

## Lasseter info wanted.

Aug 18, '04 3:10 PM  
by [nightjar](#) for everyone

Hello members,

I am trying to get hold of books and any written material relating to Lasseter.

Hells Airport- Author Errol Coote

Lasseter's Last Ride- Author Idriess (Not sure of the spelling)

Have looked at his diary at the Lasseteria site but would need a hat load of printer cartridges to download, so a condensed version in book form would also be appreciated.

I've tried all of the well known book stores and they can't help me.

If you have the books, any other info and diary gathering dust in your bookshelf and have no further use for them can you unload them at the right price?

auriferously

nightjar

## 249 Comments



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Aug 19, '04

Hi, Peter, I have most of the Lasseter literature including the diary, but would prefer to hang on to them. You want me to watch the bookshops for you?



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 19, '04

Good morning Hardrock,

I need every scrap of information that can be bought, begged or borrowed (Will leave out the stolen)

Your help in keeping a lookout at the book stores would be most welcome.

Somewhere sometime I think in every prospector's life thoughts go out whether Lasseter's Reef is for real or the greatest hoax put down by our historians.

Cheers

Peter



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 19, '04

Dear Nightjar,

I didn't think LASSETERIA was that big!—perhaps you are referring to that part I call 'Sullivan's Diary' a daily log of where all those shysters were in the search for Lasseter's Reef. The best site for perusing Lasseter's so called diary is the 'The Flight of Ducks' at [www.acmi.net.au](http://www.acmi.net.au), great site.

Coote's 'Hell's Airport' is not a bad read, but be prepared to pay up to a \$100 plus from antiquarian bookshops. do not buy the edition edited by Stapleton, it leaves out the details of Coote's 1932 search for the reef based in the Warburton Ranges.

-

As for Idriess, you have the spelling right and Lasseter's Last Ride should be readily available from second hand bookstores, I've not seen a reprint for many years and some of those have left the all-important photos out.

As for searching for Lasseter's Reef, agreed, for no other reason than to enjoy the ambience of the 'Centre—at the right time of the year of course! Unfortunately you want find any gold in Lasseter Country, wrong geology.

Indeed it was a hoax, but the little hoax perpetrated by Lasseter got way out of hand in the halls of Federal Parliament and the A.C.T.U. headquarters in Sydney, you might say Lasseter became a victim of his tall story.

Have a look at entry 25 in LASSETERIA, the bibliography, for some leads on information, but the best source is the National Archives Australia, especially the digital files, useful key words are GOLD, CENTRAL AUSTRALIA, LASSETER and C.A.G.E. in the date range 1928-1932. And I might add you will enjoy great value for your tax dollar, by far the best Archival site in the World. And I reckon I've turned most of them over in the search for Lasseter material.

And LASSETERIA is headed for hard covers, when the next hundred or so entries are written up and Sullivan's Diary completed.

Let us know how you go.

Regards

Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 19, '04

Thanks Sullivan,

Your help is appreciated, just need to find time now to wade through all of this.

I agree Lasseter country is not auriferous, however it is fact he had with him some large specimens when he was found almost dead from lack of water?

Very intriguing mystery.

Regards

Peter



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 19, '04

Hello again Nightjar,

Sorry to destroy another furphy regarding Lasseter, HE NEVER HAD ANY GOLD SPECIMENS, that bit of nonsense came straight from Fred Blakeley's pen out of Dream Millions, another book that you should add to your collection, see if you can get the second edition, it has an index. Apart from Burke, Blakeley would have to be the most inept fellow that ever lead an expedition anywhere, he was decidedly 'odd' believed in ghosts and never kept a daily log of the first expedition, and if anything more lost than Lasseter. As a mate of mine says, "he wouldn't travel to the corner store with the fool". The 'gold specimen' story is an excellent example of creative and recycled history. I can elaborate if you are so minded.



Regards.  
Sullivan  
[reply](#)  
[msn-dig](#) wrote on Aug 20, '04  
Hi Peter!

I have sent you an email.

We have numerous new and second-hand books on Lasseters Reef as well as many others.  
For further information: please view our web-site:  
[www.treasureenterprises.com](http://www.treasureenterprises.com)

Regards:  
David Cooper  
Treasure Enterprises of Australia



[reply](#)  
[msn-jananne2](#) wrote on Aug 20, '04  
Hi everyone just a note to say that if you are after a particular book about Lassater try your local library as i have read his diaries. If they don't have it there they will get it in for you and it does not cost you anything. I do a lot of reseach at my library and can get some good gold stories from local towns in Vic and NSW.  
cheers

[reply](#)  
[msn-bob creasy](#) wrote on Aug 25, '04  
Peter

just a little imformation, back in the 60's I was for a short time head stockman on Owen Springs Station, the station cook was Alf Butler who at the Lasster time owened Palm River Stn whith Breaden, Alf introduced me to Johns who I think found Lasseter's body thier opinion he was not good enough bushman to have done what he claimed, Also we had a chap who had been working as camp cook on a Geological expidition to the Peterman Ranges in the 50's and the Geo's where able to pan gold ,at the time \$45 per oz  
regards Bob Creasy



[reply](#)  
[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Aug 25, '04  
Hey, Pete, if you want Fred Blakeley's 'Dream Millions', Felicity Books have it for \$20 plus postage  
[www.felicity.com.au](http://www.felicity.com.au)



[reply](#)  
[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 25, '04  
Hello Bob,

Regarding Lasseter, Johns, Alf Butler et al,

At the time Lasseter was making history, 1930/31, Alf Butler was in partnership with that '*notable centralian bushman*' Bob Buck at Middleton Ponds station. Buck was the fellow who was commissioned by C.A.G.E. to find Lasseter or his body or the reef, didn't matter what order. regards Buck's tracking skills, two quotes come to mind, "*couldn't find his way out of his own horse paddock*" and "*couldn't track a polar bear in a snow field*" and by all accounts Lasseter wasn't much better, but he wasn't necessarily lost when he perished at Shaw Creek. Breaden by the way was Buck's uncle.

As for Albert Paul Johns, he was deported from Australia in 1937 as nothing more or less than a common car thief, have a read of entry 138. at my web site LASSETERIA, [www.lasseteria.com](http://www.lasseteria.com) and consider the possibility that Johns may have murdered Lasseter, you may recall the 'famous' story, mostly from Idriess, about that donnybrook in the desert. And given Johns later activities with the Nazis

in Germany it's a distinct possibility. Johns never returned to Australia. Citizenship revoked, PERMANENTLY!!

I reckon I've tracked down every legitimate geological and prospecting expedition to the Petermann/Rawlinson's circa 1950's and I'd be mighty curious to learn which expedition and which camp cook, wasn't a chap by the name of Priest perchance?

Regards  
Sullivan.



reply

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Aug 26, '04

Hey, Sully, ever hear what happened to that feller who reckoned the co-ordinates were inverted and the 'Reef' was east of the Alice? I think he pegged a lease in the area.

reply

[msn-bob creasy](#) wrote on Aug 26, '04

Sullivan Hello,

I am trying to remember facts in the back of my head, Alf Butler arrived in Alice Springs in 1901 with 19 horses and in the following years formed 3 stations which he lost because a drinking problem, I think I met Buck so where did the recollection of Johns come from, Breaden I presume was dead by the time I arrived though his son Bruce was in the camp. The chap who worked for the geological expedition I think his name was Smith he was working at Owen Springs as some sort of mechanic

not much help

regards Bob

PS have included a photo of myself out side the original Owen Springs Homestead

reply

[msn-bob creasy](#) wrote on Aug 26, '04

I will try to attach photo again

Attachment: [Owen springs \(563 x 558\).jpg](#)

reply

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Aug 26, '04

Geez, you were a handsome brute in your day, Bob. :-)

reply

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 26, '04

Thanks Jananne2----- for your advice on library research.

Bob----- it is the oldtimers that can most times put a jigsaw together with recollections and experiences from the 'real' people at the time, would be interested in keeping in contact. You have my email address?

Hardrock----- Dream Millions is on its way. And I agree Bob cut as a dashing young fella, you forgot to mention his horse?

Sullivan-----You have collected interesting information however with so much research one can not help but think that deep down you have respect for Lasseter and that maybe he was telling the truth and you are trying to unravel the mystery to his wanderings that will one day reveal the location? It is fact that he communicated that he would bury written information at given locations, do you really believe he would concoct such a story which would ultimately result in his death?

You mention that Lasseter country is not auriferous, is this based on personal/researched geological expertise?

You obviously know that NOT ONE major mineral/ metal mining region in Australia has been found by a geologist, they have all been found by prospectors? Probably a long disputed and I believe is still current is the discovery of the Telfer Gold Mine.

(PLEASE no disrespect to Geologists)

Regards



Peter

[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 26, '04  
Morning Hardrock,

And what a story that is, goes something like this,

ALLEGEDLY in 1917 Harry Lasseter and a fellow by the name of Joe Harding were in the Royal Adelaide Hospital together, Lasseter having his head repaired after a drunken street brawl where he was done over by 'The King Hit Gang' (according to Lasseter) and Harding was suffering from nephritis. Harding was formerly the manager/owner of the Glencoe pub at Arltunga and while in hospital supposedly told Lasseter of a reef of gold some 800 miles WEST of Carnarvon in Queensland (there are ten Carnarvon's in Qld and which one has never been clearly stated) and 300 miles EAST of Alice Springs thus making this particular Harding's reef somewhere in the Toko Ranges or thereabouts.

