

## Charles Leonard King 1894 - 1978



**Len King 1911 (age 17)**

**This is the life story of Charles Leonard King, who was born in Mundoorra, South Australia on the 30<sup>th</sup>. October, 1894, this was recorded in Adelaide in 1977 in Mr King's 83<sup>rd</sup>. year.**

On the day I was born there was midwife and doctor present, and when the midwife saw the new infant, she looked across at my mother and said "the poor thing hasn't got a head"

Fortunately the doctor was able to get my breathing, and that's how I started life.

I was born with a "core" and in case you don't know what it is, you may like to look it up in the dictionary.

My earliest recollection was when I was about 4 years old, my mother took me to a small kindergarden, and she always supplied me with a tomato sauce sandwich, which when I arrived at school was given to the teacher who put it on the mantelpiece, and gave it to me at recess time. Now it might interest you to learn a little bit about your antecedents.

My grandfather Thomas Playford Wellbourn was born in July 1837, and South Australia was declared a colony in December 1836., so you can see that our roots started off about the same time as South Australia was declared a colony.

My father Mark King met my mother in Broken Hill, and they were married on January 1<sup>st</sup>. 1894. I was their first son, and I was born on October 30<sup>th</sup>., 1894 I married Agnes Frances Catt the daughter of Col A.C. Catt, and our first child was a son, and called Roy Leonard King. Roy's first son was Dean, and he married Helen Gilligan. From that marriage Wayne Leonard King was born, and that made six generations on our family tree that goes right back to the earliest times of South Australia

Now perhaps you would like to know about some of them individually, well my grandfather Thomas Playford Wellbourn had a block in Adelaide which I believe was on the corner of Victoria Square and Flinders Street, or Flinders street and Gawler Place They moved out to Mitcham and a street was named after the Wellbourn family I believe that my grandfather sold the land in the city, and made 1000 pounds profit, which in those days was pretty good money. Travel in those days from Mitcham to the city was by two decker tram on tramlines and drawn by two horses I do not know a great deal about my father's people except that \*\* Charles Edward King\*\* was his father, and he had a property down at Christies Beach, about an 88 acre block.

\*\* Ed. I think that this should be William & Maria King\*\*

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I also believe that he went across to the goldfields in Victoria and brought back about 400 pounds sterling and that was used to buy a farm property at Georgetown. It may interest you to know also that when they moved Christies Beach to Georgetown and it took them 14 days and they moved their goods and chattels to the new property.. They had no wire fences in those days, walls between properties were built out of stones and at the start of course they had to shepherd their sheep .

My mother took me out to Georgetown to my father's people to have an holiday. I must have been quite a wanderer, because they couldn't find me. And when they did often it was amongst the sheep. so mother made a lovely red blouse and it became much easier to find me and the sheep The farm by the way was called Aylesbury after the town in England where the folks came from in the first case.

Conditions I those days was pretty tough and my dad decided to go across to Western Australia to the goldfields which had just been discovered, and that didn't do over well, but at least he made enough money to get back to South Australia once again. He joined up a firm called Darlings and a little later transferred across to H C McKay who were manufacturers of farm implements and one of the first things was the Sunshine Harvester. Mr McKay sent my dad back to Western Australia, and he sold binders and all sorts of things amongst the farmers as things were a little bit better that they were in South Australia.

Most of my education was in state schools, and I only got as far as the 3 R's. The Education Department Came up with an idea to get pupils to be more regular, and they gave students a gold medal if they attended School without missing a day or being late. One of the students from the time he started school, until he left, never missed a day or was never late, so that when he finished up school he had eight of these medals presented to him year after year by the Education department

My parents used to say to me "why don't you see what you can do to get a medal" so it came up almost as a dare, so in the first year I missed be being 10 minutes late on one day. So they said "I told you couldn't get one" and of course that was too much for me I just had to go for it again in the next year, and I am please to say that I did manage to get through the twelve months without being late or absent from school on any one day.

I only learned the basic 3 R's reading, writing, and arithmetic, Katanning being a country town, there wasn't a great deal of things for we boys to do, but we didn't get into very much mischief. I remember on one occasion, to help out, there was a cow wandering around the streets, so we drove it back and put into the pound. We thought about this, and decided that as they cow was red & white it wouldn't do any harm if we could find some red paint, we could turn it into an all red cow. Well we remembered, where we had seen some red paint and we did paint the white spots out, so the cow was in the pound, and the poor old pound

keeper had to milk it, and nobody knew who it belonged to. At the same time the owner couldn't find his cow, and it wasn't until about a week later when the paint started to come off, that they discovered what had happened.

