
Emile and Annie Just
and their family



NEW ZEALAND.

SWITZERLAND

The story of Emile Just and his family begins at Maienfeld in Eastern Switzerland, the area known the world over through the well loved children's book "Heidi". The home of the Justs is the tiny village of Guscha perched so attractively on the steep, tilled slopes above the town of Maienfeld and backed by pine forests and mountain peaks. Two families of Justs still live there today. On one of the ageless, substantial houses is carved, as is the Swiss way, the date of its construction and the names of its first owners: Jakob Just - Anna Justin 1748.

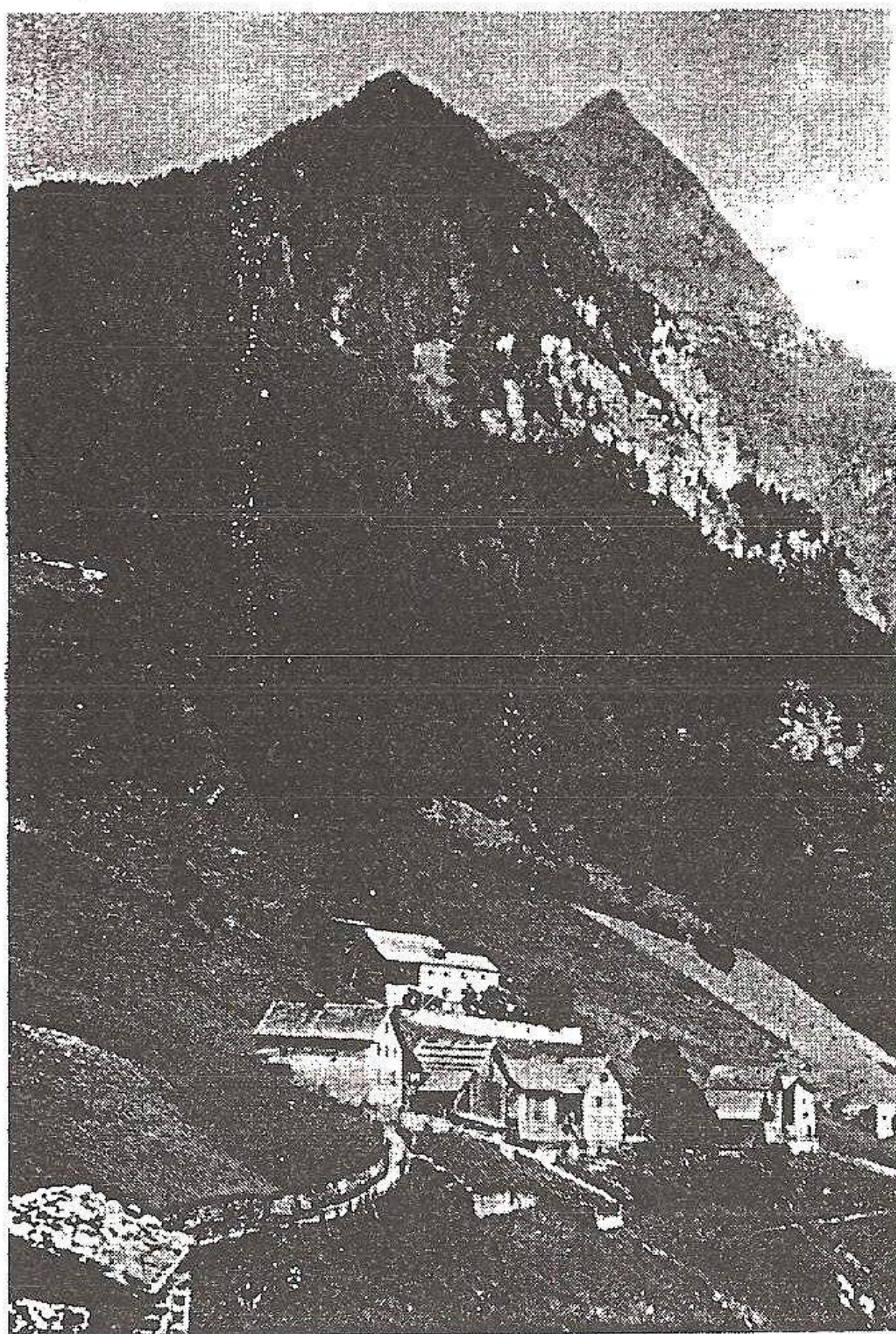
In 1913 Alan Just of New Zealand saw in the registers in the Maienfeld archives many pages of Just names dating back 300 years, the forenames David and Christian appearing frequently. Alan was introduced to a Mr Just, farmer and guide, who had walked down from his home further up the mountain in order to meet his namesake from the other side of the world. Alan was struck by the man's bearing, so like it was to that of his own father, Emile.

In the 1840's Jakob, born in 1818 at Guscha, son of Christian and Anna (nee Cammerer) Just, moved far west to St. Imier where he worked on the construction of a church. There the German speaking Jakob met the French speaking Rosine Jung, who had been born in that town in 1831. Their marriage took place in nearby Corgemont on 9.2.1850. Their eldest son, Emile Ulysse, was born at St. Imier on the 24th October, 1851. Today in the Jura district, there are many descendents of Rosine's relatives, most of whom work in the watch-making industry for which St. Imier and its surrounding highlands are famous. The Jung family of today is very aware of its connection with the New Zealand Justs. Alan was later to marry his father's cousin, Marguerite Germiquet and bring her to New Zealand.

The marriage of Jakob and Rosine did not find favour with Rosine's family. This, together with the example of a brother of Jakob who is believed to have gone to Canada, must have been a contributing factor in the courageous decision made by the young couple to emigrate to Australia. Emile was about five years old when this momentous step was taken. The Jung family must have

been appalled at the imminent loss of a daughter to such a distant land for it is understood that they offered money to the young family in an attempt to dissuade them. In later life, Emile told Irene that one of his last recollections of Switzerland was the sound of the bells on the grazing cattle.

Of the long journey by sailing ship nothing is known except that Emile's bed was a box which, many years later, was still being put to use by the family. The fact that the ship's captain took a fancy to his young passenger and wished to adopt him has also been handed down.



Guscha, Switzerland.

STEIGLITZ, Australia. 1855 - 1879

Steiglitz is 26 miles by road from Geelong nestling among the hills, west of the Anakies. It derives its name from the von Stieglitz family, who, with the Sharpe family, were early pioneers of the district. In October 1855 gold from the area was on display in Geelong and within ten days 200 people were staking their claims at Steiglitz.

It was about this time that Jakob and Rosine arrived in Australia and travelled to Steiglitz, no doubt on the Criterion coach which ran from Geelong in those early days. They pitched their tents on the goldfields. "The roads were thronged with horse and bullock teams, horsemen and footmen of every description." Jakob worked as a carpenter and cabinetmaker so it would not have been long before they were in their home. But what a far cry from the life they had left in Switzerland.

A year later about the time Emile started school their first Australian child, James Arnold, was born. There were four church schools at that time and perhaps it was in the Church of England schoolroom which became the Church, after the opening of the Steiglitz School (1857 - 1880) and New Chum School (1858 - 1874), that Emile had his first lessons. Unfortunately, James died when only 4½ years of age, but the family to follow was Bertha, Pauline, Herman, Cecile and lastly Aurel, 20 years Emile's junior.

