Otago Early Settlers Museum
NEWSLETTER

220 Cumberland Street, Dunedin July 1993 Issue 52

The OESM Development works programme began in March with the invitation to Otago architects to register interest. From a short list of six, Mason & Wales of Dunedin were selected as architects to the project, and Ashley Muir and Francis Whitaker have been working with us since April. The OESM Development Group oversees the project, approves the architects' timetable and forwards recommendations about the design and works programme to the OESM Board.

The programme timetable has scheduled the completion of the draft design and appointment of consultants by 9 July, with the developed design ready by 31 August, and tenders to be let in September. A copy of the accepted design appears on the back page of this newsletter and shows the design for the link to be constructed between the original buildings. The link is a crucial part of the development plan, as the space created will provide areas for public entry, with foyer and main concourse converging at Reception . All visitor facilities are within this area or adjacent to it - museum shop, cafeteria, toilets, Information and Research.

William Cockerill convenes the OESM Development Group, whose members are Niel Wales, Robert Tongue and Elizabeth Hinds, with Dr J Somerville, Chairman of OESM Board, and John Brimble, Group Manager Operations & Services *ex officio.*

Stage I of the programme will include essential work to both buildings with both interior and exterior restoration and repair as well as the construction of the link and relocation of Archives to the Bus Station. The funding in hand is $1.05 million, and a further $400, 000 is needed to enable these works to be completed in Stage I. The Appeal Committee has taken up the challenge to raise the additional $400, 000 this year.

Museum staff have worked on the functional brief which assigns spaces for each part of the museum's operations and are now working on the details required by the architects for the final developed design. While Stage I will not see the completion of any refurbished galleries, the collections will all be rehoused in their allotted areas, and the work of the museum will continue for the most part as usual. Advance notice will be given of temporary closure of research, photographs and custodial advisory services.

Francis Whitaker comments:

'With the purchase of the Bus Station, Dunedin City and OESM have a wonderful project in the transformation of two historic buildings into a new and exciting museum. This amalgamation of the buildings will ensure their long term protection. The fortuitous combination of the original architecture, with the use of the buildings as a history museum, focuses attention on both. We are interested to highlight this, and to handle the construction and refurbishment in a sensitive and exciting manner. We look forward to reinstating the original buildings in their most distinctive light, and gaining a highly functional and integrated complex'

William Mason was Dunedin's first Mayor and the firm of Mason & Wales is not only the first in Dunedin but is also the oldest practising firm in Australasia. The firm designed the former Bank of New Zealand and Exchange building in Princes Street, and the Garrison Hall in Dowling Street, among many others.



Development Group: William Cockerill, Elizabeth Hinds, Francis Whitaker, Ashley Muir.

John Leslie McIndoe Collection

John Hector McIndoe this year presented the museum with a large collection of paintings, sketchbooks, catalogues, photographs, newspaper cuttings and a diary belonging to his father John Leslie McIndoe. The paintings were made during his internment in a prisoner of war camp in Germany from 1941-45, and the diary was one of five which he kept daily. The clippings and catalogues relate to exhibitions of works held after the war.

John Leslie McIndoe was born in Dunedin in 1898. His father was a printer, his mother Mabel Hill, a well-known painter. John Leslie became Manager of the printing firm in 1924. His brother, Archibald, became the pre-eminent plastic surgeon during the Second World War; Kenneth, a plant geneticist and world specialist in the rubber industry; and Mabel, a zoologist and graduate of Cambridge. He trained as a boy under A H O'Keefe, one of the principal teachers at the Dunedin School of Art, but painting wasn't taken up seriously until 1924. In 1927 he joined his mother in Tahiti where she was painting. Later he played a prominent part in the development of the Otago Art Society.

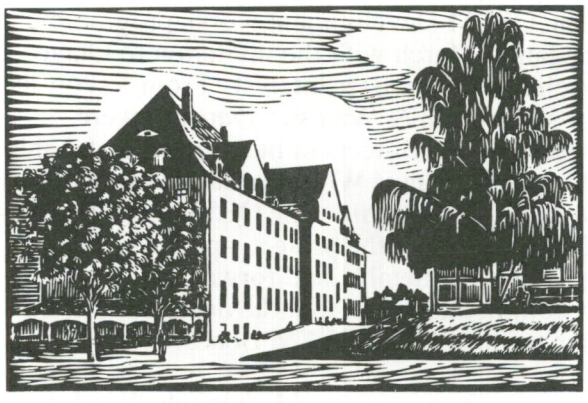
At the outbreak of the war he left with the NZ Expeditionary Forces and served in the Western Desert and Greece before being captured by the Germans in Crete after the battle ended there in 1941. Captain McIndoe, as he now was, remained a prisoner in Germany for four years. Captivity prompted him to turn to painting. The work he produced in Germany forms a very important historical record of life in a prison camp in World War II.

