

BEULAH TOWNS PEOPLE REMEMBER ITS

EARLY SETTLERS

By "MIRANDA"

The romance of the Mallee is strikingly illustrated in the Victorian district of Beulah.



Representatives of early settler families of Beulah (V.) and committee members of the Pioneer Memorial Association. Back row, L. to R.: A. P. Bell, A. Vincent, E. Gniel, W. J. Collins, Mrs M. J. Rowley. Front row: Miss G. McGree, Mrs S. J. Treloar, Mrs A. Roberts, Mrs H. Williams (president).

Beulah has reason for pride in its pioneers. They were mostly a band of adventurous farmers who refused to be discouraged by the reports of the "useless" land of the Mallee and its unproductivity. Some of them were wheat growers in the Wimmera, who took their teams and implements to Beulah dis-

trict in more of an experimental spirit. They rolled down the mallee scrub, scratched over the soil and sowed seed on the loose surface, then returned to their home farms. When they went back to Beulah in the summer, they found crops that far exceeded

all the districts, they found crops that far exceeded their greatest hopes. That happened about 60 years ago. Today the Beulah district is a solid and prosperous one, and its residents tell proudly of the million bushels of grain that went last harvest into its silo and stacks.

MEMORIAL PARK

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And, as they explained to me during my recent visit, they want the achievements of those first settlers to be remembered. For this reason a Pioneers' Memorial Committee was formed.

A few months ago a fund was opened, and sufficient money has already been raised for the Pioneers' Memorial Park to be established. This is in a very pleasant spot, with plenty of room for the children's playgrounds and the baby health centre they hope to build there. They also plan later on to build a clubroom for the older people of the district.

The committee is an enthusiastic one, headed by Mrs Henry Williams as president and with her husband as secretary.

Both belong to families who took up land in the district in 1880, on adjoining properties, and who played a major part in its development.

Another of Beulah's early settlers is Mrs S. J. Treloar, who despite her 85 years, is able to recount many interesting stories of the days when she helped her husband clear the land they took up a few miles out of the township.

The memory of Mr W. J. Collins goes back even farther to a blazing hot day in February, 1892, when as a lad of 14 he helped to unyoke the bullocks from the dray in which he and his parents had made an adventurous journey across from South Australia, where they had first settled.

OPPORTUNE TIME

Mr Collins has lived at Beulah ever since and his marriage to Miss Barbari connected him with another well-known pioneer family of the district. Recently Mr and Mrs Collins again became great-grandparents.

When discussing plans for the Memorial Association, Mrs Williams said she felt this Jubilee year was an opportune time for

an opportune time for country districts to do something tangible to keep alive the memory of their pioneers. The life of those who had worked to cultivate the Mallee was one of hardship and want, and those who followed in their footsteps had much to thank them for and remember in their present prosperity.

This happy thought of making the beautification of the town a lasting memorial to its founders is in keeping with Beulah's general outlook. The Mothers' Club at the local school organised a vaudeville troupe to provide amenities for the scholars and to send food parcels to a school they "adopted" in London.

Residents also showed their initiative recently when, on finding it impossible to get an Australian resident doctor for the town, they arranged to bring one over from England.