

*Starring*

*Travers  
Margaret  
Pamela  
Aunt Helen*



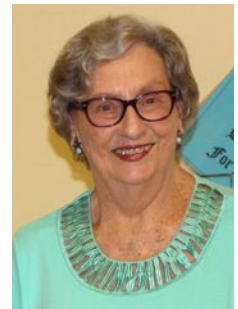
**LISSON  
GROVE  
RESIDENT**

**Film Rights  
Reserved**

*The Tale of a  
Not-So-Successful  
Bank Manager*

*Travers Goff*

**SAVING MR GOFF**



**NEWS FLASH**

**LORD MAYOR'S AUSTRALIA DAY  
SENIOR CITIZEN OF YEAR**

**co-winner**

**BERES McCALLUM**

**FEBRUARY 2014**

**Volume 26 No. 1**

**Windsor & Districts'  
Historical Society Inc.**

*servicing the old Windsor Town Council areas of Albion, Alderley,  
Bowen Bridge, Eagle Junction\*, Eildon, Kalinga, Kedron\*, Lutwyche,  
Maida Hill, Newmarket\*,  
and now extended to cover Herston. \*part of this suburb.*

The GUEST SPEAKER at our first general meeting of the year on 16 February will be Derek Churchill, our society president.

Many of you know of Derek from his many years as an experienced local real estate agent

Others know him from the English Speaking Union at *Palma Rosa* or a singer in and marketing director for many years of the River City Clippers Barbershop Chorus.

Still others know him from the 1990s when he was active in this society and again as our president last year.

But what most of us do not know is his experiences as a child in England

When Derek was a child of the tender age of five years, he was among a group of London children who were evacuated to Windsor.

He remembers trudging up Thames Street, Windsor from the Southern Region railway station in a long line clutching a tiny suitcase and a brown paper parcel tied up with string.



This was in 1940 and they were evacuees avoiding the nightly visits of Hitler's Luftwaffe. Derek remembers how the kind people of Windsor were waiting to be hosts to these children. Invariably the *bold and beautiful* were selected first as were Derek's two older sisters. Despite assurances to Derek's mother that they would be kept together, this five year old in a light green overcoat found himself in a group hostel.

He recalls fondly the occasional visits from his parents who came down on a single-decker Green Line bus. They would stroll down the River Walk of the Thames below the castle together with the joy of an ice cream cone to eat.

He remembers the activity inside the King Edward gate of the castle one day as a German Dornier bomber had crashed. The police were there and the crew was taken away in an ambulance. The memory is so vivid that he remembers picking up a pair of fur-lined goggles which he soon discarded after finding them sticky with blood.

Each evening after they were readied for bed would start quietly, almost breathlessly quiet.

# **NEXT MEETING**

## **16 FEBRUARY, 3 p.m.**





*Derek Churchill*

Firstly, he remembers the wailing of the sirens and the whole world would come alive. Then a low droning noise as the bombers went over, many of them. The sky took on a unique beauty as the searchlights went on, anxiously crisscrossing above - bouncing off the clouds.

The guns on the ground would start to fire, first one and then another creating their own deadly symphony of noise.



## *Digitisation Project 2014*

*The Windsor and Districts' Historical Society is in the process of developing community-based initiative referred to as the Digitisation Project in collaboration with Human Ventures Limited.*

*The aim of the Digitisation Project is to source and collate local historical information, stories, photographs, videos etc. making history accessible to a wider audience.*

*Research and gathering information for identified areas of interest include Windsor State School, Windsor Council Chambers, Italian Influence, Eildon Hill Reservoir, People & Events etc.*

*Assisting with the digitisation project from Human Ventures Limited are Andrew Gibbs, creative director, who has extensive experience in managing creative projects*

# ROYAL CONNECTIONS

He recalls that when they returned to London a few months later, his hobby was collecting the tiny twisted fragments of metal which he kept in a shoebox.

The symphony of sight, sound, smoke and rubble and the ringing bells of the ambulances and fire engines stays with him still.

Derek will also tell you that on a visit to London in 1989, he visited the Air Force Museum at Hendon and experienced again the sights and sounds of the blitz. It was a very emotional experience.



