

J E Gosling



L. Herbert Beecroft's caricatures still turn up in the most unexpected places. At the time of writing this essay, 2 post cards were placed for sale on Ebay. The first is one of the "Art Series" and stamped 1905. The title is "The Wayback" but I am at a loss to decipher what that means. The next one was printed in Germany and is one of the "Various Girls Series." It is titled "The Old Maid Girl" and the subject is peering upwards through lorgnette glasses. Such cards served to promote Beecroft's name at the time and help to preserve it 100 years later.



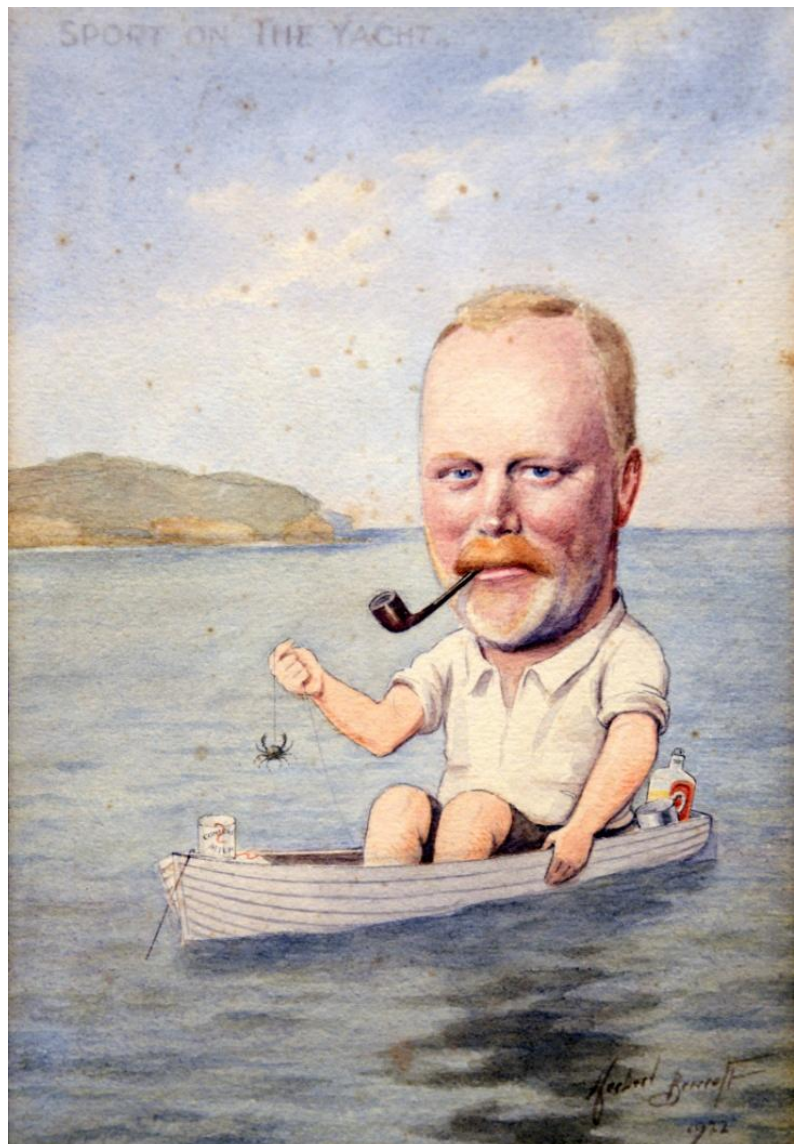
The subject of this essay is the prominent solicitor John Edward Gosling who was admitted to practice in June 1895. Gosling's career in law was prolific. He was president of the Incorporated Law Institute for many years and in the Birthday Honour's Lists of 1935, was awarded an OBE. He was also a golfer and a president of the Lawn Tennis Association for many years.

Beecroft's painting is amusing. On the top left hand side, the title, which is rather faint, says "Sport on the Yacht." Rather than depicting an intense yacht race, Beecroft has painted a tranquil scene in a small rowing boat with Mr. Gosling fishing. A small crab is on the end of his line.

In the bow of the boat is a small open tin of condensed milk containing worms, one of which has wriggled on to the foredeck.



In the stern there is a glimpse of a tankard and a glass bottle with a stopper. My guess is it contains beer or maybe whiskey.



Mr. Gosling's red hair and moustache are prominent features, he is smoking the regulation pipe and by the look on his face, he is amused by his catch. Here is an amusing reference to Mr. Gosling.

Monday, 15th September, 1930 - Evening News

Today's Diary (by The Man About Town)

Statesmanlike Beard Gone

When Mr. Chris Watson, former Prime Minister, shaved his statesmanlike beard, he had little idea of the inconvenience and expense to which he put the newspaper industry of the Empire — just as Mr. Scullin would entail were he caught in the glamour of the new English fashion. All the individual photographs of Mr. Watson, together with those in parliamentary groups, had either to be scrapped or transferred to the museum of the antiques. Even so he has not been quite the problem set by Sir Hubert Wilkins, Arctic explorer, whose habit of growing a beard only to shave it off— and so on— has led to the grave suspicion, pictorially, of his leading a 'double life.'

