SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



RAEME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Grant Kuchel

Honorary COLCOMDT - Central Region:-COL Andrew Herbert

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS EDITION

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Note *

* - For your Information and Action if required

An Activity you SHOULDN'T MISS

The Logistics and Health Services Corps Associations Dinner

WhenFriday 30th October 2020WhereWest Lakes Golf Club

Conforms with COVID Requirements

See page 6 for full details



<u>PRESIDENT'S</u> <u>REPORT</u>

Welcome to the September 2020 newsletter which I hope finds our members healthy, happy and coping in these unusual times. I have no doubt we have all been affected in some way or other by the COVID 19 response to what is a terrible and challenging situation across the world.

While South Australia is in a relatively better position than other states we cannot be complacent or underestimate the risks of not following directions and abiding by the restrictions. We have all seen how quickly things can get out of control if an outbreak occurs and we certainly do not want to go through that.

The Association like all organisations has been operating in quiet mode for the majority of the year so newsletters have been less frequent and functions have been cancelled. The Committee is conducting any necessary business via email and has not met face to face since March. This has had no impact on overall operations of the Association.

On a very sad note, in June we advised our members of the passing of Geoff Parker. Geoff was our sitting Vice President and long serving committee member. His contribution to the Association was substantial and his support, advice and great sense of humour will be sorely missed. I personally relied on Geoff for his pragmatic thinking and ability to come up with new ideas. Geoff was instrumental in setting up the CFN Doug Borlace Memorial on behalf of the Association. A eulogy regarding Geoff's service is provided further in this newsletter.

We are still working on the assumption the AGM and Birthday celebrations will be able to go ahead on Saturday 28 November. There will be more details provided as the date approaches. I am very pleased to advise the Logistics and Health Services Corps Dinner is proceeding as planned and being held on Friday 30 October at the West Lakes Golf Club. Last year's dinner was a great success and this year will be no different. Full details on the dinner including how to purchase tickets are in this newsletter.

As the end of 2020 nears we will keep all members up to date with Association activities, in particular the Logistics and Health Services Dinner, Association AGM and Corps Birthday celebrations.

In the meantime take care and I look forward to catching up with members when possible.

Arte Et Marte Richard Moyses President



RAEME ASSOCIATION of SA DIARY DATES 2020

Activity/Function

- Committee of Management Meeting
- RAEME and other Log Association's Combined Function
- ARA RAEME Birthday Function
- Annual General Meeting
- RAEME Birthday Family Function Saturday 28h November (e DATES IN ITALICS TO BE CONFIRMED (depending on CORONAVIRUS restrictions)

S/SGT Geoff PARKER

AUR and Recovery Mechanic 107 Fd Wkps, Committee Member of RAEME Assn of SA See some military and personal Memories on page 4

CAPT Bob KING

Workshops Officer 107 Infantry Workshops See some military and personal Memories on page 5

WO2 Stewart (Stewie) McWATERS

TQMS and CSM 107 Infantry Workshops See some military and personal Memories on page 5

CFN Brian O'NEIL 106 Fd Wksps See some military and personal Memories on page 5

VALE – Lest We Forget

Online lists of recent RAEME members Deaths and Illnesses are always available at:

http://www.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/vale-alt

http://www.sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/vale-report





<u>Date</u>

Wednesday 16th September Friday 30th October TBA Saturday 28th November (4pm) Saturday 28h November (evening)

Some Military and Personal Memories of 436795 S/SGT Geoff PARKER

Geoff passed away peacefully on 27th June 2020, aged 69 years.

Geoff enlisted in Adelaide University Regiment in 1968 and served in the CMF and Army Reserve for nearly 40 years. During his time in AUR he served mainly in support roles and spent a lot of his time posted to driver positions within the transport section. In 1980 he transferred RAEME and joined the Recovery Section which he always said was his favourite posting because he could driver BIG Vehicles and use the wreckers.

