

Dorothy Victoria TUFF 29 November 1920 – 23 December 2009

## TAA Finance

Dorothy Victoria Tuff, stalwart of TAA Finance department for decades, was born on 29 November 1920 and died on 23 December 2009.

Conscientious but friendly to all, Dot was loved by all. Amongst a whole gaggle (or giggle) of women on 339 Swanston Street's ninth floor and then on the fifth floor Franklin Street, who filed and matched every coupon of a domestic ticket, that is, the finance posting coupon, flight travel coupon one and flight travel coupon two, any replacement coupons, refunded coupons, CTCs (Certified True Copy) for any mislaid or lost flight coupons, Dorothy with Pat Courtney, Irene Webber (auntie of Reg Bush TAA sales rep), Alison Belford and others, made sure that any and all enquiries regarding travel, non-travel, refunded travel were able to be answered quickly, efficiently and correctly by accessing the appropriate coupon; ask Russ Grayson. The issuing office coupon was kept by the issuing office of course and the passenger copy on the inside back cover was retained by the passenger.

After a long career with TAA, Dorothy retired but did not say goodbye to TAA. A member of the TAA 25 Year Club and a founding member of the TAA Museum, Dorothy took responsibility, as only she would, to sort and catalogue the hundreds of photographs from the original collection as well as those which continued to arrive at the museum. Assisted by Lois Gale, the two ladies completed their cataloguing late in November 2009. Dorothy died on 23 December 2009; how like Dorothy to make sure that the job was completed.

But Dorothy had another aspect to her life and one which played a very important part; she was a Geelong barracker from way back, and like all true footy followers, Dorothy was passionate about her team. She did not go to games very much but she never missed listening to Geelong's games every Saturday afternoon (those were the days) on Radio Station 3 GL.

Three personal reminiscences and an anecdote; it is apposite that I write these few words about Dorothy, albeit inadequate for the subject, especially as I wrote recently on Bill Shepherd. With Bill Shepherd, Dorothy and I formed a trio of older concert goers who regularly attended the then Victorian Symphony Orchestra's Youth Concerts. The time and location were convenient because the concerts started at 6.30pm which gave us time to go to one of the restaurants at the foot of Swanston Street and still make it on time to the Melbourne Town Hall. And home not too late.

Dorothy, Irene Webber and I for years bought a weekly Tatts ticket which you had to give a syndicate name to in those days; ours was ES&A for obvious reasons. Weakly might be a better word for it, because I do not remember ES&A ever winning a prize, not even the lowest prize which, I think, was a refund of the cost of the ticket.

Finally, when I got married in 1967 Dorothy was one of two Finance colleagues we invited to our wedding.

The anecdote: early in the 1960s, a young lad arrived at work hungover from the night before, much the worse for wear and hardly able to keep his eyes open. Dorothy, Pat and the other ladies took him in charge; they found a soft spot for him out of sight behind a bank of files and let him sleep. They checked on him regularly during the day till it was time to clock off; which they did, and he did.

Before you jump to conclusions, no, I was not that lad, but he and I became great friends soon after, through a mutual love of jazz.