



## THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PAPER No. 164

PREPARED & DELIVERED BY: D.G. Davis

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Bro. WALTER JAMES CRYER I  
Wor. Bro. WALTER JAMES CRYER II  
Very Wor. Bro. WALTER JAMES CRYER III

### MASTER PRINTERS

From 1910 until 1945, there was scarcely a form or printed document of any kind that left the office of Grand Lodge that did not bear the name of the printer, and until 1920, that name was Gibbs, Cryer & Company. This Company also published and supplied bound lodge Minute Books, Dues Books and Presence Books and they also printed many of the lodge's notice papers and installation programs.

The Company also compiled, printed and published firstly, from 1905, the *Keystone* which became the *N.S.W. Freemason*. This first series of the *Freemason* ceased publication with issue dated February 1960.

Bro. Walter James Cryer Snr., established the Company in 1903 at premises in Kent Street, Sydney. They later moved to a building in Arnold Place off Oxford Street, Darlinghurst and later again moved to 99 Marriott Street, Redfern. Finally the Company operated from premises at 75 Union Street, Dulwich Hill.

### A Happy New Year To Our Readers.

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99 Marriott St., Redfern

Bro. Walter James Cryer Snr., was born in 1861. He was initiated into Freemasonry in Lodge Wisdom No. 412 on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1911 and affiliated with Lodge Lindfield No. 362 on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1927, having moved to that suburb. Lodge Lindfield No. 362 was consecrated in the Lodge Kuring-gai Lodge room at the Chatswood Town Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1920.

Bro. Cryer was a kindly man, a lover of the Craft and an enthusiastic supporter of the proposal to build a Masonic Temple in Lindfield. He was elected to the committee to investigate the proposition. He attended many meetings regarding this matter and attended the Emergent Meeting on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 1934 at which it was decided to go ahead and build. He was particularly pleased with the decision.

At 10.30 pm. that night he returned home from the meeting very happy and satisfied with the outcome.

He went to work the following morning apparently in good health but died suddenly in his office chair at about 10 am. on the Thursday (19<sup>th</sup> July 1934).

His son, Walter James Cryer II then took over the printing business and was appointed Chairman and Managing Director.

An obituary was published in the Freemason of 1<sup>st</sup> February 1940, following the death of Mrs Agnes Cryer, wife of Walter James Cryer Snr. It read:

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**The late Mrs Agnes Cryer.**

Mrs Agnes Cryer, widow of the late Bro. W.J. Cryer, founder of the firm of W.J. Cryer and Co. Pty. Ltd., proprietors of *the 'N.S.W. Freemason'*, died after a short illness at her residence in Lindfield on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January, in her 82<sup>nd</sup> year.

Mrs Cryer was born in Liverpool, England and came to Australia fifty-seven years ago. With her husband, she was an active worker for the Methodist Church at Leichhardt, Homebush and Lindfield.

The largely attended service held in the Lindfield Methodist Church on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1940, conducted by Rev. G.E. Johnston, B.A., and the many floral tributes, gave evidence of the high esteem in which she was held. Following the service, the interment took place in the Northern Suburbs Cemetery.

Mrs Cryer is survived by two sons, Wor. Bros. W.J. Cryer II of Lodge Lindfield and C.S. Cryer of Lodge Service, and three daughters, Mrs M.A. Slinn, and the Misses Lily and Ruby Cryer.

Mrs Cryer took a great interest in the Craft. Her husband, the late Bro. W.J. Cryer, was a member of Lodge Lindfield at the time of his death. Her son, Wor. Bro. W.J. Cryer II is a Past Master, and her grandson, Bro. W.J. Cryer, jnr., is a Steward of that Lodge whose members showed their practical sympathy with Mrs Cryer during her illness.

Her other son, Wor. Bro. C.S. Cryer is a Past Master of Lodge Service No. 537 at Burwood.

The sympathy of the Brethren is extended to her family.

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Wor. Bro. Walter James Cryer II was born at Leichhardt in 1892 and was educated at Burwood School. At the age of 14 years he commenced work with Gibbs, Cryer as a machinist, completing his course with that firm.

In 1913 he went to America to gain further experience in the printing trade and, on account of a seamen's strike, worked as assistant cook to reach America.

On his return to Sydney and at the outbreak of World War I in 1914, he immediately joined the Light Horse for service.

Shortly after the death of his father he became Manager of the firm and in 1919, was joined by his brother, Cecil who had just been discharged from the army to assist with the business.

In 1920 they purchased the interest of Gibbs and then became known as W.J. Cryer & Co. In 1923 he was appointed Manager and subsequently, Chairman and Managing Director in 1934.

In 1929 and again in 1938 he journeyed around the world combining business with pleasure.

