

Arrowhead

Christmas
1956

FLETCHER

Arrowhead

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**FLETCHER
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**GREAT SOUTH ROAD
PENROSE, AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND**

Christmas 1956

When I wrote to you at this time last year I had in mind that the New Year of 1956 would see steady progress in the reorganisation and development of our businesses in New Zealand and Australia under trading conditions very similar to those we had experienced during 1955.

Instead, 1956 has been a very trying and difficult year. After a long unbroken period of full order books, we were faced with a sudden and substantial drop in business and the return to competitive conditions such as we had not known since the depression.

There were some set-backs: Our participation in State housing construction, which has represented a large and important part of our building turnover since 1937, (we have built in that time nearly 10,000 houses) has dwindled to negligible proportions.

After 30 years in the granite, marble and sandstone business we reluctantly decided earlier this year to close the New Zealand Marble Company's plant in Auckland, and this was done in October.

On the credit side of the ledger, changed conditions decided us to re-enter the linseed and stock food business. Despite a late start, splendid support from South Island growers and merchants resulted in over 4,000 acres being sown in linseed this season. We will therefore be crushing linseed again in the Dunedin mill in March, 1957.

We strengthened our financial resources by the successful placing in October of the balance of our un-issued ordinary share capital.

The continuing reappraisal of our affairs that I mentioned last year received a stimulus because of the changed economic conditions, and I believe we will emerge from 1956 with a stronger and more effective organisation than ever before.

It would be easy for me to say that I consider the worst is over and that we can expect nothing but plain sailing in 1957. Unfortunately, I do not believe this to be true. Nevertheless, although a sustained and earnest effort will be required from us all if we are to make the most of our opportunities in the New Year, I do not consider there are grounds for pessimism. On the contrary, I think our Companies are in good shape to do a grand job in 1957.

I appreciate the many fine individual records of loyalty and service to the company's interest during 1956 and wish you a well-earned and well-deserved holiday.

May Christmas and the New Year bring to you and yours all the very best of health and happiness.

J. A. Fletcher.

Mr. Scrooge Discovers Christmas

There are always those who deride Christmas because they cannot enter into the spirit of it. The type is classically caricatured in Ebenezer Scrooge. In "A Christmas Carol", Charles Dickens tells how Scrooge's outlook was transformed through the ghostly good offices of Jacob Marley and the three Spirits and how the transformation resulted in a merry Christmas for everyone — Scrooge himself, his clerk Bob Cratchit and the Cratchit family, including the ailing and crippled Tiny Tim. Here, with minor deletions, we reproduce the last chapter of the story.

'I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future!' Scrooge repeated, as he scrambled out of bed. 'The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. Oh Jacob Marley! Heaven, and the Christmas Time be praised for this! I say it on my knees, old Jacob, on my knees!'

He was so fluttered and so glowing with his good intentions, that his broken voice would scarcely answer to his call. He had been sobbing violently in his conflict with the Spirit, and his face was wet with tears.

'I don't know what to do!' cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath; and making a perfect Laocoon of himself with his stockings. 'I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world. Hallo here! Whoop! Hallo!

He had frisked into the sitting-room, and was now, standing there: perfectly winded.

'There's the saucepan that the gruel was in!' cried Scrooge, starting off again, and going round the fireplace. 'There's the door, by which the Ghost of Jacob Marley entered! There's the corner where the Ghost of Christmas Present sat! There's the window where I saw the wandering Spirits! It's all right, it's all true, it all happened Ha, ha, ha!'

Really, for a man who had been out of practice for so many years, it was a splendid laugh, a most illustrious laugh. The father of a long, long line of brilliant laughs!

'I don't know what day of the month it is!' said Scrooge. 'I don't know how long I've been among the Spirits. I don't know anything. I'm quite a baby. Never mind. I don't care. I'd rather be a baby. Hallo! Whoop! Hallo here!'

Running to the window, he opened it and put out his head.

'What's to-day?' cried Scrooge, calling down to a boy in Sunday clothes, who perhaps had loitered in to look about him.

'EH?' returned the boy, with all his might of wonder.

'What's to-day, my fine fellow?' said Scrooge.

'To-day!' replied the boy. 'Why, CHRISTMAS DAY.'

'It's Christmas Day!' said Scrooge to himself. 'I haven't missed it. The spirits have done it all in one night. They can do anything they like. Of course they can. Of course they can. Hallo, my fine fellow!'

'Hallo!' returned the boy.

'Do you know the Poulterer's, in the next street but one, at the corner?' Scrooge inquired.

'I should hope I did,' replied the lad.

'An intelligent boy!' said Scrooge. 'A remarkable boy! Do you know whether they've sold the prize Turkey that was hanging up there?—Not the little prize Turkey: the big one?'

'What, the one as big as me?' returned the boy.

'What a delightful boy!' said Scrooge. 'It's a pleasure to talk to him. Yes, my buck!'

'It's hanging there now,' replied the boy.

'Is it?' said Scrooge. 'Go and buy it.'

'Walk-ER!' exclaimed the boy.

'No, no,' said Scrooge, 'I am in earnest. Go and buy it, and tell 'em to bring it here, that I may give them the directions where to take it. Come back with the man, and I'll give you a shilling. Come back with him in less than five minutes and I'll give you half-a-crown!'

The boy was off like a shot. He must have had a steady hand at a trigger who could have got a shot off half so fast.

'I'll send it to Bob Cratchit's!' whispered Scrooge, rubbing his hands, and splitting with a laugh. 'He shan't know who sends it. It's twice the size of Tiny Tim. Joe Miller never made such a joke as sending it to Bob's will be!'

The hand in which he wrote the address was not a steady one, but write it he did, somehow, and went downstairs to open the street door, ready for the coming of the poulterer's man. As he stood there, waiting his arrival, the knocker caught his eye.

