

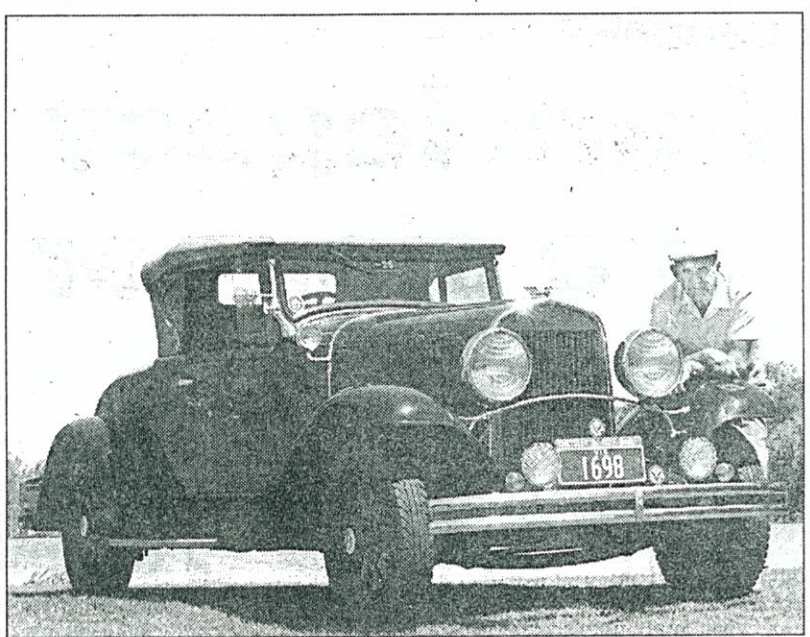
Rally Report

The Rally of the Valley, November 2-5

Well it doesn't feel like three years since the last Rally of the Valley, although it felt like more than 12 months since we started talking about what we were going to do this time. New Rally Director, Gary Whitford, had some ideas for venues and they turned out to be a great few days touring.

The theme of the rally was "Water and the Food Bowl" so we visited various establishments related to the irrigation and food production industries. Along the way we renewed acquaintances and made a few new friends. That's what rallying is all about.

Friday night the early entrants started rolling in to pick up their rally packs and have a welcoming cuppa. The Lemnos Football Clubrooms were used as our base all weekend, and this worked very well. It also came in handy Sunday afternoon when the weather altered our itinerary suddenly!



From the past . . . Les Smith from the Goulburn Valley Motor Vehicles Drivers Club with his 1929 Chrysler. *Picture by Julie Mercer.*

Club hosts classic and vintage rally

About 80 vintage and classic cars will be in Shepparton this weekend for a rally hosted by the Goulburn Valley Motor Vehicles Drivers Club.

The event, known as 'Rally of the Valley,' begins on Saturday morning when the cars gather at Princess Park.

The public is welcome to come and see the cars before they depart the park at about 10 am, on their way to the historic homestead of Moorilim at Murchison.

The chosen route will take the drivers past the Dhurringile Prison.

The building occupied by the prison was reportedly designed by the same architect who drew up the plans for Moorilim.

The drivers will have lunch and afternoon tea at the property before

returning for dinner at Princess Park.

The schedule for the rest of the rally, which is held every three years in Shepparton, is:

- Sunday, November 3: Murchison municipal park for morning tea, Goulburn Weir and Waranga Basin.
- Monday, November 4: Agriculture Victoria centre at Tatura, Pickworth's Orchard Golden Cow Centre at Tongala (for lunch) and Kids Connection.
- Tuesday, November 5: Parkside Gardens for breakfast.

