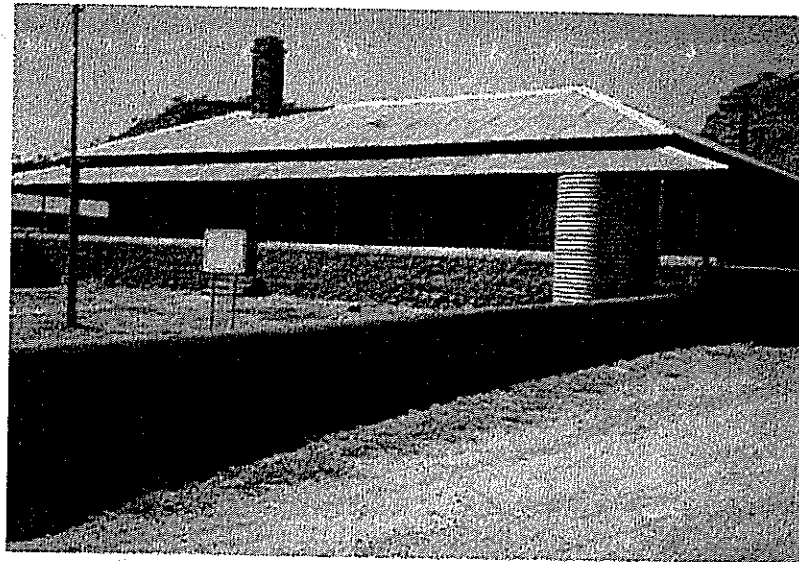


the CITATION



Northern Territory Police Museum & Historical Society Inc



Barrow Creek Telegraph Station 2001

BARROW CREEK TELEGRAPH STATION AND POLICE PRESENCE

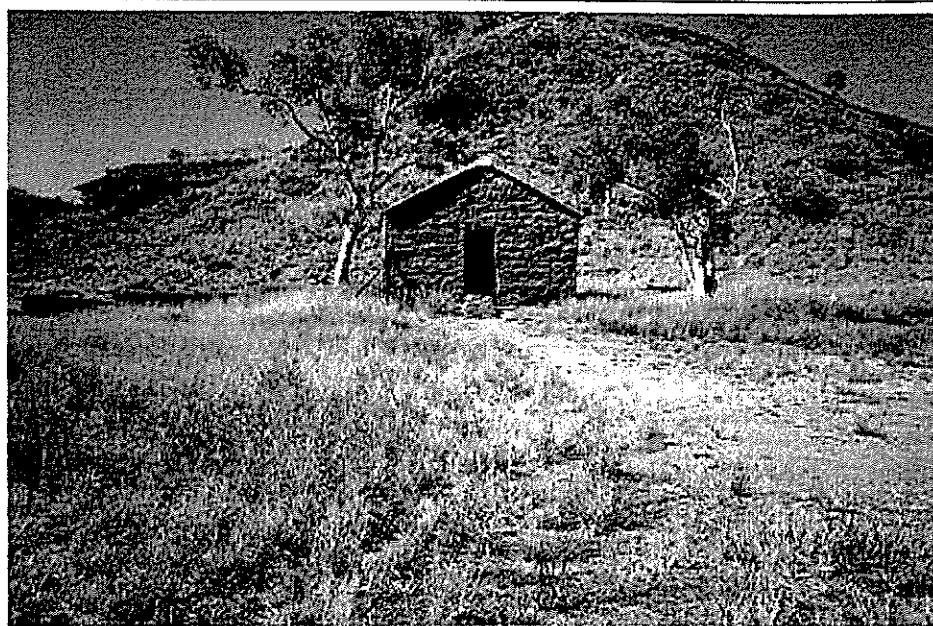
Compiled by Shirl Gillis

After a 124 mile Barrow Creek subsection of the Overland Telegraph line had been commenced in May 1870 and completed in December, a stone hut was erected a month later as a temporary accommodation.¹ The station was completed in August 1872. The new building was reported as being

*'a good substantial stone building on one of the prettiest sites on the Overland telegraph'*²

Due to the constant threatening behaviour by the natives around areas such as Barrow Creek, Charlotte Waters and the Peak it was recommended troopers be sent to help with the safety of those operating the Overland Telegraph Line. August 18th 1873, George Hamilton, Commissioner of Police informed the Chief Secretary that, *'three troopers are told off for the far north – one for Barrow Creek 1500 miles away from Adelaide - one for Charlotte Water 1000 – One for the Peak about 800'*.³

Some of the troopers had been troubled by the isolation of these posts and the discomfort they believed they would suffer in such remote areas. They had requested better conditions of service. These requests had



Barrow Creek Telegraph Station (Cell) 2001

been met with the following reply in the form of a letter from the Commissioner dated 11 August 1873.

