

# OVERLAND

NUMBER THREE, AUTUMN, 1955

ONE SHILLING



"He stuck up the Beechworth mail coach, and robbed Judge MacEroy,  
Who trembled and gave up his gold to the Wild Colonial Boy."

Line cut by Rea Edwards

## WRITING BY:

*Ted Harrington, John Manifold, Frank Hardy, Max  
Bollinger, Vance Palmer, Roland Robinson, Ian Turner,  
Helen Palmer, Hugh Anderson, Merv Lilley, David  
Martin, David Forrest, Rex Mortimer, Jim Crawford,  
Dave Smith, Ironbark and others.*

## A STEP BACK?

We have received many letters praising the vigor and initiative of *Overland*.

We have kept faith with our readers by increasing size and cramming as much reading as possible into each issue.

*Overland's* readers now receive over 20,000 words of reading matter in each issue—for a fraction of the price of other literary magazines.

Furthermore, we need the space, for our contributors have original and important things to say.

Next issue, however, we will revert to 16 pages if our support does not become more evident.

This can only be seen as a backward step. We regret it.

The main troubles are these:

- Readers of *Overland* are not showing the magazine to their friends and workmates, are not talking about it and popularising it.
- Those who do read it are often not supporting it with their subscriptions. Any magazine must rely on subscriptions—only a fraction of the price is received from copies sold in shops. In the whole of Sydney, for instance, there are still only 13 subscribers to *Overland*.
- We are proud to be selling 1500 copies of each issue, but this is still not enough to make much impact on the initial heavy charges for setting and composing. Cost of producing of the magazine is about 1/3 an issue, and shop sales, free copies and current subscriptions all reduce the cash return.
- Well-wishers are not helping with donations, large or small.
- Those groups of writers throughout Australia who support *Overland*, and whose work *Overland* largely exists to forward, have yet to look upon the magazine as their own property, and to make it their task to popularise it imaginatively and enthusiastically.

We know we have a big future as a magazine—a job we are just settling down into.

Already the very existence of *Overland* has acted as a stimulus to writing, reading and research.

It's up to you whether it continues to go forward, or takes a step to the rear.

## CULTURE?—THAT'S RED!

Any thoughts lingering in anyone's mind that McCarthyism in Australia would know when to stop should be dispelled by the recent pointless appearance before the Royal Commission of such respected cultural figures as Clem Christensen and Clive Turnbull, and the mentioning of Colin Simpson.

In addition we must note that the much-criticised passport ban has not been applied to Frank Hardy, writer, and to Miss Nell Old, poetess, school teacher and *Overland* contributor.

The latest information from the U.S. shows where the situation could get to in Australia.

Thoreau's *Walden* is the latest book withdrawn from the United States Information Agency's overseas library service. "This action comes in the nick of time," comments *Masses and Mainstream*, "when you remember that a lot of Americans have this year been celebrating the hundredth anniversary of Thoreau's assault on our way of life."

The checklists of the U.S.I.A. contain over 7000 names of authors, artists and composers. Among those whose works are banned from American libraries overseas are Professor Henry Seidel Canby, Aaron Copland, Julian Huxley, Frederick Schuman, Edgar Snow and Dorothy Parker.

The complete list of banned cultural figures, comments *Masses and Mainstream*, "reads like a 'Who's Who' in the realm of American culture."

Ernest Hemingway was also on the list but was hurriedly dropped from it when he was recently awarded the Nobel Prize. This saved an embarrassing headline splash—NOBEL PRIZE WINNER BLACK LISTED BY UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY.

The notorious Roy Cohn, McCarthy counsel, when asked about the choice of speakers for a television program, said "Any author is out."

Those Australian more-or-less-public figures dallying with the Keons, Warburths and the potential witch-hunters of the "Congress for Cultural Freedom" might well reflect on this clear proof that the "anti-Communist" crusade is aimed at all independent thought, all democratic ideas: It is a noose for liberty.