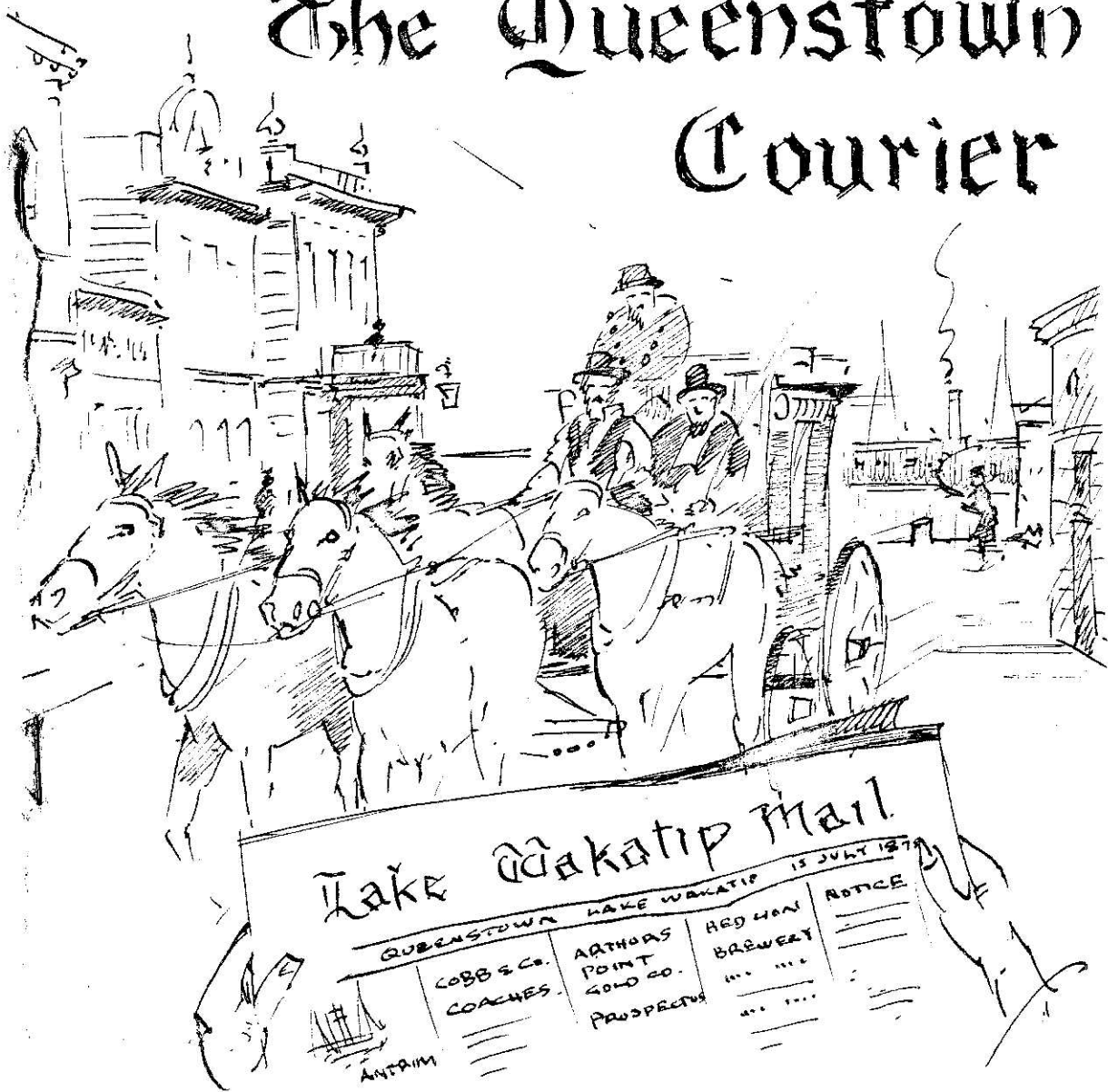


The Queenstown Courier



Boarding and Day Schools,

DOMINICAN CONVENT,

Queenstown, Wakatipu.



This institution is delightfully situated on an eminence overlooking beautiful Wakatipu. The climate is perfect. The pure, bracing, mountain air is a true healer of delicate lungs. No more charming or healthy situation could have been chosen, in which to combine Physical with Mental culture.