We also had a pet lamb, I think it's name was Peter, and we use to tether him out on a rope about a chain long, so he could graze round. Well the schoolmaster had gradually made a path from the school to where he was living, and we got the bright idea of shifting the peg so that the sheep could pass over this pathway. We laid back quietly hidden to see what would happen. Nothing happened on the first day, but on the second time he moved out a little bit nearer, and the sheep charged him, well it caught him fair in the seat of his trousers, and sent him flying. He got up, looked all around the place, brushed the dirt off, and on he went. Well we didn't dare to tell anybody about it, and I don't know that he ever found out that it wasn't just purely an accident.

My dad also knew one of the drivers on one of the trains, the trains by the way went right through from Perth through to Albany and they used to water in Katanning, one of the drivers who was a friend of my dad's allowed my to get up on the engine while they were shunting and rearranging the train, and I was even allowed to throw coal into the fire box creating the steam. Of course steam was the main power we knew in those days, of course many of my pals were quite envious of the privilege that I had.

We used to play tennis, and so did the ladies, and if you saw how they were dressed in those days, the girls today wouldn't know how they ever played at all. Because their skirts came right down to the ground sleeves right down to their wrists, and they wore great big white hats to protect their complexion, and the ball play was underhand, no overhead serves, totally different to what we see now, on the court in the Davis Cup

In 1908 the American Fleet was in the Albany Harbour, and at night time all the spars were lit up with electric light and made a magnificent sight you may imagine to see all these big ships in the harbour and all their spars in different coloured electric lights

My father allowed me to join up with the Young Australia League, and on that occasion they took 400 boys down to Albany to see the fleet. We were billeted out on straw palliasses, and the cooking was done by army cooks We thoroughly enjoyed our trip down there as you may guess.

A year or so later the YAL as we called it, took a party of about 20/30 of we boys to the Eastern States Of course we had to go by sea to Adelaide and from Adelaide through to Melbourne to Sydney and some of the other big cities in Victoria and the factories we went through, I can remember we went through the Akubra Hat Factory, and also through the Beale Piano Factory. At each place we went to we were introduced to the Mayor of the cities, and we looked pretty good in our special uniforms.

I spent about twelve months at Scotch College, fairly close to Perth, and that is as far as my education went.

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About that time they had compulsory military training, and we boys up to – I didn't know what the age was now – I can't remember. but there weren't enough boys in Katanning to form a platoon, so they permitted us to join up with the volunteer Light Horse, and that's we had training as mounted infantry. We attended a camp near Bunbury, and two of us, Ken Gilmour and myself were put on a stable picket which was from 12:00 midnight until 2:00 in the morning, and we thought that we were terribly hard done by being pulled out of bed, and having to stand and watch and see that the horses didn't get into trouble on the line. On weekends we used to go to train on, skirmishing, riding, tracking, and all sorts of things that came in very very handy when I enlisted in the first war.

At the age of 16, I got a position at the Union Bank in Katanning as a junior, and was there for twelve months or more, and one of the regulations of the bank, was that the premises which were attached to the banking chamber, had to have someone sleeping on the premises overnight. The Manager decided to take a couple of days off to take his family up to a property he had, and put me on duty to sleep on the premises. Well I turned up the first night about 11:00 and went to bed, and had not been in bed very long when I could hear some one moving down in the banking chamber, so I switched the light on, and got the revolver which had a barrel about six inches long, and went down the steps into the chamber. Well when I got there I couldn't see anybody there, so back I went to the bedroom, and hardly got into bed, when I heard these steps again, so I went down the stairs with the old revolver wobbling in my hand, I went through all the cupboards, and all the places that somebody could hide, but there wasn't anybody there. I went up again, returned to bed, and didn't know what to make of it, and then it suddenly dawned upon me what it was ;.next door to the bank was the post office, and the chappie on night duty was busy cancelling the stamps on the envelopes, he would do a few, then have a spell or perhaps light up a cigarette, and so on.. It wasn't long before I got to sleep, and I was a much relieved boy to know that there was nobody in the bank.

My family transferred across to South Australia, after being alone more or less in a country town, I decided that I would go and join them, which meant going down to Albany to join a ship called the Yongala and going through to Port Adelaide.. The Yongala by the way was top heavy, and used to roll terrifically almost up to 45 degrees and crossing the Bight it was a particularly rough trip, and I was very glad when we reached Port Adelaide. Some years later the Yongala disappeared off the coast of Queensland and they never found a trace of what happened to the ship, there was no flotsam or jetsam or any thing floating, they think that the ship must have turned over and taken everything to the bottom.