'I cannot accept these letters or can I allow police troopers to make terms with me – if any hardships are attendant on the position of troopers in the far north I will be happy to consider them and represent them to the Government for consideration. That Police troopers, when ordered to go on a certain duty should offer to the Head of their Department the terms on which they would go is subversive of all discipline – those troopers must obey orders or they will be dismissed and not allowed to resign – at the same time I am still open to consider any representation they may make to me respecting the position they will be placed in by going so far north and I will forward such representations to the Government – but the Chief inspector must see that these letters are not such as should have been sent to me, it is one thing for a subordinate officer

*to state his grievance, but it is quite another thing for him to dictate in what terms he will do his duty.'*⁴

Another memo from the Commissioner to the Chief Inspector of Police had been sent on the 9th August informing that,

*'the Chief Inspector of Police is requested to tell off three troopers for the above named stations (Peak, Charlotte Waters and Barrow Creek) – they must be prepared to start with horses, kit, etc. early next week. Mr. Blood's party will wait one week at Beltana for the Troopers'.*⁵

A further journal entry states that on the 5th December 1873 that P.T. Gason left this camp en-route to Barrow Creek and that a telegram had been forwarded to the Commissioner of Police Adelaide 16th December February 1874 from Barrow Creek informing the arrival of Samuel Gason, P.T.⁶

Eight days after the arrival of Police Trooper Gason to Barrow Creek, on the Sunday, 22nd February

1874, Kaytetye Warriors attacked Barrow Creek Station at 8pm.⁷ This attack took all by surprise and resulted in the deaths of Stationmaster James Stapleton and linesman John Franks. Stapleton's assistant Ernest Flint, was wounded in this ordeal.⁸ Gason managed to contact the Commissioner of Police about the attack. Another message was sent to the Commissioner after another attack on Barrow Creek Station, on 23rd February. On this occasion one of the Aborigines was killed and this appeared to foil their advance.

Several volunteers were secured to assist the search for the offenders and commenced their journey to Barrow Creek on the 1st March 1874, arriving 31st March 1874. Although several search parties had been organised to aid in apprehending the perpetrators, they were not actually caught. The party that set out on a search for the offenders came across and recognised a couple of the Aborigines that had been present at



WE NEED YOUR STORIES

PLEASE SEND THEM
INTO OUR OFFICE.

THE ADDRESS IS;

SGT GARTH
MACPHERSON
COMMUNITY
RELATIONS
PO BOX 2630
ALICE SPRINGS NT
0871

EILEEN FITZER

Born 30 March 1902

Eileen Fitzer is Territory born and in her own words, 'fighting fit' as she enters her hundredth year of life. Eileen has her memories of a wonderful life to live on and states she is never lonely.

In this year of Federation it seems a fitting time to pay public tribute to the tremendous contribution that Eileen and her family have made to the Territory. Her memories and the many stories she can relay are many. Eileen has spent almost a century living in the Northern Territory.

Eleanor and Tom Sykes conceived Eileen when Australia was forming as a nation, exactly a year after the first Australian federal election. She was born while her parents were living at Brocks Creek where her father was the underground mine manager at Zapopan.

Her Mother was born in Darwin in 1873 to Eliza and Ned Tuckwell, both Territory Pioneers in their own right. Ned first came to the Territory in December 1864 when the South Australian Government was attempting to establish a settlement at Escape Cliffs. He remained there until it was abandoned in 1866 but returned to Port Darwin in 1868 with George Goyder's survey Party.

The first boat to carry passengers to Darwin in January 1870, carried Eliza Cockney and her four children. Eliza had married Ned in Adelaide in January 1857.

Ned had helped build the very first Government residence, which was a log hut with a canvas roof.

