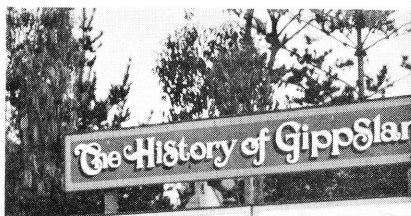
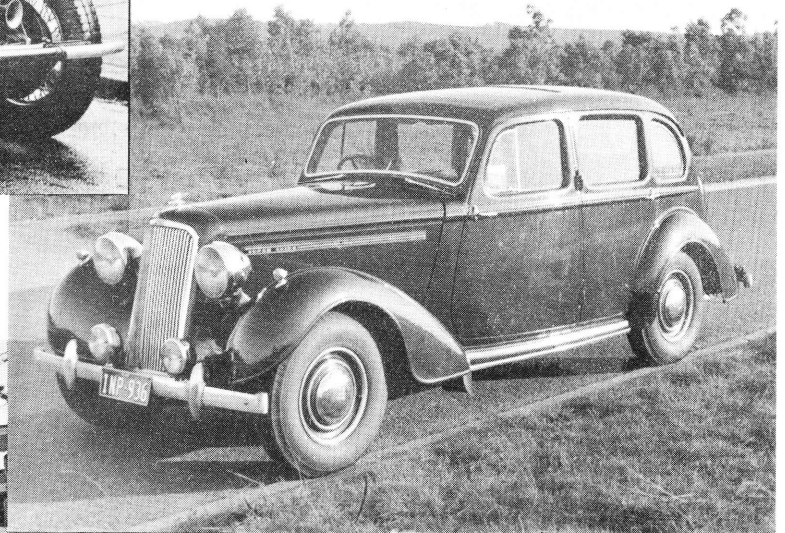
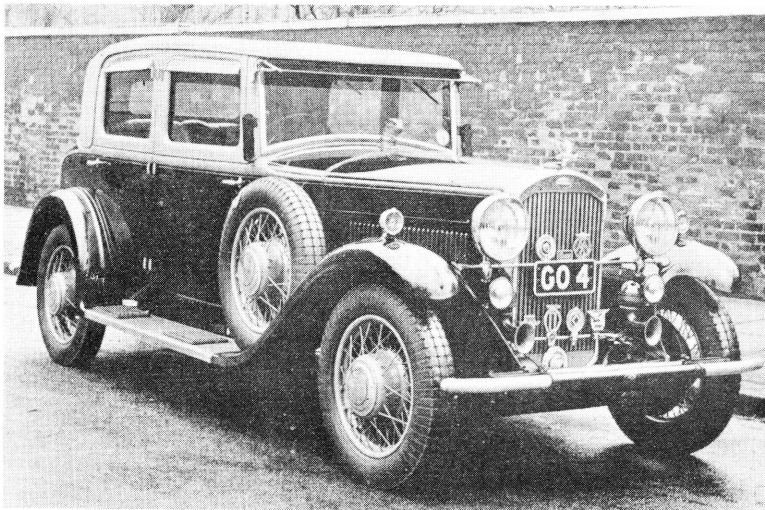


THE HUMBERETTE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE



August 1978



HUMBER CAR CLUB OF VICTORIA

COMMITTEE 1978

PRESIDENT:	REG HATTERSLEY	877 1981
VICE PRESIDENT:	SID HUMPHRIES	478 4406
SECRETARY:	DES JUDD	783 9743
TREASURER:	DAVID RAYNOR	791 8151
EDITOR:	JOHN BROWNE	758 7526
SOCIAL SECRETARY:	KAYLYN RAYNOR	791 8151
TECHNICAL OFFICER:	BOB KENNEDY	783 3119

Humber Car Club Calendar 1978

Social Functions

May 7	— RAAF Museum
June 4, 5, 6	— Echuca Steam Rally
July 9	— Winery Tour
August 13	— Historical Tour of Melbourne
Sept. 10	— President's Run (Invitation to Daimler Lanchester Car Club)
Oct. 8	— Economy Run (Invitation to Rover Car Club)
Nov. 12	— Humber Car Club Concours
Dec. 10	— M.G. Concours (to be confirmed)
Dec. 17	— Humber Car Club v Wolseley Car Club Cricket Match

General Meetings

The Humber Car Club of Victoria meets on the fourth Friday of the month (unless indicated otherwise) at the "Theatrette", Camberwell Civic Centre, Inglesby Road, Camberwell. Please note: meeting commences at 8.00 p.m. sharp.

Dates of Forthcoming General Meetings in 1978

Friday, May 26	Friday, October 27
Friday, June 23	Friday November 24
Friday, July 28	No December meeting
Friday, August 25	Friday, January 26 (1979)
Friday, September 22	

All correspondence to: Secretary,
Humber Car Club of Victoria
P.O. Box 35,
Frankston

All Membership Subscriptions to: Treasurer,
Humber Car Club of Victoria
C/o David Raynor,
22 Pamela Street,
Noble Park.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:-

WHAT A DIFFERENCE LITTLE THINGS CAN DO TO THE FEELING WITHIN A CLUB - DRIVING TO OUR MEETING LAST MONTH, I WAS WONDERING HOW THE NIGHT WOULD TURN OUT, HAVING JUST LEARNT THAT THE FILM WE WERE GOING TO SHOW HAD NOT ARRIVED, AS ARRANGED. BUT THEN THREE THINGS HAPPENED - PETER DAVENPORT DONATED TO OUR CLUB AN AS NEW WORKSHOP MANUAL FOR THE MK3 & MK2 SNIPE, DAVID GOLD BROUGHT BACK A POST CARD FROM SINGAPORE, SHOWING A MK4 SNIPE PACKED OUTSIDE RAFFLES HOTEL, AND DR. JOSEPH SPENCER GAVE MANY SETS OF COLOURED PHOTOGRAPHS TO MEMBERS HE HAD SNAPPED ON OUR RUN TO EILDEN LAST NOVEMBER. ON BEHALF OF OUR CLUB, THANK YOU, PETER, DAVID & JOSEPH.

AND THEN BOB KENNEDY GAVE US A TALK ON WHAT STANDARD OUR CARS SHOULD BE UP TO BEFORE ENTERING THEM IN THIS YEARS ~~XXXXXXX~~ CONOURS, AND RIGHTLY SO, THIS WAS A HIGH STANDARD. BUT ALSO ONLY BY ~~XXX~~ COMPETING IN EVENTS LIKE THIS, DO ~~XXX~~ YOU LEARN WHERE YOUR CAR IS DOWN, AND THUS KNOW WHERE TO CONCENTRATE TO IMPROVE YOUR CAR FOR COMPETITION. SO, MY ADVICE TO ANY MEMBER WHO IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF THEIR CAR - ENTER THEM IN ~~XXX~~ EACH YEARS CONOURS.

THIS MONTHS OUTING WAS DIFFERENT AND MOST ENJOYABLE. AFTER VISITING RIPPON LEA, JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAVEN'T SEEN IT BEFORE, IT IS BEAUTIFUL, MAGNIFICENT, AND MAKES ONE FEEL PROUD THAT WE HAVE SUCH A PLACE IN MELBOURNE. MARION AND I ~~ENTER~~ INTEND TO GO BACK AND HAVE A MUCH LONGER LOOK AT ALL THERE IS TO SEE. COMO HOUSE WAS ALSO INTERESTING AND THERE MARION AND I HAD TO LEAVE, SO UNFORTUNATELY WE DIDN'T GET TO SEE THE POLLY WOODSIDE. WHAT A ~~XXXXXXXX~~ PLEASANT SURPRISE TO SEE PETER & LEE SCHOFIELD AFTER SO LONG.

