First lady to second lady: "Wot’s all this credit squeeze. I’ve bloomin’ well had it for years! By the time I squeeze me toes into Myrtle’s shoes, and meseelf into an ar’ girdle (the speaker was a very buxom wench), and the housekeepin’ out of me old man on a Thursday, there’s not much left to be squeezed at any other day in the flamin’ week.”

PRAHRAN

Newcomers welcomed during the month were Mrs. Chauvody (Haberdashery), and Mr. Ken Clarke (Self Service.). To these two esteemed people, and to our old friend, Mr. ‘Bobby’ Alexander, from the City Store, Prahran gives a hearty welcome.

On the recent marriage of Miss Leonie Skippen (Maldes’ Wear) to Mr. Ken Brown, the young lady was the recipient of a dinner set, and a suitably-broidered kimono (the equipment in the latter case being that of a bride), by the Acting Store Manager (Mr. Bruce Perkein.). All staff wish the popular Leonie every good wish for the future.

Another marriage recently was that of Miss June Dalton (Jewellery) to Mr. Tony Bithman, and our good wishes also go to this young couple.

We are sorry to report that Mr. T. Weir, husband of Mrs. Weir (Hardware), was recently admitted to Heidelberg Hospital with a fractured hip. All staff at Prahran convey their best wishes to the unfortunate gentleman for a speedy and permanent recovery.

The family of the popular Harry Watson (Mercery) was recently blessed by the arrival of the first grandchild — Jeffrey David. Mother and child are very well, whilst Grandpa is a very happy, young lady.

Mr. John Siggers, who comes from the City Store to assume First management of the Soft Furnishings Department, and Miss Felicity Paine, who has commenced duty in the Underwear Department, Felicity is the daughter of the popular Lily Paine, of Ladies’ Shoes. To both esteemed people, "News Service" conveys its good wishes for the future.

GEELONG

Readers will remember the paragraph in last month’s issue of "News Service" regarding the highly-successful barbecue at Port Roadknight organized by the Social Committee. Inspired by this event, a similar function was held at a landscaped residence near Meredith, in mid-March. Thirteen bar-loads of pinchers participated, a Treasure Hunt was conducted (and was won by Miss Jeannette Virgona, Mantle Department), and an excellent day was had by all who attended.

It may not be generally known, but Brighton has the distinction of numbering amongst its staff one of the best ribbonmen in the State,
and certainly an outstanding performer for the Geelong Bicycle Club. The person concerned is Mr. Bill Stratton, Senior Caretaker, who crowned 51 years of consistent effort with a recent outstanding performance. For three weeks in succession, the respected "Bill" won top raffle honors over distances up to 1,000 yards. A remarkable effort from a sturdy, and talented, veteran.

Newcomers welcomed to Store service during the month were—Miss Marze Blockman, Office, Mrs. Harvey, Claires, Mrs. Shaw, Schoolwear, Mr. Ernie Cole, Hardware, and Mr. Wayne Clifford, Despatch.

Although the men's BL table tennis team has recorded one win, a patch of "outs" resulted in two later defeats. The team is optimistic, however, for future contests, and is proud of the individuals performances of such stalwarts as Mr. Bill Walsh, Men's Hats, and Mr. Harry Budge, Ladies' Shoes. Here's hoping that the happy anticipations are realized.

All staff join in saying a regretful "Farwell" to David Lovelace, formerly of the Men's Store, who has gone to reside at Hayman Island permanently. David certainly knows how to pick the right location for his future activities.

Mr. R. MacKinnon signalized his commencement in the new role of Display Manager by an outstanding presentation to accompany the 1961 Autumn showing. The display evoked the praise of all who saw it, and is a happy augury for future success from the new Display Chief.

BENDIGO

Hearty congratulations are in order for Mr. Maurice Read, who has been appointed as Manager, Dress Materials Department. Similar felicitations are also due to Mrs. E. Cavagna on her elevation to the position of Manager, Babywear Department. Mrs. Cavagna succeeds Mrs. M. Pitt, who resigned during the month. All staff wish the two appointees all of the best in their responsible positions.