There are also a number of photographs in the collection documenting the release of prisoners in 1945. A fellow officer, Captain Lee Hill of Wellington, managed to smuggle a camera into the camp and he documents the fifteen day march from Rotenburg to Himmelberg near Iseleben where, on Friday 13 April 1945, the five hundred officers were liberated by an American task force.

When McIndoe was taken prisoner a British manufacturing firm from which he bought paper in peace time adopted him under its prisoner of war welfare scheme, and sent him paints and paper. He was thus able to produce over three hundred watercolours and drawings and ran art classes in the camp and he painted portraits of fellow officers to send home to families.

The collection is an important one not only for the skillful watercolours and drawings produced in the prison camp but as a whole provides us with a visual and written record of life in Germany as a prisoner of war.

We hope to exhibit this collection possibly in 1995 to mark fifty years since the end of World War II.



Oflag IXAZ, Germany, 1944, linocut.

Coffee Mornings at OTAGO EARLY SETTLERS MUSEUM to celebrate Suffrage Year

Thursdays 10.30 am $3.00

July 15 ***Women and Sport***
John Nauright on the history of women's involvement in sport

July 29 ***Women and Writing***
Tania Atkinson-Connelly on the work of three immigrant diarists

Aug 12 ***Women and Craft***
Marjory Blackman on Eleanor Joachim and other craftswomen

Aug 26 ***Women and Gardening***
Alice Lloyd-Fitt, Robin Bagley and Katherine Rhee on women and horticulture

Sept 2 ***Women and Work***
Helen Frizzell on the Bessie Turnbull display and collections at the OESM

Sept 16 ***Women and Craft***
Gay Eaton on patchwork and samplers from the OESM Collection

Mackenzie and His Dog

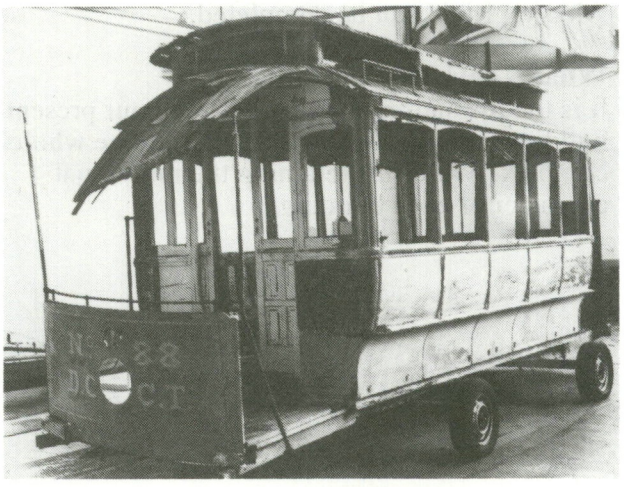
Convicted sheep-stealer James Mackenzie has a champion at the OESM! Research Librarian, Tania Atkinson-Connelly, first became interested in the famous figure thirty years ago when told the tale on a school ski trip to Mount Cook. "I thought it one of the most marvellous stories I had ever heard" she said. "Perhaps it was because I too was a recent immigrant but I felt an instant sympathy with the Scottish shepherd. He was poor, he was friendless, he couldn't speak English properly. Yet despite his gaining a free pardon from the Governor, history had continued to condemn him as a rogue and a thief. It just didn't seem fair."

Tania read everything she could find about the sheep-stealing incident, only to discover that all the material available was written from the same 'establishment' angle. It was around this time that she began dreaming of writing a Mackenzie book of her own.

The opportunity didn't arise until the 1980s when, having just published a non-fiction book on the dolphin Pelorus Jack, she was asked by her Editor to think about writing a 'true' profile of another celebrated New Zealand animal. "Mackenzie's dog seemed the perfect choice". After an unsuccessful attempt at confining her story to historical fact, Tania modified her original intention. "I came to the point where I just had to close the books and let my imagination rip. I don't think we'll ever be 100 per cent sure of what happened regarding Mackenzie or his dog. It was too early in our history (1855) and some of the salient facts have become obscured. The best I could do was to stop the gaps with a mixture of educated guess-work, and myth."