Eliza established a home for the family in the 'camp' at Fort Hill, and later in the Mitchell- Knuckey Street area. When Ned died in 1882, Eliza supported her family by opening and managing a boarding house, which she called "Resolution Villa." She remained in Darwin until her death in 1921. Eileen has fond memories of her dressed in black, sitting in her rocking chair singing hymns on her little verandah in Mitchell Street, near the former Wesleyan Methodist Church recently moved from Knuckey Street to the Botanical Gardens.

Eileen is very proud of the fact that her grandmother and mother were among the first women in the Territory to vote a century ago after the Territory and South Australian women had won the right to vote and stand for Parliament in 1894. This also gave them the right to vote in the two referendums leading up to Federation and in the first Federal

election of 1901.

During the families time at Brocks Creek, Eileen and her three sisters, Lillian, Gertrude and Myrtle and her brother, Walter, spent many hours playing with the Bymes children from a nearby station. Eileens Mother died of cancer in 1910 resulting in Eileen and her sisters moving to Darwin where her grandmother and two elder sisters lived. Eileen and her younger sister attended the Convent school in Darwin.

After the First World War, in which their brother was killed in Gallipoli, they set up a 'bachelor pad' in Smith Street near Brown's Mart.

Eileen and her sisters were very active within the town's social and political events, including helping to campaign for the Territories first federal member for Parliament, dynamic union leader, Harold Nelson.

She eventually took up a more serious role, financed by her elder sister Gertrude. She spent four happy years working to get her double certificate in nursing at the Queen Victoria Hospital, but she could not wait to get back to the Territory. Eileen joined her sister, Lillian in Alice Springs who had married one of the Territory's well-known policemen, John Lovegrove. She was soon appointed as a nursing sister at the 'Bungalow' where she administered health care to children of Aboriginal descent, and helped teach the very young ones.

In 1934 the Territory's chief medical officer, Dr. Cecil Cook, transferred Eileen to Pine Creek as sister in charge of the hospital which mainly catered for gold



miners at the time.

Eileen was deeply distressed on hearing of the death of her sister, Gertrude. Gertrude died of cancer in 1936. She had married Bill Easton, a member of the North Australian Commission and moved to Perth where she had a young family. Eileen decided she did not want to be on her own any longer and married a long-time friend Harry Gribbons, whom she affectionately called her 'Wild Irishman'. Harry and Eileen moved to Darwin where Harry worked as an auctioneer for a while before the couple tried their luck on Wauchope mining fields, some sixty miles south of Tennant Creek, where wolfram had been discovered. It was 1939 and Eileen was the only white woman on the field for 18 months. She lived in what she terms, a mansion. It was little a tin shed, the floor was made of filling from the mine with stones sticking out through the mats that she had put down.

Eileen continued nursing at Wauchope, especially with people needing eye treatment. Then she was asked by the chief medical officer, Dr Cook, to be relieving sister at the leprosarium and Channel Island, several miles from Darwin. At the leprosarium she administered care to about 120 lepers for three months, a time she describes as very happy and satisfying.

Story to be continued.

Courtesy Palmerston Sun Darwin, NT. Wednesday April 18, 2001. p14



**VALE
JASON PETER LINDSAY**

9.9.68 – 22.4.01

Jason Lindsay left the family home at Mullumbimbi NSW and joined the Northern Territory Police Force on 26 September 1988. Following basic training in Darwin, he was posted to Katherine where he served until being transferred to Groote Eylandt in 1992. His other postings included:

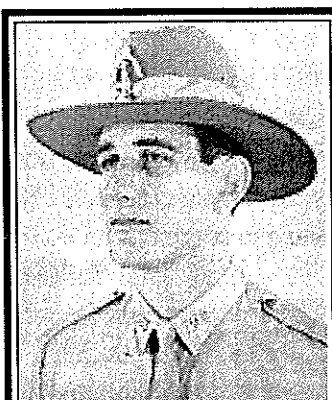
1995 – Wadeye (Port Keats); and 1997 – Oenpelli in Arnhem Land. His initial posting at Oenpelli was as second man but was promoted to Senior Constable in 1998 and took over as Officer in Charge in November of that year.

