

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

**the "Odd
Trick"**



**'the "mirthful
yell**



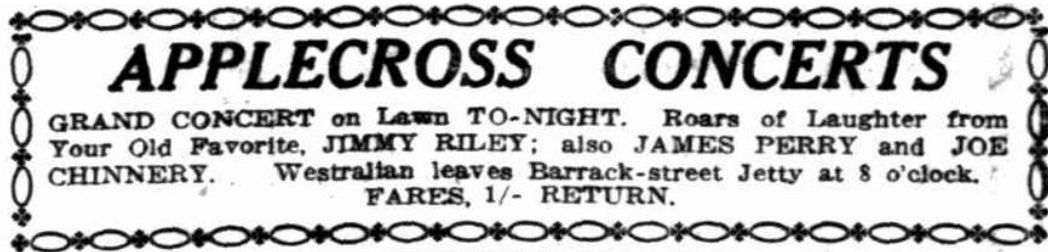
**"arch-
humorist"**



**Anne Chapple
July 2018**

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

The “life of Riley” is defined in the Collins Dictionary as “a luxurious and carefree existence”.¹ And so it may have seemed that Jimmy Riley was enjoying such a lifestyle. An enigmatic performer, Jimmy trod the stage at many of the popular entertainment venues in Perth in the early 1900s.



Advertisement for a concert held at the Applecross Gardens (1911)

Retrieved from Advertising (1911, December 31). *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)*, p. 12. Retrieved July 2, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57724482>

His talents were lauded by many:

JIMMY RILEY

A Good Draw

In spite of all opposition, professional and amateur., Jimmy Riley keeps his end up as a grotesque comic songster. His domestic symphony, “How Dare You” given as a recent riverside concert convulsed even those hardened pros Miss Maud Chetwynd and C Kenningham. And if Jimmy can extort peals of mirth from artists who have swapped carmines with world-celebrated comedians, to say nothing of horse howls from the local shop boy and his bedizened donah, his fun is infectious indeed. More Jimmy Riley and less lugubrious chalker-carol would improve many a Sabbath. Rational Man wants to laugh as well as love.²

Yes, it seemed that Jimmy was in great demand with a very mixed and somewhat confusing to the modern eye, repertoire. He is often referred to as the “Odd Trick”:

“James Riley, the “Odd Trick” still draws like a porous plaster”.³

And other references mention “the mirthful yell”⁴ and it seemed that his talents were not restricted to comedy as it was reported that he “still paralyses his audiences with his singing and dancing”.⁵

¹ “the life of riley [Def 3] (nd) In *Collins Dictionary Online* Retrieved 30 June 2018 from <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/the-life-of-riley>

² JIMMY RILEY (1906, December 2). *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)*, p. 4 (THIRD SECTION). Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57231262>

³ Amusements. (1906, January 13). *Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931)*, p. 5 (CITY EDITION). Retrieved July 12, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article207393709>

⁴ “The BUSKER” *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)* 5 February 1911: 25. Web. 2 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57708271>.

⁵ Earl’s Court. (1906, January 6). *Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931)*, p. 5 (CITY EDITION). Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article207393604>

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

Jimmy's talents were such that he was even advised to take his acts overseas and perform in places that were recognised as centres of excellence such as London:

"Jimmy being advised hundreds of times by those in the know to get away to England with his funny and facial moods where £50 and over weekly awaited him."⁶

It is unknown if the talented Jimmy was tempted by this advice, but he chose to stay in Perth and his performances at such long lost venues as the City Club⁷, Earl's Court⁸, Stanley Hall⁹, the Pierrot Pavilion¹⁰ and the Applecross Gardens¹¹ continued to endear him to the Perth community.



View of the front facade of the Hotel Melville, Applecross, taken from the tennis court (ca 1920)
Retrieved from (https://encore.slwa.wa.gov.au/iii/encore/record/C_Rb2133427)

The high esteem for this young performer was acknowledged:

.....Jimmy...was one of the best liked amateur pros that mirthfully crinkled the face of an audience and extracted an outburst of uproarious applause. Jimmy was a natural comedian, and didn't have to depend on outside effects as extraneous humor [sic] to make his points, his wonderfully funny face and quaintly croaky voice being the passport to hilarity.¹²

⁶ "Peeps at People" *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)* 3 May 1914: 17. Web. 22 Jul 2018
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57823803>

⁷ The City Club was situated on the top floor of the Clarence Buildings at 527 Hay St, Perth. The club was a venue for a variety of activities including billiards, draughts and it also had a function room for concerts. The Club was previously known as the Cosmopolitan Club.

