

COMMERCIAL HOTEL, BARCALDINE

THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL WAS BUILT IN 1886 BY THE MCBRIDE FAMILY. THE BUSINESS WAS FOUNDED BY MR PETER MCBRIDE WHO BUILT A SINGLE-STOREY HOTEL ON THE PRESENT SITE IN 1886 FROM MATERIALS HE PURCHASED FROM DOWN THE RAILWAY LINE. THE BUILDING WAS ERECTED BY MR G H HENDERSON. MR HENDERSON WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING MANY PLACES IN BARCALDINE IN THE EARLY DAYS. TWO YEARS LATER IN 1888 THE SINGLE-STOREY BUILDING WAS PULLED DOWN AND REPLACED WITH A TWO-STOREY ESTABLISHMENT ERECTED BY MESSRS MEACHAM & LEYLAND. IN 1897, THE MCBRIDE FAMILY MOVED TO SYDNEY AND LEASED THE HOTEL TO MR HENRY ("GEORGE") ELLIS FOR FOUR YEARS. THE FAMILY RETURNED AND RESUMED BUSINESS IN 1904, RETURNING TO SYDNEY IN 1905 WHEN THEY LEASED IT FOR THREE YEARS TO MR HARRY WILLIAM WEBBER, THE THEN LICENSEE OF THE ROYAL HOTEL, ARAMAC. ON THEIR RETURN, MR MCBRIDE RESUMED BUSINESS AS LICENSEE OF THE PREMISES.

THE HOTEL WAS BURNT DOWN IN 1909 ALONG WITH 18 OTHER BUSINESS PREMISES. MR FRED HACK, THEN OF LONGREACH, WAS CONTRACTED TO BUILD THE NEW HOTEL. MR MCBRIDE DIED BEFORE THE NEW HOUSE WAS COMPLETED. IT WAS OPENED ON 10 MARCH 1910 AND MRS MCBRIDE CARRIED ON THE BUSINESS UNTIL HER DEATH ON 23 AUGUST 1919. MR WILLIAM MCBRIDE THEN TOOK CHARGE MANAGING THE BUSINESS. THE HOTEL WAS THEN BURNT DOWN A SECOND TIME IN 1921, BEING REBUILT AND REOPENED IN SEPTEMBER 1922. THE CURRENT BUILDING HAS SURVIVED SINCE THAT TIME.

COMMERCIAL HOTEL,
BARCALDINE.

P. McBRIDE,

BEGS to inform travellers and the public generally that he has fitted up his Hotel with a view of affording every comfort to the travelling public.

THE COFFEE ROOM,
 Whilst ensuring complete privacy, will be found replete with all the delicacies of the season.

THE DINING ROOM
 Table is specially and carefully looked after.

BEDROOMS
 Well ventilated, and furnished with every care regarding the comfort of travellers.

STABLING AND PADDOCKS GOOD.

Chatfield's Line of Coaches leave the Hotel for Aramac, Muttaborra, and Winton.



1886 MR PETER MCBRIDE, PROPRIETOR AND LICENSEE OF THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL.

24 FEB 1887 MR PETER MCBRIDE PAID FOR A SPECIAL VICTUALLER'S LICENSE (COURT HOUSE CASH BOOK)

1888 ORIGINAL TWO STOREY BUILDING PULLED DOWN AND REPLACED WITH TWO-STOREY ESTABLISHMENT. BUILDERS - MESSRS MEACHAM & LEYLAND.

APRIL 1890 MR PETER MCBRIDE, PROPRIETOR AND LICENSEE.

4 JULY 1896 MESSRS. MEACHAM AND LEYLAND WERE GRANTED PERMISSION TO ERECT A VERANDAH ACROSS THE FOOTPATH AT MCBRIDE'S HOTEL.

THE CAPRICORNIAN, 4 SEPT 1897

Sam Ah Jin, a cook at the Commercial Hotel, was charged with selling opium to a Queensland aborigine named Chippendale. Mr. McCullough appeared for the prosecution. Constable Nixon deposed that he saw Chippendale go to the back door of the hotel kitchen and receive something, which he put in his pocket; he asked Chippendale if that was opium he had got and he replied ' Yes,' and handed over two packets of opium; he went with the blackfellow to the kitchen, and he pointed out the defendant as the party who sold him the opium. At this stage the case was adjourned till Friday, when the aborigine was examined, and deposed that on the previous Saturday he went to the defendant to buy opium, which he sometimes got from him; he gave defendant a shilling, for which he received two packets of charcoal opium; witness, put the packets in his pocket, and shortly afterwards Constable Nixon came up and got them from him; witness was quite sure that the defendant was the man who gave him the opium; the defendant, in reply to the charge, said there was another Chinaman in the kitchen, and it was this other Chinaman who supplied the opium. The Bench found defendant guilty, and as it was a first offence, fined him £3, with £2 2s. professional costs, 3s. 6d. costs of Court, 5s. witness's expenses, total £5 10s. 6d., in default two month's imprisonment in Rockhampton Gaol.

THE CAPRICORNIAN, 4 SEPT 1897

Permission was granted to Henry Ellis, of the Commercial Hotel, to sell liquors on the Recreation Reserve on the 2nd of September.

THE CAPRICORNIAN, 15 MAY 1897

In the Small Debts Court on the 7th instant, before Mr. A. Lee, Police Magistrate, and Mr. B. McKay, J.P., J. L. Butler sued P. McBride for £22 5s. 6p. for commission on sale of lease, furniture, and effects of Commercial Hotel and saddlery shop adjacent. Defendant pleaded that he was never indebted, and that he never employed the pursuer. Mr. Major appeared for the accused and Mr. McCullough for the defendant. From the evidence it appeared that early in April Butler had a conversation with the defendant, when the latter said he was prepared to sell or lease the hotel if plaintiff could find an approved buyer. Plaintiff offered the hotel to Mr. Henry Ellis, and subsequently introduced Mr. Ellis to defendant as a buyer. At defendant's request he made out an inventory of the furniture in duplicate, one copy for Mr. Ellis and one for defendant. The sale was completed for £891, and £5 paid by Mr. Ellis as a deposit. Henry Ellis gave confirmatory evidence of all the material points in plaintiff's statement. The defendant denied that he had employed Butler as his agent, and stated that the sale of the hotel had been arranged between Mr. Ellis and himself. The Bench gave a verdict for £21 12s. 9d., with £2. 2s. professional costs and 5s. costs of court.

APRIL 1897

HOTEL IS SOLD BY MR PETER MCBRIDE TO MR GEORGE ELLIS.

THE CAPRICORNIAN, 17 APRIL 1897

The Commercial Hotel is changing hands, Mr. Peter McBride (the present owner) having leased the hotel for five years to Mr. George Ellis. Mr. McBride and his family are going to reside in Sydney.

JULY 1897

LICENCE IS TRANSFERRED FROM MR PETER MCBRIDE TO MR GEORGE ELLIS.

THE CAPRICORNIAN, 10 JULY 1897

CHARGES AGAINST A POLICE CONSTABLE.

