

PLEASE TAKE ME HOME TO READ



ABERDEEN
ON THE HUNTER

UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE Inc.

NEWSLETTER

June, 2014

We Now Have Our New Fitzgerald Bridge Over the Hunter River

I wonder how long this bridge will last!

The new Fitzgerald Bridge was officially declared open recently. It took \$28 million and 18 months to build. The original bridge, built 120 years ago until recently served southbound traffic, while the second bridge, installed only 29 years ago served northbound traffic.

The original bridge will be preserved for its heritage significance and used by pedestrians and cyclists.

Member for Upper Hunter, George Souris, said "The old bridge has done its job for over a hundred years,

and so will this. It's a "100/100" bridge designed to withstand 100 years of traffic and a 100 year flood event."

Mr. Souris also said that heritage and environmental considerations had been taken into account in designing the new bridge. Parklands and archaeological deposits were also considered, along with recreational use of the river.

TODAY'S MOVIE

In today's movie you should look out for the last screen performance of Aberdeen's comedian George Wallace who plays a stage manager.

GEORGE WALLACE (1895-1960)

George Stephenson Wallace was born one wild and stormy night in a tent at Aberdeen. George's father had come to Aberdeen to find work at the meatworks.

He first appeared on stage at the age of 3 as a pirate in a Sydney pantomime and was the infant member of a family song-and-dance act until his parents divorced. A juvenile busker on the Pymont waterfront, he was later apprenticed in his stepfather's ink factory. He spent his youth knocking about North Queensland as a farm-hand and cane cutter before he

joined a road show at 16.

With a love of comedy and entertaining George worked in country travelling shows before he headed for the bright lights of Sydney and a career in vaudeville theatre.

Unashamedly Australian, George Wallace was described as a "tubby little comic, with goggle eyes, mobile expression and a croaking voice, baggy trousers precariously hitched at half-mast beneath his protruding stomach. A check skirt and a battered felt hat were his trademarks. Astonishingly agile, he perfected the art of

falling on his left ear and built a repertoire of absurd tales. He was "a scally-wag with an earthy sense of humour."

Unusually in his profession, he did not try to steal scenes. He was described as 'irresistibly funny without ever descending to the vulgar.'

In 1919 he teamed up with Jack Paterson as 'Dinks' and Onkus' ('The Two Drunks') a knockabout comedy act.

Hailed as one of the greatest comedians of his time, George was not only a caricaturist, (continued over page)

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amateur landscape painter, a musician, (he taught himself to play the piano, saxophone and guitar) a composer and skilled tap-dancer, he wrote his own comedy skits as well as the script for the radio shows and movies that he performed in. George even wrote several hit

songs including the war time favourite, "A Brown Slouch Hat". As another hobby, he made dolls from felt. Passionately fond of animals, particularly horses, he had a chicken farm at Rooty Hill.

George Wallace continued to

entertain an audience of movie viewers as he had done in his vaudeville shows.

From 1949 he had a weekly radio show on the Macquarie network.

His last film role was in the 1951 movie "Wherever She Goes".

NEXT MOVIE

Our next movie and luncheon is on Tuesday 8th July, 2014. Doors open at the Aberdeen Sports and Recreation Club at 11.30 am. A donation of \$10 is requested. Bookings are needed for catering purposes.

Please 'phone Jan - 6543 7150 or Jan - 6542 5168.



The 1954 movie is "SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS" starring Howard Keel and Jane Powell.

It is set in Oregon in 1850 and is particularly known for its unusual choreography, which makes dance numbers out of such mundane frontier pursuits as chopping wood and raising a barn. A film critic called the barn-raising sequence "one of most rousing dance numbers ever put on screen."

This movie won the Academy Award for Best Scoring of a Musical Picture and was nominated for four additional awards, including Best Picture of the Year. In 2006 American Film Institute named Seven Brides for Seven Brothers as one of the best American musical films ever made.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"The hurrier I go, the behinder I get!" – *My Mum*

A big "THANK YOU" to Kevin (Dick) Taylor who donated a large framed 1938 reprint of a map of Aberdeen to us. It is printed on parchment paper and shows owners and size of landholdings. Some of the landholders are Cundy, McLeod and McKenzie.

Kevin has also donated a home recorded DVD of Aberdeen including a street parade for the town's sesquicentenary.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the UHMRL will be held on Tuesday 2nd July at 5.00pm in the Aberdeen Library. We would love you to come to support us in our endeavours. Please phone our Secretary to confirm date and time.

ABERDEEN PUBLIC SCHOOL SESQUICENTENARY

Aberdeen Public School in the County of Durham was established in February, 1864. The school held an enrolment of approximately 30 students, separated into 2 classrooms. The original wooden classrooms were sold when a new brick building was opened in 1893. This building is currently used as the school library and is amongst the oldest buildings in Aberdeen.

There is a weekend of celebrations planned for Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September, 2014. They hope to have the digging up of a time capsule on

Saturday morning and plan to bury a new time capsule on the Sunday.

Denise Bell is planning to gather school class photographs to give to the school for this event. She would like to have original photographs which she will scan and return. (Copies and photocopies are not of a high enough standard to scan successfully.)

Denise would also like help in putting names to photos. She is willing to collect the photos and return them to you. Denise can be contacted on (02) 6543 7537.