

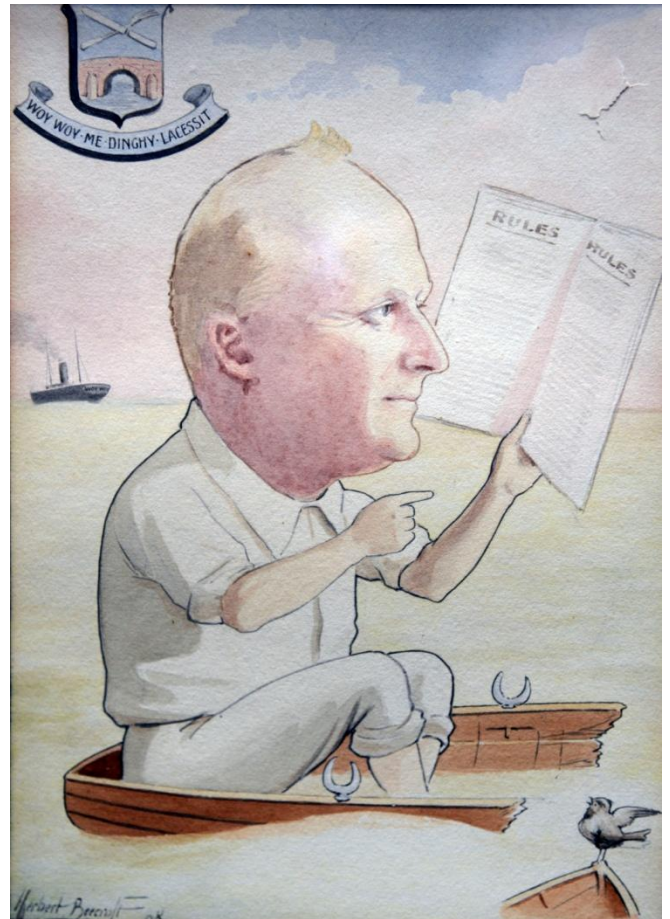
R Old

L. Herbert Beecroft had a strong religious association throughout his life. He was a devout and life-long Methodist, and the story went that one day, after a time spent in prayer, he had a vision of the face of Christ. His paintings of Jesus in oil were almost the benchmark for the image used in Prayer Books from the 1930's certainly until when I was a boy in the 1960s.

Saturday, 8th February, 1908 - The Nepean Times

*The Methodist Garden Fete, which is to take place next Wednesday and Thursday, Feb 12 and 18, promises to be more successful than ever before. All interested have been working hard to make it a success, and, weather permitting, no doubt will attain the end desired. There will be the various stalls—namely, fancy, lolly, flower, refreshment, doll, produce, etc, and post office—besides competitions, as are announced. There will be a first-class entertainment each evening. On the first night (Wednesday), **Herbert Beecroft**, of the Crystal Palace, London, will, with his colored sketching lectures and entertainment, appear in Penrith for the first time, and by the press notices the folk who go to the fete will get their money's worth. This entertainment will be interspersed with items by Misses Hilda Popie, Bessie Grace, and Rena Wallace, and local talent. On the second night a high-class concert will be given, and everything is being done to make the programme as attractive as possible. Come one, come all, and don't miss the first night to see and hear Mr. Beecroft.*

In the same year as Beecroft appeared at Penrith, he painted Richard Old, a caricature which must have caused Mr. Old some angst. It refers specifically to an unpleasant and widely reported incident on Sydney harbour in 1901. Seven years later, it was clearly still an item of discussion.



In the painting, the coat of arms in the top left-hand side depicts a bridge with two pylons either side of an archway. The cross bars are a knife and fork and the caption says "Woy Woy - Me Dinghy Lacessit," which is

a pun on the motto of Scotland “Nemo Me Impuno Lacessit,” meaning “no-one attacks me with impunity.” My interpretation of the inscription therefore is “The Woy Woy attacked my dinghy.” In the distance on the left is a steamer, the “Woy Woy,” while Mr. Old is left sitting in his dinghy, which has been cut in half, with a book of the rules in his left hand. Beecroft has whimsically painted a bird on the bow of the broken dinghy. It must be a wren. Mr. Old’s yacht was “Jenny Wren.”



A full report of the incident appears below.

Friday, 20th December, 1901 - Evening News

STEAMER AND YACHT IN COLLISION.

ANOTHER HORROR ACCIDENT.

An Inquiry into the circumstances attending the collision which occurred in Sydney Harbor on November 11 last, between the steamer Woy Woy, owned by Mr. Charles Stephenson, of 19 Princes-street, and the yacht Jenny Wren, owned by Mr. Richard Old, was held yesterday before the Marine Court— Judge Backhouse and Captains H. Witherspoon, Mark Breach, and Charles Taylor (assessors).

