

A recent donation: do you know what this is?

Andrew Wells, a long-time member of the MHHS, recently donated this intriguing metal item. Measuring 20cm (H) by 14cm (D) by 15cm (L) it is, although heavy, quite portable. An interesting research project followed in order to determine just what it was and how it was used.

As Andrew Wells' family owned Mundaring's general store on Jacoby Street between 1911 and 1958, it is probable the object was connected to running this business. A plate on the front of the object provided a name, Protectograph, and a manufacturer, Todd Protectograph Co. Inc., Rochester N.Y., USA. However, this revealed very little about the function of the object. Thanks goodness, once again, for Dr Google.



The Protectograph was developed c. 1900 by George and Libbanus Todd, who resided in Rochester, New York State. Their aim was to invent a machine that made it impossible to forge cheques, a crime that was rife in the 19th century.



The Protectograph made it difficult for forgers to change the amount on a cheque. The dial on the side of the machine was used to set and then print the maximum amount of the cheque. As seen in the advert below, the Protectograph printed the amount in words, in this instance 'Not Over One Hundred \$100s', across the front of the cheque, making it impossible to add, for example, a one in front of the nine. The machine did this by 'shredding the fibers (sic.) of the paper and allowing indelible ink to penetrate'.

Todd Protectograph Co., continued to invent machines for protecting and printing cheques over the next 50 years. Improvements to the Protectograph meant that in the 1940s this family-owned business was contracted to print 1.5 billion cheques per year in the USA. According to the company not one of these cheques was illegally tampered with. Todd Protectograph Co. was bought out by a larger US firm in 1955.

The Todd Protectograph machine was first mentioned in Australian newspapers in 1917, and by the 1920s there were numerous advertisements throughout Australia for the machines. They were marketed as putting your 'cheque beyond the reach of the crafty cheque-raiser. It will give you security and peace of mind.' Today, of course, cheques are rarely used and such a machine is no longer necessary. Electronic banking provides more secure systems that enable the instant movement of large amounts of money around the world.

Thankyou Andrew for this fascinating addition to our Collection.



OfficeMuseum.com The Modern System of **Check Protection**

Send for Booklet.

Observe the diagonal limiting line, which is deeply embossed in indelible ink, forming a part of the document itself, and which cannot be successfully ALTERED OR EFFACED.

The Protectograph Positively Protects.

SIMPLE. DURABLE. COMPACT. TIME-SAVING.

G. W. TODD & COMPANY, Manufacturers, 6 Exchange St., Rochester, N.Y.

Leading Banks and Corporations everywhere use it. List of 1000 users mailed on application.

Rochester, N. Y. THE PROTECTOGRAPH Co. Inc. NOT BEEN ONE-UPPED SINCE 1900

OfficeMuseum.com

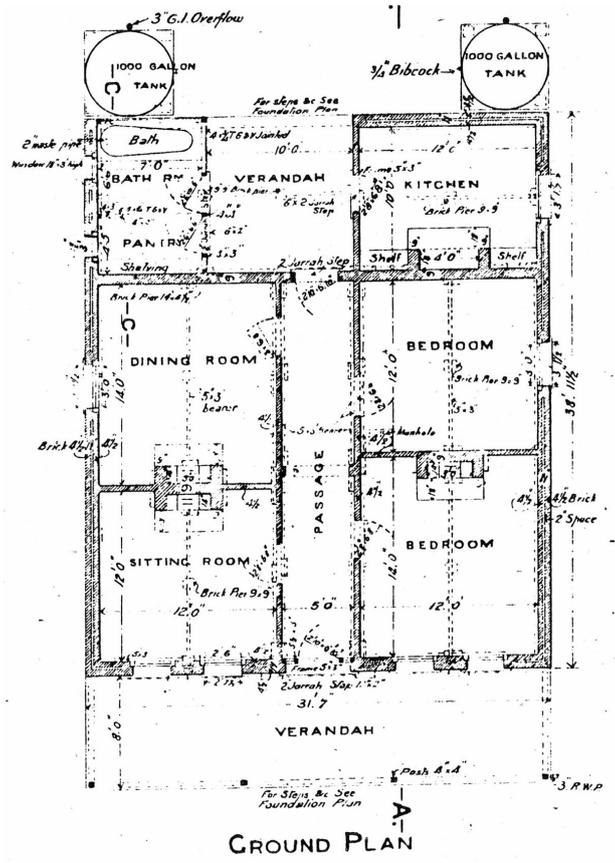
Full House at the Station Master's Open House

It was with some trepidation that we threw open the doors of the Mundaring Station Master's House on the 8th of February for Rotary's Twilight Markets. Preparations for the event took a couple of weeks. Displays using items from our collection were set-up in the back room and the hallway, new picture rails were attached to the hall walls to hang posters explaining the history of the house and of the people who lived there, a mystery wedding dress was taken out of its box and fitted to a mannequin, offices were cleaned and stray bits and pieces hidden away in cupboards and corners. The house looked amazing - but would anyone come along to find out more about what we do?

No need to worry! The open door and lure of a wedding dress on the verandah was enough to grab the attention of the passing crowds. Our little house was inundated with interested visitors; some wanted to have a sticky-beak, others wanted to ask questions about the house, and one visitor was able to provide further information about one of the house's former inhabitants. At times, there were so many people inside it was difficult to walk down the hallway. We estimate that over 220 people viewed the house, and 46 of these completed our quiz, 'Guess the age of the wedding dress.'

