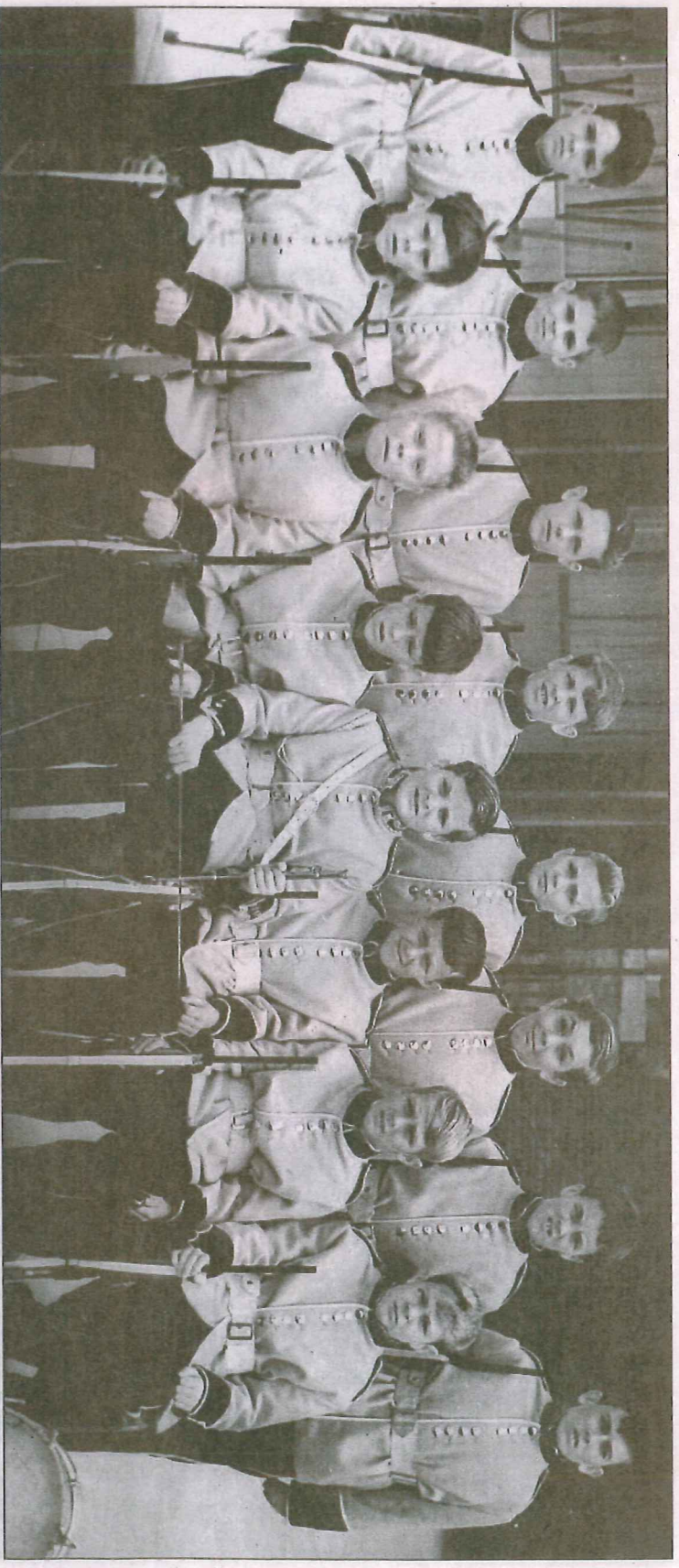


What you should know

■ The CSU Regional Archives is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building at the South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue.

■ Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with enquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straightforward enquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour, including copying and postage.

■ For further information, phone 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au or visit the website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



Henschke Primary School Guards. Do you know any of these guards? Do you have a uniform or one of the guns made for them by Tom Lennon? (CSU Regional Archives – Tom Lennon Collection – RW1574/78/599)

Getting to know our Tom Lennon

at the archives
Wayne Doubleday



Wayne and the Riverina 50 years ago was captured through the lens of Tom Lennon, a talented photographer, artist, inventor and one of the city's most recognizable characters in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. As a photographer with *The Daily Advertiser* for nearly 20 years, he left a black and white legacy of photographs which celebrate historical events and the everyday life of the period.