Jason was a popular and effective member of the force who got along equally well with members of the public. He had a definite preference for 'bush stations' where he was able to indulge in his favourite pastimes, shooting and fishing.

He was also a very alert and fun loving man who enjoyed practical jokes and the company of friends.

It was while he was enjoying some off duty pleasures with friends from Oenpelli that he got into difficulties while swimming in the Cooper Creek rockhole and subsequently drowned. His body was recovered and returned to Mullumbimbi for burial.

He will be missed by many. RIP Jason.



*Photo courtesy Citation
December 1965
In this edition he was photographed as a recent recruit.*

**VALE
JOHN KEVIN LINCOLN**

12.11.41 – 9.5.01

John Lincoln was born in Queanbeyan, NSW on 12.11.41. He joined the Northern territory Police Force as a Probationary Constable on 19.10.64. His confirmation as a Constable occurred a year later and after attaining the rank of Senior Constable on 7.4.70, was promoted to 3/c sergeant the following day – such was the system in those days.

John commenced his service in Darwin and later at Nightcliff. He then transferred to Batchelor before serving at Wave Hill. Following his promotion, he transferred to the Alice Springs CIB where he was serving until his resignation on 9.5.81. John lost a battle with cancer and passed away on 9.5.01.



the sight on the occasion of the attack, but they scattered into the bush. It was mentioned in a report from the Commissioner of Police on 5th March, as the steps set in motion to help capture the offenders had been effective in keeping the 'natives' in check and that the actions of Police Trooper Gason were to be praised.⁹ Police Trooper Gason resigned July 1876.¹⁰

Threatening behaviour by the Aborigines appeared to be resurfacing around the Barrow Creek Police Station and was reported to the Commissioner of Police, on 3rd April 1879. Another attack by a large party of Aborigines was reported approximately 85 miles from Barrow Creek on 6th November 1880. This attack was made on those in charge of a wagon loaded with Government rations en-route to Barrow Creek. Mounted Constable South reported the attack was carried out while the teamsters were sleeping. Spears were thrown at the party severely wounding Julius Anderson and Mathew Conner. The party was taken back to Barrow Creek to recover. A search for the perpetrators was carried out until heavy rain obliterated the tracks and the search was abandoned. Mounted Constable John Shirley praised the assistance rendered by all members of both searching parties and of the good work performed by the trackers.¹¹ Mounted Constable South served at Barrow Creek from 1879 to 1882¹²

By 1880 the station had a non-Aboriginal population of eight, this included one police trooper and seven staff.¹³

In July 1882 Mounted Constable Shirley was transferred to Barrow Creek. On the 29th August 1883, a tragedy occurred at Lawson

Creek involving a teamster Joseph Martin and his partner John Rees. After making camp they had a meal and went to their beds. Rees awoke to the noise of natives throwing spears. He found his partner had been killed.¹⁴

Mounted Constable Shirley formed a search party and commenced to search from Powell Creek about 29th October 1883. This proved to be a fatal trip for Mounted Constable Shirley. A message was sent from Attack Creek to Darwin on 17th November. It stated that

*'All had perished for want of water except himself and a black boy, that he had been in a state of collapse when one of the aboriginals found water and brought it back and poured it on him and gave him a drink. Mounted Constable Shirley was the first Northern Territory Policeman to perish through thirst. They had been so desperate for water that they killed a horse and drank some of its blood. All animals also perished of thirst.'*¹⁵

After a fortnight of searching for the bodies by Trooper Willshire, who had been stationed at Alice Springs, the remains of Phillips and Shirley were located and they proceeded to bury them (records differ as to whether Willshire buried Shirley or not). Constable Shirley had first come to the Territory in 1879.¹⁶

Unfortunately one of the difficulties for the Barrow Creek Telegraph Station was the problem they had with the availability of water. At first it had been thought that the waterhole at Barrow Creek had been a permanent one. It had later dried up and water was then carted about

15 Kms from Taylor Creek for the purpose of drinking. The situation was to improve in 1889, with a deeper well being established.¹⁷

By 1910, Barrow Creek Station was used as a maintenance depot and post office. In 1930 it was handed over to the Police Department and the Constables or wives of the Constables, were to continue the postal duties.

