

*Jim & Joyce
Richards*

Here is a summary of the lives of Jim & Joyce Richards who were married on the 16th September 1939 at Prospect North Methodist Church in South Australia.

The ceremony was in some ways unique in that there were two ministers presiding. Jim's grandfather Rev. Frank Bullock and Joyce's brother in-law Rev. Arthur Strange.

Grandfather Bullock, then well into his 80's, performed the actual wedding ceremony but apparently lost his place and without a hitch continued from memory in the wording of the old Bible Christian service. Arthur Strange looked dumbfounded but Jim's Aunt Rose said later, "Wasn't it lovely Grandpa using the old Bible Christian marriage service".

Now that they have been married let us go back and find out about each of them in the years prior to this.

Joyce Cooper

Joyce being the more senior in age, her early life will commence this narration.

Born in Riverton on the 15th May 1909, to Laura Minnie and Robert Harvey Cooper, was named Mabel Joyce. She doesn't like to be called Mabel, which at times happens in doctor's waiting rooms. Her father was a very respected farmer, a pillar of his church, a Justice of the Peace and at one time a prominent member of the town council.

Joyce spent her early years on the family farm and once reaching school age had to walk a mile to school and back home again. As there were no sons and as the youngest of six sisters, she soon learned to milk a cow. This soon became four cows morning and evening.

The elder three daughters married farmers Fred Kemp, Otto Thomas and Rex Kelly. The next Stella and Brenda went away nursing at an early age.

Her mother, always delicate, died a young woman and father having no son to carry on the property sold the farm at the age of 52 and built a nice solid home in Riverton township.

Joyce being the only daughter at home became the controller of all housekeeping duties. She had singing and dressmaking lessons. She played a prominent part in the Methodist church where for some years played the organ at all services.

Her dressmaking skills allowed her, not only to make her own clothes, but to help numerous others, including sisters and friends, in everything to and including Wedding and Bridesmaids dresses. A skill she has carried right through her married life.

She enjoyed the local dances and was a partner to a good number of local men.

It was expected by her family that she would marry a local farmer's son, Ken McDougall, however he was financed into a farm of his own in Western Australia. She did not follow him. Mr. Cooper was young enough to look for another partner and married a local lady Evelyn Waite.

The old saying goes, "too many cooks spoil the broth". Who was to be the boss, the new wife or the daughter that had had complete charge previously? Time obviously won and Joyce moved around between sisters and helped with their young children for some time.

Then Brenda put it on father to purchase a home in Malvern where she could open a private hospital. Joyce was persuaded to join Brenda to become housekeeper.

I might mention that prior to this their father had helped Corrie, Alma and Chrissie and their farmer husbands during very hard times, each with a handsome gift of 1,000 Pounds Sterling for which he was to receive 5% per annum until he died. So this was Brenda's thousand to buy and set up the hospital.

Jim Richards

Here enters Jim Richards but let us tell of his early life first.

Jim began life in a private hospital in Unley South Australia on 8th October 1913. His parents were James Percival and Alice Pearl Richards. Alice Pearl, known as Pearl, was the daughter of Rev. Frank and Lottie Bullock.

It is noted that James Percival's father was also a Minister of the Bible Christian faith. This religious faith united with Wesleians to become Methodist much earlier.

Family relationships between both family backgrounds provided Jim with sound religious and moral examples to pattern his life on.

His early schooling had interruptions. His mother developed cancer at an early age and died when he was just 9 years old. This caused, both before and after moves of home requiring changes of schools. He attended five different primary schools and managed to maintain average class placing. He qualified to enter Unley High School for his secondary education. Here he excelled in logical subjects including all forms of mathematics. He was hopeless in Latin and French.

He left high school at the end of 1929.

Early in January 1930 his father had a request from Jim's Aunt Vera, his mother's sister, for him to go to Tanunda and help run a vineyard and fruit orchard while her husband, Bill Dempster, would go to the Adelaide Hospital for an urgent operation.

Jim spent the balance of January, all February and most of March there.