The *Freemason* reported their departure in 1938 :

Wor. Bro. W.J. Cryer and Mrs Cryer left Sydney on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April by the Nieu Holland on a six month's trip, travelling via Java, India, the Continent, England, Scotland and America.

The staff of Cryerian House entertained them at Cahill's Restaurant, Pitt Street, on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April. The good feeling which exists between the Directorate and staff of W.J. Cryer & Co., Pty., Ltd., made the function a most successful and happy one. Wor. Bro. and Mrs Cryer were the recipients of gifts from the staff and Bro. George Rees provided excellent items of entertainment.

Again the *Freemason* reported on their return :

Wor. Bro. W.J. Cryer, Managing Director of W.J. Cryer & Co., Pty., Ltd., proprietors and publishers of the New South Wales *Freemason* returned to Sydney on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1938, accompanied by Mrs Cryer, after a six months business and pleasure trip to the Continent of Europe, England, Scotland and America.

He found Masonry in the European countries visited, under a cloud, and in some of them, non-existent. In London he visited the Peace Memorial Temple which every Mason should see when visiting the world's metropolis, as it is a magnificent building, craftsmen from all over the world, who were specialists in their work being employed, so that everything is of the best in the building, expense being a secondary consideration. . . . . The Grand Lodge room is a gorgeous apartment and there are 17 other Lodge rooms of various sizes, all beautiful in their way. The library and museum contain a wonderful collection of rare treasures, much of which has been donated by the surviving relations of deceased Brethren. . . . .

The report went on to cover his visits to Masonic Temples in Edinburgh, New York and Chicago and he also met the Editors of a number of overseas Masonic journals. He was not impressed by the manner of dress worn in American lodges and he gained the impression that there was a lack of dignity in respect to Masonry compared with Masonry in England, Scotland and Australia. He remarked that the outlook on life generally in America was very different to what it is in Australia and although he brought back many pleasant memories, he is still of the opinion that Australia is the best place to live in.

The business results from these trips were soon apparent in the reorganisation of the firm and the introduction of new machinery and ideas.

A living monument to his memory were two fine rotary presses called the 'Crytin,' invented by him and built in Sydney during the war years and under his supervision.

A keen believer in the ability of Australians to produce the goods necessary for the public, he fitted out a travelling caravan in 1932 with 'Cryterion' products for the purpose of educating the public.

As an executive member of the Master Printer's Association, he was chosen to work out an educational scheme, particularly pre-vocational for the printing trade and, as a result of his investigations, he submitted a comprehensive scheme to the Association.

To clear up difficulties in the industry he organised a weekly luncheon at the Masonic Club, where he and other Master Printers discussed means of overcoming these difficulties.

The welfare of his employees was one of concern to him and the Mutual Improvement Club established at the works, resulted not only in a better understanding between the employer and employee, but a better knowledge of some of the intricacies of the printing trade. The welfare of all with whom he came in contact was a driving force in his character.

For many years he was a member of Pymble Golf Club but his health in his latter years prevented him from taking an active part in the Club's activities.

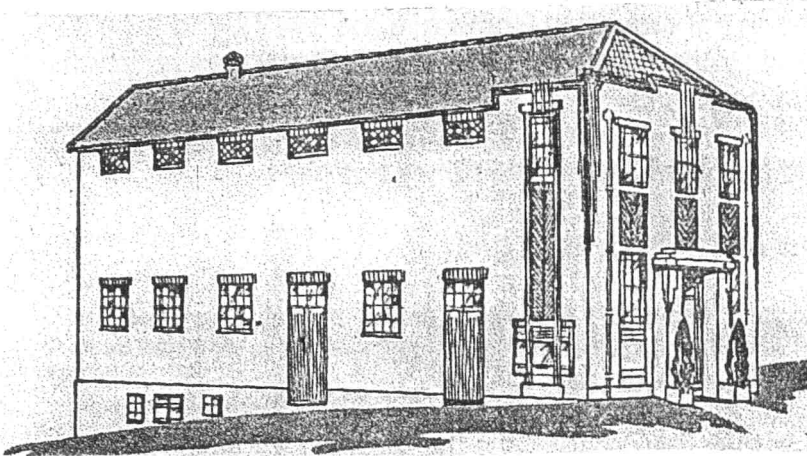
Wor. Bro. Walter James Cryer II was initiated in Lodge Beresford No. 161 on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1923 which met in the Petersham Masonic Temple and he occupied several offices during his time in that Lodge.

On taking up residence in Lindfield, he affiliated with Lodge Lindfield No. 362 on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1925.

After serving many of the offices, he was installed as Wor. Master for the term 1933/1934. He then served as Director of Ceremonies for many years.

Finally with the Lindfield Masonic Temple completed, the Lodge room was dedicated on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1935 by the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. F.A. Maquire, CMC, DSO, VD., in a "most impressive ceremony".

