The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc. 43 Edward St The Oaks 2570 (PO Box 6016) T: (02) 4657 1796 E: tohs1988@bigpond.net.au www.wollondillymuseum.org.au



Newsletter

MARCH 2017



Razorback Globe Trotters











Our beautiful mural was painted by David Campbell

Sunday drive from Ingleburn to Picton

At the Castrol globe launch on Sunday, 26th February a man came forward to say that his father owned the service station, supplying ESSO petrol in the 1960s, but it had poor custom. It was located near the current tattoo parlour sign. The service station was operated by Mrs Triance and her husband worked during that time on the Snowy Mountain scheme.



lanet Shiels was 8 years old when photographed with her brothers in front of the Castrol globe in 1964 or 1965 on the family Sunday drive.

President's Report

A busy month has flown by again. Sunday 26th was an open day at the museum for the Castrol Globe and what a great success it was. With lots of visitors and club enthusiasts, including the Southern Highlands Streeter's and the Razorback Crankhandlers, there was an impressive array of vehicles on site. The Razorback mural and storyboard completed the overall picture, David Campbell and Doreen Lyon, thank you. Launching the event evoked many memories and a variety of stories from our visitors recalling events of the original Razorback Globe era. Thanks to Colleen Haynes for organising the food and to Michael Haynes for his traffic management skills. Volunteers and visitors alike had a very enjoyable day, Thank you everyone!

Our Seniors Event Tea Dance is Monday, March 6th and you are invited to Frock Up and Rock up, dance and be entertained by Preston, Malcolm and Sheila and partake in afternoon tea. Also last years book, *My Most Memorable Job & Mode of Transport* will be launched.

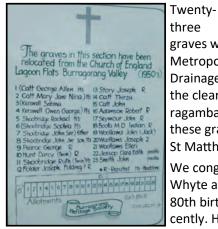
The Metal Conservation workshop on the following day, Tuesday March 7th is fully booked .

The Truckies Reunion planning is underway and the date for that is Saturday May 6th. We are reprinting Valley of Wealth Coal Transport story and we are taking pre-orders for anyone wishing to secure a copy.

Trish Hill

The new roster has been circulated and I trust the dates are suitable to everyone. Thanks Bev and David Batros for stepping in to roster duty. It is good to have additional volunteers who can do the roster duty.

Burragorang Heritage Society members with the assistance of David Campbell have completed and erected a new sign at St Matthews for the section of graves from Lagoon Flats, Burragorang Valley.





three graves were removed by the Metropolitan Water Sewerage & Drainage Board in 1954 during the clearing process for Warragamba water storage and these graves were re-interred at St Matthews.

We congratulate Maureen
Whyte and Ben Lyon on their
80th birthdays celebrated recently. HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ■

Acquisitions Corner

This month we've had a donation of items from Julie Bacon which have come from the Hanger and Davies families. The Hanger family lived at "Inverary" on Razorback for many years. E.V. Hanger was in the army in WW1 and served in France. There is a picture of him in uniform, as well as a program for Point-to-Point races organised by the army in France in 1919. There is a book presented to him in 1904 at Narellan Sunday school and a copy of the 1911 coronation service for King George V at St Thomas church Narellan. Other items in this collection are:

- ♦ Jersey stud book for Navua farm at Grosewold.
- ♦ A tractor scrap book prepared by Julie's father, Merv Davies, whilst at Hurlstone Agricultural College.
- ♦ 1958-59 accounts book for the Davies farm at Stilton Lane
- ♦ A copy of a 1934 phone directory for the south coast and southern highlands.
- Box of pen nibs.
- ♦ A Toni easy wave perm set.
- ♦ Photo of Walton's butcher shop at Picton.
- ◆ Fifth Avenue brush set.
- ♦ Photo of Miss E Boardman on a horse in 1914.
- ♦ Photo of *Inverary* homestead.
- ♦ Accounts for H V Hanger from Humphrey's store in Picton.
- ♦ Photo of Humphrey's store in Picton.
- ♦ The Coal Miner magazine for July 1972.
- ♦ Glasses that belonged to Lila Marie Hanger.
- ♦ 1961 calendar from Bollards Butchery at Picton.
- ♦ Wooden school case used by Freda Hanger at Douglas Pk.