James Lane, constable, Barcaldine, was charged with the following offences against the Police Act:— First, drunkenness while on duty; second, disorderly conduct while on duty : Third, absence from duty. The accused pleaded not guilty. Sub-Inspector Brannelly appeared to prosecute. It was agreed by consent that the three charges would be tried simultaneously. Sergeant Ryan deposed that he saw the accused, who had been in Barcaldine four months; accused was on duty on the night of the 25th of June from five o'clock to nine o'clock ; he was not supposed to go into any public house unless duty called him there; he should report to witness if he had to go in; did not report on the 25th of June that he had been called into any public house; witness saw him come out of the Commercial Hotel along with several bush men about 8:45 p.m.; he was then supposed to be on duty; the crowd was excited; accused, in company with a man named Ramage, walked towards the West End Hotel; he was drunk: he did not report himself to witness as off duty. — Cross-examined by accused, witness did not order him home because he did not wish to make an exhibition of him in the street. —Henry Ellis, lessee of the Commercial Hotel, saw accused on the night of 25th of June in the Commercial Hotel with a number of other men; he went through with some of the men into the yard; witness went after them, and saw Lane and a man named Youll sparring there; they fell down several times; -they had several rounds; witness identified a letter written by him to Sargent Ryan, stating that the accused was drunk.— Lawrence W. Bamage deposed that he was in the company of accused on the evening of the 28th of June, from about eight to nine o'clock; they had several drinks together in the Royal, West End, and the Commercial Hotels; at the latter hotel accused got into an altercation with a man named Youll which ended in an adjournment to the backyard, when accused and Youll had a sparring match; he could not call it a fight, as neither of the men had been hurt; witness subsequently went with accused to the Union Hotel where they had drinks, and then parted, accused apparently going home; he was in uniform. — Constable Nixon deposed that on the night of the 28th of June he went to relieve accused at nine o'clock; he met him on the footpath near the West End Hotel, and saw he was under the influence of drink, and not in a fit condition for duty. He was in uniform and wearing a duty badge. Witness advised him to go home, and he agreed to do so. Witness afterwards saw him in the Union Hotel — For the defence, accused called Richard Park and James Arthur, both of whom deposed that they saw the accused in Oak -street shortly before eight o'clock and he appeared to be quite sober. — The Bench found accused guilty of all the charges, and he was fined £2, or in default, one month's imprisonment for each offence, being in all £6 fine or three months' imprisonment.

APRIL 1898

MR HENRY ELLIS, LICENSEE OF HOTEL.

The Western Champion and General Advertiser for the Central-Western Districts, 5 APRIL 1898

The second fire was at Mr. H. Ellis' Commercial Hotel stables. In cleaning up the yard on Saturday morning the yard man threw the remains of an open fire with other rubbish behind one of the loose boxes. Several of the coals were alive and set fire to some hay, and in a few minutes there was a merry blaze. A rush, plenty of water, and the fire was quickly got under control.

It is really wonderful the immunity of our main street from fire, considering the fearful carelessness shown at times. Often fires are left in open yards all night quite unprotected, and the coals and ashes are blown about in all directions by the puffy winds which invariably is experienced in the early morning. A well-known publican, one of the few who won't have an open fire, says he saw a line of clothes catch fire in a neighboring yard, a fortnight ago, through the wind blowing coals about, and he thought the Divisional Board inspector should do something in the matter.

The Capricornian, MARCH 1899

What might have been a serious disaster in the shape of a fire was fortunately nipped in the bud on Thursday night; a few buckets of water quenching a fire in the kitchen of the Commercial Hotel.

JULY 1899 MR GEORGE ELLIS, PROPRIETOR AND LICENSEE.



'The Capricornian', 1899 image

14 APRIL 1900 MR HENRY ELLIS, LICENSEE.

APRIL 1901 MR HENRY ELLIS, JUNIOR, LICENSEE.

THE WESTERN CHAMPION AND GENERAL ADVERTISER FOR THE CENTRAL-WESTERN DISTRICTS, 14 MAY 1901

A daring and audacious theft was committed at Ellis's Commercial Hotel during the past week. It appears that Mr. Ellis had a large pumpkin vine trained over his kitchen, and a big, heavy pumpkin attached to the vine was growing gracefully and peacefully upon the roof.- But one night last week some individual of low moral character purloined that pumpkin, and a free and unconditional pardon is now offered to anyone, not being the principal offender, who discloses the personality of the useless culprit to the light of public scorn and ignominy.

THE WESTERN CHAMPION AND GENERAL ADVERTISER FOR THE CENTRAL-WESTERN DISTRICTS, 18 JUNE 1901

The billiard tournament promoted by Mr. H. Gill at the Commercial Hotel billiard room was brought to a conclusion on Saturday evening last, the 15th instant, and resulted in Dick Park's "boy," Bert Plumb, winning from scratch; J. Hayes, with 105 start, being second; and Dick Park, 70 behind scratch, third. A great deal of interest was centred in the tournament, and the billiard room was crowded with spectators throughout all the stages of the contest.

25 JUNE 1901 HENRY ELLIS GIVES NOTICE THAT IT IS HIS INTENTION, AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY, TO APPLY FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE LICENSE HELD BY HIM IN RESPECT TO THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL TO PETER MCBRIDE.

THE CAPRICORNIAN, 11 NOV 1905

At the Police Court, before Messrs. B Hoskin, and T. A. Graham, J.J.P, John O'Brien was charged with drunkenness. Though an old offender, he was discharged on a promise to leave the town.

The same justices in the licensing Court granted the transfer of the license of the Commercial Hotel from P. McBride to H. W. Webber. Mr. R. F. Lyons, solicitor, appeared in support of the Application.

THE CAPRICORNIAN, 20 OCTOBER 1906

Permission was granted to Mr. Webber of the Commercial Hotel, to charge for admission to the second stage of the billiard match between A. Kingston and B. Plumb. The first 600 up in the billiard competition was won by Kingston at Aramac last week by 68 points. The second and concluding game of 600 up will be played here, commencing with Kingston's unfinished break, balls in play.

QUITE a crowd thronged the billiard-room at the Commercial Hotel to witness a billiard match for £10 between Bert Plumb, the premier player of Barcaldine, and Gus Leffler, a well-known Brisbane professional. Leffler conceded 215 points in 500 to the local player. Our reporter could not get near the room for the crowd of non-playing spectators, but heard that the stranger shaped well up to nearly half-way, when the score stood at Plumb, 287; Leffler, 215. After that the Brisbane man went to pieces, and at the finish Plumb was 130 ahead of his opponent. Some money changed hands at the early part of the game. The highest break made by Leffler was 65 in the first hundred.

APRIL 1907 MR HARRY WILLIAM WEBBER HOLDS THE LIQUOR AND BILLIARD LICENSES. HE IS ALSO A PHOTOGRAPHER WHOSE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT RECORD OF THE TOWN'S DEVELOPMENT.



Commercial Hotel (Harry W Webber, licensee) c 1908

PHOTOGRAPHY !

For Sale, Cheap,

THE whole of Harry Webber's Photographic Outfit.

Will guarantee to instruct purchaser gratis.

Plant consists of Up-to-date Camera, with one Ross Lens and one Watson Lens, and all necessary appliances.

Full particulars on application—

HARRY W. WEBBER,
Commercial Hotel,
BARCALDINE.

APRIL 1908 MR HARRY WILLIAM WEBBER, LICENSEE.

SEPT 1908 APPLICATION BY MR HARRY WILLIAM WEBBER APPROVED FOR ONE MONTH'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE. MR PETER MCBRIDE IN CHARGE.

Cyclone unroofed the kitchen of the Commercial Hotel, 1908



(‘The Queenslander’ image).

APRIL 1909 MR PETER MCBRIDE, LICENSEE.

AUGUST 1909 FOUR HOTELS – COMMERCIAL, WELCOME HOME, CARRIERS’ ARMS, SPRINGSURE – AND 12 STORES BURN DOWN IN ‘BIG FIRE’.

1910 HOTEL REBUILT AND OPENED AGAIN AFTER FIRE

Mr. W. Vaughan, manager for Messrs. Heiron & Smith, billiard table manufacturers, placed one of the firm's tables with Mrs. McBride, of the Commercial Hotel, and the table was officially opened on Tuesday morning by a short game between Mr. Peut and Mr. Vaughan; the Chairman of the Shire won by three points. A number of spectators were present. Messrs. Carson and Scott also played a short match. The table is a splendid piece of work, the timbers used being Tasmanian blackwood and cedar. Mr. Vaughan left for Brisbane by Tuesday's mail train.