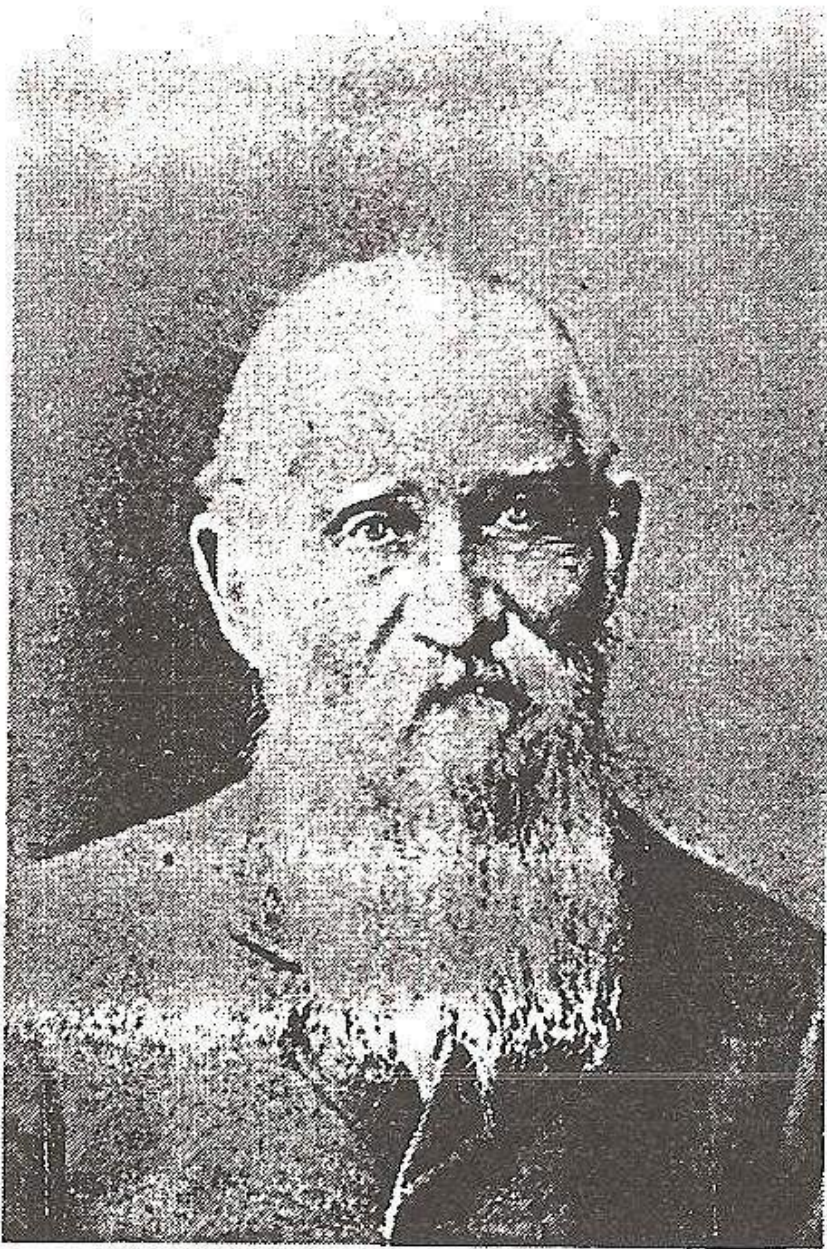
By 1862 with about 1000 miners in the district the demand for accommodation was great. Jakob would have been busy as labour was scarce and carpenters much in demand. But fortunes fluctuated on the goldfield. Rosine had brought with her from Switzerland a jeweller's eyeglass and occasionally she used her talents in watch repairing, learnt from her family, thus supplementing the family income.

Rosine, or Rosina as she was often called, was also fond of playing the piano, something Emile inherited from her and handed on to his family. The Church of England schoolroom was the venue of Musical Soirees and the Philharmonic Society was formed in 1862. These musical occasions were no doubt enjoyed by some of the family.

In fact, plenty of amusement and recreation made the hard life of the miner easier. Four hotels catered, not only for the thirsts of the hefty miners, but for the social activities of the whole population. New Year's Eve celebrations were usually at Goulden's Victoria Hotel, and the New Year's Day balls at Robert's Forest Home, often continuing until daylight. Vales' and Steiglitz Hotels had their share of amusements also, and the 70's saw many race meetings. There was always a holiday picnic on Easter Monday. The Alfred Hall was the scene of balls and other social occasions and the churches had their anniversaries and tea meetings.

What proved a boon to the district was the erection in 1872 of the Public Library. All the news of the day came to it and under its spacious verandah, miners congregated in great numbers daily to discuss current topics and to look for notices and tenders for contracts. In 1858 the first Courthouse was opened, recommended for its thorough ventilation as the boards placed horizontally had shrunk, leaving gaps of 1 to 2 inches.

Midway through the year 1866 Emile started his teaching career as a pupil teacher at the Steiglitz School. Eighteen months later he moved on to the New Chum School where he would no doubt have walked beside the two cypresses said to have been planted each side of the gateway to the teacher's residence. These huge trees are today on the site of a very popular picnic spot known as "The Pines". Emile then moved to the school at Creswick, before being appointed Head Teacher of the Common School No. 1071, Beremboke, which he opened on the 5th September, 1870, at the age of 19. District Inspector John Main (later Inspector General of Victoria) says on the 11th December, 1873, ".... A very fair teacher of his class. I have seldom met a young man of more aptitude and skill. With training he would make a first class teacher", and in 1874 "... in fact, there are few young men employed in our State Schools of whom I entertain so high an opinion as I do of him." Emile gained his Certificate of Competency on 21st June, 1876, which he acquired with 'great credit and skill'.



JAKOB



ROSINE

After the early 70's mining gradually dwindled for a time and we find in the Geelong Advertiser in May, 1874, that Madame Sangrouber (late Amiet) had disposed of her Swiss restaurant, James Street, Geelong, to Madame Rosina Just and the wine licence was transferred one month later. The restaurant, after being in the family for some years was sold but is still in operation and, we understand, is one of the more popular in Geelong today, being known as 'The Colony'. Geelong was once a notable wine growing district and Rosine was among the early Swiss planters. Swiss immigrants from Neuchatel had been attracted to the colony by the fact that the wife of the Superintendent, La-Trobe, was a native of that town. The Just family remained in Geelong and descendants are still there 100 years later. In fact, a great grandson, Dr. Darryl Sefton, and his wife Nini, fourteen years ago created a vineyard near Geelong, which today is picturesque and successful, the venture truly earning

its visionary name of Idyll Vineyards. Darryl, a veterinary surgeon, divides his time between his Geelong surgery and the vineyard.