Allen Seymour

- ♦ Photo of cattle on *Inverary*.
- ♦ Invitation to H V Hanger from Camden Council to retirement dinner for Stan Kelloway.
- ♦ Letter to Hanger from John A Gilbert.
- ♦ 1955 Picton Tennis Association rule book.
- 1970 Electric loco driver's certificate for Merv Davies at Oakdale Mine.
- ♦ Souvenir program for Picton railway centenary in 1963.
- Christmas card and wedding invitation from Walton family.
- ♦ Programme for 1957 Sydney Goulburn cycle race.
- ♦ Cuff holders.
- ♦ Other items this month include:
- ♦ A framed aerial photo of Oakdale.
- ◆ A copy of Wollondilly Council general building specs.
- ♦ A trophy from The Oaks RLFC awarded to D Hill for best back.
- ♦ A CFMEU Canberra rally 1996 cap.
- Girl Guide belt pouch, patrol book & tenderfoot test card.
- ♦ Warragamba Lion Safari tea towel.
- ◆ An oil painting of Burragorang Valley.
- ♦ A children's book from The Oaks School dated 1911.

Another item is a thermometer that came from the Atlantic Service Station on Razorback. It was in a shed on a farm at Cootamundra when the owners bought it some forty years ago. The owner saw our recent ad in the Daily Telegraph 'In Search' of section about the Castrol Globe and Razorback and contacted Trish. It was delivered to Sue's brother at Young and he passed it on to us!!!!! Quite a journey.



Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis



I have just returned from a holiday on the South Island of New Zealand. My husband had been hiking (that is trekking if you are from New Zealand) and I joined him for bit of sightseeing. There is some amazing scenery in the area as well as some sad evidence of the earthquake in Christchurch. But the people of Christchurch are moving forward and looking towards a brighter future. The Art Gallery boasts a sign across one side that says, "Everything is going to be alright". Their new building opened twelve months ago and



is very modern and is certainly a bright and happy place. The Art Gallery is

The Art Gallery is also home to the famous bronze bull

on the piano that I originally heard about at the Museums and Galleries Conference in Launceston in 2014. It became a

symbol of unity after the earthquake and people would come and have their photo taken with it as something solid and dependable. The Art Gallery and the community got together to purchase the \$1 million bull and now it is on display in the open for all to enjoy. A picture of me meeting him is attached! I was pleased I already knew the story before searching out the bull!

When visiting places where your ancestors lived can be a rewarding experience if you have done a bit of research first so you know what you are looking for when you get there. You could look for the house where they lived, workplace, church, school, cemetery or playing fields. Of course more information could then be found at the local museum, library, tourist centre or council office.

Our most recent researcher was travelling through from Queensland. She is Barbara Parry who is looking for information on Robert Higgins and related families of Scott and Denning. Other researchers have been:

Brian Rofe looking for information about John Tildsley.

Andrew Kubacki looking for history about 20 Campbell St,
Picton. If you can help with these please contact me at the
museum or email on tohs1988@bigpond.net.au

Sue Davis, Local Archives and Family History

Bus Visits & Marketing Report



Louisa Singleman

February Bus tours

February was a very quiet month with only three bus tours visiting our wonderful museum. With all the hot weather no doubt our marvellous volunteers were glad of the reprieve. However, March is a different story with lots of groups out and about. We have seven groups booked over March so we will be busy little bees making slices and Devonshire teas. Just as a reminder of the Bus Tour Roster. As you can see there are some gaps in the roster so if you can help please phone me on 0408 669 287.

Wednesday 1st ANZAC Ladies (14) Colleen Haynes / Pam McVey Monday 13th Scenic Horizon Tours (42) Trish Hill / Kathy Debritt Sunday, 19nd A—Z Car Club of Sydney (20) Louisa & Doreen Blaxland Glenbrook Probus (20) Wednesday, 22nd Bob, Viv & Kathy Monday, 27th Fairfield Older Womens Group (24) Doreen, Ben & Poppe Tuesday, 28th Camden Valley Inn (35) Trish / ??? Friday, 31st (Tentative) Louisa / ??? Wonoona Bulli Legacy

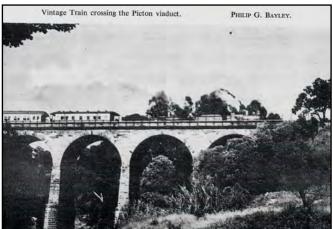
Marketing Report

Our big day is looming up on Sunday 5th March with the Thirlmere Steam Festival starting at 9am. Our position has changed. We are on site No.3 opposite the Thirlmere Post Office in front of the park in Oaks Road. If you can come along and lend a hand to give other volunteers a break it would be greatly appreciated.