⁸ Earl's Court located at 367 St George's Terrace was a function venue, frequently used for concerts as well as social occasions such as weddings and significant birthday celebrations.

⁹ Stanley Hall was a small hall often used for concerts, located in Canning Road, East Fremantle.

¹⁰ The "Pierrot Pavilion" was located at the corner of William and James Streets. Opened in 1910, it was lauded as Perth's new open air continental theatre. (from PIERROT PAVILION. (1910, December 21). *The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950)*, p. 9. Retrieved July 2, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article7682965>

¹¹ Applecross Gardens were located in the grounds of Hotel Melville: "In the summer months, concerts are held on the lawn every Sunday evening and a first-class program is provided by the best local artists." Battye J.S. (Ed) *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*: (Printed and Published by the Cyclopaedia Company, 29 Barrack St, Perth by Hussey and Gillingham Limited 106 and 108 Currie St, Adelaide MCMXII).

¹² "Peeps at People" *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)* 3 May 1914: 17. Web. 22 Jul 2018
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57823803>.

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

It is worth noting that whilst Jimmy was a favourite, he still managed to draw some not-so favourable comment:

...the large number of ladies would have enjoyed it more but for Jimmy Riley's little bits of blue. His more tastefully selected items go good, but his struggles to keep his cigarette bumper alight till the end of the song are extremely unfunny.¹³

Jimmy even managed to win some friends in the sporting world with an alternative performance on the cricket field:

"If Riley- the Odd Trick was put into the South Fremantle combination for his fielding alone, he certainly justified his inclusion. Standing as deep square leg last week, he took a couple of splendid catches, which required plenty of judgement in the taking."¹⁴

So, who was Jimmy Riley? Jimmy Riley was the stage name of Arthur Clement Wynne. Arthur, a member of a large family, was born in Liverpool, New South Wales on May 30, 1879¹⁵ to Henry and Margaret Anne Wynne. Arthur was one of the couple's twelve children, having four sisters and seven brothers. It seems that Arthur was the only member of the family who was gifted, with no recording of his parents, brothers or sisters feeling tempted to "tread the stage".



The Late Arthur Wynne

Better known as Jimmy Riley, a natural comedian and a good all-round citizen Retrieved from "Peeps at People" *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)* 3 May 1914: 17. Web. 29 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57823803>

¹³ "THE DEADHEAD'S DIARY." *Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931)* 15 February 1908: 7 (CITY EDITION). Web. 2 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article206698669>

¹⁴ "THE GAME OF CRICKET." *The Empire (Fremantle, WA : 1907 - 1908)* 29 February 1908: 3. Web. 20 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227981402>.

¹⁵ Australian Birth Records Registration No 5423 Ancestry.com. *Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.(www.ancestry.com.au)

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

Members of the Wynne family began to drift over to Western Australia at the turn of the century¹⁶ and the first record we can find of Arthur's presence in this state is when he married Jenenia Scott Morton Brooks in Perth in 1905.¹⁷

Subsequently he is found in the 1906¹⁸ electoral roll living at 275 Brown Street, East Perth with his brother William, who was manager of the timber mill at that address, Coombe, Wood and Co. Other members of his family, notably his mother, were also in residence. At that time, Arthur was working as a bootmaker.¹⁹



Premises of Coombe, Wood and Co Ltd, Timber and Iron Merchants

Retrieved from COOMBE, WOOD & Co. LIMITED TIMBER & IRON MERCHANTS. (1904, December 25). *Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954)*, p. 37. Retrieved July 2, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article37805767>

Arthur and his young wife, Jenenia, then moved into rented accommodation in Parker Street²⁰, where he was still working as a bootmaker, then in 1910, still boot making, they have taken up residence at 31 Brisbane Street, a rental property²¹ and in 1913 and 1914 they were living at 64 Shenton Street, North Perth, again a rental property²².