DES AND I VENTURED FORTH LAST WEEK-END TO PLAN WHAT WE HOPE IS AN INTERESTING MYSTERY RALLY FOR YOU NOT TO GET LOST ON. IT WILL BE QUITE A PRETTY DRIVE, AND AS THE DAIMLER & LANCHESTER BOYS ARE JOINING US, IT SHOULD BE AN ENJOYABLE DAY. HOPE YOU ALL ARRIVE WITH SMILES NOT SNARLS ON YOUR FACES!!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:- (CONT.)

AND JOHN BROWNE WILL PROBABLY BE TOO SHY TO TELL YOU ABOUT HIMSELF (SHY?), BUT HE HAS ~~MX~~ JUST WON RUNNER-UP BEST & FAIREST ~~KKKX~~ AWARD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ABILITY ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD. SO OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO J.B. NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR JOHN!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE 25TH,

REG HATTERSLEY.

MINUTES OF JULY MEETING:-

25 MEMBER ATTENDED.

- 1) PRESIDENT OPENED AT 8.15 & WELCOMED MEMBERS ETC.
- 2) APOLOGIES, MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE PASSED.
- 3) TREASURERS REPORT INCLUDED NO. OF MEMBERS AT 87 (JULY) AND BANK AT \$330.
- 4) SOCIAL SECRETARY GAVE FINAL DETAILS OF HISTORICAL TOUR OF MELBOURNE.
- 5) EDITOR ANNOUNCED THAT NAME TAGS ARE AVAILABLE
- 6) TECH. OFFICER ANNOUNCED MORNINGTON DISPLAY OF THREE VEHICLES AT MORNINGTON VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE.
- 7) A.M.C. REPORT NIL.
- 8) PRESIDENT GAVE RESUME OF ~~KKK~~ KURRUMBURRA TRIP.
- 9) CLUB BANNER VIA COL. MCKENXIE ON ITS WAY.
- 10) PRESENTATION NIGHT AT CHAUCERS - 5 TABLES FOR 10, 4 COURSE DINNER & DRINKS (WITH PRE-DINNER DRINKS & SAVOURIES) \$32 PER DOUBLE ALL INCLUSIVE. PRESENTATION NIGHT IS FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER SO THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING.
- 11) DAVID RAYNOR THANKED HCCV ON BEHALF OF KAYLYN FOR FLOWERS.
- 12) JOSEPH ISSUED CARDS FOR 20% DISCOUNT AT BAILY ELECT. SERVICE.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50PM

SECRETARY'S NOTES:-

FIRSTLY LET ME WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS - ALAN DUNCAN FROM KURRUMBURRA WHO HAS A 1910 COVENTRY HUMBER AND RAY & MARGE DUCKETT FROM ALTONA. RAY IS AN ENGINEER AND HAS A SERIES IV.

SECONDLY YOU WILL FIND CARDS AVAILABLE FOR DAILY ELECTRICAL SERVICE, BRIGHTON. PRODUCE THIS CARD FOR 20% DISCOUNT IF IN TROUBLE WITH YOUR ELECTRICS. THANK YOU JOSEPH. FRANK MCGUIRE ALSO RECOMMENDS BRAESIDE RADIATOR SERVICE & ROAD RUNNER BATTERIES BOTH AT 29 BOUNDARY ROAD, MORDIALLOC. PERHAPS FRANK CAN GET SOME CARDS FOR EVERYBODY IN THE CLUB.

PETER SCHOEIELD HAS A MARK DOOR FOR YOU LES SO BE AT THE MEETING WON'T YOU? OR?

I KNOW WHAT ITS LIKE WHEN THINGS ARE WRONG, THEY'RE COSTLY ~~XXXXXX~~ INCONVENIENT AND WORRYSOME. WHEN EVERYTHINGS OK AND GOING NICELY YOU WORRY ABOUT WHATS NEXT. OUR SERIES IV HAS A NOISE IN THE ENGINE I'M SURE ABOUT, THE SERIES III IS BREATHING A BIT HEAVY NOW, THE TRUCK RUNS BETTER ITH A NEW ENGINE TOO. THE ONLY MACHINE GOING ANY GOOD IS THE MONARO...HMMM SORRY CHAPS.

THE HUMBER THREW MMX ME FOR A WHILE WITH A LITTLE PROBLEM RECENTLY, WHEN THE BRAKES WERE APPLIED, DASH & PARK LIGHTS LIT UP. THE N/S STOP LIGHT WAS DULLER THAN MXX O/S SO OUT IT CAME. SOCKET WAS CLEAN AS ERE POINTS ON THE BULB SO THE WIRING WAS CHECKED OUT. FROM THE LAMP TO THE LOOM WHERE IT DISAPPEARS INTO THE BODY WAS OK. THE TRAILER PLUG WAS DISMANTLED UT NOTHING THERE EITHER. BACK TO SQUARE ONE. THE FEED-BACK HAD TO BE COMING FROM THE N/S LAMP SO I TOOK A XX LOOK AT THE BULB AGAIN AND THERE IT WAS. THE STOP LIGHT FILAMENT HAD COME AWAY ONE END ONLY AND HAD DROPPED ONTO THE TAIL LIGHT FILAMENT CAUSING A FEED BACK TO ALL THE LIGHTS.

WHAT NEXT??

SEE YOU AT CAMBERWELL

DES JUDD

SOCIAL NOTES:-

THE AUGUST OUTING FOR THE HCCV WAS AN HISTORICAL TOUR OF MELBOURNE, THIS TOUR TOOK IN RIPONLEA, COMO, THE POLLYWOODSIDE AND THE OLD MELBOJRNE GAOL.

UNFORTUNATELY I HAD TO WORK IN THE MORNING AND I DIDN'T MEET UP WITH THE CLUB UNTIL THE BBQ ON THE BANKS OF THE YARRA. THE ELECTRIC BARBY WAS ALREADY GOING WHEN I ARRIVED AND THE ATMOSPHERE WAS MOST CONVIVIAL. AFTER LUNCH WE VISITED COMO HOUSE, WHICH IS A MOST STately HOME WITH RED WILTON CARPET AND CRYSTAL CHANDELIERS AND ALL OTHER TRAPPINGS THAT WENT WITH THE "WELL TO DO" PEOPLE OF A CENTURY OR SO AGO.

THE VARIOUS ROOMS OF THE HOUSE WERE VIEWED FROM THEIR ENTRANCE AND MOST OF THE AREAS WERE "ROPED OFF" SO THAT YOU COULD SEE BUT COULDN'T TOUCH - OBVIOUSLY A NECESSITY WITH ALL THE EXPENSIVE ANTIQUES AND BRIC A BRAC PRESENT.

THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY AREAS WERE LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE AND A SHORT PATH, UNDER VERANDAHs, LED TO THE REAR ENTRANCE OF THE HOUSE.

THE KITCHEN WAS ARCHAIC WITH STONE FLOORS, A HUGE COMBUSTION STOVE AND SCRUBBED WOODEN BENCHES, A VERY COSY PLACE IN WINTER BUT XX IMAGINE THE SAUNA IN THE SUMMER!

RIPON LEA

THIS HOME PARTICULARLY CAPTIVATED ME AND I REALLY CAN'T FIND THE WORDS TO DESCRIBE IT. IT IS A VICTORIAN HOME WITH LEAD-LIGHT AND STAINED GLASS WINDOWS, A CONSERVATORY AND A MAGNIFICENT DINING ROOM. THERE ARE THIRTEEN ACRES OF THE MOST MAGNIFICENT GARDENS ONE COULD IMAGINE, THE GARDENS HAVE THEIR OWN PEACOCKS (WHO TRY TO DODGE THE SMALL CHILDREN) AN ~~XXXXX~~ ORNAMENTAL LAKE AND WATERFALL WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FERNERY IMAGINABLE. MARIE AND I SPENT ABOUT THREE HOURS AT RIPON LEA BROWSING THROUGH THE HOUSE AND GARDENS. IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN RIPON LEA ~~XXXXXXXX~~ I COULDN'T THINK OF A MORE PLEASANT WAY TO SPEND A SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

WE SPENT SO LONG AT RIPON LEA THAT EX AT 5.00PM MARIE & I WERE POLITELY ASKED TO LEAVE SO WE DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO EITHER POLLY WOODSIDE OR THE MELB. GAOL.