PICTON - MITTAGONG LOOP-LINE RAILWAY

By William A Bayley—Fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society





"After a pleasant wait of $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours the party reached Nattai very hungry," on February 28, 1867—the great day of the opening of the railway to Nattai as Mittagong was called in those days, according to the Sydney Morning Herald report. "At Picton when the train came in a large number of persons were found ready to go down the line and most of these managed, after some little delay, to get to Nattai. In consequence, however, of the steepness of the gradients beyond Picton it was necessary to divide the train and to put on additional carriages."

The special train of 15 carriages conveying members of he ministry, parliament, "influential gentlemen" and distinguished visitors from the "metropolis" left Redfern terminus (the earlier Sydney railway station a little south of the present one) at 10am in dull weather, reaching Campbelltown at 11am and Picton at 12.10pm. There it was "divided between two engines." the first took "about six carriages" and the second the remainder, reported The Empire.

"The railway ... passes at some considerable elevation on a fine stone five-arched viaduct over the precipitous channel of Stonequarry Creek and continues to rise with a steep incline until it crosses the southern road near Mr Fieldhouse's Inn. From that point (which commands a fine view of the retired village of Picton) the line takes a sharp curve through the Picton tunnel (about four times the length of the Redfern tunnel) to the westward for a distance of about two miles," said the Herald, continuing:

"The road then turns off in a southern direction through a vast tract of densely wooded country in which there are several long reaches of unbroken forest land, with here and there a large cutting and huge embankment until at the distance of about fourteen miles from Picton the line is brought up to the 'Saddle", a steep hill standing right across its devious course ... From the entrance into this hill, through a deep cutting (about 78 feet in its greatest depth) the line winds with a sharp curve to the westward, through beautifully picturesque country for about a mile—the further course on leaving the Great Saddle Cutting again tending with slightly sinuous course, eleven miles westerly past numerous deserted tenements at Old Camp, the Rocky Water Holes, the Big Hill Cutting, the cuttings locally known as those of 'Cook's' and 'Frog Island' and 'Coleman's' with numerous other openings and embankments—until it eventually crossed the old road in the vicinity of Mittagong about one mile on the Sydney side into the Nattai station, close to the house and grounds formerly known as 'Cutt's' but not occupied by the Industrial School founded by Mr E J Joy."

The cuttings and embankments astonished the non-professional travellers, the gradients throughout being extremely steep, many up to one in thirty.

The cooler mountain temperature was noted and Nattai was said to have fine forest and mountain scenery. The station adjoined the township and stood on a small flat surrounded by lofty wooded hill.

The Herald and The Empire differed in reports on arrival times at Nattai, the former giving 1.30pm and the latter 2.25pm—no doubt being separate trains.

At Nattai the public school children of New Sheffield assembled with banners, The Empire reporting, "The locality adjacent to the Nattai terminus was like a fair ..."booths, refreshment tents, fruit stalls, a cart of fancy toys and baskets" and ".... sundry kinds of amusement ... all was in bush fashion ..."

A large tent provided luncheon ".... at a fashionable price ..." Guests paid a half-guinea (10s 6d. now \$1.05) for luncheon tickets and awaited the arrival of the Governor—who did not arrive! In his place Hon. W B Dalley arrived in a special carriage.

Meanwhile many visitors went to look over the Fitzroy Iron Works a short distance along the road to Berrima and saw the making of malleable iron from pig iron. It was reported that the ironstone had 75 per cent iron.

The luncheon was set out in a large marquee erected for the occasion. John Morrice MLA for Camden ".... the senior Member for the district ..." took the chair and many speeches were made and toasts honoured. At the luncheon were 160 guests. In ".... the navvies' tent nearby" Larkin and Wakeford, contractors, entertained 200 navvies, their wives and families with ".... roast beef, plum pudding and English ale." there too was speechmaking and toasting.

