

<i>Month & Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written & Spoken Presenters</i>
May 2000	The Jewfish Point Area	Ray Stevens?

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OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

MEETING: **Friday, May 26th 2000**

**“ JEW FISH POINT AREA –
HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT ”**

PAPERS BY: Ray Stevens

Charlie Small

Charles Small and His wife apologise for non-attendance at this meeting.

Charles could not remember much about Jewfish Point except that he refers to Pryor's Boatshed being already at Jewfish Point at about 1927 when he would be on the water. He said that it was remodelled some time.

His father used to warn him about the Devil's Hole on Lime Kiln area.

When he went to live at Lansdowne Pde there were only 4 other houses in the street - 1948.

31/3/2000

FOR MAY 2000 Topic.

2000.05

JEWFISH POINT AREA PRIOR TO 1940.BY RAY STEVENS.

The talk I have prepared, is based on my memory of the years I spent walking around the area in pre-war years and in Oatley Park. I lived in East Oatley during the early years of my life and moved into Jewfish Point area in 1947.

WHY WAS IT CALLED JEWFISH POINT?

The only thing I can think of, is that many years ago the Georges River was a fisherman's paradise and jewfish were plentiful. The channel in the river runs from "Dirty Dicks" on the south side (i.e. Menai side) to a hole right on the point, where jewfish gather.

When I moved to the area, many people had their letters addressed to "say" Baker Street, Jewfish Point Oatley or they would leave Oatley out of their address.

WHERE DOES JEWFISH POINT START?

To my knowledge the Jewfish Point area starts from an area south of Douglas Haig Street: Baker St., Burke St., Lansdowne Pde., Lansdowne Cres., Macken St., and Cres., Marine Drive, Freemans Ave., Burke Cres., Raymond St. Lower part of Gungah Bay Rd. Bounded by Jewfish Bay, Georges River and Gungah Bay.

INHABITANTS PRIOR TO 1940.

Going back to this period, the following people lived in these streets:-

Baker St. Rasmus, ~~Hedson~~^{NACFIELD}, Plumridge, Green, Linquist, Lawler, Lackey, Joyce.

Burke Cres. Walker.

Burke St. There were two houses in this street. I do not know the names of the inhabitants.

Freemans Ave: Ryland, Marsh (Court), Churchill.

Marine Dr. Westfallen (~~1931~~¹⁹¹⁷), Fendley, Pryor's Boatshed, and an old house was opposite to Walker's Home.

Macken St. Myers.

Lansdowne Pde. Wal Packenham and family.

STORY OF SOME PEOPLE:

Packenham, Lansdowne Pde. - Wal & Lil Packenham lived at "Carisbrooke". They had 2 sons, Len & Jo, and a daughter. In the late 30's Wal was trying to sell land on commission in Jewfish Point for 90 pounds (\$180) a block but did not have much success.

He was a real character, he disliked wearing shoes and did everything barefooted. I have seen him walking up the road, dressed up in his "dicky suit" going to his lodge, carrying his shoes and walking in bare feet.

His eyesight was very poor, but it did not stop him from walking over the roof he was building for his son, Jo, in Burke Street.

Down at the bottom of his land, Wal had a boatshed which he

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rented to the Moss family. Unfortunately, at the very high tide (2 metres), the water used to come through the floorboards. The family eventually left there and moved to Myall Street.

War Years 1942-43

A searchlight was installed on the property at 27 & 29 Baker Street. This was manned by women soldiers (AWAS). It was co-ordinated with another searchlight where the Scout Hall is now in Gungah Bay Road. Unfortunately, one soldier suicided.

Macken Street. Meyers - The Meyer's house was built here in 1929. It was very isolated, being down in a gully surrounded by trees.

One of their sons' Fred was a postman for many years in Hurstville and was Honorary Secretary of the Oatley Swimming Club for many years.

Mr. Meyer's grandson, Steven Turner, now lives at number 2, Baker Street.

Marine Drive. - There was an old house opposite Jack Walker's with a verandah around it. I do not know who lived there.