¹⁶ Arthur's brother Hercules Charles Wynne married in Perth in 1900

(<https://bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx>)

¹⁷ Registration No 1190 (<https://bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx>)

¹⁸ 1906 Commonwealth of Australia Electoral Roll: State of Western Australia: Division of Perth: Roll of Electors who vote at Wittenoom St Polling Place Page 19. Note: Even though Arthur and Jenenia married in 1905, it is only Arthur recorded at this residence in the 1906 electoral roll. Jenenia would have only been 19 at this time, so would not have been eligible to enrol on the electoral roll.

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ 1909 Commonwealth of Australia Electoral Roll: State of Western Australia, Division of Perth, Roll of Electors for the Sub-division of Balkatta Page 60

²¹ 1910 Commonwealth of Australia Electoral Roll: State of Western Australia, Division of Perth, Roll of Electors for the Sub-division of North Perth, Page 115

²² 1913 Commonwealth of Australia Electoral Roll: State of Western Australia, Division of Perth, Roll of Electors for the Sub-division of North Perth, Page 127. 1914 Commonwealth of Australia Electoral Roll: State of Western Australia, Division of Perth, Roll of Electors for the Sub-division of North Perth Page 170. Note on the 1914 electoral roll, Arthur is listed as living at 64 Shenton St and Jenenia at 62 Shenton St

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

The young couple, (Jenenia married at the tender age of 18), soon had a growing family, with Arthur John Wynne being born in 1905 , Edward Neil in 1907, Allan in 1908, Mavis Mary in 1910, Basil in 1912 and Ronald James joining the family on August 25, 1913²³. Sadly, the second youngest child, Basil died in the same year of his birth.²⁴ So in 1913, the young family consisted of mother, Jenenia, father Arthur and five children under the age of 8. This could well be the reason why Arthur (alias Jimmy) failed to heed the advice to travel to England to find fame and fortune with his comedic talents.

“A wife and family and a never-too financial bank balance, however, had left Jimmy anchored to the sod.”²⁵

It can be speculated that his growing family caused Arthur to change his occupation, as he is listed in the 1914 electoral roll as a ‘tally man’²⁶. Tally men were defined as : “one who tallies, checks, or keeps an account or record (as of receipt of goods)”²⁷. Arthur may well have been employed as a tallyman in the timber industry, given his brother’s affiliation in this industry and later events indicate that Arthur had connections in the trade.

However, if this change was wrought to assist in the financial situation for the young Wynne family, it was, sadly short lived as the ‘breadwinner’ Arthur developed enteric fever and toxæmia in April 1914, and after entering Perth Hospital, died in April 7, 1914 at the young age of 34²⁸. Enteric Fever at that stage in the fairly young state of Western Australia had been rife but was slowly being brought under control with there being reported that the cases per year had declined from 238 in 1913, 148 in 1914 to 128 in 1915²⁹. However, sadly for Jenenia and the children, their husband and father was one of those 1914 statistics.

²³ Arthur John Reg No 5423 Edward Neil Reg No 636, Allan Reg No 1293 Mavis Mary Reg No 899, Basil Reg No 592 and Ronald James Reg No 1533

(<https://bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx?uid=6652-1357-6884-3383>)

²⁴ Basil died on 24/11/1912 and is buried at Karrakatta in the Anglican HC Section Gravesite 0211

(<http://www2.mcb.wa.gov.au/NameSearch/details.php?id=KB00012712>)

²⁵“Peeps at People” *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)* 3 May 1914: 17. Web. 22 Jul 2018

(<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57823803>)

²⁶ 1914 Commonwealth of Australia Electoral Roll: State of Western Australia, Division of Perth, Roll of Electors for the Sub-division of North Perth Page 170

²⁷ “tallyman” {Def 2} (nd) in *Merriam-Webster Online*. Retrieved 3 July 2018 from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/tallyman>

²⁸ Death Certificate Arthur Clement Wynne Reg No 0100217K/1914, Certificate No 00017895846 Note: Arthur is buried in the same grave as his young son, Basil

²⁹ “PERTH PUBLIC HOSPITAL.” *Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954)* 3 December 1915: 51. Web. 20 Jul 2018 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article37592783>)

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley



Funeral Notice: West Australian Thursday 14 April 1914 retrieved from Family Notices (1914, April 9). *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved July 2, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26902415>

