Morsecodians   *Keeping Morse-code Alive*

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCH

A luncheon held at the Hyde Park hotel on Monday the 13th November 2006, was attended by 57 members and partners who gathered to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Morsecodians Fraternity of Western Australian Inc. 29 apologies were received from those who were unable to attend, however quite a few managed to overcome the tyranny of distance including Gar and Iris Williams who travelled from Busselton for the occasion. It was also pleasing to have John Matthews, General Manager Australian Post-Tel Institute, W.A. branch present.

Photo—Ken Knox

On arrival our ladies were presented with a corsage and all were greeted with a thank you message presented on a colourful form specially printed for the occasion, and personalised with the attendee's names which were transmitted in Morse code. The transmission was ably handled by Ken Knox (sending) and Col Hopkins (receiving) who proved that they had lost little of their former skill in the art of morse telegraphy. Also presented were brochures listing significant events to date since our formation and names of charter members, life members, office bearers and sponsors.

Thanks to API, our sponsor.

During the luncheon thanks were extended to our sponsors, Australian Post-Tel Institute WA. Branch, Australia Post, and Telstra for their ongoing assistance since inception. John Matthews responded on behalf of API and confirmed ongoing support in the foreseeable future.

Tributes were also paid to our life members Ric Crameri, Barrie Field and Col Smith (deceased) who were so instrumental to our successful formative years.

From comments received all thoroughly enjoyed the event and hope to be present at our 20th anniversary.

20 more images at:-
http://s123.photobucket.com/albums/o282/MFWA/

NORTHAM INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

At the request of the festival organizers , eight of our members travelled to Northam over the weekend of 11th and 12th November 2006 for an exhibition and display of Morse Telegraphy.

Unfortunately the number of visitors attending the festival was well down on that anticipated and this resulted in a very quiet time for our teams.

Another disappointing feature was that the promise of welfare and assistance with travel over the weekend was not completely fulfilled.   [photos—page 3]
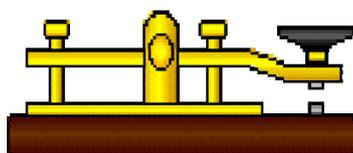
NEXT MEETING

Hyde Park Hotel
19th Feb 2007 10 am

Please note the time and date for our next get-together. Members and non-members welcome.

AUSTRALIA POST BACK IN THE 'TELEGRAM' BUSINESS !

Some messages are too important for a phone call, and too special for e-mail.
The TELeGRAM combines new age demands with old world charm to offer you a quick, convenient way to send a message that matters.
Create your message on-line, select from a range of images, and we print and post a hard copy of your special message to any delivery point within Australia*.
*Terms and conditions apply. See http://www.auspost.com.au/telegram or call 13 13 18
$4.50 Standard Post Delivery.
Order by 3:00 pm (Sydney time) Monday to Friday to ensure same day posting from the nearest capital city to the addressee.   Note: Messages cannot be delivered outside Australia.

HISTORY AS WE REMEMBER IT.

PERTH CTO CLOSED 27/1/1989.
TELECOM RELINQUISHED THE BUSINESS TO AUSTRALIA POST 30/6/1989.
AUSTRALIA POST'S LETTERGRAM SERVICE CLOSED 1/10/1993.

Footnote on the above story.
My family sent me a TELeGRAM on my birthday. The A4 size telegram form was
laser-printed and the message box can contain up to 800 letters (~133 words). A short *Happy Birthday*
message looked quite insignificant on the form. Not as authentic as ours, for sure.   ed

SNIPPETS FROM MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 16TH OCTOBER 2006

The Royal Show 2006.