The Open House was a great opportunity to show-off some items from our Collection. These included various geophysical instruments from Mundaring's Geophysical Observatory, displayed in the case in which they once resided at the Observatory's offices on the corner of Mundaring Weir Road and Craig Street. Donated to the MHHS in 2000, these instruments were used to gather seismic, magnetic, and ionospheric data throughout the 20th century. In fact some of these instruments were used to measure Meckering's 1968 earthquake.

The Society is also very fortunate to have a number of objects and documents that belonged to Frank Roberts, Mundaring's Stationmaster from 1914 until his death in 1925, all donated by his generous family. Some of these items formed part of our display at the Open House, including Frank's 1900 lap desk with photo album and ink well, shown below.



Top: The Mundaring Station Master's house follows a standard plan that was used by the Department of Public Works for such houses.
 Bottom left: Geophysical Instruments in the MHHS Collection.
 Bottom right: Frank Roberts' lap desk, MHHS Collection.

Albert Harry Sutcliffe – Mundaring Station Master

At the recent open day at the Station Master's House, Albert Sutcliffe's grandson, Robert, took the opportunity to visit and offered us some photographs of his grandfather and father. We in turn provided him with some information on his grandfather. Albert Sutcliffe was the Mundaring Station Master from 1934 until his retirement in 1948. He was Mundaring Station's longest serving station master.

Albert was born in Morrooduc, Victoria in 1884. At this stage it is not known when he moved across to Western Australia, but he joined the traffic branch of the West Australian Government Railways (WAGR) in 1912. His first job was as a porter, but by 1913 he had been appointed to the more senior position of Night Station Master at Merredin and then a year later he became Assistant Station Master at Woolgongie.

Working in the traffic branch of the WAGR meant moving around the various stations on the state lines as decreed by the Department. Postings were often for as short as two years, but frequent movement was how seniority was gained. Often refusal to move meant being passed over for promotion for several years before a position would be offered again. The position of station master was one of the most senior WAGR ranks and it usually came with a house, supplied rent free. Not all stations carried the same amount of responsibility. Consequently, the position of assistant station master or night station master at a particularly busy station sometimes had greater responsibility than a station master at a less active station.

When Albert married Ethel Mary Alice Dunn in Perth in 1917, he was working as the Night Station Master at Goomalling. Their first child, Thomas David, was born on 23 August 1919 at Nurse Breheney's Hospital in Goomalling. A second son, William, was born in 1927 whilst Albert was working at York. Unfortunately, William died suddenly at Bunbury Hospital on 10 April 1929 when Albert and Ethel were stationed at Kirup. At this stage it is not known if the couple had any more children.

Albert moved around to several more stations before finally settling in Mundaring in 1934. The couple remained there for fourteen years. Whether by this stage the Department was not insisting that their personnel remain at a station for only a few years is not known. It is also possible that Albert and Ethel enjoyed living in the Mundaring community and so decided to stay. They certainly joined local community groups: Albert and Thomas the Mundaring cricket club, and Albert and Ethel the bowls club. Albert retired on 24 July 1948 and the couple vacated the Station Master's House shortly afterwards. Albert died at Bentley on 3 January 1973, whilst Ethel died at Halls Head on 16 August 1990. Both were cremated and their ashes memorialised at Karrakatta Cemetery. Their grandson lives in the Shire of Mundaring.



From left to right: Thomas David Sutcliffe, Albert Harry (Henry) Sutcliffe (seated), and family friend Bernard Williams

UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sunday 15 March 10am to 4pm	Blue Sky Festival	Mundaring Stationmaster's House 3060 Jacoby St Mundaring
Saturday 21 March 2 pm	General Meeting	Mundaring Men's Shed 3205 Jacoby St Mundaring
Saturday 21 March 3 pm	Guest Speaker—Diana Frylinck "Hidden Figures" The women supporting the pipeline workers	Mundaring Men's Shed 3205 Jacoby St Mundaring
Friday 17 April 6pm	"Head for the Hills" Museum Opening	Mundaring District Museum 7225 Great Eastern Hwy Mundaring
Wednesday 29 April	Executive Meeting	Mundaring Stationmaster's House 3060 Jacoby St Mundaring
Sunday 3 May 10am	Tour of Hovea Sustenance Camp Tour Guide—Fiona Bush	Meet at Cnr Wedgetail Circle and Boronia Rd Parkerville
Wednesday 20 May 11am to 1pm	Volunteer Expo and Community BBQ	Boya Community Library 119—135 Scott St Boya
Wednesday 27 May	Executive Meeting	Mundaring Stationmaster's House 3060 Jacoby St Mundaring
Saturday 20 June	General Meeting "History Slam"	Venue—To Be Announced In conjunction with Darlington History Group, Swan Guildford Historical Society and Midland and Districts Historical Society



STREET NAMES **OLD TOWER COURT— DARLINGTON**

This street is named after one of the first houses built there. Old Tower House, which included a tower, was built c.1917 by Mr Arthur Nelson who built Perth Railway Station. Apparently, the builder utilised his tradesmen when they had "down" time to construct this hills' retreat. Local legend has it that Hugo Fischer, who built "Kirkcaldy", and Arthur Nelson were in competition for the best views from their properties.



MUNDARING STATIONMASTER'S HOUSE OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY AND FRIDAY
9.30am TO 4pm
WEDNESDAY
9.30am TO 1.30pm**

MEMBERSHIP FEES

**Senior/pensioner \$15 (Couple \$20)
Single \$25 (Couple \$30)
Company/Institution \$35
Acc: Mundaring & Hills Historical
Society Inc
BSB 633-000 Acc No 122609431
*Please quote your surname in reference***