The trains returned to Sydney that evening and the line was handed over to the government on March 1. ■ Vintage train crossing the Picton viaduct. Philip G Bayley

Roy "Mussy" Musgrave

I was born, Roy Kearsley William MUSGRAVE on 3 December 1933, Corney's Hall in Lidsdale NSW (near Lithgow). We moved to Newnes, then to Guilford in approximately 1937. We moved a lot as there was no work due to the Great Depression, 1929-1938, we had to move where the work was. Next was Parramatta in 1940, then Glen Davis in 1941, followed by Newnes in November 1945, next was Glen Davis in 1951, followed by Nattai, Burragorang Valley in 1952 (until they flooded it for the Warragamba Dam).

I secured a job at Wollondilly Extended Colliery in 1952 and camped out, as there was no accommodation. We built our houses at Nattai near the mine. We decided to build Kevin Percival's house first, ("house" being a 24 x 12 foot shed). When that was waterproof, we all camped in that and built the next one and so on, it took sometime as we had to work as well.

I continued working there as an underground miner, driving various machinery or whatever was required at the time until 1956, where I left and went to live at a boarding house in Queens Park Road, Bondi Junction and drove city-suburban deliveries for GH Burton in Botany Road, Botany for GJ Coles Stores. Whilst living there in 1957, I happened to go with a friend of mine, Jim Norcross to Audley Royal National Park, where I met my beautiful wife Sheila.

I then lived with my Uncle Chris and Aunty Dulcie at Roseberry for a short period whilst still delivering around Sydney and the suburbs. I left there, moved back to Camden into Chellaston Street with mum and Stan and started driving for Fox's "blue" coal trucks.

1958 my brother Bob and his wife, June, bought us an old caravan for a wedding present, which we lived in at the Carapark Van Park (it's no longer there) at the Lansdowne Bridge, on the Hume Highway at Carramar.

In mid-1959, I took a job as a caretaker of the park, which was good grounding for me, for in later years we ventured into the caravan business. I stayed there until 1963 and bought several caravans to rent on site during this time. When the park closed, we sold up everything at the park and put a deposit on a house at Annabella Rd, Camden 1963. Between 1963-1968 both Bob (my brother) and I owned and ran a scrap metal business located at Queen Street, Narellan, just down from "The Glasshouse" during this period as well. On returning to Camden, I had a one-day excursion of hard work, building the mountain belts for the new coal washery, for S & M Fox on top of the mountain. This ended being not only our normal eight-hour shift but including an overtime shift, a total of 14 hours on the jack hammer! This experience saw me unable to get out of bed the next day! I never went back nor did I get paid. Two days after that I got a job driving Clinton's Coal Trucks from the Burragorang Valley delivering coal to various locations: - (Narellan Rail, Campbelltown Rail, Casula, Homebush, Balmain Powerhouse and Port Kembla). Not many people would know that Camden once depended very much on the coal mines in the area. The main street (Argyle Street) had a constant stream of coal trucks coming and going, all day every day.

In 1964 I returned to the coal mines, this time to Oakdale State Colliery, again as an underground miner at the face driving various machinery. Later after earning my stripes, I became a miner driver on a 6CM. I worked mainly on afternoon shift and continued there until about 1968. Some time in 1968 until early 1970 I was on "Pit Top" with Tom Meeks operating "the Brace" (which delivered the coal skips from pit bottom to the surface through the Tippler onto the Conveyor Belt which transferred the coal to the bins for the coal trucks).

We founded "Camden Caravans Sales" in 1968 at Elizabeth Street, Camden, opposite The Royal Hotel (previously The Royal then The Merino Tavern, now The Royal again), whilst still working at Oakdale Colliery. In March 1970 we bought a property at Elderslie, (over the bridge at Camden, going north) on the Hume Highway (now The Camden Valley Way) and continued Camden Caravans there until 1983 (15 years). Whilst proprietors of the Caravan Sales, we dabbled with buying and selling real estate, we also built a caravan park (Southwood Caravan Park) at Neath (Hunter Valley) NSW (it no longer operates as a caravan park).