It seems that Lasseter's head injuries affected his short term memory and when he got around to retelling his wild yarn in 1929 he got his East's and West's mixed up as well as the states, thus we have the common story of his reef being located 800 miles EAST of Carnarvon in W.A. and 300 miles WEST of Alice Springs.

So a modern day lateral thinker has come along and wondered if Lasseter had perhaps muddled his directions given to him by Joe Harding, found a suitable Carnarvon in Queensland, measured 800 miles west from there to a point that happens to be about 300 miles east of Alice Springs and lo and behold he found Lasseter's Reef, even to finding those all important landmarks 'The Three Sisters'. Now that is inspired! And yes he did peg the reef but it became an Aboriginal sacred site, now all of that sounds remarkably familiar.

Perhaps the biggest flaw in our friend's story is the fact that Lasseter clearly stated in writing to both the W.A. Mines Dept and the Federal Govt. that three years after his rescue by Harding, he and Harding returned to the reef by travelling overland from Carnarvon in W.A. which leaves him about 600 miles short of Harding's reef in the Toko's.

And now to Harding, there was NEVER any surveyor Harding around to succour Lasseter after he was rescued by the Afghan (or was it the dogger or the sandal wood gather) And Calanchini from the W.A. Mines Dept at the time, clearly stated so. I have half a dozen assorted Harding's on my files and the best fit is the Joe Harding mentioned above who MAY have been in hospital at the same time as Lasseter and he may have planted the seed that became Lasseter's Reef. Besides Lasseter could not have been rescued by Harding in 1897 because that was the year Harry was in the jug for armed robbery!!

Regards,



Sullivan.

[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 26, '04

Morning Nightjar,

Good to hear a copy of 'DREAM MILLIONS' is on it's way, read it and weep for poor old Freddy Blakeley, let me know if it has an index, possibly not, and if so I'll send you one, both editions are exactly the same.

Re Lasseter, I have precious little respect for the lying thieving bigamist scoundrel and I'm not the slightest bit interested in his Gold Reef per se, for the simple reason it doesn't exist. What I am interested in is how his little fraud got way out of hand in the halls of Federal Parliament and A.W.U. Central Branch in Sydney, and you don't reckon the Bailey's had a high old time on the shareholders money thereafter.

And yes, poor Harry was deluded enough to get himself stranded out in the Petermanns and so perish, and when I use the word deluded I mean exactly that! to put in plain terms the fellow was a fruit loop. BUT he may not have been the one who concocted the story. And as for burying things under camp fires, why would you, a sane person would be carrying every skerrick of evidence on him to salve his reputation.

As for Lasseter Country not being auriferous, based on both, but the country has been crissed crossed by the real experts, Sprigg, Joklik, Madigan et al, it has been drilled, panned, costeaned, loamed, stream sampled, geochemed, from the ground, the air and space, sorry mate NO GOLD! And has it been prospected, I've lost count of the number of expeditions that've been out there, some expert, a lot remarkably inexpert and whether turned over by the Geo's or the Prospectors the results are the same. The only gold out there are the sunsets.

As for the Geo's not finding any major mineral fields, now that is a seriously flawed argument. Firstly Geology is a relatively modern science and the prospectors were on the scene long before the Geo's, even the Pharo'e's were PROSPECTING for the stuff and they had never heard of geology, hence the old saying, 'Gold is where you find it' And my favourite geological detective story is Roxby Downs, brilliant effort, and how about the Santos story, superb geology.

Regards Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 27, '04

Hello Sullivan,

Can't dispute your research, however your mention that no sane person would bury evidence would have to be disputed. Countless explorers buried food, directions and notes for those following them. If notes and diaries had been kept on their person they could have been blown to the four winds by the time their remains were found if they happened to suffer misfortune. If we are to believe Lasseter, he knew he was dying, he knew the aborigines would scatter his belongings and did. The idea of burying his notes under his fire was communicated however before and during his search, if it hadn't been why would any sane person dig below any old campfires. Why did Hamre & Pittendrigh discard their salty sausages only to retrieve them later?

Surely if were acting positively you would carry the food in the expectation that water would be located, and was.

Our minds work in very strange ways so I don't believe Lasseter's accounts should be discarded entirely. As you mentioned he was able to get backing from very high places and these learned people would not have suffered a "fruit loop" without thorough investigation. Considering the country was in the throws of depression and money was very thin on the ground.

There are many unanswered questions that we may never know unless one day a prospector trips over Lasseter's Reef?

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Aug 27, '04

Re the Pharaohs, I think the oldest existing map in the world is of a gold mine in Egypt. If you want a fascinating read, try looking up ancient mining and metallurgy, both on the net and at libraries. Incredible what the real oldtimers did by trial and error. Many of the oldest mines were re-worked in the modern era.



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 28, '04

Morning Nightjar,

You and I are going to be accused of monopolising this board, but as long as you keep asking the right questions...

Firstly to Pittendrigh and Hamre, well what a couple of turkeys these two were, and for a book load of reasons, mind you Idriess wrote the book. The fools discarded their tinned sausages because it was thought they were too salty, hence increased water consumption. Precisely the same reason that Lasseter gave his six tins of corned beef to the Aboriginals, as per page 82 of his diary. (didn't give 'em a tin opener though)

Next, to Lasseter's mental state being known to the Canberra and Sydney crowd, it sure was, Texas Green was the Minister of Defence at the time and had easy access to Lasseter's military record which shows phrases like 'mentally deficient', 'has marked hallucinations' and 'has peculiar manner is constantly talking'. Herbert Gepp and Dr. Keith Ward interviewed Lasseter regarding his reef on 14/11/29 and Ward commented that he found Lasseter 'quite unbalanced'. It was Green who instigated the interview and Ward and Gepp were a couple of very senior and influential Public Servants. Yep, they knew all about Harry.

And the Canberra and Sydney crowd didn't back Lasseter, they backed themselves with other peoples money, and when he had served his purpose Lasseter was discarded, or to put in more trenchant terms 'abandoned in the desert' hence no serious attempt to find him until it was too late.

Harry served a very useful purpose; he was nothing more or less than a catalyst for publicity to raise wild speculation about the possibility of an immense gold field out in Central Australia, which brings up the next point about the Depression. The newly elected Scullin Govt was in desperate straights in those days and had a real cargo cult mentality about gold. It had saved the country in every other financial crisis and would do so again providing someone found another Kalgoorlie. And the best way to do that was to get the troublesome masses of unemployed out of the cities and into the bush prospecting, who knows one of them may stumble on a bonanza and save the country. And the most likely place to find gold was in the relatively unprospected central Australia. There was a wild theory doing the rounds that the W.A. goldfields must join up with the Queensland goldfields therefore the next big discovery would be somewhere in between, amazing the number of duffers who still believe that. And I'm quite mindful of the location of Tennant Creek, The Granites and Tanami, different geological provinces though, although the PROSPECTORS didn't realise that, it took the GEOLOGISTS to work out that subtlety.

So to Lasseter burying things under camp fires, for starters he would need a fleet of camels to carry all the pickle bottles and treacle tins to contain the number of notes and maps attributed to him and after all that there are only TWO occasions where something was dug up that was supposedly buried by Lasseter. The first was that infamous diary 'discovered' by the second C.A.G.E expedition, buried in the floor of the cave on the Hull River, (not Winters Glen) and the second was Harding's 'discovery' on the other bank of the Hull River where he miraculously dug up



Lasseter's kit-bag in 1950. Shame for Harding's little scam, the kit-bag had been handed into the Alice Springs police almost 20 years earlier when Bob Buck found it with Lasseter's body in March 1931. I now have three Lasseter kit-bags on my books—Gad!!

I'll leave Lasseter's campfires and gold specimens until tomorrow.

Sullivan.



reply

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Aug 28, '04

Keep it up, Sully, great info. Don't worry about the number of posts, I think Jim Straight and others got up to 140 on Doc's Forum discussing Leached Outcrops. Can't get outdone by a bunch of foreigners. :-P



Monopolize Away Sully-Nightjar

Interesting discussion, nothing much else being posted- you have the floor.



reply

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 28, '04

Hello Sullivan,

No doubt you will have a logical explanation?

Now we have two Hardings or I have missed something?

The Harding that supposedly accompanied Lasseter and supposedly relocated the "reef" died in the early 1900's. Can you explain how he (Harding) dug up the third kit bag in your book in 1950?

Can you explain the relativity of Tennant Creek, Granites and the Tanami?

Nightjar



reply

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 28, '04

Hey Hardrock, Now that was a funny two liner, 140 posts on leached outcrops eh! And perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise to find Harry Lasseter had something to say on the subject—as he would, goes like this.

On 16/11/29 Lasseter wrote to Herbert Gepp in response to a statement by one Mr. Clark, "*that an assay taken from the surface of a reef is richer than an assay taken at depth*".

