
HISTORY OF SCHOOL 3113 SUNSHINE

(FORMERLY BRAYBROOK SOUTH OR BRAYBROOK JUNCTION)

**Compiled by: Pauline Ashton
Joan Murray**

Acknowledgements

We thought the idea of writing a History of Sunshine Primary School was a really good one especially as we didn't expect to be doing it. As the preparations for the Centenary proceeded "The History" was being left behind. It was ours. Here we began our journey into the past. We started looking at the documents and photographs that had been either collected and organised by Lucy Durose, the former school historian or lent to the school by many generous past pupils. Contact was made with many people associated with the school over the years and their memories are included in this book. Many hours were spent at the Archives in Laverton looking through the original documents relating to the school. These visits although interesting, only increased our worries as there was so much we could have used but with our teaching commitments taking up most of our time, an in depth history was not possible. We hope that the book we have produced will give a basic outline of the development of State School No. 3113 over the past 100 years and the memories of the reader will fill in the many gaps we know exist.

A special thank you to Olwyn Ford who allowed us to borrow and use the material she had collected, to an unknown person in the Ministry of Education for the early history and Peter Robson for helping with the layout of this book.

Pauline Ashton & Joan Murray

Early Letter by Miss E. I. Epsie

Wm. J.
Minister of Public Instruction

Braybrook Station Estate
Braybrook June 30th 1890

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Sir
We the undersigned residents on the Braybrook Station Estate at Braybrook and its immediate vicinity beg to bring under your notice the necessity that now exists and which must rapidly increase for a State School in this Township.

The following reasons are respectfully submitted for your consideration that at the present time there are over thirty children within the school ages, many of their names are appended hereto.

That the nearest State School is situate on the Ballarat Road at a distance of more than two miles from our Township.

That from the position of the said School, not only is the distance considerable for the children to travel, but being on the North side of the Railway is a source of danger to them and anxiety to parents.

That the extensive Workshops of Hugh Edwards Limited are situate in our Township, and are at present giving employment to between three hundred and four hundred persons, with every prospect of a large increase at an early date.

That the absence of a State School is much felt by the present residents, and further it greatly retards the settlement of workers in, with families.

That the necessity for a State School will be constantly increasing and having already been purchased for the establishment of two more workshops in this Township, and arrangements are being made for the erection of many dwellings early in the coming Spring.

On the other side will be found the names and particulars of the children referred to above.

Trusting this matter will receive your early and favorable consideration

We have the honor to be

Your Obedient Servants

E. I. Epsie.

1 Morris Street Braybrook Vic. 3001

Early Efforts To Establish A School

Miss E. I. Epsie, first applied to have a State School established on June 30, 1890. This petition was written on behalf of the Toor, Upton, Shorten, Graham, Farrow, Thurston, Cameron, Ramsley, Joyce, Glenister, Webb, Bayman, Roediger and Allen families, who were living on the Braybrook Station Estate. At that time, Miss Epsie conducted a private school for about twenty-five children, in the front room of a long narrow building in Morris Street, originally intended as a shop.

When nothing eventuated from the first application, another petition was made through the local Member of Parliament on November 17, 1890. Additional family names mentioned then were: Grant, Lancashire, Price, Roberts, Cerny, Pope and Knowles. The nearest State School at that time was No. 1102 Braybrook.

When the Department referred the application to the district Board of Advice No. 108, the Correspondent John Copley's reply was: *"It is premature to establish a school before the permanency of the settlement is more assured."* Miss Epsie, however, claimed that as the township contained the extensive workshops of Wright and Edwards Ltd., which employed about 400 persons, *"with every prospect soon of a large increase in numbers"*, there was urgent need for the establishment of a State School. Therefore the Inspector General, John Main, his Assistant Charles Tynan, and the Senior Inspector Samuel J. Swindley decided

"to open a school in a rented building as an experiment".

Just as this decision had been made, H. G. Hanna, Estate Agent of Ascot Vale, wrote on January 26, 1891 to the Hon. Alfred Deakin, Member for South Yarra, asking him to inform Sir Frederick Sargood, the Minister for Education, that he (Hanna) was in the process of building a small hall (40' x 27') on the north east corner of Hampshire Road and Benjamin Street. It was to be called Braybrook Public Hall, and could be leased for school purposes. Early in February 1891, William Thurston offered the Department, for 12/- a week, the use of the two front rooms, together measuring only 30' x 15', of the premises where Miss Epsie had previously conducted her private school.

Apparently without knowing what was being planned, a public meeting of the inhabitants of the "Braybrook Station Estate" was held on February 16, 1891 to stress further the necessity of establishing a school. At that meeting the residents appointed Percy Thomson, also an Estate Agent, to act as their Correspondent or Secretary.

It was not till February 24, that H. G. Hanna wrote to the Education Department formally offering the use of his Hall, including all necessary school facilities, at a cost of £35 per annum. The Department, however had already arranged to rent the rooms belonging to William Thurston.

In the News

Supplement to "The Footscray Advertiser."

The Braybrook Station Estate!!

February 1891

A STATE SCHOOL REQUIRED AND DEMANDED.

Pursuant to a notice by circular, a crowded meeting of the inhabitants and others interested was held on Monday evening last in the old schoolroom for the purpose of petitioning the Minister of Public Instruction to establish a State School in the locality, which has now assumed the appearance of a well settled township. The meeting was called for 6.30 p.m.; and soon after the residents (chiefly parents) began to congregate, and by seven o'clock it was evident the room would not hold the crowd interested. The owners of the estate, Messrs. Johnson and Mills, had been invited, and attended, as did also their agents, Messrs. Percy Thomson and Co. Mr. Thurston, a resident builder, was voted to the chair. In a few words he stated the objects of the meeting, and called upon several gentlemen to move the resolutions allotted to them.

Mr. Joyce moved, and Mr. Caffish seconded, "That this meeting expresses extreme regret that the Minister of Public Instruction has not seen his way to comply with the petition presented in June last by the residents of the Braybrook Station Estate at Braybrook and immediate locality asking that a State School be erected in their neighbourhood, south of the railway line."—Carried.

Mr. Caffish moved, and Mr. Grant seconded, "That a deputation wait upon the Minister of Public Instruction to impress upon him the increasing necessity for a State School in the neighbourhood indicated in the first resolution, and to present a further petition upon the subject thereof."—Carried.