'I shall love it, as long as I live!' cried Scrooge, patting it with his hand. 'I scarcely ever looked at it before. What an honest expression it has in its face! It's a wonderful knocker! — Here's the Turkey! Hallo! Whoop! How are you! Merry Christmas!'

It was a Turkey! He could never have stood upon his legs, that bird. He would have snapped 'em off in a minute, like sticks of sealing-wax.

'Why, it's impossible to carry that to Camden Town,' said Scrooge, 'You must have a cab.'

The chuckle with which he said this, and the chuckle with which he paid for the Turkey, and the chuckle with which he paid for the cab and the chuckle with which he recompensed the boy, were only to be exceeded by the chuckle with which he sat down breathless in his chair again, and chuckled till he cried.



He dressed himself 'all in his best,' and at last got out into the streets. The people were by this time pouring forth, as he had seen then with the Ghost of Christmas Present; and walking with his hands behind him. Scrooge regarded every one with a delightful smile. He looked so irresistibly pleasant, in a word that three or four good-humoured fellows said, 'Goodmorning, sir! A merry Christmas to you!'

He had not gone far, when coming on towards him he beheld the portly gentleman, who had walked into his counting-house the day before, and said, 'Scrooge and Marley's, I believe?' It sent a pang across his heart to think how this old gentleman would look upon him when they met; but he knew what path lay straight before him, and he took it.

'My dear sir,' said Scrooge, quickening his pace, and taking the old gentleman by both hands. 'How do you do? I hope you succeeded yesterday. It was very kind of you. A merry Christmas to you, sir!'

'Mr. Scrooge?'

'Yes,' said Scrooge. 'That is my name, and I fear it may not be pleasant to you. Allow me to ask your pardon. And will you have the goodness'—here Scrooge whispered in his ear.

'Lord bless me!' cried the gentleman, as if his breath were taken away. 'My dear Mr. Scrooge, are you serious?'

'If you please,' said Scrooge. 'Not a farthing less. A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you. Will you do me that favour?'

'My dear sir,' said the other, shaking hands with him. 'I don't know what to say to such munifi - -'

'Don't say anything, please,' retorted Scrooge. 'Come and see me. Will you come and see me?'

'I will!' cried the old gentleman. And it was clear he meant to do it.

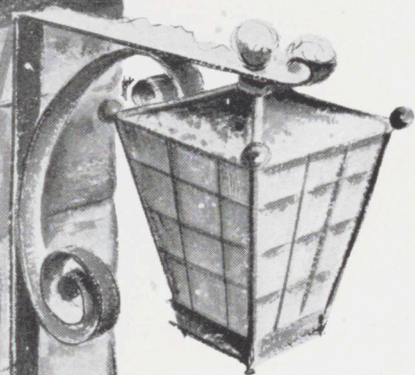
'Thank 'ee,' said Scrooge. 'I am much obliged to you. I thank you fifty times. Bless you!'

He went to church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and fro, and patted children on the head, and questioned beggars, and looked down into the kitchens of houses, and up to the windows, and found that everything could yield him pleasure. He had never dreamed that any walk—that anything—could give him so much happiness. In the afternoon he turned his steps towards his nephew's house.

He passed the door a dozen times, before he had the courage to go up and knock. But he made a dash, and did it:

'Is your master at home, my dear?' said Scrooge to the girl. Nice girl! Very.

'Yes, sir.'



'Where is he my love?' said Scrooge.

'He's in the dining room, sir, along with mistress. I'll show you upstairs, if you please.'

'Thank 'ee. He knows me,' said Scrooge, with his hand already on the dining-room lock. 'I'll go in here, my dear.'

'Fred!' said Scrooge.

'Why bless my soul!' cried Fred, 'who's that?'

'It's I. Your uncle Scrooge. I have come to dinner. Will you let me in, Fred?'

Let him in! It is a mercy he didn't shake his arm off. He was at home in five minutes. Nothing could be heartier. His niece looked just the same. So did Topper when he came. So did the plump sister, when she came. So did every one when they came. Wonderful party, wonderful games, wonderful unanimity, wonderful happiness!

But he was early at the office next morning. Oh, he was early there. If he could only be there first, and catch Bob Cratchit coming late! That was the thing he had set his heart upon.

And he did it; yes he did! The clock struck nine. No Bob. A quarter past. No Bob. He was full eighteen minutes and a half behind his time. Scrooge sat with his door wide open, that he might see him come into the Tank.

His hat was off, before he opened the door; his comforter too. He was on his stool in a jiffy; driving away with his pen, as if he were trying to overtake nine o'clock.

'Hallo!' growled Scrooge, in his accustomed voice, as near as he could feign it. 'What do you mean by coming here at this time of day?'

'I am very sorry, sir,' said Bob, 'I am behind my time.'

'You are?' repeated Scrooge. Yes, I think you are. Step this way, sir, if you please.'

'It's only once a year, sir', pleaded Bob, appearing from the Tank. 'It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday, sir.'

'Now, I'll tell you what, my friend,' said Scrooge, 'I am not going to stand this sort of thing any longer. And therefore,' he continued leaping from his stool, and giving Bob such a dig in the waistcoat that he staggered back into the Tank again; 'and therefore I am about to raise your salary!'

Bob trembled, and got a little nearer to the ruler. He had a momentary idea of knocking Scrooge down with it, holding him, and calling to the people in the court for help and a straight-waistcoat.

'A merry Christmas, Bob!' said Scrooge, with an earnestness that could not be mistaken, as he clapped him on the back. 'A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you for many a year! I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family, and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon, over a Christmas bowl of smoking bishop, Bob! Make up the fires, and buy another coal scuttle before you dot another i, Bob Cratchit!'

Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset; and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed: and that was quite enough for him.