Lasseter elaborated as follows--- "*In my opinion this would depend on whether the soil formed by process of denudation of reef is included in surface assay. If that were so it would probably show richer values, as any particles of gold loosened by cleavage when portions of the reef had broken away from the parent body would naturally fall back into the soil on the reef, but where only the actual broken pieces of stone (floaters, as they are usually known) are used for the purpose of assay, then I fail to see how it can show richer values than the reef itself, and I really think*



*that such an assay would prove more nearly correct as to values, than an assay taken by cross cutting on the surface and including soil from surface of reef in assay. However I'm open to conviction and trust that I may live to see the reef in question tested to bedrock"*

Four days later that intellectual powerhouse, Gepp, replied as follows, "*Dear Mr. Lasseter, Thank you for your letter of 16th inst. As a general rule, according to Geologists and mining men, there is always a strong possibility of concentration of values in a lode near the surface, due to weathering and possibly secondary enrichment. In any case I am sure you agree the sampling of a lode must, in the end ,be done on the lode itself, and not on surface indications, and as you know, there have been more mistakes in mining made due to sampling, than probably due to any other operation"*

And Lasseter, right on top of his correspondence, replied two days later, "*Yours of 20th inst, to hand and contents noted, and I may say that I agree with your statements in regards to mistakes re sampling. However, I feel sure that the reef in question will prove true to my claim and I am quite prepared to lead a party of practical men to the reef on the understanding that if it fails to assay up to my claim, I am not to be paid, but if it does prove all I claim for it , the Govt is to develop it and as a first proviso will make provision for a water supply."*

In the rest of his reply, Lasseter declined the generous offer to relocate his reef by using the aircraft "Canberra", citing some nonsense about the aerial view being quite different from the ground view, besides a truck would be much safer and surer. Gepp had effectively called Lasseter's bluff, a reef 14 miles long and umpteen yards high and wide would stick out like the proverbial DB's. There was no further correspondence on this particular issue.



Sullivan.

[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 28, '04

Good Evening Nightjar,

Yep, I have a kit-bag full of assorted Harding's.

Firstly to the Harding who saved Lasseter in 1897, well he never existed as Lasseter was never out there to be found by him, and in response to a letter from a very sceptical N.S.W. Geologist regarding Lasseter's Reef, The West Australian Mines Department turned their archives over, no Harding

As I mentioned earlier, the best fit for Lasseter's Harding is Joe Harding, formerly the Manager of the Glencoe pub at Arltunga and it possible that this Harding and Lasseter where in the Royal Adelaide Hospital at the same time and old Joe entertained Harry with tall stories of the bush and outback bonanzas

Now to the Harding who dug up Lasseter's kit-bag in 1950, this fellow, named Neville Harding, was formerly a Lord Mayor of Sydney, circa mid 1920's and he had a high old time holidaying in Central Australia on other peoples money and he pulled this scam off with panache, keeping it going to the mid 60's

Neville Harding was the managing director of a blue sky mining company called Centralia Holdings, he inherited the company from a couple of real shysters by the names of Cutlack and Hummerston who were doing precisely the same thing and worse back in the late 1930's, salting gold mines was their forte as well as leaving Lasseter evidence in various places to be found on subsequent expeditions thus substantiating claims for further financing to continue their nefarious activities. The Feds closed them down eventually, in fact Cutlack was very thoroughly investigated by Military Intelligence during the 2nd W.W. for keeping the wrong company, utter

rouges and they passed this nice little earner onto Neville Harding.

And one of those bits of Lasseter evidence was the kit-bag 'found' at the Hull River by Harding in 1950 and he put that kit bag to good use. His 1966 foray into the Centre searching for Lasseter's Reef was full blown safari, film crew, aircraft, trucks, sponsors, the whole kit and caboodle and not a penny of his own money

As for all the other Harding's, be they well sinkers or rouseabouts from the Musgraves to the Tanami, they and their sponsors make the same mistake in their recollections, Harry wasn't out there to be found by them. With all due respect to the esteemed name of Harding, I've had to discard the also rans and concentrate on Lasseter's Harding, Joe Harding and Neville Harding

So to the 'Great Golden Arc' which has boundaries as flexible as Lasseter Country and as vast as Blakeley's 'Big Breakaway' it was a myth that had been doing the rounds for some time based on the premise that as gold had been found from Kalgoorlie to Halls Creek across to Pine Creek and Arnhem Land then to Cloncurry to all points further east, thus forming a golden arc up the sides and across the top of the continent, then there must be undiscovered gold at the points in between. And as these places proved barren the arc was simply shortened and the theory 'confirmed' by the discovery of gold at the Tanami and then the Granites and finally Tennant Creek. Idriess was a great believer in this one although the 'Develop the North at any Cost' crowd mostly promoted it. The Bailey's toyed with idea of shortening the arc still further to lend credence to the potential discovery of Lasseter's reef. Their arc went Kalgoorlie, Laverton, Warburton, Lasseter's Reef, and Arltunga

And there's another book you MUST add to your collection, by Murray Hubbard, 'The Search for Harold Lasseter' more or less Lasseter's biography

Cheers, Sullivan



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Aug 29, '04

Hi, Sully, we shouldn't be too hard on the 'Lasseter Legend' as we have too few tall tales in our folk history. When the Yanks trot out the Lost Dutchman, the missing Spanish Mines, Jesse James' Loot, etc., etc., etc., we are the poor cousins by comparison. For countries of comparable size, we come off second best when talking of treasure, caches, loot, lost reefs, so I figure we can drum up a bit of local history. :-)

BTW, have you heard of the hidden bushranger loot buried under Uluru? :-P



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 29, '04

Sorry Hardrock,

Can't buy that one, the Dingo got it.

Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 29, '04

Hi Sullivan,

Appreciate all the info posted here and any more you may have hidden away in your archives. Especially interested in "landmarks" mentioned throughout this saga, have been unable to discover any reference to your mention of the "Three Sisters," was there any mention of water sources or any other prominent landmarks?

Cheers

Peter



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 29, '04

Morning Nightjar,

More pertinent questions and no problem, I'll tackle the landmarks first

At the outset it is most important to remember that Lasseter NEVER gave any specific description of the landmarks that located his reef and he only made two very vague references in his own hand, as follows'

On 14/02/30 to M.J.Calanchini, W.A. Mines Department. "*The reef to which I refer has never been surveyed & therefore I am unable to give you its exact locality, but to the best of my knowledge & belief the Warburton Range is the nearest to its location*".

Page 80 of Lasseter's diary. "*I had to go right out to Lake Christopher which is 100 miles across the W.A. border in order to get my bearings then I was able to go direct to the reef.*"

It's what Coote and Blakeley wrote that has been taken as hard evidence of specific landmarks given by Lasseter, and what Lasseter told Coote and what Coote wrote could be entirely different things. Blakeley put his pen to paper some 8 years after the event and 4 years after Coote wrote Hell's Airport, and Blakeley, the silly blighter, never kept a daily log book of the expedition.

Blakeley, Dream Millions, page 97. Mount Marjorie (Liesler) 24/08/30. "*Then he unfolded the map and said, I did not intend to give you this information yet, but you see these hills marked the Three Sisters? Well that's where I want to go for I am sure I can relocate myself once I get there*".

Coote, Hell's Airport, page 158. Illbilla, 03/09/30. "*Describing the position of Lake Christopher as a radial point, he indicated three hills which he said could not be mistaken. They looked like threewomen in sun bonnets talking to one another. About thirty fivemiles away to the south east was another hill shaped like a Quaker hat: a tall hat, conical in shape, with the top cut off. The reef lay about ten miles east of a lakelet, and looking along the line of reef in a north westerly direction, the Three Sisters as he called them, appeared to be sitting on the far end of the reef*".

Oddly enough there is a geographical feature on the COBB 1:250,000 Geo map named "Three Hills" about 20K south west of Lake Christopher, what I would very much like to know is WHO named this feature and more importantly WHEN, and if at any time after 1930 then I'm surely going to have Idriess and Coote on toast.

To waterholes and the same deliberate vagueness prevails, Lasseter and indeed no other writer, names any waterholes. From his last letters found on his body by Bob Buck. "*I photographed the datum post on the Quartz Blow the post is sticking in a water hole & the photo faces north*".

This water hole may be the one referred to at page 73 of his diary, "*Then there is a photo of a waterhole, it is on the West Australian border. I had a swim in it. Just lovely. It is 150 ft long and 22 ft wide over half its length and over 24 ft deep at the other end*".

Fair dinkum, Lasseter goes to all the trouble of measuring the length and depth of waterholes and can't name the waterhole or any other specific landmark and has over 80 pages of his diary to do so. I rest my case. That diary is as shonky as a three dollar bill.

I look forward to your comments on this one.



Cheers Sullivan

[reply](#)

[msn-bobcat\\_511](#) wrote on Aug 30, '04

Gudday Bob

Johns was the dingo trapper who went with Lasseter after he supposedly saw his reef from the air.

They split up around the Petermans after an argument and Lasseter went on with 3 camels which bolted and stranded him, Johns returned to Ilbilba, the Central Australian Gold Exploration Companies base camp

He survived about 60 days before dying and much later Bob Buck found his remains and his diaries.

(Bob Buck owned Renners Rocks Station, now called Orange Creek)

There is more info on my website at  
[www.users.bigpond.com/petrumball/index.htm](http://www.users.bigpond.com/petrumball/index.htm)

Incidentally, my wife's grandfather, Alexander McLeod managed the Owen in the late 1800's for Sir Sydney Kidman, and there are several of his bush poems also on our website.

Another little titbit, Alf Butler once gave me a horse, when I was just a young feller still at school, and used to ride a bit on weekends.

Well one day a drover by the name of Gordon Olaf spotted the horse and said that it had been stolen from him.