The Barrow Creek Station continued to be utilized as a,

'Line depot until 1980 when a microwave telecommunications link replaced the telephone carrier system'.¹⁸

Barrow Creek 2001, is a beautifully restored building that connects the past with our present. It stands as a reminder of the great years that built a strong Northern Territory. This was a trying and often a very lonely lifestyle, endured by our early settlers and police officers. People that chose to be in this part of Australia were subjected to a way of life in the Territory that saw drastic climatic conditions. Roads were nothing but sandy tracks or no track at all. Where your transport was a camel or horse that trudged over many miles of unfriendly terrain to reach destinations.

We are now witnessing the great Ghan about to complete its journey to the top of Australia with many thanks to those that have served and lived in the Territory in the very difficult early times.

I wonder what many of those 'old timers' would say today if they had the chance to revisit?

References

- ¹ *Telegraph Stations of Central Australia. Historical Photographs. P29*
- ² *ibid. P29*



³ *History of the Northern Territory and its Police Forces Pt 1 & 2, W J McLaren unpublished p211.*

⁴ *ibid p212.*

⁵ *ibid p212*

⁶ *ibid p213*

⁷ *ibid p213*

⁸ *ibid p213-214 .*

Telegraph Stations of Central Australia. Historical Photographs. P29

⁹ *History of the Northern Territory and its Police Forces Pt 1 & 2, W J McLaren unpublished p 219*

¹⁰ *ibid p 219*

¹¹ *ibid p 272*

¹² *GRG 5/23 South Australian Police Extract of Officers serving in the N.T. 1870 - 1910*

¹³ *Telegraph Stations of Central Australia. Historical Photographs. P29*

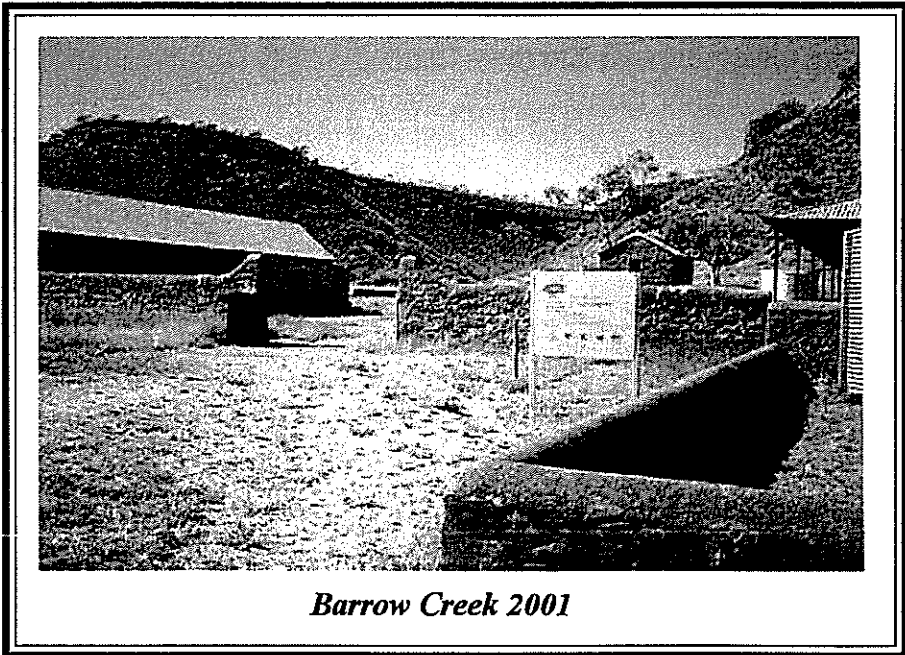
¹⁴ *History of the Northern Territory and its Police Forces Pt 1 & 2, W J McLaren unpublished p 272-273*