*specifically in the realm of digital and community arts; Dan Baebler, designer, brings experience in print, web and motion graphics for video; and Della Churchill, business development manager, brings diverse experience and skill, particularly in finance, film production, marketing and business partnerships.*

*The Digitisation Project is expected to be completed in April 2014.*

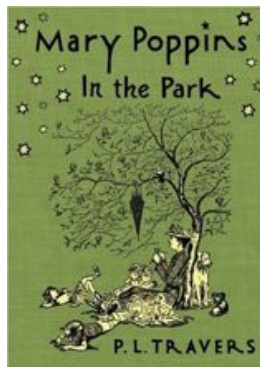


*Pia Dowling,  
Secretary.*



*Pamela Travers*

The movie, *SAVING MR BANKS*, depicts the battle between Pamela Lyndon Travers and Walt Disney over the rights to make the memorable movie *Mary Poppins*. It brought to mind the History Walk the Windsor & Districts Historical Society held in July 2000. Research at that time revealed the exciting information that Travers Goff and his family resided in a house owned by the bank in Lisson Grove, Woollooin from 1903 to 1906. He was listed in the Commonwealth Electoral Roll in 1903 as an accountant. His wife Margaret



*Travers Goff*

with the Australian Joint Stock Bank owned by his wife Margaret's family, the Moreheads. Margaret was the only daughter of Robert Charles Morehead, the eldest son of Robert Archibald Alison Morehead. The Moreheads were a wealthy family with textile mills in Scotland. Robert Archibald Alison Morehead came to Australia looking for a warmer climate and with £30,000 to invest in this new and prosperous country. In 1840 he became the manager of the Scottish Australian Company and settled in Sydney where he married the

# Saving Mr Goff

Agnes Goff was listed, as most wives were then, as being engaged in domestic duties.

The walk was memorable, as just as we finished telling the story, a white balloon was spotted floating high up in the sky overhead. Walkers jokingly shouted *There she is ....*

This part of Pamela Lyndon Travers childhood was never mentioned in *Mary Poppins* and after reading volumes of history on her life that is not surprising. The years they resided there were not happy for the family with their father's alcoholic addiction at its worst. He had been demoted from his position



*Written by  
Beres McCallum*

former Helen Buchanan Dunlop. Two sons were born in quick succession, Robert Charles Morehead in 1842 and Boyd Dunlop Morehead a year later. Two daughters were also born to them – Helen Christina Morehead and Jane Katherine Morehead.

When Mrs Morehead died in 1861 leaving her husband to raise the four children, Helen Christina was only 15. She took on the role of housekeeper and mother to the family. She never married and it is believed that as the dependable maiden aunt, her personality was that on which P. L. Travers based the character of *Mary Poppins*.

The eldest son Robert Charles Morehead was also dependable in business, unlike his brother Boyd Morehead who was reckless and ambitious and was too eager to get out into the business of making money to finish his studies at university. After a stint at gold mining he went to work for the Bank of New South Wales until he was sacked for refusing to toe the line. His father then gave him the job of managing the huge family property Bowen Downs. Eldest son Robert Charles married Maria Jacobs in 1867 and a daughter Margaret Agnes Morehead was born to them. In later years, Margaret was to become the mother of P. L. Travers. In 1874 Robert died of tuberculosis leaving £3,000 for Maria and Margaret with the trustees to administer the legacy to be Boyd Morehead and his brother-in-law William Rose, husband of Jane.

This changed when Maria married again in 1870. The old man was furious and insisted that she give him custody of little Margaret Agnes who lived from then on with her maiden aunt Helen (Aunt Ellie) and her grandfather at Woollahra in Sydney. Sadly, her



*Margaret Goff*



*Helen Morehead*

grown into a shy pretty woman in her twenties when she met Robert Travers Goff. Although he claimed to be descended from landed Irish gentry he had been born in Deptford, London in 1863.

In his late teens he went to Ceylon and became a tea planter. Not able to settle anywhere for long he came on to Australia and moved to Queensland around 1891. His Irish ancestry made him a great storyteller and he claimed to have worked as a supervisor on a sugar plantation before becoming a manager with the Australian Joint Stock Bank in Maryborough. He had met Margaret Agnes Morehead in Sydney and as the family approved of this well-travelled charming man they were married at All Saints Church in Brisbane on 9 November 1898.