As in previous years, our activities were well received by the public and a total of 1532 messages were handled.
Staffing was discussed and Ken Knox said that we managed but it will become more difficult as time goes by. Three operators each were sufficient but it was suggested that more "*talkers*" were essential to allow operators to work uninterrupted. Don Tyler spoke of the need to avoid bottlenecks as people will not always wait, even for a few minutes, and this confirms the need for "*talkers*" at both the sending and receiving positions to answer questions and explain what we were doing.
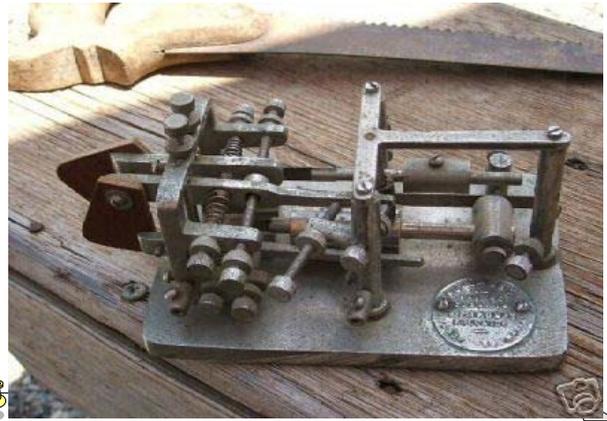Other methods of reducing transmission times were also suggested such as the elimination of serial numbers and the use of forms with pre-printed preambles.
Members reported that some problems were experienced with typewriters and Ken Knox spoke of the need for standby machines. Don Tyler said one machine at Armadale (previously owned by Col Smith) could be released.

The subject of confidentiality [of message contents] was discussed and it was suggested that accepting officers watch for any messages that could be contentious.
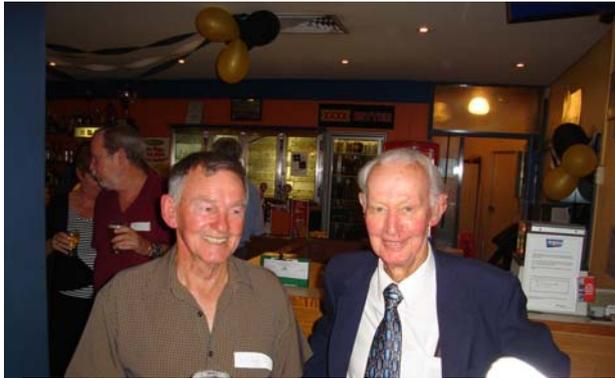
Broome—CTO Radio.

Reference was made to a query in this morning's (16/10/2006) West Australian [newspaper] regarding the above.
Any member who has this information is requested to contact John Moynihan.

1932 London CTO

Recent telegraphist reunion Oct 2006 in Brisbane.
L. Greg Browning ex-supr   R. Bunny Eastaughffe
photo—Joe Williams

This Automorse in poor condition was auctioned recently (Jan '07) on the internet. After some spirited local bidding, the winning bid was

$721.95.

News from Keith MacRae in Parkes NSW

Recently I organised a morse code demonstration at the Australian National Field Days Orange NSW 17-19th Oct 06. 16 telegrams were lodged and we sent them to Leo Nette Beechworth Vic and Barrie Field Merriwa WA.

Whilst only 16 telegrams were lodged there were plenty of "tyre kickers" and about 200 kids had their names sent from one end of the table to the other end by morse code.

We sent several names to Leo Nette at Beechworth and he spoke to the kids on the telephone and told them their name, as well as us giving them a slip of paper with their name on it.

The demonstration was sponsored by Telstra Country Wide Western Region NSW and was staffed by Keith MacRae Parkes NSW, Eddie Parrott Peak Hill NSW, Peter Hack Lawson NSW and Alex Livermore Orange.

In all I sent 22 press releases to the media which only resulted in an interview with Radio Station 2DU and The Land newspaper (weekly). Also follow up visits to the stand by both of them.   Keith

Peter Shaw, Bendigo Visitor Information Centre

News from Peter Shaw.

 We have had the Scout Jamboree AJ2007 at Elmore which is 45 kms north of here, halfway to Echuca. 12,000 camping on site and last Sunday 13,000 visitors went to the site in 3,500 cars! Each day 1,000 scouts came to Bendigo. 1,000 also went to the port of Echuca and Lake Nagambie for water activities.