Mr. Allen moved, and Mr. Hill seconded, "That the chairman of this meeting be and is hereby instructed and authorised to present the said petition to the Honourable the Minister of Public Instruction on an early day, and that as many of the parents and others interested in the object sought to be attained as can attend be requested to accompany the chairman as a deputation to the said minister."

This resolution was supported by Mr. Johnson, who commented in mild and carefully-measured terms of reprobation on the conduct of Messrs. Greig, Newman and Copley, and by others whom the meeting appeared to know without him naming; and in controverting what he spoke of as the deceptive and erroneous statements sent in to the Minister of Instruction by the correspondent of the old Braybrook school and his abettors, he recapitulated the facts set out in the petition, and supplemented them with others of a character so clear and convincing as to fairly "bring down the house," and placed the singular efforts of Messrs. Copley and Co. in anything but an

envious light. He showed their conduct to have been unwise, because their efforts must be futile, inasmuch as they were trying to thwart the law of the country, which enjoined that every child of school age should have facilities given, and not impediments placed in their way to prevent them obtaining education, which their parents and the whole community pay for; and ungenerous because as professing Christian men they set at naught and ruthlessly violated the leading maxim of their creed "to do unto others as they would have others do to them." In conclusion Mr. Johnson reminded them that they had now 150 municipal and parliamentary votes at their command, and he trusted that when the occasion arose they would use each one wisely.

Mr. Pope moved, and Mr. Gerber seconded, "That this meeting emphatically condemns the action of the local Board of Advice (acting for and on behalf of the inhabitants resident in the Government township of Braybrook over two miles north of the Braybrook Junction) in advising the Minister of Public Instruction to delay compliance with the prayer of our said petition as presented in June last."

This resolution was supported by Mr. J. W. Thomson, who said that he cordially supported the resolution, and was greatly surprised they should have to call such a meeting to obtain their right to a State School, which was given to them by the law of the country. He had been a correspondent to schools in Victoria more than thirty years ago, and was appointed as such when he and the late Captain Dove formed the school near the Gaeelong Road, Footscray, with twelve or fourteen scholars, and which now numbered many hundreds. Footscray at that time was not so promising for a school as Braybrook is at present. Usually it is only necessary to address the Minister, showing that at a given spot there was a certain number of children of school age, not within two miles of any other school, and that they were without a teacher, when the Department sent an officer down to inquire and verify. That being completed a teacher was sent down and an unclassified school established. When a locality had a number equal to what they now had, it was entitled to a classified school and also a certificated teacher with full emoluments. That course would have been adopted in the present case had it not been for the foolish envy, miserable intrigues, and gross impertinence of men, some of whose names had been mentioned to the meeting. Those intriguers had no right to meddle with their educational rights, nor mar their children's present and future welfare. He cordially agreed with Mr. Johnson that they

should take care that such men should have neither vote or power given them in future. They should be literally marked men, and the recollection of their mean efforts should be bequeathed as an heritage to their children. Mr. Thomson then detailed how, on the 13th December last, he had found Messrs. Copley, Newman, and Greig in the private schoolroom of Miss Espie, trying to obtain from her a statement as to requirements of a school in the township, which was afterwards used in such a garbled and deceptive form in their letter to the Minister of Instruction. Miss Espie informed him and others that she was promised, on signing a certain document presented to her, that they would recommend her as a teacher, get her the State School, assist her to get a certificate, and put her on the staff of teachers. That three others had since visited her, and promised her the same things, all of which she had since found out were worthless promises only given for a purpose. She has (as they were aware) since given up her private school. He would leave them to draw their own inferences respecting the motives of such men.

Mr. Upton, in warmly supporting the resolution, said he was there when Mr. Greig and others went to Miss Espie's, and was so incensed at the object and motives of these gentlemen that he lost his temper, and would not tell the meeting how he described their conduct.

Mr. Upton moved, and Mr. Joyce seconded, "That a school committee of the whole of the petitioners (five to form a quorum) be appointed, with a view to make and carry out such arrangements as may be necessary to obtain a school in accordance with the Education Act and the decision of the Minister of Education."—Carried unanimously.

Mr. Joyce moved, and Mr. Caffish seconded, "That to assist to carry out the foregoing resolutions and any correspondence arising therefrom, Mr. Percy Thomson be appointed correspondent *pro tem.*"

Mr. Joyce moved, and Mr. Gerber seconded "That Mr. J. G. Roediger, one of the Shire councillors representing the Eastern Riding, be asked to accompany the deputation to the Minister of Education."—Carried unanimously.

Mr. Joyce said he moved this resolution in reference to Mr. Roediger to show whether he was what John Bunyan would call a "Mr. Facing both ways" or not. From what he had seen and heard in connection with this question he thought that Mr. Roediger was against this school, but he was not so open in his opposition as were Greig and Co.,

and would not show his true colours. This resolution was intended to test him.

Mr. Pope desired, with permission of the mover, that their other local representatives—Messrs. Dickson and Mullinger—should also be asked in the same manner.

Mr. J. W. Thomson urged Mr. Joyce to withdraw his resolution, inasmuch as it was outside the objects of the meeting, which applied only to parents living on the estate and others in the locality, who were directly interested on the south of the Junction Station. None of the gentlemen named came within the conditions, and Mr. Joyce admitted that he knew Messrs. Dickson and Mullinger were openly opposed to the proposed school, and if they accepted the invitation it would only be introducing useless discord into the deputation where, otherwise, we should have perfect unanimity. Mr. Pope's amendment was not received, but notwithstanding Mr. Thomson's earnest appeal to leave the ungenerous intriguers severely alone the original motion was carried by a large majority.

In discussing the several resolutions the meeting was good-natured and unanimous throughout. The only sore feeling exhibited was at the conduct of the Board of Advice for "Old Braybrook," which was denounced by several of the speakers as envious, mean, and altogether unworthy of men who had been generously entrusted by the State with the surveillance of any other school, inasmuch as the absence of the late private teacher and their unwise and ungenerous conduct had left from forty to sixty children on the new township without any means of education whatsoever, unless they travelled more than two miles and crossed a dangerous line of railway (now tabooed by the department in consequence of two or three adult persons and also horses having been recently killed at or near the said crossing).

Mr. Johnson moved, and Mr. J. W. Thompson seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried by acclamation, and thus ended the first public meeting on the Braybrook Station Estate.