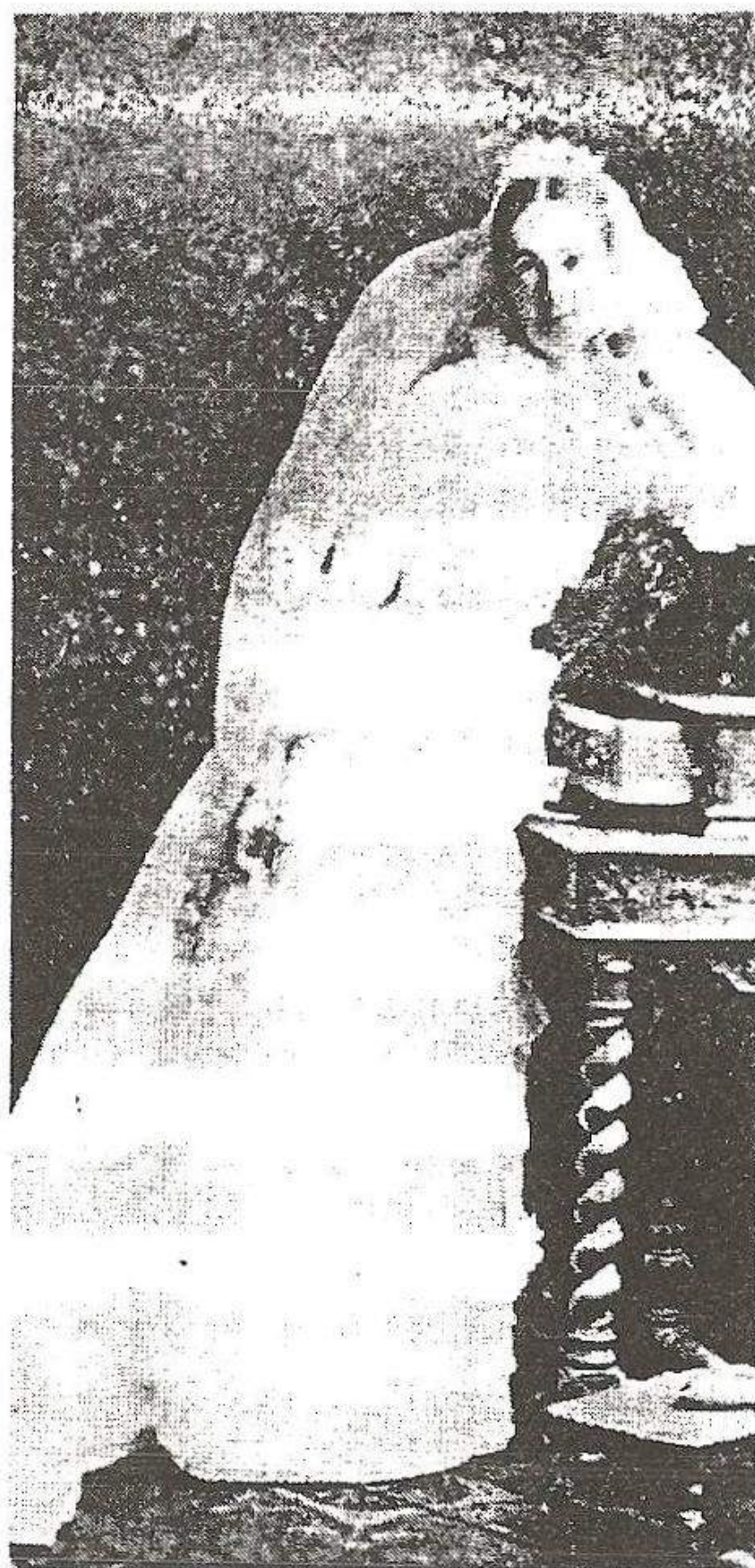
When the family moved away from Steiglitz they left Bertha, then aged sixteen, to housekeep for Emile at Beremboke. Cricket was one of the great loves of his life and in February, 1874, the Geelong Advertiser reports that Mr Just was Captain of Morrisons Cricket Club in a match against Steiglitz - he captured six wickets - all bowled.

A letter to Emile in 1877 reads 'Your generosity and benevolence are best shown in the numberless times you have gratuitously given your services as a musician to the various entertainments for charitable purposes that have been held in the neighbourhood as well as for several years having given your time regularly as organist and choirmaster to the Church of England ... and to your great efficiency as a musician'. We know Emile was in great demand in the district, playing for dances, concerts and as an accompanist in Morrisons, Ballarat as well as Beremboke, and it was no doubt in Ballarat that he met Annie Adams whom he was to marry. One granddaughter remembers Annie telling her so animatedly, when in her 90's, of the fun they used to have at the dances but stopping the telling coyly when Maude came into the room.

William Adams, Annie's father, was a farmer near Warrnambool. After he died his wife, Caroline, lived with her four daughters, Emily, Alice, Annie and Carrie at Ballarat and it was here from the home in Mair Street, that Annie and Emile were married on the 1st January 1878. Annie, we believe, was christened Annie Maria, but she disliked the name Maria so much she changed it to Maude. Annie was born at Woodford, Victoria.



EMILE



ANNIE

Perhaps Emile was disappointed at not being promoted as promised, as in 1879 we see Emile and Annie with Maude, who had been born at Beremboke on 11th January of that year moving to another mining town, Stafford, on the West Coast of New Zealand.

Nothing remains of the old town of Steiglitz, and the last businessman, the blacksmith, left in 1944. But in 1951 a memorial cairn was erected, built from stones from the Sharpe and von Steiglitz homes and quartz from

the abandoned mines:-

'In memory of the Pioneers of Steiglitz
and to the discovery of gold.'

STAFFORD, New Zealand. 1879 - 1881

19th September 1879.

This date marks the birth of our New Zealand family. On this day Emile reached Hokitika from Melbourne and took up his first New Zealand post at nearby Stafford. He was then 27 years of age.

Emile travelled alone. Annie with baby Maude, was to sail across later. For Emile it must have been a frustrating and anxious journey as the Eliza Firth, on which we believe he must have sailed, was held up in the roadstead at Hokitika harbour for four weeks owing to heavy seas. She, together with three other ships, was supplied with essentials by a ship which courageously ventured forth from Hokitika. On 19th September the Eliza Firth was towed to shore. We can imagine that, after the extraordinary delay, Emile wasted no time in hiring a horse and gig to cover the eight miles to Stafford. On that day, a Friday, he commenced his teaching.

In 1879 Stafford was already past its peak as a gold mining centre. Founded in 1866 as one of the two main centres of the Waimea goldfield its population had, by 1870, exceeded 5000, only to drop steadily as the gold was worked out. Stafford was named after Thomas ("Pegleg") Stafford, a Storekeeper. In its heyday it had 37 Hotels, 17 Stores, Banks, 4 Churches, a Literary Institute with a Public Library and six policemen.

It is quite fascinating to visit the ghost town of Stafford today where only one of the original houses remains, once the home of the butcher with the shop beside it. The line of the road between the hills and Waimea Creek remains that of the main street, High Street. Scrub and pasture have taken over. The old town hall still stands with outside walls and roof of rusting iron but it does sport a pair of new wooden entrance doors. One walks up the hill to the cemetery past the home of the only other resident of today

built on the site of the Roman Catholic Church. Pushing open the old iron gates to the cemetery, which is surrounded by native bush, one discovers amongst others, graves of people from Switzerland and also those of two infant Seddon children. Rt. Hon. Richard Seddon for a time lived in the valley. The remains of an old chimney can be seen where his house once stood. He became a friend of the young Just family, a useful contact in later years when Emile made representations to the Government on behalf of the Educational Institute. Outside the Cemetery, again on the Scandinavian Hill Road, is another reminder of the pioneers - a warning not to stray off the tracks as there are many old mining shafts.

Archdeacon Harper in his diary, Jan. 20, 1881 wrote:-
"There are no idle men in the district and no real poverty. In the evening I attended an entertainment in the Forresters Hall. An excellent tea was followed by a concert which was thoroughly appreciated by an audience which completely filled the room. Mr Just, the organist of the Church, has gathered together a very efficient choir of about 20 voices. Their programme included anthems and part songs which were rendered with much precision and spirit."
Jan 23, 1881:- "The church was quite full, its accommodation being about 95. I was greatly pleased with the choir and their excellent singing and with the reverent and earnest demeanour of the congregation. It would be difficult to find a more orderly congregation anywhere in the colony."

The family of Mr H.W. Sandle, J.P., postmaster, storekeeper and lay reader at the Anglican Church were also friends. Over 30 years later Mr Sandle's eldest son, Sidney, was to marry Ottilie, third daughter of Emile and Annie.

We know little of Emile and Annie's life in Stafford. One story from Annie has come down to us:- Annie was caught in a West Coast down pour. On her return home she peeled off her striped, soaked stockings. Years later she could recall, with laughter, the sight of her bare legs, striped to match her stockings. The 27th January 1881, in

this small town their second child, Leonie, was born. The original one roomed school was extended to three rooms perhaps before Emile arrived as he had at least one assistant. The school was situated on the northern edge of the town with the school house on a terrace beyond. The playground where Emile's pupils played cricket under the expert eye of their teacher is now a dense mass of gorse and broom. 17th Feb. 1881, John Smith, Inspector : "Stafford School ... is second to none in the district. Mr Just is a painstaking, energetic and thoroughly competent teacher ... In the upper classes it is thoroughly intellectual. The order and discipline are all that can be desired." Emile's testimonials say: "Wonderfully liked by the children and valued most highly by the parents ... "great good nature"... "strikes the casual observer as a gentleman, after acquaintance only seems to strengthen that opinion."