It was only the fact that he was a mate of my Dad's that I got off.

Life's full of coincidence.

regards

Pete & Aye

Jackaroo & Coromal Seka 535

Minelab SD2100 with Mods

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Local access to PocketMail mobile  
email now available in Europe, North  
America & Australia <http://www.pocketmail.com>



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 30, '04

Hello Pete,

Thanks for the added information.

Sullivan,

Your contribution in last post has me pondering a great deal, am unable to locate the reference to the "Three Sisters" probably because I have the wrong map? Have put the lateral thinking cap on because in amongst all this I feel sure there are cryptic messages here? As you mention, why would Lasseter go into detail describing length, breadth and depth of this waterhole with out naming it unless there was a hidden message? Most probable is these two waterholes have nothing in common?

The mention of a quartz blow in country without auriferous geology must move the co-ordinates to unrelated areas?

Laterally thinking for a time.

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 31, '04

Hello Pete and Aye.

Good to hear from you, Enjoy your web site, in fact some time ago I took the liberty of linking LASSETERIA to your site for the excellent page on the old aircraft, where did you get such sharp photos from? Had a good chuckle about the bloke having a quite puff under the wing of 'Old Gold' as it was being refuelled and the untethered horse nearby. Makes you wonder how we survived the bush as kids eh.

There's a little more to add to Charles Alfred (Alf) Butler, according to Walter Gill who wrote 'Petermann Journey' and met Butler at Middleton Ponds in 1931, he was an ex policeman and good horseman. By the time we finish this board we will have old Alf's bio written, with the help of Bob Creasy of course, hope he reads this post.

I've called up a National Archives file about Owen Springs and I'll keep you posted re the results.

Regards Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 31, '04

Afternoon Nightjar,

Nope, no cryptic messages and you won't find any 'Three Sisters' on the maps covering Lasseter Country, about the closest reference is the 'Three Hills' marked on the COBB 1:250,000 Geo map, about 20 K south west of Lake Christopher and given that Lasseter's radial point re the location of his reef was Lake Christopher then it seems a little odd to me that co-incidentally there happens to be those 'Three Hills' just to the south west.

The map that appears in entry 273 of LASSETERIA is from the 10th edition of 'Lasseter's Last Ride' and it's commonly known that over the first five editions of L.L.R. Idriess changed and added to the story as new info came through from Central Australia. A specific case in point, if you refer to page 242 of L.L.R. you will see a transcript of Phillip Taylor's 'Letter of Instruction' to Bob Buck, and Idriess writes the following re that letter, "This letter of instruction was not inserted in earlier editions of this book, as Mr E. H. Bailey, The Secretary of the Company, asked me to withhold it pending the result of the second expedition". I've seen a copy of a fourth edition of L.L.R. and many of the photos are missing. And I would dearly love to get hold of a first edition of L.L.R. and wouldn't be surprised to find the map and quite a few other things missing that weren't added until later editions, as Idriess and Coote 'grew' the story to fit developing circumstances.

What is cryptic, is the naming of those hills and if they were named at some point after 1930 then I will add a bit more to Idriess and Coote's shady involvement in 'creating' the Lasseter legend, if not the diary. As I mentioned earlier there are a lot of things 'wrong' with that diary.

And there are no hidden messages in Lasseter's diary although many have tried to find some, Neville Harding of 'Kit-bag' and Centralia Holdings fame, for instance. He was interviewed by the Sydney Truth on 14/01/51 and made the following statement, "Mr Harding said that he had closely studied a book written by Ion L. Idriess and said excerpts from the dead miner's diary contained the secret of the lost reef if read intelligently".

You are probably quite right re the waterholes mentioned by Lasseter not being the

same waterholes, and regarding the quartz blow in the waterhole, well not all quartz is auriferous albeit there's a lot of it out there, it's the lack of iron that's notable. Nope it's common old buck quartz, glassy and barren. Mind you a 'waterhole with a quartz blow in it' is in itself a landmark and you can rest assured every waterhole in the Petermanns and Rawlinsons has been checked for the tell tale quartz blow, no matches. I might add that I'm having a hard time locating a waterhole in the ranges close to the W.A. border that's a hundred foot long, something that big would named in capital letters. Perhaps it's because Idriess didn't know the name much less its location.

Regards Sullivan.

Lets see if this post comes out without all that HTML nonsense, here goes.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 1, '04

Hello Sullivan,

Do believe a water hole as described would be difficult to locate, depending on seasonal rainfall the creek beds alter dramatically. The brief mention of the "lakelet" on the pge 153 of Hell's Airport? There was mention that the plane could have landed here, so it's dimensions would have been considerable, yet there are a lack of lakes around the area using the information supplied on pge 153?

Is there a copy of the photograph available of the datum post in the quartz blow?

Cheers

Nightjar



Gday All,

This(thread) is a story of intrigue, a very interesting part of this country's history **albeit** very grey around the edges.Blurry bit's and pieces that dont quite fit.I had asked a hypothetical on another thread,but the question probably fit's just as well here

### **"Who makes history the truth"?.**

Word of mouth stories passed on over campfires by old timers with graduating haziness in memories of the past(**lets not forget some of the quality hooch brewed back then**),inaccuracy of records by human error or just plain propaganda reporting to the public from beaurucrats who could not afford to look bad in front of the gentry back home in the motherland ,here and abroad.



reply

msn-bros0127 wrote on Sep 1, '04  
Evening Nightjar,

Agreed, waterholes do come and go depending on the seasons and dare I say this particular Lasseter waterhole was truly ephemeral.

Page 158 in my copy of Hell's Airport and that's what Coote wrote, Lasseter never mentioned lakelets, the Three Sisters or Quakers Hats and the only land mark he ever named was Lake Christopher, in his diary.

And once he got there he was able to go straight to the reef, he conveniently, doesn't say in what direction or how far from the lake, yet Lake Christopher is the landmark from which he was able to determine his bearings.....according to his diary.

Of course I doubt that Lasseter got anywhere near Lake Christopher.

By the way which edition of Hell's Airport do you have? Well done if it's one of the originals, scarce as hen's teeth.

And there are no photographs taken by Lasseter's hand anywhere, at anytime or on any subject and I doubt that he had a camera. If he did have a camera why didn't he take any photos between Alice Springs and Illbilla, of his travelling companions, the Aboriginals thereabouts and a host of other subjects and he had five opportunities to return any exposed film to Sydney and his wife. And you can bet your bottom dollar that Idriess would have made the destitute Mrs. Lasseter an offer she couldn't refuse for any of Lasseter's photos.

So Idriess would have us believe that Lasseter saved his entire stock of film, (apparently five rolls according to the diary) for his journey through the Petermanns to Lake Christopher. But of course the Aboriginals dug up the film and the girls used them as belly bands, that's nothing more or less than another Buck tall story, and I reckon that's where the camera came from, out of Buck's storeroom where he kept his collection of assorted broken revolvers.

By the way, why would Lasseter be carrying a broken camera and not the film?

Regards,  
Sullivan.



reply

msn-nightjar wrote on Sep 2, '04  
Hello again Sullivan,

The Hell's Airport I managed to get my hands on (one of the hen's teeth) was published in 1934 has a forward signed by C.E Kingsford Smith. Inside the front cover it has been signed in pencil (difficult to decypher) 1934 NC 8/200 TAR the / is diagonally through the 8.

Here is an example how messages/ information gets distorted you wrote only three days ago refering to pge 158 and I replied pge 153, you are correct?

Waterholes in our outback "ephemeral" Yes agree entirely. Marshall's Pool in the area of our lease was approximately 500metres long in '95 in 2001/2/3 it wouldn't fill the backyard pool, this year it is again full. Looking for Lasseter's pool is like the proverbial needle in the haystack.

I am convinced that IF there is a "Lasseter's Reef" the clues are in cryptic form on page 158 and yes I agree the mention of Lake Christopher is a "red herring" to throw followers off the scent.

As for your query about the five rolls of film, he had already supposedly buried the film and I imagine he never intended to die so the camera would have returned with



him?

I suppose you or I or any one else going on an expedition wouldn't discard our camera when the film ran out, neither would we bury the film and return with the camera? However if there is any truth in this saga one would sense that Lasseter knew he was in dire straits and his chances of survival were slim. Like past and future explorers they buried items of significance in the hope that their journeys would not be in vain?

The one important aspect that puzzles me is that Lasseter or any of the ground parties following or flying didn't carry rifles to help them supplement their food stocks from wildlife? Afterall this was real life and not the Yankie movies where they could knock the eyebrows off a mosquito at a hundred paces with a revolver?

What has happened to Bob Creasy, has he gone "walkabout" again/

Cheers

Nightjar



reply

msn-bros0127 wrote on Sep 2, '04

Nightjar,

That's a scoop getting one of those 'hens teeth'. For your future idle amusement see if you can get the edition edited by Stapleton and compare the two, bloody disgraceful.

Had a look at the Geo map re Marshall Pool, I'd be floating a dredge in that waterhole mate!

And now to rifles and the notable fact that Lasseter didn't carry one, although there were two .32 cal rifles on the expeditions manifest and I've no idea why Lasseter didn't carry one, for the exactly the reasons you stated. Revolvers are useless things unless something is unlucky enough to run into the bullet. BUT, I quote the following passage from page 83 of his diary, "last night I was able to get a rabbit tho' it cost one three cartridges", a regular Tom Mix is our Harry.