ANIMALS: There were foxes, possums, blue tongue lizards, snakes, echidnas and goannas.

OYSTER BEDS: In Jewfish Bay, oyster beds were run by Harold Howes.

TREES: From photographs taken in 1947, it appears that the timber getters had chopped down many trees on the point, but since then trees have grown back to their old density. Ti tree was very thick.

SERVICES: Most of the roads were laid with bitumen by 1945 but no curbing, guttering nor concrete paths.

Water was on but Freemans Avenue did not appear to have any, as Mrs. Court had a water tank.

Gas was not available until 1946.

Mail was delivered by Mr. Ernie Lawson on his horse, for many years.

There was no sewerage available in 1947.

From 1946 onwards, land was sold very fast, starting at \$180 per block. For the following 10 years, there still were some short cuts to Oatley station through the bush.

Baker Street. Lawler - Reg Lawler Had several bus routes, Oatley West and Oatley East. He commenced his Mortdale to Short street then Jewfish Point, which with others, he sold to Steve Roberts. During the war years, with petrol rationing, the bus was fitted with charcoale fuel. A large balloon was fitted on and was covered with a fish oil which contained a gas. It certainly smelled in wet weather.

Steve Roberts was a real character. On the way to Mortdale he would often call into his home for a cup of tea. Passengers were kept waiting. The Bus used to be packed with passengers going to Mortdale pictures.

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Reg Lawler had two sons, Jack and Les, who ran a taxi service for many years.

Gordon Lackey - was a foreman at Garden Island and had three sons, Evan, Wayne and Wilf.

Marine Drive.- Pryor.

Just around the point in Jewfish Bay there was Pryor's boatshed where rowing boats and launches were hired out. The boatshed was there for many years and then converted into a house. The worry of returning to the road was the climb up the cliff.

Cliff Pryor was one of the children living there. He used to walk to Oatley Public School in Letitia Street, (East) Oatley. His hands were so tough that he did not wear gloves as the school's wicket keeper.

Westfallens - Monty built their house in approx. 1932. Mrs. Westfallen was a Real Estate Agent in Mortdale for many years.

Keith Fendley - lived in a house half-way up the hill from the water.

Freemans Avenue. - Merv Churchill's hobby was to sit on his back verandah and shoot the large water rats which were on the river. There were 4 children in his family.

Burke Crescent. - Fred Walker was the father of well-known Jack Walker and father-in-law of Dorothy (nee Mallard).

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Boat Shed.

In 1930, a boatshed was built on the water for the Jewfish Motor Boat Club. Races were held every Saturday. The races were controlled by two of the largest loud speakers I have ever seen. They were approx. 3 feet long and were very powerful. Extensions have been made to the shed, which can be seen on the southern end of Jewfish Bay.

FIRST RESIDENTS:

The Meyer family, who built their house in 1929 appear to be the first residents.

It is not known when the Pryor's boatshed was built. Cliff was at Oatley School in 1932 & 1933, where I knew him.

Perhaps other members know of earlier residents!

31/3/2000.

WHICH IS THE OLDEST HOUSE?

It is a bit hard to find out.

Let's look at the obvious.

No. 1 Baker Street - This is at present occupied by Mr & Mrs Max Rasmuss. They have lived there from 1940. This could place them as the longest present inhabitants of Jewfish Point.

Max said the house was built in 1929 as that is the date stamped on the taps.

No. 33 Baker Street - This is now occupied by the Buchanan family. No one seems to know how old it is. Les Lawler lived there in 1930, but does not know the history before this date.

Macken Street - We know that it was occupied at 1/7/1929 by the Meyer family, who built it.

Freeman Avenue - This was occupied by Mrs. Court nee Marsh from the early 30's. She had her own water tank. Maybe built early 30's.

Prior's Boatshed - This could have been built in the late 20's - I knew the son, Cliff, at Oatley Public School in 1931 or earlier.

MAYBE MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE MORE INFORMATION.

Ray Stevens.

