



IN TOUCH

Newsletter of the Echuca Historical Society Inc.



Cover Photo

High Street looking south c.1910

A great photo showing some of the stores that used to grace the business end of High Street.

Most of these buildings still exist, even if the businesses have long since disappeared.

Stores include Bartlett's Drapery, Shaw's Furniture and Home Goods, Waylan's Fruit Mart, Trebleco's Stationary, and Newsagency and on the corner Quinton's Palms Cafe.

Mr. Arthur Ostram can be seen walking his bike on the right. Along with his brother Albert, who was later Mayor, ran a shoe store in High Street, just out of the photo.

Editors Notes...

Welcome to the last edition of the newsletter for 2024.

Thank you all for such a productive year.

We received a number of grants that has enabled us to update our archive with the addition of a compact shelving unit. This should provide us with much needed storage for the coming years.

Thank you to all members and volunteers who joined us for our Christmas party. It was a smashing affair and all had a great time.

As we move into the new year please think about what could be done to improve the society and museum.

We want you all to be actively involved in what goes on around the place.

Occasionally while scouring the internet/newspapers for research information I will come across strange or interesting items and articles often published in the Riverine Herald.

These are just some of them...

FLYING SAUCER SEEN AT MOAMA

It was seen over New York; it was also seen over San Francisco, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and now it's appeared over Moama. Yet, a Moama man claims he saw a flying saucer—the district's first.

The man, Mr Charles Charles, of Moama, said that on Monday night of last week at about 7 o'clock he saw a red ball appear over Moama Bridge and streak away to Gunbower.

"A lot of people say that it was a sky rocket when I tell them about it, but it was no sky rocket", he says. "It stayed in the sky for easily two minutes before disappearing".

When our reporter queried several residents on whether they had seen the flying saucer, one scoffed, "Flying saucers at Moama. Nothing unusual about that. When the gypsies were here recently the air was thick with flying saucers, and the atmosphere turned blue on a couple of occasions. I even saw a flying saucer over one night".

Article from the Riv
dated 1954

NOBODY ABLE TO EXPLAIN UFO AT ECHUCA

No scientific or earthly explanation as yet has been given for the sighting of an unidentified flying object over the Echuca Aerodrome at 6 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

The object was observed for about 25 minutes before quickly rising vertically until it was out of sight. It appeared to be the size of a clenched fist held at arm's length and was about 45 degrees from the horizon.

Ten minutes after it was sighted, the object appeared to shoot out a comet-like object which quickly disappeared from sight over the horizon.

A red glow to the left of the UFO was also observed but this faded and finally disappeared.

The object which was predominantly green with red, blue and silver could not have been caused by reflected glare from traffic lights because there are none in Echuca.

The only light to be seen in that direction is that of the ambulance radio tower, which is only red.

A spokesman from the Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, outlined the possibility of the object being a weather balloon. "Balloons are released regularly from Wagga NSW, Mildura and Laverton Air Base but wind currents at that time would have taken any balloons away from the direction of Echuca," he said.

Not seen

"The only possibility would be a balloon from Laverton, but by the time it reached Echuca it would be as high as 40,000 feet, and that would not be seen easily," he added.

"Besides all that it is highly unlikely the balloon could have floated over Echuca, because the winds were blowing in a more westerly direction at the time," he continued.

It was first believed that the object could have been an international jet flying at high altitude and reflecting the sun's glare.

A Department of Civil Aviation spokesman said that no aircraft were known to be in the Echuca area at the time of the sighting.

"Echuca is in line with flight patterns for international commercial aircraft at particular times but none of these was in use at that time Wednesday morning," he said.

An RAAF public relations spokesman said that no military aircraft were in the area at the time but that it was likely that the sighting could be of a natural or man-made phenomena.

Analysed

He explained that every case reported to the RAAF is fully investigated and analysed and that from about 700 reports taken since January, 1980, 93 per cent can be explained, 6 per cent provide insufficient evidence and 1 per cent are inexplicable.

"The RAAF has received scores of reports of UFO sightings, which are thoroughly investigated in course of Australia's defence," he said.

"We did not receive an official report of this sighting but can only suggest that it may have been 'space junk' burning up as it re-entered the atmosphere," he said.

He went on to say that there are often many varying circumstances in such sightings and that he would not like to offer any official explanation for this particular sighting.

A large majority of sightings of this kind have and will go on unexplained but it is generally found that in most cases explanations within present scientific knowledge can be found, he added.

"I suppose it could have been a shooting star, but it was not like a lot of them. It was travelling horizontally but most of them come down from the sky," he added.

Glen described Wednesday's sighting as "a big twinkling light which hung in the sky." He added that he could not watch it for long because he had to finish his paper round, but agreed with other reports, and could not explain it.

PAPER BOY SAW IT, TOO

A paperboy who observed the UFO over the Echuca aerodrome on Wednesday morning also sighted a strange object in the sky yesterday morning.

Glen Fawcett, 13, of Newton Rd., saw an object which looked like a small fireball over the old locomotive beds in Sturt St. while he was delivering the papers for Newsagency.

"It wasn't like the one on Wednesday," he said.

"This one looked like a fireball about 20 feet off the ground and left a long trail behind as it disappeared behind some trees.

WEATHER DAMAGES MURRAY SHIRE ROADS
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Article from the Riv
dated 1973

2024 Echuca Historical Society Christmas Party



EHS 2024 Calendar

All sold

Thank you to our very generous sponsors below.



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Calendar 2025

Coming General Meetings:

No Meeting in January

13 February

13 March

10 April

**Start 5pm @ Museum Research
Centre**

Executive Meetings:

No Meeting in January

5 February

5 March

2 April

Around the Traps

We are looking for volunteers to help out with our displays and exhibitions. If this sounds interesting to you, or you'd like more information, please reach out. Our textile displays are approaching change over time, so here is your opportunity to get up close and personal with some of our exceptional artefacts.

Contact the President or Treasurer

WANTED

Have an idea for an article or a photo you would like to see published in the newsletter? Put pen to paper or have a hunt through those personal archives and see what you can find.

All related content welcome.

Please drop the President a line at eh.soc@bigpond.com or mawilson85@gmail.com



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