And to confuse the issue further re firearms. In 1964, Pastor Albrecht from Hermannsburg Mission wrote an article for the Lutheran Almanac regarding his involvement in the Lasseter saga, quote 'One day at Hermannsburg, before the mechanic (Taylor) with Rolf came in from Ayers Rock, the camel man (Johns) had returned from Illbilla. In his hand he carried a new .44 rifle which he handed over saying: You are a J.P. aren't you. When we confirmed this, he continued: I request you to keep this rifle until the police have been informed and given directions as to what is to be done with it. I have taken it from Lasseter". But then Albrecht was writing some 33 years after the event.

Regards Sullivan



reply

msn-nightjar wrote on Sep 3, '04

Hello Sullivan,

The Australian National Archives are certainly a mine of information. (No pun intended)

The brain is going into overload with all the info, unfortunately conflicting at times? In the process of tracking down the other books mentioned on this thread, certainly a colourful character, our Lewis Hubert Lasseter (alias Harold Bell Lasseter) Interesting the reason why he swapped names?

If we were to put a dredge in Marshall Pool we'd probably suffer a worse death than Lasseter? (Sacred site)

All this aside he still managed to convince the multitude his reef lay "out there."

Probably this where greed crept into the equation.

Back to ferreting the archives

Regards



Nightjar  
[reply](#)  
msn-bros0127 wrote on Sep 3, '04  
Nightjar,

You are going to have a ball in the National Archives, as I mentioned earlier, best value for tax dollar you'll get anywhere, great service too if you want to get hard copies of files. Don't get lost.

About Lasseter's name swap, quite a few have speculated on that, and the best reason seems to be that he was influenced by the American author, Harold Bell Wright, who wrote a book called 'The Mine with the Iron Door' in 1923. There's an excellent review on the book at <http://www.hbw.addr.com/mine.htm> have a look and let me know what you think.

I'm more than a little peeved at hearing that about Marshall Pool, that was a genuine suggestion on my part. What's the extent of this 'sacred site'?

Greed was right, but not Lasseter's; he always stated that 'his' reef should be developed for the good of the country, reread pages 30 and 31 of 'Hell's Airport' and you will see where John Bailey decided to grab the reef for himself and his cronies. And Bailey didn't stop at Lasseter's Reef. He set up two (perhaps more) bogus gold shows in the 1930's that took the investors for a ride.

Cheers. Sullivan.



[reply](#)  
msn-hardrock wrote on Sep 4, '04

Hi, Sully, thanks for the website on Wright. I guess Louis L'Amour was his successor, dealing with the American frontier, although I thought his 'Walking Drum' was a great rollicking tale about medieval Europe. I reckon our equivalent might be Idriess with his range of settings. Strange how Idriess wasn't more critical of Lasseter from his knowledge of prospecting, but I suppose you don't let reality get in the road of a good tale. :-)



[reply](#)  
msn-nightjar wrote on Sep 5, '04

Hello Sullivan/ Hardrock,

Pete3 & Bob, do you have nay more info on your early days?

Am carrying my GPS as I move around the National Archives to back track when I get lost.

Harold Bell Wright did seem to have the influence on Lewis Hubert Lasseter and his nocturnal activities may have contributed to it as well. Found the review interesting. Did Lasseter actually contribute to the C.A.G.E expedition or was the 5 pound retainer going to be his reward?

*page: 192 "Hell's Airport" mentions White Range & Arltunga. "Since then such men as Lindsay Clarke, Tom ("Condemnation") Victor, H. Y. L. Brown, and Copley Playford have inspected the range. There is gold to be found in practically every part of the range in value ranging from two pennyweights to the amazing figures of one hundred and forty- eight and one hundred and seventy-one ounces per ton. The White Range is a veritable mountain of gold, supplying the exact centre of the Continent with a golden heart that from summit to ground level contains approximately four thousand million tons of gold-producing ore-one of the biggest gold propositions in the world.*

What information do you have on this story?

No gold in Marshall Pool, so it wouldn't be worth the hassle of dragging a dredge in there.

regards  
Nightjar



reply

msn-editor2 wrote on Sep 5, '04

There is a good summary of Lasseter on the gold net site

[www.gold-net.com.au](http://www.gold-net.com.au)

Regards

Gold Finder



reply

msn-bobcat\_511 wrote on Sep 6, '04

Gudday Sully,

Glad you liked our site.

I had plenty of material to work with, some 400 photos that my dad took when travelling as a Shell Rep. and the McLeod diaries that go way back.

It's a marvellous thing, the research that you've done on Lasseter, and puts things (beliefs, myths or whatever) in a different light to me.

There's no doubt tho that he was hard done by when CAGE pulled out and left him behind without even a token search, which Coote wanted to do, and also there were 2 RAAF aircraft on hand.

They were sent up to find Pittendrigh after he got lost trying to find Ilbilba, but apparently Lasseter didn't rate high enough.

Regarding the photos, I re-processed nearly the whole collection, and converted many to sepia thru my computer. If you would like to copy any please feel free to do so, or if you wanted higher resolution photos I could send any that you wanted to you on CD.

The only provision that I would make is that if you wanted to re-publish any, please acknowledge us.

regards

Pete & Aye

Jackaroo & Coromal Seka 535

Minelab SD2100 with Mods



reply

msn-bros0127 wrote on Sep 6, '04

Evening Nightjar.

(Am carrying my GPS as I move around the National Archives to back track when I get lost). I like that, I've been sidetracked many times in that place and never regretted a minute of it. As for getting lost, do what Harry did, mark his way with white ochre on the rocks (or in your case files) as he explored the Ehrenbergs or perhaps like Coote at Ayers Rock where he dragged a stick around behind him.

NOCTURNAL ACTIVITIES?? Perhaps you are referring to the incident where Harry broke into a boat shed, armed with a couple of pistols, and robbed the place, at night, cost him a stretch in the reform school. He absconded in 1898, apparently the authorities never bothered to track him down.

The five quid retainer is the most Lasseter made out of the company and he may not have been paid that. He did receive a fifty pounds advance from Fred Blakeley just before the expedition left Sydney, which represents ten weeks wages. And he did contribute one twenty pound share, although I've often wondered where someone

as perpetually broke as Harry got twenty pounds from. The only reward Harry got out of the debacle was an enduring place in Australian history.

Re the White Range, Coote lifted this one straight out of the file, (Gold Mining Northern Territory, Series A461, Control P373/1/5 Part 1. Brown and Playford are both mentioned here and if you have a look at page 190 of Hell's Airport you'll see the name P.B.Coulston mentioned, he too is mentioned in the above file. Especially check out page 186 of the file and you'll see the connection with Coote. Start from the last page and work forward.

P.B.Coulston is mentioned also on file (P.B. Coulston Information re "White Range" Goldfield, Control symbol 1931/270 ) He didn't have much luck though as most before or after him didn't. And given the way Coote talked White range up I wonder if he had shares in it.

H. Y. L. Brown was the South Australian Government Geologist at the time when South Australia administered the Northern Territory and I doubt if you could find a more honest geo, he told it as it was and if a mine was a duffer he said so. The highest point in the Ehrenberg Range where Illbilla is located is named after Brown.. Mount Lyell Brown.

Copley Playford was the N.T. Govt. Geo when the Commonwealth took over the Territory and more or less fell into the job, not the worlds best geo and his first priority was NOT to talk down the Territory's mining prospects.

A couple of times have climbed all over the White Range with detector and cold stobbies, trouble is the coldies and magnificent view prevailed. I reckon the Harts Range and thereabouts is the pick of the Centre. Get there soonest. And take your sieves for the zircons at Mud Tank.

Regards Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 7, '04

Good morning Sullivan,

How do organise yourself to be able to get the time to do all the research you have obviously done?

Have been into the Australian National Archives and found the two control points you mention in last post. When I get a quiet moment I'll read through it all.

I find entering 1931/270 brings up;

- P.B. Coulston Information re "White Range" Goldfield &
- Applicant - PLATT John; Nominee - PLACOTNITCHENKO Nadejda; nationality Russian

Obviously I am new too all this and would appreciate why there is an overlap with series A1 & A261?

I agree with you that it shouldn't be all hardwork during our "wanderings" and we should all take time to "smell the roses" or as mentioned by you sit and view with what ever relaxant suits you best.

Are there any rutile & monazite indications mixed in with the zircons @ Mudtank?

regards

Nightjar



reply

msn-bros0127 wrote on Sep 8, '04  
Afternoon Nightjar,

Apart from your G.P.S. you'll also need those old fashioned tools, pen and paper to record the key words you have used in your searches. When I first started out searching for Lasseter material my key words were, GOLD 1928-1932, GOLD and GOLD MINING 1928-1932, MINES and MINING 1928-1932, CENTRAL AUSTRALIA 1928-1932, and of course, LASSETER, etc, I guess I'm lucky in already having a list of key words in the index of LASSETERIA.

Using the Series Number is good, but you can end up with a vast number of files, this can be narrowed down by using a 'date range' or a 'subject'. At the moment I'm going through a series search looking for Lasseter's original hand written letter to Texas Green, theoretically the letter should be in the 'Prime Ministers Department' files but no luck so far. And that's where the pen and paper come in handy to list then cross off all the variations tried. There is a 'Previous Searches' facility on N.A.A's search page but I find that after a couple of hundred searches you forget what you searched for anyway. There can be some subtle variations in the phrases, e.g. MINES and MINING is not the same as MINES-MINING. Besides I think better with the pen and that's a short coming with computers...no imagination.