¹⁵ *ibid p 273*

¹⁶ *ibid p 322*

¹⁷ *Telegraph Stations of Central Australia. Historical Photographs. P29*

¹⁸ *Ibid. P29*



Barrow Creek 2001



Ration Day Timber Creek 1961

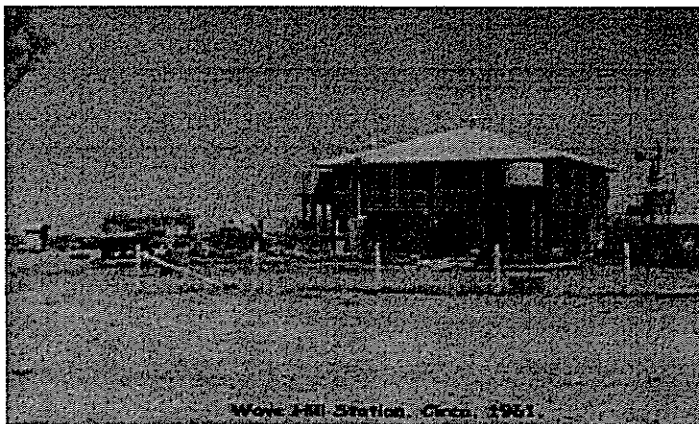
I read with interest the article about the Maranboy Cells (Volume 7, No 2. April 2001).

I spent a short time with John Gordon in October 1961, when I took a D.C.A crew there to install a new radio mast. On checking the colour slides I took during that visit I noticed that one shows John about to hand out rations from his store with the old cells in the background. This may be of interest to your readers.

Wave Hill had and probably still has if they haven't been washed away, similar cells. I have enclosed a photograph of Wave Hill taken on that same trip, for the same purpose. I am not sure if the building on the far left of the photograph is the old cell or the outside "dunny", however, Basil Courts, who was O.I.C. at that time would be able to tell you for sure.

regards,

Andy McNeil



Wave Hill Station, Circa. 1961



Illamurta Springs Police Camp 1893 - 1913

Compiled by Shiril Gillis

After the settlement in 1869 of Palmerston, later renamed Darwin, pastoralists started to settle in the Territory, sustaining the economy of the region until mining and tourism took over.¹ This brought about the requirement for the protection of the station owners, their properties and stock. Many problems arose from stock being speared by the local Aboriginals of such areas and the repercussion caused by these actions.

Boggy Hole Police camp was relocated to Illamurta Springs.² This was the locality of one of these early police camps of Central Australia and was established in 1893. Illamurta Police camp was then relocated to Alice Well in 1912 brought about by the change from administration of the NT by South Australia to Federal Government control and the more viable proposition of a police presence at Alice Well.³

Dick Kimber refers to Willshire recording the name first in police records, in a letter that was dated December 1890.⁴ He also refers to Carl Strelhlow, a missionary at Hermannsburg, indicating that the name Lamarta was more correct.⁵ Carl Strelhlow's notes assist in understanding the associated mythology of the area connected with the travelling 'kunnea-snake'. His notes are a reference to the site and name of the area.⁶

In 1890 a Commission of Inquiry recommended Willshire move from Boggy Hole and put the police camp, "somewhere on the Western boundary between Tempe Downs and Erldunda stations if a suitable place can be found. Willshire made the preliminary plans to re-locate himself there before his arrest and trial for murder in 1891 intervened.⁷

MC Daer left Alice Springs police camp on 12 April 1893 with five native constables to patrol Tempe Downs and form a temporary camp in that locality. MC Cowle was to follow him with one additional tracker making

six in all.⁸

MC Daer was born in Geelong Victoria in March 1853. He joined the Australian Police Force as a third class trooper in Adelaide in July 1876. Constable Daer died in Adelaide from diabetes,⁹ on the 12 November 1895.¹⁰

Constable Charles Ernest Cowle was Born in Tasmania 2 October 1863 and joined the force 1 February 1889.¹¹ Constable Cowle was stricken with a serious disease aged 39 and was bedridden until his death 19 years later¹²

Mounted Constable Cowle reported the building of the police camp as commenced on 18 May 1893.¹³

WB Kean was stationed at Illamurta after Daer died until 1898. JR Barlow replaced Kean and was stationed there until 1900. FJ Ockenden joined the South Australian Police Force 4 July 1900 and by 4 November had resigned and left the force¹⁵.