He retired with the rank of Staff Sergeant in 2008 after his favourite Twin Boom Wrecker was made obsolete and was transferred to the Army Museum of South Australia so he decided he needed to become a volunteer at the museum and help them look after it. He spent most of his time at the museum carrying out lifting tasks or maintaining 'his wrecker' and its recovery equipment.



One of Geoff's great attributes was his technical

knowledge and ability, which he was able to apply to almost any situation. His love of vehicles (the bigger the better) suited his role in recovery because of the variety of vehicles he had the opportunity to drive plus it also involved a lot of theoretical calculations and gave him the opportunity to put it all into practice. 'His dream job'.

Geoff was often described as a 'Diamond in the Rough' as he had a tremendous ability to make people laugh with his stories and jokes and he could mix with people of all backgrounds. He was a real 'larrikin' in every sense of the word.

In his civilian career he spent most of his life in the South Australian Police Force where his technical skills fitted him well for his work in forensics and fire investigations. This was an area which he particularly enjoyed. He also volunteered for overseas United Nations police peacekeeping roles when they became available.

He was an active member of our Association for many years and had been the Vice President for the last few years (See the Presidents Report on Page 2). He has also been an active contributor to this Newsletter providing us with regular Crosswords and he has given us extra crosswords to use in the next 3 editions. He was also Secretary of the United Nations Peacekeeping Association of SA.

Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, a disease which severely restricted his breathing and meant he required oxygen on a regular basis to maintain any sort of reasonable lifestyle. This still did not stop him doing anything he really wanted to do (like organising the CFN Doug Borlase memorial).

Our condolences go to his wife Irene and their family.

HE WILL BE SADLY MISSED.

430566 WO2 Stewart (Stewie) Mc WATERS

Stewie McWaters enlisted in RAEME at 8 Tpt Coy (RAASC) Wksps at Hampstead Barracks in 1950s. He then transferred to 107 Infantry Wksp when 8 Coy moved to Pt Lincoln. He served at Hampstead, Kilkenny and Keswick and was promoted to WO2 TQMS. Stewie was discharged on 11 Feb 73 and he is remembered as being a real character who loved being the centre of attention. In civilian life Stewie was a specialist welder working for Auto Welders

Awards

- Efficiency Medal 1973
- Defence Medal 2007

Stewie passed away in Ceduna on 20 May 2020

(See also picture below)

435307 LT Bob KING

Bob King passed away recently in his Woodend BUPA Care Home in Victoria. Bob's wife Mary, previously Townsend, had passed away nearly two years ago, both were good attendee's and workers for the sub-branch. Bob had been in RAN as a signaller, then later on he saw the light, both he and his brother joined the CMF in Intelligence Corps finally transferring to RAEME which once he got in he could not do any better... We pass on our condolences to his family."

Bob (and his brother) served with 107 Infantry Wksps at Kilkenny in the 1960's and Bob was a long-time member of our Association.

Bob and Mary King

107 Infantry Wksps at Camp (Circa 1960s)

LT Bob King



WO2 Stewie McWaters

55569 CFN Brian George O'NEIL

Brian served with 198 Works Sect from Dec 68 till May 69; he then saw the light and joined 106 Fd Wksps where he served from May 69 till Dec 69. Brian must have been a good person even Susie Galoski (the monkey) loved him. CSM











The link for tickets to the Logistics Dinner is Logistics and Health Services Dinner 2020

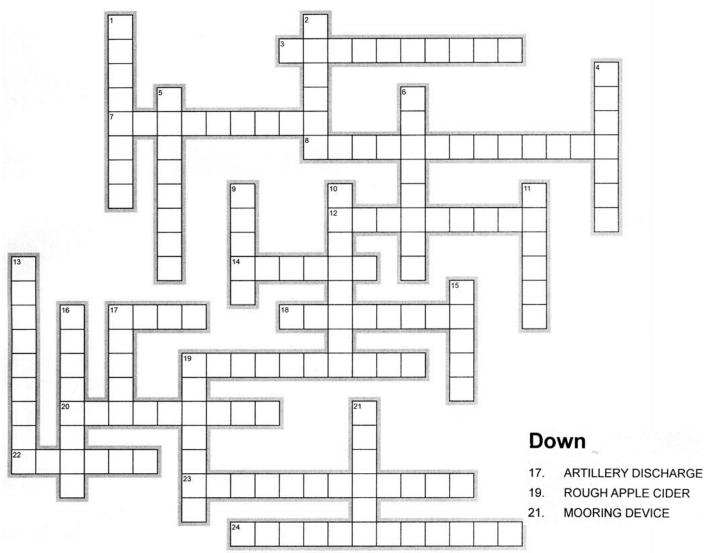
If you are experiencing problems with the ticket link go to Eventbrite and search for SA Logistics and Health Services Dinner