Mr. Cargill, of the Crown Solicitor's Office, who appeared for the Superintendent of Navigation, stated that the collision occurred at the entrance to Sydney Cove on the afternoon of November 11 (the King's Birthday). The Woy Woy was on her way from Clontarf with a number of passengers bound for Circular Quay, and the master would tell the court that when he got abreast of the black buoy off Fort Macquarie he slowed down his engines, and was travelling at about half speed. The yacht was coming down from Ball's Head on a port tack, and close hauled, shaping a course to clear Fort Macquarie, and heading in the direction of the buoy at which H.M.S. Royal Arthur was lying. When the yacht was about half-way across the entrance to Sydney Cove, the Woy Woy was seen in the neighborhood of Kirribilli Point, apparently coming round on her starboard helm. The yacht kept her course and speed without alteration, and the Woy Woy came within six inches or a foot of the Jenny Wren's counter, seriously damaging the yacht's dinghy, which was towing astern. Mr. Cargill said that to all intents and purposes of the investigation the collision was really between the steamer and the yacht, although it was not the yacht herself but her dinghy that had been struck. The master of the Woy Woy would tell the court that he saw the yacht clearly, and that he came round on his starboard helm until he saw the Jenny Wren's sails shake. Thinking the yacht was going about, he altered his helm so as not to come in contact with her. The yacht was a 2 1/2 rater, of about 5 1/2 tons. It was for the court to say who was responsible for the collision. After hearing the evidence, the court found that the collision was caused by the default of Denis O'Brien, master of the Woy Woy, in not observing article No. 2 of the Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. No further steps were taken, as no serious damage had been occasioned by the collision.

The following article is a reminder of the long tradition of camaraderie and co-operation between neighbouring Clubs on the harbour.

Tuesday, 24th December, 1926 - Evening News

YACHTING

'OLD TIMERS' RACE TO-MORROW'S FIXTURE

ONE OF THE MOST popular yachting events of the year — the annual race for the 'Old Timers' — is to be sailed on Wednesday on the harbour, under the auspices of the Royal Prince Alfred Club. The event was introduced three seasons back by Mr. A. K. ('Doggie') Wallis, and has grown in popularity ever since. It has served in bringing together thirty years back, men who made names for themselves as skippers or working hands when the deep-keelers held the popular fancy. On Wednesday, the veterans of the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Sydney Amateur Club, and Prince Edward Club will meet again, and demonstrate in the restricted class that they still possess the skill of bygone days. Eight crews have been got

together, and among those who are to compete are: — Messrs F. S. Adams, Fred Pring, E. E. Sayer, R. L. Patrick, S. M. Dempster, J. St. G. George, A. E. Wallis, J. Buchanan, W. J. Buchanan, T. W. Bremner, A. Mould, **Richard Old**, W. M. Marks, F. F. Buchanan, Roy Walters, W. Rayment, O. E. Gosling, Dr. Arthur Marks. One of the conditions of the race is that the defeated crews are to entertain the winners at supper at the R.P.A.Y.C. rooms after the contest. Present-day skippers are not allowed to sail the boats. They are to simply serve as working hands. The event is to be a scratch race, and is to be sailed over the Neutral Bay-Shark Island-South Reef course.

Friday, 22nd October, 1937 - The Muswellbrook Chronicle

WEATHER DISREGARDED.

*The weather played up once more for the garden party at the Royal Yacht Clubhouse, but this did not matter so much. The residents at Admiralty House do not encourage indoor visitors, as there is little room, and not much to see, except the new renovations; but there is plenty of room inside at Kirribilli, and the members are only too pleased to show interstate and other visitors all the heirlooms and what not that ornament the premises. There was an additional reason for pride on Saturday. **Mr. Richard Old**, a Club member, presented a lot of truly magnificent orchids, which adorned not only the ladies present, but the vestibule and lounges.*

Tuesday, 31st July, 1945 - Sydney Morning Herald

DEATH OF MR. R. OLD

*The death of **Mr. Richard Old** at his home, "Waverton House", after which the suburb of Waverton was named, removes one of North Sydney's oldest residents and the last survivor of the founders of the firm of Messrs. Asher, Old, and Jones, solicitors. Mr. Old, who was 77, was admitted to practice as a solicitor in 1894, and founded the firm of Messrs. Asher, Old, and Jones in 1901. He was chairman of the Moree Electric Light Co., Ltd., and was a member of the Union Club, the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, and the Prince Alfred Yacht Club, and was an early member of the Killara Golf Club. He took an active interest in welfare institutions, including the Royal North Shore Hospital. He represented Christ Church, North Sydney, on the Anglican Diocesan Synod. He is survived by three sons, two of whom are members of the A.I.F.*

August, 2015

Postscript

The grandson of Richard Old, Mr. Fraser Old, provided the following amusing anecdote about his grandfather in April, 2016.

"There is one interesting anecdote which my father told me and which dates from the late 1920s when there were probably only 500 or so cars in Sydney. My grandfather owned one of these cars but was not able to drive it. My father was the only one able to drive and so as he said there was no argument about who had the car on Saturday night. However, it was the lot of my father to drive my grandfather to the Squadron on Friday and Saturday nights. My father would then go off to a party. When my grandfather needed to be driven back to 'Waverton', he would telephone the home where the party was being held. Then my father would leave the party, drive to the Squadron, pick up his father, drive to Waverton, drop off his father, and return to the party. Oh the joys of driving before the breathalyzer.

Waverton station was originally called Bay Road Station and the Railway Commissioner when changing the names of various stations on the North Shore line, change the name of Bay Road Station also."