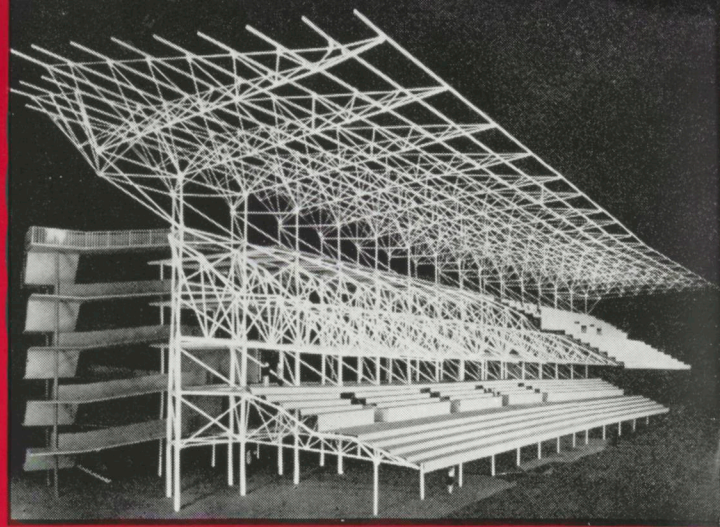


Next year—1957—marks the centenary of the Auckland Racing Club.

Plans for a new ultra-modern grandstand are under way and the foundation work has already been started by Fletcher Construction. Incidentally, Fletcher Steel built the scale model of the stand illustrated on this page.

In the midst of the Christmas season, when most of us will probably be more interested in sporting diversions rather than workaday affairs, we hope that these pages, devoted to a description of the new stand together with a brief story about the Auckland Racing Club, will be topical and interesting.

We are grateful to Mr. Mackie and the Auckland Racing Club for supplying us with the material about the Club's history.



1957

Auckland Racing

To combine beauty with extreme structural strength, and to accomplish this with a daring economy of material, is an ideal underlying some of the most fascinating innovations in architecture. These principles are embodied in the design of the new official stand to be built at Ellerslie Racecourse for the Auckland Racing Club.

The stand will exemplify the use of a recent engineering development known as space frame construction. This method is fairly common in Germany, particularly in bridge building, and the celebrated Dome of Discovery at the Festival of Britain was constructed on the same principle.

In orthodox steel construction a proportion of the members of the framework have no structural function and act only as a brace against wind or in earthquakes; for the most part they are "idle". In space frame construction these members which contribute nothing to structural strength are dispensed with. The fewer members used are integrated in triangular trusses to enable them to perform the function of bracing while doing their normal work as bearers. The economy of the method is obvious.

Besides economy, however, it affords scope for imaginative architecture; and since what was desired for Ellerslie was a stand as elegant in line and delicate in poise as a thoroughbred, the Auckland firm of architects, Wilson, Moodie and Gillespie, decided that space frame construction would answer the unusual needs the design called for. It was a revolutionary decision, for there are no large space frame buildings in New Zealand. As far as is known, moreover, the method has not been used in grandstand construction in any part of the world.

Once the stability of the method has been checked with a leading world authority, the architects consulted with Gray, Watts and Beca, of Auckland, on the

engineering aspects of the project. The next step was to produce a model of the stand. This was made by Fletcher Steel (though additions to the original were done by the architects themselves) and, as an achievement in itself, it attracted considerable attention at an engineering exhibition held this year in Auckland.

The model shows how resourcefully, not to say attractively, the architects and engineers have contrived to adapt the space frame method to attain a novel design which incorporates the most modern ideas in stand planning.

From the racegoer's standpoint, or sitpoint, no doubt the greatest advantage of the cantilever construction will be the absence of columns; an absolutely unobstructed view. The stand will have seating accommodation for 3,400 in two tiers in the front, with dining rooms and other facilities in a four-story structure at the rear. Access will be by stairs and ramps at both ends and in the centre, and much of the building is to be raised clear of the ground so that patrons can move underneath from the track to the birdcage. The dining rooms and totalisator galleries at the rear command a view of the lawn. Offices and weighing rooms will take up the ground floor.

The main impression of this filigree of tubular steel, as given by the model, is one of exceptional lightness. The model looks fragile but in fact it has withstood the weight of a very heavy man. The tubular steel used in the stand will vary in diameter from two to 18½ inches.

The two tiers of trusses in front will carry a decking of quarter-inch mild steel plate on which the seating will be fixed. At the rear, the floors will be of fire-proofed, prestressed radiata pine. For the external walls a modern aluminium cladding will be used.

Fletcher Construction has begun work on the foundations and it is expected that half the stand will be ready for the 1957 Christmas Meeting.

A. & P. Showgrounds,
Greenlane, Ellerslie,
1885 The present
entrance driveway to
Ellerslie Racecourse
is on part of this
land.



Club Centenary 1857

At 12.30 p.m. on January 21, 1857, seven horses took part in the first race to be run at Ellerslie. Race meetings had been held in Auckland since 1842, but in 1857 Mr. Robert Graham* lent part of his estate at Ellerslie to the Auckland Jockey Club for the Annual Auckland races held to commemorate the foundation of the Colony of New Zealand.

The Maiden Plate, as this first race at Ellerslie was called, was a modest weight-for-age event, run in two heats, with prize money amounting to £100: it was a mile and a distance.

It is on record that "At starting, Matilda was the decided favourite, having stripped in splendid condition; she went off with a clear lead, and it was soon evident that she had the foot of all her competitors—running away at leisure from the best of them and coming in at an easy canter."

Evidently the meeting was well patronised, for a newspaper reported that "from an early hour the road from the city as well as from the (pensioner's) settlements and

*Many of our Auckland readers will remember Ian Graham (Nelson Street Joinery Factory, killed in the RNZAF during the war). Ian was a grandson of Robert Graham.

Ellerslie Racecourse has seen extraordinary progress in the 100 years since "swell drags, vulgar traps and common drays" rolled up for the first meeting.

100



YEARS

other country districts was covered with a continuous line of pleasure-seekers — a moving panorama of aristocratic carriages, open vehicles, swell drags, vulgar traps and common drays. Equestrians were also in great number."