Arthur's popularity was evident in the attendance at his funeral with members of the City Club, members and brethren of the Loyal Hand of Friendship Lodge, North Perth and members of the Metropolitan Timberyards, Sawmills and Workers' Employees Union³⁰ all being urged to pay their respects to their lost comrade and friend. The distinguished pallbearers paid testimony to the regard in which the young performer and family man was held: they were Messrs BJ Stubbs MLA, A MacCallum (representing the Australian Labour Federation), W McKimm and M Wynne, representing the Metropolitan Timber Workers Union, FE Buckingham PGM and KH Wear PG, representing the Loyal Hand of Friendship Lodge and A Ward, Secretary of the City Club and F Maher, representing the City Club.³¹



Brother F. E. Buckingham PGM Loyal Hand of Friendship Lodge
Retrieved from No title (1915, July 30). *Western Mail* (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), p. 4 (ILLUSTRATED SECTION).
Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article37429528>

³⁰ "Family Notices" *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) 9 April 1914: 1. Web. 27 Jul 2018
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26902415>

³¹"Family Notices" *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) 11 April 1914: 8. Web. 14 Jul 2018
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26902655>

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

One can only imagine the issues facing Jenenia with her husband now deceased, living in rental accommodation³² and faced with the daunting task of raising five young children alone at a time when money was scarce, and the world was facing a very uncertain future.

Fortunately for the little family, Arthur's popularity and charitable performances had not gone unnoticed and there were many in the community who sympathised with their dilemma and were willing to assist.

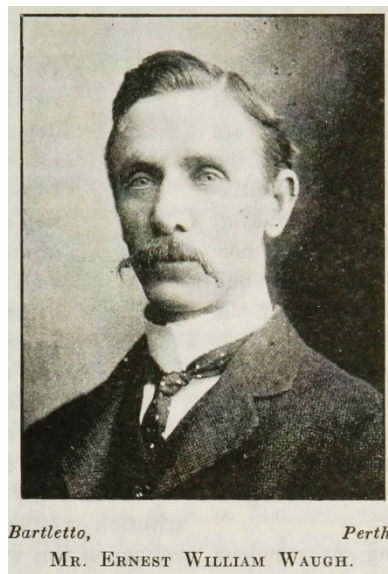
Accordingly, Mr Ernest Waugh, Mayor of the North Perth Council published the following notice in the West Australian very soon after Arthur's death:

Sir The recent death of Mr A.C.Wynne has removed the sole support of his widow and five young children, the eldest child being but eight years old. Mr Wynne was popularly known by many people as "Jimmy Riley" who as such for many years rendered valuable aid as a comedian at numerous charitable entertainments. The position of his family is such that an appeal to the public for assistance is necessary. May I ask that you be kind enough to open a subscription list through the columns of your paper. I enclose cheque for 1 guinea towards this purpose.

Yours etc

E Waugh

Mayor of North Perth³³



Bartletto, Perth.
MR. ERNEST WILLIAM WAUGH.

Ernest William Waugh, Mayor of North Perth

The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia: (Printed and Published by the Cyclopaedia Company, 29 Barrack St, Perth by Hussey and Gillingham Limited 106 and 108 Currie St, Adelaide MCMXII).

³² The Wynne family residences in 31 Brisbane Street, owned by WS Sloan (Municipality of Perth 1910 page 26) and in 64 Shenton Street, owned by Charles Edward Seale (Municipality of North Perth East Ward page 34) were rental accommodation as borne out by the rates books

³³ AN APPEAL TO THE CHARITABLE. (1914, April 25). *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), p. 14. Retrieved July 21, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26903647>

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

The appeal bore fruit immediately with Mr Waugh's notice immediately amended with notice of a contribution from the City Club and a notice urging members of that institution to support the appeal.

The West Australian dutifully reported the subscriptions made to the appeal that came from organisations in the Perth Metropolitan area along with individuals, some of whom preferred to remain anonymous. These funds were also supplemented by the money raised at a number of concerts conducted by organisations that Arthur had assisted in his performances at venues that still exist today in Perth including Hyde Park and the North Perth Town Hall. There was even a fund-raising event staged at Wilga in the South West of the State by the sleeper-hewers in that area³⁴. Their efforts contributed £21/1s to the coffers.³⁵

The results of the appeal saw £185 being raised to support the Wynne family. This amount was then managed by a small group of trustees elected by the subscribers who determined to use some of the proceeds to purchase a block in Vine Street, North Perth, with the intention to build a house for the Wynne family.³⁶

Possibly in order to attract publicity and extra assistance, a plan was hatched to construct the home in one day and to this end, the skills and knowledge of Councillor Sydney Gibson, who was also a builder and contractor, were engaged. Councillor Gibson had been involved in the "busy bee" conducted in May 1914 to effect repairs to the Perth-Fremantle road³⁷ and it was intended that the Wynne home be constructed along the same "busy bee principle".