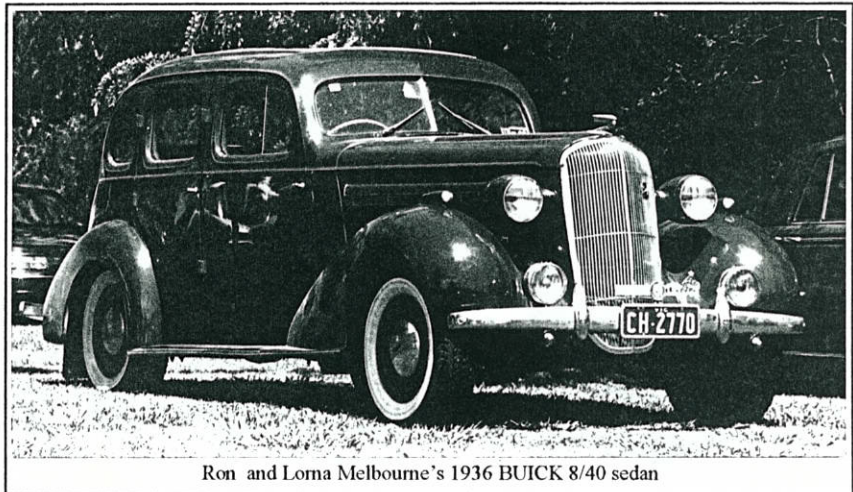
The vice-president of the drivers' club, John Grieve, said the rally would give Goulburn Valley residents the chance to catch a glimpse of cars rarely seen in the region.

He said the best times for viewing the cars was between 9 am and 10 pm on Saturday and from 9 am to 9.30am on Sunday and Monday.

'NEWS', Friday, November 1, 1996.

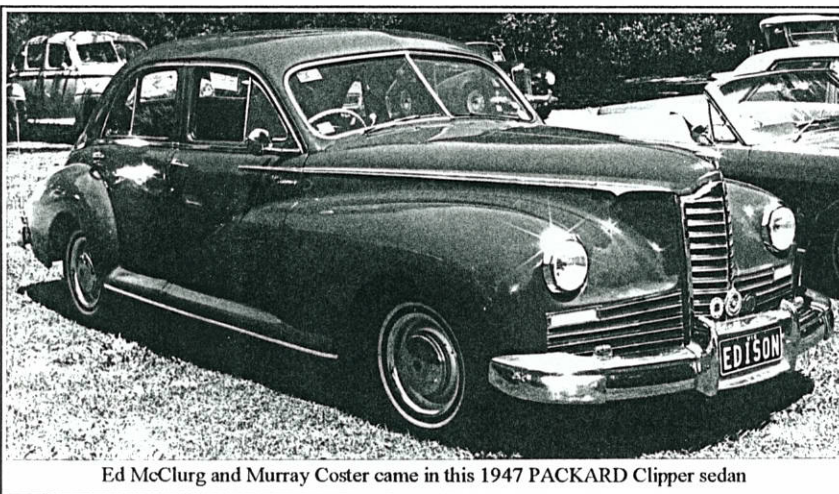
Saturday morning looked good as we all gathered at Lemnos Clubrooms for a welcome from local member, Don Kilgour MLA, who apologised in advance for the state of the roads in the area!

We set off towards our destination, "Noorilim", taking



Ron and Lorna Melbourne's 1936 BUICK 8/40 sedan

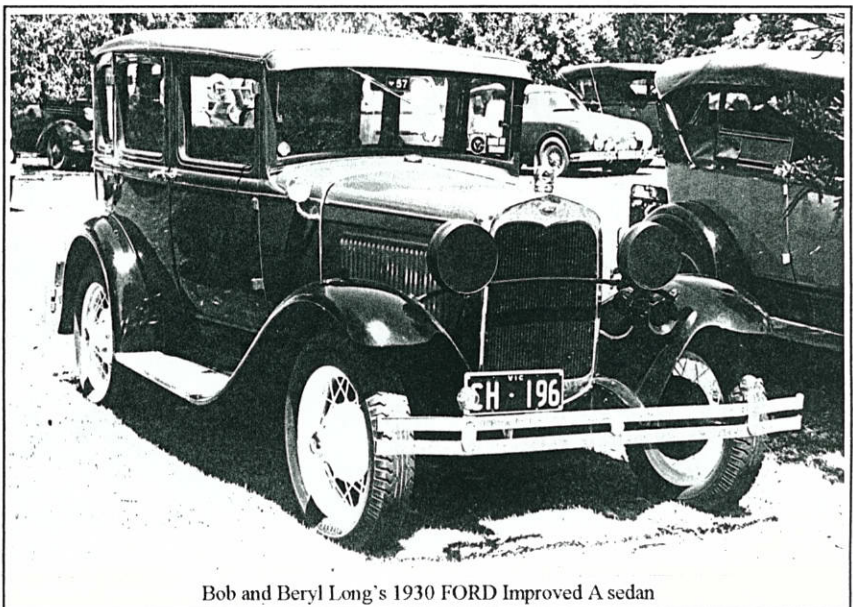
the route past it's sister homestead, Dhurringile Prison. What a contrast in present uses when both started out as the same thing - very luxurious country homes. We arrived at "Noorilim" to find a