And yes you can end up with several files under the same 'Control Symbol' but always with a different 'Series Number', vice versa, you can have thousands of files in a 'series' but none of them will have the same 'control symbol'

To further confuse the issue on our specific subject, Herbert Gepp, who was the Government's 'Trouble Shooter' in those days and had a very keen interest in matters gold and mining, made up to SIX copies of any corres or reports for files on sometimes quite disparate subjects. The search also takes patience.

And sometimes you find some real gems in the oddest places, e.g. the specifications and sales brochure for the C.A.G.E. Expeditions Thornycroft truck turned up on the file relating to 'The Ministers visit to the Northern Territory'; meanwhile I had turned over most of the files in the Archives relating to 'Transport'. And sometimes files get incorrectly referenced, e.g. one of the GOLD files relates to secret operations in Indonesia during the 2nd W.W.

But I did find one file that may be of considerable interest to you and your mates, "Title Investigations - Gold mining - Geological survey, Series number CP211/2, Control symbol 31/33. It relates to W.A. which is not obvious from the title.

To 'Mud Tank', the only accessory minerals I'm aware of are, Apatite, Magnetite and Martite and vermiculite nearby and those vermiculite test trenches were a regular snake pit last time I visited, the four legged beasties could get out O.K. but the crawlies were trapped and some of them were in a fairly nasty mood.

Why the interest in rutile and monazite?

Regards, Sullivan.



reply

msn-bros0127 wrote on Sep 8, '04  
Hello Pete and Aye,

Thanks for that mail, so that explains the magnificent photos, your father had a keen eye for angles and light and your computer skills have complimented his work nicely.

About Lasseter being hard done by C.A.G.E. you are being too gentle, poor old

Harry was simply abandoned to his own devices, he was no further use to the company. IF the authorities had followed up his death it may well have been deemed a case of manslaughter or at least gross negligence.

By the way Coote was only interested in creating publicity for his planned book, (he was a journalist) and taking photos of the Rock.

I'm working on the Pittendrigh and Hamre story at the moment, what a couple of twerps, and at one stage during the search for them there were four R.A.A.F. planes operating out of Alice Springs/Hermannsburg, Eaton the leader of the search did wonder why the search wasn't extended to include Lasseter, but he never received any orders to do so, perhaps because of the cost and no one had any clear idea where Lasseter was.

And I certainly will acknowledge your photos when LASSETERIA is published.

Thanks again and regards.  
Sullivan.



reply

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 8, '04

Thankyou once again Sullivan,

The info you are posting here is invaluable and will obviously save time and GPS batteries while dodging the spider webs etc in the Australian National Archives. Have taken on-board your search hints.

Will go in and have a look at the WA reference next week when the "day job" obligations are behind me.

Rutile & Monazite;

The mining of these minerals was traditionally named "Beach Mining" because they were retrieved from the coast, sometimes actually dredging the coastline.

The early belief was the minerals were packed up on beach because of wave action bringing the deposits ashore. Further research actually revealed the minerals were leaching via the inland water table and concentrating on the coastline because of the ocean wave interaction.

Because Central Australia was once an inland sea it is quite feasible that the presence of Zircons at Mudtank may reveal the other components of the Mineral Sand Industry.

Ilmenite (Titanium), Rutile (Titanium Dioxide) and Monazite (A phosphate mineral containing Thorium). The Ilmenite extracted via magnetic separation, the Rutile, Zircon by electrostatic separation and finally the highly radio active Monazite (in concentrations) by air tables.

Regards

Nightjar



reply

[msn-hotrocks](#) wrote on Sep 12, '04

Re. info on Lasseter, Idriess. Book Heaven, a second hand book shop, 47 Midland Highway, Campbells Creek, Vic (just out of Castlemaine) has all the Idriess titles, Dream Millions etc. and a heap of stuff on Lasseter. Called there last week on the way to Whipstick, prices are \$15-\$25 range and all appeared to be in good condition, phone is 03 5472 4555 Cheers, Hotrocks



reply

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 13, '04

Thanks for the info Hotrocks,

Will phone them and check it out.

Cheers  
Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 13, '04

Hello Sullivan,

The pieces are being slowly put together, was very happy to receive from a friend in California an Angus & Robertson 1986 edition of Lasseter's diary. The diary has been reproduced much the same size.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Sep 14, '04

Hi, Peter (and any others interested), Petermann Journey by Walter Gill is worth a read. If his tale is true, some of the old cattlemen round the Alice caught out Lasseter on a number of points. Trouble is you eventually get to the stage where you feel you are treading on quicksand. Still, it's been quite a collection of stories. Now about those silver bars found up off the Kimberleys. :-P



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 15, '04

Thanks for the info Hardrock, however I already have Petermann Journey, Dream Millions, Lasseter's Diary & Lasseter's Last Ride.

Hotrocks, contacted Book Heaven and the only info they have left is Lasseter's Last ride.

Hardrock,

Don't know about the Silver bars but do know that a pearling lugger came ashore in the vicinity of Yampi sound and after carrying out repairs they loaded rocks into the hull for ballast, it was revealed later that these rocks had a high content of Silver.

When working on Koolan Island back in the 70's we prepared an expedition by boats to search for a Sunderland Flying boat that crashed when reportedly transporting Dutch personnel and a large quantity of DIAMONDS fleeing the Japanese invasion. We landed jerry cans of petrol on islands along the planned route to enable us to cover the distances. The search was abandoned (Aboriginal guide was sacked from the workforce) and to this day the 500 litres of petrol still remains in caves on several islands. The diamonds have never been found?

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Sep 15, '04

Hi, Peter, if you want to read of the DC-3 crash and the stones, try Hampton Arms Inn at Geraldton, W.A. for 'Flight of Diamonds'--Tyler (\$Au 15.00) (on ABE Booksearch for Aus-N.Z.) Another Dakota crashed near Darwin at the same time and a local started giving diamonds to his girlfriends till the authorities nabbed him. Then there was the third plane-----



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Sep 15, '04

Evening Hotrocks, Hardrock and Nightjar,

Firstly to that rumour regarding the silver horde in the Kimberley's, does the attachment and anything new to this furphy, have any of you read the book referred too??. You fellows will be chasing Jimmy Wickams lost gold reef next.

Regarding Petermann Journey, Gill is fairly well on the mark, but note the following, at pages 4 & 5. Buck could not have produced the Lasseter's Diary at this time as it was not (very suspiciously) discovered until October 1931 by the second C.A.G.E. Expedition, the one lead by Buck. What Gill was probably referring too was the notes and letters found on Lasseter's body. Then to page 45 where Gill rummages around Buck's storeroom and finds a dilapidated arsenal " The revolvers, of assorted sorts and sizes, were either by Colt or Harrington Richards, and with one



exception were all unserviceable". Now I wonder where that broken revolver that was found on Lasseter's body came from??

To the so called diary, you will have noted that no page is numbered, (except for a few pages that Idriess has numbered in order to sort out the sequence) there are no dates, and there are NO LANDMARKS, to all intents and purposes it is a bit of rambling nonsense and of very suspicious provenance. I copied my copy and sorted it into drawings, (remarkably amateurish for a bloke who was supposed to have designed the Sydney Harbour Bridge) maps (which end at Ayers Rock, he maps that far and no further, now I ask you?) dictionary (straight from Basedow and how about Lubra and Piccaninny, gad) and those 'odd' letters that tell us precisely nothing except he didn't like Aboriginals and Blakeley.

As for those old Centralian cattlemen catching Lasseter out, have a look at entry 98A, FOUR FIFTIES in LASSETERIA.

Comments anticipated.  
Regards Sullivan.

Attachment: [silver3.JPG](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 17, '04

Hello Sullivan & any other interested members,

Cannot believe that Lasseter's story was the concatenation of another's theory/belief. Lasseter did not trust any of the party during the 30's expeditionary trip and when he wrote the diary during the last agonising days of his life he included hidden clues to the location of the reef. Forget about the child like drawings, he was suffering blight and obvious trauma, there is a clue in amongst his ramblings, who is going to unravel the mystery?

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Sep 18, '04

Evening Nightjar,

Yep that Diary is one controversial document, but why would Lasseter 'hide' clues to the location of his reef if he realises that he is going to peg out soon? If he knows that he is going to perish you would think that he would leave very explicit directions to his reef for the sake of his family's inheritance and to salvage something of his already tarnished reputation.

And he can't logically claim that he is hiding clues because of mistrust of the rest of the party, he is already a shareholder in the Company and what benefits the Company benefits him and his family, therefore he should be doing everything possible to help the Company find the reef.

Besides hiding the clues or writing the diary in code always runs the risk of having others, not connected with the Company, unravelling the directions and pegging the reef.

Regards, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Sep 19, '04

Working on the basis that a gold mine is a hole in the ground into which you pour investor's dollars, have any modern conmen---sorry---companies ever pegged out the area with an A to P/Exploration Lease? Any company reports available?



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 19, '04

Hello Hardrock,

Agate Resources have lodged Exploration Licence 69/1961 on the 07/09/2004,  
Location: Milyuga

Shire: Ngaanyatjarraku

Size: 9 blocks

Plan: Petermann Ranges

Will have wait and see what they are onto?