1983 we lived at Port Stephens and for some time, enjoyed a short break from work, then went into the carpet dry cleaning business in Queensland in 1984, at 61 Deshon Street, Buranda, the company name was and still is, "Elite Carpet Dry Cleaning". We did this until after Expo Brisbane 1988, I then dissolved the partnership.

Between 1988 and 1994 we purchased and lived on two properties, Adori Drive, Mountain Creek and First Avenue, Mooloolaba, QLD and finally purchasing the house next door to First Avenue.

We retired to Bribie Island, Queensland in 1993 and built the house we currently live in. We have been here 22 years and hoping for another 22.

I have always been optimistic. ■



Agriculture in The Oaks 1897 - Part 1 DIAP Consultation

Courtesy of Trove. This is first two parts of a series of articles on agriculture in The Oaks in 1897—there are 6 parts. It appeared in the Camden News on Thursday 8th April, 1897. The author is not named. (via Allen Seymour)

Some thirty years ago wheat was grown largely in the neighbourhood of The Oaks, on the Vanderville estate, and over the breadth of the flats which border the course of the Werriberri. In earlier days its cultivation was entirely in the hands of the 'Government Men', who, dressed in the regulation garb of white, flocked the hillsides like flocks of cockatoos. Later, free labour took up the work, and the industry progressed which commanded a comparatively high figure, and the crops were good, sometimes averaging 30 bushells per acre. Then the district produced more than sufficient for its own requirements, and the wheat was ground into flour in the mill at the foot of Roberts' Hill, but from careless cultivation, or some more occult cause, the rust fell like a blight on the land. Wheat passed out of cultivation and the agricultural glory of The Oaks departed. Cultivation is now restricted to a few patches of oaten hay, corn and sugar, and scientific farming, with its regular rotation of crops has no place in the routine of agricultural enterprise. Before reviewing the agriculture of the district in detail, may the following timely suggestion be made: - That the farmers undertake to cultivate each a small area of wheat, and that the government provide them with seed of the best rust-resisting varieties for that purpose. Such seed to be returned in the event of the experimental cultivation proving successful. Very little pressure would induce the Minister of Agriculture to accede to such a proposition, and were the experiments successful its results would be to transform a poor district into a wealthy one. It should, however, always be borne in mind that in this part of Australia, with its light rainfall - and uncertain climate, wheat should be sown in the fall of the year – never in the spring-time. A view of The Oaks district from the look-out at Hennessy's hotel, at this season shows a broad space of cleared undulating country, flanked with bush, the brown of its withered pastures of native grasses scarcely relieved by a few patches of drooping crop, whose green tint is fast fading into primary yellow.

There are scarcely fifty acres of cultivation on what was once the great Vanderville estate, and in that direction there is nothing whatever in the shape of advanced farming. Mr Bennett, at Oaklands, to the west of the township, and the Messers Moore, near Glenmore, are doing a little experimentally towards the introduction of a better system of agriculture, and at Auradell, on the Werombi Road, Mr Moulder has achieved great success in fruit culture. It will be long however, before this interesting countryside with its picturesque and diversified scenery, presents again the pleasing prospect of the past, when its waving wheat fields supported a larger and more prosperous population, when stock as fine as any in the land roamed over its rich pastures and the glorious grapes of the Vanderville vineyards were known in the Sydney markets. (To be continued)

Report



Colleen Haynes

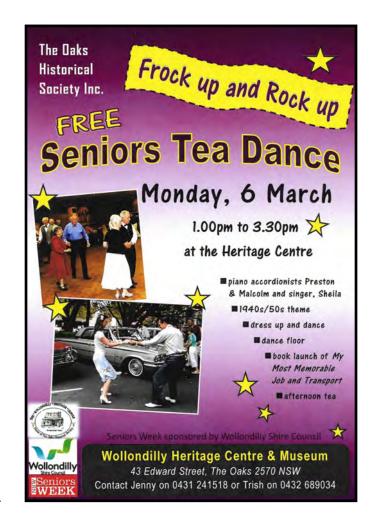
Report from a meeting held on Thursday, 17 November 2016 for the Macarthur Region—Disability Inclusion Action (DIAP) Consultation.

This meeting was hosted by Campbelltown City Council, Wollondilly Shire Council and Camden Council. Guest speakers were from disability fields. Our MC was from Penrith Council who have already started this action plan.

