

EARLY SCENES RE-ENACTED

Maldon Remembers the Gold Rush Days

The clock turned back a century at Maldon on Saturday. Men of the past "came alive" again and the town recalled its birth in the turbulent Gold Rush days.

In a realistic ceremony watched by the whole town and some 800 former residents, the discovery of gold at Maldon in 1853 was re-enacted.

The event was staged at the cairn, a memorial built on the spot where Thomas Meschosk, a Polish Army captain, staked a claim that was to produce £6 million worth of gold before it was worked out.

Here, as on that exciting day 100 years ago, Meschosk came to "prospect" after abandoning an earlier site nearby.

Here, too, came a party of bearded, gold-hungry men, fossickers from the Forrest Creek diggings, who "jumped" Meschosk's claim in his absence and refused to give it up.

Meschosk's return to find his claim stolen, his anguished arguments and final departure to seek—and win—fortune at Maryborough were portrayed with faithful exactness.

Unfortunately, rain spoiled a procession which was to have followed the gold "discovery" ceremony.

Women in crinolines and poke bonnets—some of the costumes 100 years old—and men in stove-pipe trousers and tall hats were to have driven in open carriages through the town.

But Meschosk and the miners, drenched but enthusiastic, paraded.

High point of the celebrations came after the procession when wrought iron memorial gates commemorating the pioneers of Maldon were officially opened.

The gates were presented to the municipality by the president of the Maldon

to the municipality by the president of the Maldon Fraternal Society (Mr. H. Collard).

Mrs. T. Penrose widow of

a miner and oldest member of the society, "unveiled" the gates by cutting a ribbon and the shire president (Cr. J. M. Allan) declared the gates opened.

Two football matches rounded off the day and in the first of these—an "Old Buffers" match—a team of Melbourne members of the fraternal society fittingly "drew" with a team of Maldon members.

The other match, between Campbell's Creek and Maldon, old rivals and finalists last year in the Maryborough association, was won by Campbell's Creek by one point.

(See picture, Page 5.)