My first position that I had in Adelaide was with R & W Swan and Co, Land Agents. The firm by the way is still going in town. One of my uncles, R D Welbourn, was Register of Engineers in Adelaide, and he got me a position as junior to the Adelaide Stationmaster which was on shift work, and whilst I was there I had to learn first aid and also decided to take up a course in accountancy.

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It might interest you to know this, that as far as church is concerned, a pal of mine Howard Dunstan, and our family as well by the way, all attended the Tynte Baptist Church, and we used to go to the service at 10:00 in the morning for the youth staff, and then we would stay on for the sermon and after lunch go back to Sunday School, and after Sunday School we would go for a walk around all sorts of different places not far from Prospect, and again we would attend the evening service, so I had a pretty good grounding as far as the church was concerned.

On Saturdays we used to go on military training, which again was compulsory, so that will give some idea of what kept us occupied.



### **Len King in 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse - 1916**

As you know the first great war started in August 1914, Howard & I decided that we would enlist in November, so I went and joined the army at the age of 20.. We were trained as infantry as the Light Horse was more or less a small section of it. However, being used to mounted rifles, I got a move across to the Light Horse., and we were moved to Brisbane to join the 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, which 2/3 were Queenslanders and 1/3 South Australian. We were given a farewell luncheon at the Parade Ground before we left for Brisbane on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1915. This may not mean much to you, but it was the first time that the Australians had put a big force into action and they landed on Gallipoli on that particular day.

In August the Regiment was sent to Gallipoli, and we went up to the front line trenches. Of course we had infantry packs on, and the trenches weren't too deep, and it was hot and we had difficulty getting through. In one little bay there was a New Zealander, and we were sent up to relieve them, so I asked this chap, how much further to the front line and he said "stick your "b" head up, and you'll soon find out". so I took his advice and didn't anyway Their snipers were pretty good shots. I spent several weeks on Gallipoli and went off on a hospital ship with dysentery & enteric, and we went as far as Gibraltar and put into hospital there. Feeling better and recovering from the dysentery,, I was able to get out and walk about, and a friend of mine & I decided to explore Gibraltar, well somehow we got down into the dockyards. Well we tried to get back the same way as we got down but got lost. And we came up against a tall wall about 10 or 12 feet high with a gateway there so we opened that and went through. There was an English sentry there and he stuck us up, and called the corporal of the guard. The corporal of the guard said that I have to arrest you chaps, and my friend who was much brighter than I, said well what are your orders? . Well he said our orders are to keep

anyone getting down into the dockyard – my friend said, well you don't have to do that, we are coming back and before they had worked it out, we were out of hailing distance.



**CL In Hospital in England**

A week later we were put on another ship and taken across to England, and landed at Plymouth, that's where Drake started from. I was feeling pretty sick, my weight was down to about 7 stone 7 lbs, and had two pence in my pocket and it was a horribly dismal day, so I didn't think much of England for a start..

When we got into the hospital near Epsom, it was magnificent, it was a huge place, there were 14 miles of passages, and really it was an asylum converted into a hospital., and that is where I had my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. After a few weeks, I was put into a convalescent camp at Weymouth, and they were sending troops back to Egypt. One party was called and went back, a little bit later they called another party, and our names weren't mentioned, so we couldn't go, so we decided that if they called any more, we would just fall in and take a chance, which we did. They even paid us one pound towards the cost to spend on the ship back to Egypt, On the ship itself there were 800 mules and 1200 Tommies to give you some idea. With a pound paid to each of them, it wasn't long before our national game of two up got going on the boat, and I think that before we got through the straits of Gibraltar again, that the bulk of that 1200 pounds was in about 3 or 4 fellows pockets through two up

.When we arrived back they asked how do you get here as we didn't get any papers about it. Well we knew that some ship had been torpedoed near by, so we came to the conclusion that our papers, which were non-existent of course, had gone down with that ship, so we they took us on strength again. Back to training on the horses again, it wasn't long before we were sent over the Suez Canal to keep the Turks away from the front line where we had all our supplies mainly in Egypt, While I was in Egypt, Cairo, a few miles from Cairo is the Great Giza Pyramid, and on one of our half days of leave, two or three of us decided to climb up the top of it. It was 410 feet high and a lot of the steps were about three feet high, so you can guess it was quite an effort to get up there. It was well worth while, and then we were able to go through the inner chambers, quite an experience. If you are interested in that doing it as a soldier, you will find it in my diary which gives fairly good coverage of it, and might be interesting enough for you to have a look at anyway. We got to know quite a number of places mentioned in the Bible like Beersheba, Jerusalem, Jericho, Damascus and so on.. There is one place that crosses my mind, down in the Jordan Valley which is 1300

feet below sea level on the far side is the Mount of Temptation, and it was 1800 feet above, in other words it is 3000 feet above the valley level, where it only shows on the map as 1800 feet high That is the place where they were supposed to have taken Jesus Christ, and said see all this in front of you're here, bow down and worship me, and I will give you the life, and I believe that Jesus stayed in the vicinity for about 40 days.