Perhaps the wish for further teaching experience or desire to reside in a larger town persuaded Emile to move to Christchurch, where he was appointed, in October 1881, to the position of second master of the East Christchurch school.

When Emile left Stafford about 200 children with their parents and other friends gathered to present him with a beautiful desk of dark birds eye maple inlaid with ebony, ivory, mother of pearl and silver. Mr H.W. Sandle said: - It is not its intrinsic value they wish you to look at but rather the warmth of their young hearts towards you, their beloved teacher. They have trusted in you knowing full well they could place implicit confidence in your judgement... Your success in imparting knowledge to them has been sound and genuine, and now that you are leaving they feel they are losing a good teacher and friend."

We can imagine the long journey by Cobb's coach over Arthur's Pass, Annie with her baby and little Maude, perched on the straight backed seat high inside the coach, Emile riding outside except on the steep approach to the Pass where the men had to descend and walk.

Today the old mining trail is a popular walk for trampers. Shelter huts have replaced the old shanties by

the way, and strolling along the pleasant trail few recall the hardship and happiness of those courageous pioneers of 100 years ago.



Stafford School

SYDENHAM, Christchurch. 1881 - 1890

The family home for the next nine years, "St. Margaret", was situated in Colombo Street, two or three blocks beyond the Sydenham Park towards the hills. The house no longer stands. It was a two storeyed, wooden building with verandahs, suitable for a growing family. The remaining four children were born here, Charles 19.3.1882, Ottilie 5.8.1884, Alan 7.6.1886, Irene 14.11.1888.

As second master of the East Christchurch school situated in Gloucester Street from Oct. 1881, Emile was in charge, at different times, of Stds. IV, V and VI. The Headmaster "entrusted him with large classes ... which he managed with tact and ability ... He is an excellent disciplinarian and painstaking teacher." Some years before leaving the school his pupils presented him with a porcelain biscuit barrel.

It was during the Sydenham years that Emile became involved with the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canterbury, N.Z. He was a man of some importance in the Lodge world and it is fitting that details of his career should be recorded. A member of Conyers Lodge, Christchurch, he was initiated on 14.9.82, became a Master Mason on 23.11.82, and was installed as Master of the Lodge in 1885. On 26.1.1893 after the move to Lyttleton he was appointed District Junior Grand Warden and Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. He finally reached the position of Deputy District Grand Master. In 1921 he was appointed District Grand Secretary but we do not know for how long.

On 15th April, 1883, Emile's sister, Bertha, died at Geelong, aged 24 years. Emile had been very fond of this sister, who had shared his home at Beremboke. He carried her photograph in a small, gold locket worn on the chain of his fob watch, the locket bearing on one side the emblem of the Masonic Lodge.

In 1884 Maude, at five years of age, being recommended a sea voyage after an illness, was sent to Australia in the company of a family friend. Maude experienced the unpleasantness of continuous sea sickness during the journey. She stayed with her mother's sisters who undertook to make her fit again. One memory was of the piled-up plates of spinach, a vegetable she could not abide but which had to

be eaten up. Tucked in to the family Bible is a tiny sampler of large, irregular stitches and a note saying 'Sent to Mama from Maudie, June 19th, 1884, from Victoria to N.Z.'

During the period in Sydenham Emile's young brother Aurel, a school boy, visited the family from Geelong, and remained long enough to attend school in Christchurch. His nieces and nephews, just a few years younger, were impressed with his pea shooting ability. The front, tin fence of the property, with its convenient pea shooting holes, provided protection from startled passers-by who found themselves attacked. The younger children used to enjoy rides on their young uncle's crossed leg. Aurel's future career as a lawyer was perhaps decided at this time as Emile greatly encouraged him in his choice. It was one which Emile, himself, would have been interested in pursuing had circumstances been favourable in his youth.

Emile's ability as a pianist is further confirmed by the programme of a concert given in the St. Saviour's schoolroom, Sydenham, on 11th August, 1882, Emile being accompanist for all the items as well as performing in a duet.

In 1890 the position of Headmaster awaited Emile at the Lyttelton Borough School. The Lyttelton Times of the 1st March 1890, reported the farewell functions: 'A presentation was made to Mr E.U. Just on his leaving the East Christchurch School from the boys of the Fifth and Sixth standards. The gift was a marble clock. Mr Just also received from the Fourth year pupil teachers a handsome album, and from the rest of the staff a case of silver teaspoons.'

LYTTTELTON. 1890 - 1918

The move to Lyttelton in 1890 heralded the period so vividly and affectionately recalled by Emile's and Annie's children. The family's new home was the schoolhouse at 20 St. David's Street. Halfway up the sunny, eastern slope of the steep hills encompassing the Port it had a commanding view of the School below, while the town and harbour lay just beyond. From the verandah Annie could watch the constant movement of the shipping. From the back of the house the section continued to rise providing a vegetable garden and orchard cared for by Emile and his growing sons. The house is still in use and unchanged in outward appearance. St. David's Street also remains as the family knew it, its narrowness contained by the red volcanic stone walls.



Emile, Irene, Maude, Annie, Leonie, Alan, Charlie, Ottilie
20 St. David Street.

The Lyttelton Borough School, afterwards the Lyttelton Main School, was an imposing brick building opened in January 1875, although the school did exist in another form long before. By 1890 the school roll had dropped from its 1877 peak of 782 pupils, but was still over 600, the infants being housed in a separate block in the school grounds.

Emile's responsibilities extended to a side school at Dampiers Bay, which accepted pupils only up to Std.2. In 1894 it became a main school, the West Lyttelton School, and was no longer under Emile's jurisdiction.

The memories of Lyttelton days have entertained sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, at many a telling and have continued to delight into old age those who had experienced them. We can only attempt to record these anecdotes as they have been passed on to us.

When the family moved to Lyttelton Maude, the eldest, was eleven years old and Irene, the youngest, not yet two. The hills were their playground, particularly, for the youngest, the area of scrub land up by the Time Ball. There was cricket in St. David Street and walks with their father along the quays on a Sunday morning. For the boys there was swimming, self taught, in the dock. There were children's parties - Ottilie and friend singing 'Two little girls in blue' and 'I don't want to play in your yard, I don't like you any more, you can't hollow down my rain barrel, you can't climb my apple tree.' Irene recalls arriving at a party for Beatrice Pairman, the doctor's daughter, and seeing her swinging on the front gate in excited anticipation of the arrival of her guests. Later Beatrice was to marry Charles.

There were holidays at Sumner Beach on the other side of the Port Hills where the family used to rent a house. The older children walked over with their father. The highlights of these beachside holidays were the donkey rides on the sand. All the donkeys had names and each child had a favourite but not one could be coaxed beyond the turning point. On one occasion as Maude and Leonie rounded the point, Maude's donkey bucked, throwing her off. In the confusion the donkey man, mistaking Leonie for Maude, offered Leonie a free, second ride. The offer was promptly taken up by Leonie, leaving Maude in indignation at the injustice. Alan remembers his first holiday away from the family - the long train journey to Fairton, just north of Ashburton where he stayed with the Malcolmson family. Leonie and Alan also attended a camp

by the waterfront at Governor's Bay.

Annie, following a period of ill-health, went for a holiday to Australia, where she rejoined her mother and sisters. Ottilie, Alan and Irene accompanied her. Some years later on March 13, 1902, Annie's mother, Caroline Adams died at the age of 76, and was buried in the Boroondara Cemetery, Kew.