Western Champion 19 February 1910

APRIL 1910 CATHERINE MCBRIDE, LICENSEE

Warwick Examiner and Times (Qld. : 1867
 Wednesday 11 August 1909

BIG FIRE.

Barcaldine Block Destroyed.

4 Hotels and 12 Stores.

Damages, £14,000.

BRISBANE, Tuesday.—News has been received of a destructive fire at Barcaldine this morning. About 3 o'clock flames were observed issuing from J. Dins's baker's shop, and before anything effective could be done the conflagration had spread to the rest of the buildings in the same street, with the result that the whole block, stretching from the Court-house Hotel to Springsure Hotel was destroyed. There were many exciting incidents during the progress of the fire. The damage is estimated at £14,000.

A later telegram received by the Home Secretary states that four hotels and twelve stores were burnt to the ground

National Library of Australia

APRIL 1915 CATHERINE MCBRIDE, LICENSEE. LICENSE FEE £40.

APRIL 1917 CATHERINE MCBRIDE, LICENSEE

APRIL 1920 MR WILLIAM MCBRIDE, LICENSEE. LICENSING COURT FOUND COMMERCIAL TO BE THE ONLY HOTEL IN TOWN WITH NO FAULTS TO FIND; THE BUILDING AND YARD WERE THE CLEANEST IN TOWN.

FEB 1921 FIRE BROKE OUT IN A BEDROOM OF MCBRIDE'S COMMERCIAL HOTEL BUT WAS QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED.

THE WESTERN CHAMPION AND GENERAL ADVERTISER FOR THE CENTRAL-WESTERN DISTRICTS, 26 MARCH 1921

Commercial Hotel Sale.

In accordance with the advertised auction sale programme, the well-known Commercial Hotel property at Barcaldine was last Saturday submitted at auction on the premises by Messrs. Hempenstall Bros. Ltd. It attracted a big audience, and there was some spirited bidding-. The property had to be sold to close estate interests, but the well-known reputation of the McBride family has stirred up outside buyers with good ... the price quickly ran to £4900 at which figure it was knocked down subject to the vendors approval to Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald, formerly of the Central Hotel at Longreach. This price was improved on after the sale but the buyer was subsequently outbid by Mr. W. McBride, one of the estate beneficiaries, and for untold years the general manager of the business itself. A deal was finalised with the member of the family, and a sigh of relief was breathed in Barcaldine when it was known that the McBride family would continue to control the destinies of the Commercial Hotel. We congratulate the family on securing it, because the town could ill afford to lose the active and intelligent help of Mr. "Will" McBride and Miss Annie McBride especially. They have been very consistent supporters of all movements for the advancement of the town, and have always figured generously and largely in many useful directions. As the hotel has been in the family for over three generations-Miss Cissy Carey, for instance being the granddaughter of the original owner-it is fitting that it should remain longer with them. We are sorry not to be able to welcome Mr. Fitzgerald as the new owner because he and his family would have made big names here, but probably Hempenstall Bros, will offer them something suitable in the town ere long, and we hope to see them invest here.

4 DEC 1921 COMMERCIAL HOTEL BURNS DOWN AGAIN. AN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE IS CONDUCTED.

BIG FIRE AT BARGALDINE.

Damage Estimated £25,000.

A FIRE broke out in the vicinity of Dias's store at Bargaldine at half-past 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning. Before much assistance could be obtained the flames got a firm hold, and in a quarter of an hour Dias's store was well alight, and Hawthorne's saddler's shop was catching. Meanwhile alarm bells and whistles aroused the inhabitants, and soon a very large crowd assembled and commenced dragging furniture, &c., out of the place further down the street. There was much speculation as to where the fire would stop as no water was available nor hoses.

The flames spread rapidly. Kemp's fine two-storey hotel, adjoining Hawthorne's, soon caught, and was demolished in about twenty minutes. The fire burnt down the street towards Devory's and Vesper's billiard room, and then the Carrists' Arms Hotel succumbed to the flames. Here the fire veered, fanned by a slight breeze, and caught Fog Sang's store, adjoining Dias's, and quickly caught J. Arthur's fine newly-erected shops. For some time it was thought Tom's store was going to be saved, as the fire seemed to be burning down the other direction, but it subsequently caught, and was soon in ashes. This was a fine two-storey store, containing chiefly drapery. The flames then spread to McLaughlin's fruit shop and restaurant, and E. Park's stationer and bookseller, both of which places were soon in ruins.

The lookers seemed powerless to do anything on account of the scarcity of water and material. Devory's Hotel caught and the flames spread to Ryan's tailor's shop. This was the end of the street, and the fire then somewhat abated there. Meanwhile the fire was spreading rapidly at the other end. A bucket brigade was soon got to work, and the men worked like Trojans, but it seemed as if their efforts would be in vain. A very large crowd, probably the whole of the residents of the town, was now witnessing the devastation. The middle of the road was strewn with articles of all descriptions, and the people were half dead, many just escaping in their night apparel.

After Arthur's shop had been laid in ashes the fire caught Wah Sang's fine big store, and this was soon reduced to ashes. There being a narrow passage between Wah Sang's and M'Bride's Commercial Hotel strenuous efforts were made to break the progress of the fire at Wah Sang's. For a time the buckets and the wet blankets on the hotel balcony held their own, but with a crash the wall nearest the hotel fell, and soon caught the fine two-storey hostelry. C. B. Plumb's Emporium, under the roof of the Commercial Hotel, was soon ablaze.

A very large number of people got out

and were soon safe.

A very large number of people got out, and axes and endeavored to break the progress of the flames by pulling down Hudson's tailor's shop on the other side of the Commercial Hotel. This was done, the hole being drawn into the middle of the street. A good gap was thus left for the flames to cross. Many thought there was no hope of stopping the fire, and fears were expressed for the whole block. The removing of Hudson's building was really a last resource. Men mounted the roof of T. E. O'Brien's, and O'Byrne's stores, on the other side of Hudson's, and made a desperate stand, others on the ground handing up buckets of water by means of ladders. All the time the Commercial Hotel was being rapidly demolished, the flames leaping high in the air. A stiff easterly wind now fanned the fire, and it looked as if nothing would save the block. When the whole roof fell in with a great crash, and the walls nearest O'Brien's were burning, the gallant firefighters were almost touched by the flames, but splashed water on the latter place, while on the roof water was being continually poured. At the back of the premises a large brigade was doing excellent work. Eventually the Commercial Hotel collapsed, amid myriads of sparks, and then an exciting time was experienced in keeping the flames from catching O'Brien's. It was a grand persevering effort. The outbuildings were all ablaze, and it seemed as if the shop would catch. The breeze fortunately died down, and after about a quarter of an hour's more hard work it looked as if the fire was beaten.

Matters, however, began to look serious again for the back street, as the fire seemed to be burning that way. A large number of helpers kept a sharp lookout, and slowly the flames were got under control. By 5 o'clock the fire was completely under hand.

It is not known for certain where the fire originated. The total damage is probably about £20,000 to £25,000. Many people only escaped in the clothes they stood in and it is hoped everybody got out safely. One or two of the business places removed a large quantity of their stock into the street while residents in the back street had all their belongings removed to a safe place. In all eighteen places were demolished.

As dawn began to break the scene was one of desolation. The middle of the street was strewn with articles of all descriptions mostly furniture, and papers were blown about in all directions. The scene was depressing to look upon. What last night was a fine line of buildings was a heap of ashes and debris. The newly-erected telegraph poles were blazing, while the wires were swinging about in all directions. Any amount of assistance was available, but it was heartrending to witness such wanton destruction, with no fire brigade and little other means of checking the flames. It is the first disastrous fire since 1898.

praise cannot be bestowed upon all the members of the Brigade—it would be unjust to individualise—and the many volunteer workers.