We look forward to seeing lots of RAEME members attend. It promises to be another GREAT NIGHT

NOTE: There will be <u>NO</u> separate RAEME Corps Dinner this year.

RAEME CROSSWORD

How well can you do



Across

- 3. LADIES RIDING STYLE
- 7. NAVAL GUNFIRE FROM ALL TURRETS
- 8. SOLDERING FLUID
- 12. MANAGEMENT GROUP
- 14. MAGNETIC DEMOLITION MINE
- 17. SMOKE POLLUTED AIR
- 18. LARGE ARBOREAL SNAKE
- 19. OUTLINE
- 20. WWII AUST BUILT FIGHTER
- 22. SLANG FOR TLC
- 23. EXPLOSIVES SUCH AS FIREWORKS
- 24. NEEDS

Down

- 1. SPINAL COLUMN
- 2. ASTROLOGY THE FISH
- 4. WARDROBE ASSISTANT
- 5. STRONG PAIN KILLER
- 6. ONE WHEELED PEDAL CYCLE
- 9. PET NAME FOR A PARROT
- 10. REVERE
- 11. SPANISH CURRENCY
- 13. MEDICO PRO WORD
- 15. MOTHER OF PEARL
- 16. NEW PRIME MINISTER (THIS HINT PREPARE A WHILE BACK!)

Thanks to Geoff Parker for organising this during his final days, (see Eulogy page 4)

Answers on page 11

MEDALS, AWARDS AND BADGES IN AUSTRALIA'S WARTIME HISTORY

While visible awards for battlefield courage and military service date to antiquity, the modern practice of displaying campaign and gallantry medals has more recent origins. Britain's first campaign medal was issued to Waterloo veterans in 1816-17. Four decades later, when the disaster in the Crimea was widely reported in the British press, reports of mismanagement at the highest levels of the army and government appeared alongside stories of great bravery and self-sacrifice. Queen Victoria, who followed the news closely, felt that such courageous acts deserved public recognition. The Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry, were instituted in 1856, and in 1867 the awards were extended to colonial forces across the British Empire.

Until 1975 Australian awards were made under the British system, which evolved to include a wide range of bravery decorations. Since then Australia has issued decorations under an independent system of hours and awards.

More than 71,000 Australians have been recommended for a decoration since Federation, with almost 47,000 having received one. Decorations tell of singular acts of courage and leadership, and all who wear the ribbon of a bravery award have distinguished themselves in the face of danger. But many moments of courage and leadership have gone unrecorded and unsung. An Australian infantryman recalled in a lull in the bitter fighting at Dernancourt in 1918: 'Ready for anything, we stand and wait, yarning about things seen and done today, brave deeds, passed unnoticed and unrewarded, taken as part of the day's work, though that part meant facing death'.

Some who are recommended are surprised at being singled out. One VC recipient remarked: 'If I was the bravest man during that day, then God help the man who was most afraid'. Almost a century later another Australian, a peacekeeper decorated for bravery, said: 'As for the medals ... I'm prouder of being an Australian soldier on operations, I'm prouder of having served with the ... battalion and these guys within my section, within my platoon'.

Decorations honour the individual, but campaign medals, with clasps indicating where they were earned, are far more widely distributed. They illustrate the extent of Australia's military involvements over more than a century. Some are for well-known conflicts or campaigns; others, like the Naval general Service Medal 1915-62, cover minor conflicts for which no specific campaign medal exists. Campaign medals recognise service in prescribed warlike operations.