This was good experience in coping with day to day problems. This was the start of the fruit season. Apricots were ripening to be followed quickly by peaches. The days commenced by picking fruit and putting it in small wooden cases. Then harness the two horses to the trolley and drive to the fruit, put it on the trolley and drive to the drying shed. With Auntie Vera they spent the remainder of the day halving the fruit and placing it on wooden drying trays. These trays were then taken outside and stacked over a fire pit. A cover then went over the stack and a fire lit in a pit with sulphur sprinkled over. By morning the fruit looked like preserved peaches. Then the trays were placed outside for the sun to dry the fruit. You will see 'Angus Park' dried fruit in the shops. It was to Angus Park in Anguston that the dried fruit from the orchard was sold. They only accepted it because of the excellent quality.

Jim returned to Adelaide too late to return to High School. This was the start of the 'great depression'. What few jobs had been available for juniors had already been taken. One position advertised in the newspaper brought 140 applicants and only one junior employed. While Jim's father wanted him to keep applying for a position wherever possible he certainly didn't want him moping around at home with nothing to do.

Jim had been keen on technical drawing and had a desire to be involved in that type of work. Father paid for a course in Architecture, which helped keep him active. The precision of this involvement was a bonus for him much later in his career. It was not until late in October that he obtained a temporary job as a runner on a John Martins delivery van. This lasted until Christmas deliveries were completed.

Early in January 1931 another temporary job was obtained with an Adelaide indent agent.

Then through a family friend he applied for and received permanent work with Foy & Gibsons Ltd. He was a conscientious employee and was used and trained in selling within the manchester and soft furnishing departments. Because of his quick mathematical skill he was used to tabulate and cost all goods in those departments twice a year at stocktaking. He calculated total values and when finished the stock sheets went to the accountant who's clerks then checked using adding machines. There had been no errors.

His job was secure but did not promise any opportunities for the future so during his annual holidays he traveled to Melbourne to test that market. The value from this exercise was advice given him by the personnel manager at Myer Emporium. When asked what are you studying? He was told to go back to Adelaide and study marketing to prepare himself for the future.

He enrolled in a correspondence course through Hemmingway and Robertson in Marketing and Salesmanship. This certainly was valuable to him in the years when he returned to civilian life after his stint in the AIF. One influence on his life was that at 20 he joined with 12 others to form the Unley group of Toc H.

This organisation started in England by Padre Tubby Clayton after WWI. Its aims were partly religious but mainly as a source of help to the unfortunate. The Unley group were all struggling financially but concentrated on physical help for others. Jim spent time each Sunday morning wheeling patients at the Home for Incurables into their Chapel. Also they often wheeled the same patients down to the Unley picture theatre where they got them in without cost.

One worthwhile achievement was the organising of two holiday camps for boys whose parents were in unfortunate circumstances.

Enter Joyce Cooper

Their Life Together Begins

One Friday evening, (all stores opened for trading each Friday night prior to WWII), two young ladies came into the Manchester department and Jim approached to inquire of their needs. They were checking on the prices of sheets, blankets, towels and pillowcases for a potential private hospital.

Two important things happened that evening. First he made the largest sale ever recorded in that department since prior to the depression, secondly he met the girl he was later to marry. Having concluded the sale he suggested that he might be able to assist in showing them furnishing fabrics.

They returned the next Friday night and another large sale was made. He was able to give advice and in fact pre-cut all curtain materials in matching lengths for them. He told them of the necessity of putting lead weights in the curtain hems to ensure correct hanging. Lead weights were kept in the factory, closed on Friday nights, so the offer was made to bring them out and deliver on Sunday. This he did which was just half a mile away and on the street on which he lived. That evening they attended the service at Malvern Methodist church.

The following Saturday night it was to dance at the Palace Royal, the best dance band in Adelaide. Who caught whom has never been proved but there are no regrets.

There is no doubt that they planned a future marriage, however, Jim could only save diligently from his meager salary with distant hopes.

With help and advice from a cabinetmaker friend and his own ability to design he started to make furniture. When they became engaged he made Joyce a trousseau cabinet. Later a kitchen suite and bedroom suite.

In those days there were no domestic refrigerators. The ice vendor used to call to place a block of ice in the ice chest. Most households didn't even have that luxury. They had a cool safe or better still a Coolgardie Safe where water dripped on the toweling sides and evaporation kept butter etc cool.

He designed and made an ice chest for his father and then another for his own future.

