

Napier Meeting – November 2000

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

The meeting was held in the Henry Hill School hall. Date 3rd 4th 5th November

Friday night saw a good crowd arrive early and Rob Fulton, on the registration table was processing everyone quickly so they could move to the sales tables while catching up with friends. There were many items on sale and business was brisk. Light refreshments were on hand and much appreciated. Later after a welcome speech from President Dave Turnbull, supper was served and then the films began. Opening the programme was the 1942 Warner Bros propaganda short *Voice That Thrilled the World* – a wonderful little film tracing the history and development of sound while blatantly promoting their latest film musical *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. Then came an annual Pete Smith film from MGM which they called *metroscopix Third Dimensional Murder* (1941) which was an eerie ‘who done it’ using 3-4 process that required green and red glasses which we were handed out before the screening. Other films were an NFU Weekly Review (1950), a rare Larry Semon film from the early 1920s re-titled *Weekend Driver*, an excerpt of the 1944 Abbott & Costello film *In Society* titled *Champ of the Chase* and finally a beautiful 16mm print of Walt Disney’s *Mickey’s Circus* (1936). What a way to end the first night.

Morning tea awaited us as we arrived on Saturday morning which was followed by the meeting. Then it was auction time and with just over 100 lots to get through, it was a busy but interesting auction handled ably by John Bell along with his assistants, Michael Woolf, Bryan Coulter and Syd Chell. Some good price and great bargains were obtained. Lunch was then served.

After lunch, we boarded the buff’s bus for a visit to the Millennium Museum, Te Awanga. The camera collection with around 1000 different cameras, along with microscopes, scientific instruments and classic cars had to be seen to be believed. From here, we headed out to Havelock North and the Keirunga Park Railway to view the amazing work put in by ‘live steamers’ John and Darryl Harman which showed a love and dedication of trains and rail, as the trains were built by them as well. We returned to the hall for afternoon tea.

The Buff’s ‘Way our West’ dinner was held at the venue and many members came in western gear and it seemed all wanted to be sheriffs. On arrival we were greeted by Napier’s ‘Scottish Cowboy’, Jim Toner, who pleased the crowd with his music and songs. The meal was a feast fit for hungry cowboys and gals. Sheriff Rob Fulton drew some raffles before it was movie time again. Those shown included from Castle films, a short comedy excerpt of films from Max Sennett (as an actor) and Lupino Lane in the silent days, a Three Stooges film *Cash and Carry* (1937), another excerpt from Paramount’s 1941 Hopalong Cassidy film *Stick to Your Guns* with Andy Clyde, a trailer for *The World of Abbott & Costello* (1965), *Rail Road Story* – a history of US rail made in the 1950s, a Pete Smith Specialty *Cash Stashers* (1953), a Columbia comedy ‘Sing-a-long’, a Joe McDoakes comedy *So You Want to be a Cowboy* (1951) with Phyllis Coates, *Luke’s Movie Muddle* (1916) with Harold Lloyd. The programme and evening ended with an episode from British TV 1960s series, of Movie Museum *His Bitter Pill*.

Refreshed by morning tea on Sunday, it was on the bus again for a visit to the Century Cinema and a terrific programme organised by Peter Goodbehere. This began with trailers of *The Desperados* (1954), *Count Three And Pray* (1955) and *Rails in Laramie* (1954). Then followed cartoons Heckle & Jeckle *The Intruders* (1950s), Baby Huey *Scout Fellow* (1951), Mighty Mouse in *Prehistoric Perils* (1951), Tom & Jerry *Texas Tom* (1950) and *Hobo’s Holiday*. From Pacific Film, a Pacific Magazine, then a Pictorial Parade of the 1964 Ohakea Air Show. A Mr Bean clip from *Goldeneye* (1995), trailers for *Hamlet* (1996) and Disney’s *Fantasia 2000* (2000) were screened to illustrate the up to date and effective sound system. We then headed back to the venue for lunch after which the official farewells took place and a fantastic weekend was at an end.