

OBITUARY

MR. JOHN ROBERT BURNETT

The sudden passing of Mr. John Robert Burnett at the Portland Hospital on Monday morning removes one of Portland's oldest and most respected residents.

Along with other directors of the Star Picture Theatre, Mr. Burnett was inspecting some new furniture at the theatre, when he had the misfortune to fall from the stage some five feet to the floor in an unconscious condition. He was removed by ambulance to the hospital, and although he retained consciousness and appeared to be doing well, the shock to his system proved too great, and he passed away at 11.30 a.m.

A painter by trade, the late Mr. Burnett was much sought after in his field until his retirement some years ago. He was a foundation member of Portland Star Picture Pty. Ltd., and as a director of the Company he rendered valuable service, and his advice was always well balanced.

He was prominent in the Back-to-Portland celebrations in 1934, being responsible for the formation of the Boys' Brigade, and many Portland men today look back with intense gratitude for the training and advice received from Mr. Burnett.

As a volunteer fireman, Mr. Burnett was a staunch member, and often referred to the days when fire-fighting appliances were of a primitive character compared to those of the present day. Bowling, perhaps, was Mr. Burnett's most popular hobby, and after he had to give up playing the sport a few seasons ago he kept up his interest and work as Social Officer, and in this capacity became popularly known to bowlers from far and near. He was proud, too, of his association with the Royal Artillery in the early days and was one of the two remaining members who were chosen to represent the district guard at the Jubilee of the State in Melbourne in 1888.

Mr. Burnett, whose wife predeceased him a few years ago, leaves two daughters, namely Clara and Phyllis (Mrs G. McConachy Cobden).