After their engagement Joyce told him that her father was prepared to buy her a house on the same conditions he had financed Brenda's hospital. This was a wonderful gesture, however Jim was concerned that the interest would eat up a quarter of his meager income. With this in mind Joyce with her father selected a pair of masonettes in Enfield costing the thousand pounds. Rent from the second side was sufficient to pay her fathers interest.

The War Years

Just prior to their wedding WWII was declared. Several of Jim's close friends enlisted immediately and he felt that he should do so as well but refrained. When Alan was born he felt that it was time but Alan was very poorly and later they were afraid he would die. He made a remarkable recovery just before Christmas 1941 so Jim then enlisted in the AIF.

This left Joyce at home with Alan. Not near Jim's family and 60 miles away from her own, with the exception of Stella who by then with Arthur lived at Glenelg where he was the Methodist Minister.

All new recruits were assessed and Jim was made a 'Storeman,' sent to the 5th Bomb Disposal Company, and stationed at Warradale. After a month of so the whole company were drafted into the 5th Field Squadron RAE. The purpose of this company was to act as engineers to an Armoured Brigade. While at Warradale, it was easy to slip out of an evening, go to Glenelg, spend time with Joyce and Alan and slip back into camp for 6am revallie. Bill was conceived.

The squadron moved from Warradale in May and found that Puckapunyal early morning parades in freezing conditions were somewhat of a shock. They were still there in the middle of summer and the contrasting heat was just as hard to take.

He had a weeks leave at the end of December and was due to catch the early morning train from Riverton and report back to join the unit and entrain back to Victoria. Bill was born at 6.30am that morning so Jim took a chance, missed the train for Adelaide and waited and caught the afternoon train and so was able to see Joyce and his new son. He should have been reported AWL but got a sympathy vote. On return the whole squadron was moved to Singleton, NSW, where the 4th Armoured Brigade was formed and his unit became the engineers company attached to this elite Brigade. After the Brigade was finally formed and equipped the whole moved to Tourbul Point near Cabulture about 100 miles north of Brisbane.

Here they had special amphibious training. Had to drive vehicles onto barges, which conveyed them to an island about a mile off shore, land them, then re load for the movement back. An important exercise but fortunately they didn't have to experience it under fire.

That training having been completed the whole of 4th Armoured Brigade, of which Jim's engineer unit was a part were kited up ready for shipment to New Guinea. A third of the whole left on the first ship. The remainder waited at Cabulture until the next shipment was called. The turn of the war had changed and rather than leave troops stranded in Queensland they were sent back to Kapuka where they retreated from Armour and reverted into engineers. This brought about the first real development in Army engineering. They were formed into the 4th Mechanical Equipment Company. The sappers had to learn to operate bulldozers, forklifts, graders and other large items. Jim became a technical sergeant in charge of all heavy earth moving bits and pieces. Picks and shovels were replaced with heavy machinery.

Once all the troops had been retrained as competent heavy machinery operators they were all sent on two weeks leave. Jenny was conceived.

The whole unit together with the mechanical equipment and trucks was entrained to Northern Queensland. First camped at Atherton Tablelands and then back to Townsville for shipment over seas.

The units destination was Moratai right on the equator. They were among the first on the island and leveled land ready for a massive invasion of Australian troops. Moratai was chosen as a jumping-off point chasing the Japanese out of the Pacific. From here the penetration of the Japanese in Tarakan was launched. This had softened the enemy so that when the atomic bombs were dropped in Japan there could be no further resistance.

Jim got news of Jenny's birth while on Moratai. He returned to Australia on a very crowded Kanimbla, which arrived in Brisbane. The train travel was slow. All troops were detrained at each Capital City and by the time they arrived in Melbourne it was Christmas Eve. By a stroke of luck, or cheek, he got the last seat on a train leaving late that night for Adelaide. He sent a telegram "Will be home for Christmas Dinner".

Brenda and Jack met the train late morning and set off for Riverton. Their car broke down half way. By luck Jim scrounged a ride from a passing motorist. He was so late that dinner had started and he arrived half way through.

He had lived on baked beans on toast, herrings in tomato sauce, tinned meat and vegetables alternating meals day by day and his stomach was unable to cope with the big dinner placed in front of him. His father in-law said, "Look at Jim, he's so excited he can't eat his Christmas dinner."