The course of instruction in the High School embraces all the requirements of a liberal and accomplished education. The Schools of Music and Art have sent forth pupils who have carried away the laurels from their city competitors.

The Kindergarten is presided over by an experienced Kindergärtnerin, and is always crowded with bright little faces.

The Primary School follows the Government Syllabus, and is under Government Inspection. No State aid.

Private pupils in Music and Art are received at hours convenient to them.

TERMS ON APPLICATION.

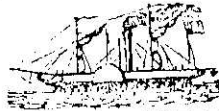
N.B.—This is the Institution in Otago which is truly a Sanatorium.

No Schools equal these for delicate children.

RENOWNED LAKE WAKATIPU.

The Lake Wakatipu Steam Shipping Company, Ltd.

TIME-TABLE



FOR 1890.

DAY OF WEEK.	Leaves Queenstown for Kingston.	Leaves Kingston for Queenstown.	Leaves Queenstown for Head of Lake.	Leaves Head of Lake for Queenstown.
MONDAY ..	4.0 p.m.	8.0 p.m.	10.0 a.m.	..
TUESDAY ..	8.0 a.m.	1.0 p.m.	..	2.0 p.m.
WEDNESDAY ..	4.0 p.m.	8.0 p.m.	8.0 a.m.	12 noon.
THURSDAY ..	8.0 a.m.	1.0 p.m.
FRIDAY ..	4.0 p.m.	8.0 p.m.	8.0 a.m.	12 noon.
SATURDAY ..	(4.45 a.m.) 9.10 a.m.	1.0 p.m.

Passenger-fares between Kingston and Queenstown—Saloon, 7s. 6s.; Steerage, 5s. Distance, 25 miles; steaming-time, 2½ hours. Summer Season Return-tickets—Saloon, 12s. 6d.; Steerage, 7s. 6d.

Fares between Head of Lake and Queenstown—Saloon: Single, 10s.; return, 15s. Steerage: Single, 7s. 6d.; return, 11s. Distance, 33 miles; time of steaming, 3 hours. Return-tickets will be available for six weeks.

Tourists are strongly advised to visit the Head of the Lake, and to stay at least a week at Kinloch or Glenorchy, where there is ample and comfortable hotel accommodation, thus giving themselves time to see the wonderful glaciers, waterfalls, minor lakes, and other magnificent scenery which abounds in the locality. Trustworthy guides may be had at any of the hotels; also horses, buggies, and boats.

The steamers during the summer months run cheap excursion trips to the most noted and favourite spots on the shores of this grand lake, especially to Elfin Bay, where lovers of Nature may enjoy a delightful hour's stroll in a lovely valley through a magnificent and picturesque bush to the romantic shores of Rere Lake, where a scene of surpassing beauty bursts on the view—a beautiful sheet of water nestling among the mountains, which are thickly clothed with forest to the water's edge, the snow-capped peaks of the Humboldt Range in the distance enhancing the loveliness of the scene.

FIRST-CLASS MEALS OR OTHER REFRESHMENTS CAN BE HAD ON BOARD STEAMERS.

A STEAMER MAY BE CHARTERED ANY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY.

AGENT AT KINLOCH - - - R. C. BRYANT.
 " GLENORCHY - - - H. BIRLEY.
 " FRANKTON - - - J. W. ROBERTSON.
 E. T. WING, Managing Director.

RAILWAY TRAINS.—To and from Lake Wakatipu.

Leave INVERCARGILL, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at	6.40 a.m.
Arrive Kingston	12.40 p.m.
Leave Kingston	1.40 p.m.
Arrive Invercargill	7.50 a.m.
Leave DUNEDIN, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at	8.15 a.m.
Arrive Kingston	7.50 p.m.
Leave Kingston, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at	7.30 a.m.
Arrive Dunedin	7.0 p.m.

N.B.—Passengers intending to go to Dunedin by Tuesday's and Thursday's trains will require to leave Queenstown for Kingston on previous Monday and Wednesday afternoons, at 4 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

to the First Issue of

"THE QUEENSTOWN COURIER".

