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"SUNNYSIDE"--ITS RESTORATION AND DEDICATION

[Excerpts from a letter written by Elder A. J. Campbell
who serves temporarily as custodian.]

"Sunnyside"
Avondale Road
Cooranbong, N. S. W.
17th Nov. 1960

Elder A. L. White
c/o General Conference of S. D. A.
Washington 12, D. C., U. S. A.

Dear Brother White,

We are making final arrangements here for the official opening of "Sunnyside" next Sunday, the 20th. This will take place in the afternoon, after the College graduation which will be held the morning of the same day. We wish you could be here, Brother White! . . .

"Sunnyside" is looking very nice now, both without and within. Four parcels of your books arrived yesterday, just nicely in time. Thank you for arranging to have same posted.

The "Selectovision" machine is in operation, and with some nice seats, it is like a little "theatrette," which time serves as a little rest and relax time after looking through the display room. . . .

Those typewritten copies [on display cards of handwritten letters on display] you kindly arranged to send are now in position--that is fine, and many thanks. Anything special you may run onto at any time in the same connection we would be very pleased to have. . . .

The set-up at "Sunnyside" is in brief as follows:

As one enters front door (1) left, old-time roll-cover writing desk, Remington typewriter last century (gift by Remington). Bible that Sister White spoke from in Hamilton Church, Newcastle. A cute little writing desk of hers (Mrs. Thorp's gift). Large photo of S. H. F. Factory (first decade of this century). Set-up of S. D. A. papers and periodicals. Photo of Norman and Mrs. Wiles. Photo of Elder G. F. Jones, and a painting of one of our Central New Guinea Mission stations. Large photo of S. H. F. Co's factory at Cooranbong around 1910. (Another in hall of first factory from 1900 on and a third in large room at back of present large factory). An oval table belonging to Sister White.

(2) Second room to left: several show cases. One contains copy of original deeds to this estate. There is seen Elder Corliss' Bible, from

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which the message was first preached in South and West Australia. Several of Sister White's original letters are here, including the one to the late Sister Radley. The pulpit of the Avondale Village Church is also in Room 1 from which Sister White gave several addresses. Strange to say, I was the last preacher to use it.

(3) First room on right: small roll-top desk belonging to Sister White, on which I am typing now. Was used by the late Brother Pocock, foreman in the S. H. Factory, and probably used there for more than forty years. Sister White gave him the desk. Also here is found a chair of Sister White's which she gave to the old Australasian Union Conference, and it was in the office there for over fifty years.

(3) Room 3, continued. Also a very nice folding table owned by Sister White. Also her rocking chair, and a beautiful bookcase with "gothic" fretwork throughout. On the old mantelpiece is an old and very beautiful marble clock given by the Anderson family. It was a wedding present to the late Pastor A. W. Anderson and his first wife. And ticks away faithfully as of old time. My old friend Roy Anderson will know all about this! Photo of W. C. White holding the large family Bible. Another of A. G. Daniells, one of Sister White, and one of Elmshaven.

(4) Room No. 4 (on right), Dutchess and bedroom furniture owned by Mrs. White and a pair of angel ornaments (these are really just beautiful, and are very appropriate). In this room is a little round table that can be adjusted up or down. We hear that it was used in connection with the writing of the Desire of Ages. It is very novel indeed.

(5) Room No. 5. Directly through from the hall. Here we find the "Selectovision" machine, which is doing a fine work. On one wall hangs a lovely painting of Mrs. White done by Eric Weir very recently. Here is a period Mason and Hamlin organ donated by a Sydney music company. Here also is a round table possessed by Mrs. White.

(6) Room No. 6. Leading from this is the Prayer Room, in which is one of her chairs and a mat.