The flames were eventually beaten back to a safe position, and by 10.30 p.m. the fire was in hand. Mr. J. Lennon's aerated water factory, all the Railway Hotel horse stalls, a large quantity of heavy yarding and fencing and sundry hotel outbuildings, in addition to the extensive timber rack (which was completely gutted) had been demolished, and the scene was a sorry one.

About 11 p.m. dense volumes of black smoke (presumably the lining material in galvanised iron cases) emanated from the pile of debris, almost choking everybody. One Brigade member remarked that it reminded him of a smoke screen on the western front.

By 11.30 p.m. only the smouldering embers remained. Supt. Jones detailed four men to play the hoses on the debris all night.

No doubt an excellent save had been effected. A disastrous calamity could easily have occurred in this particular portion of the town had the wind been blowing in the other direction.

Messrs. Meacham & Leyland's loss is very heavy, amounting probably to £3000. A very large quantity of timber was stacked in the racks and the fact that there was not a penny insurance on the whole building and contents makes the loss more lamentable. We are sure the firm has the sympathy of everybody in their great loss.

About 120 will cover the damage done to Mr. J. Meacham's residence and 110 the "Champion" Buildings—mostly broken windows, singeing, salvage, &c.

Mrs. Lennon's horse feed room and harness were covered to the extent of £50 with the South British Co.

Mr. J. Lennon saved nothing from his factory, and his loss is estimated at £350. There was no insurance cover.

At one time there was some anxiety about the boiler at the aerated water factory exploding, but Inspector F. C.

factory exploding, but Inspector F. C. Parker gave certain instructions to Supt. Jones, and although there was a full head of steam generated the safety valve continued blowing-off until all the steam was exhausted.

Mr. F. A. McLean (who lately opened business in Oak-street) did a very thoughtful action in supplying tea and sandwiches to the firemen and other workers. It goes without saying that this was very much appreciated by all who partook of Mr. McLean's generosity.

The origin of the fire at first was a mystery, but later events tend to show that the outbreak was very probably one of a series not caused accidentally.

On Wednesday morning a survey of the scene of the fire plainly showed the narrow escape the main street and block had. The fire had extended practically right up to the servants' quarters at the rear of the Railway Hotel, and how further progress was blocked here goes to show the thoroughness of the defence put up by the Brigade and those numerous young fellows who assisted so commendably. The debris of the timber rack was still smoking freely, and continued so all day notwithstanding continual hosing.

On Wednesday night, a brisk breeze, had fanned up flames again on the locality, and the Brigade was obliged to run out a length of hosing and subdue the renewed flames.

As is invariably the case many of those residents in the eastward portion of the town were quite oblivious for some time to the fact that there was a fire in progress on Tuesday night. Not a sound was heard of the firebell and the fire had been burning pretty briskly when several business people in that portion duly arrived at the scene of the outbreak. Such a delay as this may mean serious loss. It may have been so in our own case, to quote an instance. Things were not looking at all good for the "Champion" office when our managing-editor arrived and he having sole access to certain valuable business documents, &c., it was 10 chances to 1 on this occasion that he would have been able to rescue them. Mr. C. B. Plumb, another of our prominent business men, has on several occasions known

another of our prominent business men, has on several occasions known nothing of an outbreak of fire (practically on his doorstep) until some time after. On this occasion, too, Mr. Plumb knew nothing of the fire until it was well in progress. And there are others with business interests in the same category. A fire alarm in the eastern portion is badly needed, and Council should try and instal some system so that all residents can immediately be apprised of an outbreak. It is a serious matter for business people. We have mentioned over and over again, it is almost impossible to hear the fire bell in the eastern suburban area, and something should be done in the matter.

Mr. Jones, Fire Brigade Supt., again complained about the delay in getting water. Until a special main is put down Oak-street things will not be satisfactory, says Mr. Jones. He further states that had the water been immediately available, on Tuesday the chances are the timber rack would have been saved. As it was, there were three lengths of hosing lying idle all ready to be used, and the firemen waiting until the turncocks had scooted all over the town adjusting the numerous valves to requirements. When the water did arrive there was ample and the engineers kept the supply in most satisfactory. It is interesting to know that the pumping alone was sufficient for requirements; only four feet of the tank supply had been utilized (at the start), the pump keeping up the necessary supply throughout.

It is very gratifying to record that of all the furniture and effects removed from Mr. J. Meacham's residence and a vast quantity of literature and office effects and furniture from the "Champion" office not one

thing has been missed. It is very pleasing to note the absence of any paltry pilfering so very common on such unfortunate occasions. There is no doubt a splendid lot of volunteer workers gave their services most ungrudgingly, and their readiness to so worthily assist in a time of great anxiety, when perhaps ruin is staring in the face of those people threaten-

in the face of those people threatened to be affected, is most commendable. It is difficult, and perhaps unfair, to individualise where there are so many in such cases, for all can rest assured that words of thanks or gifts of kind cannot express the appreciation felt by those who are unfortunate enough to be involved in a serious conflagration and when so much is at stake. In our own case lusty young fellows came forward and offered to carry out our linotype and other machinery, but owing to the position of the fire nothing would have been gained by removing them; therefore instructions were given that nothing but the most important and vital had to be touched. The loss of a large printing plant, with linotype, and a fairly ample supply of paper alone would have been a serious blow to the proprietary (and indirectly to the town and district, for the local Press is an important factor in keeping its town's affairs before the eyes of the world) in present conditions of trade and industry; therefore, all those who assisted us in any way on Tuesday night can realise the appreciation we feel towards them.

After the previous night's conflagration townspeople certainly never dreamt of what was in store for them on Wednesday night, and although many had not nearly recovered their equilibrium from the strenuous exertions on the Tuesday the pealing of the fire bell at about 10.30 p.m. on Wednesday roused everybody once again into nervous expectancy. The Loric Pictures were well filled, and on the first stroke of the alarm there was a mad rush to the street, while people were soon scurrying from their homes, from all directions. Before many had nearly reached the scene of the outbreak, assurance was given that "it's all over," and minds were once more at rest. The outbreak occurred at McBride's Commercial Hotel in one of the maid's rooms. Miss Mona Price was the first to see the fire, and Mr. McLean in vain tried to raise the exchange, to notify the fire station. Mr. Jack Ivers, however, hurried to the station and rang the alarm. In the meantime, however, Messrs. Kahl, Jackson, and Cole had bundled out hois-en-bous all the burning material from the room, and the services of the Brigade, which

burning material from the room, were the services of the Brigade, which turned out promptly, were fortunately not required. The strange thing about this outbreak is that the room had been unoccupied by the incumbent for the previous 24 hours, and, as we stated before, the only conclusion to be come to, especially in view of succeeding events, is that the fire was the result of incendiarism. A good deal of clothing, bedding, &c., was burnt, and the walls charred. When it was learnt that all danger was over the picture patrons returned to the Loric and the programme was concluded. Others wended their way home hoping to complete a good night's rest. But this was not to be.