Boyd Morehead gave the bride away. Helen Lyndon Goff (later to adopt the name P. L. Travers) was born in Maryborough on 9 August 1899. Margaret and the new baby (known as Lyndon) travelled to Sydney to be fussed over by Aunt Ellie and the servants at 2 Albert Street Woollahra. This was one of many trips to Sydney – sometimes with

# P. L. Travers

uncle Boyd Morehead invested her inheritance in deposits and shares in the Queensland National Bank and, like so many others, lost everything in the bank crash of 1893. Nevertheless, he lived in style at a grand house named *Cintra* at Bowen Hills in Brisbane with his wife and seven daughters, set up a stock and station agency, became a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, survived a land sales scandal, and became Colonial Secretary and was the Premier of Queensland for two years from November 1888 until June 1890.

Margaret Agnes Morehead had

Pamela travelling alone from a very early age. In Maryborough they lived in a nice two storied house overlooking the Mary River and the sugar mill. It was a pleasant existence with Travers Goff on a good salary of £250 a year plus a servants allowance of £50 a year.

In 1902 Goff had his salary reduced drastically and was transferred to Brisbane – his drinking had become a problem. They lived first in Brisbane Street Ipswich where a second daughter Barbara Irene was born. Goff was relegated to filling in for other employees at country branches when they went on leave. In 1903 he was at Clifton and then

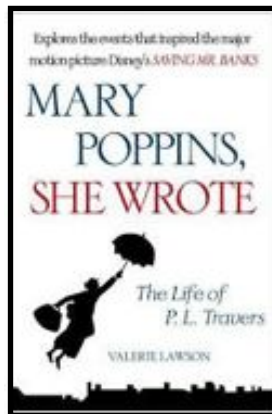


during May 1905 at Killarney Branch. From 1903 they were living in a bank house named *Heytor*, 9 Lisson Grove, Maida Hill - third house from the top.

The Goffs third daughter Cicely Margaret (Moya) was born there in July 1905. Before the birth the five year old Helen Lyndon was sent off to Aunt Ellie in Sydney on her own, in the care of the railway guard, where under his watchful eye, she slept in the luggage rack in his guard's van.

Boyd Morehead died that year from a cerebral haemorrhage and in 1906 the Goff family trekked off to Allora to where Travers Goff had been transferred. He died there from influenza and drink in 1907. He was only 43 years of age. The reliable Aunt Ellie arrived and took Margaret and her three young daughters south to relatives and they then lived later at Bowral until 1917.

Pamela was enrolled in an exclusive boarding school. She concocted stories for her younger sisters, weaving in the Irish magic she had inherited from her father and creating the mythical Mary Poppins who arrived, like Aunt Ellie, whenever there was trouble and



binge. Both became hopeless alcoholics. As depicted in the movie Pamela Lyndon Travers or, Helen Lyndon Goff as she was at Woolloowin, was a hard and quite wilful woman who lived until the ripe old age of 96 in 1996.

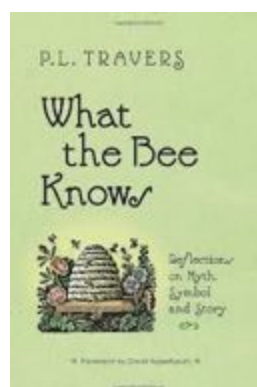


Information from Wikipedia, P.L. Travers, Australian Dictionary of Biography Boyd Dunlop Morehead, The Real Life Mary Poppins – Paul Brody, The Life of P.L. Travers – Valerie Lawson, History Kitchen – Tony Avery  
A walk through the history of Thorroltdown & Maida Hill Woolloowin – Windsor Historical Society

## Local Family

slipped away as soon as their lives were on an even keel again.

She went on the stage in 1924 where she adopted the name P.L. Travers and began writing children's novels under that name in 1933. She did not marry but in 1939 she adopted a baby boy from Ireland named Camillus Hone. He had a twin brother Anthony but she refused to take two of them. Camillus was raised in luxury as her own son but Anthony was left to struggle on as one of an impoverished family in Ireland. At seventeen he came searching for his twin and they embarked on a drinking



*P.L. Travers*

Since his death in October 2013, the local community around the Council Chambers is missing the familiar figure of Palmer Street resident and Society stalwart Tony McNamara from amongst us. Tony and his wife Moira joined the Society in the early 1990s and as with everything Tony did he entered into society activities with great enthusiasm.