When on 22nd January 1901, the news of Queen Victoria's death was proclaimed by the tolling of the bell Annie wept at the passing of her Queen and the end of an era. In June of that same year the 'Ophir' carrying the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall (later King George V and Queen Mary) berthed at Lyttelton. The Royal party was greeted on landing with the singing of the National Anthem by a huge choir conducted by Emile. Later the tutor of the 7 year old Prince of Wales, with another member of the Royal party, called at 20 St. David Street. They hoped to do some shooting. Emile, himself a good shot, accompanied the two men across the Harbour to Purau. As well as the rabbits shot that day the men returned with walnuts which grew abundantly in that valley. Emile and Annie were invited to dinner on the 'Ophir' as guests of the shooting companions and of the Duchess's Lady of the Wardrobe, a French woman.

The Secondary Schools' Act of 1903 enabled the setting up of free District High Schools. As post-primary education for Lyttelton pupils could only be obtained at private secondary schools in Christchurch, the School committee and the school's energetic headmaster acted swiftly, and as a result the District High School of Lyttelton was the first to open in Canterbury and was an immediate success with 45 pupils from Lyttelton and 17 from eastern Christchurch suburbs. The Manual and Technical Instruction Act of the previous year was also implemented. Cooking lessons for girls, given by Miss Helen Rennie of Doyleston, and wood working classes for boys were commenced in the Colonists' Hall which adjoined the school.

In 1898 Emile had a staff of 12 of whom one was his daughter, Leonie. A former pupil of the 1890's recalls

having 'fallen under the influence of the Headmaster, Mr Just, who was a good sportsman, scholar and musician.' Another refers to 'the influence on my character and even my ideals'. By 1912 there were 484 primary and 20 secondary pupils and a staff of twelve and these numbers remained fairly consistent until after Emile's retirement.

Emile's interest in sport was reflected in the School's sports teams which played on vacant land near the waterfront. There was swimming at Sandy Bay, the bathing ~~Beach~~ at West Lyttelton, girls at one time and boys at another - mixed bathing prohibited. The beach disappeared with the Harbour Reclamation which began in 1909. The confined school playground which had been levelled back to St. David Street and enclosed by massive concrete retaining walls lent itself only to skipping and hopscotch for the girls, and handball games for the boys played with dexterity against the walls and buttresses adjacent to the prison. 'Sometimes in a moment of exuberance the ball was irretrievably lost over the prison wall.' Emile played in the Lyttelton Hockey team and in the senior Lyttelton cricket team where he was joined by Charles. Charles later played cricket for the Linwood club until 1927. Irene was in the School's Hockey team. Emile often enjoyed a **Saturday** game of golf at Charteris Bay with his friend Archie Brown who was second in command at the Port, and with Dr. Upham.

School picnics were a joyful highlight, but one which took place when she was on the staff left an awesome memory with Maude. The picnic was in full swing at Purau across the harbour when the weather deteriorated to such an extent that the tug was called out to meet the launch. The wailing of the tug's siren preparatory to leaving Lyttelton served to intensify the feeling of danger.

A pupil teacher, E.A. Strong, joined the Staff in May 1910 as a youth of 17 fresh from his own school days. After his first interview with the Headmaster, 'I was forthwith ushered into Std. 6 where most of the children were not very far short of my own age. But it was not so frightening as first appeared, for this class was under

the direct tuition of Mr Just himself ... The school had an excellent name for its high standard of discipline although I soon learnt that this had not always been so and that Mr Just had been appointed Head specially to deal with an unruly element. He had certainly succeeded ... For study times I was allotted a spare classroom. At times Mr Just would join me in this cosy retreat and I often had cause in after years to mentally thank him for many valuable hints imparted at such times.'

Two Antarctic expeditions of Captain Robert Scott and one of Ernest Shackleton were of particular significance for Lyttelton as the ships spent weeks in making their final preparations at the Port. Apart from the training of the ponies and dogs which took place on Quail Island, much could be seen of the overhauling and loading. Lyttelton families extended a warm welcome to the men. On November 19, 1910, Lt. W. Bruce, on behalf of Captain Scott, accepted from the pupils of the school a N.Z. Ensign flag with the initials 'LDHS' and 'To Terra Nova 1910' embroidered on it. The Terra Nova sailed from port flying this flag.

The family worshipped at the Holy Trinity Church, the first Anglican Church to be built in Canterbury. Emile was for many years its choir master. His sons were choir boys and took their turn at blowing the bellows for the pipe organ. Some raiding of the vicarage orchard is remembered along with the choir practices. Charles later sang in the adult choir.

Emile's children all completed their formal education at their father's school. Maude and Leonie immediately joined the staff as pupil teachers, prior to taking over classes of their own. A period of ill-health caused Maude to forgo teaching as a career, and assume the duty, as was so often the case for the eldest daughter, of assisting her mother in the running of the household. This role, with its increasing responsibilities as her parents grew older, was to be her devoted task in life.



Back row - Charles, Leonie, Ottilie, Alan,
Front row - Emile, Irene, Annie, Maude.

Leonie continued on the staff of the Lyttelton School. In later years, remembering the discipline in her sole charge class of 60 infants, she was critical of modern classroom methods. Her younger brothers and sisters remembered the delight of paydays when she would arrive home with a 'Shout' for the family - cream horns from Norton's shop. Leonie later took a teaching position-at the Doyleston School 25 miles south east of Christchurch. There she became a friend of the family of John Rennie who owned 'Maryfield' farm and she was later to marry a son, Osborne.

The two boys, on leaving school in their midteens, found employment in Lyttelton, Charles in the Loan and Mercantile Co. and Alan as office boy in the Gas Works. Ottilie and Irene learnt typing and shorthand from Miss Morrow in Lyttelton and then went daily to Christchurch

Ottillie to work at Kaye and Carter and Irene to the legal office of Harper, Son and Pascoe.

The cherished, life-long memories of Emile's children concerned family pranks and fun, and happy times with many friends who always found a warm welcome at St. David's Street. The officers and sailors of the Home boats calling at the Port were frequently offered hospitality, among them Captain Chudley, who became a close friend, often staying at the home.

Family life continued without major disruption. There was reading in front of the fire on wet Sunday afternoons, when the girls, after finishing the Sunday dinner dishes, would find that their brothers, having formed an exclusive semi-circle with their parents, had to be cajoled or forcibly persuaded to let them in to the warmth. There was singing round the piano with Irene and sometimes Leonie playing. There were games of cards. On a fine weekend the young ones with their friends might walk to the Big Rock on the Sumner Road, or on occasions would walk right over the hills to Sumner Beach, along the sands to the Cave Rock then back over the hills, a distance of some nine miles. Irene remembers picnic teas at Corsair Bay with a walk home in the moonlight. The social highlight of the week for Charles and Alan was the walk among the shopping crowd in London Street on a Friday night. Sometimes there were dances. There were tennis matches. Maude was a particularly keen player, and on many a Saturday after an early lunch she caught the train to Christchurch, and tram to Avonside for an afternoon of tennis.

Charles and Alan joined the Artillery Volunteers. The Volunteers slept under canvas at the camp around the Sumner Road. In charge of the permanent artillery was Captain Sidney Sandle, son of Emile's friend in Stafford. During a shooting practice by the volunteers the firing of the 6 inch muzzle loading gun caused damage to Charles' hearing. He was told he should have kept his mouth open to counteract the blast. Later the volunteers moved to Ripa Island. Alan remembers one terrifying crossing by whale boat to the Island when a northeast storm blew up and the rowers could make little headway. For some hours they remained off Diamond Harbour, unable to proceed, unable to

see, and drenched to the skin with the boat half filled with water. There was much relief on Ripa Island when they finally reached it in the early morning about six hours after leaving Lyttelton.