Lack of public racecourse was a difficulty for organisers of Auckland's early race meetings. Most of the racing during the years 1841-1856 took place at Potter's Paddock or on the adjacent property of Mr. Farmer. Potter's Paddock was on the same site as the present-day Alexandra Park trotting course. Potter's barn stood where the tram barn now stands and was a landmark when Epsom was in the country and when a mail wagon went twice weekly between Auckland and Onehunga.



Bookmakers' Stand at Ellerslie, 1909.

Auckland's first race meeting was held at Epsom on January 5, 1842 and was conducted by a committee elected at a meeting of "the people of Auckland" held on November 3, 1841, at Wood's Royal Hotel. Until 1849 the Auckland races were controlled by the committee, who were mainly officers of the Militia then stationed in Auckland. In that year the New Ulster Jockey Club was formed. The Auckland Jockey Club came into existence after the Province of New Ulster was abolished in 1853 and the new provincial boundaries were declared.

One of racing's keen supporters was the late Mr. Robert Graham who made land available for the first meeting at Ellerslie. Meetings were held on his property for some years. In 1864 it was necessary to move the venue to a site near Otahuhu because, as one newspaper put it, the old course had been sacrificed to the pursuits of the agriculturists. In the following two years the meetings were held at Epsom but in 1867, 1868 and 1869 were again held at Ellerslie. In 1870 and 1871 meetings were held at Epsom.

On May 19, 1872, the Ellerslie course of 90 acres was bought from Mr. Graham, and this not only established for the first time a permanent site for a racecourse but made possible the development of course improvements which were urgently needed.

The only record of the affairs of the Auckland Jockey Club in the possession of the Auckland Racing Club is a minute book for 1866, but in this there is a resolution which shows the means adopted to provide a suitable venue for races. The resolution reads:

"That for the sum of £100 he (Mr. Robert Graham) will hand over to the Committee on the evening of the 28th December, 1866, the course known as the 'Ellerslie' Course in every way fitted to be raced upon . . . Mr. Graham is to erect a grandstand to hold as many as that on the Epsom course; to close fence a weighing and saddling yard; to erect a Judge's box; to close fence a Committee yard; to fence in the distance, say 250 yards,



The "Hill" Enclosure, 1903.

and also to reduce the Hill upon the course by 6 (six) feet."

Racing affairs in Auckland pursued a more or less untroubled existence up to 1873, when the Auckland Jockey Club found itself with a strongly-organised rival, the Auckland Turf Club.

The one race meeting of the Turf Club was held on December 26 and 27, 1873. It was hardly a success, if the newspaper report of the day is to be accepted. This tells us "The events all ended in a fizzle, if we except the two big ones which appeared to be honestly contested."

Almost immediately after this, on the first three days of 1874, the Auckland Jockey Club held its last meeting.

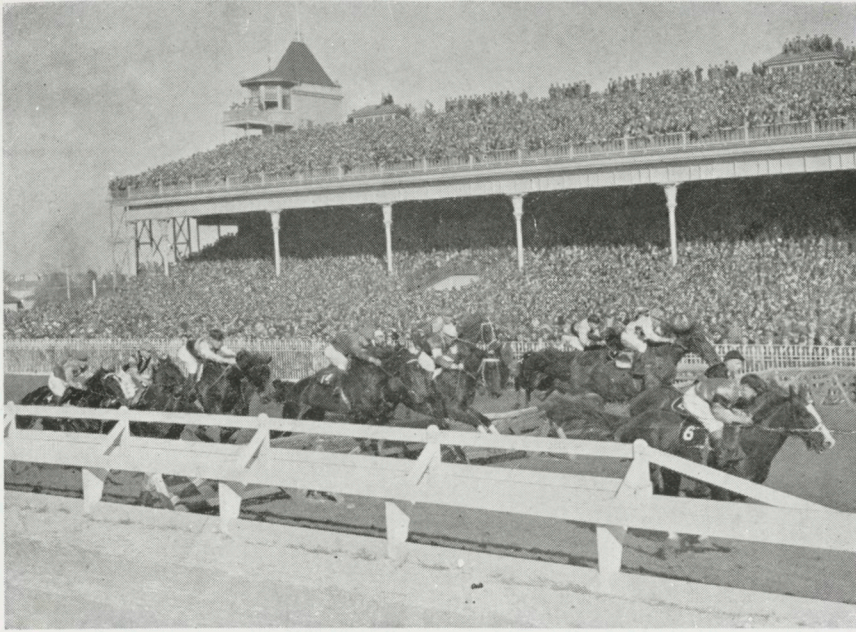
This was marred by a demonstration in which Mr. Hardington, the Clerk of the Course who was officiating at his twenty-fifth Annual Meeting, was knocked off his horse and severely injured. He suffered a broken jaw, hurt ankle and he bled from the ears. Police Inspector Broham was also dragged from his horse.

On January 9, the members of both clubs met and agreed to form

a new club; it was called the Auckland Racing Club. Although this title dates only from 1874, the new club was a continuation of the existing Auckland Turf Club and the Auckland Jockey Club, and so the Auckland Racing Club rightly traces its history back to the formation of the New Ulster Jockey Club in 1849. In fact, as the New Ulster Jockey Club was originally formed by citizens who previously had conducted race meetings merely as a committee, it can be said that the history of the Auckland Racing Club begins with the first meeting held in Auckland on January 5, 1842.

The Auckland Racing Club got off to a start in 1874 with an Autumn Meeting on May 25 and 26. The first Auckland Cup was run in that year and the New Zealand Herald commented:

"The sport provided on its first Cup Day was of the very best character, and such has not been equalled in Auckland before. Every horse that emerged from the saddling-paddock ran on its merits. To use a Colonial expression, there was no shenanniking, no hanky-panky



A recent view of the main public grandstand at Ellerslie.