Once home again, life had to start afresh.

A New Start

While away the house at Enfield had badly cracked and had to be under pinned. Joyce with the help of a good friend arranged that and then on good advice sold it.

She and the children had gone to Riverton and rented a corrugated iron house owned by her father and just down the paddock from him. So this gave Jim the opportunity to re-establish and after four years in open air he was determined not to go back into Rundle Street, the Adelaide shopping centre. What was he to do? Prior to war his experience was in selling. Was there by chance an oil company agency available anywhere? No. The AMP insurance salesman called each month to collect Jim's dues, and was also the district Rawley Products Distributor. He said that the adjacent area was vacant and with his father-in-law as a guarantor, Jim applied and obtained the agency for Clare and the surrounding towns.

The first problem was to obtain transport. Here he was lucky. The local undertaker, who had recently died, had an old, well worn, 4-cylinder Plymouth tourer. It had been burned when a fire went through the property. He was able to make the purchase, take it to Adelaide and get new side curtains and roof made to fit the existing stays, had it painted and registered. The total cost to him was 99 pounds, 10 shillings, \$199 in today's money.

Good, he found a start back into civil life. He was selling again but this time on the move, in the open air and was his own master.

He was welcomed on all the farms because he had products they knew and which had not been in supply for four or more years.

A company book describing all products helped sell, in particular medical items. For example there was an epidemic of school sores among the children around the farms. People were complaining that chemists couldn't provide a cure, Rawleys Antiseptic Salve did the job. It became known as 'man and beast' ointment.

Another product, 'Rawley Colic and Bloat Ease.' One day on arrival at a farm he found the farmer by a bull on the ground, so bloated from eating too much fresh lucerne, that he was about to stick a carving knife into its stomach to release the build up of gas. A bottle with a mixture of Colic and Bloatease and water was applied to the bull. Fortunately by fastening a rope around its horns and thrown over a solid branch of a close by tree they were able to raise the head of the prostrate bull and force the mixture down its throat. The directions said three applications at 5 minute intervals. It only took two bottles full and before the third was due the bull was so alive no one could get near it. This news spread up and down the area and on his next visit every farm bought two bottles to keep in the barn for emergencies. That was 1946 and probably it is still waiting for an emergency.

Sales went well for about six months but Jim realized that this was just about as limited as his pre-war occupation.

On a visit to Adelaide for his Grandpa Bullocks funeral, he met Alan Archer, his cousin Mary's husband. He too had been involved in the war. He had joined

Caltex and offered to introduce him and did so to the sales manager that afternoon. All they could offer was a menial job in their Birkenhead depot. He declined. Then a visit to Shell – too old – over thirty. Then Vacuum Oil where he met two old school friends. Was told that no advancement unless a university degree. However he was told that a new company was about to move to Adelaide. It was Alba Petroleum from Melbourne with a small office in Gamblings the carriers store in Pirie Street East Adelaide.

He wasted no time in getting there to meet a Mr Bill Howgate from Melbourne sent there to prepare for the company entering the South Australian market. He sent Jim home with an application form, which was filled in with an enclosed letter of application. This was just at a time when Alba and Ampol were amalgamating. He had a letter requesting he come to Port Adelaide, where they leased a store shed with a small office in the front. By then it was an Ampol man he saw and was immediately engaged.

The Ampol Years

Thus commenced the type of career he wished for. He was one of four men who braved the hostile oil industry. Two went into the SA countryside and two the city. Jim was responsible for Adelaide square mile, all the industrial areas along the Port Road and all of the Adelaide Hills.

It was hard going. Few had heard of Alba or Ampol and those that had were warned against “these small timers” by opposition salesmen.

At the end of the first week, Jim and the other new representative reported to the office. Jack, the other salesman, told Jim that he had not made one sale in the whole week. He went into see Stan Britton, the Sales Manager, and after a long time came out of the office, red of face, and downhearted. Then Jim’s turn. Immediately asked, “Did you sell anything”? With shame, Jim said “One five gallon drum of motor oil”. Stan was delighted. That is how difficult a road they had to tread in establishing Ampol.

Shortly garage men became to like Jim and so his sales grew steadily. The war time cartel which rationed oil company fuels meant that Ampol had no petrol or kerosene to sell in South Australia which gave other companies an advantage in selling oils.

