No. 15

# THE CASTELLORIZIAN NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1984 EDITOR: JACK BISAS

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OF THE

CASTELLORIZIAN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

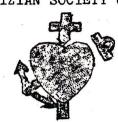
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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA. "REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST - PUBLICATION No. VBH 3850"

Our letter this month contains details of social functions for the next six months, details of the N.U.G.A.S. Conference held in Western Australia and a Profile on the Fermanis Family, prepared by Nicholas E. Fermanis. The Fermanis history will be in three parts - this month we will print Parts 1 & 2 and Part 3 will be printed when completed. We also print a letter from Basil Steffanou. The letter is self-explanatory.

#### FUNCTIONS

Our first function for 1984 will be a get together at Michelton Winery. Details are included in the form of a brochure with this newsletter. The date is the March. For all enquiries and details, please ring our Social Secretary Mrs Dianne Spartels on 329 0022 or A/H 211 7201.

Details of Functions to be held by our Society for the next six months are also included - please note the dates and Functions in your diaries. Once again we repeat what we have on numerous occasions - it needs the full support of all Members to make our Functions successful.

#### N.U.G.A.S.

N.U.G.A.S., which stands for "National Union of Greek Australian Students" is a Society which represents Greek Australian Students in Australia and as so has built up a Membership at most universities and colleges throughout Australia.

#### The Aims of NUGAS:

- 1) The Promotion of Mutual Trust and Friendship amongst all Greek Australian Students.
- 2) To Represent Greek Australian Students nationally and internationally in all matters of concern to them.

The Major event of NUGAS is its Annual National Convention which brings together delegates from all states and where policy statements are made on relevant issues that affect its Members and the Greek Community in general. This year's Convention was held in Western Australia.

# Travel - Programmes

As part of the objectives of NUGAS, a travel programme has been introduced to cater for Greek students wishing to go overseas. The tours and accomadation are sponsored by the National Foundation "King Paul" in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 14th Direction (for Greek abroad) of Greece. Each year a group of students travel to Greece via the NUGAS Travel Programme.

Over many years Castellorizians have been very active in their support of the Society and in its early formative years two Castellorizians in particular played vital roles in the establishment and stabilization of the Organization. Nick Paul Zervos and James Bisas are both past Presidents of the Society. We suggest that any student who wishes any further information to ring 662 2869. Address - 188 Lonsdale St Melbourne.

### NEWS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA - ENGLISH CHOIR

in Perth under the guidance of EVAN KAKULAS and with the agreement of the Archbishop, a choir group, who were to sing in English, was formed. To the youth of W.A. this came as a chance to understand the meaning of Church Hymns which many could not previously comprehend. Their appreciation was shown in the popularity of the Choir Group.

# W.A. ENGLISH CHOIR CONT.

With the approval of both the Archbishop Ezekiel and Priest Father Stylianos, the Choir performed the creed on Christmas Day at St Constantine's Cathedral. The Choir sang again in March, and again at a performance at the St John Monastery. The Choir on advice from Father Cosmas was then disbanded. Apparantly some Members of Perth's Greek Orthodox Community resented the inclusion of hymns sung in English and after protests, the Archbishop Exekiel ordered its disbandment. The situation at present is at a standstill with the choir hoping to meet with the Archbishop on his next visit to Perth.

Evan Evankakulas is a Perth City Councillorand a Member of one of Perth's most respected Castellorizian Families.

# NEWS FROM SYDNEY

1984 Marks the sixtieth Anniversary since the Establishment of the Brotherhood in 1924. We congratulate the Castellorizian Society of N.S.W. on their achievements in those sixty years, not least which is the Club's Pre-eminent standing in the Community. We have on behalf of our Victorian Society sent a message of congratulations to the President, Mr Costa Vertzayias and his Board of Directors.

Vice President - Nick Paull; Secretary - Paul Tsolakis; Tres. - Nick Malaxos; Directors - John Calopedos, Perry Kailis, Jim Plenkis, Jack Vallianos, Jack Valsamis.