"Mackenzie and His Dog" was launched at the OESM on April 7. Intended for children aged from 9 - 12 years, it is published by The Hazard Press, Christchurch and retails at $14.95 at the Museum shop (10% discount to members). Work sheets, devised by the author, for English and Social Studies are also available.





DCCT 88 on arrival in OESM Bus Station

Dunedin - Roslyn - Maori Hill Electric Tram

The electric tram numbered DCCT 88 recently transferred from the Museum of Transport and Technology at Seacliff to the OESM is one of three built by J G Brill & Co. of Philadelphia, USA for the privately owned Roslyn Tramway Company in 1899-1900. The Dunedin-Roslyn-Maori Hill line was the first commercial electric tramway in New Zealand and was opened on 23 October 1900. Construction was contracted to Noyes Brothers of Sydney, Australia, who were later contracted by the City to construct its electric tram line which opened in 1903. The Roslyn Tramway Company was restructured and sold the line in 1921 to the Dunedin City Council. The tram was then renumbered to DCCT 88. The Dunedin City Council continued to operate the line until July 1936 when it became the first of Dunedin's electric tram lines to close. The service was continued using buses.

The tram is distinctive from later Brill models used in Dunedin by having only five side windows, clerestory windows in the roof, and open front and rear compartments. Confirmation of the tram's identity has come from David Hinman of the Christchurch Tramways Society and George Emerson of the Otago Excursion Train Trust. A complete restoration of the tram is being planned by the OESM staff.

OUR MISSING LINK

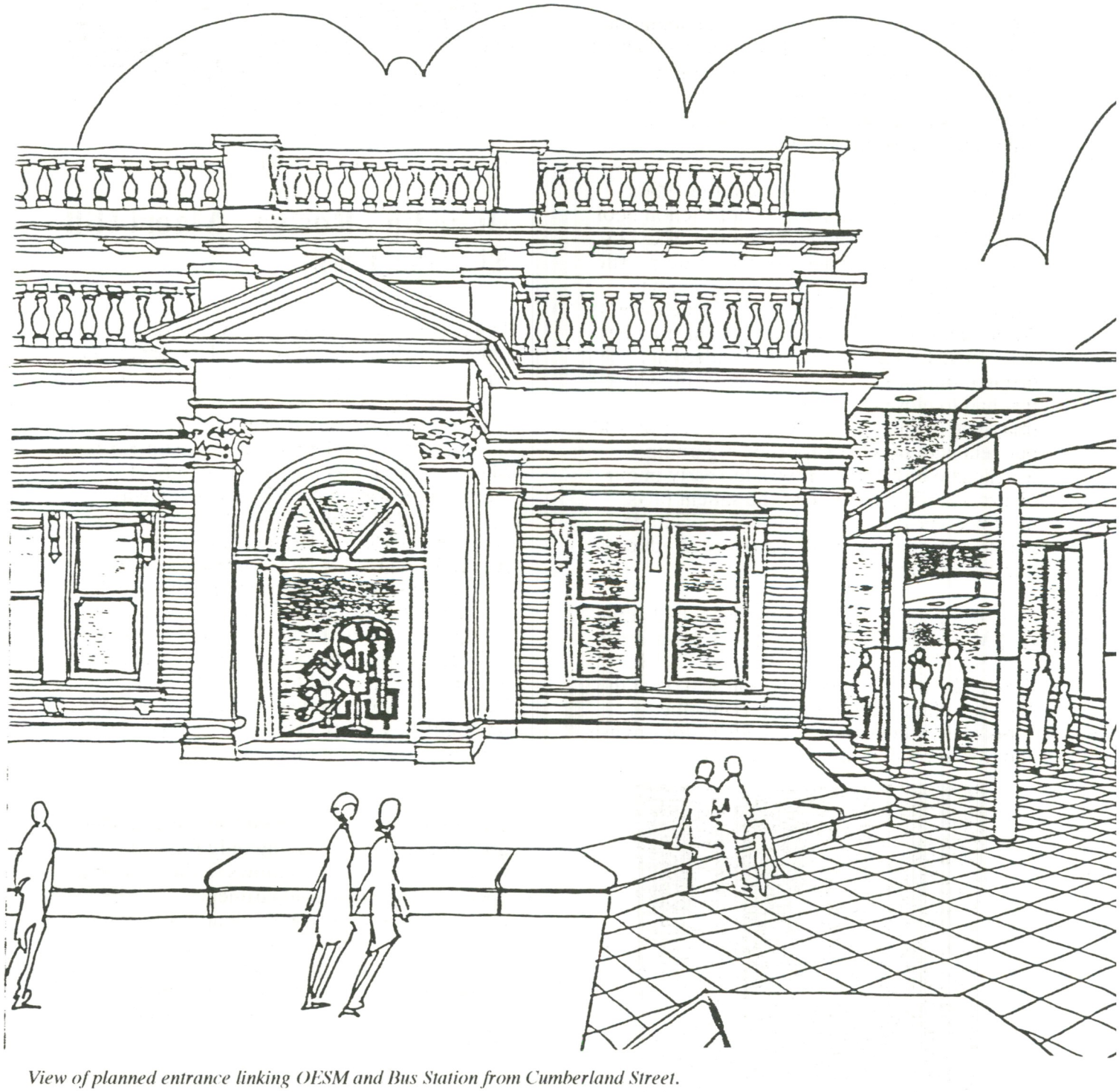
Members of the Development Appeal Committee met on 29 June to finalise the 1993 Appeal Programme. This will be Phase II of the major fundraising effort with a target of $400,000 and when this is met the crucial 'Missing Link' can be completed.