SOCIAL NOTES (CONT.)

MEMBERS ATTENDING MELBOURNE HISTORICAL TOUR

JOSEPH & MARY SPENCER	SER. VA SNIPE
DES & DENISE JUDD	SER. 1V WAGON
REG & MARION HATTERSLEY	SER VA SNIPE
COLIN & LORNA MCKENZIE	SER. VA SNIPE
BILL & JOAN HOLMES	SER. V SNIPE
DAVID & KAYLYN RAYNOR	SER. 1V SNIPE
SID & GWEN HUMPHRIES	SER. 1V SNIPE
PETER & LEE SCHOFIELD	SER. 1 SNIPE
JOHN & MARIE BROWNE	MK111 SNIPE
HAROLD & ADELAIDE UNDERWOOD	SER. VA SNIPE

SEPTEMBER OUTING - PRESIDENT'S RUN

THE CLUB OUTING FOR SEPTEMBER IS ANOTHER OF OUR POPULAR MYSTERY TRIALS, WHEREBY THE DESTINATION IS ARRIVED AT BY A "SIMPLE" SET OF INSTRUCTIONS. I'M ASSURED THAT THIS TRIAL WILL BE AN EASY ONE BY THE ORGANISERS.

MYSTERY TRIALS ARE A LOT OF FUN AND IT IS CERTAINLY ONE WAY OF KEEPING THE CHILDREN AMUSED WHILE DRIVING AND USUALLY THE MORE PASSENGERS YOU HAVE THE EASIER THE DESTINATION IS TO FIND. THE DAIMLER LANCHESTER CLUB WILL BE OUR GUESTS AND I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE A COUPLE OF STEEP HILLS THAT WILL HAVE THOSE OLD WILSON PRE-SELECTOR GEARBOXES WORKING OVERTIME.

WE'VE NEVER HAD A RUN WITH THE DAIMLER BOYS AND THEIR CARS WILL BE OF INTEREST TO US ESPECIALLY IF A FEW OF THE RARER MODELS MAKE THE RUN. THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTING A GOOD TURN-OUT OF HUMBERS SO LETS KEEP THE FLAG FLYING.

WHEN:- SUNDAY SEPT 10TH, 10AM SHARP.

WHERE: EASTLAND SHOPPING CENTRE, MAROONDAH HWY, RINGWOOD
(CNR. WARRANDYTE ROAD & MAROONDAH HWY)

FRIENDS AND FAMILY ALWAYS WELCOME. B.Y.O. FOOD AND DRINK.

EDITORIAL:-

LAST MONTH I FINISHED UP WITH THE CAR HAVING PASSED THE REGISTRATION TEST. NOW THE PROBLEMS STARTED. FIRSTLY THE CAR RAN BEAUTIFULLY AFTER A FEW MILES THEN IT WOULD SPLUTTER AND COUGH FORCING YOU TO STOP FOR A FEW MINUTES THEN GO FOR ANOTHER FEW MILES AND THROUGH THE SAME THING AGAIN. AFTER RENEWING MOST OF THE ELECTRIES THE FAULT STILL PERSISTED. WHEN THE CAR "CONKED OUT" I REMOVED THE TOP OF THE CARBY TO DISCOVER THAT THE FLOAT BOWL WAS ~~KMXX~~ EMPTY. I REMOVED THE FUEL PUMP, REPLACED THE FUEL PUMP, REMOVED IT, REPLACED IT, THEN REACHED FOR THE HAMMER!! THE FUEL PUMP IS LOCATED DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT AND TO PUT THE PUMP BACK, YOU HAVE TO HOLD THE PRIMER IN THE "UP" POSITION AND LOCATE THE ACTUATING LEVER ON THE CAM LOBE THEN TIGHTEN UP THE BOLTS - VERY FRUSTRATING WORK INDEED!! WELL THE FAULT STILL PERSISTED SO I ATTACHED AN AIR LINE TO THE FUEL LINE AND LET A 100 P.S.I. GO THROUGH - STILL THE FAULT PERSISTED. I THEN REMOVED THE FUEL TANK AND REPLACED IT WITH ANOTHER TANK THAT I HAD. THE CAR RAN BEAUTIFULLY FOR THREE DAYS THEN BACK CAME THE "PHANTOM FAULT". I DECIDED TO RE-CHECK THE FLEXIBLE UNION PIPE THAT JOINS THE FUEL PUMP TO THE FUEL LINE, UPON REMOVING IT I ~~XX~~ DISCOVERED THE CAUSE OF MY INSANITY OVER THE PAST WEEK. STUCK IN ~~XX~~ THE INLET OF THE FLEXIBLE WAS THE REMAINS OF A DEAD WASP. NOW EVERYTHING BECAME CLEAR, THE WASP BLACKED OFF MOST OF THE FUEL SUPPLY SO THAT WHEN I WAS CRUISING THE PUMP COULDN'T DRAW ENOUGH FUEL, BUT AT IDLE SPEED WHERE THE CAR DIDN'T REQUIRE AS MUCH FUEL THE CARBY FUEL BOWL WOULD SLOWLY FILL UP. WHEN I BLEW THE LINE OUT THE WASP MUST HAVE JAMMED SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE LINE AND WAS GRADUALLY SUCKED BACK UP AGAIN. NOW THE LITTLE PEST HAS GONE, I'VE APOLOGISED TO SIR THOMAS HUMBER AND THE CAR IS AGAIN RUNNING BEAUTIFULLY.

NOW WITH THE MECHANICS RIGHT, IT MUST BE TIME FOR THE COSMETICS. EVENTUALLY I INTEND TO REPAINT HER BUT IN THE MEANTIME I THOUGHT A GOOD CUT AND POLISH WOULD IMPROVE THINGS.

THE PAINT WAS BADLY OXIDISED TO THE EXTENT THAT THE BONNET REQUIRED FIVE APPLICATIONS OF EXTRA CUT RE-PO TO BRING UP A REASONABLE LUSTRE. I FOUND THAT IT MAKES THE JOB EASIER IF YOU INITIALLY USE DULUX CUTTING COMPOUND TO REMOVED MOST

EDITORIAL CONT.

~~XX~~ OF THE "RUBBISH" THEN FINISH OFF WITH RE-PO.

TO GIVE SOME IDEA OF THE RUBBING REQUIRED I'VE USED 4 TINS OF REPCO AND A 2 LITRE CAN OF RUBBING COMPOUND, BUT IF YOU KEEP AT IT QUITE A GOOD SHINE WILL RESULT, IF YOUR ARM DOESN'T FALL OFF FIRST.

WELL THATS ALL FOR THIS MONTH, SO THE MK111 AND MARIE & I WILL SEE YOU AT THE ~~XXXXXX~~ PRESIDENT'S RUN.

EDITOR

THE FOLLOWING IS A LETTER I RECEIVED FROM PETER NOONAN IN LONDON:)

THE EDITOR,
HCCV.

I HAVE PERHAPS TAKEN A WHILE TO WRITE, BUT THE EXCUSE IS THAT TOO MUCH IS HAPPENING TOO OFTEN. AT PRESENT I'M ~~XXXXXX~~ ORGANISING MY NEXT MOVE FROM HERE TO ~~XX~~ COVENTRY. ALREADY I'VE GOT MYSELF KNOWN TO THE HUMBER REGISTER ENTHUSIASTS BUT I HAVEN'T AS YET BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PV HUMBER CLUB.

