

Citizens honor pioneer Danes

As a Jubilee gesture citizens of East Poowong (V) have honored Danish pioneers of their district by a Memorial Board in the Triholm Hall bearing the names of 15 original settlers, including one woman.

The honor board was unveiled by Mr Buckingham, MLA for Wonthaggi, on Friday night at a ball in the Triholm Hall.

This was attended by the Danish Consul in Victoria, Mr E. Christensen, and Mrs Christensen, and Mr John Mortensen, president of the Danish Club, and Mrs Mortensen, who travelled from Melbourne for the occasion. Mr Mortensen settled at East Poowong when he came to Australia in 1906 and lived there for more than 25 years.

A trip from the city was also made by a party of young Danish post-war arrivals in Victoria, who have formed a Folk Dancing Group and who performed some of their dances in national costume at the ball.

Other special guests included the presidents of Korumburra and Buln Buln shires, Crs. Athur J. Oden and R. Henry.

Gold, then land

The lure of gold originally brought the pioneer Danes from their homeland, but when the "rush" subsided in central Victoria and the gold petered out they responded to the call of farming in their blood. Headed by H. Staben, C. Moller, J. Schmidt and N. P. Olsen, 14 of them acquired land at East Poowong in 1877.

In addition to the four above mentioned names, those recorded on the honor board are: A. N. Bygdahl, C. A. Byriall, Jo-

anna Lennitt, M. Johnsen, A. Andersen, P. Andersen, P. C. Petersen, E. Exton, M. C. L. Hanson, W. A. Langston and Peter Per-shang.

Direct descendants of these pioneers present at the ceremony included Mrs Doris Chapman, Christian and Neils Moller, Mrs N. A. Petersen, Mrs Jepson, Miss Louisa Schmidt, Mrs A. Goode, Andrew Byriall and the Misses Byriall, Albert and Henry Olsen, Mrs Cockrem, Mrs H. C. Petersen, Mr A. A. Lennitt, Mrs Thornall, Martin Johnsen, J. Andersen and Mrs Hogg.

Souvenir book

Mrs N. A. Petersen, who is 81, has written an illustrated booklet about the settlement, copies of which were sold at the ball.

The name Triholm, which is given to portion of East Poowong, is Danish for "Home in the Woods" and was taken from that of the Olsen homestead.

Mr Arthur Laing, who suggested the idea of a Memorial Board and acted as president of the committee which collected subscriptions, carried out research and arranged the ceremony.

Members of the ladies' committee were Miss Pearl Bloye, honorary secretary; Mrs Laing, Mrs H. C. Olsen, Mrs N. A. Petersen, Mrs Roy Archer, Mrs George Ronald, Mrs Gooch, Mrs G. H. Stuben, Mrs C. T. Bloye, Mrs Thomson, Mrs Wilbur Olsen, Mrs Dudley

Wilbur Olsen, Mrs Dudley
Olsen, Mrs Lester Olsen,
Mrs R. Henry, and Misses
Lorna Archer and Jean
Lancey.