The official publication of the
 QUEENSTOWN and DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Dear Reader,

It is hoped that this "Courier", published by the Historical Society will give you some measure of information and interest in the historical background of the Lake Wakatipu District.

Small anecdotes of the past of this District are largely unrecorded, and it is intended to cull material from the back numbers of the "Lake Wakatipu Mail", and from personal recollections of older residents. It will also contain news of the Society's activities, which will keep out of town members informed of projects completed or contemplated.

If any small item of your forebears doings in Queenstown during the nineteenth century is unpublished we would be glad to use it in future issues, which it is hoped will appear quarterly.

Ian L. Daniel
 President.

Officers for 1966-67:

President - Mr Ian L. Daniel.

Secretary - Mrs H.H.J. Miller, 21 Hallenstein St.

Treasurer - Mr H.H.J. Miller.

Committee: Mesdames R.C. Thompson, W. Minshall,
 J.D. Knowles.
 Messrs W.E. Robins, R. Kelly.

Annual Subscription: 10/- single, £1 family membership.

"Courier": 2/- per copy.

Saving Stone Library from Demolition

QUEENSTOWN and DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Secretary's Report on activities from
September 21, 1965 to January 21, 1966

The main activity of the Society during the past six months was to save the Old Stone Library from demolition. Acting on its constitution, a motion was passed to do all in its power to oppose demolition of the Library and Reading Room Building, and other buildings, bridges etc., of historical interest.

With regard to the Old Stone Library, the Queenstown Borough Council's decision had already been made. The plans for a new administration block and library (showing an empty space where the old stone library stands) were accepted. It was obvious the Society had little or no power to draw on, but a dogged determination to save what was known to be an asset to the town.

A carefully prepared plan was set in motion, first to prove that the highest authorities believe, as this Society do, that the Building is sound, and capable of being an economic part of Queenstown's future development. Secondly, to put these indisputable facts to the public.

Taking over from the Friends of the Old Stone Library, who had sent out a ratepayers referendum and proved that 405 of the 650 odd ratepayers in Queenstown were against demolition of the old Stone Building the Society engaged Mr John Hurd, B.Arch. A.N.Z.I.A., as its consulting architect, and commissioned him to draw up plans which would give the Council all they needed in the way of new buildings without demolishing the Old Stone Building. Four very acceptable plans were presented, with the added advantage that they could provide the Borough Council with more space than they had planned, and at less cost.

Engineers reports were sought and it was proved beyond any doubt that the building could be strengthened to modern standards, with no expense to the rate-payer, for the Historic Places Trust had offered a grant which would more than cover the restoration.

A legal adviser was engaged, and all that went on this proved necessary, if expensive.

- 3 -

All relevant information was carefully checked and finally presented to the Council by a Deputation, which also presented a Petition signed by hundreds of visitors from eight different countries, deploring any suggestion of demolition.

Many letters of protest were beginning to come in, and the Council could be in no doubt that there was strong public opinion against their decision. This gradually worked into a crescendo in December, when telegrams poured into the Borough Office demanding that they alter their decision.

Support began to come to the Society from high authorities. Architects were vigorous, and plans began to be formed to call on Government Departments. Unmoved by all this, and before the Council had even listened officially to the Society's case, the Mayor demanded that the Architect call for tenders in order that the Library be demolished, and the new building be erected with all possible speed.

Still undaunted the Society continued to battle, backed by growing support from all over New Zealand. Four Councillors realized that demolition was obviously undesirable. Councillor Ryan presented to the Council an amended plan drawn by the Borough Architect, which provided more library space by a slight alteration to the new library, and linked to the old building by an archway. But in the event four councillors supported, and three were against. The Mayor's vote and his casting vote defeated any hope of consideration of this plan by the Council.

By this time the whole issue was big news in the press of both Islands. Finances were running low, but Mr Ivan Mitchell, in conjunction with the Evening Star in Dunedin, organised a fighting fund. A Dunedin potter gave the proceeds of her work to it. The leader of the Maori community, Mr Duff, honoured the Society with his official support.

By this time tenders for the new building which would bring inevitable demolition were closed. However the Council decided to defer a decision and hold a Referendum. The date was set and the wording finally decided upon. An exhausted Society retreated to recover its energy and prepare for the necessary work involved in acquainting the public with the true and up-to-date facts before they make their decision.