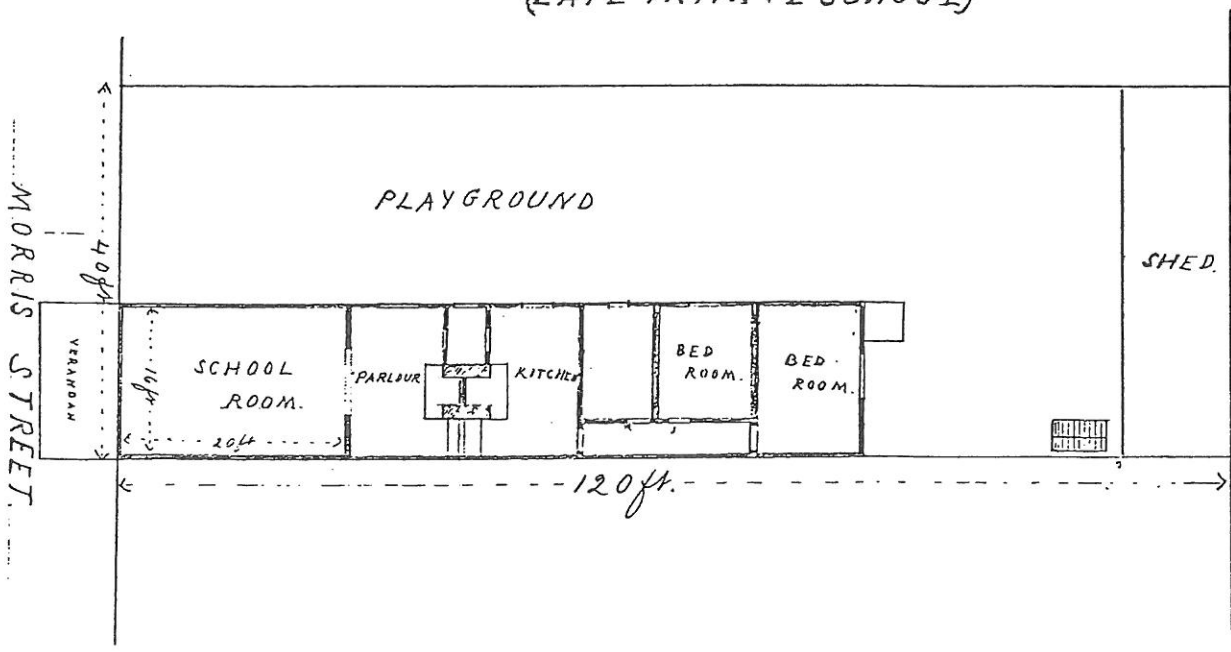
A public hall is now in course of erection on the township by one or two private gentlemen living in one of the western suburbs, and as a literary and debating society is also established, we may expect stirring platform speeches, and perhaps "scenes" rivalling some of our older institutions from this time forward.

Opening of the School

The school opened in the Morris Street site on April 27, 1891 with Thomas Flynn, the father of Flynn of the Inland, as the first Head Teacher. During July and August 1891, Thomas Flynn wrote to complain, firstly of the lack of ventilation in the schoolroom - "the windows, being intended for the shop windows, are fixtures" ; secondly,

of the leaking roof of the building, the deep mud in the play yard, and the constant traffic into the premises which also contained a Dairy and a Wood yard; and thirdly, of the fear of a recurrence of typhoid fever outbreak - "so prevalent in the early months of the year".

PROPOSED TEMPORARY STATE SCHOOL BRAYBROOK JUNCTION.
(LATE PRIVATE SCHOOL)



Thomas Flynn appointed Head Teacher

51
 No. 3113
 Vacancy A.D.
 Gazetted 20.3.91

Committee of Classifiers,



Melbourne, 7th April 1891.

"Public Service Act 1890"

Eight

SEVENTH SCHEDULE.—TRANSFER LIST.—DIVISION VII.

We hereby certify that the following is a correct list of applicants for transfer to the position of Head Teacher in Braybrook South School No. 3113, with their names arranged in the order of seniority as they appear in the Classified Roll.

W. A. Nicholl
W. Munro } Classifiers.

To the Secretary,
 Education Department.

Braybrook South School No. 3113, Position vacant Head Teacher, Applicants.

NAME OF APPLICANT.	Classification.			PRESENT SCHOOL.			Order.	REMARKS.
	Class.	Sub. Class.	No. on Roll.	Position.	Name.	Roll No.		
Flynn Thomas	TV 2	69	A.D.	Snake Valley	574	1.		
Weir Archd L.	TV 2	115	"	Hollinwood	2576	2.		
Allen William H.	TV 2	122	"	Heathcote South	1520	3.		
Brown William	TV 2	164	"	Bellanie East.	1415	4		
Campbell John G.	TV 2	231	"	Tallangatta	1365	5.		
Laudler James.	TV 2	243	"	Wandora	859	6.		
Stokens J. J.	TV 3	9	"	Toronto	1090	7.		
Gough James P.	TV 3	45	"	Laang.	1411	8		
Walter Lewis	TV 3	49	"	Waurin Ponds	1040	9.		
McColl John	TV 3	70	"	Esterton	430	10		
Jennings W. H.	TV 3	79	as!	Seuea.	208	11.		
Burke James H.	TV 3	106	A.D.	Doolleen	1336	12		
Hill E. P. H.	TV 3	121	"	Winstow	624	13.		
Brook Chas. W.	TV 3	122	"	Yuk Creek	1452	14		
Hattery Thomas	TV 3	129	"	Urestone	610	15.		
Wright Charles	TV 3	132	"	Wingham	1938	16.		
Wright John	TV 3	132	"	Banchar	1119	17.		

School Transferred

On August 22, 1891, District Inspector James Holland wrote a long report in which he recommended that the school be transferred temporarily to the Hall of H. G. Hanna, who earlier in the month had renewed the offer to lease his building for the reduced rent of £30 per annum. Moreover, as the average attendance had nearly doubled from 35 to 62 in the short time since the school opened, it was essential to seek increased accommodation immediately. Four days later, on August 26, Robert

Armstrong, chairman of the Braybrook Junction Local Progress Committee, wrote to the Minister of Education pointing out the disadvantage of the Hall, and recommending that the Department accept William Thurston's alternative offer to build a proper school room, "38ft x 18ft with gallery and fireplace". The offer of H. G. Hanna, however had already been accepted, and so School No. 3113 transferred to its new quarters at the corner of Hampshire Road and Benjamin Street on September 1, 1891.