Ed McClurg and Murray Coster came in this 1947 PACKARD Clipper sedan

large marquee in the grounds just east of the lake. Unfortunately it was for another function and, after a breathtaking tour of the home, we were forced to eat our lunch in the magnificent gardens, surrounded by peacocks and ducks.

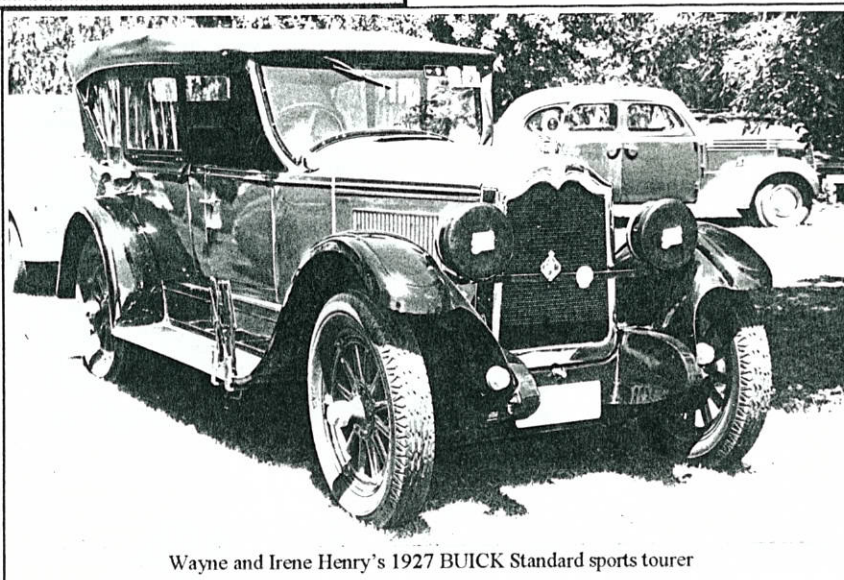
After lunch we looked through Bryan Thomson's car and motorcycle collection that is housed in a large brick building to the west of the homestead. Jaguar fans like me would love to have what was in that building! We also looked through Loel Thomson's collection of period clothing. It's not often you see genuine evening gowns and day clothes from the 1920s, and even earlier. She also has a lot of accessories such as handbags to go with the outfits.



Bob and Beryl Long's 1930 FORD Improved A sedan

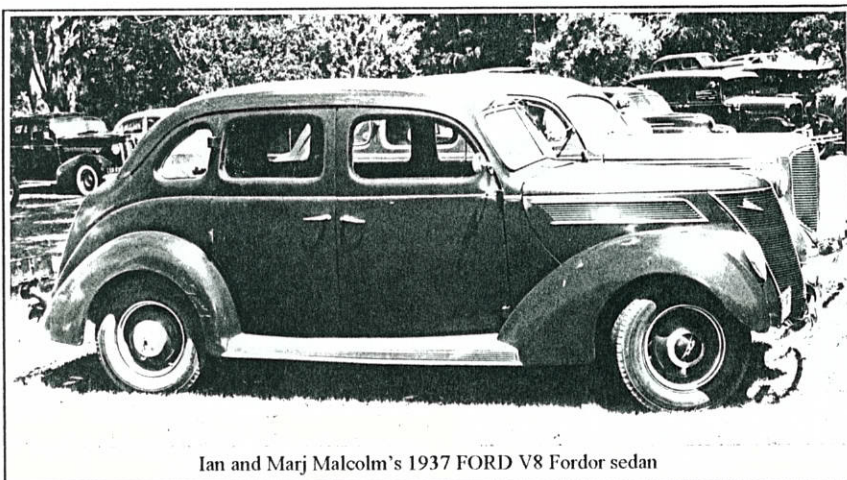
Rally Report cont.