THE AUTO/JUMBLE SWAP MEET SCENE HERE HAS TO BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED. YOU COULD GO TO ANY OF 3 OR 4 EACH WEEKEND QUITE OFTEN. I WENT TO A FEW RATHER LARGE ONES ON ARRIVAL, BUT I HAVE'NT BEEN FOR A WHILE TO SAVE UP THE THE FING OF MEETS AT BEAULIEU ON THE 10TH SEPTEMBER. THE SWAP MEETS HAVE BEEN ~~XX~~ TERRIFIC TO COLLECT HANDBOOKS ETC FOR MY COLLECTION AND AS WELL ~~XX~~ I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET A LOT OF ORIGINAL SALES LITERATURE.

BECAUSE I NOW FIND I HAVE QUITE A BIT OF DUPLICATE MATERIAL WHICH FEW OTHERS SEEM TO BE COLLECTING I WOULD APPRECIATE YOU ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETEER DETAILS AS ENCLOSED. IF IT IS A HELP TO MEMBERS THEN I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT A REGULAR THING. IT SEEMS TO ME FOOLISH TO NOT TO OBTAIN BOOKS THAT ARE FOR SALE JUST BECAUSE I ALREADY HAVE MY OWN COPY.

EDITORIAL CONT.

PETER NOONAN'S LETTER CONT.

I HAVEN'T CHASED UP THE SPARES SCENE SERIOUSLY AT ALL. I'VE PICKED UP THE ODD INSTRUMENT, CLOCK ETC FOR THE 1930 SNIPE BUT PARTS FOR HUMBERS DON'T APPEAR IN QUANTITY AT THE SWAP MEETS. I HAVE THOUGHT OF DEALING IN PARTS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, BUT WITH DEMAND AS IT IS I CAN'T JUSTIFY THE SPACE AND TIME REQUIRED.

I WENT AND HAD A QUITE LOOK AT THE TICKFORD DH COUPE ON SALE AT THE ~~XXXXXXX~~ VICTORIA CARRIAGE CO. IT'S I GUESS ORIGINAL CONDITION BUT SHOWING THE SIGNS OF AGE - SPRINGS SAGGING IN THE FRONT ETC. I DIDN'T LIFT THE BONNETT ~~XXX~~ EITHER BUT GUESS ITS FOR SALE AROUND £2000. OLD CARS ARE REALLY DEAR HERE WITH AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AS WELL AS THE LOCAL SPECULATORS RIGHT ON THE SCENE. THERES QUITE A LOT OF OLD CARS ADVERTISED IN THE WEEKLY MOTORING TYPE OF PAPERS AT FAR BETTER PRICES EG. 66 IMPERIALS @ £300.

WELL JOHN, THATS ABOUT ALL I CAN WRITE AT THE MOMENT. THE SUGGESTED ADD FOR THE MAGAZINE IS ~~XXXXX~~ BELOW.

REGARDS TO ALL AT THE CLUB

PETER NOONAN

HUMBER BOOKS FOR SALE - HUMBER HANDBOOKS, WORKSHOP MANUALS, SALES BROCHURES AND PARTS LISTS ARE ~~XX~~ AVAILABLE FOR ALMOST EVERY MODEL. THIS INCLUDES HILLMANS, COMMER AND OTHER ROOTES GROUP VEHICLES. ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE OR SWAP. APPROX. PRICES: HANDBOOKS \$10, MANUAL \$15, PARTS \$10, SALES CATALOGUES \$6 UPWARDS. FREE SURFACE MAIL POSTAGE IF AT LEAST TWO ITEMS PURCHASED.

ENQUIRIES:-

PETER NOONAN,

c/- 8 HOGARTH ROAD,

EARLS COURT,

LONDON. SW5

PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

DURING OUR 8 MONTHS CARAVAN TRIP TO QUEENSLAND MY WIFE AND I DECIDED TO MAKE A SHORT VISIT TO OUR NEAREST FRIENDLY NEW NATION XX - PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

WE HAD SEVERAL REASONS FOR REACHING THIS DECISION:-

- 1) MY WIFE HAD NOT BEEN THERE THOUGH SHE HAD VISITED ABOUT 15 COUNTRIES ACCOMPANYING ME ON BUSINESS.
- 2) MY SISTER JEAN AND HER HUSBAND JIM WERE ABOUT TO RETIRE AFTER NEARLY 30 YEARS IN THE TROPICS.
- 3) I HAD A YEARNING TO REVISIT THE AREA WHERE I SPENT SO MUCH TIME HELPING DEFEND THIS COUNTRY OF OURS.
- 4) THE EXPERIENCE WOULD MAKE A NICE CHANGE FROM THE CARAVAN.

SO WE BOOKED OURSELVES ON QANTAS FROM BRISBANE TO PT. MORESBY. FINALLY WE TOOK OFF AND XX HAD A PLEASANT FLIGHT RIGHT ALONG THE BARRIER REEF AND ALL THE CORAL CAYS ~~WHXX~~ WHICH SHONE IN THE MORNING SUN LIKE JEWELS. AFTER 3 HOURS CODDLING BY THE HOSTESSES WE LANDED AT JACKSON AIRPORT IN PT. MORESBY. THIS NEW LANDING FIELD HAS BEEN FORMED IN MEMORY OF SQUADRON LEADER JACKSON AND THE OLD WAR-TIME STRIP RUNS ALONGSIDE BEING PRESERVED AS A MEMORIAL THOUGH NOT USED TODAY.

JIM AND JEAN WERE WAITING TO GREET US BUT WE COULD NOT LEAVE THE CUSTOMS AREA AS OUR GROG WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN (GLEN-FIDDITCH AT \$4-50 A ~~XXXXX~~ BOTTLE) BUT MY WIFE SPOTTED A DIRTY OLD CARDBOARD BOX GOING AROUND AND AROUND ON THE LUGGAGE CAROUSEL, LOOKED IN IT AND THERE IT WAS! SO WE ALL WITH OUR BAGS TOOK OFF AND CLIMBED ABOUT 350 FEET (104 METERS) TO THEIR HOME. THEIR HOME HAS A QUEST WING WHICH WAS GIVEN OVER TO US TOGETHER WITH DAILY HELP OF THE "HOUSE BOY" WHO MADE OUR BEDS, DID OUR LAUNDRY AND IRONING, CLEANED OUR SHOES PLUS EVERY OTHER CONCEIVABLE THING. THAT WAS LUXURY PLUS! MY SISTER ONLY HAD TO COOK AS THE BOY DID ALL THE VEGIES AND SET THE TABLE AND FINALLY WASHED UP WHILE JIM WAS CHIEF DISPENSER OF LIQUID REFRESHMENT. THEY DRINK STUBBIES UP THERE AND WHEN ONE IS HANDED ONE IT IS ALWAYS IN A FOAM CONTAINER SO THE BOTTLE DOES NOT BECOME WARM.

PT. MORESBY IS DIFFERENT FROM 32 YEARS AGO AND HAS SOME FINE TALL BUILDINGS, CHURCHES, TRAVELODGE MOTEL, CLUBS FOR GENTLEMEN AND OTHER SORTS~~XXXX~~ BURNS PHILP, STEAMSHIPS AND CARPENTERS STORES, AMBASSADORS AND CONSULS PLACES, A VERY MODERN AIR NEW GUINEA BUILDING AND SEVERAL BANKS OF MODERN DESIGN. THE NEW BANK OF P.N.G. WHICH WAS NEARLY COMPLETED IS ADORNED ON THE OUTER WALLS WITH NATIVE MOTIFS AND LOOKS QUITE SPECTULAR.

TRANSPORT FOR THE LOCALS IS BY AIR CONDITIONED BUSSES (NO WINDOWS) AND FOR THE EX-PATRIATES MAINLY DATSUN, TOYOTA OR V.W. VEHICLES. I DIDN'T SPOT A HUMBER ANYWHERE THOUGH THERE WERE A FEW RANGE ROVERS. THOSE LOCALS WHO COULDN'T RAISE THE BUS FARE STRAGGLED ALONG THE ROADS WITH THE WOMEN, KIDS AND ENDLESS BARKING DOGS. SOME LED A PIG WITH A STRING TIED TO ITS FRONT LEFT LEG. PIGS ARE WORTH \$1000.00 EACH!