Ref: 2573
Braybrook Sch. Co.

Braybrook
22nd Aug 1891

Sir,

I have the honor to forward my report on the above case.

The building now used is quite unfit for school purposes during the summer months. I obtained two separate offers from Mr. Hanna and Mr. Thurston to lease other buildings for the purpose (letters attached.) As there was some doubt in my mind as to which was the more advantageous offer, and as complications might possibly arise, I thought it advisable to secure the option of renting the present building for some shorter period than six months if it should be found necessary.

Mr. Hanna offers his hall, 40 ft x 27 ft, sufficiently lighted and ventilated, without fireplace, but with tanks and separate W.C.s for boys and girls, at the rate of £30 per annum.

Mr. Thurston offers to build a school-house 38 ft x 18 ft, with gallery and fireplace (plan attached) on a piece of ground 200 ft by 200 ft, and to rent it to the Department at 4/- a week or at the rate of £36.8 per annum.

James Holland's Letter

Mr. Hanna's offer has many advantages: the building is ready for occupation at once; it is centrally situated, very fairly suitable, has made roads leading to it - a matter of some importance in a muddy locality - and the rent is somewhat lower than that of the other. The disadvantages are that the hall has no fireplace - this will however be made much during the next six months: the room is used on week days for concerts and other public purposes and for church on Sunday: this will necessitate frequent moving of furniture and doubtless, at times cause inconvenience. Mr. Hanna, however, guarantees the Department against breakage.

The advantages of Mr. Dunston's offer are that his building will be built in accordance with approved plans and will have a fireplace and gallery: there will be no necessity to move furniture. The site is only about 300 yards from the present school and, while removed from close proximity to the house of the township, is sufficiently central. The objections to Mr. Dunston's offer are that the building is not yet even started, and the site has about 200 yards of unmade road leading to it: further if the building is required for 6 mos only it will certainly not pay Mr. Dunston to put it up: he will have no legal claim on the Department, but he will be able to show that he has lost money, and may possibly bring forward some claim for compensation. Should the building be required for a year or more these objections will not apply.

If it is not the intention of the Department to erect a building before next winter, Mr. Dunston's offer should be accepted, and the lease of the present body renewed for one month until the new one is ready.

I recommend however, in preference, that a site be obtained by the Department, and a school built as early as possible. Meantime Mr. Hanna's hall will do well enough for the summer and should be rented for, say, six months.

Judging from the steadily increasing attendance, a school to accommodate 100 will be required. The a.a. for the three months since the school commenced has been 35, 42, 47 respectively: on the 19th inst, when I visited, there were 62 present.

I see by papers handed to me to day that Mr. Tynan has already recommended a site. I was not aware of this on the 19th and asked Mr. Hanna and Messrs. Flynn and McKeehan to submit offers to the Department.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant
J. Holland

Mr. Kerlan }
Education Dep^y }

Search for State School Site.

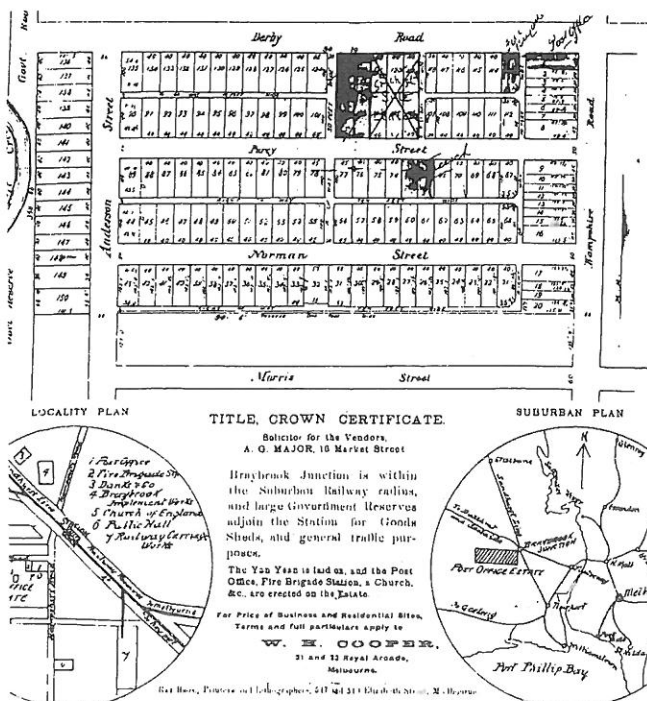
At the end of 1891, and early in 1892, many sites were being considered on which to erect a temporary schoolroom, prior to the building of a permanent school at some later date.

One site considered was in Cornwall Road, and now part of O'Brien Park. At a public meeting over 80 parents signed a petition in favour of this site, "provided a subway be made through the railway embankment at that locality and a safe passage be thus secured from the road in front of Wright and Edward's Factory onto the school yard".

Robert Armstrong, however, condemned the site mainly because it was too near to Wright and Edwards Engineering Works, and it was eventually revoked on September 26, 1917. Later it was Robert Armstrong who drew the Department's attention to the choice land offered for sale by W. H. Cooper, H. Ingamells and J. T. Raw on the "Post Office Estate, adjoining Braybrook Junction Railway Station".

So, on March 29, 1892, Chief Inspector Alexander Stewart and District Inspector James Holland examined the portion of this estate in Derby Road and recommended that six Allotments Nos 104-106 and 119-121, in Section 18 of the parish of Cut-Paw-Paw in the county of Bourke be leased for £6 per annum with the option of yearly renewals for a period of five years. Their recommendation was approved by Thomas Brodribb, the new Secretary of the Department, and the lease of the above site 120 ft. frontage by 210 ft. depth became operative from May 1, 1892. It was not listed in the Government Gazette, however, until December 16, 1892.

During September two portable buildings joined together by a porch were erected on the new site in Derby Road, and the school transferred to its new quarters on September 30, 1892. The site was later occupied by the Sunshine Girls Technical School building.



PLAN OF SUBDIVISION OF THE **POST OFFICE" ESTATE** Braybrook Junction.

