

Sunshine Advocate

Braybrook School fire episode

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Braybrook School Fire Episode

(To the Editor.)

Sir, — The following letter has been forwarded to the Secretary, Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Fire Station Eastern Hill C.E.

"By unanimous resolution of my executive, I am instructed to advise your Board of our opposition to statements attributed to the Chief Officer, and recently published in the press, relating to a recent fire at Braybrook State School, with his severe criticism of a junior officer.

"My Union takes the view that such statements of the Chief Officer, which we believe to be substantially correct in the reporting, cuts away the confidence of all officers who may send word back in the future, and therefore is of vital concern to all firefighters.

"The statements concerning the junior officer, namely, 'he is an immature officer,' and that the Chief Officer 'will not take notice of a junior officer who sees a fire glow red and squeals for assistance' is completely unjustified, not in accord with fact, and requires a total withdrawal by the Chief Officer.

"In fact, our information, which has been thoroughly checked, shows that the Sub Station Officer's actions were completely in accord with good fire fighting practice, while the action, or lack of it, by the Chief Officer, appear to be quite the contrary.

"As a District Officer was at the fire for approximately ten minutes before he advised that the fire was under control, is sure proof that the junior officer was correct when he sought assistance, and this advice was not countermanded by the District Officer.

"As the Chief Officer was informed that the fire was showing up from the tower at Eastern Hill, it would appear that, rather than publicly criticize the junior officer, the Chief Officer may well have publicly complimented the officer and the eight men who fought the fire, as they saved what could have been another complete burn out.

My Union fully endorses the vote of confidence to the S.S.O. by the staff at Sunshine, and we would be pleased to learn from the Chief Officer just when a fire fighter reaches maturity, as the officer concerned has 17 years of fire fighting service.

"We ask that your Board thoroughly investigate all the circumstances of this matter, and issue a public statement showing the fire fighting staff and the general public, just who is to blame for this unpleasant episode.

Yours etc.,
W. M. WEBBER, Secty.,
United Firemen's Union of Vic.

HOSPITAL TO BENEFIT FROM MOTOR RACES

Australia's top racing drivers and star motor cyclists will be seen in action at Fishermen's Bend next week-end in the "Carnival of Motor Racing" which marks the opening of the road racing season in this state.

Ten events will be staged each day on the Saturday and Sunday.

The "Carnival," which is being staged by the Sporting Car Club of Australia and the Harley Club of Victoria, will feature races on a handicap basis commencing at 12 noon on the Saturday, and on a scratch basis commencing at 11.30 a.m. on the Sunday.

Proceeds will be devoted to Royal Melbourne Hospital and Air Force Association Memorial Centre.

HELPED HIM WITH HIS WORK?

An outdoor machinist was on Thursday night last relieved of part of his work - - and £360 worth of partly sewn garments.

Oswald Latiss, of 51 River St., Maidstone, was busy sewing in a shed at the rear of his house. His work was stacked in white canvas bags outside.

Towards the end of the evening he found he had either been working very fast or that somebody had called. The latter was correct. Four of the canvas bags were missing, contents of which were estimated to be worth £360.

DID YOU SEE THIS ACCIDENT?

Sunshine police would like to hear from any person who witnessed an accident in Ballarat Road Maidstone, near Bosquet Street on Saturday last about 7 p.m., when Harry Maxwell Bur-

... of 1. Rooney Street,