Cheers

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Sep 19, '04  
Evening Nightjar,

If I have my Milyuga's right then we are talking about a place approx 10 K's S.E. of Warburton Mission and according to my TALBOT 1:250,000 Geo map there's agate about the district - hence the Company name?

And the area has already been done over by W.M.C. and goodness knows how many others, result...nothing!!!

But at a point about 20 K's S.E of Warburton is a landmark called The Sisters, perhaps Lasseter's 'Three Sisters'

Regards, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-hotrocks](#) wrote on Sep 21, '04

Nightjar, saw this bit in the Australian Lapidary magazine, April 1981, it's in a report from the Blaxand gem and Mineral Club, I quote....."We recently welcomed back one of our prominent members, 'Nick' Deloraine who readers may have heard was at last successful in finding Lasseter's Reef and we wish him well in working his claim - unfortunately he is being held up at the moment by a lot of red tape" unquote, no further info, does this ring any bells? Hotrocks



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Sep 21, '04  
Hello Hotrocks and Nightjar

This fellow had a web site listed until early last year, as I recall it was [www.lassetersreef.com](#) or [.com.au](#), and sure enough, claimed he had found Lasseter's Reef and was seeking finance to exploit it.

The usual story though, you had to pay for the privileged information regarding the exact location of that reef. I notice the web site is no longer around; no doubt the authorities took a dim view of this particular Lasseter scam.

Regards Sullivan.



[reply](#)  
[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Sep 21, '04

Morning Nightjar,

Add this one to your Lasseter literature, you might say it has an Aboriginal slant on the Lasseter saga.

Lasseter : In Quest of Gold

Australia's greatest adventure story, and its greatest mystery... Somewhere in the vast centre of the Australian continent there lies a reef of gold, seven miles long. ... name by which we know it - Lasseter's Reef. The story of Lewis Herbert Bell Lasseter's reef of gold and his mysterious ...  
[www.geocities.com/stoneking31/lasseter.html](http://www.geocities.com/stoneking31/lasseter.html)



Sullivan  
[reply](#)  
[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 22, '04

Good morning to you all,

After reading Blakeley's- Dream Millions I believe Lasseter although a little eccentric, and obviously no bushman or navigator, was no fool and rightly so, he had a reason to trust no one.

*pge 83; "he pointed out to me that the agreement said that everything must be in his name and would remain so until the company had satisfied him that all his interest and cash options were covered. I did not argue with him over this, but knew that if we found the reef it would be pegged for the company, no matter how he read the agreement."*

One man (Lasseter) against the might and brains of C.A.G.E fooled them all back in Sydney before the expedition set out, I think not? pge 141; *"When I questioned you on that point you said that if you told me all the details I would be as wise as you."* Blakeley openly admitted he searched through Lasseter's unlocked trunk while he was away trying to find some evidence that may reveal details of the reef. Lasseter would have obviously known someone had been rumaging around in his private locker that he accidentally left open? Anyone (Lasseter in this instance) in these circumstances would be on the defensive and led the party away from the location. Why else would he agree to leave the party and strike out on his own with the aid of Paul John and his camels. So near yet so far but with the aid of plentiful food and reliable transport (camels) little did he know they and John's would be his downfall.

Thinking, thinking,  
Nightjar



[reply](#)  
[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 23, '04

Hello Sullivan,

Your "Lasseteria" is very informative and thorough, however I still believe you and others have missed the key to this saga. You and the many many expeditions before you are way off the track in your search for Lasseter's Reef.

Time will prove the theory that all the followers didn't heed this final tragic notes. There is a gold deposit "out there" and it will be found and it will not be in the Petermann Ranges.

Regards  
Nightjar



[reply](#)  
[msn-snottygobble](#) wrote on Sep 24, '04

**This message has been deleted by the author.**



reply

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 26, '04

Good evening Sullivan,

What info do you have on the "Sandhill dwellers?"

nightjar



reply

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Sep 26, '04

Evening Nightjar.

Blakeley's Sandhill People are the Pintubi although he could have been referring to a visiting band of Pitjanjara (note I have used the shortened spelling) Typical Blakeley, never bothered to find out precisely who the Aboriginal people around the Ehrenbergs were and like Idriess, one tribe fits all, yet these two considered and passed themselves off as experts on Aboriginalities. It's worth remembering that Illbilla in those days was an oasis in a sea of sand and the surrounding country was drought stricken so it was a haven for any number of hard pressed Aboriginals, but all from the Western Desert cultural bloc. The tribe to the east, the Jumu, had just about been wiped out by 1932 by European diseases and I've often wondered what bugs all those visiting white fellows left at Illbilla, the place was a regular hive of activity in 1930 and no wonder the waterhole eventually dried up.

About Lasseter's Reef being found eventually, well I hope it is, but it wont be found in Lasseter Country despite the generous bounds I have given that bit of fictitious geography, more precisely Lasseter Country is the Rawlinson and Petermann ranges but there is no minable gold there, dare I say again, wrong geology. But what may happen, is one day, a mining company may find a large gold deposit outside the bounds of Lasseter Country as we know it, and lo and behold it will become Lasseter's long lost reef. A couple of examples; in 1932 a shyster by the name of Paddy Whelan convinced a lot of feeble minded hopefuls that he had found Lasseter's Reef in the Livesey Range, even found Lasseter's pegs, this one sucked Errol Coote in. Then a couple of years ago another questionable outfit reckoned they had found Lasseter's Reef south of Tanami, (the best bet so far) Then there's our lateral thinker who has found and pegged the reef in the Tarlton Ranges. The point being, that when and IF the reef is found it wont be Lasseter' Reef as it will be outside Lasseter country.

As for Blakeley rummaging around in Lasseter's tin trunk, you bet I would!! The little blighter had already reneged on his deal with the company and Blakeley, to reveal the location of the reef two days out of Alice Springs, of course Lasseter didn't have a reef to give a location and three weeks later he was still skirting the issue. Lasseter was hoping to stumble across a reef and sure as hell when he found it he wasn't going to share it with anyone else. And bare in mind he had further compromised his honour and values by doing a secret deal with a fellow named Johanson and possibly Mallard, yet Lasseter was the first bloke to squeal when Freddy Colson, a non shareholder in the Company, was hired by Blakeley, to cart fuel and supplies to Illbilla. As far as I'm concerned Lasseter had the values of an alley cat and deserved to be treated accordingly. Besides it's the nature of the paranoid to be defensive.

And about that Diary, I'll make an assertion here, subject to further investigation, but that Diary was written on Idriess's kitchen table and planted by someone on the second expedition, a bloke by the name of Frank Green is my prime suspect, he later married Lasseter's widow and had form as long as an orang u tangs arm. As for people planting objects Lasseter, which has been going on ever since Bob Buck planted Lasseter. The attachment should be of interest.

Regards Sullivan.

Attachment: [humcut76.jpg](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Sep 27, '04

Hi, Sully, have any samples of Harry's writing survived to compare with the diary? Still wading through Lassetteria. I'm impressed by the work you've put in. Love the comments there.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 27, '04

Hello Sullivan,

Further to Hardrocks query, Blakely mentioned that different writing paper was found? Was Lasseter's grave exhumed and positively identified and reburied elsewhere?

Your attached letter in post 70 of this string indicates there may have been a few other "Alley cats" in the region during Lasseter's era and proceeding?

And yes, you must be commended for the quality/ thoroughness of your research in writing Lasseteria, maybe at a later date you should write a book "Managing your time" to help those following you go about their daily job/commitments and still find time for such thorough research?

On a lighter note, apart from the proven fact there is a working goldmine at Telfer, what ground level indications differ the geology between here (Telfer 700 km's NW across the sand dunes) and Lasseter country?

Given time the vast Central Australian desert region will surely reveal it's hidden secrets under the shifting drifting sands, maybe not in "Lasseter Country", but like him many of us share his dream?

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 27, '04

Come this time in 2005 we will retracing some of the prevailing landmarks of "Lasseter's Last Ride" even if it is to only "smell the desert pea."

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Sep 30, '04

Evening Nightjar and Hardrock,

You blokes ask big questions, for starters there are oodles of Lasseter's handwritten letters scattered throughout the National Archives, the three attachments are good examples and on the files referred to there are other letters...and a very strange thing about Lasseter's letters, there are no spelling mistakes and only one slip of grammar that I can find, that I were that meticulous with a pen. Your opinions appreciated on how the Diary and the letters compare.

Next, to Fred Blakeley and the fuss he made over the quality of the paper used by Lasseter, firstly Blakeley has been utterly discredited by his own pen, as Ernest Bailey, the Secretary of C.A.G.E. put it, the man was a nincompoop. And I find it rather amusing that Blakeley goes into great detail describing the high quality of the paper used by the Expedition yet never used a sheet of it to keep a log book of the Expeditions journey, no wonder he was so lost when he came to writing Dream Millions eight years after the event, he has the plane crashing in three different places. Keep an eye out for his first book, Hard Liberty, (even scarcer than hen's teeth) and there you will read about one very strange fellow indeed.