Being Part of Crown Allotment 18, Parish of Cut-Paw-Paw, County of Bourke
 ADJOINING THE BRAYBROOK JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION. Vendors, W. H. Cooper, H. Ingamells, J. T. Raw
 TERMS: £10 per cent Deposit on each Allotment; Balance up to 18 Months
 Surveyed by TERRY and TERRY, Authorized Surveyors
FOR SALE, CHOICE ALLOTMENTS
 From 30/- per Foot.
 The Pick of this Rising Suburb. Splendid Natural Drainage.

Amalgamation of the Braybrook Schools

In August 1893, at the height of the depression that followed the collapse of the land boom, it was decided for economy reasons that State School 3113 should amalgamate with State School 1102 Braybrook, about two miles away. Thomas Flynn was to be in charge of both schools. The actual amalgamation did not take effect until January 1894 when William Austin, the Head Teacher of Braybrook and his wife Annie, were nominated to a new school. So as not to disturb the younger children, the first and second classes remained at State School 3113, with a Pupil Teacher in charge, and the children in the third and higher classes walked to Braybrook. This change was made with the concurrence of James Christie, Chairman of the District Board of Advice, and Alfred Newman, the Correspondent. In October 1895, as there were then only 45 junior children attending the school, one of the two connected school rooms at S. S. 3113 was removed, but its destination is unknown. The remaining school room measured 24 ft. by 18 ft., and in a few years would prove to be quite inadequate for the rapidly increasing population.

When the five year lease of the site expired on April 30, 1897, Cooper, Ingamells and Raw renewed it on an annual basis at the same rental, payable half yearly, and handed over its collection to Estate Agent, Percy Thomson. Then in April 1900 John T. Raw, owing to sequestration of his estate, authorised the rent be paid to

John G. Johnson, the Mortgagee and new owner.

In March 1901, thirty-six parents petitioned the Minister to restore the adjunct State School No. 3113 to full status, so that the children in third class and above would not have to "*walk nearly three miles in the heat of summer and the cold and wet of winter to the old Braybrook School No. 1102.*" Two similar deputations followed in March and November 1902.

Thomas Flynn, writing privately on March 3, 1903 said that there were then "*139 children actually attending both schools*", and he quoted figures which seemed to demonstrate that no great advantage would be gained by separating the two schools and suggesting that the people who were promoting the idea "*did not understand what they were asking for, and are more anxious to keep themselves before the public than to further the real interest of those concerned*". However, State School 3113 eventually ceased to be an adjunct school in 1903 when Miss C. O'Donohue was appointed Acting Head Teacher.

Roll Call - 1893

Family	Age on the 1st May	Family	Age on the 1st May	Family	Age on the 1st May
Adam Thomas	12-7	Gauble Lily	12-11	Patterson Edward	8-10
Adam Mary	7-3	Gauble Herbert	10-9	Patterson William	4-11
Rose James	4-1	Gauble Ethel	7-4	Porter Leonard	7-11
Allen Hugh	4-9	Bostock Kate	14-3	Porter Frederick	5-0
Batchelor John	12-7	Grant William	4-3	Reade Florence	12-3
Batchelor Margaret	4-10	Grant Grace	6-9	Reade Alfred	10-4
Batchelor Jessie	7-2	Heurichs Archie	9-11	Reade Wesley	8-3
Beck John	6-1	Heurichs Albert	7-7	Scott Aiston	17-1
Beck Leonard	5-1	Hamilton Thomas	13-3	Scott Walter	8-8
Byrne Margaret	7-11	Hamilton Ronald	11-7	Shorten Mary	11-6
Byrne Elizabeth	6-7	Hardwick Guy	7-0	Shorten E. James	10-5
Byrne Mary	5-9	Hardwick Gerald	6-0	Shorten Elizabeth	8-5
Brown Elsie	9-10	Ingle Frederick	13-11	Shorten Jeremiah	7-0
Chivers Amy	12-5	Ingle Mary	12-7	Shorten John	5-6
Chivers Emily	11-1	Jones Louisa	14-0	Torr William	4-9
Chivers May	8-5	Jones David	12-7	Cathrall Lily	10-10
Dickson Matilda	11-10	Jones Robert	11-0	Cathrall Alice	7-9
Dickson Herbert	7-9	Leitch Victor	10-2	Weinsberg W ^m	6-5
Davey Mary	10-7	Laird Alice	10-2	Weinsberg Samuel	14-10
Davey Albert	8-11	Laird William	5-7	Wickhamson Violet	13-1
Davey John	7-0	Love Lock Ellen	11-8	Geo.	10-4
Davey William	4-10	Raucashire Lavinia	9-0	Edy	8-9
Flynn Rosetta	15-2	Raucashire Edith	9-0	Lily	6-9
Flynn John	12-5	Raucashire John	7-4	Cathrall John	7-8
Graf Ruby	1-8	Moulls Ernest	10-8	Lily	10-7
Gybeling George	11-1	Robse Ellen	7-11	Stewart Mary	11-9
		McKinney Bella	7-1	Ellen Helen	
		O'Shaunassy Mary	6-7		
		Paul Bella	4-8		
		Priece William	13-7		
		Priece Annie	11-7		
		Priece Kate	14-10		

School Faces Acute Overcrowding

The new acting Head Teacher was instructed to enroll "*only as many pupils as could be accommodated*" in the small schoolroom. The imposition of this severe restriction was easier said than done, and caused further deputations to call on the Minister of Education on October 20, 1903, and again on March 31, 1904, to request increased accommodation. Two Members of Parliament led the latter Deputation, and soon afterwards the Director himself, Frank Tate, visited the two Braybrook schools. He was shocked by the cramped unsatisfactory conditions in which the children worked especially at the Braybrook Junction School, and immediately persuaded the Minister to authorise the enlargement of the school. This was the year that H. V. McKay of Ballarat, purchased the Braybrook Implement Company and the surrounding land, and began building houses for his workers. The township was rapidly developing. It was not till December 1905, however, that an additional wooden school room 36 ft. by 24 ft. was erected.

Meanwhile, at the end of 1904, the Department purchased for £60 from J. G. Johnson not only the school site 120 ft. by 210 ft. but also the adjoining block 100 ft. by 210 ft. on the western side.

