

EMU PARK'S WORTHY CITIZEN.

WHILST for obvious reasons it is not possible to give public recognition of the good points of all public spirited citizens during their lifetime, there are exceptions to the rule.

One of them was when the residents of Emu Park and district assembled, despite adverse weather conditions, to pay honour to one who is still with them, and it is hoped, will be so for many years to come.

On Saturday the gates giving entrance to Bell Park, the beautiful reserve at Emu Park, so beloved of picnic parties and week-end excursionists, were officially dedicated to Mrs W. A. Bell, and her late husband.

It would be superfluous to attempt to enumerate the numerous benefactions which Mrs Bell has conferred upon Emu Park from the time, now many years past, when she and her husband decided to take up their permanent residence at the resort.

One thing above all else she brought to the Park was public spirit. And if with the passing of the years, she must have realised how difficult it was to imbue others with the degree of enthusiasm that she herself possessed, she never despaired or allowed her interest in the welfare of the place to weaken.

With no other object than to improve the economic conditions of the local fisherfolk, and to make the resort more attractive to visitors, Mrs Bell launched her great dream of building a jetty. She persevered to carry it to a point where others might have brought it to completion, had the driving force been there.

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If the jetty project fell short of her earlier hopes, Mrs Bell's interest in the Botanic Reserve and her wish that it should be preserved for the purpose for which it was intended was crowned with success.

When its green stretches and shady trees would have been filched by the ever encroaching motorist, when a short-sighted local authority would have allowed the reserve to become a sewage dump, hers was the voice, courteous, but always firm, which pointed out that these things should not be allowed.

Nor did her interest in Emu Park's welfare begin and end with these public questions. Throughout her residence there she has been a generous giver, and none will ever know the full extent of her private benefactions.

For her name was never written
By the side of her donations
Save on hearts that have, in this
world,
Very humble circulations.

Many who now are men and women can tell of when, as children, they had to "collect" for the school treats. There always was a race to be first to Mrs Bell. It was only later they found that it didn't matter whether they arrived first or last, each got the same amount on their book.

The Rockhampton Carnival means a lot of things to a lot of people. But to none did it mean more than the old age pensioners of Emu Park, for each came up for the big day of the Show with a crisp pound note from Mrs Bell in his worn leather purse.

This is true philanthropy, and its worth is recognised by all shades of society. It was fitting that the Acting Premier of Queensland should have been present on Saturday. Many others who could not be there in person were there in spirit. For no act of public recognition of good citizenship ever made in this district has been more heartily approved than this honouring of Emu Park's Grand Old Lady.