



Cockle Creek News

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POTTED BIOGRAPHIES.

WILLIAM CLEARY

A resident of New Lambton all his life, Bill was born in 1900. Leaving school when 14 years of age, he obtained his first job at Breckenridges Timber Mills and stopped two years with them before coming to the Sulphide as an apprentice fitter and turner in 1916. In those days his father, Mr. W. Cleary Snr., worked here as a greaser and completed 30 years service ere retiring in 1932. After completing his five years apprenticeship, Bill was employed by the Commonwealth Steel Co. for 16 years. He then returned to the Sulphide and worked in our Machine Shop, where he is still located. As a turner, he is recognised as a good tradesman capable of handling any of our machines.

Having had a background of Sulphide for most of his life, Bill is quite a fount of knowledge and has a fund of stories of old identities such as Mick Hancock, Tom Baker and Tom Butterworth.

Being unmarried — or should we say, happily single, Bill resides with an old mate and his family in New Lambton.

An ardent fisherman, he confesses that more "big 'uns" get away than ever get caught. As a student of good horse-flesh, a day at the races generally appeals to Bill, and we understand that chance is left to a minimum when he follows the horses.



MRS. M. H. ROBERTSON

As a "Sandgroper" Mrs. Robertson has very pleasant recollections of Boulder City (W.A.), the place of her birth, and until nine years of age she received her primary schooling there before moving to Wyndham for a couple of years. The next move was to Newcastle where she attended New Lambton School, afterwards going to Wickham, there to obtain her Intermediate Certificate. She then attended Stott and Hoares Business College ere obtaining a position with H. R. Pountney, Colliery and Shipping Agent. This position lasted for 12 years during which Mrs. Robertson married and later unfortunately lost her husband, Mr. David Robertson, who was a fitter employed by the N.S.W. Railways.

During the second World War Mrs. Robertson was left with much added responsibility through her employer being called up for service. The strain and stress of business took its inevitable toll, and in 1945 (by now known as the "Coal Queen") Mrs. Robertson obtained employment at the Sulphide. In charge of our typists, she has been with us for 10 years; her wish is that the next 10 years will be as happy as the last.

Owning her own home in New Lambton, and happily esconced there with grown up daughter Margaret of whom she is exceptionally proud, Mrs. Robertson is interested in her garden and her home.

A member of Newcastle Quota Club, she enjoys an occasional game of tennis and plans to take up golf. Also Mrs. Robertson is the originator of the Sulphide Ladies Quintette when we sometimes hear her break into harmony.

What I spent, I had.
What I saved, I lost,
What I gave, I have.

OLD GERMAN.