Soon after the new school room was built, the original room fell into such disrepair that it was unable to be used by the infant classes. So in July 1907 H. B. Chalmers, Hon. Secretary of Braybrook Junction Progress

Association, wrote asking for it to be repaired, as the school was again suffering severe accommodation problems. In November Alex Fraser, who had become Hon. Secretary of the Association, again wrote complaining of the acute overcrowding at the school and asking the Department to "*give the matter its earliest attention.*"

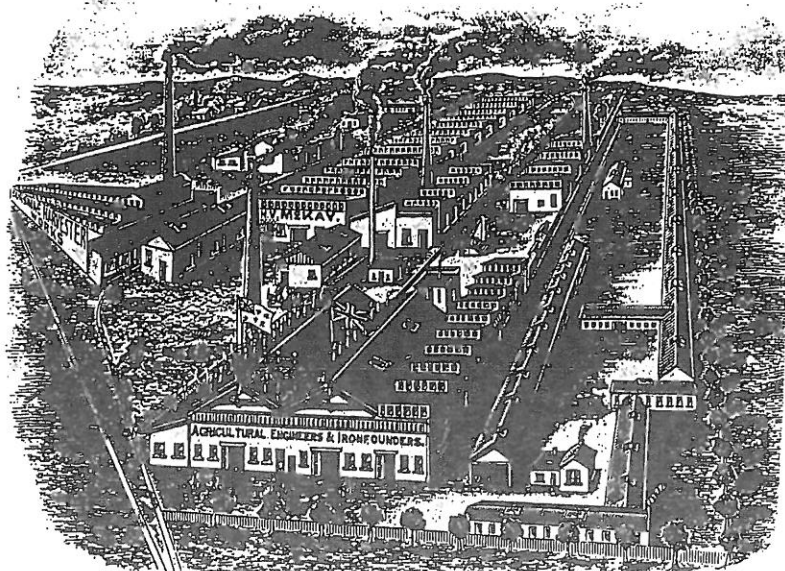
The official name of the school was changed from Braybrook South or Braybrook Junction to Sunshine on September 30, 1907. The official name of the station and settlement had already been changed on August 6, in honour of the brilliant philanthropic industrialist Hugh V. McKay, the inventor and producer of the famous "Sunshine" Harvester Machine.

On April 1909, James F. Holden was appointed Acting Head Teacher. During June - July 1909 he and H. B. Chalmers organised the leasing of the Mechanics Institute Hall 60 ft. by 30 ft., for school purposes at a rental of 10/- per week, payable monthly, and later increased to £1 per week. At the same time, Jonathon T. Nash Correspondent of the District Board of Advice, and J. B. Garde of the Sunshine Progress Association continued to urge the Department to repair the old original building, as "*all the windows are broken... and it is not fit to be used for teaching the infant class.*"

On July 21, a windfall occurred. Hugh V. McKay offered the Department an acre of land adjoining the school site on the west side for £45, or for the low price of £37.10.0., if it

would agree to establish "a model school" on it. At the same time, at the request of H. V. McKay, A. Robinson of "Royton", Hampshire Road, Sunshine, offered the Department two blocks of lands between the school site and Hampshire Road. For the first block which adjoined the school and surrounded St. Mark's Church he wanted the sum of £80. The second block, extending from the Fire Brigade Quarters to the corner of Derby and

Hampshire Roads, he was prepared to sell for £550, as it has erected on it a fine weatherboard slate roofed residence. Finally, on October 13, 1909, J. B. Garde, a regular writer on behalf of the Sunshine Progress Association, strongly urged the Department to take some action, without knowing that on the previous day it had already accepted H. V. McKay's offer to sell the adjoining acre of land for £45.



The "Sunshine" Harvester Works, Braybrook, 1906.

Size of the School still inadequate for the Township's Needs

In November 1909, William Roach, the new Head Teacher, stated that there were 125 names on the roll with an average attendance of 115, and that the enrollment was rapidly increasing. So J. B. Garde wrote again to the local Member of Parliament, A. R. Robertson asking him to urge the Department to enlarge the school so that it would not be necessary to continue using the unsuitable Mechanics Institute Hall. On December 10, 1909, District Inspector T. W. Bothroyd issued a report recommending the erection of an additional building so that the school would be able to accommodate a "minimum of 150 pupils". He stressed that the Town's population was increasing rapidly, and that H. V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works alone employed 1200 men. He finally stated that the old building was not worth renovating, and should be converted into a second shelter shed.

In March 1910 J. B. Garde wrote personally to Frank Tate, and a month later John Byatt, the special Departmental Training Inspector, also strongly recommended that Inspector Bothroyd's suggestions be placed on the urgent list of that year's estimates of expenses. On September 8, 1910 Inspector James McRae, in a special report, went further and recommended that, "*accommodation for at least 200 pupils be provided*". He also added: "*There are now 165 children on the rolls, and the school has rooms for only 70. Classes I and II are taught in a leased hall about 400 yards from the school. The providing of additional accommodation is a very urgent necessity...Ten (10) dual desks of largest size, and another table are urgently needed now*". William Roach lost no time in applying for the desks and table the following day.

The accommodation problem was at



School Improvements

last temporarily solved in August 1911 by erecting three wooden classrooms (one 36 ft. by 24 ft., and two 26ft. by 24 ft.). At the official opening *"the children were entertained in picnic fashion in the school grounds and there were refreshments and prizes for Sports"*.

At the same time the original portable building remaining on the site was converted into a shelter shed by the School Committee, whose Chairman was Hugh McLean, and Hon. Secretary D. B. Ferguson. This shelter shed was mysteriously destroyed by fire three years later. Asphalt paving, 354 square yards of it was laid down at the same time.