Born at Ascot, Tony with his mother and three siblings sold their home after his father's death in 1929 and moved across to Windsor – first to Albion Road and then to Turner Street.

His early education was at St Agatha's at Ascot, then at Holy Rosary at Windsor before going on to St Columban's at Albion, which he really loved.

At 14 he began work as a message boy in the city and then became apprenticed to Flaherty's Plumbers in Albion Road. As most youngsters leaving school in those days did, he sat for the Public Service Examination. With the traumas of unemployment during the depression still fresh in everyone's mind, it was thought that the safest place to work was in the Public Service. He applied for a job in the Railways Depart-



*Tony McNamara*



created a magnificent garden. Tony's familiar figure could be seen walking their beautiful golden retriever *Bonnie Lass* every day and pushing a wheelbarrow of brightly flowering petunias or some such onto the footpath to add even more colour. Tony was a keen golfer at Gales Golf Club and Moira played tennis and croquet. One day Tony called to pick Moira up from Windsor Croquet Club and became fascinated with the game. He became Club Captain and Greens Director

# Vale: Tony McNamara

ment and began his career as a lad porter before being transferred to Charleville as a railway guard. It was here that he began playing golf and bought his first car – a black Holden.

In 1972 his mother's house in Turner Street was proposed to be resumed for the Motorway (which never eventuated) and he bought a house in Palmer Street. Here, a pretty little local lass named Moira Darley, who lived just across the road, caught his eye. After a short courtship they were married in 1974. They were a great team. They renovated Moira's parents' home and



– preparing the greens himself right into his eighties.

Tony and Moira enjoyed trips each year – Asia and Europe were included as well as many car and train trips within Australia. They were wonderful community people and an invitation not to be missed was to Christmas morning on the McNamara's back deck. After a few years of failing health Tony finally passed on at 92 years of age. Following a service at Holy Rosary, family and friends gathered on that same deck to farewell him. The Society sends its deepest sympathy to Moira.

*Contributed by Beres McCallum*

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

This year of the Society's Silver Anniversary has been an active one with new initiatives both planned and put into operation. Our website has been overhauled and remodelled in preparation to enable us to widen our footprint to our local community to touch our operation in an ever increasing awareness.

The material amassed within the Chambers over the years has been enormous and a veritable treasure trove in itself due to the constant dedication of our volunteers whose output and research has been huge, led as a team by Beres McCallum and David Teague whom the society could never thank enough. Our task has then been to assess how we can reach out even more, both to our members and the local population, to provide encouragement to both participate in their local history and to visit this unique facility that we have. The visitors we get on Sunday and Monday afternoons between 1 - 4 pm invariably are in awe and admiration at what they find, especially whilst seeking information on

*Report given by  
President,  
Derek Churchill  
at the Annual  
General  
Meeting  
17 November  
2013*

*Photo:  
After the  
presentation by  
Councillor Vicki  
Howard, twenty-  
five year members:  
David Hinchliffe  
(first president)  
Jack Mann  
Joan & Alan  
Webster  
Beres McCallum  
with President  
Derek Churchill.*

their family history. Our goal then must be to increase the engagement to assure the future of the Windsor & Districts' Historical Society's presence within the community.

Early in the year we sought and obtained as Commonwealth Grant of \$25,000 with the kind sponsorship of our three local representatives and the aid of the Human Group to put a Digitisation Project in place to enable us both to widen the scope of our activities and activate a team of ten to undergo a series of training seminars. Human will undertake the necessary training and are responsible to the Government ultimately as administrators, to report back progress and results. It is an exciting time and three Skills Workshops have already been completed. It was necessary to update our equipment and this is now completed and introduced to our volunteers to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Within months we will be able to explore initially twenty stories concerning our area from within our own resources and burrowing research.