BIG DISPERSAL SALE AT ALTON LODGE

Talking of racing, Sir James and J. C. Fletcher have announced their intention to sell all their brood mares and yearling fillies, also the well-known stallions Balloch* and Gold Nib*, at Alton Lodge Stud on January 15, 1957. The 21 yearling colts from the Stud will be sold as usual at Trentham.

In a press interview, Mr Fletcher said some weeks ago that what had begun as a hobby for himself and his father had become a business, and they had decided to sell the brood-mare breeding stock and operate the Stud on the basis of a Stallion Lodge. This would mean that instead of the emphasis being placed on breeding from the Stud's own mares, the facilities of the Stud in future would be almost entirely devoted to providing stallion and boarding services to outside mares.

Standing at the Stud for the forthcoming season will be Chatsworth II* and Fair's Fair*, and it is believed that the purchase of a further high-class stallion is contemplated.

"Arrowhead" asked J. C. Fletcher to tell us something about his racing activities, and he informed us that in general Sir James himself only raced fillies for short periods before returning them to the Stud for breeding purposes. Most promising youngster this year is Ganymede, a filly by Gold Nib* from Goddess of Fire. Others also racing this season are Voulette, Verve, Cross Stitch and By Far (a gelding by Gold Nib* from Fame). We further learned that neither J. C. Fletcher nor his father are betting men and the former refuses to be inveigled into making any prophecies about the form of their horses in the Christmas events. Sorry.

Staff or readers genuinely interested in the sale at Alton Lodge can write to Alton Lodge Stud, Private Bag, Auckland, for a catalogue.

work, but everything was above-board, up-hill and down-straight. As a consequence, the proceedings were marked with orderliness and the absence of all rowdiness, discontent or ill-feeling. It is a continuance of such successful racing that will make Auckland the first racing province in the Colony."

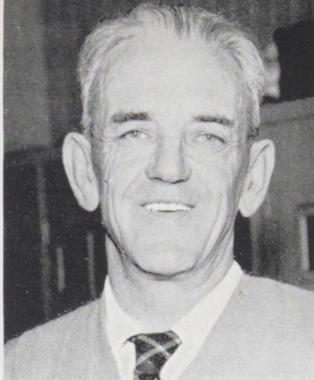
Racing at Ellerslie in the early years of the development of the course was held under conditions vastly different from today's. The course itself was marked out with poles on which a flag was placed to indicate to the riders the bounds of the track. Starting was by flag, the Judge operated from a makeshift box at the edge of the track, and patrons took their carriages to the edge of the course and viewed the race from that vantage point. Lunches were eaten in a picnic atmosphere or else in the booths run by the local innkeepers.

Between races, games such as Chance, Aunt Sally, Mot, Wheel of Fortune and Shooting Gallery were run by the crowd. Besides these diversions, Mr. Graham often ran a sports meeting on another part of his grounds. If the racing lacked interest the public had only to walk a few hundred yards to see the athletics. A cricket pitch was laid down in the centre of the course and in the early 1870's matches were played while the racing was in progress.

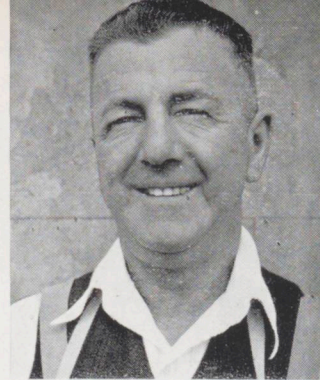
Today, the tea-tree poles round the course have given way to proper railings, the Judges no longer occupy a humble shelter on the side of the course; the tented refreshment booths have been replaced by spacious and well-equipped dining rooms and liquor booths. But a touch of the leisurely picnic atmosphere has been retained in the open-air beer garden which was opened recently. Instead of the raucous shouts of the gamester operating his game of chance, the public hears a skilled announcer giving his commentary on the running of each event. It is all a far cry from the times when a rope fence kept people off the track while the "gentry occupied the lower deck of the stand for a consideration of ten shillings per day."



ARTHUR DUNLOP, Fletcher Construction, Wellington, 30 years



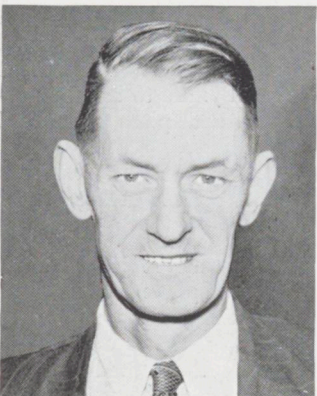
JOE DUNNE, Fletcher Construction, Wellington, 30 years



BILL O'BRIEN, Fletcher Construction, Auckland, 30 years.



TED OWENS, Fletcher Steel, Auckland, 30 years.



BILL FOUHY, Fletcher Construction, Wellington, 20 years.



LAURIE LOGAN, Fletcher Construction, Wellington, 20 years.

LONG  SERVICE

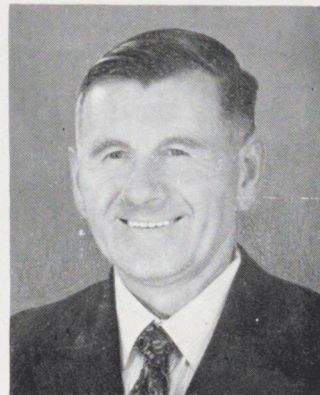
AWARDS

Four employees have completed thirty years' continuous employment with Fletchers during 1956, qualifying for gold badges, and seven are to receive silver badges in acknowledgement of twenty years' service. Their names appear with their photographs, but Arthur Gager (20 years) was not in sight when the camera went around the jobs.

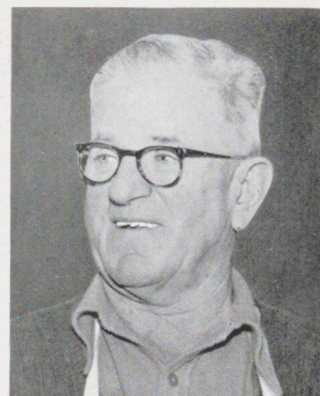
All of them happen to be in Wellington or Auckland, but the South Island is not exactly lacking in veterans; quite a number across the Strait are within months of completing twenty years with the firm and we look forward to saluting them in 'Arrowhead' next year.