Left His Moustache Abroad

*Another who caused considerable scrapping in the newspaper offices was Mr. Justice Street, C.J., who returned from a tour abroad minus his moustache. Judge Heydon and Judge Edmunds, both retired have been true to their beards in the manner of Sir Mungo MacCallum, Mr. J. Maitland Paxton, and Mr. Arthur Pitcairn, one of the oldest barristers in Sydney, he having been admitted to the Bar in 1885. Dr. Coghlan, another legal veteran— admitted in 1880 — is clean-shaven. Among the few solicitors who wore beards are **Mr. J. E. Gosling** and Mr. J. M. Taylor.*

I have found no evidence that Mr. Gosling owned a yacht on the Squadron register. However, I have found that he crewed on other's yachts.

Wednesday, 15th November, 1922 - Sydney Morning Herald

ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON,

*By the suggestion of Mr. Livingstone Mann, a class was formed during the off season at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron for the purpose of instructing members, sons of members, and their friends in knotting and splicing. Three prizes were allotted, and an examination was held at the Club House last week. The honorary examiners, Captain S. G. Green and Commander G D. Williams, D.S O., expressed themselves greatly pleased with the efficiency displayed by the pupils, and reported that the first prize was awarded to Mr. Jack Hordern (member of the crew of Lord Forster's yacht Corella); second prize to Mr. Max Goddard (of the E.O.J. crew), and third prize to **Mr. J. E. Gosling** (late of the Scotia crew).*

The next article classifies him as an "Old Timer" in 1925. Also noteworthy is that a gent by the name of Harry Harpur is mentioned. I quote Joyce Warn:

"Harry Harpur was my grandfather. He died on the 26th of December, 1927. I was born on the 16th of March, 1930. He was a noted helmsman and you will see he is listed 2nd after obviously the owner. He never owned a boat himself."

Tuesday, 15th December, 1925 - Sydney Sportsman

VETERANS AT THE HELM

To-morrow's "Old Timers' " Yacht Race

IN order to show that they have not yet lost any of their cunning as helmsmen, the old-time yachtsmen of the port, will steer the 21ft. restricted class boats in a special race on the harbor tomorrow.

The event attracts keen interest, and the veterans often boast that they can still show points in skill to Wally and Percy Arnott, Charlie Trebeck, Jimmy Milson, Don Taylor and Tommy Banks, and to 'Blue' Peter Macdonald, Wally York and Freddie Doran, as to how the extras and mainsail should be manipulated. 'Dungaree' Adams, the daddy of the bunch, won the event a year ago with Percy Arnott's Wattle, and he has again had the good

fortune to draw the same craft for to-morrow's event. He has an exceptionally fine team, including Smiling Sid Dempster, 'Doggie' Wallis, **Solicitor Gosling**, and Harry Harpur. They are good at bailing and running aloft, though they average 60 years of age. It is going to be a good race. Fred Pring likes Leuralla, 'Gaf' George favors Awinya, and he guarantees that she will not tear her mainsail, as Nettle did in last year's race.

Alf's One Regret

Alf Mould looks upon E.O.J. as a certainty. He has already had two wins, and his only regret is that he is not associated with Adams and Wallis. A. M. wishes 'Blue' Peter Macdonald was 'young' enough in order to compete, and he cannot understand why Jack Pope prefers billiards and chasing cricket balls at Trangie and Warren in preference to yachting, where there is no dust or greasy merinoes to trouble one. John Buchanan will leave financial matters well and truly alone in order to steer Boomerang. Jack does not like throwing bouquets, but he considers that Sid Wenborn, Walter Rayment, Reg Carter, and Andy Wilson form a crew of experience. Wal Dalgarno hopes to get plenty of 'gas' out of Nettle. Wal talks and chews gas all day, and if Bill Boesser keeps his fishing yarns to himself then Nettle will be on her mettle.

Crews for Tomorrow

Crews for the "Old Timers' " race tomorrow are: —

Awinya: Tom Bremner, F. E. Saver, F. F. Buchanan, J. Aarons, J. St. George George.

Boomerang: Sid Wenborn, Wal Rayment, R. A. Carter, Andrew Wilson, Jack Buchanan.

Leuralla II: R. Gilchrist, Ossie Curtis, John Roche, H. Pickering, Fred Pring.

E.O.J.: Travers Black, Les Patrick, Dick Old, Alf Mould, Roy Walters.

Nettle: O. Meyer, Wal Dalgarno, Artie Marks, Bill Boesser, Bill Buchanan.

Wattle: Fred Adams, Harry Harpur, J. E. Gosling, Doggie Wallis, Sid Dempster.

Cruising at Pittwater and the Basin was popular 85 years ago. Mr. Gosling may not have owned a yacht, but reference is made in the next article to his speedy launch.

Wednesday, 30th December, 1925 - Referee

THE YACHTSMEN

TOPICS OF THE WATER FRONT Balmain Regatta on Friday

(By 'TOPMAST HAND.')

With the annual camping rendezvous at The Basin in Broken Bay, racing at Pittwater, and the journey back to port in order to participate at Balmain regatta next Friday, yachtsmen are having a particularly busy time. It has all been worthwhile, as the weather conditions have been perfect.

Although many yachtsmen raced at Pittwater, there were others who contented themselves with cruising — Rear Commodore A. C. Saxton, of the Royal Sydney Squadron, was afloat in the new 10 metre, Awanui IV., **J. E. Gosling** had a family outing in his speed launch, D. C. Brockhoff (Scotia), Arthur Muston (Windward), and W. J. Dalgarno (Koonya).

Mr. Gosling's involvement in his profession continued until the start of World War 2. He died on the 27th of March, 1948, aged 76.

September, 2015