The society could not operate without the enormous amount of time,



# 25th ANNUAL MEETING





effort and opening day's presence of our small band, who are in attendance each weekend. To David and Jack Mann on Sundays and Jenny Roermann, Judy Willis and Beres McCallum on Mondays, we give thanks. Thank you also for the efforts of your committee and especially to Gem Cowlshaw as treasurer for her work on our behalf and her attention to detail and invaluable advice. Thank you also to Vicki Howard, our councillor and committee member for her wide guidance and suggestions. With our hopefully widening presence may we hope that other members and future members will volunteer to shoulder some of the workload for just a couple of hours each week. Ultimately it would be beneficial to plan to open other afternoons as well with such assistance.

We have been blessed with the quality of the presentations of our guest speakers at the general meetings over this year, which have been well attended, Our thanks are also due to Pam Masel as MC and Rosalie Raciti as organiser in presenting possibly the most successful and most attended Anzac Day commemoration. There were between 800 and 1000



Photo: Pia Dowling

*The Society made a presentation to Beres McCallum after the President's Address on her retirement from office.*

dent, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee member has assured the society plaudits throughout Queensland's historical community. Everyone knows Beres and all speak of her with high praise. Without her presence and untiring loyalty, our society would not be what it is today. Beres, we salute you and now have the added task of wondering how we are going to manage without your hands or presence.

# Presentation to Beres

people, including children at the service, many of whom joined us for morning tea afterwards at the chambers. It gets bigger every year and the only downside for me is that we are unable due to the solemnity of the occasion to actively encourage some of those attending at take the opportunity to become members of the society.

After twenty-five years of our history we are losing to retirement the glue that has held the society together - annual walks of the district, books, constant probing and research, and an intrepid leader as President, Vice-Presi-



**STOP PRESS**  
**LORD MAYOR'S**  
**AUSTRALIA DAY**  
**SENIOR CITIZEN**  
**co-recipients**  
**BERES McCALLUM**  
**of W.D.H.S.**

**and DIANA HACKER of**  
**Queensland Women's**  
**Historical Association**  
*Congratulations*

On 25 April 1925 the Windsor War Memorial was unveiled. Services were conducted there each Anzac Day by R.S.L Clubs until their support was withdrawn and since 1994 the Windsor & Districts' Historical Society has sponsored the event

Our twenty-first sponsored observance, and ninetieth for the cenotaph, will take place at 9 a.m. on Anzac Day. Vice-president, Rosalie Raciti is planning the service at the moment.

The cenotaph, octagonal in shape, was constructed from brown Helidon sandstone on a large raised platform of pink Brisbane tuff from the council quarry. It has four arches and four external corner panels on which the names of the fallen are recorded. The domed roof is surrounded by a bronze lantern with a red light which represents the eternal flame. A carved laurel wreath encircles the ceiling. Outside of the building just below the roof line is a frieze. On each side is engraved *Windsor War Memorial* and on each corner *1914 - 1918*. An information booklet is available for \$5.



*Refreshments of Anzac biscuits and a cup of tea is served at the Chambers after the service.*

**DID YOU KNOW** that many streets in our area are named after World War I V.C. awardees.

*These photos were taken at previous Anzac Days by David Teague.*



# ANZAC DAY



In December a heritage sign-board, funded by Cr David McLachlan's Hamilton Ward was erected in Windsor Park.

Historical sites and photos on the board highlight the activities carried out since the land was purchased by the Windsor Shire Council as early as 1900. Bounded by Blackmore Street, Grafton Street, McDonald Road and Robert Lane the area was originally known as the Albion Flats. It was low lying farmland owned by early settlers John Thondley and Robert Lane.

A deputation from the Windsor Shire Council to the Premier resulted in a loan of £1420 being granted on 27 November 1900 to the Windsor Shire Council to purchase and improve the land for sporting purposes.

The Albion Drill Hall, moved from Junction Park in 1914/15, and the first part of the Windsor Croquet Club in 1914 are the oldest buildings on the site.

This open flat area was used by early aircraft as a landing ground in the early 1920s. Windsor Bowls Club dates back to 1921, Norths Cricket Club played



*New Heritage Sign*



ground has provided fun and exercise for local youngsters since 1925. The ovals were regularly used by cricket and A.F. teams from Windsor State School. St. Margaret's Anglican Girls School now enjoys the use of the netball courts and playing fields.

# Windsor Park Sign

there from 1931 with many names famous in Australian Cricket competing over the years.

