

## THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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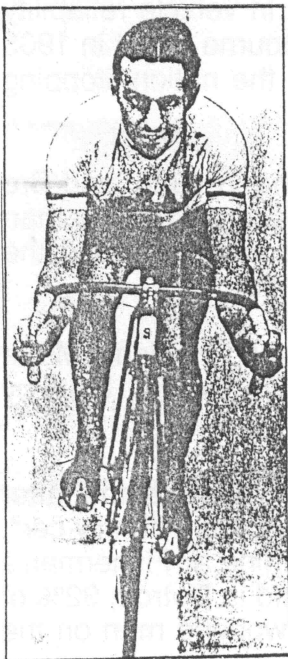
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### VROOOM !!!

When I was a boy growing up in wartime Sydney, the family car was still on the drawing board and, as a result of petrol rationing, anyone considered wealthy enough to own a car, had little opportunity to drive it out of the garage.

Bicycles, known to all as push bikes, were the popular means of personal transport for adults and kids alike and there was great rivalry between those of us who rode a *Speedwell* and considered ourselves in every way superior to the "jerks" who had a *Malvern Star*. The *Speedwell* crowd named the others "stovepipes" and there were frequent street races to decide who had the superior bike with great attention being paid to the skill or physical endurance of the rider.

It was *Speedwell* versus *Malvern Star* and that was all that mattered.



EDGAR 'DUNC' GRAY

Fifty years later I learnt that *Speedwell* was the choice of Bro Dunc Gray, the 1932 Olympic gold medallist who had been made a mason at Goulburn on 13 April 1932 in Lodge Duke of Edinburgh No. 76, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

I also discovered that the *Malvern Star* had been made an Australian icon along with professional cycling champion, Bro Hubert Opperman. Sir Hubert had been made a mason at the south-eastern Melbourne suburb of Malvern on 23 December 1925 in The Stonnington Lodge No. 368, United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

With World War II over, the motor car re-emerged and attracted the attention of the push bike brigade who turned their competitive instinct to a comparison of the shiny new American models.

There were makes such as Ford, Oldsmobile, Nash, Chrysler and Willys. Each of the men who gave their name to these cars were Freemasons.

The first mechanically propelled, four wheeled vehicle designed and built in Australia made its first run in 1894 at the South Australian Murray River town of Mannum. Powered by a small steam plant, it was the work of Bro David Shearer who became a mason at Adelaide on 15 June 1893 in Leopold Lodge No. 31, Grand Lodge of South Australia.

On 11 February 1898, he joined Murray Bridge Lodge No. 44 and, on 27 July 1920, he

