

D82 William J. Harris – Broken Hill Strikes 1909-1911 Postcards

Creator: William J. Harris

Historical Note: Collection of photographic postcards and one illustrated postcard relating to the 1909 and 1911 strikes/lockouts/industrial disputes which occurred at Broken Hill, New South Wales. The annotated postcards were sent by William Harris to his family during his time working as a police officer at Broken Hill.

Three of the postcards make reference to the 'Tom Mann train'. Thomas Mann was the industrial organiser for the Broken Hill Combined Unions Committee during the Broken Hill Strikes.

Record Summary: Personal records – Postcards

Date Range: 1909-1911

Quantity: 2 cm (1 folder comprising 24 postcards)

Access Conditions: Available for reference. Contact Archivist in advance to arrange access.

Inventory: Compiled 22 September 1998. Last revised 22 February 2011

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Item Descriptions

1909 Strike Postcards

1. "15. The Strike 1909" [caption on front]
 [image depicts police and crowd outside W.J. Player's Australian Club Hotel]
 "Broken Hill 9-1-09. After the Riot Police return to Quarters. On duty under the Australian Club Hotel verandah, probably that is your humble servant to be seen under the verandah. / W.J. H. Sub. Inspector William returned home left here last Sunday night. He has been in Hospital most of the time he was here. Broken Hill 4-2-09." [inscription on verso]

2. "23. The Strike 1909" [caption on front]
 [image depicts the Technical College, Broken Hill]
 "Court House to the left of building in the picture. Crowd in front of Court House when fence was thrown down. Arrests were made. Broken Hill 11-1-09. Excitement very great at this time, angry crowd required very delicate handling." [inscription on verso]

2. "Public Buildings, Broken Hill, N.S.W" [caption on front]
 "Court House, Technical College – camped here, Police Station, Town Hall, Post Office" [handwritten annotations on front]
 "Miss Millie Harris / 55 Wigham Road / Glebe / Sydney" "18-1-09. Don't send P.Cs. [postcards] to me in return. I think you will like to see these pictures. Water not good here, going on night work tonight. Hope you are all well & that you are helping Mother all you can. This place would cook you all – don't grumble about hot weather. WJH." [inscription on verso]

4. "Hospital, Broken Hill" [caption on front]
 "Sunday, January 24th 1909. Visited the Hospital in company of Senior Constable Charlton. Inmates visited. Acting Sub Inspector Miller & Constable McRae. 18th February 1909. Again visited inmates.
 Const. McRae, Luchhard Station
 " Farrell Goulbourne
 " Gove No. 3 Station, Sydney
 " Southwell, Station not known
 Feby. [sic] 22nd Const. McRae left the institution & leaves for Sydney tomorrow night's express. X Accident Ward. M Medical Ward. Inmate of Accident Ward from 28.02.09 to 29.03.09 4 weeks & 1 day. On 5.4.09 4 Constable still inmates Const. McRae retrn [sic]. Home about 14.3.09. WJH." [inscription on verso]

5. "Wesleyan Church, Broken Hill" [caption on front]
 "Broken Hill 24th January 1909. Attended evening service at this church. Rev. Wellington preacher. His discourse was not becoming of the cloth. He appears to be an extreme socialist. WJH."
 21st Feby [sic] 1909
 "Attended evening service at the Wesleyan Church Rev Wellington again preached which was a fair sermon he spoke from fearless stand point. I am going again when off duty. WJH" [inscription on verso]