Councillor Sidney Gibson
ANZAC Cottage: Souvenir of The Monument Erected at Mt Hawthorn 1916

Councillor Gibson set about recruiting skilled volunteers to assist in the construction, advising that he had had great success in attracting carpenters, plumbers, bricklayers, handy men and labourers to assist. Illustrating that care of these workers was of prime

³⁴ Hence the speculation that Arthur had worked as a tallyman in the timber industry.

³⁵ Late Mr. Wynne. (1914, May 22). *Westralian Worker* (Perth, WA : 1900 - 1951), p. 9. Retrieved July 14, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article148134569>

³⁶ NOVEL CHARITY EFFORT. (1915, March 26). *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved July 4, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26937273>

³⁷ "BEE" MENDS ROAD (1914, May 11). *The Herald* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1861 - 1954), p. 7. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article242144411>

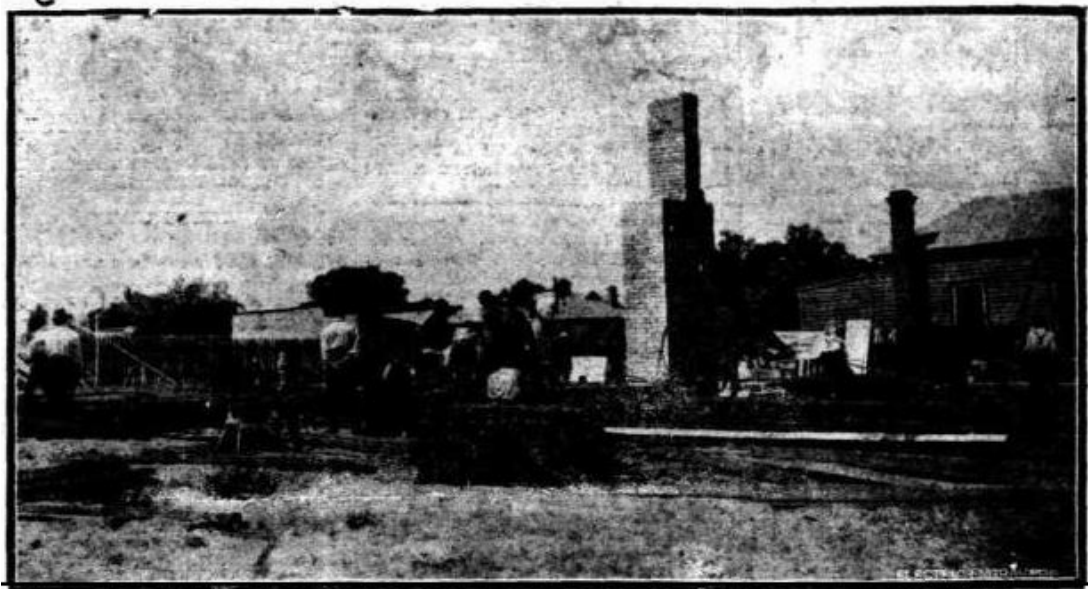
The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

consideration, it was also noted that Councillor Gibson undertook “to provide Elliman’s embrocation for anybody straining their back or shoulder muscles.”³⁸ The workers were assured that their energy levels would be maintained as a committee of ladies was formed to cater for their sustenance and butchers and bakers had willingly provided meat and bread for this purpose.

Councillor Gibson had approached a number of suppliers with pleasing results as well:

“Mr. Gibson also states that the merchants are treating him liberally in every way by giving substantial reductions in the purchase price of all material. Bricks for the chimney, etc., will be carted and laid free of charge”³⁹

Work started on Friday March 26, when the brick chimney was constructed as seen below:



The Block of Land

With materials ready for operations to commence

A House Built in a Day (1915, April 4). *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)*, p. 6. Retrieved July 29, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58587875>

With all preparations made, on Saturday, March 27, 1915 an ‘unique gathering of charitably disposed and willing workers’⁴⁰ assembled at the block at daybreak to commence work on the building. The volunteers showed great application and by 10am they had laid the foundation stumps and floor joists along with a base of frames and the framework for the walls.⁴¹