During 1912, 90 cypress trees

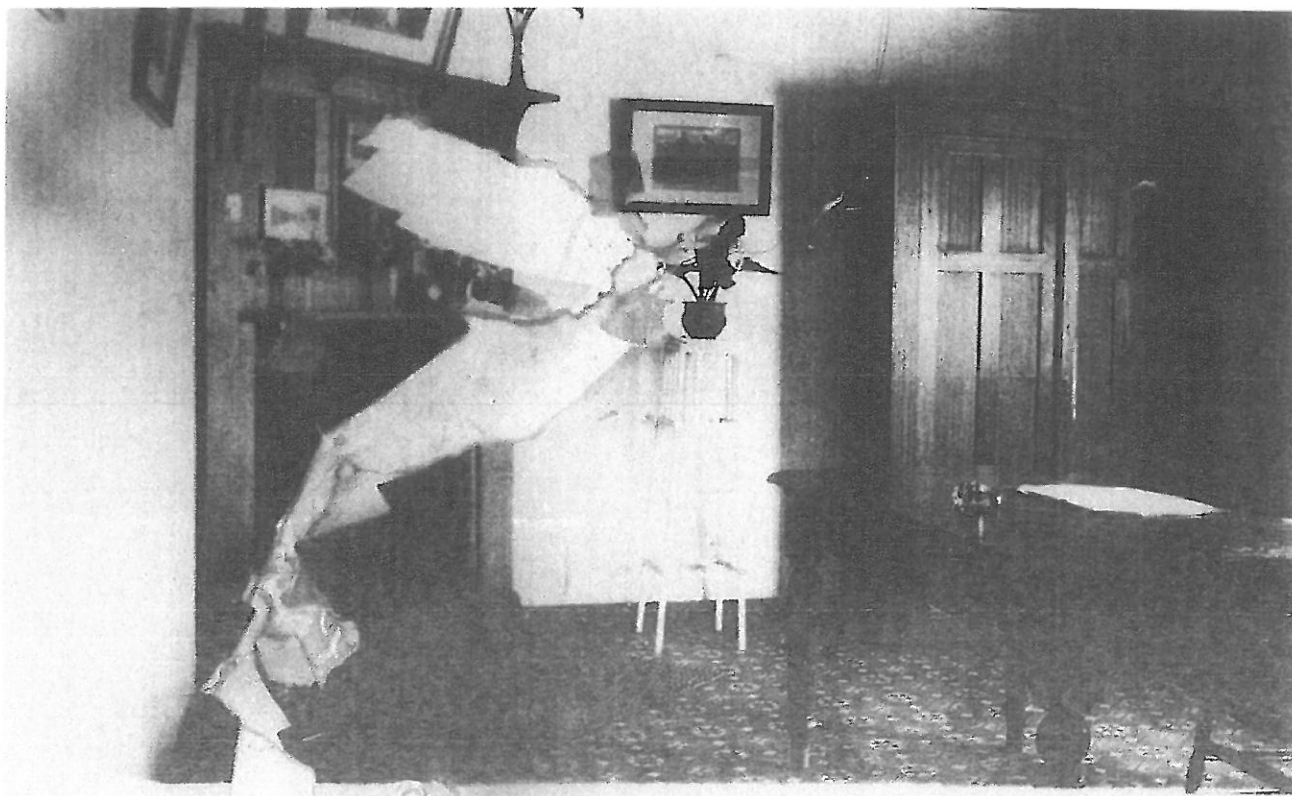
were planted along the north and west boundaries of the school, and 80 gum and pepper trees along the east and south sides.

On Empire night (May 24, 1912) the school committee took the children to the Bioscope entertainment (earliest Cinema) in the Sunshine Hall.

By July 1914 there were 261 pupils on the school roll, distributed on the three rooms as follows:

Senior room (5, 6, 7, & 8th. grades) ...	86
Middle room (3rd. & 4th. grades)	72
Junior room 1st. & 2nd. grades)	103

Total 261



The Swimming Pool

During the summer of 1914-1915 a Swimming Bath was constructed in the school grounds at a cost of about £120, half of which was subsidized by the Department. John S. Porteous, the correspondent of the School Committee, played a leading part in having the baths or pool constructed. A large area around it was also tar paved.

By July 1915 there were 285 scholars on the roll, and an average attendance of 260. Over 2000 men were then employed at H. V. McKay's Harvester Works. So in October that year an additional pavilion classroom 30 ft. by 20 ft. was erected at the school, and 30 more dual desks supplied.

By March 1917 the school was again suffering from growing pains, as the net enrollment was then 333 and the Annual Attendance more than 280. In April 1919, after a further big increase in attendance, two more wooden

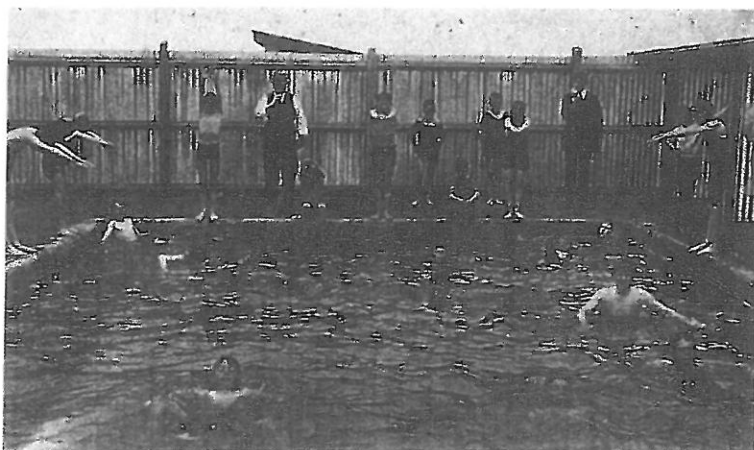
classrooms, each 26 ft. 6 in. by 24 ft. were erected at a total cost of about £1000. At the request of William Roach, an Head Teacher's office and Teachers' Study Room were also included.

"My father, Charlie Day helped to build the swimming pool...that's where I learnt to swim. Every so often we would get our turn to clean out the pool which we thought was good, no school for the afternoon, we had to scrub the concrete bottom, they used to drain all the water out...."

Glad Crick nee Day

"The late Sir Frank Beaurepaire was in the Education Department as a swimming instructor. He visited our school once a week. Fortunately for me he took me on as a star pupil and taught me to become a stunt swimmer."

Edith Fletcher nee Roach.



