

## THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PAPER No. 152

PREPARED & PRESENTED BY: J.T. RUXTON

DATE: 25 FEBRUARY 2008

## BRO. LEO DENNIS (LUCKY) GRILLS 1928 - 2007 AUSTRALIAN ENTERTAINER

Lucky Grills has been described as one of Australia's most versatile entertainers and actors with a career spanning 30 years in the entertainment industry.

Playing in the following TV shows: Matlock Police, Division 4, Chopper Squad, Glenview High, You Say the Word, Bluey, Holiday Island, A Country Practice and many more.

He appeared in films Caddie, The Money Movers, Molly and Fast Talking as well as many others.

Grills was born in Hobart, Tasmania on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1928 and was perhaps best known for his portrayal of the unconventional detective "Bluey Hills" in 1976 in "Bluey" as mentioned earlier.

Being a kid of the depression Lucky can recall money being pretty scarce when he was growing up. "We didn't have a lot of money......Mum taught us that you only got out of life what you put into it." Said Lucky. Back then children were expected to entertain themselves, which is how Lucky learnt to play the clown. Lucky's sister even won a prize for singing which was presented to her by Dame Nellie Melba. After the family left Hobart they moved to a farm near Burnie where to this day Lucky still has relatives.

On his last visit to Tasmania in the mid 1990s Lucky visited the old farm. "It was wonderful to go back and find all that nostalgia was still there," he said, somewhat surprised the building was in a similar condition to how it was when he lived there.

He was introduced to a new and younger audience in the 1990s in a show called "The Late Show" in which he played a character called "Bargearse"

## MASONIC DETAILS

Leo Dennis Grills was initiated, passed and raised in the three degrees of Freemasonry on 22nd April, 24<sup>th</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> August 1978 in Lodge Thespian No 256, UGL of NSW & ACT

He called off on 120th November 1994 and died peacefully on 27th July 2007.

## **REFERENCES**

Wikipedia M & H Veitch, Australia's Entertainers

Grills as Det. Sgt. "Bluey" Hills in Bluey

Leo Grills Birth name

Born

26 May 1928

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Died

27 July 2007 (aged 79)

Queensland, Australia