ONE DAY A DRIVER TOOK US FOR A DRIVE TO A PLACE CALLED SOGERI ABOUT 3500 FEET UP BEHIND MORESBY AND I SAW THE FAMILIAR KOKODA TRAIL WHERE IT STARTED. THE ~~EX~~ DRIVER CAME FROM THAT AREA, HAS AN ARTIFICAL LEFT LEG AND LIKE ME IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE AUTOMATICS ONLY - IN THIS CASE A NICE MAZDA. HE RECEIVED COMPENSATION FOR A ~~EX~~ ACCIDENT, BOUGHT A FARM WITH THE MONEY AND HAS HIS WIFE AND FAMILY GROWING VEGETABLES FOR THE MARKET WHILE HE IS A DRIVER. HE PROUDLY SHOWED US THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL HE ATTENDED AND I MUST SAY THE S.D.A. SCHOOLS WERE THE NEATEST MOST DISCIPLINED WE SAW IN P.N.G. ALL THE BOYS AND GIRLS WORE NEAT BLUE UNIFORMS.

FROM JIM'S KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE FROM SPENDING 6 MONTHS A YEAR "ON CIRCUIT" WE DREW UP A PLAN FOR MY WIFE AND I TO VISIT OTHER PARTS WHICH UNFORTUNATELY EXCLUDED BOUGAINVILLE BECAUSE OF THE COST OF AIR FARES. ARMED WITH OUR NOTES WE WENT TO AIR NEW GUINEA TO ~~XXX~~ PUT THE PLAN IN ACTION. WE WERE INTRODUCED TO A PAPUAN LADY WHO WAS NOT ONLY BEAUTIFULLY GROOMED BUT WELL EDUCATED AND SPOKE GOOD ENGLISH AND EASY ON THE EYES. SHE ORGAINSED OUR FLIGHTS AND HOTELS AND PRESENTED US WITH A WELL LAID OUT ITINERARY AND THE BILL. WE HAD TO PAY HIGHER FOR AIR FARES THAN IN AUSTRALIA AND THE HOTELS WERE ABOUT \$42 A NIGHT FOR A TWIN ROOM PLUS MEALS. THE STANDARD OF HOTELS WE HAD TO SELECT WAS VERY GOOD BUT THE ALTERNATIVES WERE NOT FOR US! ALL HOTELS HAD THEIR NATIVE HAWKERS HANGING ROUND TRYING TO SELL US CARVINGS, BEADS, PIG'S TUSK ETC. BUT WE WERE EXPERIENCED IN HANDLING THAT TYPE OF IRRITANT.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (CONT.)

ANYWAY WE TOOK OFF FROM MORESBY WITH A MIXED LOAD OF PASSENGERS, BLACK, BROWN AND BRINDLE, STRING BAGS OF ~~XXXX~~ VEGIES, MEAT ETC. BABIES, OLD AND YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN AND THANK GOODNESS AN AUSSIE CAPTAIN AND NAVIGATOR BOUND FOR RABAU IN NEW BRITAIN. WE FLEW OVER THE OWEN STANLEY RANGES WHICH THE ~~OLD~~ DIGGERS HAD STRUGGLED AND FOUGHT OVER ON FOOT. ON EAST ~~OF~~ POPONDETTA THEN WE COULD SEE RABAU HARBOUR AREAL SURROUNDED BY EXTINCT AND ACTIVE VOLCANOES. OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HARBOUR ARE ~~XXXXXX~~ TWO TINY PEAKS OF AN ISLAND WHICH SUNK IN A "QUAKE CALLED "THE BEEHIVES" AND THAT IS JUST WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE FLYING OVER. WE ARRANGED OUR RABAU VISIT TO ~~EMX~~ COINCIDE WITH JIM ON CIRCUIT AND OVER THE WEEKEND DROVE ALL ROUND THE AREA, IN FACT MOST OF GAZELLE PENINSULA. THERE WE SAW ENDLESS ROWS OF COCONUT TREES, COCOA TREES AND LUSH VEGETABLE GARDENS ON ALL OF WHICH THE ECONOMY DEPENDS. WE ALSO WENT TO SEE THE MEMORIAL TO THE ~~XXX~~ COASTWATCHERS. THIS WAS ON A HIGH HILL COMMANDING RABAU AND ITS HARBOUR AND STILL HAD STILL HAD ~~THE~~ THE JAP MULTI A.A. GUNS AS THEY WERE 36 YEARS AGO TOGETHER WITH A DOWNWARDPOINTING 6" NAVAL GUN, A ZERO FIGHTER AND A 30ft ~~KXXXX~~ LOOKOUT TOWER. THE JAPS SURELY HAD THINGS COVERED FROM THERE. WE ALSO SAW THE JAPANESE ADMIRAL'S CONCRETE DUG-OUT, BUT ~~MR~~ UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT GET TO SEE HIS CRASHED BOMBER WHICH KILLED HIM. ON A DRIVE ROUND THE COAST ~~XXXX~~ JIM SHOWED US TUNNELS IN THE CLIFFS WHICH THE JAPS USED TO HIDE THEIR LANDING BARGES AND EVEN TODAY THEY CONTAIN STEEL BARGES ON RAILWAY LINES WHICH RAN UP FROM THE BEACH. SHORTLY AFTER WE CAME UPON A FAMILY OF NATIVES WALKING ALONG THE ROAD IN SINGLE FILE WITH THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY CARRYING A STICK, HIS WIFE CARRYING A "BILLEN" BAG (STRING) SO FULL I COULD NOT LIFT IT, AND THE SON WITH A LIVE CHICKEN FOR DINNER IN HIS HAND. WE PHOTOGRAPHED THEM WITH US. ON THE MONDAY WE VISITED THE LAW COURT AS MY WIFE HAD NOT BEEN IN A COURT. THE ACCUSED WERE CHARGED WITH BEING IN POSSESSION OF HOUSEBREAKING IMPLEMENTS WHICH LEAD TO A COUPLE OF MONTHS IN THE COOLER. I RECEIVED A SEVERE REPRIMAND TOO AS I WAS CARRYING ALL OUR MONEY IN A MONEYBELT AND MY WIFE COULD NOT FIND ME. I WAS GETTING A HAIR CUT!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (CONT.)

NEXT DAY WE TOOK OFF FOR KAVIENG IN NEW IRELAND AND AGAIN THERE WERE THOSE BLUE GREEN JEWELS IN THE SEA AS WE PASSED OVER THE CORAL CAYS & ISLANDS. THERE WAS NOT MUCH AT KAVIENG BUT NICE TO HAVE SEEN IT.

THE NEXT PORT OF CALL WAS MANUS ISLAND IN THE ADMIRALTY GROUP. POPULATION 28000 THE NOTICE ON THE AIRPORT SAYS AND ALMOST THAT NUMBER WERE THERE TO MEET THE PLANE. I TOOK A ~~HEX~~ PHOTO OF THE TWO LOVELY P.N.G. HOSTESSES WITH MY WIFE (JUST FOR SAFETY) AND WE MET ONE OF THE GIRLS ON ANOTHER FLIGHT A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER. MANUS WAS A BIG BASE FOR THE ALLIED FORCES BUT NOW IS NOTHING ~~XXX~~ SPECIAL.