What is this Missing Link?
It is the formation of a link between our present building and the Bus Station, uniting the whole complex, while still retaining the individual character of each building.

Our Fundraising Programme for 1993

The Appeal Committee has had great success with the first phase and look forward to achieving the Phase II target. The Committee is again ably headed by Tony Anderson and his team is John Chronican, Barry Clarke, Charles Croot, Bill Gibson, Bob Greenslade, John Perry, Hugh Ross, Trevor Scott, Niel Wales, Bruce Smaill, Julian Smith, Roy Somerville, Dr Jack Somerville, Bernice Barnett and Elizabeth Hinds.

The programme will run from September to



View of planned entrance linking OESM and Bus Station from Cumberland Street.

November and consist of:

Art Exhibition

Gala Opening: Admission by ticket. Works for sale by contemporary Otago artists in a variety of Mediums.

Collectables and Treasures Auction

The Development Appeal Committee is planning to hold this auction in October 1993. We will be auctioning especially donated items and are taking this opportunity of alerting our members. If you think you have something suitable for this event, and would like to support our appeal drive, please let us know. You may recall the extremely successful 1986 auction which included books, ceramics, glassware, jewellery, musical instruments, artwork and 'Bygone Treasures'. So check your attics and your bottom drawers and contact Val-mai Shaw, Development Project Officer, phone 477 5052 weekdays.

House and Garden Tours

To be arranged.



Dunedin Harbour/City Exhibition

In an innovative move, the Dunedin City Council Planning Department presented an exhibition at the Bus Station announcing development options for the Dunedin harbour basin. The exhibition takes the form of a large scale walk through model set against a mural of the city from the harbour. Historical background was established by a section of the exhibition put together by the OESM. As has been the case with many other New Zealand coastal cities, the outline of Dunedin harbour has been blurred by reclamation and port development. These changes along with the positioning of State Highway One and the Main Trunk Railway line have made the dislocation of the city and harbour particularly noticeable. Over a long period of time the gradual shift of businesses towards the Octagon and further north has taken much of the life out of the oldest part of the city. One of the options proposed by the Planning Department involves excavating part of the reclamation and allowing the harbour to reach back to the edge of the old central business district and virtually to the museum's back door. Various recreational and commercial possibilities for the wharf area have been presented and the public have been invited to suggest their own alternatives for the re-use of this area. The Harbour/City exhibition opened on May 30 and will run until August 1.



Sketch of proposed development.

First and Still Flourishing : an exhibition to celebrate 93 years of the Dunedin Competitions Society Inc.

The Museum is looking for any items for this exhibition which is being planned for October 1994. If you have any trophies, costume, badges, Society memorabilia or photographs, and would be happy to loan these items to the Museum then Angela Brenssell, curator of Art & Costume would like to hear from you.



Ladies Hockey Club, Palmerston 1911, W E Appleby Collection, Hocken Library

Women in Sport Display

"Women in Sport" is one of the museum's exhibitions for Women's Suffrage Centennial Year celebrations. It illustrates women's participation in a variety of sporting activities from last century to the present. The images and objects chosen from various sources including the OESM Collections, the Hocken Library, Sport and Leisure Studies Otago University, Columba College, Otago Girls High School and individuals like Lois Muir, present a visual survey of women's involvement and achievements.