The last engagement that we were in was in the vicinity of the Sea of Galilee. After the scrap was over, which fortunately we won, they let us walk around to see things, Up some distance ahead of me, I saw one of my pals and he was looking out over the Sea of Galilee and I sang out to him " what are you looking at Bert", he didn't answer, so I walked up a bit nearer , and said "hey Bert what are you looking at" He said "Well" I said didn't you know that it's the Sea of Galilee ?" "Yes" he said "But what did JC want to walk on that lake for, when he could have gone down to the Blue Lake in Mt Gambier"

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Whilst down in the Jordan Valley, often the temperature reached 130 F in the shade, and we were down there for almost 4 months, and it was a pretty horrible place to be, I can assure you. I was a signaller as a matter of fact, most of the time out there, and our different posts were connected up by wire, and about 2:00 in the morning, there came a call for our station which was under J C "J" being for the Jordan Valley & "C" for C Squadron .The chap said "who did you say you were".. "JC" I said "Streuth I thought that they had buried you 2000 years ago" You see in the army most things are done by initials, and Jesus Christ was always referred to as JC.

You might wonder what we used to do to fill the evenings in., well we used to have sing song evenings in the homes, picture shows at the magic lantern, there was a library with plenty of books, there were concerts, and also ventriloquists things like that used to be available in the town from time to time. Word got around that there was a picture show coming to town with moving pictures, something that we hadn't seen at all, well as you can imagine we were highly excited. Well that was first of many new inventions that I have seen in my life time The pictures were in black & white, and there were no words, and one had to depend on their gestures to provide the entertainment. To combat the silence of the pictures a pianist used to look up at the screen and play music suitable to what was going on..fast music for galloping horses etc. Then there were people singing, and it was interesting to see them open their mouths and a few seconds later the words coming through. Next they synchronized the gramophone with the machine and again that worked reasonably well. Another improvement was when they got the word on the screen electrically and everything was teed up alright. That has been developed again until today where we have moving pictures in colour, big wide screens, and really something worthwhile.

That, as I said earlier, was a great thrill to be able to see the first moving picture.

The next new invention was when they found radio, and messages were sent over reasonably long distances to ships at sea, and a message was sent to the Queen Mary when she was right out in the middle of the Atlantic telling the captain that there was a murder on his ship, and the person was dressed in women's

clothes Well it didn't take them long to find him, and he was confined to cells onboard until they arrived in America. His name by the way I believe was Crippen.

Then the first motor car came to our little town. Can you imagine a 4 wheel buggy with no shafts on it, careering down the street without any horses, and driven by a motor, and when it went up the main street, making all sorts of weird noises, you just imagine what happened to the horses that were tied up in the street. Consternation reigned for quite a while until they ultimately came used to it But there was another new invention.

When motor cars came more or less popular, of course the roads weren't the best, and the tyres on the cars weren't too good, and before setting out for a trip into the country, you always made sure that you had a spade, an axe, a coil of rope, and one or perhaps two water bags for emergencies. Our first trip with my parents took us from Adelaide to Sydney, and it took us nine days to get across, we were in old car, and when we asked in Renmark about the road through to Mildura, we were told that there were tracks there, but you couldn't get lost, because all you had to do, was to look out for empty petrol tins, and empty beer bottles., and you couldn't have marked the road any clearer, and it got us through without any trouble whatsoever.

Some time later the Wright Brothers in America, got this machine going, well they used bi-planes, and they even flew in London I believe, under the Tower of London Bridge, just to indicate how safe air travel really was.. The pilots used to all sorts of stunts to encourage people to realize that it was a good method of travel, and not too dangerous. This was another first, and as time went on, it would improve until we come up to today to the huge machines that carry up to 600 passengers, and travel at faster than sound (ed. A slight exaggeration)

During the second world war, rockets were used against the enemy, also a little later some of our planes took an atom bomb and dropped it on Hiroshima in Japan killing thousands of people , hundreds of thousands I believe It seemed terrible at the time, but it brought about the end of that war, after they put another bomb into Nagasaki, and told Japan that if they didn't give up that the whole of Japan would be blasted to pieces So whilst it was a huge loss of life, but goodness knows how many millions of lives it saved, with that one atomic bomb.