1918

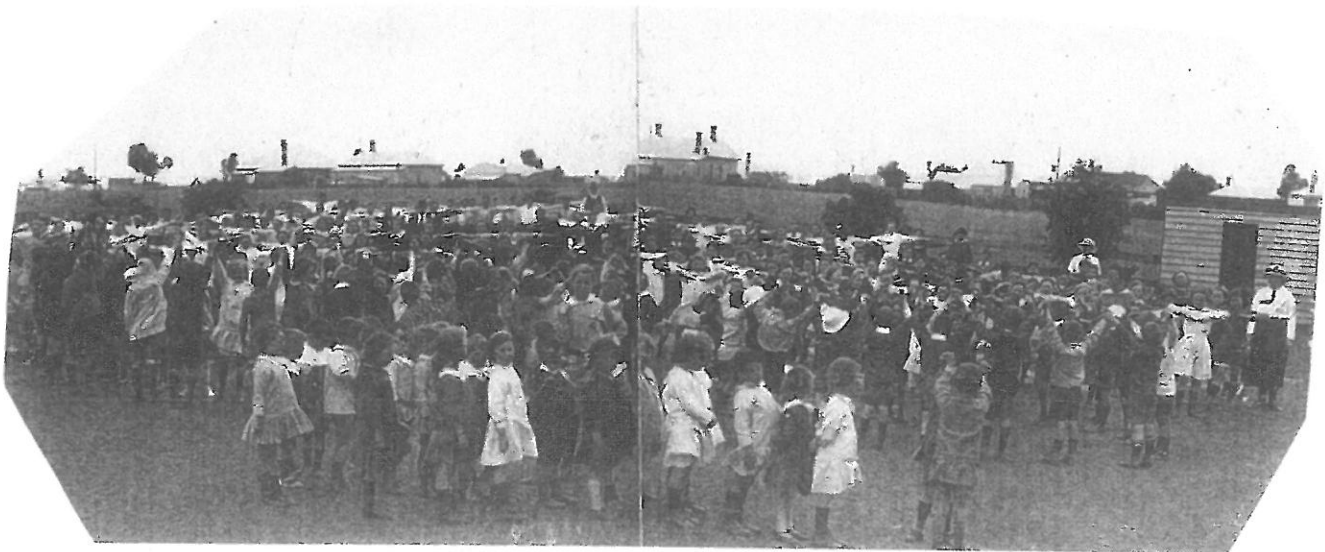
On July 1918 A Robinson of "Royton", Hampshire Road, Sunshine, again offered the Department his block of land, including the "*well built villa*", mentioned in previous correspondence originally erected for a post office.

On this occasion he asked £1000 for the house and land. Three years later , in July 1921, this corner block (one and three quarter acres), on which the present school is situated, was purchased by the Technical School Division of the Education Department. The old Post Office building, which used to stand right on the corner, was occupied by the caretaker of the

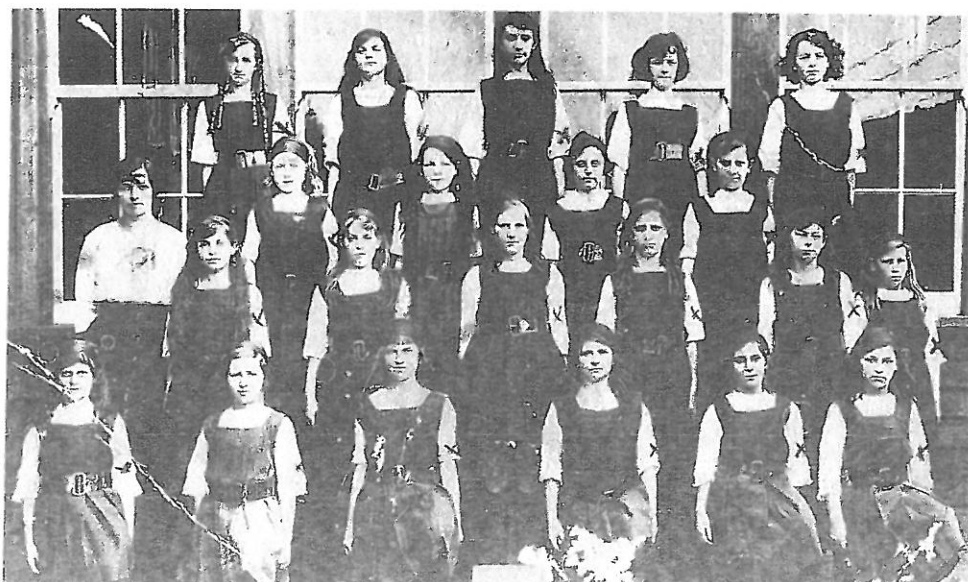
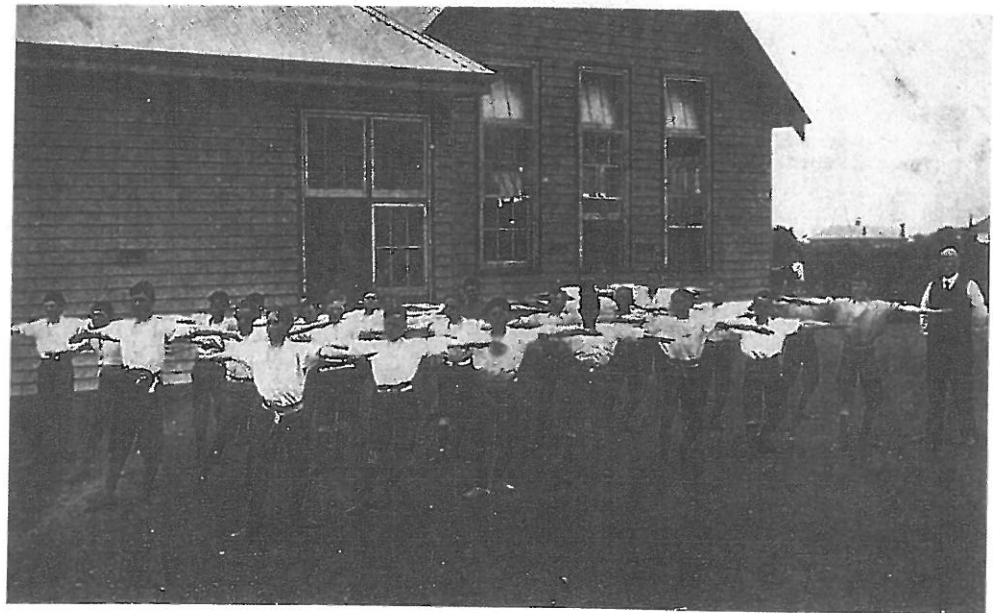
Technical School.

By 1920 the canvas shutter and the canvas door of the open air pavilion classroom were so badly torn and perished as to make this outside room unuseable on cold winter days. Mrs. W. G. Dripps complained about it to the District Inspector, Dr. J. A. Leach and the school medical Officer, Jane S. Grieg. So in January 1921 the building was repaired and partly remodelled.

In October 1922 the school site was "*properly fenced in*" by G. Nicholson in order to "*keep out wandering cattle etc.*" The Job cost £64, half being paid by the Department.



Early Photographs



Class Photographs 1920's

