



# Deputation

UP23/14 Additions to the City's Local Heritage Survey

**Ms K Horn & Mr B Biggins, Ardross**



Baden Powell Reserve Fremantle Herald, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Lot 323 (now Baden Powell Reserve) Scout Group history (Part 1) (1928 - 1953)

Surveying company, Hope & Klem planned and surveyed the land known as Wireless Station Estate in Applecross for developer, T.M. Burke Pty Limited. Lot 323, now known as Baden Powell Reserve was included in Percy Hope's survey field book dated 8 May 1928. His notes indicate that the internal reserve, was to be set aside as a children's playground.<sup>1</sup> There are other examples of internal reserves created by Hope & Klem in other Perth suburbs.

Percy Hope (1885 – 1979) studied surveying and was registered as a Licensed Surveyor in 1907.<sup>2</sup> He was a foundation member of the Institute of Surveyors and a member of the Council in 1914.

Carl Klem (1884 - 1952) was a town planning pioneer and member of the Metropolitan Town Planning Commission and the Town Planning Association, including the newly formed playground committee. He was a strong proponent of post WW1 Garden Suburb planning principles.

In 1911, Percy Hope commenced a private practice with his brother-in-law, Carl Klem under the name of Hope and Klem.<sup>3</sup> They had no connection with the Scout Association prior to the creation of Lot 323, however Percy's eldest daughter, Edna (1914-2008) joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Dalkeith Guides in 1927, the year prior to the creation of Lot 323 internal reserve.

That is not the end of the story, however. The following passages are from pages 15 and 16 of a handwritten memoir by Percy Hope.

*'My Scouting career started when I acted as chairman at a Guide meeting. I had been cajoled by my elder daughter, Edna, a Ranger. Rovers and Rangers were on fraternising terms and shortly after, I was invited to address the Cottesloe Rover Crew on surveying. I took several instruments along so that when the boys (or younger men) showed signs of drowsiness I'd hand around a theodolite or sextant or prismatic compass to good effect'.*<sup>4</sup>

*'Shortly after I was asked to accept the job of Rover Leader, but when I received the warrant, it was as District Commissioner of Rovers (Cottesloe/Claremont, Nedlands District)'.*<sup>3</sup>

*'After a few months as Rover Commissioner the DC (District Commissioner) asked for 12 months leave of absence, so I was forced to assume the rank of DC. Shortly after, the Chief Scout of Western Australia, Lt General Sir Talbot Hobbs sent for me to ask me to accept the position of Chief Commissioner for Scouts in WA. I was staggered by the request and downturned at once, saying I will not do the job. Sir Talbot then enumerated the many qualifications – hitherto quite unknown or undreamt of that I possessed for the job and then tore strips off me for not being prepared to accept the responsibilities of Citizenship. I asked for a month to consider but somehow the facts leaked out and I received so many letters of goodwill I very fearfully accepted'.*<sup>3</sup>

After his term as Chief Commissioner (1938 – 1945), Percy Hope remained with the Scout Association for many years as Honorary Branch Surveyor and a Branch Trustee.<sup>5</sup>

**On 11 July 1953, Percy Hope co-signed the original lease<sup>6</sup> for Lot 323 between the Melville Road Board and the Scout Association as a Branch Trustee, 25 years after he created and surveyed the property with Carl Klem for T.M. Burke Pty limited.**

## Endnotes:

- Percy Hope was made an Honorary Member of the Western Australian Institute of Surveyors in 1951. He was awarded an OBE for his services to surveying, Scouting and the community in 1966.
- Carl Klem was a member of the Town Planning Association c1920 and later, the inaugural President of the Town Planning Institute in 1931. He was a member of the newly formed, Joint Playground Committee of the Town Planning Association and kindred bodies in 1922.
- Edna Greaves (nee Hope) went on to become the District Commissioner for Nedlands Dalkeith in 1950 and was awarded the Medal of Merit <sup>7</sup> for her services to Girl Guides in 1962 and became a Girl Guides Life Member <sup>8</sup> in 1987.
- Percy Hope`s father, Joseph Hope (1858 – 1934) was the Western Australian Lands Department Chief Draftsman for many years.
- Lt General Sir Talbot Hobbs, KCB, KCMG, VD was an architect and a first world war General. He was the Chief Scout of Western Australia and appointed Percy Hope as Chief Commissioner. He died at sea shortly after, on 21 April 1938 enroute to France to attend the unveiling of the Australian war memorial at Villers-Bretonneux.

## Research documents

1. Survey notebook available Landgate. Plan No 5059 dated 8 May 1928
2. Australian Surveyor, December 1982 Vol 31 No 4 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00050326.1982.10435001?journalCode=tjss18>
3. Percy Hope and Carl Klem. [https://slwa.wa.gov.au/pdf/mn/mn2501\\_3000/mn2555.pdf](https://slwa.wa.gov.au/pdf/mn/mn2501_3000/mn2555.pdf)
4. Percy Hope – Handwritten memoir notes (Pages 15-16)
5. Scout Association Annual Report (year ending 31 December 1955) Heritage Centre, Scouts WA
6. Original lease document dated 11 July 1953. Heritage Centre, Scouts WA
7. Guiding mother is given award. Thursday 6 September 1962. Edna Greaves – Medal of Merit. Newspaper article.
8. Guiding all the way to a 90-year milestone. 11 September 2004. Edna Greaves 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

## Part 2 Future Scout Hall Heritage list submission

A new heritage listing submission will be submitted, and will include;

- a detailed account of the Scout Group formation, the search for a suitable property and the construction of the hall.
- architect`s drawings by Milton J Boyce
- construction drawings by Bouchers Industries
- evidence that the tubular steel supports were recycled from the Fremantle harbour anti-submarine boom gate structure.
- Detail of the wide community effort to complete the Scout hall that is still fit for purpose, after 70 years.

my Scouting Career started when I acted as chairman at a good guide meeting to which I had been cajoled by my elder daughter Edna a ranger. Rover rangers were on fraternising terms & shortly after I was invited to address the Cottlesloe Rover crew on surveying. I took several instruments along so that when the boys (or young men) showed signs of drowsiness I'd hand round a theodolite or sextant or prismatic compass to good effect. Months afterwards I saw the minutes of that meeting in which I rec'd enough praise as to warrant an issue of cocoa & biscuits for the occasion. Shortly after I was asked to accept the job of Rover leader, but when I received the Warrant, it was as District Commissioner for Rovers (Cottlesloe / Claremont, Nedlands District) So I had to set to learn "Scouting for Boys" & "Rovering to Success" my greatest ~~draw~~ back obstacle to complete satisfaction was the fact of having to wear shorts. However I found other men had ~~the~~ thinner legs than I

10/10

(16)

So I was more or less content with my peculiar appearance. After a few months as Rover Comd. the D.C. asked for 12 months leave of absence, so I was forced to assume the ~~post~~ rank (or worries) of D.C. Shortly after the Chief Scout Lt General Sir Talbot Hobbs sent for me to ask me to accept the position of Chief Commissioner for Scouts in N.A. I was staggered by the request & demurred at once saying I could not do the job. Sir Talbot then enumerated the many qualifications - hitherto quite unknown or undreamt of - I possessed for the job & then tore strips off me for not being prepared to accept the responsibilities of citizenship. I asked for a month to consider but somehow the facts leaked out & I rec'd so many letters of goodwill that I very fearfully accepted. My first action was to apply for admission to a Scout Wood Badge course, held under the command of my very good friend Dick Nile the deputy camp chief