Badges will be presented at end-of-year functions in Auckland and Wellington and in other centres awards for shorter terms of service will be made. Throughout Fletcher branches in New Zealand and Australia 16 will qualify this month for fifteen year badges; 35 for ten year and 67 for five year.

The Management extends its hearty congratulations to award winners and thanks them for their years of loyal and conscientious service.



JIM FAIRLESS, Fletcher Construction, Wellington, 20 years.



JIM LITTLEJOHN, Fletcher Construction, Wellington, 20 years.



OTTO SUNDHOLM, Fletcher Construction, Wellington, 20 years.



ALF WILSON, Fletcher Construction, Wellington, 20 years.



M. L. C.

On Thursday, December 6, the nine story M.L.C. Building, recently completed by Fletcher Construction, was officially opened by the Mayor of Auckland.

Here is a photograph of the imposing block of offices designed by Mitchell, Mitchell & Partners of Wellington for the Mutual Life & Citizen's Assurance Company Limited. Completed considerably under scheduled time, the building is a credit to all those associated with its construction. Foreman of the job was Bert Brown; Tom McMillan was foreman plasterer and Alec Clark was foreman in charge of reinforcing steelwork.

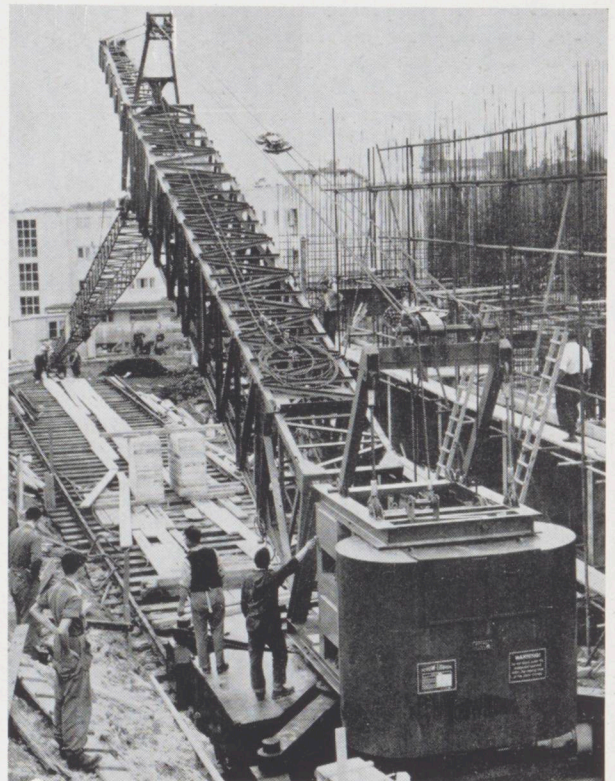
The roof is 100 ft. above ground level and a 20 ft. tower surmounted by a 40 ft. flagpole stands above. Facings are of 2 inch thick ceramic blocks and Balmoral granite veneer.

CRANE JIBS AT OVER-WORK

A conspicuous addition to the city skyline in Auckland since mid-November is the tower of Fletcher Construction's new crane (see photo) above the 10-storey block of flats which is being built in Grey's Avenue. This Acrow-Liebherr crane is the first of its type in New Zealand. Its 118-foot tower is of latticed angle steel. The jib, pivoted at 95 feet, is of tubular steel and lifts on a full circle to 173 feet. Electrically driven, the crane travels on rails at 115 feet in 60 seconds. Its lifting rate is 65 feet a minute. With ballast tanks filled with 17 tons of gravel its total weight is 41 tons. Its maximum load is 3 tons 12 cwt.

The crane comes apart in seven major pieces for moving and the use of gravel ballast is a new idea. When a move to another job is to be made, the gravel is released and the tanks are refilled on the next site. This saves transporting ballast whenever the crane is shifted.

The driver's cabin is built into the main mast 83 feet up. An interesting safety provision is that a red light glows when a 90 per cent lift is made, a horn sounds at a 105 per cent lift, and the electrical system cuts out if a 115 per cent lift is attempted.





Merle Clark and Lois Meredith.

OFFICE SLALOM



The group.



Doug Notley.



John and Jocelyn Batchelor.



Barry Clark.



Joan Fox.

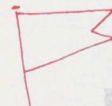


Merle Clark.

Somewhere in a Christmas issue there's got to be some snow but this year, when we brought out last year's cottonwool it looked too jaded at 80 in the shade. So here is our bow to tradition—a whole mountain of deep-freeze piled appropriately round Chateau Tongariro which Fletchers built in 1929. A few weeks ago when days were still cold enough for hooligans in cardigans to climb the old hill for the old thrill, some people from the Auckland office and their skis took off from the top of the chair lift and found a slump at the end of a slalom.



Fay Wales.



STATE-HOUSING NO MORE CONTRACTS?

Fletcher Construction is temporarily out of the State housing business in both Auckland and Wellington.

Over the past three years, the volume of State-housing contracts coming up for tender in both centres has been steadily falling as has been the number of units in individual contracts. The reduced volume of work combined with the small number of units involved no longer warrants the continuation of a large-scale housing organisation, which, in Fletcher Construction's particular case, can be geared up to building one thousand homes annually. We hope we are bowing out only temporarily from this field, and that more contracts will be let as more sections become available.

Of serious concern has been the necessity to end the Incentive Bonus System which has operated very successfully for over six months on the Tamaki housing contracts. This system was planned, as are our whole operations, on a steady and continuous flow of contracts which are no longer available. The system was quite revolutionary in construction work in New Zealand, and, although it met with opposition in some Union quarters, it found excellent support in others, and the men themselves approved the scheme and reaped considerable benefits.