Many experiments were carried out with rockets, they were able to get them to go into orbit around the earth and found out that animals could be shot up in these rockets, and brought back safely to earth, and when they thought it was safe enough, they decided to send two men to the moon. Well one of the greatest recollections that I have in my life time was to hear the President of the United States talking to a man on the moon, and here was I in my sitting room enjoying listening to the conversation – things so far apart, really wonderful So you see in my lifetime, there many many inventions totally different from anything seen before, but you people just take them for granted as it some 10 or 11 years since the men walked on the moon, but today one wouldn't even stop to listen to a story on it.

Crossing over to our homes, during the summer months it used to be pretty hot, we had to find a way of keeping food fresh. We were able to get hold of a galvanised iron box with a tray on top, a tray on the

bottom. You would fill the top with water, put some bits of rag down the sides, and as the water ran down these pieces, the evaporation enabled us to keep the butter nice and firm. This was improved by having an ice chest on the top of the space where you could put in blocks of ice, and every few days, the ice man would come around and put a new block in, and this enabled us, not only to keep the butter firm, but we could store quite a lot of fresh stuff and kept it quite OK. Today of course, that has gone by the board, and practically everybody has a refrigerator, and that has been bettered by getting one that doesn't have to be de-frosted, and the wives I know, appreciated that move, because it was a long job to get rid of the ice from inside the box.

Saturday nights were bath nights, and more particularly, they had a big tub in front of the kitchen fireplace, fill it up with warm water, and that was how we had our bath. In the summer time, we had a crude form of shower, which again was quite a help, but things are altered on today's basis, because showers are more predominant, and are taken by everybody, or almost everybody every day at least once.

During our early married life house cleaning was done with a hair broom, a straw broom, a small brush, and tins or small trays to put the debris into. Next came the rotating broom, which of course made work a little easier, from that it developed into vacuum cleaners which are used today, over the time these have been credited with doing an exceptionally good job. So as you can see it is a little bit easier nowadays from what it was when we were first married.

Our first home cost us 1070 pounds, and a few years later we sold that, and bought another one which cost us 1340 pounds. Well believe it or not I got a first mortgage of 1337 pounds, meaning that all I had to pay out was a deposit of 3 pounds. What a change it is today.

Speaking about the 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse, I forgot to mention the fact that the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment hold two records, the first being the issue of swords to us, and at the Sea of Galilee we used our swords in the charge, mounted of course, and then that will be the last cavalry charge that is ever likely to be made. The other one, was in connection with signalling, and we had to try and get a message back one night over a few miles with an Aldis Lamp, but unfortunately for us the batteries were gone, and we couldn't get any light. We had a look at the helio and saw that it was aimed at the station that we wanted to talk to, and believe it or not we tapped the message out in bright moonlight, and they got it quite OK. I don't think that that has been done before, and I doubt whether it will ever be repeated.

A business acquaintance of mine took a week's holiday at American River on Kangaroo Island, and talking to the proprietor Mr Jack Linnett, discovered that he hadn't got any books, so he suggested that perhaps he would be interested in having someone do them for him. Well I met him when he came over to Adelaide on one occasion, he said what about coming down for 2/3 days. I thought well that's alright, and sounded pretty good to me, so we arranged a time for me to go over, and I travelled across by air. That was my first trip in a commercial aeroplane, and it was a bi-plane and travelled along. There were no prepared aerodromes over on Kangaroo Island, and they used to land some little distance away from American River. There were only three passengers as well on this plane, and he touched down in this paddock, and said there will be someone along directly to take you into American River, and away he went. The only shelter there was an empty 44

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gallon petrol drum, and I am standing there, couldn't see anybody, all that I could see, was paddocks which had been cleared, and surrounded by tall mallee trees, so I didn't know what to do. I was there for the best part of an hour before somebody turned up. How it came to be missed, as when the plane flew over American River, he used to circle once to let them know that there were passengers for American River, and somehow the message got missed, and that was the reason that I was delayed. As you can guess I was pleased when somebody turned up to take me there, as it was really cold day Well I discovered that what he really wanted was someone to open up, and look after his books for him, so I used to go over at intervals, perhaps 2 or 3 times during the year, and with lovely days over there, I used to go fishing in the day time, and do the books at night, as there was nothing else to do any way. That went on for quite a long time, and eventually Mr Linnett said to me..you have an office in town, why don't you start up a travel office, and if you do that I will give you the whole of the house to book for, so in 1944 after interviewing the other hotels and guest houses on the Island, I registered the name Kangaroo Island Tourist office, and that was the start of the travel business, King's Travel Agency.

