



## Moruya's Newspapers and the people who ran them. Part 5.

by Wendy Simes

### SOUTHERN STAR

The Southern Star produced in Moruya is not to be confused with an earlier paper produced in Bega from 1900 to 1923 with the same name. This earlier paper circulated from Eden to Moruya and was published by P. W. Tarlington and W. A. Smith.



When the Moruya Examiner was sold to Maxwell Newton the paper was then published in Canberra, but the job printing side of the business was still owned by the former proprietor Vince Kilgallon. Mr and Mrs Bert Royall acquired this side of the business in October 1869 having previously had their own newspaper in Mareeba, Queensland. They had no contract with Maxwell Newton so were free to start up a rival Newspaper which they did in May of the next year.

#### ALBERT EDWARD ROYALL

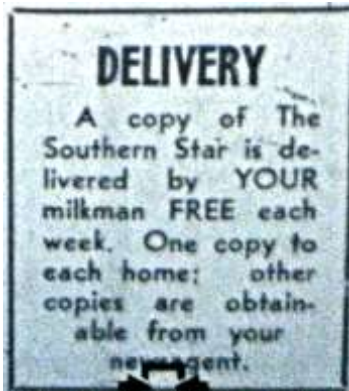
Albert was born in 1905, the eldest child of Herbert Augustus Royall and Blanche Ellen Eaglestone. In 1918 however his father petitioned for divorce on the grounds of his wife's adultery.

Little detail is known of Bert's early career but in Armidale in January 1939 he married Madge May Burne. This was not to be a successful marriage as evidenced by the reporting of a court case in Brisbane under the headlines 12 MONTHS WED – "PAIR OF FOOLS" Uncertain Love of Ad. Man and pretty young wife.<sup>1</sup> His wife or as the judge described her pretty, blond-haired Mrs Royall charged Albert with unlawfully leaving her without adequate means of support. Mr Royall is described as a well-known city advertising manager and claimed he had not left her without support. It would appear from the reporting that Madge wanted rather more than Albert could supply in the way of clothes and a good time. The judge was not impressed and dismissed the case.

I have found no further records of Albert until in his second wife's Joyce's story where she recounts they met in Wollongong where they both worked as feature/advertising journalists for the Daily Mercury<sup>2</sup>. From here she says they moved around running many newspapers before buying a newspaper at Mareeba. Their dream of a happy life in Moruya however was short lived as in May 1971 Bert died of cancer and Joyce was left to run the newspaper herself which she did most successfully. Joyce remained in Moruya until her death at age 96 in 2014.

<sup>1</sup> Truth, Brisbane 11 February 1940

<sup>2</sup> Moruya Examiner 19<sup>th</sup> December 1914



The First issue of the Southern Star was on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1970. It was priced at 5c a copy. However if you had your milk delivered it was delivered free with the milk. The following is an extract from this first edition:-

*The coming of the Star will fill a long-felt want – the need for a local newspaper with the welfare of Eurobodalla Shire at heart.*  
*The main objective of the Star is to publicise and boost the area and give every assistance to every form of advancement in the district.*  
*It will cover all phases of local life and wherever possible will do it by personal representation. All part of the Shire will be catered for.*  
*A good slogan for the Star could be “If it isn’t in The Star it hasn’t happened.”*

In 1977 the paper won an award for the best country newspaper staffed by one Journalist. The newspaper was also commended for its notable content of sporting. The Journalist at the time was Eric Wiseman. In 1998 Eric was still at the paper when it merged with the Examiner in July 1998 and remained with the Examiner.

The Bay Post was also part of the merger with the front covers the only difference between the paper for Batemans and the paper for Moruya.

During its lifetime other papers were absorbed or merged with the Southern Star. The Bay Advocate which was produced April 1975 to February 1982 was one such paper.

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