FROM MANUS WE TOOK OFF FOR MADANG AND FLEW OVER KARKAR IS. WHICH ~~XX~~ ALSO HAS AN ACTIVE VOLCANO AND WE COULD SEE RIGHT DOWN INTO THE CRATER. AFTER ARRIVAL WE WENT TO COLLECT OUR BAGGAGE ONLY TO FIND IT HAD NOT BEEN ON THE PLANE SO OFF TO THE SMUGGLERS INN BY TAXI FEELING VERY IRATE. THE MOTEL MANAGER LENT ME AN ELECTRIC RAZOR (BLUNT) AND ARRANGED FOR THE LOCAL CHEMIST TO OPEN UP SO WE COULD BUY SOME TOILET GEAR AND I WAS LUCKY TO GET SOME BLOOD PRESSURE PILLS WITHOUT A SCRIPT IN VIEW OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED. NEXT WE DUG OUT THE LOCAL AIRWAYS MANAGER WHO EXPLAINED THE WORDS MANUS AND MADANG ARE ALL THE SAME TO THE NATIVES SO OUR BAGS WERE PROBABLY BACK IN MANUS IS, WHICH PROVED TO BE THE CASE JUST A SHORT 600 MILES SWIM. ANYWAY THEY EVENTUALLY ARRIVED AND WE WERE ABLE TO CHANGE OUR VERY B.O. CLOTHES.

THE MOTEL ~~MAN~~ WAS EXCELLENT AND THE DRINKING LOUNGE WAS AN OPEN-AIR CONCRETE AFFAIR JUTTING OUT INTO THE SEA AND MATCHING THE COAST CORAL JUST LIKE ONE WOULD EXPECT IN A SMUGGLERS DEN. WE TOOK A TOUR IN A MINIBUS, ONLY THE 2 OF US, TO SEE THE PLANTATIONS AND VILLAGES AND THE DRIVER DIDN'T HAVE MUCH BETWEEN THE ~~EARS~~ AS HE STARTED ~~XXXX~~ TO DRIVE ACROSS A WIDE CREEK TOO DEEP FOR THE BUS SO WE WERE STRANDED IN THE MIDDLE. AFTER A LOT OF FUSS WE GOT OUT OF THE CREEK AND WENT ON OUR WAY.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (CONT.)

NEXT DAY WE WENT FOR A CRUISE ON MADANG HARBOUR WHICH WAS LOVELY. IT IS A LARGE STRETCH OF WATER WITH SOME OVERSEAS SHIPPING, BUT THERE ARE ~~XXX~~ LOTS OF SHALLOW PARTS HENCE THE VESSEL WAS A FLAT BOTTOMED SHALLOW DRAUGHT THING WITH A SINGLE CYLINDER DIESEL AND THE CLUTCH HANDLE WAS HELD IN BY THE NATIVES FOOT. WE CRUISED ROUND MANY ISLANDS ~~EX~~ COVERED IN ~~XXXX~~ COCONUT TREES AND NATIVE VILLAGES, STOPPED TO VIEW THE CORAL WHICH COULD BE SEEN CLEARLY THROUGH THE CLEAR STILL WATER - QUITE BEAUTIFUL. THE DRIVER SAW A FISH SO GOT HIS SPEAR AND CAUGHT IT FIRST TRY. THEN WE CRUISED TO A SMALL ISLAND WHERE THE QUEEN WAS TAKEN TO LUNCH IN A HUT WITH PALM LEAF THATCHED ROOF AND NO SIDES, MET THE NATIVE MAN & WOMAN WHO WERE HER HOSTS, SPENT 20¢ BUYING A COWRIE SHELL AFTER MUCH BARGAINING. WE SAW INSIDE THE HOUSE OF THE COUPLE AND IT WAS DARK AND DINGY, FULL OF ~~XXX~~ SMOKE FROM THEIR COOKING FIRE ON A PIECE OF TIN IN THE CENTRE OF THE FLOOR. SOME OF THE OTHER PASSENGERS WENT FOR A SWIM. I HAD TO BE CARRIED DOWN AND UP A NARROW GANG PLANK HOPING THE NATIVE WOULD NOT DROP ME. THEN WE WENT BACK TO THE INN FOR A LOVELY FRESH FISH DINNER AND A DROP OF LUBRICATION. NEXT DAY WE WENT UP TO THE TOWNSHIP WITH A PLANTER AND HIS WIFE IN THEIR RANGE ROVER AND EN ROUTE ~~EX~~ THEY TOLD US WHAT TO SEE ETC. WE SAW A HUGE FIG TREE WITH LITERALLY HUNDRED OF FLYING FOXES HANGING FROM THE BRANCHES FAST ASLEEP. THE PLANTER TOLD US HE WAS OPENING UP A FURTHER 50 ACRES OF PLANTATIONS AND AND CONTINUALLY UNCOVERED SKELETONS FROM WORLD WAR II.

OUR NEXT FLIGHT WAS TO LAE AND WE ~~KXX~~ FLEW OVER THE FINNESTAIR RANGES AND ALONG THE RAMU VALLEY PAST NADZAB BEFORE LANDING, AS ALWAYS BEFORE A SEA OF FACES IN COLOURFUL OUTFITS. LAE IS NO LONGER A STRETCH OF BROKEN BUILDINGS AND SMASHED COCONUT TREES AS THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BUILT A MODERN CITY NEARER THE AIRPORT BUT THE HUMIDITY IS STILL THERE. WE VISITED THE WAR CEMETARY ~~KXX~~ AND ORCHID GARDENS AND WE ASKED OUR DRIVER TO COME BACK FOR US AT A CERTAIN TIME BUT HE FORGOT! THERE WERE NATIVES EVERYWHERE AND FORTUNATELY A WHITE WOMAN DROVE UP AND OFFERED TO DRIVE US IN TO THE CITY. ON THE WAY SHE TOLD US WE WERE FOOLISH TO GO THERE ALONE AS IT WAS A NOTED BAD AREA FOR ATTACKS ON WHITE PEOPLE. ANYWAY WE FINISHED LOOKING THE CITY OVER IN 3 DAYS AND AGAIN PACKED OUR BAGS.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (CONT.)

THE PLACES WE HAD VISITED ON THE TRIP SO FAR HAD ALL BEEN COASTAL WITH COAST TYPE NATIVES BOTH PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEAN SOME OF WHOM HAVE TAKEN ON SOME OF THE WHITE MAN'S HABITS OF LAZINESS AND STEALING, EUROPEAN DRESS ETC. ALSO THE PAPUAN HAVE BUSHY FUZZY HAIR WHILE THE NEW ~~XXX~~ GUINEANS HAVE SHORE CLOSE CUT HAIR.

WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE LOWLANDS FOR THE HIGH COUNTRY AND OUR FIRST STOP WAS GOROKA IN THE BISMARK RANGES. UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS CLOUDY WHEN WE TOOK OFF FROM LAE BUT WE SAW THE LONG CONCRETE BRIDGE ACROSS THE GREAT MARKHAM RIVER. WE USED TO CROSS IN LANDING BARGES! WE FLEW A WINDING COURSE ROUND MOUNTAIN PEAKS AND FINALLY CIRCLED COROKA WHICH ~~EX~~ LOOKED VERY PICTURESQUE WITH ALL RODAS AND TRACKS MEETING AT THE TOWN. THE AIRPORT IS RIGHT IN THE CENTRE OF THE TOWN AND ONCE AGAIN THE SEA OF BLACK FACES SMILING WITH GREAT WHITE TEETH. WE HAD NOTICED A LOT OF COLOUR FROM THE AIR AND WHEN WE REACHED OUR HOTEL WE FOUND OUT WHAT IT WAS - THE HOTEL ~~XXXX~~ BATH TOWELS SPREAD ON THE GRASS TO DRY. BEING SUNDAY ALL WAS SHUT SO WE STROLLED AROUND LOOKING AT THE SHOPS. WE SAW SOME BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMEN, LONG AND SLIM AND SCANTILY CLAD BUT THEIR BEADS AND BANGLES WERE VERY COLOURFUL. THE MEN WORE JUST AS LITTLE AND BOTH MEN AND WOMEN WERE SMOTHERED IN PIG FAT WHICH MADE THEIR BODIES SHINE AND APPARENTLY WAS TO HELP THEM KEEP WARM. WE WANTED TO SEE THE NATIVE HOME INDUSTRIES AND THEIR WEAVING ETC. SO WE WENT TO THE POLICE STATION FOR INFORMATION BUT THE NATIVE POLICE ~~XX~~ DID NOT APPEAR TO UNDERSTAND. SO WE WALKED BACK TOWARDS OUR PUB AND STOPPED TO PHOTOGRAPH A MEMORIAL TO COMMISSIONER IAN DOWNS, THE AUTHOR, WHO SUPERVISED THE ~~XXXXXXXX~~ CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT HIGHLAND ROAD FROM LAE TO MT. HAGEN. SUDDENLY WITH A CLOUD OF DUST AND SQUEELING BRAKES A LONG WHEEL BASE TOYOTA LAND CRUISER STOPPED BESIDE US WITH TWO GRINNING NATIVE POLICEMAN. THEY SAID THEY THOUGHT THEY NOW UNDERSTOOD WHAT WE WANTED TO SEE AND IT TURNED ~~XXXX~~ OUT THAT THE DRIVER CAME FROM AN AREA THAT HAD A WEAVING MILL. WITH A DOUBLE SIZE GRIN HE SAID "HOP IN" AND WE FOUND OURSELVES IN A PADDY-WAGON THOUGH THERE WERE NO PRISONERS IN THE CAGE BEHIND US. OFF WE TORE ABOUT 60MPH FOR 8 MILES UP AND DOWN HILLS, ROUND CORNERS SCATTERING CHOOKS AND NATIVES.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (CONT.)