The Artillery Regiment (Volunteer) dress uniform with its pillar box hat has been recorded in a caricature of Alan drawn by Dr. Upham. The framed sketch pleased Annie who hung it in her room to Alan's amused dismay. On one memorable occasion Alan's uniform had an unscheduled showing in Oxford Street. Irene, having dressed herself in it 'for a lark', was carried struggling down to Oxford Street by Alan and there abandoned. The return journey home up the long flight of the 'gaol' steps was no easy matter in a uniform designed for a slimmer figure.

There was sky larking - Ottilie on the verandah was goaded in to trying to hit Sidney Sandle, who was standing by the front gate, with a water bomb. She scored an unexpected direct hit, to the embarrassment of the participants and the hilarity of the onlookers. Sid's courting did not always proceed as planned. Only much later did Annie reveal the occasion when his foot sought Ottilie's beneath the dining-room table, but found hers instead. Maude, for some dreamt-up misdeamour, was held over the copper full of water by her brothers and their friends with the threat of a dunking.

As each daughter attained her majority at the age of 21 she was given a beautiful dress ring by her parents.

Charlie's ride to Cass Bay on the lamp lighter's horse was long remembered. True to its vocation the horse could not be enticed past any lamp post without a stop.

An annual regatta was held each New Years Day at the Port. It attracted as many as 10,000 visitors who were entertained by races and displays on the harbour. Maude and her sisters were kept busy supplying refreshments for their many Christchurch friends who called in on that day.

Maude and Irene belonged to a reading circle, the Calliope Club, at which the classics of English literature were read and discussed. They enjoyed it especially the productions of scenes from Shakespeare which the Club performed and in which Maude, being tall, invariably played a man's part.

On June 19, 1912, at St. Saviour's Church, West Lyttelton, Leonie was married to Osborne Rennie and her home for all her married life was to be 'Rushbrook' farm, Doyleston. Alan was born 27.1.16 and George on 20.9.17.

On February 11, 1914, Charles married Beatrice Pairman in the little stone church of St. Cuthbert, at Governor's Bay with Emile at the organ. The guests arrived by launch from Lyttelton and after a reception at 'Ellerslie' made the return journey to Lyttelton in the moonlight. Charles' work for the Loan Co. had taken him in 1912 to Napier and now, after his marriage, to Timaru where he and Beatrice settled in a house they had built in Sealey Street. Charles owned a car, a de Larc. He and Beatrice were invited to Rushbrook for a weekend. Road signs were almost non-existent, road surfaces rough, and car lights very dim. After mending punctures and losing their way, Charles, temper frayed, got out at a corner to see if there were any directions. Not wanting to be left alone in the dark Beatrice followed him. Charles, seeing a figure approaching, raised his hat and very politely asked the way. Beatrice collapsed with laughter but Charles was anything but amused. By the time they eventually reached 'Rushbrook' Leonie and Osborne despairing of their arrival had gone to bed.

The third family wedding also took place in 1914 on the 11th November, when Ottilie married Sidney Sandle at St. Saviour's Church where the Lyttelton Territorials formed a guard of honour. The reception was held in the St. Saviour's schoolroom. The newly-weds set up house in St. Clair, Dunedin. It was at Dunedin that the lovely photograph of Annie was taken which attests to this day Annie's grace and beauty.

The two young households were soon obliged to move to Christchurch. Ottilie, with John born 6.2.16, and Beatrice with Margaret born 11.9.17 shared a home in Opawa while Sidney and Charles were absent on military duties.

In 1911 after completing a five year apprenticeship in electrical engineering at Turnbull and Jones, Christchurch, Alan worked his passage to England via Cape Horn in the engine room of a cargo ship and in Manchester was employed by the large firm of British Westinghouse. At his father's request he made contact with his relatives in Switzerland, and in August 1912 was the guest of Charles Jung, whose sons, Theodore and David joined him on a tour of Switzerland. A second holiday in Switzerland took place the following year by which time he and Marguerite Germiquet, his father's cousin, were engaged. Late in 1913 he returned to Wellington bringing with him from Westinghouse, New Zealand's first rail car on which he worked before enlisting in the Army. His return to Europe as a soldier with the N.Z. Field Artillery was unforgettable on account of the "Spanish influenza" which ravaged the ship. Six months after the Armistice Marguerite was finally able to leave Switzerland. Their marriage took place at Tamworth, England, on 14 June 1919.

Throughout the Lyttelton years Emile's professional interests extended beyond his school to the broad issues of education in this country. In 1893 he was Vice President of the North Canterbury Educational Institute and from 1910 - 1914 was treasurer of the N.Z. Educational Institute. This body fought for improvement in conditions of employment for teachers as well as all aspects of educational reform. Emile was involved in representations to the Government on its behalf.

Emile's retirement from teaching at the age of 66, postponed to 1918 because of the war years, marked the end of the family's life in Lyttelton. The Lyttelton Times of the 23rd March 1918 under the heading 'Popular Teacher - Mr Just's retirement - entertained by Educational Institute' reported:-

'..... had done his work with marked success. Residents were very fortunate in having had Mr Just amongst them for so long ... outstanding not only as a teacher but

also as a man and a citizen ... He had fought in battles for the teachers. His fighting always was for the profession never for himself, he never played a lone hand. It should not be forgotten that Mrs Just had greatly benefited education by helping her husband." Mr Just was asked to accept from the teachers a gold watch.

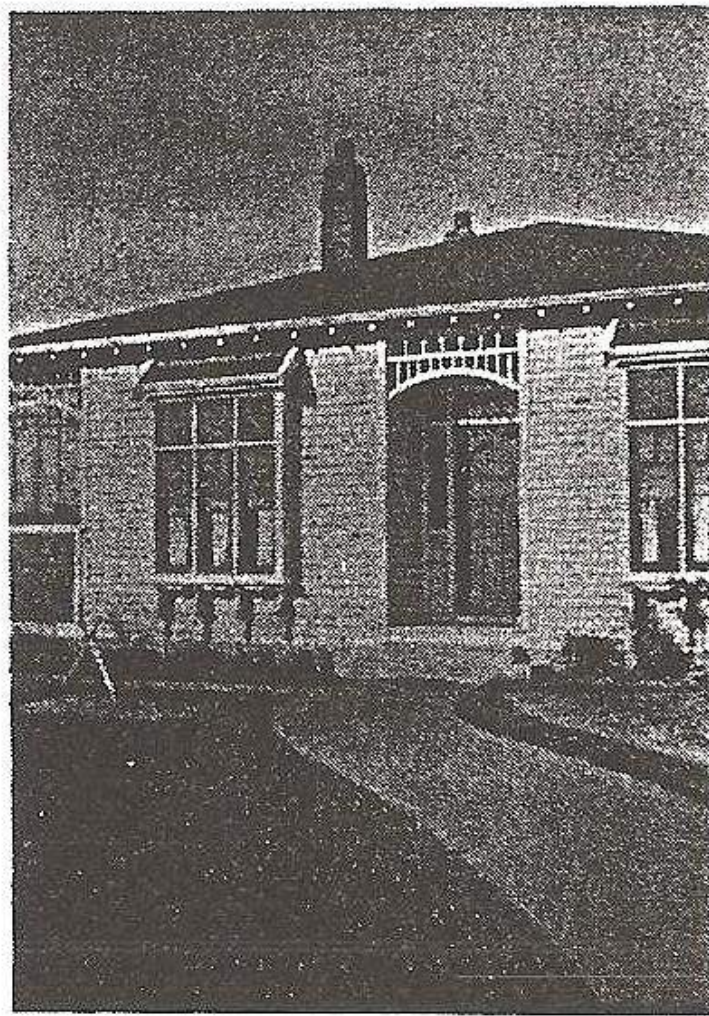
PURIRI STREET, CHRISTCHURCH 1918 -1947.