They take in peacekeeping missions and some of Australia's most significant military involvements. Over time, new awards have been introduced. The Australian Operational Service Medal, instituted in 2012, for instance, succeeds the Australian Active Service and Australian Service Medals.

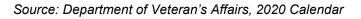
In addition to Australian bravery and campaign medals, Australians have received an array of decorations conferred by foreign sovereigns or governments. Australian formations have received foreign unit citations for operations ranging from peacekeeping in the Sinai to service in the Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation and Korean and Vietnam Wars. In 1991 Australia instituted its own system of recognising an individual unit's outstanding service with the Meritorious Unit Citation, which has been awarded for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Medals and ribbons are familiar symbols of military attainment, but for veterans no longer in uniform there are few days on which these can be worn. Those who are eligible and who wish to display evidence of their having served are entitled to wear the Returned from Active Service Badge on civilian clothes. Though such a badge may not be widely recognised, it is reminiscent of times past when a range of pins and badges and patches could be seen affixed to civilian's clothing.

During the World Wars in particular, many Australians were entitled to wear insignia indicating their contribution. Civilian sailors who risked their lives on merchant ships wore a Merchant Seaman's Badge. At home, the Female Relative Badge or Mothers' and Widows' Badge were visible signs of a family's commitment to the war effort, and often of what that commitment cost. For some, the loss of a husband or son, represented by the addition of a star, made wearing the badge too painful: 'Mother had been proud to

have four sons in the army', remembered one man, 'she wore a badge with four bars on it ... now she was entitled to add a star to one of the bars. She never wore that badge again'. Others wore badge indicating the extent of their support for patriotic causes, to tell of their working in a reserved occupation or to make clear that they had been wounded and discharged from service.

Australia's military commitments span more than a century and have involved millions of individuals. Many have become eligible to wear campaign medals, far fewer have worn decorations for bravery. Whatever their origin, the row or rows of ribbons on the left breast of a military uniform or the medals worn on days of remembrance count among the most treasured possessions of veterans around Australia.







The next Luncheon get-together for all ex-serving RAEME personnel will be held on **Tuesday 2nd March 2021** at the RSL's **Avoca Hotel**, 893 South Road, Clarence Gardens, at 12:00 noon. This Luncheon is organised by Bob Killoran.

If you are interested, please contact Bob Killoran on 0412 060 315 for more details.

We normally get between 10 and 15 attending but would love to get more so we would really like to see you make an effort to join us and if you know of others who spent time with RAEME, please let them know or bring them along.

WHY NOT JOIN US AND BRING SOME FRIENDS

RAEME ASSOC of SA "SOLDIERS OF THE YEAR" CENTRAL REGION

Each year the RAEME Association presents awards to the most outstanding ARA and GRes soldiers in Central Region. The 2020 Awards to the best ARA and GRes "Soldier of the Year" will be presented at the **2020 RAEME Corps Birthday Family Function** *(Covid-19 restrictions dependent).*

The award is open to all RAEME personnel in Central Region up to and including the rank of Corporal. Supervisors in all units are responsible for nominating eligible members they think worthy. Nominees will be assessed on both trade skills and soldier skills. All nominations are reviewed by a selection panel that will consist of Association President and executive committee and as required:

- ARA Senior ARA Representative and the Senior ASM, or
- GRes OC and ASM 107 Fd Wkps Coy, 9CSSB.

President MAJ Richard Moyses will be contacting OCs, ASMs and Supervisors with details in the near future. Nominations can be forwarded anytime to

richard.moyses@defence.gov.au

and <u>rmoyses@adam.com.au</u>

Each winner will receive a personalised Trophy and his or her name will be inscribed on the "Perpetual Plaque" for each category, which is hung in the Orderly Room at the winner's place of work.

Good luck to all serving RAEME Soldiers - Ed.

RAEME Facebook page

Have you checked it out yet



RAEME National Association https://www.facebook.com/RAEMEAssociation

THAT'S WHEN THE FIGHT STARTED

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift... The next year, I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!" *And that's when the fight started.*

I asked my wife, 'Where do you want to go for our anniversary?'