WHEN WE REACHED THE MILL IT WAS CLOSED (SUNDAY) BUT AN OLD NATIVE WHO LOOKED 80 HAD A KEY SO AFTER A PARLEY WITH THE ~~XXX~~ POLICE HE OPENED THE DISPLAY HUT WHICH WAS A CIRCULAR PLAITED WALL AND THATCHED ROOF AFFAIR. THERE WERE SOME VERY NICE WOVEN FLOOR RUGS, SHAWLS, COATS, AND BAGS ETC. WE COULDN'T DO LESS THAN BUY SOMETHING SO MY XX WIFE SELECTED A SHOULDER BAG AND SOME TABLE MATS ALL FROM PURE N.Z. WOOL. THEN INTO THE POLICE WAGON AGAIN FOR AN EQUALLY HAIRY DRIVE BACK. THE LADS OFFERED TO DRIVE US ROUND NEXT DAY IF WE COULDN'T FIND TRANSPORT, BUT, THE NEXT DAY SHOPS WERE OPEN AND WE FOUND THE H.Q. OF THE COTTAGE INDUSTRIES AND AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT THE HEAD WOMAN. SHE WAS FROM VANCOUVER UNIVERSITY WHO HAD BEEN SENT OUT TO START THE INDUSTRIES, LIKED THE PEOPLE AND THE AREA SO HAD STAYED ANOTHER 4 YEARS ESTABLISHING MORE MILLS. ANYWAY SHE TOLD US SHE WAS ON HER WAY TO ANOTHER MILL WITH SOME LATHS AND WELCOMED US TO BE HER PASSENGERS. OFF WE WENT ABOUT 12 MILES TO A VILLAGE CALLED ASSORI AND SAW ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~THEXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ MORE WEAVING. THE NATIVES ARE GOOD CRAETSMEN AS EVERYTHING IS HANDMADE AND IS AN EXTENSION OF THEIR NATIVE WEAVING IN THE VILLAGES OF GRASSES, PALMS ETC., THE LADY DECIDED SHE WAS THIRSTY SO DROVE INTO THE VILLAGE WHERE THERE WAS A TINY STORE. JUST AS WE GOT THERE WE WERE GREETED BY TWO TRIBES WHO HAD BEEN FIGHTING THE DAY BEFORE AND WERE GETTING THEMSELVES WORKED UP FOR A "PAY-BACK" FIGHT AS ONE TRIBE HAD A MAN KILLED (WE SAW THE WIDOW WITH HER FACE PLASTERED WITH WHITE CLAY). THEIR HUGE BOWS AND ARROWS WERE QUITE FRINGTENING BUT THE WOMAN DRIVING US WAS KNOWN TO THEM AND SHE TOLD US WE WERE SAFE. SHE VOLUNTEERED TO SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY WITH US TO SHOW US AROUND BUT FIRST WE WENT TO LUNCH WHERE WE MET A CHAP WHO HAD BEEN THE BOSS OF A MAN WHO MARRIED A NIECE OF MINE - SHE WAS A CHEMIST AT GOROKA AND HE A VET. AFTER LUNCH WE WENT TO SEE OVER THE HOSPITAL AS MY WIFE IS A NURSING SISTER AND IT WAS MOST ~~EM~~ PRIMITIVE. MOTHERS LAY ON TORN DIRY MATTRESSES WITH THEIR SICK BABIES, NO OTHER BDECLOTHES AND THE SMELL... I HAD ENOUGH BUT MY WIFE CONTINUED ON A FULL TOUR OF THE HOSPITAL. FINALLY WE SAID GOOD BYE AND FELT OURSELVES LUCKY TO HAVE HAD SUCH A NICE GUIDE.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (CONT)

AS OUR NEXT VISIT WAS TO MT. HAGEN IN THE ~~XXXXXX~~ HIGHLANDS. WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GO BY ROAD AND BE BENEATH THE CLOUDS TO SEE THINGS. WE GOT THE HOTEL TO MAKE US A BOXED LUNCH AND SET OFF FOR THE BUS STATION JUST ACROSS THE ROAD. THE BUS WAS A TOYOTA COASTER IN FAIRLY GOOD ~~XX~~ CONDITION AND ~~XXXXX~~ BESIDES THE DRIVER THERE WERE A FARE COLLECTOR/INTERPRETER A SCOTSMAN WITH A GERMAN WIFE ON THEIR RETIREMENT, A FRENCH COUPLE FROM TAHITI, A MAN AND WIFE FROM LOS ANGELES SEEING IF THE TRIP WOULD BE GOOD FOR TOURING AND WE TWO. THE DRIVER TOOK OFF THREE TIMES BUT EACH TIME FORGOT SOMETHING AND WENT BACK TO THE DEPOT BUT WE STARTED 30 MINUTES LATE. BEFORE WE KNEW IT WE ~~XX~~ WERE BACK IN THE VILLAGE OF YESTERDAY WHERE THE TRIBES WERE FIGHTING AND OUR BUS STOPPED TO TAKE ON SOME GOODS. UP THE ROAD CAME HUNDREDS OF NATIVES ARMED WITH BOWS, ARROWS AND SPEARS CHANTING AND DANCING AND WE PUT OUR WINDOW UP. THEN FOLLOWED THE POLICE WAGONS EACH WITH 12 POLICE. THREE WAGONS CHASED ONE TRIBE AND THREE THE OTHER SO KEPT THE PEACE AT LEAST TILL WE GOT UNDER WAY AGAIN.