74 Puriri Street - these are magic words evoking for Emile and Annie's grandchildren the memory of their loved grandparents, of their welcoming, comfortable home, of a garden to explore and hide in, of the excitement of holidays and family gatherings.

Emile's retirement home at Riccarton was in contrast to the Lyttelton schoolhouse, being single-storeyed on an extensive section, with few neighbours and empty paddocks on the northern side. At first, Annie must have missed the bustle and neighbourliness of Lyttelton. It was a family home with its passage running back from the front door framed with stained glass panels, bedrooms with tiled, open fire places, a sitting room with the piano and harmonium, leading in to a sun room containing Emile's roll top desk, Annie's writing desk, a shelf of cactus plants, a dining room with coal range, and large family dining table with its green plush cover, a scullery and pantry, and back bedroom. To it had been added an enclosed back porch and 'little kitchen' containing a gas stove. How often did Maude descend the steps of the original back door, cross the porch and step up to the little kitchen with her saucepans. Extending to the left was the washhouse and toilet, forming with the back wall of the house, a sheltered play area for small grandchildren. The garage, which never permanently housed a car, was a store room for old books on shelves at the back, and for Emile's Australian wine, each bottle in its straw sheaf, lining the side walls. Alongside was the windmill, which pumped the water and demanded adjustment to the wind changes at any time of the day or night. In the days of the nightcart the 'lav' was between the supports to the windmill - quite alarming in a nor-west gale.

The front garden was neatly laid out with roses on either side of the curving path to the front door. The

back lawn, sheltered by hedge, windmill and garage led on to the vegetable garden, orchard and fowl run and through to sections on Totara Road. It was a property to satisfy Emile's love of gardening and to delight any grandchild - trees for climbing, apples, plums and cherries for picking, currants and gooseberries providing a good screen for hiding. Outside the sitting room was the summer house of trellised wood, overhung with honeysuckle. The whole property was edged with trees and shrubs. The house still stands but is now renumbered - 86 Puriri Street.



74 Puriri Street.

Irene, who had moved to Riccarton with her parents and Maude, became organist at St. Ninian's Presbyterian Church in Puriri Street. On the 19th November, 1919, she was married in that church to Leonard Prebble, Choir master and a neighbour. Their home was to be 'Cravendale', a sheep run on the Surrey Hills near Mt. Somers and newly bought by Len.

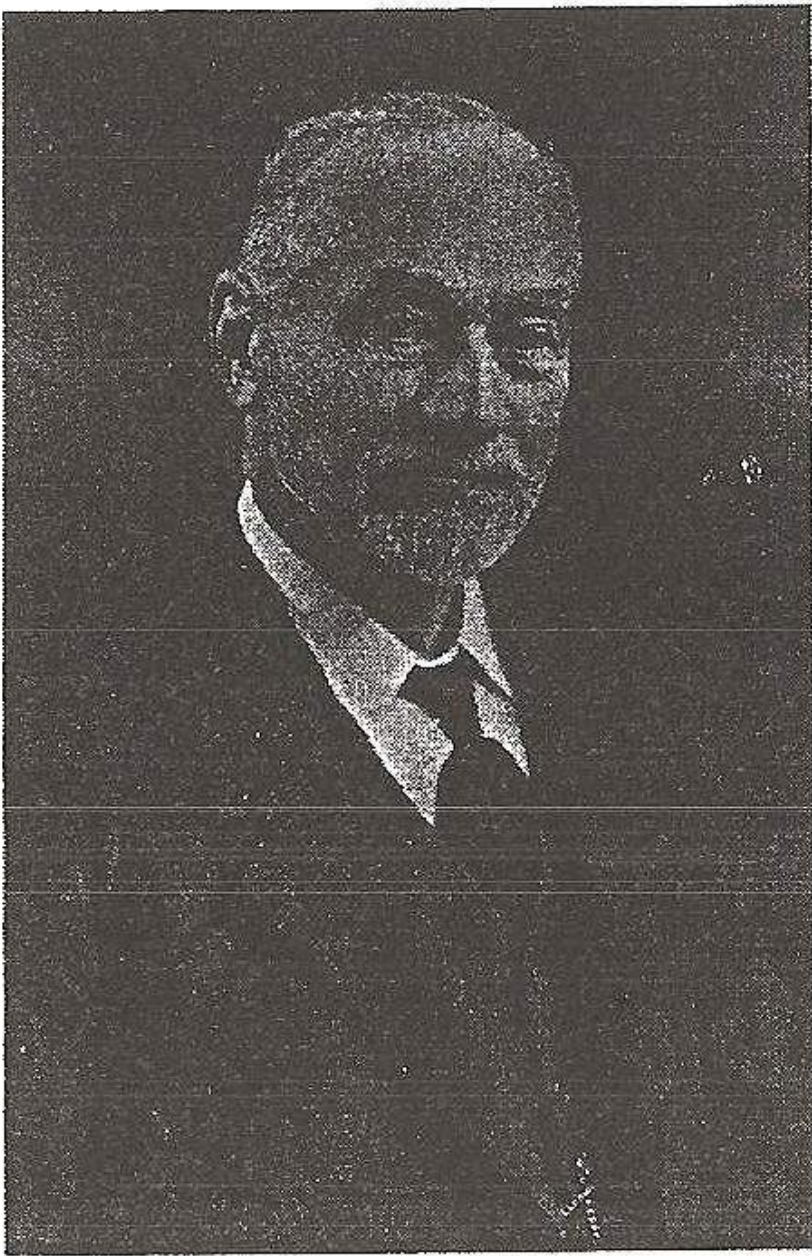
In 1919 Alan returned to New Zealand with Marguerite, and made his home with his parents, where his son Edouard was born 8.9.20. Later Alan's own house was built on the section adjoining the orchard in Totara Road where Anne was born 15.4.29.

In 1921 Emile was appointed Secretary-organiser of the North Canterbury provincial council of the Licensed Victualler's Assoc. This position he occupied for 15 years. His work had always been his main interest. This fact, together with his remarkable gift for organising, his particularly active mind and keen business sense, enabled him to carry on to an advanced age. The office of the Association was in the Square, next to the Post Office, necessitating the long walk the length of Puriri Street to Riccarton Road and then tram to the Square. Miss Bailey, as typist, and Mr Honeywell worked with him. He was a member of the Midland Club and there were many former pupils, friends and business acquaintances to greet him in the street. The respect thus shown him left a lasting impression on his grandsons.

In 1923 an Australian relative, Jack Packer, the grandson of a cousin of Annie, joined the family. Jack had been appointed lecturer in Chemistry at Canterbury University College 'after a brilliant record as a student at Melbourne University'. In 1927 he married Jackie (Kathleen) Buss, whose family had been close neighbours since 1921. Jack and Jackie and their family have remained in close contact with the Just family, and Jack was sadly missed by us all after he died suddenly in 1971. Jack's mother, Rose Packer, made several trips to New Zealand and sometimes her daughter, Dorothy Robinson, accompanied her. On one visit Rose and Maude walked the Milford and the Doubtful Sound Tracks, this holiday being a highlight in Maude's life. Later Maude returned to Australia with Rose Packer for a few weeks. Always proud of her Australian birth she rejoiced in the close bond with the relations with whom she stayed - Bunny Cox, Myra Flannagan, the Herman Just family, and in the contact with her cousin Jack Shearer who was at that time studying in Victoria.

Emile visited his family more than once often returning with a wooden crate of grapes. But the visit in May 1930 stands out as the occasion when he, with his brothers, Herman and Aurel, made a pilgrimage to Steiglitz. There exists a photograph of the three against a background of trees which alone marked the site of the old town.