As a press photographer he was technically excellent and artistic. Added to this, were his skills in painting, sculpture and the occasional cartoon of sport, politics and culture in the area. Many of his photographs are augmented by 16mm film he took, while juggling cameras on his press jobs.

His photographs, film and other items are now preserved in the Tom Lennon Collection (RW1574) in the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives.

Tom was a unique personality, he was compassionate and sometimes difficult with colleagues. A photograph of him leaning against a One Way sign is an indicator of his attitude to his work – "one way, my way". More than this, Tom Lennon fits within a quotation he wrote beside a photograph of himself in a pensive mood – "That so few now dare to be eccentric, marks the chief danger of our time." (John Stuart Mill 1869)

Thomas Trembath Lennon Junior was born in Sydney in 1908 and grew up in the suburb of Drummoyne, where his father was a greengrocer and wine merchant. He studied art in Sydney and also built up a detailed knowledge of photographic techniques and photo engraving. During World War II he worked with AWA as a machinist and began his career in newspapers with *The Daily Telegraph*.

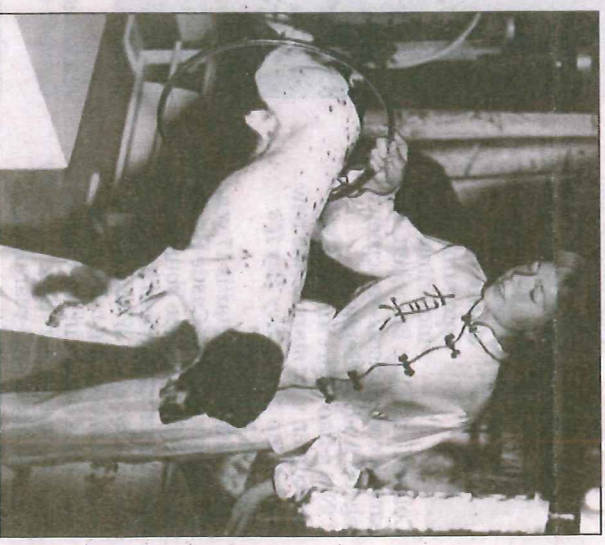


Tom Lennon (1908-1992). (CSU Regional Archives – Tom Lennon Collection – RW1574/11/59)

In 1955 Tom Lennon arrived in Wagga to work as a photo engraver with the short-lived *Evening News*. In 1955 he moved to *The Daily Advertiser* as its chief and originally, only photographer, and visually chronicled Wagga and the Riverina until the early 1970s.

Much of his spare time was spent with animals, including a troop of performing dogs, which gave performances for children and charities. The collection includes still photographs and films of him training the dogs. One of his trained goats had a 'starring' role in a performance at the 1963 opening of the Wagga Civic Theatre, and Tom made Guards uniforms and wooden rifles for boys from the Henschke Primary School for an event in the 1960s.

After leaving *The Daily Advertiser*, Tom



The lady in this photo is known as "June". Do you know who she is? (CSU Regional Archives – Tom Lennon Collection – RW1574/1380)

Lennon worked as a handyman at Romano's Hotel and then retired to his home in Kincaid Street. In 1988, he was admitted to the Forrest Centre and died there in October 1992.

The importance of the life and work of Tom Lennon will be celebrated in an exhibition to coincide with the 140th anniversary of publication of *The Daily Advertiser* in October 2008. The exhibition will showcase the diverse interests and talents of Tom Lennon and provide a visual documentation of regional history of the 1950s and 1960s.

This exhibition is being jointly organised by the CSU Regional Archives and the Museum of the Riverina. Dr Nancy Blacklow from Charles Sturt University has agreed to curate the exhibition, and would love to hear from anyone who has any objects or items associated with Tom that they would be willing to loan for the exhibition. Anyone with memories or stories about Tom, or information about any of the people or events in the above photographs, should feel free to contact Nancy on 6922 3973 or 0407 011 142.