THE ROAD CLIMBED STEADILY TO 8000 FEET OVER THE DALU PASS AND ~~XXXXXXXX~~ WAS VERY ~~XX~~ SCENIC. EN ROUTE WE CAME TO CHIMBU AND STOPPED FOR OUR PACKED LUNCH AND A CUP OF TEA. DURING THE JOURNEY THE SCOT AND GERMAN WERE SITTING ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE BUS AND WERE SEPARATED BY NATIVES WHO JOINED THE BUS FREQUENTLY IF THEY HAD ENOUGH ~~XX~~ MONEY FOR THE FARE BUT THEY WERE SHUT OUT IF NOT. ANYWAY THE SCOT AND WIFE EXCHANGED SANDWICHES AND BANANAS ~~XXXX~~ ACROSS THE SMELLY NATIVES AND BY CHIMBU HAD EATEN EVERYTHING THEY HAD. WE HAD TOO MUCH IN OUR LUNCH BOX SO THEY WELCOMED IT AND WERE QUITE A NICE COUPLE REALLY. CHIMBU WAS A NICE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE WITH AN AIRSTRIP AND TO LAND THE AIRSTRIP AND TO LAND THE AIRCRAFT HAD TO SPIRAL DOWN. TO TAKE OFF THE PLANES RUN STRAIGHT OFF THE END OF THE STRIP AND WERE AIRBORNE AS THE MOUNTAIN JUST DROPPED ~~XXXX~~ STRAIGHT DOWN!! AFTER LUNCH OUR BUS STRUGGLED ON ROUND NUMEROUS LANDSLIDES AND WE HAD TO REVERSE OUT OF ONE WHICH WAS A BIT HAIRY. BAXTER BROS. WHO ARE BUILDING THE NEW HORNIBROOK HIGHWAY BRIDGE NEAR BRISBANE APPARENTLY MAINTAIN THE ROAD AND THEY HAVE SOME HUGE MACHINERY ALL MODERN AND RUN BY THE NATIVES. I THINK WHITES DO THE MAINTENANCE. AFTER REACHING THE CREST OF THE ~~XXX~~ MOUNTAIN WE TRAVELLED ALONG AN

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONT.

OPEN PLATEAU WITH SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS AND STOPPED TO LET A BOY OFF AT AN S.D.A. SCHOOL WHILE HIS UNCLE MET HIS AND PAID HIS FARE. THE KID HAD A VERY SHARP TOMAHWWK AS PART OF HIS SCHOOL LUGGAGE. THE BUS WAS SURROUNDED BY GRINNING BOYS AND GIRLS AND ONE MOTHER WAS BLOWING BUBBLEGUM WHILE BREAST FEEDING HER INFANT AND POSED FOR MY WIFE TO PHOTOGRAPH. ON WE WENT AND SUDDENLY THE DRIVER STOPPED BESIDE A PRIMITIVE NATIVE WEEDING GROUP TO LET US HAVE A LOOK AND TAKE PHOTOS. THE BRIDE WAS NOT HANSOME WITH A RED PAINTED NOSE, PAINTED DESIGNS ALL OVER HER AND A CATS FUR HANGING TAIL DOWN BETWEEN HER BOSOM PLUS A FEW BITS OF STRING TIED ROUND HER WAIST. THE INTERESTING PART WAS HER BRIDE PRICE WHICH ~~XXXXXX~~ CONSISTED OF ABOUT 10 BAMBOO POLES WITH SLITS BETWEEN EACH NODULE. INTO EACH SLIT WAS PUSHED PAPER MONEY AND I CALCULATED THERE MUST HAVE BEEN \$2000 AT LEAST. AL THE PARTY WAS DRESSED UP AND WAS APPARENTLY HAVING A GOOD TIME. A NATIVE ON THE BUS TOLD ME THAT THE SAME BRIDE DOWN AT THE COAST WOULD COST \$250. ANYWAY IT WAS SOMETHING WORTH SEEING. WE CARRIED ON AND CAME TO THE TEA PLANTATIONS AND IT WAS ICKING TIME. WE THOUGHT THE PNG GROWN TEA WAS SUPERB FOR TASTE AND AROMA AND WE HAVE BEEN ORDERING IT IN 161b ~~XXXXX~~ LOTS AT ABOUT 60¢ A ½1b FOR USE IN MELBOURNE, DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY.

WHEN WE REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF MT. HAGEN WE FOUND THAT NONE OF THE OTHER THREE COUPLES HAD ARRANGED ACCOMMODATION AND COULD NOT AFFORD A HOTEL. SO THE DRIVER TOOK US ALL ROUND THE FEW MISSION HOSTELS AND THEY ALL FINISHED UP SLEEPING TOGETHER WHEN SOME ~~XXXXX~~ GIRLS WERE MOVED OUT TO MAKE ROOM. WE WENT ON TO OUR HOTEL WHICH WAS VERY COMFORTABLE WITH EXCELLENT MEALS. WE SPENT 2½ DAYS LOOKING AROUND AND FOUND THE SHOPS QUITE INTERESTING ESPECIALLY THE CHINESE ONES. WE HAD DIFFICULTY IN CHASING ONE PERSISTENT HAWKER IN THE MAIN STREET WITH PIG TUSKS AND CARVINGS BUT FOR 10 CENTS GOT HIM TO POSE FOR A SNAP. HE WAS ALMOST NAKED WITH A BIT OF STRING ROUND HIS WAIST AND DOWN FRONT AND A SMALL BUNCH OF LEAVES CALLED "ARSE GRASS" AT THE REAR AND A WICKED KNIFE. THE WOMEN WHO HAVE BABIES CARRY A ~~XXX~~ BLACK UMBRELLA TO KEEP THE SUN OFF AND THEY WERE VERY FASCINATED AS MY WIFE HAD A WHITE UMBRELLA WHICH STOOD OUT LIKE A MUSHROOM IN THE NATIVE MARKETS. WE WENT THERE ON THE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (CONT.)

FINAL DAY TO ~~XXX~~ BUY SOME FRESH GREEN VEGIES TO TAKE BACK TO MORESBY NEXT MORNING. WE PASSED THE FIRE ~~EXXX~~ BRIGADE ON THE WAY TO MARKET AND STOPPED TO ASK THE NATIVE THE EXACT WAY. SHORTLY AFTER WHILE WE WERE LOOKING AROUND THIS CHAP TURNED UP BESIDE US WITH A RICE BAG FOR US TO CARRY OUR PURCHASES AS THE STALL HOLDERS JUST HAND ONE A LETTUCE, HANDFUL OF BEANS A CABBAGE ETC., AND HE NOTICED THAT WE WERE TOURISTS AND HAD NO BAG TO CARRY THINGS. THEN HE LEFT US AND WENT BACK TO THE STATION AND TRIED TO GET US A CAB BUT TO NO AVAIL. SO ~~XXX~~ WE STARTED TO WALK THE MILE BACK TO THE PUB WHEN AN EMPTY BUS CAME ALONG. WE FLAGGED HIM DOWN AND ASKED HIM TO TAKE US TO THE HOTEL WHICH HE DID WITHOUT PAYMENT SO WE GAVE HIM THE CABBAGE WHICH WAS TOO HEAVY ANYWAY.

NEXT MORN WE TOOK OFF FOR MORESBY AND AGAIN WENT OUT TO MY SISTER'S HOUSE FOR ABOUT 2 WEEKS, AFTER A MOST INTERESTING 2½ WEEKS TOURING AROUND.

WE DECIDED TO GO TO ~~XXXX~~ AIR NEW GUINEA TO THANK THE LADY WHO MADE OUR ARRANGEMENTS AND OF COURSE TOLD HER OF OUR LOST LUGGAGE. SHE TOOK US ALONG TO SEE THE PERSONNEL OFFICER WHO WAS WELL DRESSED, CLEAN AND SPOKE VERY WELL. HE WAS FILLING IN A FORM AND WHEN WE TOLD HIM OUR MELBOURNE ADDRESS HE BECAME FRIENDLY AND TOLD US HE HAD LIVED AT DOX HILL WHILE HE ATTENDED CAMBERWELL GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR 6 YEARS. IT IS A PITY THERE ARE NOT MORE NATIVES WITH IS OBVIOUS EDUCATION NOW THAT P.N.G. IS INDEPENDANT!

WE WERE SORRY TO HAVE TO COME BACK REALLY ~~EX~~ FOR WE HAD A MOST INTERESTING TIME BUT P.N.G. IS A BIT IFFEY JUST NOW AND WILL REMAIN SO TILL THE INDIGENIES BECOME USED TO INDEPENDENCE. IT TOOK 4 OF THEM TO CASH A TRAVELLERS CHEQUE FOR ME ONE DAY PLUS OODLES OF WRONG FORMS. STILL I'M SURE THEY WILL LEARN IN TIME.

RALF CHALMERS