We had a good roll up for the spit roast evening function. Our only problem was the music - due to a death in the family, the musicians we had booked pulled out at the last minute. Fortunately for us, the replacement seemed to be very popular.



Wayne and Irene Henry's 1927 BUICK Standard sports tourer

Sunday morning we headed south for morning tea at Murchison, in the park on the banks of



Ian and Marj Malcolm's 1937 FORD V8 Fordor sedan

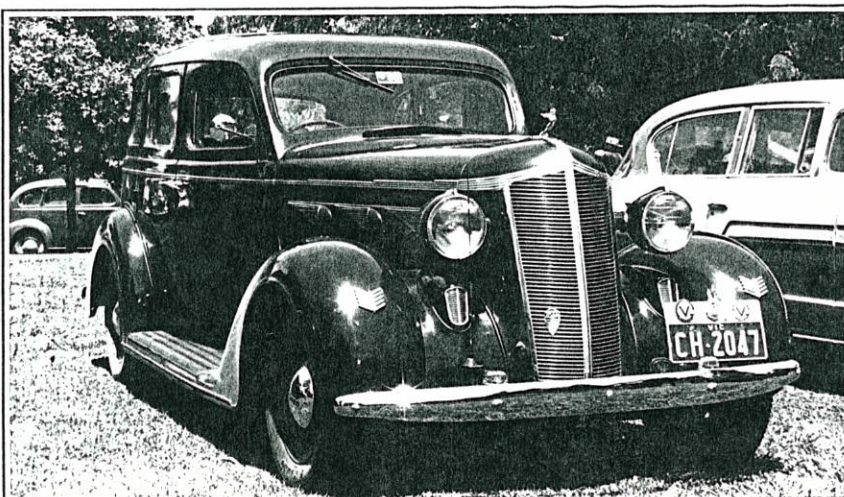
the Goulburn River. As always, morning tea of scones and cream, etc was lovely. The weather was looking a bit threatening, though.

We drove south to Goulburn Weir via Kirwan's Bridge and Nagambie for lunch and an interesting talk on the

history of irrigation in the area and how it is handled today. While we were here it started to rain, but not enough to worry us.

We pressed on towards Waranga Basin later in the afternoon, with the rain progressively getting heavier. By the time we got there, the rain was so heavy, we got drenched in the minute it took to decide to go straight to Shepp for a cuppa!

(Somebody suggested it was to show the full irrigation story, right from the start!)

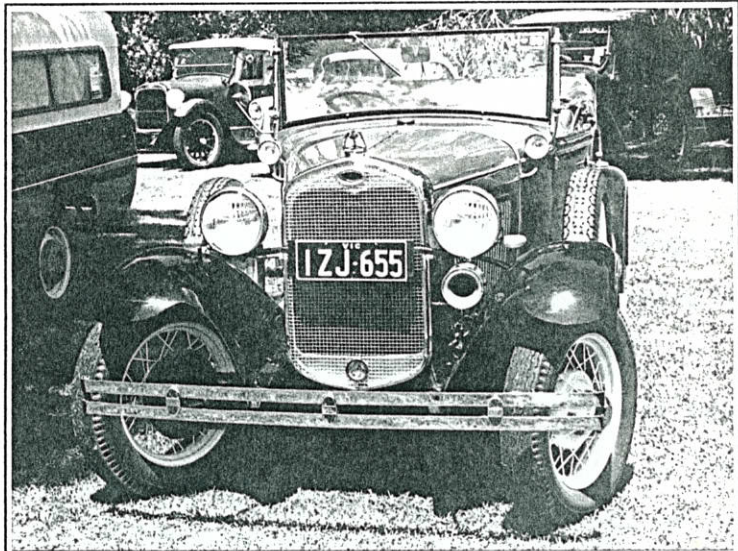


Gary and Jenny Whitford's 1936 DE SOTO S1 Custom sedan

Monday was a much nicer day for a drive out to Tatura, where we looked over Agriculture Victoria's Institute for Sustainable Irrigated Agriculture (the name is fairly new!) and Pickworths' Orchard across the road - two very interesting places.