At the conclusion of the Dedication Ceremony, the Grand Master unveiled several items including a beautiful Tracing Board donated to the memory of Bro. Walter J. Cryer Snr., which was presented by the members of his family.



Line drawing of the Masonic Temple erected at Lindfield.

Wor. Bro. W.J. Cryer II was largely instrumental in the formation of the Lindfield Mark Lodge and, at its consecration, he became the Foundation Junior Warden.

During his term as Wor. Master of Lodge Lindfield, he gave great impetus to the social side of the Craft and that social spirit, implanted by him, remained in existence until the Lodge's demise in the 1990's.

The N.S.W. Freemason of 1<sup>st</sup> September 1937 carried the following report under the heading:

#### **Lodge Lindfield No. 362. Father initiates son.**

At the regular meeting of the Lodge held on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1937 the Initiation Ceremony was carried out by the Past Masters.

Wor. Bro. W.J. Treloar, Wor. Master, having received many visitors, invited Wor. Bro. W.J. Cryer, D of C. of the Lodge to take the Chair and initiate his son, Mr W.J. Cryer, jnr., a Lewis.

The regular officers vacated their chairs in favour of the Past Masters, that of Senior Warden being taken by Wor. Bro. C.S. Cryer, uncle of the candidate.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, V.Wor. Bro. T.E. McDonald, P.P.B.B. presented Bro. Cryer with a copy of the Volume of the Sacred Law as a personal gift.

Wor. Bro. Cryer expressed his appreciation of the privilege accorded him by the Wor. Master of initiating his son, who is the third generation of the family to hold membership of Lodge Lindfield.

Among the visiting Brethren were many personal friends of Wor. Bro. W.J. Cryer and his son.

Bro. Walter James Cryer III was passed Fellowcraft on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1937 and raised a Master Mason on 24<sup>th</sup> November of that year.

Bro. Walter J. Cryer III (jnr.) Was born in Clovelly in 1917 but shortly afterwards the family moved to Lindfield where he grew up.

At the age of 16, he joined the family printing business which had been established by his grandfather in 1903.

The printery was then in Darlinghurst but moved to Redfern in the 1940's and then in the 1960's to Dulwich Hill. The old Redfern premises in Marriott Street was recycled as apartments and named 'The Printery.'

Walter's sole intention was to lead a peaceful life in the family business.

The *Freemason* stated in the issue of 1<sup>st</sup> March 1939 that:

Bro. Walter Cryer, Junior, of Lodge Lindfield, son of the Managing Director of W.J. Cryer and Co., leaves this month for a visit to England and America where he will gain experience in the most up-to-date methods of printing. He will be absent for about six months.

He was in Germany two weeks before the outbreak of the Second World War and was caught up in the frantic exodus by any means of transport available.

Another report in the *Freemason* of November 1939:

Bro. Walter J. Cryer jnr., son of the Managing Director of W.J. Cryer & Co., proprietors of this journal, left London on 21<sup>st</sup> October on his return home. He has been gaining experience in the printing trade in America and England. We wish him a safe passage.

And yet another report the following month:

Bro. W.J. Cryer jnr., has returned to Sydney after a sojourn in America and England. The main object of his trip was to gain experience in the printing trade in both countries where he made contact with the Craft. Unfortunately most of the Lodges were in recess for the summer in England and the precautionary measures taken at the outbreak of war further restricted Bro. Cryer's opportunities for visiting. He is quite convinced that Australia is the best country to live in.

From the *Freemason* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1940:

**Lindfield Mark Lodge No. 104.**

A large gathering of Mark Master Masons, 76 in all, among whom were some of our Scottish Brethren, attended the Installation of Bro. Walter J. Cryer II at the Lindfield Masonic Temple on 13<sup>th</sup> March. He is one of the founders, and at the Dedication Ceremony just twelve months ago he was invested as Junior Warden.

The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. H.B. Mathews was present, and was accompanied by no less than nineteen Grand Officers. M. Ex. Comp. E. Dyson Austen, Past Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, was present, also another prominent member of that Order M. Ex. Comp. Harry Ford, P. Gr. Scribe.

The Installing Master was M. W. Bro. W.C. Wettone, P.G.M., and as his capacity is well known to Mark Brethren, there is little need to remark that the Installation Ceremony was carried out faultlessly and impressively.

There was another report in the *Freemason*, this time regarding Wor. Bro. Cryer II on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1943 :

Wor. Bro. W.J. Cryer of Lodge Lindfield and Managing Director of the firm bearing his name has been on the sick list for some time and on the recommendation of his medical advisor is taking a complete rest.

In the early days of the firm of W.J. Cryer and Co., the interest in Masonry, which has remained unabated, prompted the publication of *The N.S.W. Freemason*, and this publication received his whole-hearted support.