It warmed my heart to see her face melt in sweet appreciation.

'Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!' she said. So I suggested, 'How about the kitchen?' And that's when the fight started.

My wife and I are watching Who Wants To Be A Millionaire while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, 'Do you want to have Sex?' 'No,' she answered. I then said, 'Is that your final answer?' She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying 'Yes..' So I said, 'Then I'd like to phone a friend.' *And that's when the fight started.*

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. 'I'll have the rump steak, medium rare, please.' He said, 'Aren't you worried about the mad cow?' 'Nah, she can order for herself.' *And that's when the fight started.*

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping the channels. She asked, 'What's on TV?' I said, 'Dust' *And that's when the fight started.*

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 200 in about 3 seconds.' I bought her a set of bathroom scales. *And that's when the fight started.*

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone nearby I asked her, 'Do you know him?' 'Yes,' she sighed, 'He's my old boyfriend....I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since.' 'My God!' I said, 'Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?' *And that's when the fight started.*

or he can be contacted on 0427 716 728.

<u>Membership Renewals</u> <u>Due Now</u>

If the date shown against your name on Page 12 is 2020 or earlier your fees are due NOW

You can now also pay by Electronic Funds Transfer

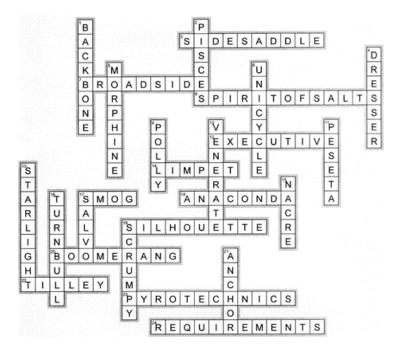
BSB Account No. Account Name 065-127 00900324 AEME-RAEME ASSOCIATION of SA INC

Please send an email to our Membership Member advising him of the payment. robert.m1@bigpond.com





Crossword Results



Thanks again to Goff Parker (now Decd)

QUESTIONS

A doctor was addressing a large audience in Oxford University...

"The material we put into our stomachs should have killed most of us sitting here, years ago.

- Red meat is full of steroids and dye.
- Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining
- Chinese food is loaded with MSG.

- High trans-fat diets can be disastrous and none of us realises the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. But, there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and most of us have, or will eat it.

Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

After several seconds of quiet, a 70-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, "Wedding Cake."

MEMBERSHIP

Subs are due on 1 July in the year your membership is current until. If the date on the list below shows 2020, (or before) then your subs are due NOW

Subs are \$10 per year with a maximum forward payment of 5 years eg \$50 for five years.

All subs are to be forwarded to the Membership Member CPL Bob Matthew (40 Ashbourne Ave KINGSWOOD SA 5062). Please include details of your date of birth if you wish to claim the free "over 75 year rule" membership.

Contact Bob Matthew for details if you want to use Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

According to the records, the following persons are financial members of the Association:

Honorary Life Members

Mike Culley, Bob Killoran, Grant Kuchel, David Turner, Greg Rosser, Richard Moyses, Don Harvy.

