

Fire tower Poetry

I hope you can read this it is thought to be written by one of the Slade brothers who was in Mt Pilot tower.

This Mt. Piper poem was found amongst the papers of the late Allan Slade who was a fire tower operator at Mount Piper. We have no idea who wrote it, when or where. We also don't know which newspaper it was published in and when it was published. Please contact us if you have details, thanks.

It was posted on the Victoria's Forests & Bushfire Heritage FaceBook page by Mark A Webster in February 2025. The link to the post is no longer working.



spot too,
But if it goes bung I give a 'yell',
And down will come FD's Dick
Cadell.

Now early this season we had
things handy,
If we want the air clear just call
up Sandy,
But now he's gone and to replace
him,
We have someone better called
Mount Stanley Jim.

3UE's set up is not hard to re-
ceive,
They had Wombat Alan and Reef
Hills Steve.

The Tallangatta boys, they do a
good job,
From Mt Granya Ron to Mt
Lawson Bob,
Hunters Hill Graham and then
on,
Mt Benambra there's another
Ron.

Believe me chaps I'm not just a
skite,
When I say I can hear Mt
Mittamatite Mike,

May be others among you who
think I'm a nerve,
but I'm not to be compared with
Mt Buller Merv.

Now take Warby Sid, I'll bet he's
no kid,
And like the rest of us, here to get

in this town concern
dustry and it's great t
thoughts corroborate

*think I'm a nerve,
but I'm not to be compared with
Mt Buller Merv.*

*Now take Warby Sid, I'll bet he's
no kid,*

*And like the rest of us, here to get
a quid,*

*And then there's...now hold on
'barley',*

*I nearly forgot Hotham Jim and
Jameison Charlie.*

*We have four girls each one at a
base,*

*So take it from me they're all
worth their place.*

*At Beechworth we have Rose-
mary, and that's the truth, Then
up at Corryong you hear OD
Ruth.*

*At Tallangatta FF Roma comes
in with a sigh,*

*And as for ability, they all up
high.*

*Then to pick one with a sweet
little voice,*

*I think 3AE Norma would be my
choice.*

*Whilst looking around on this
bright sunny day,*

*I must not forget Mannie for he
makes up our pay.*

*We hear 3TX Henry and 3SH
Graham Stork,*

*Now there's two keen chaps or
else I'm just a gawk, Bogong
Bob on V1104*

At Tullangalla I A Norma comes
in with a sigh,
And as for ability, they all up
high.

Then to pick one with a sweet
little voice,
I think 3AE Norma would be my
choice.

Whilst looking around on this
bright sunny day,
I must not forget Mannie for he
makes up our pay.

We hear 3TX Henry and 3SH
Graham Stork,

Now there's two keen chaps or
else I'm just a gawk, Bogong
Bob on VH04, mostly just 'test-
ing', no less, no more,

And all through Christmas we
had visitors galore.

Although these words don't
amount to much glory,

I've now come to the end of this
little story.

So comes next season, if I want
this job back,

I'll be right on the phone to DFO
John Jack.

Anyone still around?

APRIL Pastor (nee Slade) came
into the shop over the weekend
and I am indebted to her for the

All comments:

[Tess Lucas](#)

Great way to pass the time! The tower was manned when we first came to live in Wooragee in 1963 and it was great to know some one was watching our little patch for the first sign of smoke

[Peter Dietzel](#)

During the summer of 74/75 and 75/76 Mum,Dad,3 younger brothers and myself went on holidays to Beechworth (3 and 2 weeks respectively). Went for a drive out to Mt Stanley and did arranged with the firewatcher for us to go up and have a "look and learn".

[Dave Gallax](#)

The reference to D Cadell being at Beechworth would give a rough time period ?

(FBook didn't like me writing his first name 😊)

[Phil Searle](#)

[Dave Gallax](#) I remember Dick Cadell being at Broadford in the Mid to late 70's .There is a Cadell Tk in the Mt Tallarook State Forest named after him.

[Rob Caddell](#)

[Phil Searle](#) Yes he shifted to Whitfield in 1963 then to Tallarook (Broadford) 1968

[Phil Searle](#)

[Rob Caddell](#) Broadford was the FCV office in charge of Tallarook and Mt Disappointment .

[Rob Caddell](#)

[Phil Searle](#) yes I know. I'm Dick's son

[Rob Caddell](#)

Around 1960 to 1963 I reckon. Dick Caddell and John Jack left Beechworth in 1963.

My memory around this time was Alan Slade was the Storeman. Kevin Duffy was on Mt Stanley and Tov Tovey was on Mt Pilot.

[Phillip Evans](#)

Who eas the fire tower guy at Rennick in the early '70's..?

[Eddie Page](#)

I was I sent to Ovens Nov 63 and john Jack was the DFO at that time ...