Travel by the way, was mainly by boat, and there was a vessel names the Karratta, which used to go twice a week across to the Island. It used to carry a mixed cargo.. it was nothing to see cattle, sheep, pigs, fowls there as well as grain, and passengers were a minor part of the business. But particularly at Christmas Time when there only two of us across there, you had to get on board the ship quite a long time before it was ready to go, put your overcoat or blankets down on the ground, and sit on them.. then do you best to have a sleep, as most of the trips were done by night... the business expanded, and we concentrated our efforts at the start with bookings inside South Australia, then we expanded to overseas travel, as well as all other states..

Well Thomas Cooks more or less had a monopoly of bookings in SA at that time, and a brother in law of mine, Charlie Sutton, went overseas, and when he came back I said "did you see anyone else's name on the continent" He said "yes, PolyTours." So I wrote to them, and got a letter back some three weeks later, saying one of their Directors was coming to Adelaide. We had a 4<sup>th</sup> member of the staff at that time. The staff was then, myself, Roy, Brian and a Basil King, who was no relation, and they decided between them that one Saturday, they would go through the office and paint it all out, putting placards around the walls, showing the different states etc., to create a good impression. They decided to do this one Saturday afternoon, and Basil brought along his air pump to pump the paint through, but unfortunately it kept getting clogged. Up. Lucy Noble, who was our female member of the staff, settled that for us, because she took off one of her stockings, strained all the paint through it, and the walls were painted, and then she rinsed the stocking off and dried it, and she wore it home..how is that for good service

I think you will know, that the more you know about the commodities that you sell, the better it is, and we took every available opportunity of free trips, inaugural; flights of overseas airlines and so on. This enabled all of us in turn to get across to England, Japan, Pacific Islands, up through Thailand, across to America, United States mainly, and our knowledge of the different places grew. Altogether I imagine that I must have done the equivalent of about 10 trips around the world, which enabled me to see things that I was only too pleased to see, I have been through both the Suez and the Panama Canal, which was an eye opener when we

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went through there, and down through America and have seen the Grand Canyon, another marvellous sight, Niagara Falls, so that our knowledge of the world, as well as our staff who were given the opportunity of seeing these places, made us more capable of making sales. So that's how King's Travel Agency managed to get up, and keep on expanding

**These are the Kings of Travel**



**THE THREE MEN** above are Mr. C. L. King (center), Chairman of Directors of King's Travel Agency, Pty. Ltd., and his two sons, Eric (left) and Brian, the joint Managing Directors. Between them has been built up one of Australia's leading Travel Organizations, with an annual turnover in the region of five million dollars. Owing to the success of his firm's success, Mr. C. L. King says, "It's perfectly simple. We've always wanted to serve the public to the best of our ability - and have never spared ourselves to do so. People have taken notice of this, and if I could give them some help, why not they all their friends."

**"Knowing the Product" is the secret of King's success in world travel**

Mr. King's own Managing Director, who is credited with the success of the firm, says: "We have always had a policy of 'know the product' - and we can't afford to do otherwise. We are at all times well informed and well equipped for the most exacting travel in the world. We are in touch with the latest news from all over the world, and we are able to give our clients the best possible service. We are also in touch with the latest news from all over the world, and we are able to give our clients the best possible service. We are also in touch with the latest news from all over the world, and we are able to give our clients the best possible service."

**The Branch Managers**



Mr. Eric King is the Managing Director of the King's Travel Agency, Pty. Ltd. Mr. Brian King is the Managing Director of the King's Travel Agency, Pty. Ltd. Mr. C. L. King is the Chairman of Directors of the King's Travel Agency, Pty. Ltd.

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## The King's Travel Family in 1961

Travelling through Canada, we had the opportunity of a bus trip to the Icefields, and the coach driver pulled up at one place, and announced I see that we have a lot of people on board with cameras, and explained that the bears were just coming out of hibernation, and they had their cubs with them, and it was a waste of time anybody getting out of the coach to photograph the bears and cubs. Then he went on to explain that in the previous year, one of the drivers, against his better judgement, let a woman get out of the coach to take photos, and she was in the family way. Well as you can guess, as the time got near they got rather concerned to know if any damage had been done, as another bear came along and mauled the woman, not doing a great deal of damage as far as they could see, but when the kiddie was born, they had their own doctor there with a specialist to see that things were alright. The kiddie arrived quite naturally, they held it up, smacked it's bottom, and got it breathing, and really couldn't see anything wrong until suddenly one of the doctors had a closer look at it, and you that kid was quite OK in all respects, but with one exception, the kid was born with "bear" feet