Northam 2007   photo—Ken Knox

Northam 2007   photo-Ken Knox

Future Venue

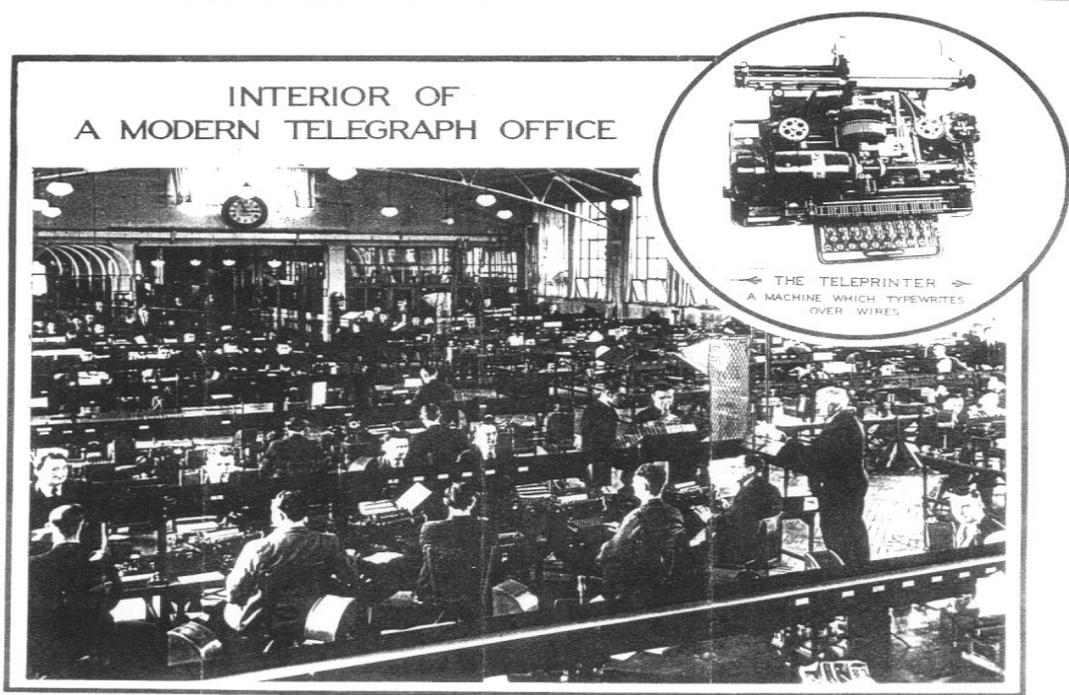It appears that we may soon need to find a new venue for future meetings.

We have been advised that the management of the Hyde Park Hotel intend to demolish the Sir James Room to make room for a beer garden. This is to meet new tobacco smoking regulations, which are to be introduced shortly.

The Sir James Room has proved ideal for our requirements over the past 10 years in that it gave privacy, an adjoining car park, the availability of food and drink and best of all the venue was provided free.

If any member has any knowledge of a centrally located venue with these attributes would they please advise either the President or the Secretary.

Calling Morsecodian Radio Amateurs who can access the internet.

Have a look at http://www.qsonet.com . Operate the transceiver remotely on HF non-WARC bands, 3.5 Mhz-28 Mhz.
Use the side-tone of your rig (or a separate oscillator) and your morse key to transmit via the line-in socket of your computer's sound card.
The CW calling frequency on 20 metres is 14.058 Mhz.
8000+ hams have signed up with 50 more joining every day.
Free use for 3 months.

INTERIOR OF A MODERN TELEGRAPH OFFICE

THE TELEPRINTER
A MACHINE WHICH TYPEWRITES OVER WIRES

President   Terry Keays   (08) 9279 4696
Vice-President   John Meadowcroft   (08) 9386 6636
Secretary   Richie Bright   (08) 9276 6936
Asst. Secretary   Allan Greenslade   (08) 9390 5410
Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday in February, June and October each year in the Hyde Park Hotel North Perth.
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Morsecodians Fraternity of Western Australia (Inc.)
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Newsletter Editor: Larry Rice (08) 9255 2280

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Newsletter email oseagram @ iinet.net.au

Website: http://members.iinet.net.au/~oseagram/mfwahome.html

Next issue.

Telegraph career:-

Walter Dunham born Sept 1883.

Walter commenced employment at York Post Office 1899 and did a spell at Eucla as telegraphist.

As written by grand-daughter Jean Stallwood.