The Police Camp at Illamurta was established to maintain patrols of the area and to subdue the killing of stock by Aboriginals, in particular the cattle.¹⁶

One of the last reports which concerned the accommodation at Illamurta, was submitted in May 1911 by MC Dow who was acting as Officer in Charge of the Police at Alice Springs.¹⁷

Today, Illamurta Spring is recorded as being overgrown. 'Evidence of police presence between 1893 and 1912 consists of the ruins of two stone buildings, some high post-and-rail fencing - presumably the corner of a horse paddock - and scattered stone structural remains or fence lines, said to cover approximately 350-by 300 metres.'¹⁴

There are many stories and letters surviving that portray the hardship and dangers faced by all those living in remote areas of the Territory in mid 1800's and early 1900's. It was extremely hard also for those that were placed in these areas to help with the control of problems arising. Many of the problems evolved around the killing of cattle as well as issues arising from the population that found their way to the Territory for mining purposes.

These stories and letters portray

policies put in place to protect the pastoralists, their properties and stock and to monitor treatment and conditions of Australia's indigenous people. The expansion of the Nation's population into the remote areas of Northern Territory was an important issue in mid 1800 and early 1900's.

END NOTES

¹ "Northern Territory". Microsoft © Encarta © Online Encyclopedia 2001.

² History of the Northern Territory and its Police Forces, W J McLaren Pt 1 p336. (unpublished) On the 8th July 1891, Mr Peterswald,

Commissioner of Police returned Besley that it would be better to establish a Camp at Tempe Downs than retain that at Finke River. The recent outrages at Mr Coulthards Station show that it would be highly inexpedient to do away with the permanent patrol an I think that a mounted Constable should be detailed for that Duty.

³ Finke River Valley Historical Analysis and Site Documentation. R.G Kimber VII, Police, Alice Wells.P3

⁴ Ibid. Where he used place - names as Aboriginal names, and refers to one of the men Lamerta. Reproduced in Willshire, 1895, p2

⁵ Ibid. His Son TGH Stuhlow, using especially invented stress symbols, wrote it as Illamurta (1971, Map), p2

⁶ Ibid. '[He] reached 'Snakes Live' (Lamarta = Snake's Live. This place is called Illamurta by whites.-) here he found one other Eternal Snake, named Kaiara Kunluba, who embraced him and strove to hold him fast, but the kunnea snake escaped him, went into earth and travelled further to the east. p2

⁷ Ibid. p3

⁸ History of the Northern Territory and its Police Forces, W J McLaren Pt 1 p342. (unpublished)

⁹ From the Frontier, John Mulvaney with Alison Petch and Howard Morphy, Allen & Unwin, Australia, 2000 p 223-4. Letter from from PM Byrne stating 'Poor Daer died rather suddenly in Adelaide from diabetes just as he was thinking of starting back to Illamurta.

¹⁰ History of the Northern Territory and its Police Forces, W J McLaren Pt 1 p342. (Not published)

¹¹ Police Historical Records GRG 5/23 South Australian Police Extract of Officer Serving in NT 1870-1910. Constable CE Cowle.

¹² From the Frontier, John Mulvaney with Alison Petch and Howard Morphy, Allen & Unwin, Australia, 2000. P20, also refer letters on p169.

¹³ Cowles career sadly collapsed in only his thirty ninth year when this active horseman was stricken with crippling locomotor ataxia, forcing him to remain bed-ridden until his death nineteen years later.

¹⁴ Finke River Valley Historical Analysis and Site Documentation. R.G Kimber VII. Police Illamurta Spring p8

¹⁵ From the Frontier, John Mulvaney with Alison Petch and Howard Morphy, Allen & Unwin, Australia, 2000. p31

¹⁶ Ibid. P45

¹⁷ History of the Northern Territory and its Police Forces, W J McLaren Pt 1 p 337. (unpublished)

¹⁸ Finke River Valley Historical Analysis and Site Documentation. RG Kimber VII. Police Illamurta Spring p44 The whole of the accommodation provided at this station, is disgraceful and if only in the interests of health should be condemned at once. The station consists of a shanty built of mulga sticks, which is used as a bedroom and office. The timber is infested with white ants, and the room is leaning over about 10 degrees and is kept from falling down by a mulga log placed lengthwise across the slabs, below the wall plate outside the buildings. The log is kept in place by three forked sticks. The floor of this room is a procession of pits in the earth and the whole structure is likely to fall down at any time. A shed built of brushwood adjacent to this room is used as a kitchen and it is falling down from old age. The floor is a pit about a foot below the surface (dug out to prevent the fire used for cooking coming in contact with the brush sides). There is no lock up at Illamurta, and prisoners when occasion arises must be chained up.