At the time of writing the pre-Poll circulars have been posted. There is a letter from the President, and one from the Borough Architect, strongly recommending that the building be retained. A reproduction of the amended plans is included to show that it is possible to have a compromise.

The Society is grateful that the printing of the architect's perspective drawing, also the envelopes, were donated. During the campaign the generous financial support has also been appreciated.

Early Memories:

Leaving Queenstown. "The Steamer's loud blast awakened me. In the scramble to get dressed various pieces of apparel were left behind. My clearest memory is of my four year old sister pattering along the Jetty with my mother's stays trailing from under her arm."

(Margaret Glennie)

We enjoyed the following poem, printed by the "Evening Star". We feel sure you will like it too.

Shaped by the skillful tool of craftsmen's hands
From rough hewn rock, mellow with age it stands
A fragment of our precious heritage,
A greater part of Queenstown's history.
We must preserve this link with yesterday
That wanderers from ancient lands may say
"This young New Zealand has a dignity
Beyond her years, a fine respect for age.
Her connoisseurs have sifted sand from gold
To blend into a graceful harmony
A culture of today with one of old."

With acknowledgments

to the author and printer.

T.S.S. "EARNSLAW"

The latest incident concerning t.s.s. "Earnslaw", the Government Steamer, seems to confirm the belief that the "Lady of the Lake", who is so familiar with the waters on which she plies, can manoeuvre herself without assistance from the crew.

On a calm evening in January, while talking on the waterfront, we were interrupted by a breathless young man who shouted that the Earnslaw had been cut adrift. A hurried phone call to the Manager of the Government Tourist Office sounded the alarm, then we rushed out in time to see the graceful ship floating past, with not a soul on board. The Muritai and the Moana were moored as usual, the other jetties were empty, but very much in the path of the moving ship. Gently she turned as if guided by invisible hands, and brought herself to the town jetty, which had been the original tying up place for the early steamers on the lake. She neither touched jetties or boats, and did no damage to herself, thus once more proving herself to be 'The Lady of the Lake'.

The t.s.s. "Earnslaw" is by no means the only steamer which has carried passengers and cargo on Lake Wakatipu. The first steamer was brought by bullock wagon over a hundred years ago, and assembled at Kingston in order to cope with the developing trade of the gold rush, which had hitherto been dealt with by Mr Rees' fleet of small craft, including the "Undine", his first whaleboat. Many craft plied the lake in those early days, in fact in 1863 there were two daily steamer services advertised from Queenstown to Kingston, as well as two cutters and a sailing boat. There have been many boats since which have been well known, including the old paddle steamer the "Mountaineer", elegantly upholstered in red plush, with dinner provided on board for train weary travellers, who were able to admire the unparalleled scenery as they cruised along.

The porters from the various hotels would be at the wharf waiting to carry the cases of the new arrivals on their barrows. They would loudly call the names of the hotels where they were employed - "Richardts", "Mountaineer", "McBrides" - until the passengers were sorted out.

It seems that the advent of speedy modern craft and the opening up of new roads will replace our old steamer as a feature of the lake, but we who have known her will remember her with nostalgia and affection, and future generations will hear about her as part of Lake Wakatipu.

GOLD REPORT

from

"The GEOLOGY of the QUEENSTOWN SUBDIVISION, 1909"

by James Park.

Alluvial Mining

The gold-production of Otago from 1857 to the 31st of December, 1906, amounted to 676,386 oz., valued at £26,519,060, and of this great output, alluvial mining has produced somewhat over £25,000,000, or 98% of the total. Of the whole of the gold production of the Dominion, amounting to a value of £69,501,488, Otago is responsible for no less than 35.5%.

In the Shotover and Arrow River systems there are two main sources of alluvial gold - namely (a) river-bed gravels, and (b) terrace gravels.

River bed gravels.

The Arrow and Shotover Rivers for countless ages before the advent of man acted as natural sludge channels in which the gold, liberated from the lodes in the adjacent country by erosion, became concentrated in pockets and leads, as it does in the tail-race of the modern miner.

