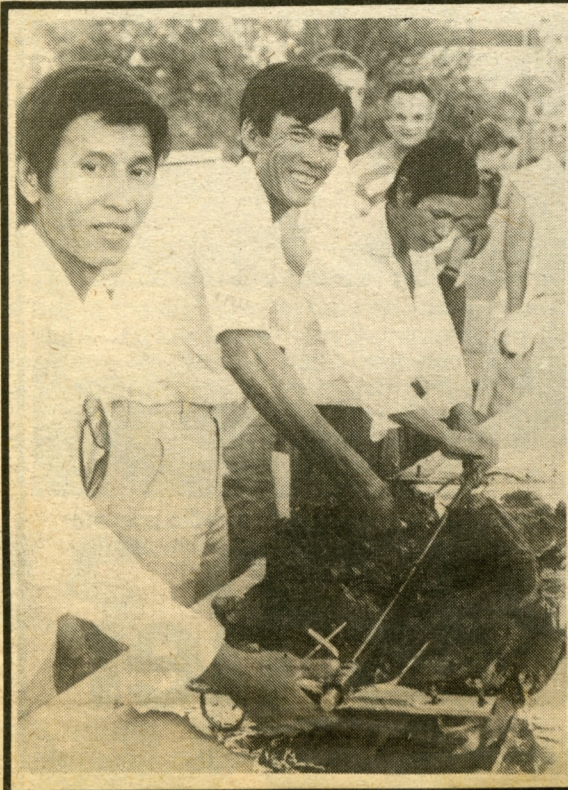


Bicentennial funding has been granted for three restoration projects in Central Australia: Hermannsburg mission settlement, the Ghan Preservation Project and Old Telegraph Station. The funds will be supplied by the Territory and Federal governments.



# Battle for Sadadeen

## Dragon steals show

It was the eve of the Vietnamese Year of the Cat last Wednesday night ... but it was a dragon which stole the show.

At a celebration at the Santa Theresa town house, where many Vietnamese families have begun their life in Alice Springs, the ritual dance of the dragon (above) marked the start of the New Year.

Members of the town's 100-strong Vietnamese community threw a huge feast and invited many of the European community who have helped them settle to join in.

There were two pigs roasted on a spit (above left), hundreds of spring rolls and a variety of spicy salads for an authentic Vietnamese flavor - as well as plenty of good Australian beer.

Vietnamese Community chairman Thong Duong said it was seven years since the first family of Vietnamese refugees arrived in the Centre.

Special guest at the ceremony, Mayor Leslie Oldfield, said a "miracle" had come into Alice Springs with the arrival of the Vietnamese people.

"It is our mix of different cultures that makes us unique," Mrs Oldfield said.

Last Wednesday night was also the eve of the Chinese new year - the year of the rabbit.

The CLP's decision to dump sitting member Dennis Collins has created an unprecedented four-way contest for the seat of Sadadeen.

Three of the candidates are past or present CLP members.

Observers expect the electorate to be the site of one of the hardest-fought battles of the election.

Chief Minister Steve Hatton could announce a March poll any time.

Mr Collins, who has held Sadadeen for seven years, was dumped by the CLP pre-selection committee in favor of party president Shane Stone.

After an appeal to the Central Executive at the weekend failed to overturn the decision, Mr Collins confirmed he would run without party backing as "an Independent Country Liberal."

Also running for the seat will be journalist Meredith Campbell (ALP) and alderman Lynne Peterkin (Nationals).

To date no candidates have announced how they would direct their voting preferences - their decisions could decide who holds the seat.

But despite the uncertainty of running in so wide a field all say they are optimistic about their chances.

Mr Collins said he was certain the CLP would lose one seat - Sadadeen.

"I will support the government on most issues I believe are important," he said.

By MICK CAREY

"But I will be free to give constructive criticism on matters which in the past I have been muzzled on because of the party system."

Answering speculation that he would join the Nationals if re-elected, Mr Collins said: "I would not attempt to join any party without first fully consulting with the electorate and would abide by the majority's wishes."

ALP candidate Meredith Campbell, a journalist with the Aboriginal Affairs Department, believes Collins's profile within his electorate makes him her most serious opponent.

"But with all the confusion among the conservative parties I expect the voters to look for a real alternative," she said.

### Positive

Despite the ALP's poor showing in the 1983 poll Ms Campbell is positive about her chances.

She attributes this to the change in the electorate's make-up since the addition of the Sadadeen housing estate and the new Eastside sub-division, which also provides a major issue for her campaign.

"These sub-divisions were developed without the immediate provision of basic social services such as shops or a neighborhood centre," she said.

"A comprehensive approach to town

planning and community development is still needed in an electorate that missed out on getting proper social services from the government since its emergence from the scrub 10 years ago."

CLP candidate Shane Stone sees the issues differently.

"The electorate has been well serviced by the Government, although there may be room for improvement," he said.

"My concern is with the bread and butter issues facing all Territorians - cost of living, improved medical and health services and Territorians having a greater say in their destiny.

"I don't take this contest lightly but I believe that at the end of the day people vote for parties rather than individuals."

Lynne Peterkin, a long-standing member of the CLP, was endorsed by the NT Nationals last week.

She said she had based her decision to leave the party on "their loss of direction."

"For the past year I watched the CLP in-fighting with growing concern until I came to the conclusion that in the long term they were not getting anywhere.

"My move was not ideological; I was and still am conservative.

"The platforms and policies of the CLP and the Nationals are similar but it is the Nationals who will be in a position to continue what the CLP were once doing."

### FIDLER AND SCARCE

- Chain Saws
- Generators
- Welders
- Pumps
- Engines
- Compressors
- Cement Mixers
- Power Tools
- Garages
- Industrial Buildings

ELDER ST, ALICE SPRINGS, PHONE 52 2566

111865v1

## SA 'Colosseum' to rival Ayers Rock: Page 19

### L.J.HOOKER

ALICE SPRINGS

**IRVING STREET \$90 000**

This residence features four (4) bedrooms (all with built-in robes), rumpus room, carpeted throughout, oil heater, ducted air conditioning, with wood panelling feature walls. Externally improvements include double carport, double garage, fruit trees and established pergolas and garden.

AFFORDABLE LIVING IN QUIET LOCATION.

L. J. HOOKER -

ALICE SPRINGS

101989v1

Licensed Land and Business Agents  
25 Todd St., Alice Springs

Phone (089) 526333