Likewise many well-known AFL Footballers donned their first jerseys on the grounds. Windsor A.F. Club was founded in 1922 and played there until it merged with Zillmere. Its place was taken by Mayne A.F. Club, former fierce rivals, who had started in 1924 at Perry Park.

Mayne Harriers Athletics Club was based at Windsor Park, but sadly tennis courts, popular in the 1930s and 40s were subsumed into the rapidly expanding Bowls Club. A children's play



*Historic Photo of a Mayne Harrier in Action*

*Researched by Beres McCallum  
Sign photo courtesy Wendy Anderson*

*Left to right, top to bottom:*

*Anzac Day: MC Pam Masel, Cr Vicki Howard at the service; President Derek Churchill at the morning tea after the service at the chambers; June and Jack Mann; Pam Masel, honour guard from T.S. Paluma and Robert Cavalluci, MP for Brisbane Central.*



*SILVER JUBILEE &  
ANZAC DAY  
photos  
Courtesy of  
JUDY WILLIS*

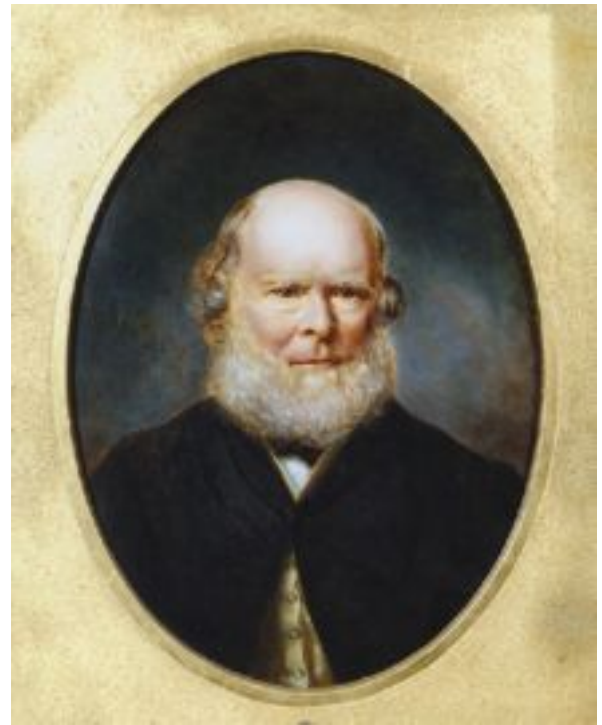
# PHOTO GALLERY



*Vice President Rosalie Raciti and Hon. Teresa Gambaro, Member for Brisbane*



*Councillor Vicki Howard, Ward Office Manager Robert Lambreth and staff on Anzac Day*



**Jane Lutwyche  
and  
Judge Alfred  
Lutwyche.**

*Portraits forwarded  
by Brendon  
Lutwyche.*



*Silver Jubilee Cake*

**Right: The Famous  
Four original  
Society Members -  
Alan Webster,  
Beres McCallum,  
David Hinchliffe,  
Jack Mann**



*Courtesy: Quest Newspapers.*

*Members at the Lord Mayor's Christmas Party:  
Back: Judy Willis, Beres McCallum.  
Front: Dr Les & Pam Masel, Rosalie Raciti.*



*Duke and Duchess of York visited Rosemount  
Rehabilitation Hospital - 1927.*



## **DIRECTORY**

*Windsor & Districts' Historical Society Inc.*

**Please address all correspondence to  
The Secretary**

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*www.windsorhistorical.org.au*  
e-mail: *windsorhistory@optusnet.com.au*  
Telephone: 0401 802 980

**Old Windsor Council Chambers**  
opposite Albion Road Junction  
Lutwyche Road, Windsor

### **Opening Hours**

1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
Sundays and Mondays

### **Office Bearers**

President: .....*Derek Churchill*  
Senior Vice-President:..... *Judy Willis*  
Junior Vice-President:.. *Rosalie Raciti*  
Secretary: .....*Pia Dowling*  
Treasurer: .....*Gem Cowlshaw*

Councillors:

*Jenny Roemermann*  
*Cr Vicki Howard,*  
*Denise Bender*

Chambers Curator: *Jack Mann* 3356 1173

Membership Year:

1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.

*You can read the newsletter on line at*  
*www.windsorhistorical.org.au*

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*by David Teague.*

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