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HARRY O'MAY : SCRAPBOOK

- 0.3 Scrapbook ND [1930s]
Presscuttings relating to the O'May and other Derwent ferry services,
Tasmanian shipping and history, also pay sheet of Rosny Estate & Ferry Co. Ltd
(18-28 June 1925), stuck into an old ledger volume.
(folio vol.)

HISTORICAL FERRY SERVICE.

O'MAY BROS. PTY. LTD., Ferry Wharf, Murray Street, Hobart. Established in 1865. The family came to Tasmania in 1856 from Scotland, Mr. Robert O'May serving in the engine-room of the ferry steamer "Kangaroo." Nine years later the brothers, Thomas and Robert O'May, started in business for themselves, being

later joined by Jas. O'May, and for 7 years pulled ferry boats to and fro, the first venture in steam being with the "Enterprise" in 1872. This steamer was built at Hobart, and engined by John Clark, and was 45 feet long. Although the accommodation was primitive as compared with the present up-to-date service, she served the purpose well, and 5 years later a new



vessel, the "Success," 56 feet long, fitted with engines by Appleby Bros., of London, was added with improved accommodation. Still continuing to grow the firm added the "Result" to their fleet, she being a similar vessel to the "Success." It was then found necessary to lengthen the "Enterprise" to 56 feet, and later on the fine ship "Victory," 90 feet on keel, was built; and in 1889 she was followed by the "Silver Crown," a similar vessel to the "Victory," built by Bayes, of Battery Point, and engined by Ross and Duncan, of Glasgow. In 1894 the O'May Bros. took over the Beltana Ferry Co., and the "Endeavour" was

run to Beltana (now known as Lindisfarne). Mr. Thos. O'May died in 1886, the business then being carried on by his two brothers, James and Robert. In 1900 Mr. Robert O'May died, and his share of the business was taken over by his two sons, Harry and George, Mr. James O'May admitting his son, Mr. E. W. O'May, into the partnership, and in 1903 they purchased the vehicular paddle steamer "Kangaroo" from the late



Capt. James S. Taylor. The business had been steadily growing, and in 1905 the S.S. "Derwent" was built for the Bellerive service. In 1912 the firm merged into the Rosny Estates and Ferry Co., with Mr. Jas. O'May as manager. In 1913 the S.S. "Rosny" was built, and put into the Lindisfarne ferry service, but this vessel was found to be too large for the trade, and she was sold to the Williamstown City Council for the run between Port Melbourne and Williamstown, the "Silver Crown" being used in the Lindisfarne run. Mr. Jas. O'May retired from the management in 1921, his position being taken over by Mr. H. O'May. The company purchased the S.S. "Lindisfarne" from the Lindisfarne Ferry Co. in 1923, and two years later the V.S. "Kangaroo" was sold to the Tasmanian Government. In 1926 the Rosny Estates and Ferry Co. went into voluntary liquidation, and the wharves and vessels were advertised for sale by tender, H. and G. O'May being the only tenderers. However, the liquidator did not accept their offer, and the vessels were sold to the Reemere S.S. Co., who took up the running in 1927. On the same day H. and G. O'May chartered the splendid little vessel "Maweena," with which they started on the Bellerive run. They continued until on January 19th, 1929, she was mysteriously burnt at her berth at Bellerive at 2.30 a.m. Arrangements were made by telephone to charter the S.S. "Mongana," a friend took the crew to Hobart by motor launch, and the running was taken up at 7 a.m., with twenty minutes to spare. In July, 1929, the Reemere S.S. Co. went out of business, and H. and G. O'May formed a small company, and took over the steamers, including the S.S. "Reemere," which they put into the Lindisfarne service. The S.S. "Rosny" was bought back from the Williamstown City Council in 1931, and, in conjunction with the S.S. "Derwent," is used in the Bellerive service. Messrs. H. and G. O'May are ably assisted in the business by their brother, Mr. S. R. O'May, and Mr. D. G. O'May, a son of Mr. G. O'May. The O'May Bros. are proud of the fact that from March, 1921, to date they have never lost a trip on the Bellerive run, in spite of the fact that the "Maweena" was lost by fire, and the other obstacles which have been encountered from time to time. The house flag of the O'May Bros., a red flag with a blue and white ball, designed by the late Mr. Robert O'May, and first flown on the "Enterprise" in 1872, is considered the oldest in Tasmania.