Emile and Annie's grandson, John, created the pet names of Fafa and NanNan for Emile and Annie, and they were adopted by most of his generation, marking a special bond between grandparents and grandchildren. NanNan is remembered in her long, black frock and white chocker collar, later the black velvet neckband of dignified and gracious old age. Fafa is remembered in his dark suit and shiny black boots, a gold watch and sovereign case on the gold chain extending across his waist coat, and cigar in hand. With his height and straight-backed stance and neat goatee beard, he was an imposing and handsome figure.



FAFA



NANNAN

For their grandchildren Emile and Annie's home is associated with the joy of holidays and family occasions - Ottilie and family travelling by train and ferry from Auckland and later Palmerston North, the luggage following from the station by horse and cart, Charles and family by 12 hour train journey from Invercargill, hospitality being provided either at Puriri St. or with Alan and Marguerite,

and on the celebration day the excited greetings as the Rennies and Prebbles arrived after their long journeys - the games of French cricket on the back lawn and English cricket on the front - shooting with air rifles at the target on the garage door - climbing trees in the orchard - riding bicycles around the lawn (one time trial resulting in the loss of a sleeve from NanNan's nightgown which was drying on the line) - helping Maude feed all the stray cats which appeared from nowhere at her call - riding on Sid's shoulders. Easter - hunting for Easter eggs hidden in the garden. NanNan's birthday - the opening of her presents when everyone was assembled - the early Australian wattle which Irene used to bring - the cake made and intricately iced in pastel shades by Irene. Show day - the meeting place for lunch being the Rennie's truck right by the ring at the Show Grounds - then on to Puriri Street for tea. Christmas day - the Christmas puddings, made by Annie and containing threepences, cooking in their calico bags in the copper in the washhouse - the blackcurrant tart which was part of Annie's traditional Christmas fare - paper hats - Christmas tree in the garden - sitting on apple cases on the back lawn to shell peas from the garden - Maude's ginger beer exploding - and the eventual gathering up of families and piling into cars at the end of the day.

Memories of Puriri Street include the weekly visit by bicycle of Kincaids man for the grocery orders which were delivered later in the week by the electric van, and the fishmonger walking his horse and cart along the road ringing his bell and calling "Whitebait", these being purchased by the billyful. Annie's dignity and courtesy with her visitors, Mrs Burns, Mrs Hobden and the vicar Canon Redgrave. Annie was a good cook and although the daily meals were by now Maude's responsibility, at least one grandchild can remember the crisply coated potato cakes Annie could produce for lunch.

To her grandchildren Annie remains in the memory presiding at the meal table or over afternoon teas on the front lawn or in repose in her chair by the window with her reading and crotchet. Even at her great age she took a keen interest in the world and local news which she read in the daily paper. During the years of the Second World War Annie overruled her Victorian upbringing which forbade

unnecessary work on a Sunday to continue with her knitting of balaclavas for the soldiers. Emile's comfortable knee for sitting on, his 'take it Bob, take it Bob, better than tea' and 'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers', the aroma of his cigars, his outings with young grandsons which might include a cricket match, lunch at the Club, a ride in the hansom cab stationed in front of the Cathedral, or a visit to the museum, or, fortified with bags of fruit, an afternoon at the pictures which was kept a shared secret. These are precious memories.



Osborne

B/row - Charles, Beatrice, Leonie, Maude, Sid, Ottilie, Fafa, Rene, Len, Marguerite.

2nd/row - George, Alan, John, Margaret.

3rd/row - NanNan. Front Edouard, Nancy, Bill, Alan.

1/1/1928.

Emile and Annie's Golden Wedding was joyfully celebrated in 1928 by a full attendance of their descendants. The mid-day celebration dinner was held at Alan and Marguerite's home, Emile and Annie being driven in style around the corner to enter by the front gate.

On Emile's retirement from his work for the Licensed Victuallers in April 1936, at the age of 84, he was presented with a club chair and a cheque for his long and loyal service. In his acknowledgement Emile said he had no definite plans for the future, but humourously suggested that he would be able to devote more time to his wife. His second retirement was not destined to be long as in October the following year he suffered a stroke and, after a short period in hospital, he returned to his home to die there some days later on 12th October 1937. He was buried in the Waimairi cemetery. Pallbearers at the house were Officers of Conyers Lodge and at the graveside Officers of the District Grand Lodge.

Annie and Maude were to continue in the home for 10 years. In 1947 at the age of 98, Annie suffered a fall in her room and broke her leg, dying in hospital three days later, 7.12.1947. She was buried next to Emile in the Waimairi Cemetery.

The Puriri Street home was sold and Maude moved to a small flat in Durham Street before going to live at Windsor House where she died, 6.7.1977 at the age of 98.

Leonie's son Stuart was born in 1920 but died very suddenly when only five years old. Alan married Maire Brittenden and farmed 'Maryfield', at Doyleston, then at Lagmhor, and then at Methven. He died in 1969 and Maire in 1974. They had two sons and a daughter. George married Elaine Coe and farms 'Rotopapa' beside the Selwyn River at Irwell. He has two daughters and three sons. Leonie stayed on at 'Rushbrook' for some years after Osborne died in 1949 and then went to live near, and later with, George and Elaine. She died 6.11.76 aged 95.

After the First World War Charles joined the National Mortgage in Christchurch. Nancy was born 23.5.21. In 1927 he was transferred to Invercargill and in 1940 to Dunedin, staying on there after his retirement until his death on the 1st March 1976 followed by that of Beatrice three months

later. Margaret continues to live in Dunedin after her retirement from Head of the Helen Deem Centre for Pre-School Education. Nancy did architectural draughting before marrying Archie Reid. She has a daughter, Suzanne. They farm at "Waihi" Woodbury.

Sidney Sandle chose the Army as his career and, after serving in the S. African campaign at the age of 16, and 1914-18 War, went to Auckland where Bill was born 30.9.20, and then in 1923 to Palmerston North. He was transferred to the reserve Officers in 1930 with the rank of Lieut-Colonel and was Sergeant-at-Arms in Parliament at the time of his death in 1936. Ottilie stayed in Wellington until coming to Christchurch where she assisted Maude in caring for Annie at Puriri Street. She died in Christchurch on 26.6.1962. John married Pat Webster. He retired in 1975 from his position as District Engineer at the P & T Christchurch. He lives at Sumner. He has three daughters. Bill married Norah Bourke and stays on in Stratford after retiring in 1980 as Branch Manager of Newton King. He has three sons and three daughters.

Alan joined the Fire Underwriters Association as electrical inspector on his return from England and apart from three years in Dunedin has lived in Christchurch. After War service Edouard worked as Charge Nurse at Silverstream and now works as quality control officer for T.V.L. He lives in Upper Hutt. He married Marguerite (Marge) Wade and has one daughter Christine. Anne trained as a Librarian and works at the Medical Library, Christchurch. She lives with Alan who is now an active 94. Marguerite died in 1972.

Irene's elder son Len was born 17.9.20 but died tragically at Cravendale 25.11.25. Aurelie was born 14.8.28. She married Stanley Jones, has two sons and one daughter and lives at Taumarunui. Derek was born 6.8.30 and farms at "Dalbury" Coldstream. He married Jeanette Murray and has two sons and two daughters. Marguerite (Sue) was born 25.2.32, married Ken Rule and lives in Ashburton. After her husband Len died in 1950 Irene left "Cravendale" and went to live in

Ashburton where she is today, at the age of 92, not in good health but in great spirit.

As this has been primarily Emile's story we record a last tribute to him paid by a business friend which appeared in the Star-Sun. 'He is the most charming old man I have ever met and I have travelled around the world a good deal. He is one of nature's gentlemen and a better type of man one could not wish to meet.'

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Contributions and assistance from many members of the family in New Zealand, and also in Australia and Switzerland greatly helped Anne Just and Nancy Reid compile this booklet which was typed by Sue Rule.

"Waihi" 1980.