The pioneer miners began operations by cleaning up the beds of the rivers and streams. The pay-wash was generally shallow and often fabulously rich. The country swarmed with thousands of enterprising men, and before the close of the century practically all the shallow ground was exhausted. Small areas of deep ground, however, existed in the Arrow Gorge and in the Shotover at Arthur's Point, and these yielded rich returns for many years. Among the most successful of the dredging claims taken up in the Shotover was the Sew Hoy claim on the Big Beach near Arthur's Point, on which a dredge was erected by a Chinese merchant of that name in 1889.

Terrace Gravels.

The most important of these deposits lies between Skippers Point and Maori Point. It has been worked continuously for the past forty years.

The gravels vary from 150 feet to 190 feet thick, and rest on the old channel of the Shotover which lies about 200 feet above the present level of the river.

The best of the gold is found at or near the schist bottom. The richest patches have been found in places immediately below the point where the lateral streams that descend from the Richardson Mountains enter the Shotover Valley, especially the Skipper's, Sawyer's, Londonderry, Pleasant and Stony Creeks.

In the pioneer days the gold-wash was driven out by underground mining, but in the past two decades larger areas of gravels have been bodily removed by hydraulic sluicing. There still remains a considerable area of gold-bearing wash that will continue to furnish gold for many years to come.

Visit of Govt Tourist Survey Team

VISIT of GOVERNMENT TOURIST and PUBLICITY
SURVEY TEAM to QUEENSTOWN.

In December two representatives of the Tourist and Publicity Department met some members of the Society in order to discuss the place of history in the tourist picture. The team was visiting Queenstown in order to make a Government survey of the area, and to prepare a report which would cover all aspects of tourism in the district.

There was no need for the Society's representatives to try to put across their beliefs that historical places and buildings, as well as history itself, had an important place in the entertainment of tourists and visitors, for they were already convinced of its importance, and offered some very good suggestions as to how the history of the area could be made more apparent to the visitor. All present agreed there was a great deal of work yet to be done, which would greatly help the people who visited Queenstown to enjoy the background, and to understand more about the colourful past of the district. It was agreed that the most difficult and disappointing aspect of these future efforts was the complete lack of support from any other local organisation. It seemed obvious to all that the historical image was one...

....that the visitor looked for, and anyone involved in tourism - and that means all Queenstown - should be prepared to back efforts to preserve and project historical features of interest.

The team congratulated the President of the Society on the general geological knowledge which had been spread, and also commented on the display of material at the Old House, which is the only place in Queenstown offering any historical knowledge and atmosphere of the past.

The Society felt most encouraged by the interest of the Survey Team, in its efforts at preservation, both from the tourist and historical angle, and felt more determined to carry on trying to interest other organisations in its work.

Old Skippers Library

PRESENT DAY AFFAIRS

Preparations are being made to store the leather bound volumes of the old Skippers Library.

Mr R. Skinner of A urum House has agreed to inform us when it is convenient for him to guide those willing to help remove the books.

At the same time plaques are to be placed at site of Skipper's Hall and on the site of the B.N.Z. at Māori Point. It is hoped to have enough volunteers to do both these jobs on one field day.

Mrs Septimus Ryan. Queenstown has said good-bye to a lady who was born here over eighty years ago. Mrs Ryan, nee Marshall, has moved with her son Bill to Rotorua. Her recollections of her early days were fresh and clear, and many of them have been recorded on tape by the Society. This should make interesting listening at our next Meeting.

H. CRAIG & CO., COACH PROPRIETORS

AND

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AND

PALMERSTON TO CLYDE,

AND INTERMEDIATE PLACES. SEE TIME-TABLE, PAGES 64, 65.

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TO ENABLE THEM TO VISIT ANY PART OF THE PROVINCE,
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CAREFUL DRIVERS, and at REASONABLE CHARGES.

→:LAKE + WAKATIPU:←

AND

SOUTHERN GLACIERS OF NEW ZEALAND.

Richardt's Hotel

IS SITUATED ON THE MARGIN OF

QUEENSTOWN BAY,

AND COMMANDS

Views of the Grand and Magnificent Lake Scenery.

The above Hotel, which contains 70 Rooms, is built entirely of Stone, and lighted by Electricity, and is acknowledged by its numerous Patrons to be one of the most Comfortable Hotels in the Colony.

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