Safely back in Australia, Walter jnr., joined the R.A.A.F. and learned to fly Tiger Moths and has won his wings as a Sergeant Pilot. We hear that he is likely to go overseas shortly. We wish him good hunting and a safe return.

He journeyed overseas and flew Lancasters with Bomber Command in England. He and his crew flew an amazing 35 missions, virtually without mishap - a remarkable survival record given that the average life of a bomber crew was six weeks.

Of the 125,000 air crew who served in Bomber Command, almost half, 55,500 were killed. (The R.A.A.F. men who fought for Bomber Command amounted to less than 2 per cent of all enlisted Australians in World War II, yet they made up almost 20 per cent of all Australian combat deaths.

A letter to his family from England was published in the *Freemason* :

Bro. Walter J. Cryer of Lodge Lindfield, son of the Managing Director of W.J. Cryer and Co., who recently arrived in England for further training as a Sergeant-Pilot, when writing to his parents, said that he was amazed at the industry of the English women who are doing so much to provide food for the nation. Every available patch of ground is growing food and the women of England are providing the greatest part of the labour. The disregard of air-raids was another topic of comment. Bro. Cryer says in his letter, written from London: "Whilst half-way through having a haircut yesterday, the sirens went. It wasn't a pleasant feeling but it made me marvel at the people. There was not the slightest sign of panic. Very few people went to the shelters; the majority kept to business. The barber kept on cutting my hair and buses and cars kept moving in the street. Shops remained open and women still wandered from shop to shop after their purchases. Certainly no one was worried and I am sure this is the only reason that England, particularly London, has kept going. I've been marvelling at the Englishman from the time I met some on the boat. We did quite a long train trip from our point of disembarkation to our present station and all the way were cheerful people with their victory gardens, all working hard. I've not seen a vacant field in England or Scotland and the shops are surprisingly well stocked. You can purchase goods here that were hard to get in Sydney 18 months ago. I am very glad that things are not as hard to get in England as I thought because the people here deserve what pleasures they can get as it is a big factor, I'm sure in winning the war.

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On their last operation, flying towards the target in the middle of the night over heavily armed German territory in the midst of a storm, all the propellers lit up in a dazzling display of the phenomenon, "St. Elmo's Fire".

This final operation - always the most fraught with superstition - coincided with his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 1944.

From the issue dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1945 of the *N.S.W. Freemason* :

It was with pleasure that we welcomed back to Australia F/O Wal Cryer, son of our Managing Director. Bro. Wal has been serving aboard for two years with the R.A.A.F. and his experiences have been varied. We trust that now he will be able to remain with us.

From the *Freemason* of October 1945:

**MASTER PRINTERS**

**Entertained by W.J. Cryer & Co.**

A number of interstate Master Printers called at the office of the *N.S.W. Freemason* on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1945, on their return from the Convention held in Brisbane. They were cordially invited to inspect the plant, and, after a tour of the works, were entertained at afternoon tea by the Managing Director, Wor. Bro. W.J. Cryer.

Sadly, after a long illness, Wor. Bro. Walter James Cryer II died on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1946 at the age of 53.



The late Wor. Bro. Walter James Cryer.



And yet another snippet from the *Freemason* : -

**F. / Lt. W.J. Cryer**

Upon his return to Sydney, he was awarded the DFC. Bro. W.J. Cryer III, DFC., Secretary of the firm of W.J. Cryer & Co., Pty., Ltd., our publishers was invested with the DFC by the Governor-General, His Excellency W.J. McKell, on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 1947. F./Lt. Cryer served in England in R.A.F. Squadron No. 149 and took part in many sorties over enemy territory in Europe. He commenced his tour of operations in Stirling Bombers and then in Lancasters, doing low level flying over France supplying the Resistance movements. He completed his service in bombing raids over Germany.

We congratulate our Brother on his distinguished award although this honour was in no small measure also due to his crew. All four Australian members of that crew - Wal, Tony Adams, Jim Bateman and Geoff Jones had met every Anzac Day for 60 years.

Two reports published in the N.S.W. Freemason on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1946 and on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1948 under the heading : -

**PERSONAL**

**Wor. Bro. Cecil S. Cryer**

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Wor. Bro. C.S. Cryer to the office of Managing Director of the firm of W.J. Cryer & Co. Ltd., rendered vacant by the death of his brother Walter.

Wor. Bro. C.S. Cryer has been actively associated with the firm since 1919 on his return from the World War 1914 - 1918.

In 1923 he was appointed Director and Secretary and held that office until his recent appointment.

He was initiated in Lodge Service No. 537, served all the offices, and was installed as Master in 1933.

We extend our congratulations to him on his new appointment.

Wor. Bro. C.S. Cryer.



Our congratulations are extended to Wor. Bro. C.S. Cryer on his recent election to the office of President of the N.S.W. Master Printers and Allied Trades' Association.