1908 Adelaide from St Peter's Cathedral

## Charles Leonard King 1894 - 1978

I wonder how many people there are that can remember when they had trains running from Glenelg to Adelaide, and the train used to go up through King William Street, and the driver would ring a bell to get the pedestrians out of the way.. That was something. At the time there were really two railway trains on different routes, that used to go back & forwards between Adelaide and Glenelg Glenelg Beaches used to be quite popular in the summer and the bathing costumes that they wore in those days were neck to knee so that body was basically covered. Mixed bathing was not permitted, and down on the beach there were notice boards put up , giving one section for men, and one section for women Today of course mixed bathing is very popular, and bikinis are worn by the girls..Postage stamps would be almost as good as to what they wear today

Going back, my dad & mother, Mark & Marion had four sons, of which I was the first next came Layton, now Layton never married, but he was very keen on music taught music instruments and had quite an extensive clientele, and stayed in Port Pirie for quite a long time.. There he used to organise concerts at the churches and was known as a well known accompanist Some eight years later, Harold was born in Katanning, in Western Australia, , Harold and his wife Amy had two daughters, Margaret was the elder and Libby, second Margaret married and has a son and a daughter, whereas Libby went to Canada, and she was there several years, and spent a lot of time helping delinquent boys, and every now and then she came back to Adelaide for a holiday. It was rather amusing, as she would ring her folks up from Canada and if funds were low, she would ask for the call to be reversed, and those times were never refused. Harold started in a bank, and then went on to accountancy, secretarial work, but he was also in Parliament for a time, but he spent a tremendous amount of time on the question of frost, and his article on frost, and how to combat it is known world wide. Up in the River Districts they have practically eliminated frost. Four years later, came Melville, and he and Pat had quite a family, three daughters, Merry, Diane & Lindy. Mev spent some time, after leaving school on a farm, but eventually he got into selling life insurance with the AMP and built up an exceptionally good commission. He also had two sons, Peter & John.



**Agnes, Vida & Cath Catt  
Wedding 1923**

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Agnes & I were married in the Malvern Methodist Church, and had the Rev Vidsavee, and old friend of my people was also present at the wedding in addition to the regular minister. The reception was held on the lawns of Glenburnie, that was where Agnes lived for many years with her parents, and many of her family



**“Glenburnie” Home of the Catts**

They had a big marquee on the lawn, and everything was going fine. The visitors to Glenburnie were taken up there by horse drag, which was drawn by six horses, and a lot of the guests preferred to go up in the drag rather than by motor car. Glenburnie I believe, had fourteen rooms, was a very old building, and had a coach house

Agnes's mother's maiden name was Sinclair, and the Sinclair family went north, up through Port Augusta, and down to Port Lincoln, where they built a two storey house, with a lot of the materials being brought out from England. Another interest fact about the Sinclairs was that Stuart the explorer, was a tutor to the family, and he made a table (he was a carpenter) which now, I believe is kept in the Museum on North Terrace. My father was rather keen to go to college, but his father was very keen on the idea, but dad managed to collect enough scrap iron around the farm to raise enough to pay for the first quarter. When his father realized that he was so keen, he gave way, and dad went to Prince Alfred College. Being a country boy, and there weren't many there at that time, and he was quite a fast runner as well as a good jumper, and he was picked for the football team. Well he had never seen football played before, so he got hold of the ball, ran as hard as he could with it, and threw it through the goal posts. As dad explained, I only did it once, that was enough. Both our two boys, Roy & Brian also went to Prince Alfred College.

Many years ago TV was discovered, and for quite a while was black & white, and today they have it in colour, and they found that with the aid of satellite, they could watch cricket in England, and watch every ball that was bowled, as if you were actually there. The colours were excellent, and many hours were spent watching cricket being played so far away. Just another of those things that have come into our life, and I won't say that it has been to our benefit either.

Not many people would know that Kangaroo Island was settled before the mainland, a ship called the Duke of York landed there in July 1836, and they decided that the island couldn't carry a big population, so they moved then up into Adelaide. There is an interesting tombstone there, where a lady Lucy Beare was buried and she came out in the vessel, Duke of York, and they settled there in July 1836. There are three houses built there too, Faith, Hope & Charity, and not very far away from them two mulberry trees were planted,

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and they are still bearing fruit. Planted there some 140 years ago. Another discovery was an anchor, and that was only found recently, as apparently it was lost off a whaler's who used to call in there some 170 years ago.

Back to the family again. There is a little Anglican Church, I think that it is called the Church of Christ at O'Halloran Hill. It was built in 1848, just 12 years after South Australia was made a colony.

Mark & David were christened at St Theodore's by Bishop Reid, and Cathy also by the then Arch Bishop Reid, who is in charge of St Peter's Cathedral at North Adelaide So you can see he endeavoured to have the grand children started off in the right way. You might wonder why I haven't mentioned Roy & Brian, the reason is that I was brought up a Baptist, and Baptists believe that baptism is by immersion, and not by putting some drops of water on the kiddie. But still that's how Sue wanted it, and that's how the children became to be christened. But that is how I happened to be brought up.