³⁸ A NOVEL BEE. (1915, March 23). *The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950)*, p. 8 (THIRD EDITION). Retrieved July 28, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article80720135>

³⁹ "NOVEL CHARITY EFFORT." *The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954)* 26 March 1915: 10. Web. 28 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26937273>

⁴⁰"NEWS AND NOTES." *Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954)* 2 April 1915: 33. Web. 4 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44758669>

⁴¹ "THE BUILDING BEE" *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)* 28 March 1915: 1. Web. 16 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58587380>

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

The work continued into the afternoon and this saw the Wunderlich stamped metal ceilings installed, window frames in place and over half of the jarrah weather boarding in place. The timber frame for the roof was also in position, ready for the roofing to be installed.

By sundown, the house was all but completed and the workers were able to view their handiwork with much pride.⁴²

At the end of the day, there were still some bits and pieces to be completed, but the home was habitable with Jenenia and her five children able move in to their brand-new house. A jarrah villa with four rooms, two verandahs and the necessary conveniences as well as the land upon which it stood was now home to the Wynne family.



The Finished House

Which was "christened" Wynne Villa by Bishop Riley last Wednesday and formally presented to the widow and children of the late Arthur Wynne

A House Built in a Day (1915, April 4). *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)*, p. 6. Retrieved July 29, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58587875>

It was also furnished, a fire lighted, and the tea prepared and laid on the table at the usual hour, Mrs. Wynn[sic] and her small family walking in and settling down just as if the home had been finished long before. It was a wonderful day and reflected glory upon the hundred odd carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, painters, slaters, furniture men and gardeners, and also the carters who brought the material on to the ground and were there to help in the cheering when the family moved in to sit down to the first special meal.⁴³

⁴² "NEWS AND NOTES." *Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954)* 2 April 1915: 33. Web. 28 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44758669>

⁴³ "PEEPS at PEOPLE" *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)* 13 March 1927: 14. Web. 22 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58325242>

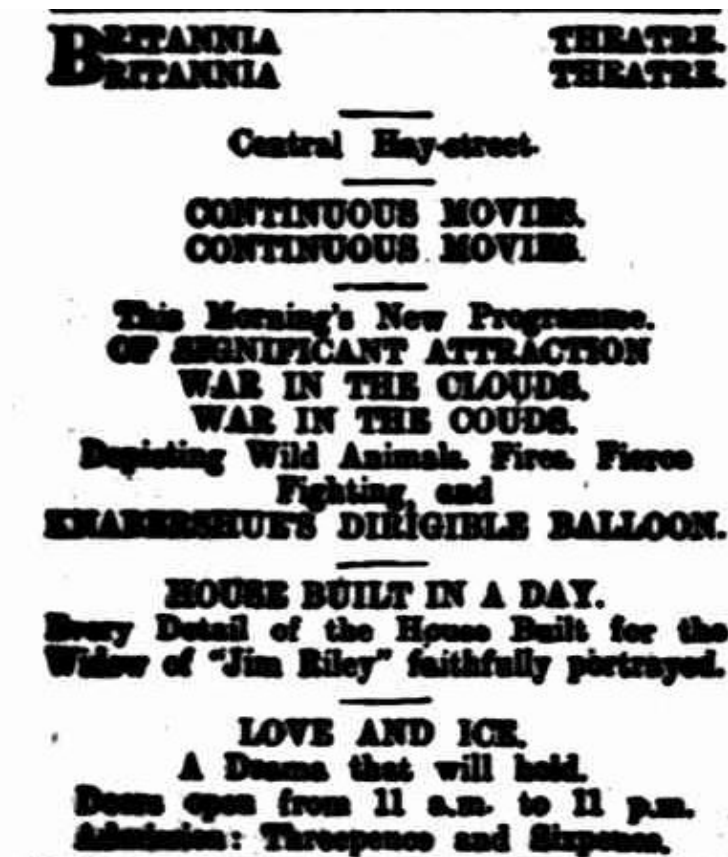
The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

And, in a final gesture:

"The Busy-Bee-built house, presented to the widow and orphans of Arthur Wynne (Jimmy Riley), was finally completed exactly on the first anniversary of the demise of the said A.W.⁴⁴