Two young ladies on the staff recently celebrated the attainment of their majorities. They were Miss Judy Gerrand, Leroy Department, and Miss R. Lanigan, Office (appendicitis operation). To these three good people, and distant places" for their eagerly-awaited annual holidays. To their fellow-employees, who are ill at the moment. The absentees are Mrs. 0. Husyar, Dress Materials (in Mildura Base Hospital), Mrs. J. Wuttke, formerly of the Crockery Department, retired during the month, and all wish this estimable lady every happiness and good health in the quiet domesticity of her home.

BALLARAT

During the month, quite a good percentage of the staff attended a series of lectures given by Mr. Gordon Higgins, of the Australian Wool Bureau. The lectures were most interesting, and, as a result of them, many of the staff are assiduously studying this nationally-important subject with a view to acquiring a Wool Proficiency Diploma. Our congratulations to the lecturer, and our good wishes to the students.

All staff were delighted to note the return to duty of Miss E. McPhail, after her absence on sick leave. The wish has been universally expressed that the lady's recovery to health is permanent and effective.

A prominent member of the Advertising Department acquired more than a small share of fame recently. The person concerned is Miss Aldyth Angwin, who has been, and is, a successful author of short stories for adults and for children over a number of years. The recent fame, however, is traceable to the fact that Miss Angwin's story, "Gabsy — the Little White Kitty", was published simultaneously in Australia, Britain and the U.S.A. — a distinction never previously achieved by any woman author from Ballarat. Miss Angwin is a member of the Ballarat Scrubbers' Club, and as the title of her latest book shows, she found inspiration for the "Gabsy" stories in the antics of a kitten belonging to a friend. The publishing houses that have arranged the simultaneous release of the publication are Rigbys of Adelaide, Harraps of London, and Franklin Watts of New York.

Felicitations to a distinguished member of our Ballarat staff.

DANDENONG

Staff were delighted to welcome Mrs. Harris back to duty after her recent short illness. This popular lady seems to have entirely recovered from her indisposition.

Mr. Green, the Store Manager, has also returned to duty after a short holiday of one week. Although the holiday was only a brief one, it fulfilled a useful purpose in giving our leading Dandenong executives a well-deserved rest — a rest for which the gentleman undoubtedly shows the benefit.

CHADSTONE

Prior to his departure for Adelaide, Mr. Browning, Store Manager, was the recipient of a beautiful crystal decanter from the staff. As will be noted from the Marriages column, the gift was to mark the gentleman's marriage to Miss Dianne Evans on Easter Saturday. It does not require any special notice to state that the presentation was accompanied by sincere good wishes by the staff to a popular officer and his charming bride.

Mr. and Mrs. Browning selected Hayman Island as the venue for their honeymoon.

Mr. Ken Ninnis is acting as Store Manager during the absence of Mr. Browning, and is assured of the complete support of all members of the Chadstone staff.

The Social Club are anticipating a very successful function when the forthcoming Fancy Dress Ball takes place. There are rumours that some of the costumes being planned by the prospective revellers will achieve unique heights of originality and workmanship.

Amongst personnel recently appointed to Chadstone, we instance: Mr. Ron Sutten, formerly of City Store, and Mr. O'Brien, who is in charge of the A.N.Z. Bank branch. To both — a hearty welcome.

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Obituary

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

Mrs. C. Rhodes, sister-in-law of Miss M. Rhodes, Sweets, Colac.

Mr. J. Oxley, formerly of Grocery Despatch, Bow- rings, Mildura.

Mrs. Daffler, sister of Mr. R. Sarah, Boys' Store, Morsheads, Ballarat.

Mrs. Braimcombe, father of Miss S. Braimcombe, Workroom, Morsheads, Ballarat.
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