At 2 a.m. the vigorous ringing of the firebell again roused the townspeople, and in no time the streets were swarming with almost panic-stricken residents. Anxious inquiries soon elicited the information that Mr. R. J. McCullough's residence, at the corner of Yew and Willow-streets, in the southern suburban area, was on fire. The tired-out members of the Brigade were again quickly on the scene, and also a large number of people. Happily, the fire had been checked to some extent upon the arrival of the Brigade, but for some time the Brigade was engaged in making sure that all was safe. This outbreak could easily have proved a shocking calamity in view of the fact of the number of small children and other inmates sleeping in the building, and Mr. McCullough states that had it not been for the promptitude of Mr. J. Lynch in waking him in all probability one or two of the children would have been suffocated, as they were sleeping in different portions of the building, which is an extensive one, and there probably would not have been time to get them all out. It appears Mrs. Lynch first noticed the fire at the rear of the kitchen, and the blaze appeared to have a big hold. She roused Mr. Lynch, who hurried over and awakened Mr. McCullough's household, and gave the alarm. By means of buckets and a fairly ample supply of water, after a very strenuous fight, the outbreak was checked. It was indeed a lucky save. The floor of the kitchen is a very substantial one and was

is a very substantial one and was covered with good linoleum and felting, and it is probably due to this, the flames not being able to break through the floor, that progress was retarded, and when the felting was saturated with water it acted as a damper on the burning boards. An inspection of this outbreak gave the undoubted impression that the fire was deliberate incendiarism. Several charred lengths of cut block wood were found underneath the kitchen near the house block, and there is no doubt it was these that started the fire. Whether this wood was lit on the steps (which were badly charred, the top one being burnt nearly through) or underneath alongside the block is not clear. The fact remained that it was this wood that had started the fire. The kitchen door was almost wholly burnt from top to bottom where the flames had apparently ignited it from the steps, while the whole kitchen flooring boards were charred. Mr. McCullough estimates his damage at about £50. The Fire Brigade ran out a length of hosing and well watered the under-work of the kitchen so that there would be no further chance of an outbreak. This attempt was a dastardly one, and could easily have had dire consequences, it, however, threw out a clue as to the cause of the previous outbreaks.

The Brigade had just about returned to the fire station, and the people once again to their homes, when another alarm was sounded at 3 a.m. The bell pealed out sonorously, and once again residents were rushing townwards from all directions. People were just about at the height of

nervous tension now. The cry went up that the main street was on fire this time, but this was soon amended to the goods sheds. Here was found a large quantity of timber, stacked at the eastern end, burning briskly. Some young ladies in the hotel opposite, noticed the fire first and gave the alarm. Assistance was quickly available, and the Brigade once again soon got to work, and checked the flames. There was a strong smell of kerosene on the burning material, thus again pointing to the fact that the outbreak was not accidental. Ha:

the outbreak was not accidental. Ha: the timber got well alight there is no doubt about what a serious fire would have required.

While the crowd of people were occupied in watching operations at the eastern end of the goods shed a cry went up that a man was lighting a fire under the shed at the western end. There was an immediate rush to the spot and vociferous shouts of—"Mop the shed, boys, don't let him out," and the huge crowd of people surrounded the building. The crowd was then worked up to an ugly mood, and anything was likely to happen. While all chance of exit was stopped from under the building, two or three young men, with railway lanterns, crawled under the shed to investigate. Nobody was found there, however, but Mr. H. I. Fyah, who was one of the cordon on the northern side, came upon an individual, presumably asleep, on the shed platform. He quickly laid hold of him and Constable Colfax subsequently arrested him and took him to the watchhouse. Two other men were seen by neighbors to make off in the direction of the cattle yards, but it was considered prudent not to give chase, but investigate at daybreak. This incident created no little excitement, and the whole night's experiences now had the townspeople on the qui vive, the prevailing question being, "Wonder where the next one will be?" Further alarms were generally expected. Fortunately this was the last that night. It was considered that this kind of thing could not be tolerated and many of our sturdy local lads offered to form a gang to clean-up the whole of the undesirable known at present to be in town.

The suggestion has been made now that the fire at Mr. McCullough's was intended to be a draw for the Brigade and residents, the goods shed conflagration to be set going while the Brigade and townspeople were away and engaged at the other end of the town. Another assumption is to the effect—and a very feasible one, too—that these alarms are created with a view to drawing residents from their homes, confederates in their absence to enter the residences and thieve. Townspeople would be well advised not to leave

would be well advised not to leave valuables about their premises just now :

In view of the foregoing circumstances it is little wonder that the Shire Council on Thursday, took action in the matter. It was considered that things had just about gone far enough, and that public property and safety must be protected. A urgent message was despatched to the Inspector of Police at Longreach asking for extra police protection, and that officer notified that he would detail a constable each from Jericho and Aramac for service in Baraldine. The Chairman of the Shire convened a public meeting for 4.30 p.m. for the purpose of forming a Vigilance Committee to patrol the town at night time. There was a very large attendance.

Cr. R. A. Parnell (Chairman of the Shire) was voted to the chair. He said the turn of events during the past 48 hours made it necessary to take steps to combat some foreign element in their midst; it behoved them all to take a firm stand in the matter. It was necessary to take steps to remove a great danger which appeared to be existing. His idea was to form a vigilance committee to go on duty in various parts of the town after nightfall. He invited discussion.

Cr. W. Fothergill proposed the formation of a Vigilance Committee. He said a roster could be made, and he suggested the town be patrolled for

two hours each patrol, by men in couples, and anyone out of doors after 11 o'clock should be required to give an account of their movements.

Mr. F. Crystall, in seconding the motion, would like to know the law on the subject; he doubted if a patrol would have a right to ball up a man and demand his movements. He thought special constables could perhaps be sworn.

Mr. R. J. McCullough said that under the "Police Act" special constables could be sworn in before a Police Magistrate or two Justices of the Peace, and they would have similar powers to the police. No community could tolerate the conditions

existing. There was indisputable evidence of incendiarism, and there was a great feeling of unrest; the recent alarms worked on people's nerves, especially the women. He strongly supported the motion.

This was put and carried unanimously, and a large number of names were handed to form a committee; inclusive of all members of the Shire Council.

Mr. R. Curtis, P.M., then swore in twelve special constables under the Towns Police Act, and these went on duty at nightfall, the shifts being of two hours each, couples patrolling allotted sections of the town. Twelve more men were sworn in yesterday. In addition to the special constables a number of the Vigilance Committee are patrolling the town from Thursday night.

Thursday night was an ideal moonlight one, and many people, with nerves at high tension, paraded the thoroughfares until a late hour, fully expectant of anything happening. The special constables and members of the Vigilance Committee were promptly on duty, and the several allotted sections of the town were carefully patrolled all night. Many townspeople are taking every precaution, and have provided themselves with firearms. As a matter of fact, the feeling of unrest has become so acute that the public are determined to resist the element in town to the utmost. The manner in which the citizens have responded in the matter of guarding the public interests is most commendable, and Mr. R. Curtis, P.M., recognising the gravity of the position, lost no time in swearing-in the special constables and giving them the requisite authority to carry out to the full all such protective measures necessary. Mr. Curtis had also advised the Home Secretary of the position of affairs. About midnight there was an alarm in the southern end of the town, many residents being startled by the loud explosion of a gun. It appears a couple of men had been watched for some time trespassing in the vicinity of the residence of Mr. Leahy, at the corner of Fir and Beech-streets, and eventually they were cornered in the grounds of Mrs. W. H. Ogden—apparently bent on en-

tering the little shop there. They were challenged, but made off. Mr. Ogden then fired over their heads—but they could not be seen for dust, and escaped. When Mr. Ogden first challenged them they threw a bottle at him but missed their mark, the bottle crashing against a wall. Otherwise, the night passed off uneventfully. Early in the evening the members of the Fire Brigade reeled all their hoses ready for eventualities, and a general readiness was very apparent. There were all sorts of rumors of what was going to happen, but if any of these fellows are caught in the act they can rest assured they will have a very rough time. Extra police assistance has arrived, and people are feeling a little more composed now, but still, the week's doings have naturally greatly disarranged the nerves of townspeople, who are strictly on the qui vive for any emergency.