### NEWS FROM CASTELLORIZO

The continued presence of workmen suggest that it will not be long before the airport will be completed and used for the arrival of tourists by air.

The contract for the construction of the programmed marina has been allocated to a very reliable contractor who will proceed immediately, having gathered all his materials in Rhodes for shipment.

The President of "The Society for the Restoration" Sydney's MR JAMES T PENGLY has announced that the Society has as promised sent five hundred thousand drachmas of a one million drachmas donation of The Nomarchiakon Tameion Rhodes for the reconstruction and restoration of "KAZERMA". It will be converted into a luxurious guest house.

#### VALE

The death occured in Melbourne on the 24th January 1984 of Mrs Marguerita Nicolades, wife of the late Andrew Nicolades. The Nicolades family was a well-established and respected Melbourne family. The Castellorizian Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family: Iris, lon and Juanna and Peter Kanis. Private Funderal was held on 27th January.

## WEDDING

On the 19th February at Evangelismos Church, the wedding took place of Michael C. Zervos to Roslyn Peronis. The reception was at 8 St George Rd Elsternwick. Best man - John C Mangos. From interstate for the wedding (Brisbane) were Sim Symons, with son George and from Sydney - Kevin and Donna Karp. We wish the couple every happiness.

<u>EAPTISM</u> ... On Sunday April 8th at Evangelismos Church, Michael and Lemonia Pipercglou will baptise their daughter. Godfather will be Michael A Miriklis and a reception will be held at Emulation Hall Canterbury.

<u>DONATIONS</u> for the <u>purchase</u> of <u>Dorcas Street</u>. We print a further list of donations made in 1967 - 68 toward the <u>purchase</u> of the <u>Dorcas Street</u> property.

Mr E Augusti - \$20; Mr Dimitry Kalafatis - \$40; Mr P Kyriakos - \$20; Mr Ioannis Christoforou - \$40; Mr S Papagiogio - \$20; Mr N Pataposis - \$10; Mr J Salvaris - \$25; Mr C Lazarkis - \$10; Mrs Kougha - \$20; Mr Anthony Atherinos - \$10; Mr N Platis - \$20; Pangiolin N Atherino - \$10; Mr B Stefanou - \$20; Mrs E Spartels - \$25; Mr M Spartels - \$25; Miss Hope Kairis - \$20.

# WELCOME HOME

A party to welcome home Katina and Chris Chronis from their honeymoon was held at the home of Katina's parents: Dr Spiro and Margaret Moraitis. Over 150 guests enjoyed a most pleasant day.

# BAPTISM

Over 250 guests attended a party at Lonsdale Terrace Receptions to celebrate the christening of Angelo Mihalos, son of Alex and Vivienne Mihalos, and grandson of Steve and Christina Bisas, and Mr and Mrs Angelo Mihalos. Great grandson of Mrs Vayani Bisas. The service at St Johns Church was by the Very Rev Archimandrite Kourtessis.

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!

- To Jack M Miriklis on the success of his 2-year old filly "Silkirim". It has now won 3 on end races. "Silkirim" was bred by Jack M Miriklis at his farm. The 2-year old is by No Mercy - My Babs and is trained by J P Courtney. "Silkirim" is Miriklis spelt backwards. We wish it luck in its future racing.

ON HOLIDAYS ...

In Surfers Paradise - Sam Cherry Alexander and family

In Noosa Heads - Vasso and Lola Zographou

BAPTISM - Baptised at Evangelismos Church "MARK HARRY" the son of Christine and Peter Mastores and grandson of Evelyn and the late Harry Karpouzes. A party to celebrate the baptism was held at the home of Christine and Peter Mastores. The Godmother is Erica Mastores and the church was "Evangelismos".

