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Kenneth George Hall (1901-1994)

Ken Hall apparently saw his first film at Jerdan's Moving Pictures at North Sydney Oval in 1908 sitting on the grass with his parents. He went on to make 17 films between 1932 and 1940 as well as many documentaries concluding with "The Kurnell Story" in 1957.

All this with Hall's philosophy of minimum Government subsidy or interference and every film made with an eye firmly on the Box Office. He had a very firm business sense and was often accused of being a populist. This he may have been but his brand of populism appealed to the mass of Australian people and this was the secret of his success. Even in the 1990's when such films as "Lovers and Luggers" and "Dad Rudd M. P." are shown at special events such as The Festival of Sydney hundreds of people tun up to see them, his films apparently having timeless appeal.

Ken Hall was born 22nd February 1901, the third son of Charles Thomas Hall and Florence Hall, his brother and sister being ten and eleven years older than him. Hall's Grandparents were all English migrants.

Those early films that Hall saw, sometimes illegally by climbing over the fence, were different from those he was to make later in life. They were mostly European and consisted of 3 to 10 minutes of scenes, travel and short melodramas among other novelties. Ken Hall claimed he was born at the same time as movies, electric light, ice cream, aeroplanes, telephone, motor cars and gramophone, a true child of the twentieth century! After doing reasonably well at school, including winning a Gold Medal for Composition as it was called in those days, Hall won a scholarship to High School. His favourite subjects appear to have been History, Geography and English with a strong dislike for Mathematics.

Hall commenced work as a cadet reporter with "The Sydney Evening News" in 1916 and it was in this job that he had his first brush with censorship. He wanted to print a story about a freighter on route to Sydney being hit by a German raider but was prevented by censorship.