Fletchers have built nearly ten thousand houses during their association with State housing construction.

Log Storage in Hobson Bay

AUCKLAND:

December 4, 1906.—The question of log storing in Hobson Bay was again before the Parnell Council last evening. In answer to a protest from the Council to the Harbour Board against the latter body allowing the construction of timber booms in the Bay, the Secretary of the Board wrote stating that permission had been granted to erect booms, occupation to be terminable at three months' notice, and all damage resulting from stray logs to be made good by the owners of the logs. The Mayor remarked that the only concession obtained through representation to the Board and Minister seemed to be the clause providing for termination of permission to store the logs in the Bay at three months notice. He himself had noticed that the site of the booms was already being pegged out; in fact, about half the Bay was being taken in. The clerk was instructed to place the situation before the district health officer.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Welcome to Sir James and Lady Fletcher after an extended trip to U.S.A., the United Kingdom and the Continent. They returned to New Zealand on the "Rangitiki" on 29th November.

Welcome to Mr. L. J. Stevens, (Deputy Chairman of Fletcher Holdings Limited) and Miss Stevens who returned from overseas on the Oronsay on 16th November.

LADY FLETCHER LAUNCHES NEW U.S.S. VESSEL

While overseas, Lady Fletcher named and launched the new Union Steam Ship Company's vessel "Koranui,"* built by Alexander Stephen & Sons on the Clyde, on October, 3.

The "Koranui" is a motorship of 5,300 tons; 325 feet long, with a 50 foot beam and draught of 26 feet. It will operate between New Zealand and Australia on the Trans-Tasman cargo trade. *Koranui means, "bright gleam."

BEEN AND GONE

Sir Stuart Mallinson and Mr. V. Erkolani, both prominent in Britain's timber and plywood industry.

George Havas, Vice President and General Manager, Kaiser Engineers, Oakland, California.

Giff Randall and Bill Donaldson, Engineers from California.

J. W. Komes, Vice President, Bechtel Corporation, San Francisco.

Betting Controversy

NEW PLYMOUTH:

December 26, 1906.—An interesting discussion took place at the New Plymouth Borough Council meeting concerning an application by the Chief Postmaster for permission to erect a temporary telegraph tent in John Street, outside the racecourse, on the occasion of the Christmas race meeting. Councillors were opposed to the granting of any facilities. The controversy elsewhere on the subject of telegraphic betting, and the Taranaki Jockey Club's refusal to allow a telegraphic tent on their property were quoted as arguments against permission being granted.

SYDNEY OFFICE MOVES

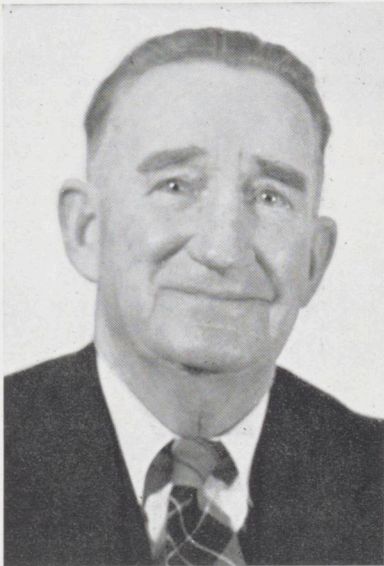
Fletcher Construction have moved their main office from the Mercantile Mutual Buildings in Pitt Street to 863-871 Bourke Street Waterloo. The new address is, of course, that of Howie Moffat & Company (Pty.) Limited (taken over by Fletcher Construction in 1955), and the two organisations will now be under the same roof.

New telephone numbers are MX 2283, MX 2284, MX 3119.



"Don't you remember? You fired them all at the Christmas party."

Personalia



Mr. W. H. (Bill) Carlyle, Manager of Fletcher Construction's Insulation and Acoustic Division, who has retired. Bill joined Fletchers in Christchurch in 1944 (54 years after he was born there and after several years in Australia) and transferred to Auckland in the following year. We wish him many happy years of retirement.

AT THE MARBLE COMPANY FAREWELL

Bottom Right.

Presentation to Jock Henderson, who retired after 46 years' service (see "Arrowhead", December 1955).

Below.

Bill Harding and Jim Smith.

Top Right.

Left to right: J. C. Fletcher, Hugh Redpath, Charlie Malpas, Jim Simson.



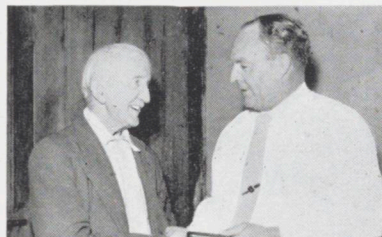
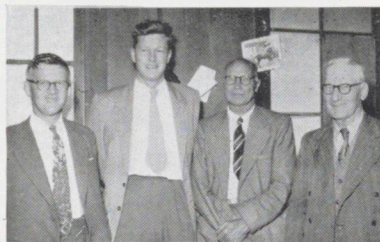
AUCKLAND

CONGRATULATIONS: to Ted Malatios (F.T.C.) on the birth of a son; to Margaret Cunliffe (Main Office) on her engagement to Dennis Barber; to Doug. Laughton (F.C.C.) on his marriage to June Irvine, and to Ron Evans on his recent marriage.

DISTINCTIONS: Colin (Alderman) Gurr, Secretary of Fletcher Industries, was recently elected to the Howick Borough Council. Judy Browne (Drawing Office) has been picked for the N.Z. Women's Cricket Team which is to tour Australia this season. Bill Weight, (F.I.L. Sales Manager) has been appointed to the National Plywood Prices Committee.

WELCOME: To Barbara Hall from Graham Leach has been chosen for the Varsity swimming and water polo team to tour Australia in January. England (F.C.C.), Bernice Cox (Penrose Office), Kay Snowden (F.T.C.) Ron North (F.C.C.) transferred from Whangarei, Noel Gibson (F.C.C.) transferred from Dunedin.