WESTERN CHAMPION AND GENERAL ADVERTISER, 19 FEB 1921

The inquiry into the fire which broke out in the Commercial Hotel, and destroyed a whole block of buildings, was concluded recently, before Mr. Curtis, P.M. No light was thrown on the origin of the fire, but everything points to incendiarism. Witnesses were certain that the fire commenced in or at the side of a narrow passage way which carries a drain between the eastern end of the Commercial Hotel and Plumb's drapery establishment. Charles Heumiller's cafe is at the eastern end of the Commercial Hotel, under the hotel roof, there being balcony bedroom overhead. Heumiller was emphatic that the fire was due to arson. He had occupied the cafe for 10 days only. The carpenter had completed the premises at noon on Saturday, November 5, and in view of an expected large crowd from Aramac on the Sunday the place and the precincts were thoroughly cleaned up dur-

ing the afternoon, so it was impossible that the fire was caused by an accident. The waste pipes from his cooler and ice chests were not complete, and for eight days the water had been saturating the ground in the vicinity of the scene of the fire. All the sufferers will lose heavily and it is estimated that it will take £30,000 to replace the destroyed buildings. Mr. M'Bryde has announced his intention of immediately rebuilding the Commercial Hotel.

THE BRISBANE COURIER, 20 DEC 1921

The hotel is rebuilt, with the new building's interior described in The Western Champion, 2 September 1922.

The New Commercial Hotel

Another Progressive Step in Barcaldine.

Our "Man About Town," on copy bent, sauntered into McBride's new hotel on Monday afternoon, when Mr. Wm. McBride courteously showed him over the premises. After the fire on December 4th, 1921, which was doubtless supposed to be the work of an incendiary, judging from the evidence taken at the magisterial enquiry, on the eastern side of the hotel, Mr. McBride as co-executor with his sister, Miss Annie McBride, lost no time in the erection of new premises. A contract was let with Messrs. O'Brien & Co., building contractors, Barcaldine, and although they were pushed for time the work of erecting such a large building was successfully completed by 4th July, 1922, and through sheer hard graft the furnishings were completed to the minutest detail a week before carnival time at the end of July. We spent two hours in looking over the building, and we can come to only one conclusion, viz.: that Mr. McBride, as manager for the Estate, has done everything possible to restore the old home to what it was before last year's fire. It appeared to us that every detail had been carried out in a very thorough manner, and that the last thing has been done in making the Commercial a home from home for the traveller. The Commercial always bore a good name; visitors who once put up at the Commercial returned there, and it was a sad day for middleclass travellers when the well-furnished, well-catered house went up in smoke. It was a very negative sort of satisfaction to realise that after a catastrophe such as fire some improvements can be made in a hostelry, and conditions brought more up-to-date; however, in the present instance, the

however, in the present instance, the house was only twelve years old—with two narrow squeaks—since its first destruction in the tremendous fire which commenced in Diss' bakery in August, 1909 and burnt both sides to Devery's in the west and the Commercial in the east. On this occasion four hotels were burnt to the ground. There was thus very little alteration to be made, and the new building is in many respects similar to that destroyed on 4th December last year. The building itself is much on the same lines as that of the late one, but the furnishings are all modern. With the exception of the kitchen and storeroom linoleum is laid on every floor and in every room, one ton two hundredweight of the material being used. At 16/6 per yard the floor-clothing itself ran into a lot of money.

The hotel from the street has a pleasing appearance, it is painted inside and out with the exception of the bedrooms, the insides of which have yet to receive the attention of the painter. The building has a frontage of 70 feet and there is in addition a gateway of 10 feet. To go over the ground floor first. The billiard room is on the eastern side of the building, and entrance thereto is from a passage leading from the main street. It is 21 feet by 26 feet, and it is fitted with a first-class table from W. Vsughan & Sons, Brisbane. It is complete with all accessories, and has ample and comfortable seating accommodation. The hallway leading to the billiard-room and to the back is four feet wide. The bar is 18 feet by 22 feet, and a comfortable sitting-room is at the rear of it. There are two semi-circular counters, and the glass-screened shelving on both sides are laden with liquors to delight the heart of man. The walls of the counter are of Wunderlich stamped metal, painted to represent silky oak. Entrance to the bar can be effected from the street by strong

be effected from the street by strong double lodge doors, while there are several apertures at the side and to the back from the halls. The main hall is 12 feet wide by 26 feet deep. It is entered through french lights fitted with figured and tinted glass. The outer lights can be hooked back against the wall, so can be made to enclose the sides, creating a pretty effect. At the side of the hall commences the staircase four feet over-all, leading to the second storey. The steps are carpeted. The walls of the bar, main hall, and sides of staircase are sheathed in Wunderlich, with ceiling of the same material. There is a dado all round; walls of light green, dado dark green and stencilling border. To save repetition we may remark here that the building throughout, upstairs and downstairs is celled with Wunderlich. On the western side of the main entrance is a sitting-room 15 feet frontage to the street by 13 feet in depth. Fronting the street, access being by french light, is a 5 feet recess verandah. The furniture consists of a unique card table and chairs, a sofa and a tub chair. All are in maple, and well upholstered. The chairs so fit round the table as not to be noticeable when placed in position. There is also a Victor pianola-piano and cabinet filled with music rolls. Immediately adjoining this and the entrance partly hidden by bead curtains be turned into a private dining-room. Is a private bedroom 12 feet square, and from this is an entrance through french lights, to a back verandah at side of entrance to the dining-room. This bit of verandah (12 feet by 12 feet), can with the aid of a curtain. Passing along this main hall the dining-room is reached. This is 26

feet wide by 25 feet in length. There are six tables seating 36 guests comfortably, while at a busy time nine tables can be set. The furniture is all

tables can be set. The furniture is all of sticky oak; the chairs are strong—and shall we call it austere—in appearance, and what we should say semi-Tudor style. There is no glue about them, and they appear extremely neat and tasteful. There are hat racks, a dinner wagon, a double mirror. Ample light and ventilation is afforded, and the windows like all the other sashed windows are covered with imitation stained glass or transfers, very well executed by Mr. McBride himself. The tables were placed at various angles, and prepared ready for dinner. There was no electro plated ware to be seen except forks and spoons, all else were glass or china; the effect was as pleasing to the eye as no doubt the viands were later on to the stomach. At the back of the dining-room is the pantry, 12 feet square. This of course held everything essential for the dining-room. Behind the pantry is the kitchen, a very neat iron place 26 feet by 12 feet. Of course there were all conveniences for doing a big business. The range is a good and faithful warrior with a history. It is six feet in length by three feet. It was built by Burns & Twigg, Rockhampton, in 1891. It has been through two fires, and although the cheeks and fire bars have been renewed many times it is still a faithful servant and very far from being scrapped. It stands in an alcove 12 feet by 8 feet, and on a solid cement floor which extends several feet beyond the range. Mr. McBride believes this range to be the largest in the West and weighs about a ton and a-half. Off the dining-room is a 12 feet by 14 feet verandah, which is used as a laundry. Here is a large wringer, electric iron, &c. Under the main staircase is the well-stocked linen room. Behind the billiard room is a verandah 25 feet by 6 feet, running east and west. Off the verandah is a comfortable sitting room 15 feet by 12 feet. Immediately behind this