Mr Cryer entered the firm of W.J. Cryer & Co., on his return from World War I and was appointed Director and Secretary which he held until 1946 when he succeeded his brother, the late Wor. Bro. W.J. Cryer as Managing Director.

He was always interested in the Craft and through his efforts the N.S.W. Freemason increased in size despite the various restrictions associated with the times.

From the Freemason of 1<sup>st</sup> May 1945 :

**PERSONAL**

F/ Lieut. W.J. Cryer

The information that Bro. Wal Cryer, son of our Managing Director, had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross was received with great enthusiasm by his many friends.

We congratulate him on being the recipient of this very special signal honour.

The citation states : -

"Flight-Lieut. W.J. Cryer has completed numerous operations against the enemy in the course of which he has invariably displayed the utmost fortitude, courage and devotion to duty".



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**LODGE LINDFIELD**

A feature of the Anzac Meeting of Lodge Lindfield on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1945 was the welcome extended to Bro. W.J. Cryer, jnr., by the Wor. Master whilst investing him as a Steward, to which office he had been elected from year to year during his absence on service with the R.A.A.F.

The Wor. Master expressed the pride of the Lodge in the exploits of Bro. Cryer and congratulated him on being the recipient of the D.F.C., in recognition of his gallant services.

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After his discharge, Bro. Cryer took a great interest in the affairs of the Lodge and subsequently, after serving all the offices over a number of years, was installed as Wor. Master for the term, 1955/1956

After his year as Immediate Past Master, he followed in his late father's footsteps and served as Director of Ceremonies for many years.

For his service to Freemasonry, Wor. Bro. Walter J. Cryer III was conferred with the rank of Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1969. He was further honoured with the rank of Past District Grand Inspector of Workings on 14 June 1978.

After the war, Walter Cryer III became Managing Director of the family printing business.

He discovered a new product being pioneered by a printing company in California.

This was a self-adhesive label - the sticker found on almost every bottle of wine, fruit juice container and cosmetics bottle in every supermarket, pharmacy and bottle shop.

Walter Cryer, who introduced the technology here in 1956, can rightfully be called the "father of self-adhesive labels" in Australia and was greatly honoured, some four decades later, by being granted the label industry's "Hall of Fame" award in the year 2000.

He received other accolades including a term as President of the N.S.W. Chamber of Manufacturers, and was awarded one of Rotary's highest honours.

The Company was having trouble with the escalating costs of producing the *New South Wales Freemason* and by 1960, had no alternative but to cease publication of the journal.

On the following pages are reproductions of articles explaining the closure from the final issues of the *Freemason* and a few of the numerous of letters received by the publishers after the announcement of the closure.

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Vol. LIV

SYDNEY, N.S.W., NOVEMBER 2, 1959

No. 11

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## THE NEW SOUTH WALES FREEMASON TO CEASE PUBLICATION

Announcement is made by the Proprietors, Messrs. W. J. Cryer & Co. Ltd., that after 54 years of existence, The New South Wales Freemason will cease publication with the issue of the February, 1960 edition, and that the amount of unexpired subscriptions will be duly returned.

This decision was not made without considerable thought being given to find means of increasing the circulation and thereby ensuring increased revenue, but all ideas examined so far have proved impracticable.

First published in 1905 under the name of "The Keystone" the policy of The New South Wales Freemason has never embraced a profit motive. Had it done so the Journal would have long since ceased to exist. On the contrary an ever growing financial loss has been borne by the Proprietors in the belief that the Journal was an effective instrument in helping to improve the standard of Freemasonry and assisting its growth throughout the State by bringing to readers each month increased Masonic knowledge and information concerning its cultural activities.

Continuous and steeply rising costs of production have now reached a level resulting in a financial burden which the Proprietors justifiably feel they can no longer fairly be expected to bear.

On the basis of present audited circulation figures continuance of the Journal would necessitate a subscription rate of £2 per annum.

Some readers may feel that means may yet be found to ensure continued circulation of the Journal, but sympathisers should realise that the practicability of any further scheme proposed for its continuance must be determined by the measure of support and co-operation that would be given by the whole Craft throughout New South Wales. It cannot be denied that a majority of Brethren have been content to sit on the sidelines and watch the few in their strivings to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

Today, Lodges under the jurisdiction of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales number more than 870 with an aggregate membership exceeding 135,000. These figures

speaks for themselves, and reflect a condition of apathy and indifference which renders the task of closing down The New South Wales Freemason all the more sad.

## Important Announcement by the Proprietors

It would appear that with the issue of the February, 1960 edition, publication of THE NEW SOUTH WALES FREEMASON will cease.

Continuous and steeply rising costs of production have reached a point so greatly in excess of revenue from circulation and advertising that the financial burden is more than we can fairly be expected to continue to carry.