(7) Room No. 7. Through the archway to the left is the largest room in the building. There is to be found a fine set of her chairs. Pastor Clifford, Division president, with a helper reconditioned these in a most acceptable manner. There is a fine large table, but not Mrs. White's, also a matching sideboard. Here hangs a fine large photo of Mrs. White taken when she was in Australia--rather this one is enlarged from a photo of her taken in Australia. Here hangs a beautiful large painting of a large log being pulled by a team of horses to a saw-mill. This is most appropriate. It was painted by Brother Weir as a present for his bride, just before they were married. Earlier this year Sister Bessie Weir was buried in the Avondale cemetery, having died from cancer. (Bro. Tucker, who had a room here at "Sunnyside" in Sister White's time, died here and

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was first to be buried in this well-kept cemetery.) She was one of the daughters of the late George Fisher, the second manager of the Sanitarium Health Food Co.

The Weirs were in New Guinea for some time, and spent three years near us when we were at our Kainantu Station, Central New Guinea.

You may have seen some of his film work sent to the General Conference, and his promotion film to support this Division's sponsoring for its overflow from last quarter's Sabbath School offering. We have in one room also a fine oil painting done by Brother Weir of our Kainantu Mission Station, C. N. G. It is near the picture of the late Pastor G. F. Jones.

Most of the fine consignment of Mrs. White's books presented to "Sunnyside" by the Signs Publishing Company are found in this room. On the large table, with its beautiful red cloth, is a fine globe of the world, of the new physical type, showing the mountains raised, and the depressions. On a card by it is that excellent statement about the "light" going "clear round the world." A fine painting by Brother Weir of the Pitcairn approaching Pitcairn Island in 1895 hangs above a bookcase in this room depicting Mrs. White's smaller books.

At the back of the building is the reconditioned well--the well that was in use back there. The new garage with storage space and two toilets are back of this.

The grounds are looking very nice with their new trees, shrubs and citrus trees (latter at back). A nice sign near one of the two pairs of front gates, done by Brother Weir, has the name "Sunnyside" arched in gold on a black ground, set off by green bordering. A neat little white mailbox with red roof is attached to a post nearby. The fencing is white. The gates are metal, and aluminum painted. The building is a light gray, picked out in white. The other evening we saw one of the loveliest sunsets ever, which seemed like a beautiful benediction upon "Sunnyside"--the reflection from this turned the gray into mauve, and the white into various shades of pink. They were long-lasting sunset colors of rare beauty. It greatly impressed us.

[Later] The 20th November proved to be a beautiful day, when "Sunnyside" was dedicated. Pastor F. G. Clifford gave the address, and Pastor Watts of the General Conference turned the key, and the grand old building, "resurrected" as it were, was officially open. Hundreds of people were present, and Avondale Road in front was lined with cars on both sides for a long way. Brethren Watts and Clifford opened the Visitors' Book with their signatures. We had had to let a number of people through previously because they could not return. We obtained their signatures and pasted them in since the opening date.

The same evening closed the graduation exercises of the Australasian Missionary College, when 66 certificates were given out, and so another grand class of Seventh-day Adventist young people are now on their ways to take up various assignments in Australasia! Another wonderful fulfillment of the plans and dreams of those earlier days of great and wonderful faith. We in-

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deed "take off our hats" to the pioneers, and are more impressed than ever at the Lord's leadings through His servant, Sister E. G. White. Three of our dear friends have been called to the mission field, two to New Guinea and one to the Solomon Islands--five I should say. And we think again of Sister White's statement that afternoon in 1899 at the Village Church! There were a number of graduates, fine young folk, from south-east Asia also.

Brother Pat Blanche brought some of our New Guinea goods up from Wahroonga day before yesterday, and with him came Florence Peterfreund, a Jewess, from New York. Brought into the message by Brother Roy Anderson, I understand. . . . She has suffered much persecution from her parents over her stand, it seems. They are now on a trip round the world, taking Florence with them. She did succeed in coming to Avondale. Brother Blanche had Brother Zeunert phone her parents, and they consented for her to stay at the college. She returned to Sydney today. We also had Brother Donald call with his family. At one time he was Postmaster General for New Zealand, and is reputed to be a "millionaire." "Sunnyside" has had about 400 visitors to date. Also, it is having a good uplifting influence in the community. It is so good to know that it has risen from the state to which it had fallen. This itself has caused much surprise. . . .

With kindest wishes,

Yours sincerely in the Master's service,

(signed) A. J. Campbell