Although some information on this page may not be correct, I have left it for that which might be correct!

*Glenn Stevens
Secretary.*

JEWFISH POINT.OLDEST HOUSE.

Further investigation to the oldest house has uncovered very interesting information.

It is now apparent for some reason, the earliest houses were built down near the water.

Pryors Boatshed.

After talking to one of the original children of the family, Allan, now in his 80's and the granddaughter, Mrs. Leila Phipps, the boatshed was built in 1923. The Pryor children were Cliff, Albert, Allan and Queeny (who was married to Frank Worrall). I could not understand why they would build a boatshed in such an inaccessible place to get to. There were 2 large boatsheds, one at Como right at the station and Oatley Bay Boatshed.

But after talking to the family and Sally Lenehan, the boatshed was actually built for boat building. They built 75 rowing boats for Audley National Park. They were taken over to Como and taken by train to Audley. Blands took over Pryors Boatshed.

A photo taken of a shark caught at Jewfish Point in 1951 shows it was still in Pryors name.

Finally a house was built over the boatshed and the service stopped. Peter Maher eventually built a 3 storey boatshed and house next door.

There were several houses built on the Point in the 1920's. Keith Fendley's parents built a house down near the water. Material was brought over by launch.

Another family who lived down on the hill was the Hodgson family. Children Valerie, Lesley and Max. Lesley married Trevor Woodfield, whose family lived at No.2 Baker Street.

There was another Hodgson family lived down there. One of the children was drowned at Royal National Park.

OLDEST HOUSE.

Just east of the point down at the point was what was originally built as a weekender with a verandah around the building. This was then filled in with windows. Sally Lenehan said she thinks it was built in 1915.

A Mrs. Gee owned the building, Monahans lived in there for a few years. When they moved out in 1940 a JOe Muscat moved in. The building is not there now and no one knows when it was knocked down.

I have been advised that a Mr. Naylor started to build a house on the Point in the 1920's. He built the foundations but never moved in.

No.20 - Foundations still there. House on top owned by JOHN Woodward.

TELFER'S 56 Marine Drive.

The original Mr Telfer owned a large hardware shop in Darlinghurst. In the 30's he commenced building his house out of sandstone. During the 1939-45 period, he employed Italian stonemasons, who were Master Tradesmen. They quarried the sandstone on the site. They first built a boatshed, swimming pool, tennis court, house foundations and a garage at street level. Then for some unknown reason built a brick house on the sandstone foundations.

URQUHART's 80 Marine Drive built in 1930.

No.50 Lansdowne Pde. built by Watson's and then occupied by Anderson's about 1931.

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CHILDREN 1931.

In February 1931 Hedley Mallard (sometime Mayor of Hurstville), who lived in Douglas Haig Street, prepared a list of children who would be eligible for a school in West Oatley (in Acacia Street).

This list showed only children in Lloyd Street, Jewfish Point. As I understand the children in Mi Mi Street, Myall Street etc., were to go to Mortdale School.

The Children in Jewfish Point were:

Crouch family	Freeman Ave	3
Leach "	Burke St	1
Lawler "	Marine Dr	1
Pryor "	" "	1
Neas "	" "	2
Hodgson "	" "	1
Fendley "	" "	1
Meyer "	Macken St	1

These children were of school age.

3/3/2000

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Marine Dr. Westfallen (1927), Fendley, Pryor's Boatshed, and an old house was opposite to Walker's Home., Wilcox, Hodgson, Gee, Telfer, Urquhart.

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Lansdowne Pde. Wal Pakenham and family., Watson, Anderson

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From evidence it appears that the Pryor's family were the first residents in 1923

See Addendum → 31/3/2000.

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A local landmark set in stone

By Leader
Property Editor
MARIA GALINOVIC

in stone

Tues. 4th Sep 2001

THERE is St Mary's Cathedral in the city, then there is 'Nip' at Oatley's Jewish Point.

While few people have been close enough to the 56 Marine Drive house to see its name engraved in the sandstone steps, many passers-by on the Georges River have admired its circular sandstone and brick facade.