While we feel that this decision will disappoint a number of readers, we regret the same experience has forced many Journals circulating in the Masonic world to close down.

Circumstances indicate that after 54 years of existence THE NEW SOUTH WALES FREEMASON joins them.

In February, 1960, we shall be returning to readers and advertisers the amount of their unexpired subscriptions.

W. J. CRYER & CO. LTD.

# The N.S.W. FREEMASON

REGISTERED UNDER THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF N.S.W.

OFFICE — 75 UNION STREET, DULWICH HILL

Business and Editorial Phone - - - - - 56-0315

SUBSCRIPTION: 17/6 per annum, 30/- for two years, in advance, post free. 2/- per single copy.

*"The New South Wales Freemason" is now in its fifty-fourth year of publication, the oldest Masonic Journal in Australia.*

*"The New South Wales Freemason" is published to provide the means of disseminating news of immediate interest to the Craft. Its views are in no way those of any official of Grand Lodge, but its own. It does not necessarily agree with the view expressed by any contributor or correspondent; but inserts appropriate and non-critical articles for the aforesaid dissemination of Masonic news.*

*Articles on Masonic subjects, personal paragraphs, brief reports of Lodge news, and items of general Masonic interest, are always welcome, and should reach us not later than 15th of the month. Copy for Advertisements must reach us not later than 10th of the month.*

FEBRUARY, FULL MOON, 13th

MARCH, FULL MOON, 13th

Vol. LV

SYDNEY, N.S.W., FEBRUARY 1, 1960

No. 2

## THE FINAL ISSUE

Upon going to press with this, the final issue of THE NEW SOUTH WALES FREEMASON, we acknowledge with deep gratitude many more letters received all expressing regret at cessation of publication.

Some correspondents seem to have gained an impression that the decision to close down the Journal was made without testing the feelings of our Masonic Leaders concerning the impending crisis.

As stated in our Editorial for November, 1959, the "decision was not made without considerable thought" and exploration of all possible avenues to find a solution to the problem.

It is true that the circumstances which have brought about the end of the Journal did not develop overnight, and, it is now scrupulously fair to record that as far back as the year 1955 the difficulties affecting publication were explained before our Masonic Leaders, and that a conference took place with a sub-Committee of The Board of General Purposes.

In discussing the problem, emphasis was placed on the fact that the Proprietors did not seek direct financial support, and, that co-operation

only was sought to formulate, for approval by Grand Lodge, a plan under which every Mason in good standing within the jurisdiction would become a subscriber.

It was, too, particularly stressed that the principal objective in publishing the Journal was promotion of a higher standard of Masonic education in our Lodges.

It is now not the intention of the Editor to apportion blame but to deplore the catastrophe that has been allowed to overtake Masonry in New South Wales.

As these lines are being written a copy of "THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FREEMASON" for November, 1959, has been received, announcing the closing down of that excellent Journal with the February, 1960 issue.

We express sincere sympathy with the Proprietors and Editor of our South Australian contemporary in a situation some aspects of which are parallel with the circumstances that have caused the end of our own publication.

A significant difference, however, becomes apparent upon reading the report of the address delivered by the President of The Board of General

Purposes at the "Half Yearly Communication of The Grand Lodge of South Australia" and printed in the November, 1959 issue of The South Australian Freemason, from which we quote:—

"The South Australian Freemason"

"The President said that about three weeks ago the Board received a notification from the publishers of "The South Australian Freemason" that the February issue would be the last. The Board felt it would be a pity if the senior Grand Lodge of Australia had no official journal, in which to publish its views. There was not much time to get in touch with the Lodges. As the journal was being published at a loss the publishers were definite in ceasing publication in February, the month when advertising contracts expired."

"The Masters' and Wardens' Association was greatly perturbed over the position and a sub-committee from the Board of General Purposes met a committee from the Association to discuss it. Since then there had been a further meeting with the Managing Director of the publishing firm. It seemed that if Grand Lodge wanted the journal to continue it would have to do the work itself, provide an editor, and arrange for the collection of subscriptions."

"As the time limit was important the Board contemplated trying to formulate some arrangement with the publishers for adoption by the April Communication."

"The Grand Master: 'In this important matter we know that the Board will do its utmost to keep the journal in circulation.'" End of quote.

The words of the foregoing quotation may be left to speak for themselves. They indicate both concern and action in direct contrast to the persistent attitude of non-co-operation and silent aloofness displayed by Masonic Leaders in New South Wales towards the closing down of THE NEW SOUTH WALES FREEMASON.

Thus is penned the final Editorial for THE NEW SOUTH WALES FREEMASON.

For nearly eleven years the present Editor's endeavours to serve his Brethren in Masonry have been a labour of love, and his associations with the Proprietors of the Journal will ever remain a happy memory.