Jim’s first real big break came when Ampol declared additional shares for sale. The SA quota was small and the four reps were told, sell what you can these are not to be broken evenly among you. The next week Jim called on every garage man in Adelaide and the industrial area. Most had never owned a share in their lives. This gave them a feeling of ownership in Ampol. Jim’s oil sales quadrupled immediately. He was away.

It took several years until the petrol cartel was broken. Ampol was now in a position to put petrol pumps into garages. Each garage had a row of from two to

four or five pumps along the kerbside outside his building. In most cases with no room for any increase. This is where the shareholders were prepared to have an Ampol pump even though it meant replacing another companies pump. Jim very quickly had a large coverage and gallonage sales to be proud of.

A little later Ampol decided to move into the Queensland market. They acquired land for a fuel depot and started to erect tanks. Jim was asked to go to Brisbane for six weeks to help sell Ampol to the garagemen. Another successful campaign for him. Joyce was left with the children once more.

The opposition companies were now feeling the effect of Ampol. The day after he arrived back in Adelaide the Shell Company commenced a campaign to buy garages and convert them to Shell petrol only. Soon all companies were doing the same with a serious effect on smaller markets.

Ampol, COR (Now BP) and Golden Fleece companies joined together and created an independent group with each companies pumps represented. This held the fort for a while. There had been an agreement between all companies that no new petrol outlets would be opened. Suited to and controlled by the major companies of course. Jim had encouraged six returned men to obtain land and build garages to service motor cars. He made sure that the land was big enough to build the garage well back from the road and allow for driveways to get the petrol off the street. They were promised that as soon as possible Ampol would provide them with pumps and petrol. At the appropriate time tanks and pumps were installed to all six and within days Ampol had one brand stations. Ampol was no longer 'little brother' but soon a major player in the industry.

Jim had the important role in the purchasing of suitable land in Adelaide for service stations, which were quickly brought into operation.

Just prior to this he was taken to Sydney to study a revolutionary method of giving customer driveway service at service stations. A success Australia wide.

Soon after the position of Merchandising was created and he was made Merchandise Manager in SA and his major role in the next year was development of all Ampol Petrol outlets in SA. This included upgrading service, not only in new service stations but also in the many garages that flew the Ampol Australian Flag.

On the 5th of November in 1952 Robert James was born. Not an easy time for a mother who's husband was spending a lot of time creating a future for himself and his family.

6th December 1953, spelt Ampol's major achievement. WAPET struck oil in Learmonth in Western Australia. Ampol received credit for this in every newspaper in Australia.

Managers and Sales Managers from the four states where Ampol was marketing were brought immediately to Sydney with the purpose of taking advantage of the wonderful publicity. Jim said to one of the chiefs at dinner that night, "What a good time for Ampol to move into WA". At 9.30pm Wednesday evening – 30th

December a phone call from Keith Alford – SA Manager – told Jim that Mac Leonard, Ampol General Manager, was offering the opportunity to go to Perth to set up the company there with the potential of becoming Branch Manager. He wanted Jim's reply at 9.00am next morning. Joyce asked what Keith was phoning for. When she heard, she said, "I'll go".

So new years eve was his last day in Ampol Adelaide and the staff quickly clubbed together and presented him with a gold watch.

He caught the Saturday plane so was in Perth late on New Years Day.

Now this was one of the many occasions where Joyce was left behind to manage the family and try to sell the house.

During this period she was flown to Perth to with Jim find and purchase a home. They found just the ideal in Mt. Lawley. The Adelaide home was getting too small after Robert was born.

Soon after her return the Adelaide house was sold. Then she had the problem of packing up and arranging transport of furniture, with no husband at home to help.

After saying goodbye to all their relations and friends, they flew to Perth on a DC4 plane which took nine hours – today the flight takes two. Robert, then 14 months old, had a great flight. The stewardess walked him up and down the aisle for a good part of the flight. Then most planes traveled that flight practically empty so the stewardess had time on their hands.

The first six months of 1954 were the biggest challenge Jim was to have. He had some help from one or two Sydney executives. However it was his ship and he had to sink or swim with it.