by 12 feet. Immediately behind this is the storeroom 12 feet square, and the shelves are mute evidence of Mr. McBride's methodical way of doing things; for like the shelves at Parnell's everything can be seen at a glance. There are detached bathrooms and the usual outbuildings, stabling, groom's quarters, &c. The walls on the bottom floor are 11ft. 6in. in height. Upstairs there is evidence of the completeness of everything in the house. At the head of the stairs is a small landing or vestibule 12ft. square. All the walls upstairs are 11ft. 3in. in height. The front balcony is 70 feet by 12 feet. A 4 feet passage runs along the centre of the building from east to west, and on the southern side is a balcony running the entire length six feet in width. Six bedrooms open out on to the front balcony; these have frosted french lights as have all other bedroom entrances from balconies. The entrance to bedrooms along the passage have panelled doors with grills overhead in lieu of fanlights, which ensures perfect ventilation. One hallway is 70 feet long by four feet in width; a hallway running north and south is 48 feet by four feet. There are 12 bedrooms in all, and we noted the absence of 12—"A" takes its place. Some of us are very superstitious. The bedrooms generally speaking are 11 feet by 11 feet, and are all comfortably furnished alike. Three rooms are double rooms, three have two beds in each, and the remainder are single. At the end of the southern balcony are three rooms for the staff, furnished exactly like those for the guests. All the rooms are furnished with the popular half-tester "Resto" bedsteads—clean and natty—a duchess and fixed washstand. The framework of the building is all of Maryborough hardwood, and the balconies and verandahs are all covered with 4 x 1 hardwood. The studs are outside, and the boarding is vertical downstairs, and hori-

ing is vertical downstairs, and horizontal in the interior of the upper storey—a saving of material. The only portion of the building unpainted is the interior of the bedrooms. The building and furnishing ran well into £10,000 and it is hoped the McBride family will be recompensed for their enterprise in erecting and furnishing such an excellent hostelry. We should mention the back of the hotel is U-shaped, with balconies on the three sides, and from these there is ample getaway by means of two stairs which join on a wide platform from which stairs lead into the rear of the premises. The yard we noticed is a picture of order and cleanliness. The building is thoroughly lighted with electric light; every bedroom has its bulb and even the store room has its light. There are 58 lights in all, 21 downstairs and 34 upstairs.

To complete this article it would be interesting to state something of the genesis of the Commercial Hotel. The business was founded by the late Mr. Peter McBride, who with material purchased from down the line built a single storey hotel on the present site in 1888. The building was erected by the late Mr. G. H. Henderson, who was responsible for the building of many places in Barcaldine in the early days. Two years later the place was pulled down and a two-storey house erected by Messrs. Mearham & Lovell. In 1897 the hotel was leased to the late Mr. Henry ("George") White and the family removed to Sydney. After a period of four years

Upon termination of the lease Mr. McBride resumed business as licensee of the house. Then came the disastrous fire of 1909, which, starting in Dias' little shop, burnt east and west, and, as already stated, immolated the Commercial with the eighteen other business places. A new house was soon in course of erection, Mr. Fred Hack, then of Longreach, being the contractor. This was a very complete and well-furnished place, only second at the time to the Hotel Shakespears. Mr. McBride died before the new house was completed (March 10th, 1910) and the business was carried on by the widow until her death on 23rd August, 1919, when Mr. Wm. McBride took charge, and has managed the business since to the present day. The old hotel had several escapes. On one occasion a fire in a servant's bedroom was nipped in the bud, and twice the Picture show saved the situation. Then came the big blaze of 4th Dec. last which wiped out the fine building. This makes two destructive fires in twelve years for the hotel. Let us hope many years will elapse ere the dreaded Fire Fiend again makes its appearance.

We omitted to state the whole of the furniture, furnishings, glassware, and crockery was supplied by Brisbane firms.

The contract was in the hands of Messrs. O'Brien & Co., and they appear to have done their work in a very thorough manner.

the family returned and resumed business in the hotel. In 1905 the Commercial was leased for three years to Mr. Harry Webber, who then held the license for the Royal Hotel, Aramac. The family again went to Sydney for the period. Upon termination of the lease Mr.



1928 VIEW. COMMERCIAL HOTEL IS CENTRE OF SCENE BEHIND THE 'HALLELUJAH TREE' (NOW THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE).

THE LONGREACH LEADER, 16 JAN 1931

Cyclone

A severe storm struck the town about 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon and although the storm only lasted a few minutes much damage was done to the main portion of the town. Nearly the whole of the front portion of the Shakespeare Hotel was unroofed. Beech Street from the Shakespeare corner to the Post Office, about 100 yards was strewn' with iron and timber. Several sheets struck the offices of Mr. R. F. Lyons, solicitor, doing considerable damage to the asbestos building. The Union Hotel was half unroofed, while part of the verandah in front of Meacham & Leyland's store was carried away. About 40 sheets, of iron were blown from the Railway goods shed, across the street and deposited in the back yard of the Royal Hotel. Several sheets of iron were blown from the verandah of the Commercial Hotel and the verandah of Stibbard's butcher shop was totally demolished. An old, uninhabited house, the property of Mr. J. Catip, Longreach, collapsed, the roof being' lifted into the middle of the street. Other houses lost several sheets of Iron from their roofs while some motor cars had their hoods blown off. Many trees were blown over or broken. The force of the wind blew a line of railway trucks with the brakes, on through the goods shed.

APRIL 1931 MR WILLIAM MCBRIDE, LICENSEE

APRIL 1934 MR WILLIAM MCBRIDE, LICENSEE



STREET PARADE PASSING COMMERCIAL HOTEL C1930S.

APRIL 1935 MR WILLIAM MCBRIDE, LICENSEE.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HERALD, 14 OCTOBER 1937

In the Summons Court at Barcaldine on Thursday six men were each fined £1, with 6s costs of Court for having been on licensed premises on July 30 without a lawful excuse. Mr T. E. Dwyer, Police Magistrate, was on the bench, and Sergeant R. Bamback prosecuted. Sergeant Bamback said the police entered the Commercial Hotel on the night of July 30 at 11.10 p.m. In the bar a number of men were found, including the defendants, Patrick Kelly, George Dyer, Albert Thomas, Hoy Powell, Darcy Baker, and William Holohan. They were gathered around a table on which was an amount of money. One of the men had a dice box in one hand and some money in the other. There was nothing to show that any drink had been consumed. The defendants were found guilty and fined as stated. In the same Court William Thomas McBride, licensee of the Commercial Hotel, Barcaldine, was proceeded against for a breach of the Liquor Act, in that he kept his premises open for the sale of liquor at a prohibited time. Mr R. P. Lyons, who appeared for the defendant, said that the men were simply having what is termed a 'bob in' when the police arrived on the scene. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined £10 with 6s. costs of court. The licence was ordered to be produced and the conviction endorsed thereon.

THE MORNING BULLETIN, 23 OCT 1937

In the Summons Court, before Mr T. E. Dwyer, P.M., the owners of the Commercial Hotel were called upon to show cause under section 101 of The Liquor Acts, 1912-35, why the conviction against the licensee (W. J. T McBride) on September 30 for a breach of Section 69 (1) of the Liquor Act, should not be recorded against the premises in Part II of the Register of Licences. After hearing Mr R F Lyons, solicitor for the owners, and the licensing inspector, (Sergeant B. Bamback), the P.M. decided that no record be made in Part II of the Register of Licences.



VIEW LOOKING EAST C1939 (CQ OLD PHOTOS AND YARNS FACEBOOK PAGE, JULY 2015)



OAK STREET VIEW LOOKING WEST C1939. COMMERCIAL HOTEL IS FIRST HOTEL IN VIEW ON RIGHT.



VIEW OF MCBRIDE'S COMMERCIAL HOTEL SHOWING EASTERN SIDE VERANDAH C1939.



POSTCARD C1939. COMMERCIAL HOTEL IS MID-VIEW WITH SHAKESPEARE HOTEL AT EASTERN END OF STREET.

THE LONGREACH LEADER, 17 DEC 1948

BARCALDINE PERSONAL

Carmel and Jean Carey arrived by plane on Monday and are staying with their grandmother (Mrs. Carey) at the Commercial Hotel.