The main emphasis is on Dunedin women but others have been included to give a general overview of women's participation in sport in New Zealand. We have been able to add a great deal of information to holdings on sport in our Archives Department and many people have expressed interest in giving material to the Collection.

The highlight of the display was an evening function organised in conjunction with Sport Otago. Notable sportswomen present were Lois Muir, Netball Coach Co-ordinator; Jenny Newstead, Paraplegic Swimming Champion; Sue Garden, NZ Women's Rugby Representative; Anna Wilson, swimming and Yvette Williams, the first NZ woman to gain a gold medal at an Olympics at Helsinki in 1952.

The display will continue for the rest of the year.

ARCHIVES NEWS

Over recent months we have been working on a number of existing resources in the Archives, trying to make the information they contain more readily accessible to our researchers.

Rev Thomas Burns' Visitation Book 1848-58

The first item to mention is the Visitation Book of Reverend Thomas Burns, spiritual leader of the New Zealand Company settlers at Otago. Within a very short time of his arrival Rev Burns undertook a visitation of all the households in the Otago settlement and methodically recorded the details of the people he met. Usually this involved the names and relationships of those present, the ages of any children, and perhaps most importantly for Burns the religious affiliation declared by the householders. The visitations continued on a regular (usually annual) basis up to 1858 and the data collected is comparable to census returns for the early population of the settlement.

There are some limitations to be noted. Rev Burns did not venture outside the Otago settlement as it was then defined, which means that anyone living on the Peninsula beyond Portobello or at Waikouaiti or the northern part of Otago will only feature if they happened to have been in a Dunedin household during one of the visitations. From 1854, moreover, he restricted his visitation to Dunedin and its environs, as two other Presbyterian ministers had by then arrived in Otago to take over the scattered population on the Taieri and to the south. Despite these constraints the Visitation Book could be reasonably described as one of the greatest treasures of the Museum collections and is an incomparable source of information on the first settlers. It also includes details of many of the whalers, who had been in Otago for some years, as well as the Maori population on the Taieri.

Hitherto researchers have been using a hand-written copy of the original manuscript, which was indexed some years ago. Both items have given good service for a long time but we thought it would be an improvement to provide direct access to the information in its original form. We have therefore made a photocopy of the original Visitation Book and Eleanor Leckie has completed a new index to go with the new copy. Both are now on open access in the Research Department.

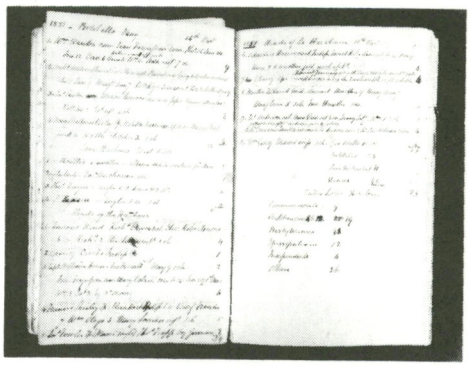
1865 Militia Rolls Dunedin, Taieri, Clutha & Tokomairiro

The 1860s are a difficult period for anyone interested in tracking the location and activities of Otago ancestors. The huge increase in population due to the goldrushes, the ensuing chaos as towns and businesses sprang up across the province, and the movement of people from place to place, have left few records of the ordinary men of the period, and even fewer of the women. Electoral rolls and directories only record a narrow band of the more prosperous. A set of records which presents a detailed cross-section of the male population is therefore a major bonus.

The 1865 Militia Rolls record the names, ages, occupations, marital status and addresses of almost 5,000 men in the 16 to 50 age bracket in the Dunedin, Taieri, Clutha and Tokomairiro districts. They were collated under the 1860 Militia Act, which required all able-bodied men of this age group to register for possible military service within defined militia districts. The background to this statute was the armed conflict between Maori and settlers in the North Island, but the regulations evidently had a nation-wide application. The rolls have been in the Museum collection for many years but the information they contain is only now readily accessible in a photocopy of the original rolls with an accompanying alphabetical index [thanks again to Eleanor], both on open access in the Research Department.