Current Members

Wally Ade (2015), Milton Ahrens (2023), Frank Aldous (Over 75), Graham Amos (2019), Kurt Andersen (2016), Heath Arblaster (2013), Graham Arthy (2014), Joe Barton (Over 75), Paul Berk (2022), Wayne Birch (2020), John Black (2021), James Boulton (2022), Helmut Bohn (2013), David Brand (2025), Warren Brazil (2020), Kent Brown (2024), David Buckland (2021), Shane Buckley (2017), Robert Butler (2020), Robert Castle (2019), Trevor Clerke (2025), Geoff Coat (2018), Brian Cogan (2018), Don Collins (2020), George Cooke (2022), Phillip Coppin (2017), Ian Coulter (Over 75), Brian Cowell (2020), Peter Cox (2020), George Craig (2023), Bob Davis (2021), Joe Dennis (2023), Chris Duffield (2022), Nick Ebbs (2014), Len Edwards (2008), Mick Ellis (2014), Kym Everett (2013), Andew Ferguson (2021), Jim Fisher (2013), Scott Fishlock (2019), Brian Flavel (2024), Rodney Fletcher (2014), Jan Gancarz (2025), Charlie Gauci (2018), Nick Gogilis (Over 75), Steve Gough (2015), Bob Gourley (2021), Tony Gow (2015), Stephen Green (2018), Gary Green (2021), Robert Hansford (2013), Anthony Harriden (2021), Arthur Hasse (2013), Greg Hay (2015), Colin Haynes (2022), Tony Hinton (2022), Brian Holmes (2025), John Howard (Over 75), Gary Howell (2018), Rodney Hussey (2013), Graham Janz (2021), Juris Jaudzems (2024), Ian Jeisman (2020), Jeff Johns (2021), Lindsay Johnson (2013), Mark Johnson(2015), Kain Neale (2017), Eric Kelly (2021), Arron Kinleyside (2020), Geoff Kohler (2020), Colin Kuchel (2014), Warrick Lee (2021), Adam Leer

(2013), Lou Leeuwrik (2021), Greg Lowe (2023), Chris Macintosh (2036), Tony Mackay (2019), Alan Marks (Over 75), Trevor Martin (2021), Bob Matthew (2020), Bob Mathews (2020), Fred McInerney (2020), Gavin McMahon (2021), Buzz Meakes (2020), Terry Monten (2022), Ian Moody (2016), Ron Moran (2022), Barry Naulty (2013), Kain Neale (2016), Ian Nicholls (2022), Gary Nicolescu (2020), Troy Oakes (2021), Peter Oliver (2014), Justin Olliffe (2021), Alex Oschmanns (2013), John Owen (2022), Doug Pammenter (2020), Nick Papanikolaou (2025), Trevor Parrott (Over 75), Roger Parsons (2014), David Pearce (2021), Greg Penno (2014), Rex Perry (2019), John Prince(2024), John Raftery (Over 75), Chris Rajasingham (2022), Hank Ramm (Over 75), Mick Reeve (2013), Pete Reynolds (2020), Antonio Riezzo (2019), Greg Robinson (2016), Stephen Rogers (2017), Dennis Rowlands (2028), Ray Ryan (2022), Perry Sangster (2014), Barra Schmidke (2013), Bob Silcock (2024), (Victor Sobotnik (2019), Walter Soroka (2019), Max Sparrow (2017), Ian Starick (2014), Murray Stock (Over 75), Penny Stone (2012), Donald Sutherland (Over 75), James Szpunar (2017), Michael Tamassy (2020), Ian Taylor (Over 75), Bob Temby (Over 75), Graham Terry (2013), Simon Thomas (2021), Robert Thompson (Over 75), Michael Thompson (2024), Dick Tischer (2017), Ken Treloar (2014), Brian Tuohy (2024), Graham Tweeddale (2018), Damien Van De Velde (2022), Mark Van Oostveen (2020), Eugene Wasilenia (2021, Bruce Watson (2020), Graham West OAM (2024), Robert Whaite (2016), Brett Wilkeson (2013), Craig Williams (2021), Brett Williams (2020), John Wilson (2017), Betty Winstanley (2019), Pat Wright (Over 75), Brian Yelds (2020), John Zander (2022), Pete Zander OAM(2022)

Associate Members

Marg Culley (2020), Anne-Michelle Howell (2021), Christine Kuchel (2024), Joan Lorraine (Over 75), Judy Moyses (2018), Janet Thompson (2024)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please inform the Secretary, Bob Matthew, or a member of the Committee of Management of any change of postal address or email address. Please note the changes in the Committee – including contact detail changes.

<u>Disclaimer</u>

The thoughts and opinions expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those held by the individual writers and contributors, and are not necessarily those of the President, the committee, the Association members, or the Editor. The spelling of names, groups and places are as given to the editor and the editor apologizes if they are in any way incorrect.