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# W. J. CRYER & CO. LIMITED

*Masonic Printers & Stationers*



Although "The N.S.W. Freemason" ceases to be published as from this issue, W. J. Cryer & Co. Limited have pleasure in advising that their organisation will continue to offer the usual high quality printing service to all Lodges.

Your enquiries on printing problems are invited and will receive our prompt and courteous attention.

75 Union Street,

DULWICH HILL

56-0315

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Box 176, P.O.,  
Glen Innes 5N  
N.S.W.  
11/1/1960

Dear Sir and Brother,

Whilst writing, I would like to express my sincere regrets, and I feel the regrets also of a number of Brethren in this Lodge, that this excellent journal is to cease publications as from next month, and I can only express our sincere hopes that something will turn up to overcome the difficulties.

With all good wishes for the continuance of the journal.

Yours fraternally,  
E. Truscott, P.M.  
Secretary.

398 Rode Rd.,  
Chirmside, Q.  
9/1/60

Dear Sir and Brother,

How sorry I was to read of your decision to suspend publication of the "Freemason". I have been receiving the paper for several years now, and will miss its information. Although I live in Queensland, now I am a member of N.S.W. Craft and Chapter Lodges. I do hope some way will be found, either by lessening quality of the newsprint or lessening the size of the letters-type or even by increasing the price, to maintain publication.

For the sake of fellowship I pray the G.A.O.T.U. will by invocation assist this worthy educational journal to remain in circulation.

Fraternally,  
(R.W.) Stanley Clague

Lodge Carnarvon, No. 172  
P.O. Box 15,  
Bowral.  
18/12/1959

Dear Sir,

When it became known amongst our officers that publication of the Freemason would probably cease with the February, 1960 issue, keen regret was voiced by all, and some who admitted that they had failed to subscribe, but wished to remedy that state of affairs if the journal were to continue, said that they would subscribe were publication continued.

I have nine names without going round "twisting arms", and have no doubt that this could be substantially improved if it could be stated that the journal was definitely carrying on.

It is realised that this, of course, is but a drop of water in an ocean, but in case it should since have been decided that a drive for subscribers should be made on a state-wide basis before finally suspending publication, have been asked to let you know of these subscribers.

On behalf of the Officers, may I say that the cessation of the journal is regarded as a Masonic catastrophe, that its value is deeply appreciated and unquestioned, and that it is sincerely hoped that some way out of the impasse may be found.

I should like to add my personal endorsement to these sentiments, and also to thank you and your colleagues most sincerely for the courtesies unflinchingly extended to me in the time I have been writing reports for you.

Yours fraternally,  
A. V. J. Parry, (P.M.)