FAREWELL: To Barry Clark (F.C.C.) who has left to join a private firm of quantity surveyors; to Malcolm Urquhart (F.T.C.) who has left for Australia, and to Mrs. Jackson and Fred Hofman both of F.T.C.; to Max Dijkmans, one-time Manager of Preload, who is leaving us to take up a post in U.S.A. (See "Arrowhead," May, 1955).



CHRISTCHURCH News

CONGRATULATIONS: To Marie Flood of the F.I.L. Office on her recent marriage.

Stork Club membership was overtaxed with the addition of sixteen babies to fifteen fathers, including a double helping to the Shaskeys.

Girls to C. A. Lowe, F. W. Frost (F.C.C.), Noel Dalley (F.T.C.), J. M. Palmer (F.S.E.), H. N. Ede, S. Callanan (F.I.L.), N. H. Thackwell (N.Z.P.). Boys to Colin Atkinson (F.I.L.) M. Sands, C. B. Hegarty, R. V. Dixon, E. Cusiel Jnr., D. C. Taylor (F.C.C.), W. T. Campbell (N.Z.P.). Twin boys to I. Shaskey (N.Z.P.).

SOCIAL: The Social Club held a successful dance last month and has arranged a smoke concert for this month.

SYDNEY Section

THE MERGER: On Friday, October 5 the management and senior staff with their wives were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Fletcher at a dinner party at the Australia Hotel in celebration of the merger. Those present were:—

Howies Moffat & Company Pty. Ltd. Mr. Harry Knight; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Trotter; Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bates; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bridger; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Beeforth.

The Fletcher Construction Pty Limited. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Fletcher; Mr. Jim Espie; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Whittleston; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McGreal; Mr. Ray Clark; Mr. John Turnbull; Mr. Peter Barton.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Margaret Webb (accountant for Howies) to Doug Stapylton. Presentations on behalf of the management and staff were made by Mr. Harry Knight and Mr. Jim Espie.



AT THE SOCIAL EVENING—ROTORUA ON 15th AUGUST

Bottom Right.

Jock Wyllie, Hori Anaru, Henry Anaru.

Top Right.

Jim and Mrs. Foothead.

Above.

Bill Waller, Des Beckett.



ROTORUA

TIMBER TATTLE

CONGRATULATIONS: To Bill Rowe on the birth of a daughter.

WELCOME: To Joan Webber and John Wiseman who have joined the office staff; to John Potts, ex-Fletcher Construction, Kawarau, after a private visit abroad.

SMOKO: On the 26th October, the annual "Smoko" held in Rotorua was a successful get-together of Departments. There was first class entertainment (both organised and disorganised) a substantial supper and plenty of good spirits.

FAREWELL: To Bill Hedges who departed recently after two years as Accountant in the Rotorua Office; to Mrs. Kath Dinsdale and to Ann McPherson.

SPORT

CRICKET:

An encouraging start has been made by the Auckland cricket team in the Auckland Business House cricket competition, having won the first two matches played to date.

At Christchurch the Fletcher Industries' team beat the Plywoods' team at a cricket match on 3rd November.

The Dunedin Club is enflamed again and will lack nothing in enthusiasm with Norman Thackray as Patron, Bill Peart as President and Andy Fleming as Secretary.

DUNEDIN Diversions

WELCOME: To Andy Fleming who has returned to Dunedin Office after a year at the Dunstan Hospital job at Clyde.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Eddy Taylor, (Fletcher Steel) on the birth of twin sons.

FAREWELL: To Ted Hanvey, originally a member of the Purchasing Division.

FAREWELL: A very enjoyable evening was held at the Port Chalmers Office on the 4th October to farewell Jock Tunnage who was retiring after 46 years' service in the Moulding Dept. Presentations were made to Mrs. Tunnage and Jock and best wishes for the future were conveyed by various speakers.

WELLINGTON Wisdom

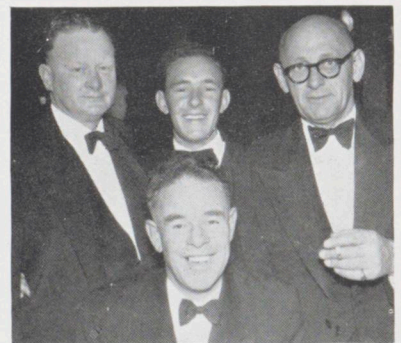
WELCOME: To Mrs. Barclay, P. Farrelly (F.C.C.); June Horton, R. Burns (F.S.S.); an overdue welcome to E. Thomas who has been at Gracefield with Fletcher Steel since May; to Fred Lister and Eddie Maycock (F.T.C.).

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED: In response to the Christchurch challenge in *Arrowhead* October 1956, Wellington enters the Stork Handicap to announce daughters for Colin Brough and Dick Carr, both of F.C.C., and another son for Lyall Young. (Christchurch won this month's Stork Handicap by a neck and a crop with 13 in the lead.)

ANNUAL BALL: Jean Burke, Valerie Gibson, Jack Bentley and John Stewart were the committee to whom special thanks are due for the outstanding success of the Annual Ball held at the Majestic Cabaret on September 22. (see photos).

OBITUARY

With regret we report the death of Gordon Davey, of Wellington. Gordon — or Shorty, as he was known to his very many friends in the building trade — was with Fletcher Steel for 20 years, latterly as foreman of the reinforcing department. Over the years he had established a reputation for always getting a job through his workshop on time despite any difficulties. To his widow and two sons we extend our deepest sympathy.



AT THE ANNUAL BALL—WELLINGTON

Top.—Left to right: Bluey Jamieson, F. Turner, Ray Berry. In front: W. Cramner.

Centre.—Left to right: Bill Curgenven, Joe Craig, Mrs. Curgenven.

Bottom.—Left to right: Ken and Joan Burke, Ron and Joan Coe, Rae and Gordon Bloomfield, Lloyd and Joan Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Niven.

