

... and a PAST GENERAL MANAGER

In 1942 Britain ran short of boats, Fred, finding himself with no boat and no pay, decided to seek a job ashore. For three years he worked in an Ironstone mine in Yorkshire. 'No mechanical mining in those days. Just a pick and shovel and five pounds a week for twenty tons a day', Fred said as he stretched as if to relieve an aching back. After the closure of the mine in 1946 he transferred to a mine owned by ICI in Billingham, County Durham. There he drove a front end loader extracting raw material for the manufacture of plastics.

The vision of Australia came in 1952 and with his wife and family he settled in Newcastle finding employment at BHP working on the Open Hearth Furnace.

With a reference from ICI in England he succeeded in gaining a position at the Newcastle Chemical Company. Fred was promoted to Leading Hand Operator but unfortunately the company closed down not before he saw ten years service.

In 1963 Fred joined the team on the ISF as Skimmer on the Shepherd Casting Machine before it was moved to the Refinery. He learnt the skills of zinc production from retired former employee Ron (Smokey) West. 'This took almost a half hour on the first day', Fred said laughing as he remembered 'old Smokey'. From there it was a steady progression of jobs in the ISF until he was appointed Control Room Operator fifteen years ago.

Fred and his wife, Mary, live at Booragul where they have been in the same house for thirty four years. He has two sons and one daughter (now in New Zealand) and two grandchildren.

Scouting has been one of Fred's keen interests and not wanting to lose his affinity with the sea, was Scout Master for the Morralba Sea Scouts for eight years. He was also Coach/Manager for Lake Macquarie Junior Soccer Club and is proud to say that he once coached David Baldwin who represented Australia in Soccer and is now Goal Keeper for Lake Macquarie.

Fred breeds Budgies and his aim now is to produce a true violet coloured bird. This is a rare breed, but, with the book presented to him at a dinner in his honour he is sure he will be successful.

We trust you will be too Fred and give you our best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

JOHN JOLLY

On 2 March 1986 John Jolly retired as Managing Director AM&S Mining. This brought to a climax a career with the CRA Group which started at Sulphide in January 1962.

John and his wife Eileen have returned to Newcastle after six years in Melbourne. They are at present living at Toronto working on plans for a home they intend building at Dudley.

'Coming back to this beautiful place brings back very strong memories', John said. 'It's as if we had never been away. Besides our close family all live in this area. We have two daughters and at present four grandchildren. We really had a lot to come back for'.

Reminiscing on his years at Sulphide John said he could speak for hours and mention the names of hundreds of people who have given of themselves to make Sulphide what it is today.

'Let me mention just a few', John said. 'This is difficult because in mentioning some, I will be omitting so many others for whom I hold the deepest respect for their contributions to the Company. Jim Standish comes first to mind. He was General Manager in 1957 and inaugurated the commencement of the smelting complex. He had an important influence on the fabric of which Sulphide is made today.

'In the fertilizer department, where I started in a technical development role, my immediate thoughts turn towards John Reynolds, the late Ivan Horys, Brian Smith, Dick Tomlinson and Charlie Cressy. The 1960's were exciting years for Sulphide.



John Jolly and his wife Eileen

Record production levels were attained in 1964. We saw the establishment of Greenleaf Fertilizers on Kooragang Island, with deep involvement of people like Ian Moon, Syd Hoare, Frank Storey and Don Young, and the start up of the Zinc Refinery in 1968. Smelter developments culminated in the adoption of the shower cooled solid casing on the furnace. With this I associate Andy Thomson, Peter Mead and Geoff Firkin as chief architects — the challenges were many and varied'.

As Superintendent — Sinter and Acid in that period, John recalls, 'the buzz word then, was 90% utilization and no one helped to achieve that more than Don Walton, whose nick-name was "horse". We needed huge amounts of engineering development expertise and men like Andy Thomson, Jim Orum, John Greenwell, the late Neville Mongan, Jack Garaty, Bill Hale and Lance Weir had just that'.

Andy Thomson became General Manager in 1970 following Hamish Black's transfer to Melbourne. In that year too John became Production Manager and saw the sale of the fertilizer unit to Australian Fertilizers Limited.

After a time spent at the smelters at Avonmouth in England and Budel in Holland, John returned to Sulphide and in 1976 became General Manager following

Andy Thomson's transfer to AM&S Europe as Managing Director. After four years John made another move. This time to Melbourne where he headed up AM&S Smelting and then AM&S Mining until his retirement.

John said, 'Sulphide is a good reliable operation dependent on an energetic and reliable group of people. In twenty years from now Sulphide will still be here and with its continuing incremental gains in production and efficiency will maintain its high standing in the zinc world'.

'Things have changed and will need to continue to change. In 1960, the Company employed around 1100 people and produced approximately 40 000 tons of zinc. In 1986, I understand, 682 people are employed and the Company is aiming to produce 90 000 tonnes of zinc.

'Sulphide's continued survival proves its worth', John added. 'Through recent periods of depressed metal prices, Sulphide still shows a profit. Well done Sulphide. Its been good to be associated with you'.

May we at Sulphide earnestly return the sentiment, John. We wish you a long and happy retirement.

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'The alternative was the salt mines in Siberia'. Erich chuckled, 'I thought I had missed out on the salt but one of the projects I worked on in Research was the Salt Pilot Plant. There I was actually making the stuff'.

In 1949 Erich was married to Katherina and in 1953 moved to Duisberg where he commenced work in a zinc smelting works. After moving to Australia in 1960, BHP claimed him for ten days only and then he worked at Stewarts and Lloyds for one year before commencing at Sulphide on 10 April 1961.

Erich has been in several sections of Sulphide's operations. He commenced in the Lead Casting Section, and spent some time in the Transport area. In 1969 Erich joined the Research team where he has been up till this time. He has been involved in many of the projects developed on site here at Cockle Creek and also at Mary Kathleen Uranium. There he was responsible for the setting up and trialling of the Baffled Settler Rig, the results of which were published in a paper presented in Canada in 1977.

Tragedy struck four years ago when Erich's son Roland died while attempting to save an operator who had fallen into a tank on an oil rig in the Red Sea. He was overcome by highly concentrated hydrogen sulphide gas. His other son Gerald is married with two children and is living at Elernmore Vale.

Erich and Katherina live at Holmesville where Erich admits the gardens are not his specialty. He prefers shooting and fishing during his leisure time. He is still trying to catch the 'big one'.

He has been back to Germany three times and has seen some dramatic changes. Last year he saw his sister-in-law in the USA for the first time in thirty-two years. He is now trying to encourage his family from overseas to visit him here in Australia.