Ag Vic's Institute had four different tours for us to go on. I went on the one relating to their computer system

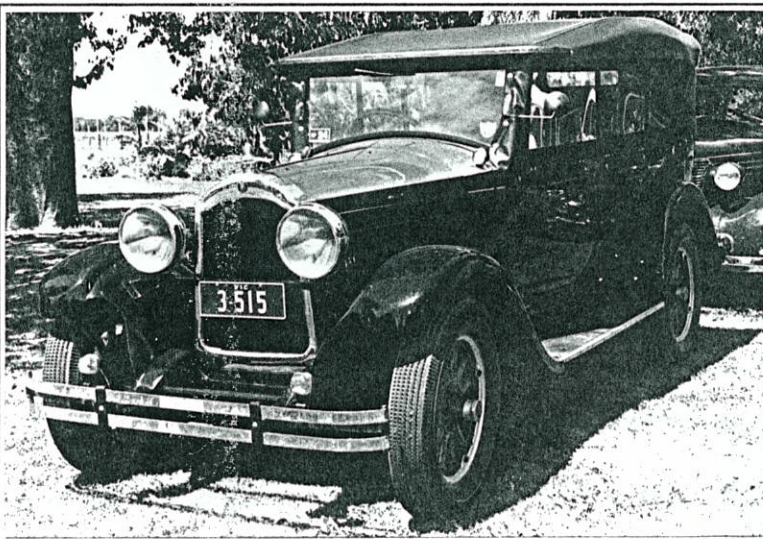
because I'm interested in them, but other tours were on education and crop disease, etc. The fruit



George Holman and Kaye Willis came in this 1930 FORD sports roadster

processing was highlighted at Pickworths'. They can have fresh fruit on supermarket shelves in England 60 hours after it's picked.

After morning tea we headed to the Golden Cow Dairy Education Centre in Tongala where we learned a bit about the dairy cows and irrigation, although several rally participants from Gippsland already knew a bit about it!



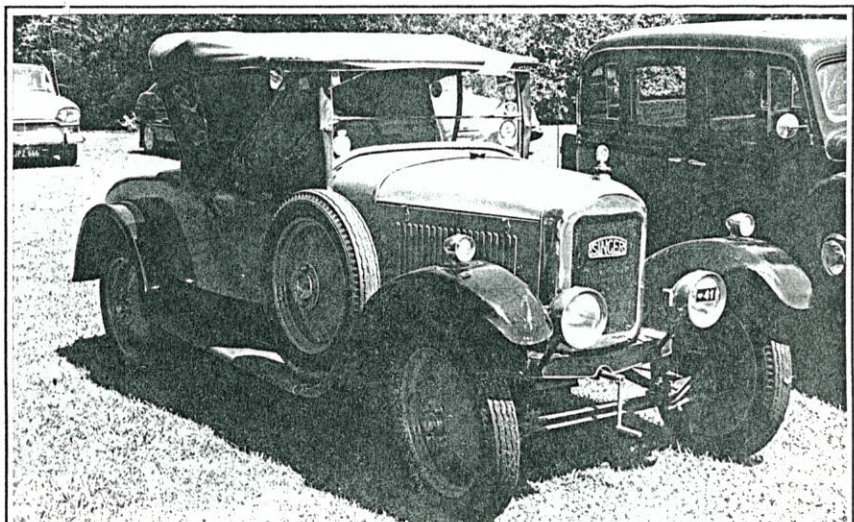
Tom and Marj Hogan came in their 1928 WILLYS KNIGHT 70A tourer

Quite a few cars dropped in to the Connection on the way back to Shepp for afternoon tea.

The Dinner Dance that night was a very enjoyable evening where just about everybody got a prize, some having to tell a joke to get theirs!

About 60 entrants were still in town for BBQ breakfast on Tuesday, and all had their fill before heading home after another great Rally of the Valley. I wonder where we'll go to next year.

Brendan Walsh



John and Joyce Robertson's 1926 SINGER 10hp roadster