The main objective was round table conversing with people of varying disabilities. Also people who work and volunteer in this field. People on each table spoke about problems they encounter with day to day life.

On my table, one person spoke about the difficulty of moving her electric wheelchair with not enough time at traffic lights. Another spoke about the lack of sufficient disability transport within Council areas, also problems making medical appointments with disability transport. And not enough disabled parking spaces in shopping centres, hospitals and medical centres.

These problems and ideas/solutions from twelve tables hopefully will make our location more inclusive and accessible to live in both now and into the future.■



WEEKEND ROSTER

MARCH	
Saturday,4th	Ben & Doreen
Sunday, 5th	Kevin & Trish
Saturday, 11th	WORKING BEE
Sunday, 12th	Bev & David
Saturday, 18th	Sue & Tina
Sunday, 19th	Louisa & Doreen
Saturday, 25th	Jan & Jenny
Sunday, 26th	Maria & Betty

SUPPER ROSTER

March	Robyn & Ray
April	Jan & Sue
May AGM	Louisa & Marie
June	Doreen & Ben
July	Maureen & Jim
August	Aileen & Pam
September	Shirley & Trish
October	Vivian & Pam McV
November	Jenny & Pacita
December	Please bring a plate

GUEST SPEAKER

MARCH— a fireside chat with Sandy Toovey being interviewed about his life growing up in the Burragorang Valley



BUS TOUR TO WOLLONGONG

WED. 10 MAY

Illawarra Museum Wollongong Founded 1944

Mark your diary for a fun day exploring another local museum—book a seat

Reminders, News & Info

THIRLMERE STEAM FESTIVAL

Sunday, 5th March—help our stall volunteers

SENIORS WEEK FESTIVAL

Monday, 6th March—Tea Dance at The Oaks (OUR EVENT)

METAL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, 7th March—9.40am to 3.30pm BOOKED OUT

TRUCKIES REUNION

Sunday, 6 May 2017— Family Day BBQ (Pre-orders taken for Valley of Wealth BOOK ??????)

WOLLONGONG BUS TOUR

Wednesday, 10 May 2017— Illawarra Museum

New Information for Schoolies & All Volunteers

Bev has introduced a new activity for students. There is an activity sheet on a clipboard for schoolies and weekend family visits. The children have to find the item in the photo and they can either write their answer or just talk it through with an adult. The clipboards are located near the front counter and spares are held near the brochure folders.

FAMILY RE-UNION

Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 April 2017 in Luddenham, NSW

We received an email from Laurene Freeland requesting inclusion in our newsletter as there is a family re-union coming up next month

WALKER descendants of Francis Walker who arrived in NSW, Australia, in 1817 are invited to a family reunion on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 April 2017 in Luddenham, NSW.

Associated names are:

ADAMS, AHEARN, ALLEN, ARUNDALE, ASHBY, BARR, BENNETT, BERTHOLD, BLISSETT, BRAITHWAITE, BYRNE, CLARK, COGGINS, COLLINS, CORNELIUSSEN, DUNN, EATON, FREEBURN, GOODSELL, GRIMSHAW, HARRISON, HAWKINS, HAYNES, HOWLETT, LAWSON, LENANE, McGERTY, MATTHEWS, OAKS, PEACHEY, ROOTS, SALES, SHOOBRIDGE, STANFIELD, STUTH, TAYLOR, VICARY, WAKELING, WALKER, WALLACE, WARD, WEYMAN.

Sue Kijurina Ph: 0402401494 or <u>suekiju@gmail.com</u> OR Laurene Freeland Ph: 0409396452, Mark LaureneFreeland@bigpond.com.au

MONTHLY MEETINGS: The Oaks Historical Society Inc. holds its meetings on the first Monday of each month (except January) at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum, 43 Edward Street, The Oaks starting at 7.00pm. <u>Upcoming meetings are 3 April & AGM on 8 May 2017</u>. Our patrons are Mr Luke Johnson and Mr Richard Booth. The Oaks Historical Society Inc. takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the articles, papers or reviews that appear in this newsletter. The statements made or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Oaks Historical Society Inc. Copies of minutes are available.

If undelivered, please return to:The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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