First of all a decision was made that Ampol would buy land and erect its own service stations. This was to be done within six months. Some twenty blocks of land were purchased. Six service stations were completed and ready for opening on the 1st of July. A further four were opened on the 1st of August. By Christmas Eve the 20th station was open and running.

While all this was going on, sales and office staff had been appointed as were dealers for the service stations. He had help with this training from an executive who had been loaned from Sydney.

Of course it was necessary to have a fuel depot at Fremantle. Land was leased on the waterfront and a depot built with the help of an engineer from Head Office in Sydney.

An experienced Country Salesman was transferred from NSW as Country Manager and before the end of the year Ampol Agencies were operating in some country towns.

A well earned holiday was taken in January 1955 by the whole family. They hired a caravan and spent a fortnight in Middleton Beach at Albany.

It was in 1956 that Jim was given the opportunity to go to the University of Hawaii for a special six week management course conducted by four Harvard Professors. Very little spare time and wonderful experience gained.

Following that he flew to California to see at first hand the merchandising methods of Standard of California and Richfield Companies. He arrived back in Sydney in early September for the Annual Managers conference to find that Joyce had been brought over to be with him. It is interesting that while she was waiting for him she saw in her hotel the opening of TV in Australia.

Three years later, when a very profitable branch of Ampol was running in WA, Jim was offered a position in NSW. He spent six years in Sydney, the first 6 months in NSW branch as assistant manager, then NSW Branch Manager. After three years he transferred into Head Office General Sales Managers division. He took an intense interest in sales management and training. When the company decided to open an executive training college at Wahroonga, Jim with another set it up and took both young and senior executives in for further development in the company.

After six years in Sydney, Jim heard that Vic Stead who had taken over from him in WA was retiring. It was at the Staff Christmas party that he made it known that he wished to return to Perth. At an interview with Mac Leonard, 27th December, where several opportunities were expressed Jim said that he and Joyce had decided that WA was the place they wanted to retire. He explained that Alan, Bill and Jenny had left school. That WA was starting to boom and should present opportunities for the young family. Mac Leonard agreed and Jim was immediately re appointed WA Manager.

Once again Joyce was left behind to sell the Wahroonga home, pack up and help the young people make future plans.

Alan, who was working with Cannel 9, joined Channel 7 in Perth. Bill who was articled to a Surveyor was able to change his articles to a man in WA Surveyors Generals office in Perth. Jenny eventually found work in public relations with Lever and Kitchen.

They rented a house in South Perth and as they had no idea where they would settle and Robert was enrolled at Wesley College.

Soon after a solid old house was purchased in Angelo Street, South Perth, just minutes from Wesley College. So the family now well established, it was back to Jim's career. Ampol was firmly established with an excellent staff. It was important that they kept up with the fast growing developments in the State. Consequently he spent a lot of time out of the office looking for new service stations and country agency opportunities.

National Safety Council of WA had recently embarked on a training program in Mt Lawley and Ampol had given some financial help. He was invited to join the council and did so as an industry representative. This he found to be an interesting project where he was able to assist in making and assessing proposals. He remained in the council for some years. It was his proposal that seat belts should

be in all cars and worn that was put to the State Government who delayed it until SA finally passed an appropriate law. WA should have been the leader.

His name was familiar to the Premier and some politicians and when asked to join a Lions Club – Lions being new to WA – he accepted. Here he worked hard in projects and for a short period was public relations representative for the State. He went to the North West with the State President on one trip where they chartered three new Lions Clubs – In Port Headland, Broome and Wyndham.

During this period he was asked to chair a fundraising committee to provide funds to build a geriatric hospital. His Lions club, Perth West, played an important role in this project. They did not raise as much as was needed, however the project did go ahead successfully.

Enter Legacy into Jim's life. Mr Frank Boan, chairman of Boans Ltd and President of Torchbearers for Legacy invited him to become a Torchbearer. As a returned man himself he dedicated himself to provide fund raising projects.

While he had been to Melbourne Cup lunches in Sydney he found that they didn't exist in Perth. He suggested such a program at a meeting and asked help in finding a suitable venue. Boans main dining room was offered and was to be closed to all normal luncheon business. He got his business friends to book tables and to use it as a thank you to clients. It was a good meal. A Melbourne Cup Sweep was held and a good cheque went to Torchbearers.