In addition to the many newspaper stories that accompanied this inspiring project, the story was preserved for posterity in several different forms. In something that would have been ground-breaking in those days, a film was made of the project:

"The enterprise of the local film company will also enable the public at the Britannia Theatre to view the building of a house in one day for the widow of "Jimmy Riley." The picture opens by showing the vacant land, next is clearly shown the building and the brick work and laying the foundations, following which is a faithful record by the camera of the work until completed.⁴⁵



Advertisement for the showing of the "House Built in a Day"

Advertising (1915, April 8). *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), p. 2. Retrieved July 29, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26938414>

⁴⁴ THEY SAYS (1915, April 11). *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), p. 20. Retrieved July 4, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57797338>

⁴⁵ "Advertising" *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) 8 April 1915: 2. Web. 12 Jul 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26938414>

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

And through the indefatigable “Dryblower”, a prolific “social poet” of the time, the story was recorded in poetic form:

THE HOUSE.

Aided by a small army of carpenters, bricklayers, painters, and plumbers Councillor Sid. Gibson erected the house for the Wynne family in 24 hours.

This was the House that Sid built:
This was the lone quarter acre of land.
Some tussocky grass, some gravel and sand,
Some bushes that frequently sheltered the vags.
Some billies that browsed on old jam tins and bags.
Some scattered old straw. some stones and some silt
Was the site of the House that Sid built.
These were the brickies that marched in the morn
To that lone quarter-acre unfenced and forlorn,
Who mixed up the mortar laid there the bricks,
And a copper and chimneys proceeded to fix.
Who finished the fireplace, the breast and the flue,
And christened the cap at a quarter to two;
Who made three long sleeves [sic] and whisky neat wilt
Close to the House that Sid built.
These were the carpenters, tradesmen all.
Who answered Councillor Gibson's call,
Who brought their hammers, their chisels and saws.
And solemnly spat on their horny paws.
Who juggled with joists, with rafters and studs,
And hit clout nails with a volley of thuds:
Who chiselled and planed, who augered and punched,
and upon water and sandwiches lunched.
Which accounts for the perspiration they spilt.
On the planks of the House that Sid built
these were the helpers who did the odd jobs.
Who blackened the range and who whitened the hobs,
Who painted the pickets and set garden seeds,
Laid carpets and other most dangerous deeds.
Who fashioned the fowlhouse and chopped up the wood.
And did all the innocent damage they could.
Who laid the first meal on a neighbor's new quilt
in the hurry-up House that Sid built.
This was the Bishop who came up to praise
The efforts of all on that day of all days:
For he who gives quickly, as someone has said,
Will soon have a halo encircling his head.
And this was the Public who cheer fully gave
The shelterless widow and orphans to save.
And this is the Best Thing that ever was done

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

Between the uprising and set of the sun.
Vast temples may rise and the Pyramids fall.
But these lowly homes shall be known after all,
A monument grand, though ungarnished and gilt.
Is Humanity's villa that All built.

—DRYBLOWER⁴⁶.

The new home was officially opened on Wednesday, March 31 at 7:45 pm ironically by Bishop Riley with the presence of dignitaries such as members of parliament and the Mayor of Perth.⁴⁷



Bishop Riley

No title (1929, June 27). *Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954)*, p. 60. Retrieved July 29, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article38886944>

Mrs Wynne lived in the North Perth home, her husband, Arthur's legacy, for many years through to the 1940s.⁴⁸ She never remarried and died in 1954 at the age of 68⁴⁹.

Final Note: Sidney Gibson continued his 'hobby' of building houses in one day with his role of overseeing the construction of ANZAC Cottage in Kalgoorlie St Mount Hawthorn on February 12, 1916.

⁴⁶ "THE HOUSE." *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)* 4 April 1915: 8. Web. 2 Jul 2018
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58587569>

⁴⁷ NEWS AND NOTES. (1915, April 1). *The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954)*, p. 6. Retrieved July 26, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26937881>

⁴⁸ *Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory 1941-1942* (H Wise and Co Pty Ltd 135 St George's Terrace, Perth 1941-1942) indicates that Mrs Wynne no longer was an occupant of "Wynne Villa"

⁴⁹ Jenenia is buried in the same grave as her husband, Arthur and infant son, Basil
(<http://www2.mcb.wa.gov.au/NameSearch/details.php?id=KC00015493>)

The Life (and Legacy) of Riley

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