

RETIREMENTS — Three long serving employees leave us



George Singleton

After almost twenty-seven years at Sulphide George Singleton retired on 8 February 1988.

George was born on 7 February 1931 and has lived in the Newcastle area all his life.

He commenced his working life at McLeod, Kelso and Lee in 1946. In 1949 he went to work for the NSW Transport Department as a conductor on trams and buses before going to work for NESCA.

George joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1953 and initially served on the Australia and on aircraft carriers.

However, George got quite seasick on the large ships so they kept him on the smaller corvettes patrolling around Papua New Guinea and amongst the Japanese sailing fleet off Australia's north coast. George said that they used to enjoy catching sharks and selling the fins in exchange for beer.

George left the Navy after six years' service and went to work for BHP before coming to Sulphide on 8 May 1961.

He started as an assistant slagger in the ISF and remembers, 'thirteen slags a shift really kept you hopping! When the Refinery commenced George spent five weeks in Belgium training. He was not alone, with him were Mal Bowmaker, Brian Tozer, Kevin Smith, Alan Patrick and Bob Brady.

George progressed from Control Room Operator to Assistant Foreman, Foreman and Shift Supervisor, the position he held until his retirement.

On the home scene, George and his wife, Betty live at Cardiff. Their two daughters have married and started their own families. George said, 'When I suggested to Betty that I might start breeding again she said, "OK! as long as it's budgies or goldfish."

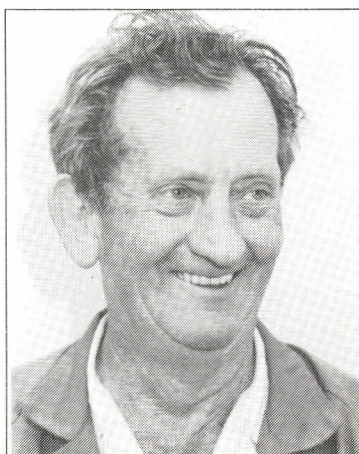
'I'm looking forward to polishing up on my game of bowls and perhaps playing dominoes on rainy days. Fishing and trips to Barrington Tops are also on the programme' he said.

We will miss you George, perhaps you could record some of your whistling for us so that we can remember you — on second thoughts

Bert Hill was born in Bathurst on 4 June 1925. He worked on the land for a while and also did some work with a carrier before coming to Sulphide in January 1968.

He started in the Worra Copper Plant in the Research Department but it wasn't long before the process was transferred to Port Kembla. Names that Bert remembers in those early days are Frank Goodwin, Noel Coppins, John Robinson, Graham Choice and Barry Andrews. Some of them are still with us and others have ventured further afield.

The Sinter Plant held Bert for a few months before he headed north to the Acid Plant. He has been working in that



Bert Hill

area since. Bert has seen a lot of changes with the de-commissioning of the T L Roasters and the demolition last year of 'C' Acid Plant. Bert was often seen in the Acid despatch area loading the road tankers or transferring acid to other areas. He was also responsible for the operation of the effluent treatment plant located behind the canteen.

Bert has recently bought a Nissan Campervan and he and Olive, are planning to do a bit of leisurely touring. They would love to travel through central Australia and see Ayers Rock and Darwin. Then depending on road conditions they hope to see some of the north-west.

'My family is scattered so we will be able to travel around and see them', Bert said, 'but I still love Lake Macquarie and will be keeping my home at Swansea as somewhere to come home to.'

Bert had a send-off at the Welfare Club on Thursday 10 March. He has several weeks long service leave and annual leave to use up before his official retirement on 4 June.

It's been good to know you Bert and we wish you an enjoyable retirement.

THE LAST OF THE BARNIERS RETIRES

George Barnier was a second generation Sulphider when he retired on 30 March 1988. His father, George Snr, would be remembered by some of our long serving employees as a Hygiene Officer, and we

are always delighted to see him attending retirement functions. George's sister, Elaine, also worked with us as head of the typing pool back in the fifties.

George commenced his working life as a fitting and machining apprentice at Lysaghts. He later spent ten years with the Lake Macquarie District Ambulance.

He commenced at Sulphide on 6 March 1961 as a Control Room Operator in the ISF. He attained a Foreman's position in 1965 and in 1966 joined the Personnel Department as an Assistant Safety Officer. From there George progressed through the safety areas to his position on retirement of Superintendent — Health and Safety. Safety is extremely important on any plant, particularly a lead plant, and George has always taken his job in a serious and professional manner.

However, there are many instances which, although not funny at the time, George can now look back on with a touch of humour. Like the time Frank Layzell turned the Dempster Dumpster upside down and nearly drowned in the swamp.

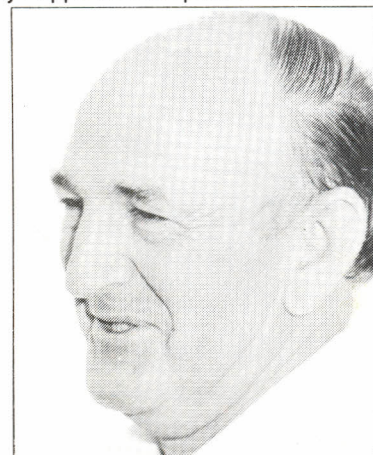
On retirement George does not intend being idle for very long. He will take a trip to Cobar immediately after his retirement and on his return will begin practising as an Occupational Health and Safety Consultant.

George and his wife, Betty, will travel to Cairns in June and July for six weeks on a caravanning holiday. He said 'We intend rediscovering Australia and this trip will be the first of many all over the country.

However, it is obvious these excursions will have to fit around the consulting work George has lined up. His vast knowledge and experience gained over many years at Sulphide is well in demand.

George has seen many changes in the health and safety arena over the years but some recent events stand more prominent in his mind. 'At Sulphide we have come to a stage where people's health is looked after, and I am particularly pleased to have seen the new health surveillance programme off the ground before I retire. The project, along with our self-insured workers' compensation and a number of other programmes, has combined to create a more caring approach to employees' welfare. Something that I am truly proud of,' he said.

Although it will not be a complete retirement for a while, we wish George and Betty happiness and peace for the future.



George Barnier