New material

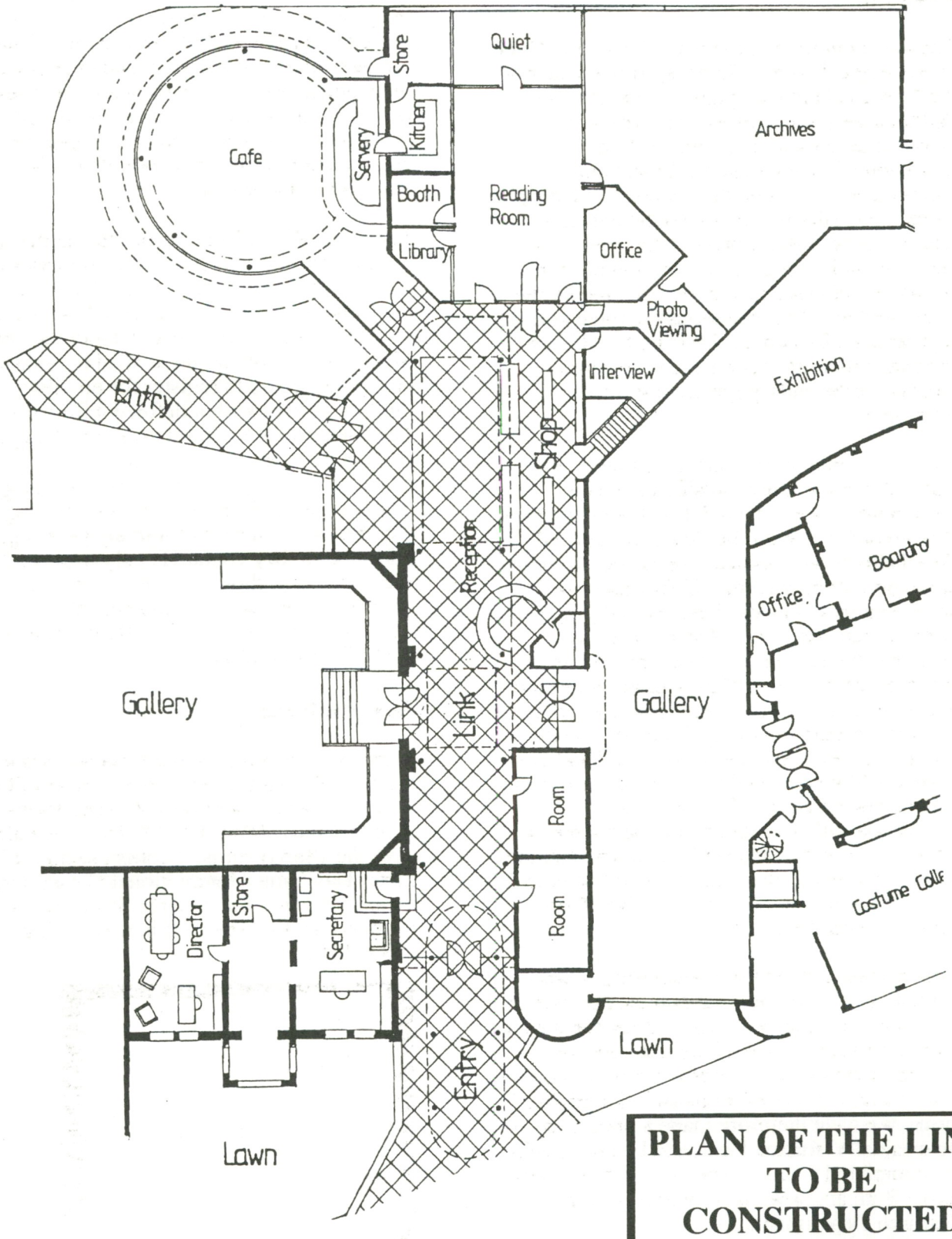
Some new resources in the Dunedin Branch of the New Zealand Genealogical Society library: Victorian Shipping to New Zealand [transcripts & indexes] for 1854, 1867 & 1870 - we already have the 1865 records; Scottish section of the Latter Day Saints' International Genealogical Index, 1981 edition; George Street School Admissions, Progress, Withdrawals Registers 1880-1920.



Rev Dr Thomas Burns' Visitation Book 1848-58

The plan below shows the proposed link, as the shaded area, between the existing Museum and the Bus Station buildings. Chief points to note are the new entrances, the first from a parking area behind the Museum and the second a street entrance, corresponding to the gap between the buildings. The Archives & Reading Room also lead off the Reception area past the Information desk. The cafe will be built as part of Stage II.

Interested in the Development plans?
We will be giving "on site" tours for interested members each weekday through July & August at 2.30pm. Walk the site as it is now, imagine how it will look when completed.
Phone Val-mai Shaw, Development Project Officer, phone 477 0502.



PLAN OF THE LINK TO BE CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS.