

MARIE'S STORY

There is not a lot I can write about Marie as I don't remember meeting her until after I married Bill and went to live in Ballarat.

When we were children Ballarat was a LONG way from Geelong and the Renshaw family - along with many other families of that era - did not maintain much contact with each other. Few people had telephones or transport and, I guess, any communication cost money during the depression years and just to survive day-to-day living would have engaged all their thoughts and energies. However, whatever the reason, we did not know very much about Marie - except that she had married Jack Hanrahan and lived in Ballarat. Audrey remembered hearing that Marie liked evening dresses and dancing.

Albert recalls that Marie was sent by her parents to be educated at a girl's school in Geelong, either Morongo at Bell Post hill or The Hermitage in Pakington St, Newtown. She would stay with her grandmother and aunts Lizzie and Annie at their residence at 487 Ryrie St, East Geelong, where Albert would on occasions be allowed to stay. He remembers Marie leaving for school early in the morning and returning in the afternoon. He also remembers that she had a will of her own and was scolded from time to time, mainly by Grandma, for some misdemeanour or other. In the course of time Marie returned to her Ballarat home.

After I married and went to live in Ballarat, I traced where she lived and made contact with her, visiting her and Jack and their children at their home in Sebastapol. They had two boys - Ian and Graeme. Marie also visited me a couple of times but, when we moved to Perth, we lost contact again.

With this book in mind, John looked up the name Hanrahan, Ballarat, on the Internet and I was fortunate to ring, first off, Gladys Hanrahan - Graeme and Ian's Aunt - and she has been most helpful, but does not know a lot about Marie's earlier life.

Both Jack and Marie have died and are buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery and, sadly, on November 3 this year Ian also died (of cancer) and was cremated there. Graeme was able to attend the service, but has now returned to his home in Dimboola where both boys lived.

Mavis

November 2006.