46 Moore Street,  
Roseville, N.S.W.  
15/12/1959

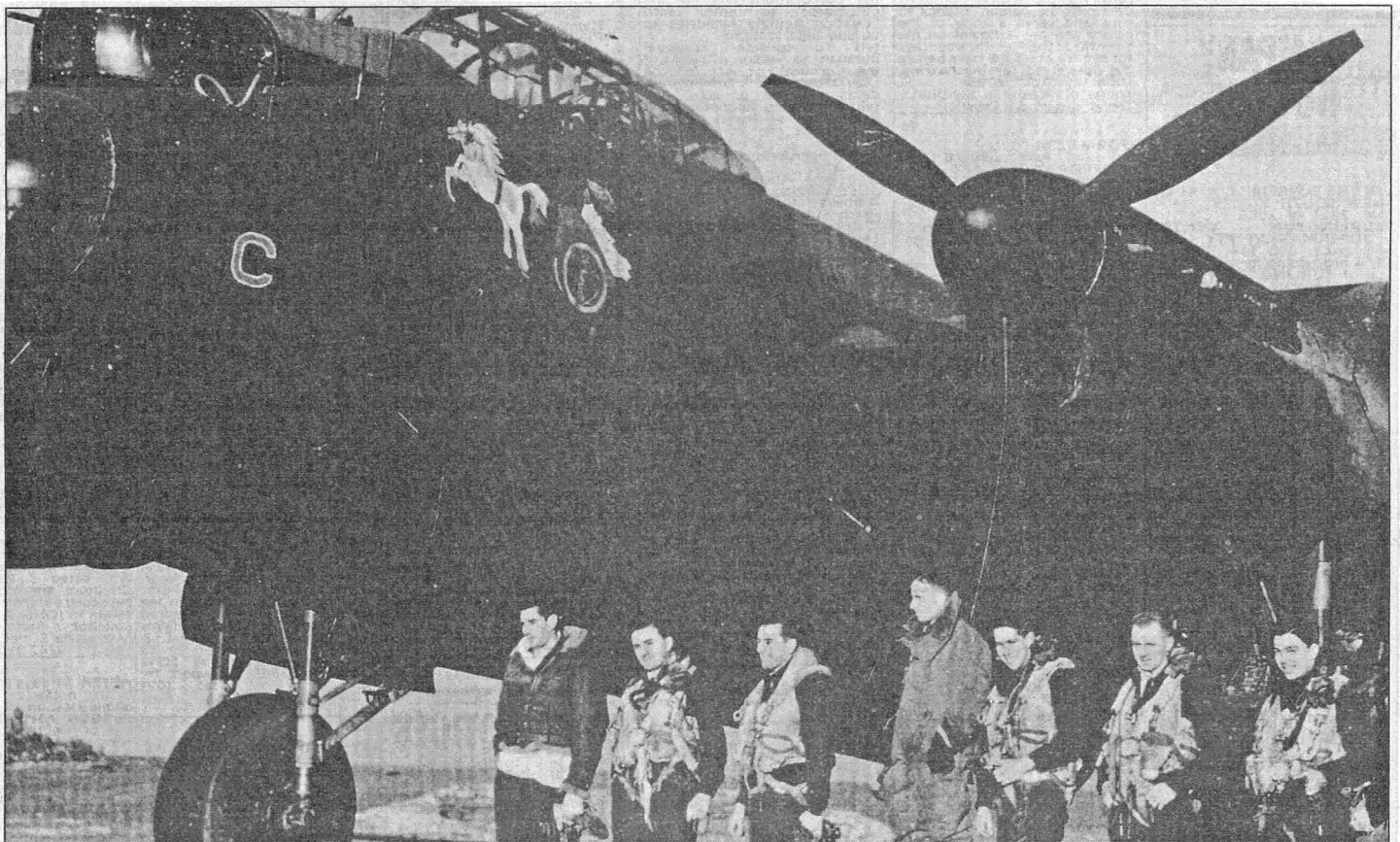
There was a fitting end to Wal Cryer's flying career. In 2000, the same year that he unexpectedly received an award from the French Defence Ministry for his part in dropping supplies to the French Resistance during the war, he again got the chance to fly - this time in a little Cessna over Hoxton Park. At the urging of one of his bowling mates, a flying instructor, Wal took the controls of an aircraft after 56 years of abstinence and successfully piloted it around the skies at the age of 82. This event was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald's Column 8, to his great amusement.

Very Wor. Bro. Walter James Cryer III, RAAF pilot, printer and label pioneer died in April 2005, aged 87.

He was still a member of Lodge Lindfield No. 362 after 67 years.

Wal was survived by Mary, his wife of 63 years, son James and daughter Catherine, three grandsons and a granddaughter.

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Teamwork ... Walter Cryer, third from left, and the crew with the Lancaster which was also used to drop supplies to the French.

Because of the modesty so typical of that era, his son, James, said that it was always hard to pry out any details of his exploits during the war.

Under cross-examination by his grandchildren, he would admit to flying low-level sorties during the liberation of France - flying a 30-tonne bomber over the tree tops to drop supplies to French farmers waiting below in the moonlight.

He used to laugh about the time he and his crew brought all their bombs safely home after an aborted operation. The station commander was furious that they landed with a full payload. He did not share Wal's attitude towards preserving scarce resources.

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**FOOTNOTE:**

The following notice was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008:-

**CRYER (nee Granger),  
Mary Florence.** —  
Late of Castlecrag, NSW.  
Passed away peacefully at  
Lourdes, Killara, on November  
20, 2008, 1 month short of her  
92nd birthday. Beloved wife of  
the late Walter James. Loved  
mother of Jim and Catherine and  
mother-in-law of Eilyn and  
David. Much loved 'Marnie' to  
her grandsons Jamie, Michael  
and Stuart and great-  
grandmother of Maya and  
Marlon. Fondly remembered by  
Carita, Kelly and Corinne.

Family and friends are invited to  
attend MARY'S service to be  
held on Wednesday (November  
26, 2008), in the Magnolia  
Chapel, Macquarie Park, cnr.  
Delhi and Plassey Roads, North  
Ryde, at 10 a.m. In Mary's  
memory, you are invited to wear  
a 'splash of red'. A donation to  
your favourite charity, in lieu of  
flowers, would be appreciated.

**ALBERT & MEYER,  
AUSTRALIAN OWNED  
THORNLEIGH, 9484 3992.  
FDA of NSW**

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**REFERENCES:**

United Grand Lodge of N.S.W., membership records.

*The N.S.W. Freemason* - various issues.

*The Sydney Morning Herald* - Issues, 25 April 2005 & 24 November 2008.

*The History of Lodge Lindfield No. 362* - 1920 to 1940 by H.J. Rodgers.

*History of the Beresford Lodge No. 161* - 1887 to 1947 by H.V. Messner.

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