Police horses - there are 12 at Illamurta. Some of these horses are very old and cannot stand work and should be ast.

Charles Edward Brookes, Mounted Constable First Class is Officer in Charge with Native Constables 'Charlie', 'Archie', 'Bob', and 'Pingtung'. M.C.Brookes is at present absent on duty at Port Darwin and is being relieved by Mounted Constable John Clow Mackay from Alice Springs

*We have a full story about
Illamurta Police Station being
compiled by Keith Mooney Smith and
hopefully we will be able to bring this
to you in our next Citation.*



Letter from Peter Riley

Dated 27/3/2001

In the February Edition of Citation the question of the first Police Officer at Alice Springs, Priest or Shirley, was resolved.

I am enclosing a photocopy from the Central Australian Centenary Celebrations, April 1986 booklet which gives more details about Shirley and his subsequent tragic death.

Journalist Peter Forrest, in an article "Police Memorial", published in "Citation", September 1998, says in relation to Shirley, "was buried on the banks of Branchilly Creek, about 40 miles east-north-east of Attack Creek" The booklet account say: "his body was found and buried about 20 miles east of Attack Creek by Mounted Constable Willshire."

Willshire then stationed at Alice Springs, had to make a trip of at least over 300 miles, perhaps at least 10 days in duration, by horses or camels, to reach Shirley's death site. What would have been left of Shirley? Not much!

It seems somewhat strange that a party did not come from Powell Creek Telegraph Station to bury the dead. The graves were probably marked by posts, or the mounds outlined by stones, but unless since identified, would today be most difficult to find. This is a matter the Historical Society could look into and also the claim that Willshire did in fact bury Shirley. Has an effort ever been made to locate Shirley's grave?

Peter Riley

27/3/2001

BACKGROUND.

- * Research reveals that police were present in the 'centre' at the Repeater Stations at Charlotte Waters and Barrow Creek prior to 1879 and indeed as early as 1874.
- * It was not until after June 1879, probably mid-1880, that the first policeman, 2nd Class Mounted Constable Shirley, arrived in Alice Springs.
- * He and subsequent replacements were located at the Repeater Station at Alice Springs (known affectionately by locals as 'the old telegraph station') until the establishment of the first police station (a camp) at Heavitree Gap.
- * The move from the telegraph station to Heavitree Gap occurred on Wednesday 21st April, 1886 and it is this date which our committee selected as the one which should be regarded as that on which permanent police presence was established in Central Australia.
- * The present police station at Heavitree Gap was built during 1888-89, was proclaimed a public gaol on 14th December, 1904 and remained so until the opening of the Stuart Town Gaol in 1909.
- * In 1909 another police station was built and occupied in Stuart Town (now Alice Springs). The senior of the two Mounted Constables then stationed at Alice Springs occupied this station.
- * The junior man remained at the Heavitree Gap Police Station and attended to the station plant of horses and camels there.
- * Another station was built and serviced the area until the opening of the present Alice Springs Police Station in 1970.

ALICE SPRINGS' FIRST POLICEMAN

John Charles Shirley, who was born in Clonmel, Ireland, on 27th September, 1856 is believed to have been our first policeman in the Centre.

- * On 10th March, 1877 he was appointed a member of the Police Force of South Australia with a rank of 3rd Class Trooper. He was stationed at Adelaide.
- * According to his record he was 5' 10½" tall and his previous occupation was mattress maker.
- * Promoted to 2nd Class Trooper on 1st June, 1879.
- * Promoted to 2nd Class Mounted Constable on 1st July, 1880 and known to have been at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station by November that year.
{Although the South Australian Government Gazette of 28th August 1879 showing the distribution of the police force on 30th June, 1879 shows an allocation of one Mounted Constable at Alice Springs.
- * Promoted to 1st Class Mounted Constable on the 1st July, 1882.
- * Served at the Repeater Station at Barrow Creek prior to his death which occurred in November, 1883.
- * 1st Class Mounted Constable Shirley died of thirst whilst leading a search party for the alleged killers of a teamster. Six others died with him, his body was found and buried about 20 miles east of Attack Creek by Mounted Constable Willshire.