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6. "British Mill, Broken Hill" [caption on front]
"Broken Hill, 28th January 1909. Visited this mine, went down to the 800 feet level & brought one specimen away. Manager Mr Sampson. Engineer Mr Abbott." [inscription on verso]
7. "Tommy. The Black Tracker at Broken Hill, N.S.W. Police." [caption on front]
"Broken Hill 29-1-09. Willie. The troopers had a job to get Tommy the Black tracker to hold up his head to get his photo taken. How would he suit Elsie [?] may be Maggie's better, say nothing of Miss Sly Boots. How is Charley Hemmings getting on. I have have [sic] forgotten Maggie's No. of Bridge Rd. I want to send her mother some P.C's [postcards] not her would not take such liberty. Be a good boy and don't be too hard on Arthur." [inscription on verso]
8. "The Strike. Tom Mann Train 31/1/09" [caption on front]
"1st Card. For Family only. 2 more cards to follow. Tom Mann was bound over at Broken Hill, Police Court when let out on bail after being committed for trial for Riot on the 9th of January 1909. Not to take part in the present Industrial Dispute pending his trial. As that only applied to the State of N.S.W. an excursion was organised to Lochburn distance of 28 miles from Broken Hill, Fare 2/1 return. It was the longest train that has left Broken Hill consisting of the carriages and open" [inscription on verso]
9. "47 The Strike 1909. Tom Mann Train" [caption on front]
"2nd Card. For Family only. 1 more card to follow. ... open goods wagons. It is estimated that 2,700 people went. Lochburn is the border town of N.S.W. and South Australia. Tom Mann stood just across the border in the State of S.A. & addressed the crowd who stood in the State of N.S.W. The excursion on its return journey reached Broken Hill on Monday morning at 1 o'clock." [inscription on verso]
10. "45 The Strike 1909. Tom Mann Train" [caption on front]
"3rd Card. For Family only. Series complete. O'clock the weather was very cold. The excursion left Broken Hill about 3.30pm on Sunday 31st January 1909, with a brass band. The railway is 3 ft 6 in gauge. / WJH. / Broken Hill / 4-2-09 / Nights as a rule are cold here. We are 800 ft above sea level" [inscription on verso]
11. "30 The Strike 1909" [caption on front]
"Broken Hill Strike 1909. Change of Pickets, marching south side of Court House yard in Sulphide St, trades Hall in rear. Pickets are changed every four (4) hours. 12 MM, 4 a.m. 8 a.m. & 12 noon at 12 noon 4 & 8 pm with Band of Music in front of Pickets as shown in this picture. Brass band and Scottish Bagpipes are generally the bands. WJH, Broken Hill 3.2.09." [inscription on verso]
12. "Procession to the Goal, Sunday, Feb 21 (IW?), 1909" [caption on front]
"Barrier Lockout 1909. The A.M.A. has a Brass band, going up to the gaol to cheer up Unionists who are prisoners there. Purchased from the Union Photographer[s] 23/2/09" [inscription on verso]
13. "Procession to the Gaol, Sunday, Feb. 21 1909" [caption on front]

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- "Barrier Lockout 1909. The A.M.A. has a brass band going to the jail to cheer up unionists who are prisoners there. Purchased from the Union photographer 23.02.09."
[inscription on verso]
14. "Barrier Strike 1909. Police drilling at rear of Court House. 7-2.09" [caption on front]
Number 68 [printed on verso]
15. "Barrier Strike 1909. Police at drills. Left form." [caption on front]
"Photo taken by the Chief Clerk in the Clerk of Petty Sessions Office." [inscription on verso]
16. "53 Sulphide St. Station B.H." [caption on front]
"Broken Hill 12th February 1909. W.H. There are two (2) railway stations viz: -
Railway [?] the main station. Sulphide Street Station where the Mail train (which is
known as the Express) starts from." [inscription on verso]
17. 1898 Daily Barrier Truth General Printing Office [n.d.]
18. "Block 10 Mine, Broken Hill" [n.d.]
19. "Boycotting the Police at Broken Hill – The Sydney Bulletin pictures the police
supplying themselves with victuals after the storekeepers refused to do so" [caption on
front] [illustrated postcard]
"Mrs Harris" [inscription on verso]

1911 Strike Postcards

20. "Free labourers drying beds got from darn. 1911 Strike. Blast Furnace." H. Mellor
Photo. [caption on front] Printed by H.T. Mellor, Lithgow
21. "Free labourers fishing for belongings. 1911 Strike." H. Mellor Photo. [caption on
front] Printed by H.T. Mellor, Lithgow
22. "Police guarding entrance to Blast Furnace 1911 Strike." H. Mellor Photo. [caption on
front] Printed by H.T. Mellor, Lithgow
23. "Broken windows at Blast Furnace. 1911 Strike". H. Mellor Photo. [caption on front]
Printed by H.T. Mellor, Lithgow
24. "Wrecked motor car, Blast Furnace, 1911 Strike." H. Mellor Photo. [caption on front]
Printed by H.T. Mellor, Lithgow