That luncheon continued right up to the time when Boans changed hands.

His third and most successful fundraiser was The Channel 7 Children's Carnival. Ampol to be the sponsor and he arranged that Legacy members gave their time in parking cars, spinning chocolate wheels and other fun activities. These days were a great success and provided much needed funds to Torchbearers for Legacy.

In 1967 after years of hard work, he took Joyce for an overseas holiday to England and Europe. They went all the way by sea in freighters calling at Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Penang then through the Suez Canal and stopping in Genoa, Marseilles, Antwerp and landing at Rotterdam, then across to London. Hired a car and spent seven weeks touring England, Scotland and Wales. Also took a weeks tour in Southern Ireland. To conclude they spent two weeks in Europe travelling from place to place by train and finally left Antwerp to return home. This time sailing south and then west under Africa with one stop only at Tenerife in the Canary Islands.

On arrival back he found that three important executives had been transferred interstate so he had a new accountant, a new country manager and a new merchandising manager to train.

Shortly after he was appointed President for Torchbearers in WA. This was a one year appointment and Torchbearers had a successful fund raising year.

Then he, by invitation, was made a Legatee and so became a constant worker and by now has helped well over seventy newly bereaved widows. He has also had his year as president of Legacy.

The Lord Mayor of Perth, Sir Thomas Wardel, when putting together a group of businessmen to establish the "Keep Australia Beautiful Council" phoned Jim in his usual style and said "Jim I want your help." So he was one of six businessmen in Perth who established that council.

On the 3rd March 1975 at 9am, the State Premier Sir Charles Court asked Jim to go to London for 3 years as Agent General for WA. This meant the end of many projects for him, however he retained his interest in Legacy and was transferred to the London Branch of Legacy.

This meant dragging Joyce away from a new home built especially for retirement. However she came willingly enough and unlike the other State Agent Generals, they entertained whenever the occasion arose in her home, the official AG London Residence.

Retirement ?

The followed Sir Stuart Bovell, a wealthy man, who by choice lived in a London hotel, so there was no official residence. The premier agreed to the purchase of a suitable two-story house in Wimbledon and this was appropriately furnished with the allowance agreed.

There followed three very busy years where Jim was establishing interest in WA by commercial and industrial companies both from within the UK and Europe.

There was no likelihood of losing touch with WA with the daily flow of travelers calling at WA House, many of whom were commercial and businessmen needing help and ideas.

Jim and Joyce were invited to the Queen's Garden Party soon after arrival. Her Majesty came down the steps from the Palace into the garden and moved to them – out in front of all the other guests. They will never forget that occasion and how interested she was in them and their family.

Just prior to returning home in 1978 Jim had a request, at the Premiers suggestion, that he take over the Chairmanship of Western Australia Week Council. This he did immediately on returning so taking the responsibility of making that week a success in 1979. It was the first week in June and exactly 150 years from the foundation date of Western Australia.

Late in that year Jim was called to the Governor's office who asked him, "Will you accept an OBE from the Queen?" Yes naturally. A wonderful acknowledgement at a late stage of a career.

Jim held the Chairmanship of WA Week Council for three years and as he was to be the next President of Perth Legacy he relinquished that position. The Legacy Presidents year was rewarding in the realization that as a group they were helping many widows and children. He is still an active member and has been made a Life Member of Torchbearers for Legacy.

He is a foundation member and the first President of the Probus Club of Karrinyup and North Beach, still active and has been made a Life Member of that Association.

It is some 25 years since they built a nice new home in Sorrento for retirement with a swimming pool where seven grandchildren learned to swim. Unfortunately after Joyce broke her hip it seemed sensible to move into a retirement village with less garden and other upkeep.

The move to Seacrest Retirement Village was a happy one with good friends and neighbours. Then as too many men either died or moved Jim who had been on the management council felt that before long the village would be short of residents capable of its management.

Hence the reason for their move to the RAAFA Estate in Merriwa where they are settled into a quite spacious unit for two retirees. A large village with 233 independent units the balance of which were not completed until some 12 months after their arrival.

To keep him 'sane,' Jim established a Village Library of which he is its Chairman. Joyce now 90 still keeps an excellent home for him.

May 1999