The property is now for sale through Terry Pfeiffer Real Estate.

It is the home's intricate and precise stonework that gives it an affinity with St Mary's Cathedral.

In fact, owners Brooke and Greg White have been told that it is one of the best examples of Sydney stone work still in existence.

The couple, both Oatley natives, bought the house three and a half years ago, following the death of its owner, Mary Telfer.

Being friendly with the elderly Miss Telfer, Brooke learned a lot about the history of the place.

She and Greg, a golf professional, have since done some research of their own.

According to the Whites, the Telfers bought the big block of land with a stone boathouse at the bottom in 1926, when Oatley was still a river



LANDMARK... Brooke and Greg White, are selling "Nip", one of the best known Oatley properties.

holiday destination for well-off city dwellers.

Before the purchase, the boathouse was the Jewish Point Sailing Club.

The Telfers, of Telfer Paints fame, brought out two stonemasons

from Italy to cut the existing stone and build a house.

Apparently the masons worked on the property for more than 25 years, cutting the stone into blocks of the same size, "sparrow

picking" each block into a fine texture, "keyholing" around the curved windows and "pin-tucking" the mortar.

Apart from the foundations and the lower level of the house, there was the terracing of the big block to complete, lots of pathways to lay and a tennis court to maintain.

The house was named 'Nip' after the youngest Telfer, "the little nipper".

Since buying the property, the Whites have installed a smart new kitchen, painted and carpeted, and put electricity in the boathouse which has its own accommodation.

"The Leader"
Tues. Sept 11th 2001

Story of a fine house

A RECENT story about a house for sale at Jewish Point contained several inaccuracies.

The house at 56 Marine Drive, Oatley, used to belong to the Telfer family and is somewhat of a landmark because of its detailed stone work.

Mrs Susan Latham, the only remaining Telfer in the district, pointed out that:

- The land was bought by her grandfather, Roy Telfer in 1932, (not 1926). An existing wharf was used by the Jewish Point Motor Boat Club, not a sailing club. Her grandfather later built the stone boat house.

- The Telfers owned a hardware store called Sydney Tool and Paint Company, not Telfer's paints. Her grandfather was a contract painter.

- They did not specifically bring two stonemasons from Italy. The masons were employed after they had completed their work on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

- The house "Nip" was not named after "the little nipper". It was a pet name Mrs Latham's grandfather used for her grandmother.

Originally
home of the Telfer family.

George an

2001

“ROMANTIC, CLASSICALLY IMPRESSIVE
& DESIRABLY SECLUDED”

Deep Waterfront Estate

OATLEY

JEWFISH POINT



FOR SALE

Inspection by appointment only



TERRY PFEIFFER
REAL ESTATE PTY. LTD.

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9547 1466

2001

FOR SALE

Inspection by appointment only

OATLEY, JEWFISH POINT



WELCOME TO ONE of the finest southern landmark properties. Commandingly sited, overlooking picturesque panorama and shimmering waterviews – this strikingly unique residence makes a memorable impression.

Proud as a castle, with sweet warmth of a family home, such a property of unique elegance and class is seldom available to the market.

Harmonising with its natural surroundings, with the most enchanting, intricate sandstone work by the old, Italian masters of stone masonry, it is a haven of serenity, security and privacy.

This Oatley's historic landmark on approx. 1500 sqm lovingly landscaped, terraced gardens, is proudly featuring separate, semi-oval lounge & dining rooms, beautiful brand new kitchen with the top of the range appliances, separate family retreat, 2 fireplaces, 3-4 spacious bedrooms, office/study and a great wine cellar.

Externally, there is a lock-up garage, tennis court area, private seapool with sandy beach, and adorable, 2 storey sandstone boathouse with living area, Juliet-style balcony, winch and deep water slipway.

Meticulously crafted throughout, with a sense of magic everywhere – this sensational piece of real estate has to be experienced to be truly appreciated.

TERRY DEEIFFER
REAL ESTATE PTY. LTD.

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