The little church is very popular for christenings as when Wayne was christened there were five on that particular morning. The little church only seats about 60

Often a kind word spoken by somebody can have a great effect on anybody's life. When I went to Scotch College, due to the fact that I have a prominent feature in the middle of my face, namely my nose, I was nicknamed "Beaky", and I really hated it. Well Effie Riochardson, and another lady whose name I can't remember, used to invite us around some Sundays, to have tea with them, and during the conversation, she said "Len, people with a big nose and a big mouth are always clever people" Well that helped build my ego, and I didn't mind being called Beaky after that. One of the students at Scotch College was a chap who was called Donald Tinribs Kew Marshall His father was a publican in Kew, so that's why Kew was brought into it, and during the process the old custom of "wetting the baby's head" some one in the bar defied him to call the son Tinribs, so that is how he got the full name Donald Tinribs, Kew Marshall

Before the train went from Perth to Albany, it used to be done by coach, and one occasion, one of the passengers was an Englishman, and he asked the driver, if he could come up on the box seat so that he could have a good look at the country. Well the coach driver, told him some stories, and amongst them he said before we go much further, there is a man who has a farm there, and he has a trained kangaroo, and the kangaroo used to come along and meet the coach and take the mail from the driver, put it in his pouch, and take it back to the farm Well before they had gone very far, possibly a mile or so, there was a great big kangaroo, close to the road, standing to its full height, almost 6 feet tall, a real whopper, and the coachman cracked his whip, and yelled out "no mail today joey" and away went the kangaroo The Englishman was astounded, and said if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I would never have believed it. It just shows how your imagination can run at times, doesn't it?

Today is Christmas Day December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1977, Sunday, and I have just returned from spending the day with quite a lot of the family and this year Dean And Helen catered for all the family.

Going back some 50 years, our parents used to entertain us for lunch, and sometimes for tea, and also alternatively, Agnes's people, that is Colonel Catt used to provide the meals for it, and both cases gifts were exchanged. As the years passed, things changed, and they decided that they would have the midday meal

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together with their family, and then they would meet for tea at one of the relative's places, and the group kept growing year by year until it got to almost 40 people, mixing teas, and having quite a good day. Well they decided that the parties were getting too big, and to go back to the family reunions.

As I said earlier, Dean & Helen did the honours and entertained myself, Roy & Vi & Stewart on that side of the family, Brian & Sue with Mark & David. Mark & Kim had come over especially by air to be present, and are going back tonight or first thing tomorrow morning, to Melbourne. Helen & Dean of course were there, with their two children Melissa & Wayne, So sitting down to the midday meal there were 14 people present, and all the surnames were King. Jan & Jerry Taylor, who are stationed in Port Lincoln, were unable to come over, so from my parents, the King side of the family, has grown until there is a total of 17 people, who could have possibly been at that particular gathering.

Well folks this is where I sign off, as I wish to include in this cassette, an unusual way of saying a Merry Christmas.

This is my first experience of making a tape, and quite frankly it is obvious that it is an absolute amateur's job, so please put up with it.



**April 1978 – The 4 King Brothers  
Melville, Harold, Layton, & Len (CL)  
The last time that they were together**

Charles Leonard King

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1977

This was his last Christmas with us, as he died in September 1978.

This follows with a message from Jan Taylor, wishing CL a very happy Xmas, and saying that they were sorry that they couldn't be there.

Jan then played and sang the carols "Born on Christmas Day" & "Silent Night", and a number of other songs.

CL AGAIN

Thanks Jan, I think that it was a marvellous thought on your part. Of course the family haven't heard it yet, but when they do I am sure that they will really appreciate it.

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Not many people will realize it, but in a public building in Adelaide, there is a verse out of the bible, it is down in the East End Market, on the southern side, and there are four big entrances there. I will read the verse.

“The earth is the Lord and the fullness thereof.”

This was put on when workmen took a pride in what they were doing, and it has been there many many years since that building was made.

Here is a little verse that interests me.

“Blessed is a man who starts each day with zest  
Who the world gives his best,  
Who finds time to pray, and knows the joy of play,  
Who sees the best in others,  
And treats all men as his brothers,”

Here are few thoughts or quips that I have picked up, which have been quite helpful throughout my life.

Moderation in all things pays off

You cannot win an argument, a man who is convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still

Speech is silver, but silence is golden

This is my first attempt at making a tape, and is disjointed in many places, but I hope that you will appreciate the effort put into it, and it should be a very interesting tape to read in a few years time.

THE END.

Typed by Brian King from the original tape on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000.