

THE FOLLOWING STORY SHOULD BE INCLUDED HERE, AS IT IS SOMETHING UNIQUE IN MY EXPERIENCE. AND I'M SURE THAT CATHERINE WON'T MIND.

WHILE I CAN REMEMBER THE OCCASION CLEARLY, I'M A BIT HAZY ON THE DATE.

ABOUT 1983, I GOT A TAX REFUND OF A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS. (PROBABLY THE LAST DECENT ONE I DID GET!). NOTHING UNUSUAL THERE, BUT THERE IS IN THE AFTERMATH.

SOON AFTER, I HAPPENED TO SEE AN ADVERT. IN THE 'AGE', HEADED 'OLD REDS'.

IT SEEMED THAT THE 5TH. AUST. WINE CELLARS HAD GOT HOLD OF A LARGE 'CELLAR' FROM A DECEASED ESTATE AND, AFTER SAMPLING TO CHECK THE CONDITION OF THE WINES, WERE SELLING IT.

AS I HAD THE RARE FEELING OF MONEY BURNING A HOLE IN MY POCKET, I RAN TO CHECK ON WHAT WAS AVAILABLE. IT TURNED OUT THEY HAD A QUANTITY OF '65, '66 AND '67 REDS, ALL WELL KNOWN TO ME, AS WE QUAFFED A FAIR BIT OF THOSE WINES IN ADELAIDE IN THE 60'S & 70'S

I EVENTUALLY GOT ABOUT 6 DOZEN, AT ABOUT \$7 A BOTTLE, WHICH WAS GOOD VALUE.

(REMEMBER THAT THEY WERE ALL GOOD REDS, MOST IN THEIR PRIME, AND 16 TO 18 YEARS OLD).

I CAN'T RECALL THEM ALL, BUT INCLUDED REYNELLA, YALUMBA, PENFOLDS, BLEASDALE AND SEPPETS.

THE PENFOLDS WAS 'OAKWOOD HERMITAGE', A DARK, DRY DROP, WHICH WE USED AT TIMES TO PUT DEALERS INTO A SOPORIFIC STATE AT CONFERENCE DINNERS! (I HAVEN'T SEEN IT FOR YEARS).

THE SEPPETS WAS 'CHALAMBAR', A LOVELY BURGUNDY, AND A FAVORITE OF THE SALES ENGINEER OF SKF BEARINGS. (WE ALWAYS HAD IT WITH LUNCH IF WE WENT TO THE 'BLAIR ATHOL').

AT MAIDSTONE, WE ENJOYED MY NEW 'CELLAR' OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS, AND IT WAS EVENTUALLY WHITTLED DOWN TO A FEW JEALOUSLY GUARDED BOTTLES.

NOW FOR THE CATASTROPHE! (IT WAS AT THE TIME, BUT I'VE LAUGHED ABOUT IT SINCE).

CATHY WAS LIVING AT HOME AT MAIDSTONE AT THE TIME AND DECIDED, IN OUR TEMPORARY ABSENCE ONE DAY, TO MAKE SOME 'TASTY' RABBIT DISH.

AS IT APPARENTLY REQUIRED MARINADING, SHE RUMMAGED IN THE WINE CUPBOARD AND SELECTED AN 'OLD-LOOKING' BOTTLE THAT DAD HADN'T GOT AROUND TO USING.

THAT PARTICULAR RABBIT DISH WAS DELICIOUS, AND SO IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN, AS WE DISCOVERED SOON AFTER THAT CATHY HAD USED MY LAST BOTTLE OF 18 YEAR OLD 'CHALAMBAR' FOR MARINADING IT!

A LOT OF WINE HAS GONE UNDER THE BRIDGE SINCE THEN, AND CATHY HAS LONG SINCE BEEN FORGIVEN. SHE'S NOT LIKELY TO DO THAT AGAIN. - HAVE YOU CHECKED THE CELLAR LATELY, DAVID?

TRIVIA:- IN 1966, GOOD REDS WERE ABOUT \$1 A BOTTLE - THE 1960 GRANGE, IN 1966, WAS \$2 A BOTTLE - WE RARELY DRANK IT, AS WE AGREED IT WASN'T TWICE AS GOOD!