# GET WELL

Leo Koutsoukis home after a stay in hospital Angelo M Miriklis home after a stay in hospital Nina Kios still in Prince Henry's hospital

FUNCTIONS FOR 1984

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88th March - Get together at Michelton Winery

5th April - A night at "Dirty Dick's"

15th April - Afternoon tea

27th May - St Constantines Helens Day

17th June - Bouzoukia Night

29th July - Albury Trip (Poker Machines)

ALL THE ABOVE ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

\*\*\* All enquiries to our Social Secretary - Mrs Dianne Spartels - phone 329 0022, or A/H 211 3201.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MRS P CHRISTOPHER - Mr Stephen Kzervos of Sydney has donated \$20 to the frailed aged home.

# BIRTH:

To Pauline and Jim Sahiniois - a boy (George James) born on the 1st February at Francis Perry Hospital. Pauline is the daughter of Peter Goula Adgemis.

BACK IN MELBOURNE - After a long stay in Adelaide - Andrew and Tina Salvaris with family. We welcome them back and wish them luck!

# DONATION

John George and Effihia Etrelezis (Trellis) have donated \$2000 to furnish a room at the "Yerokomio". The donation is in memory of their dear parents George Stamatis and Maria Flora Etrelezis and Stauros and Aphrodite Maniatis. On behalf of the Board of Management of "The Home for the Frailed Aged" we thank through our Newsletter John and Effinia for their kind donation.

ON HOLIDAYS - From Adelaide - Con J Mangos and family visiting his daughter and son-in-law George Kathleen A Adgemis.

# PART 1 & 2 OF A 3 PART HISTORY OF THE

# "ARRIVAL AND SETTLEMENT OF THE FERMANIS FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA" BY NICHOLAS EMMANUEL FERMANIS

My father was born on the island of Castellorizo (Megisti) on 17th January 1883 to the joy of his parents Nicholas and Sampho, the name "Fermanis" having been derived from a similar Greek word meaning "Herald" or "Proclaimer". This island of his birth was at this time a part of the Turkish Empire and as was common, the Greek Heritage was retained through some 400 years of oppresion, and is located at the Eastern extremity of the Dodecaneses group of islands now fully restored to Greece. My grandfather Nicholas was renowned for his wine Tippling and was known as "Krasoula" (wine sot). This helped his early demise at the age of 38 years leaving his widow Sampho (nee Augusti) with the responsibility of raising Spero (age 12) Emmanuel (9) Dimitri (6) and Maria (3).

The family were in dire straits and with no option open to her, she took the family across to Asia Minor to the village of Makri, just a few miles from Megisti where a living was eaked out somehow. My father at 10 years of age roamed far and wide into the high country of Turkey with his donkey, scrounging, dealing, collecting firewood. This modest trading helped their survival as a family unit.

He became an apprentice to a jeweller, where he learned the trade of silversmith. Little did he know that the trade was never to be utilised. In the year 1994 his uncle Pantazi Augusti left for far off Australia, he being the vanguard of future Castellorizian migrants. By the early 1900's he had established himself in a restaurant in Perth. He prospered and, knowing his sister's plight, sponsored my father Emmanuel, to migrate together with Brother Dimitri. The year was 1905. He was 22 years old and his brother 19 years. They went into the kitchen, washing pots, learning to cook; however, they could not stick to this and with a meagre capital they decided to hawk fish and fruit door-te-door.

Meanwhile Spero the elder brother, arrived in 1908, having spent some 10 years sponge diving from Kalymnos. He gained employment in the new smelter industry at Port Pirie, S.A, where he remained until moving to Melbourne in 1919, where brother Dimitri joined up with him. Just going back to 1910 where with the careful accumulation of capital a fruit barrow, located in Barrack Street Perth was purchased and as my father prospered, he left the barrow in Dimitris' care in the year 1912 when he embarked for Greece on the Orient Line "Orsova" via Columbo, Aden, through the Suez Canal, Egypt, to Athens, then on to Castellorizo, arriving some 35 days later. His mother he found was still living in Makri with his sister Maria, brother in law George Gilavis, and his two nieces, Sevasti and Sampho.

Turkey renounced its soveirginty over Castellorizo and to his dismay he was confined to Makri by the Turks, missing out in joining his family when they escaped to Megisti. However, a week later, assisted by George Gilavis and with the aid of a small rowing boat, he managed to escape. My father was extremely relieved in so far as it enabled him to leave behind an entanglement with a young lady who's eager parents had arranged the "Proxenias", un beknown to him, prior to his homecoming from Australia, with his mother.

Now back in Castellorizo, the island was near its peak - some 20,000 inhabitants, the harbour a sight of large schooners, undeniably Megisti was a commercial jewel in trade in 1912. My father's return was viewed with some envy by the locals, a success story, so much so that his mother, faced with the task of new marriages arrangements, realised that the most eligible girl on the island was the daughter of Captain Constantine Kanis. My mother Maria (or Zapeta as my grandmother was known) she, having the guile of the Augustis Soi on her side, being rescourseful, and with the motive of adding to my father eligibility as a successful bachelor from Australia, led a large troop of youngsters around the Koritoni, by tossing handfuls of silver coins in the air from Australia, creating much interest in my maternal grandmothers eyes - Ekaterini Kanis (nee Papamihali).

Shortly after this the "Logos" and "Proxenas" were arranged and the wedding was celebrated at Agios Constantines, Elėni Cathedral in June 1913. My mother who was 20 years of age at the time was actually born on my grandfather's schooner, "The Marigo" and the "Prika" still exists as the derelict building next to Australia Square on the Korthoni west of the pier. (Plans are now in hand for a complete refurbishment of our family home, having laid a wreck since the last war when a skip bomb from the French Air Force blew the top storey off). .../5

#### FERMANIS FAMILY HISTORY CONT.

Back to 1913 and again on the "Orsova" from Cairo, embarked for Australia, little thinking that he would rever see his mother, and sisters family again. My mother too was caught up in the emotional farewells, though she knew that the rest of her family would follow. The tiny Greek community of Perth welcomed my parents; my father had arranged a cottage in Lake Street, where my mother lived next door to the Kalafatas family. She adored Western Australia and with her cousin Kailis there, she felt at home.

#### PART 2

in 1913, now living in Lake Street, Maria was delighted when her mother, sisters and brothers just made it by a stroke of luck just as war was declared. They were Ekaterini Kanis (nee Papamihali - 1940), John Kanis (dec 1983), Michael Kanis (dec 1961), Asimina Kanis (dec 1968) and Glikeria, now residing at Elwood, with her family and husband Eleftherios Mangos. They all settled in Perth and a second fruit barrow was bought in Barrack Street where the family started to make their future.

Dimitri at this time was smitten by the beatiful Isobelle Oakley - a music teacher from Mt Hawthorne and, despite my family's pleas, he was married in 1917 and moved to Melbourne in 1919.

My mother had a shocking time not being able to hold her pregnancies, and went through a traumatic time, losing three babies. My eldest sister Samplo Malaxos finally broke the trend and saw the light of day in Perth in March 1917 - weighing just 2 lbs. This too was a battle for survival, but it was a successful one. Following my sister came Nick, Rita and Kay, Peggy and Con.

During this period (1914-1918) Greeks in Australia were subjected to incredible harrasment by the predominantly British stock, so much so that the violence erupted on several occasions. In fact, the barrows were overturned - but not my father's. He had somehow earned some respect to the effect that a cry went up - "Don't touch Efi's barrow" - my father's mark at the market. He still treasured the vision of his homeland and he regularly remitted money to the National Bank of Greece. Little did he know that his long term nest egg would be confiscated. Together with supporting his mother and his brother-in-law George through Law degree in Athens, while mother, daughter and three new girls lived on in Castellorizo in my mother's home.

My father's world was shattered when he heard that his loving sister Maria at the age of 28 had died of Tetanus in 1921, leaving grandma Sampho to bring up the three girls while George graduated.

Meanwhile, back in Australia, Jack Kanis and his cousins Harry and Jack Spartels were young bucks with jinkers and girls. My mother, suspicious as ever, realised that her brother Jack was getting involved with a local Australian girl in a very serious manner, so much so that the whole family sold up and moved to Moonee Ponds in Victoria, stopping Jack Kanis in his tracks.

The whole family lived in this fruit shop and after a suitable time the beautiful Asimina Amonis was wed to uncle Jack Kanis in 1922. Michael Kanis, with his mother and sister moved into a shop in Bridge Road Richmond, where he commenced the business of Kanis' Cafe Shop.

END OF PART 2.

(PART 3 WILL BE PRINTED AS SOON AS COMPLETED.)

109 Barkly Street CARLTON VIC 3053

The Editor "Castellorizian Newsletter" PO Box 112 SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

Dear Jack

May I fill an omission in your article in the "Castellorizian Newsletter" of the Jan/Feb 1984 issue.

The omission is of the contribution and work of the late Con Couttoupes. He was the driving force for the acquisition of the Brotherhood's Building. Con Couttoupes had experience in buying, selling and renovating old buildings. He, with Margaret Moraitis, noticed the sale of the old Emerald Hill Theatre and mentioned it to the members of the Committee of Management of the Brotherhood.

Correctly, the article mentions that discussion went on for many years. We've faced diverging opinions and opposition from the 'old guard'; nevertheless the decision was correct and forward looking. The general meeting called was unusual in that all Castellorizian members or not were asked to attend and all donations were made there and then in an open fashion.

It is unfortunate that only the large contributors are mentioned in the article. There were many less financially fortunate who contributed, and many non-Castellorisians. As the association is now facing the problem of acquiring new premises or extending the present ones, the article in the "Newsletter" would assist in comparing the old problems of fifty years ago with the present day.

Yours Sincerely,

(signed) Basil Steffanou.

#### ENGAGEMENT

- MARK JOSEPHIDIS to THESPINA LAZARIS. Mark is the youngest son of Roza and Forde Josephidis and the grandson of Mrs Maria Karpoozes.

## YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Club will be holding a <u>car rally</u> on the 25th March. Cars will leave Cassie House at 10 o'clock. <u>DESTINATION UNKNOWN!</u>??

COST - \$2.00 per person

\*\*\* Please ring Leah Pavlou for all details - ring 598 2925.

SUPPORT THE YOUTH CLUB BY TAKING PART IN THEIR FIRST FUNCTION FOR 1984.

### NEXT MONTH'S PROFILE WILL BE THE SPARTELS FAMILY ###

LATE NEWS - Mrs E Christofas is currently in the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

# CASSTELLORIZAN ASSOC 1984 IST OUTINGS

# Mitchelton In the heart of the Goulburn Valley 125 km north of Melbourne via the Hume and Goulburn Valley Highways. MITCHELTON WINERY MARCH 18TH 12 NOON. (No entry charge) SEYMOUR TOURS OF WINERY FROM 12 NOON, FREE WINE TASTING PURCHASES AT SPECIAL REDUCTIONS GPORTING AREAS AVAILABLE, INCLUDING SWIMMING POOL B.B.Q FACILITIES (BYO. WOOD) BYO PICNIC CUNEH SMORBAGBORT 02 RNECGANK GRILL& 7 PH BE THERE O THURS 5th APRIL 7mm 11m. 4 Course MEAL \$20 / GAR PRICES. ADVANCED BOOKINGS NAME TO DANNE SPARTELS 465 6UEN EIRA RD HOW MANY. GAULFIELD 3162 ELOUSER ( ) 20 PERHEAD **Bawdy Banquets** (CHEQUES IF POSSIBLE) **IADDRESS**

. AHONE ...

23 QUEENS RD MELBOURNE