1949 WILLIAM JOHN THOMAS MCBRIDE, LICENSEE.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HERALD, 10 FEB 1949

One of Barcaldine's old landmarks has disappeared. In the early days all the hotels had water troughs in front of their premises. These were gradually dispensed with, but one in front of the Commercial Hotel remained, until a week ago. Although not many horses drank at the trough, it was extensively used as a seat for men during the evenings.

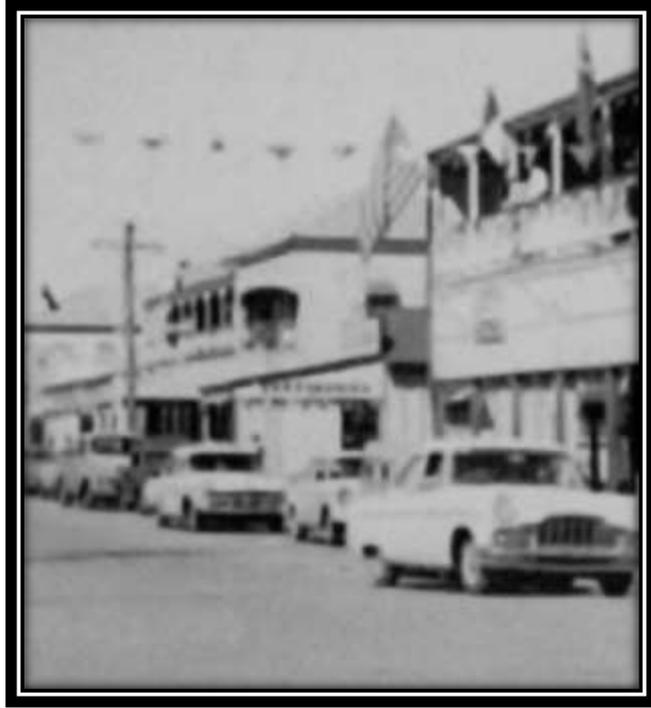
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HERALD, 18 DEC 1952

The Fire Brigade received two calls. The first was when the hedge in front of the presbytery caught on fire. A man who had been trimming the hedge was threatened by wasps and decided to burn out the nest. When he placed the lighted torch in the hedge a lot of dead leaves caught alight and the fire got out of control. Slight damage was caused to the fence. The second call came when another hedge at the rear of Mr C. Durston's residence caught alight. Prompt action by the brigade prevented any damage to the many buildings at the rear of the Commercial Hotel adjacent to the fire. It is thought that the fire started from sparks from a nearby rubbish fire, which had been extinguished. Residents have been warned to be careful with rubbish fires and not to leave them unattended.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HERALD, 17 NOV 1955.

After a break of many months without being called out to fires the Barcaldine Brigade received two calls but neither caused much damage. The first call came when a fire was noticed, by neighbours to a residence in Oak Street. The alarm was given early and with the aid of garden hose the blaze was brought under control before the brigade arrived and very little damage was caused to the building. The second call came when a fire started in horse stables at the rear of the Commercial Hotel. Once again the fire was noticed in the early stages and within a short space of time the brigade was on the job with both units and quickly had the fire in hand. The stables are occupied by Mr J. Rafter, trainer, but at the time of the fire no horses were in the stables. Mr Rafter had horses with him in the North and the remainder have been turned out for a spell.

1957 MCBRIDE'S SELL THE HOTEL TO BENEDETTO AND PALMIRA (BEN AND PAM) PELIZZARI.



VIEW OF COMMERCIAL HOTEL LOOKING EAST FROM GLOBE HOTEL CORNER, 1958 (D MCKENZIE IMAGE)

1963 MR BENEDETTO PELIZZARI, LICENSEE. MRS PALMIRE PELIZZARI (LICENSEE OF UNION HOTEL).

1964 MR COL BURRIE, LEASEE.

1964 - 1970 MR IAN BARRY WILLIAMS AND JILL ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, PROPRIETORS AND LICENSEES.

1970 MR KENNETH GILMOUR DIACK AND ELENA LUCIA (NEE PELIZZARI) DIACK, PROPRIETORS AND LICENSEES.

1972 KEN AND ELENA DIACK,
LICENSEES.



LATE KEN DIACK AND ELENA
DIACK, LICENSEE, 1977/8 (S
BROUGHTON IMAGE).

GERRY FOGARTY, CENTRE, IN MAIN BAR, 1977/8 (S BROUGHTON IMAGE) AND IN BILLIARD ROOM 1970S (G CREAGH IMAGE).



GROUP OF MAIN ROADS EMPLOYEES INCLUDING GERRY FOGARTY AND TEACHERS DRINKING IN MAIN BAR, 1977/8 (S BROUGHTON IMAGE).



1976 HOTEL OAK STREET VIEW (W SCOTT IMAGE).



1970S VIEW(W SCOTT IMAGE).

1978 KEN AND ELENA DIACK SELL THE HOTEL AND LICENCE TO BOB AND JAN KELLY.



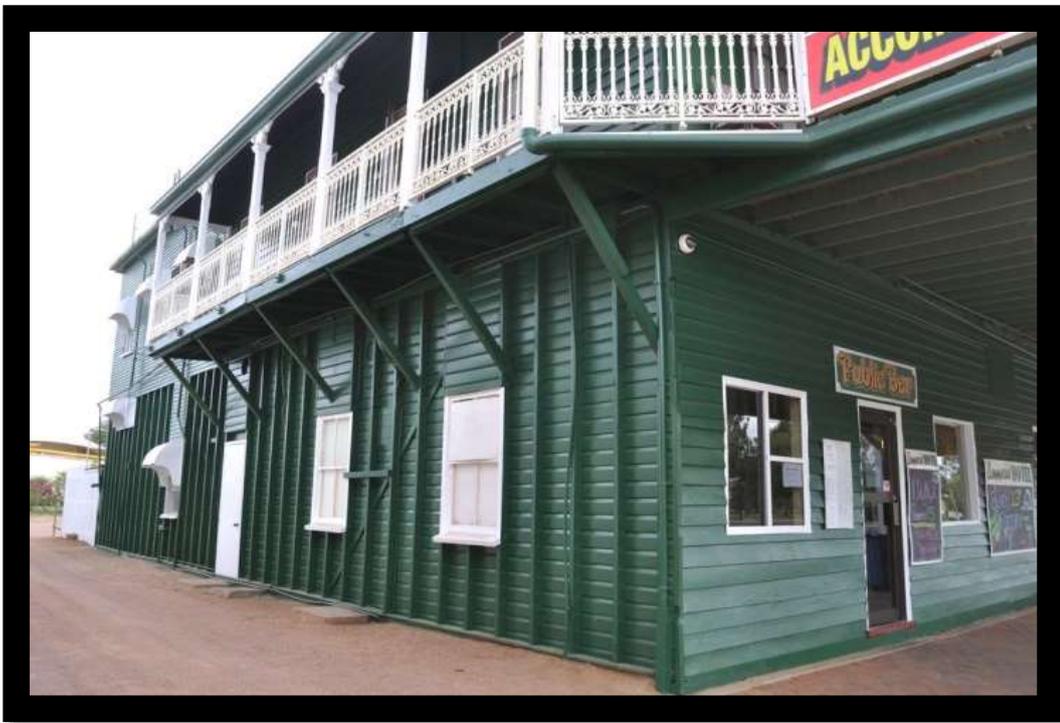
2008 VIEW (S BROUGHTON IMAGE).



2008 VIEW LOOKING TOWARDS THE GLOBE HOTEL (S BROUGHTON IMAGE).



COPY OF DAWN ROSE-HEAD PAINTING, 2009



2013 SIDE VIEW (ABC OPEN IMAGE).