And now to Harry and his exhumation in 1956 by an American/Australian film crew, and what a strange story this one is. Harry was dug up by these blatant publicity seekers and his bones placed in a box and carted off to Alice Springs and handed into the Police who promptly arrested the perpetrators for disturbing a grave. There happened to be a couple of Adelaide doctors in Alice Springs at the time who were asked by the Police to give an opinion on the race, age and sex of the skeleton, (there had always been a rumour about that Bob Buck had buried an Aboriginal and claimed it was Lasseter) The doctors stated "that the bones were those of an over

average age male European". And the matter was apparently left at that, perhaps out of decency and respect. The incident caused an enormous diplomatic and legal fuss and there are at least three fat files in the National Archives regarding Harry's illegal disinterment and the consequences. He was finally given a decent Christian burial in the Alice Springs cemetery, 25 years after the unhappy events in the Petermann Ranges.

For the moment I'm prepared to accept that it is Lasseter buried in Alice Springs although I'm quite certain that nowadays there would be a few hard forensic questions asked by the authorities before Lasseter was reburied. There was one very interesting comment made by Inspector McKinnon at the time, in his younger days, if the opportunity offered, it was his intention to disinter Lasseter and bring the skull back to Alice Springs for close examination, as he always had a "condition of doubt" about the manner of Lasseter's death. Of course I have my doubts about the manner of Lasseter's death.

As for 'Alley Cats' roaming the Petermanns at the same time as Lasseter, there sure were, most of them doggers who quite happily ignored the restrictions about entering Aboriginal Reserves (as Lasseter did) but there is one expedition that I'm particularly interested in, the Quest Expedition, if you go to page IX of the foreword to Lasseter's Last Ride, second last line you will see where Basedow has made a Freudian slip and confused the Quest Expedition with the C.A.G.E. Expedition, an important mistake that Idriess never bothered to correct. However my interest in the Quest Expedition centres around three fellows by the names of Spence Gall, Henry Domeyer and their Aboriginal camel man, Pompey. These were the fellows that perpetrated the story about Johanson, Lasseter's "Bush mate from Boulder City" being murdered by the Aboriginals somewhere in the Rawlinsons.

Finally to Nightjar, 'to smell the desert pea' I'll think about that one!!!

Regards, Sullivan.

Attachment: [LASSHAND 1.JPG](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Oct 1, '04

Thanks for the letters, Sully, much appreciated. Might as well pump you dry while we have you. Lol. Did Terry ever write of his expedition?



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Oct 1, '04

Hello Sullivan,

Don't waste time thinking about the figure of speech, "smell the desert pea." I'm sure you have gathered- I'm going to take a look around and enjoy. Sturt's desert pea or rose to my knowledge has no smell.

With reference to the handwriting difference there is a couple of subtle differences, however at first glance there is a strong similarity. Only compared for a few minutes and it can be seen the "h,H,i,l,p,Ps,S are comparable in letters and diary. Probably the only way to compare would be to produce handwriting of those who you suspect may have written and later planted the diary.

Very interesting your last post, Hardrock is right, get all the info we can before you disappear in a sandstorm?

Kind regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Oct 1, '04

Evening Hardrock and Nightjar,

No problem re sharing info, in fact LASSETERIA is as good as you fellows think it is because of the very generous input from a great many people.

To Michael Terry, fortunately for us he had a prolific pen, wrote well and KEPT a DAILY LOG BOOK, unlike that other duffer Fred Blakeley. Two of his books are applicable to matters Lasseter, 'Untold Miles' and 'Sun and Sand', both are very scarce and I'm told that a copy of Untold Miles in good condition is worth several hundred dollars. Shame, it's an excellent read. Terry was also pretty good with a camera.

Most of his logbooks are held in the Adelaide Museum and fairly readily accessible and I've had the pleasure of reading them, but what a head bang, his handwriting is atrocious. He also wrote, perhaps hundreds, of newspaper articles and many can be viewed on the following National Archives digital files.

Title, TERRY, Michael. Series number, A367. Control symbol, C69143. Item barcode, 782454.

Title, Michael Terry. Entry into Aboriginal Reserve. Series number, A1 Control symbol, 1933/2078. Barcode no, 45507.

Title, M. Terry. Proposed Expedition Tanami to Alice Springs. Series number, A1. Control symbol, 1927/21518. Barcode no, 44412.

For Nightjar, you will find the second reference mentioned above especially applicable to your upcoming trip to Lasseter country, also the map attached, apologies to the author but the reference has disappeared.

There's an interesting case of professional jealousy by Ion Idriess regards Michael Terry, Idriess utterly detested Terry and called him a 'Main Road Explorer' Terry ignored the bar room tramp and went ahead making 'Main Roads' first to get a motor vehicle to Ayers rock and blazed much of the Tanami Track. And I find it sardonically amusing that Idriess made one very short trip through central Australia and spent his three days in Alice Springs propping up the bar of the Stuart Arms and thereafter was an expert on matters Centralia.

By the way I wasn't referring to the aroma of the desert pea, but the smell of the desert pee. And I have no intention of disappearing in a sandstorm...yet.

Regards, Sullivan.

Attachment: [LASSMAP.JPG](#)



reply

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Oct 10, '04

Hello Sullivan,

Have been extremely busy for past week (Royal Perth Show) and now will be away until 24/10, then I hope to be back with many more questions? Thanks for the above attached map.

Tracked Murray Hubbard's book- "The Search for Harold Lasseter." to Germany, unfortunately the bank transfer costs are prohibitive, will keep looking here. What can you tell me about the author?

Heading off to our own little gold mine on Wednesday to try and find a lost reef.

Regards

Nightjar



reply

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Oct 12, '04

Evening Nightjar,

So that's where you had got to, I trust the Perth Show was the usual good fun.



To Murray Hubbard and his excellent book, *The Search for Harold Lasseter*, which is essentially Lasseter's biography and very well researched although I don't necessarily agree with some of Hubbard's conclusions. Hubbard was instrumental in bringing the Lasseter legend unstuck by proving that Harry was in the Pakenham Reform School for armed robbery in 1897 and not staggering around central Australia with a bag of gold specimens waiting to be rescued by doggers, Afghans or Hardings. Mind you in several letters to the Government, Lasseter variously claimed to have found his reef in 1900, 1911 and 1916, Lasseter had made the same mistake that all liars make, he had forgotten what he had told other people and this was picked up within a couple of weeks of his original letter to Texas Green on 14/10/29.

Hubbard also exposed Lasseter's military record as a sham, Lasseter claiming that he had served at Gallipoli with the A.I.F when in fact he had signed up for military service three times and was rejected three times, firstly for being vertically challenged at five foot two inches, then defective eyesight and finally for being mentally deranged. After reading Hubbard's book you will understand why I don't believe a word of the common Lasseter story and have started my own investigations, hence LASSETERIA.

Hubbard and I correspond occasionally, mainly about Lasseter's sojourn in the United States from 1902 to 1909. Hubbard maintains, quite reasonably, from the evidence available, that Lasseter was in America between the above dates whereas I reckon that someone fiddled the records in 1926 to establish Lasseter's presence there when he was possibly in the jug, firstly for escaping from the Reform School in 1898 and later apprehended, or for continuing his criminal ways...or an asylum. Someone has gone to a lot of trouble to fuzz the record, I have my suspicions. And to put it another way, if Lasseter were to apply for a passport today he would not be able to satisfy our Yankee cousins or DFAT regarding his American bona fides circa 1902-1909. I have a lovely fat 'Lasseter in America' file and it's the only unresolved issue regarding the Lasseter saga.

'The Search for Harold Lasseter' should be readily available in Australia for under 15 dollars, try 'bookworm.com.au', or 'westprint.com.au', let me know how you go, meanwhile I'll look about, no collection of Lasseter literature is complete without Hubbard's book. Hubbard by the way, is the Motoring Editor for Sun Community Newspapers on the Gold Coast, so support an Aussie writer if you can.

And for your amusement see if you can get the Oct/Nov issue of OUTBACK magazine and check out the story of De Carli's discovery of Lasseter's Reef.

Regards, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Oct 21, '04

Good morning Sullivan,

Have now got the "gold bug" out of the system for this season so can now get into Lasseter research in earnest?

Managed to unearth 5 of the 11 small nuggets found on this trip. The temperature in the shade is already in the 40's with a ground temp of over 50C, we may be in for a long hot Summer?

The Perth Royal Show was very successful with my grandson & son-in-law taking off Champion Ram along with many of the secondary judging.

Thanks for the further info regarding Murray Hubbard's- "*The Search for Harold Lasseter*," hope to ferret the book out soon? I still need a little more convincing that there isn't a thread of credibility in Lasseter's story?

Have picked up the OUTBACK magazine and will see what the reverse theory is all about.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Oct 24, '04

Good evening Sullivan,

Read with great interest Petermann Journey- Walter Gill, very descriptive and sometimes horrific in the handling of our Aborigines, have attached pge 96 which was of special interest?

Have included a pic of nuggets found in October.

Read Angie Testa's article in the Outback magazine, likened it to horoscopes; "You read what ever you want to into articles like this?"

"The search for Harold Lasseter- Murray Hubbard" will be here this week.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Oct 25, '04

Evening Nightjar,

Well October has been kindly to you, congrats re the Perth Show and the prospecting trip, what was the all up weight of those little beauties?.

To the Outback Magazine article, what a co-incidence, poor old Harry Lasseter's reef became a sacred site as well, however there may be a germ of truth in the Joe Harding connection circa 1917 insofar as there was a Joe Harding in charge of the Arltunga Pub and then the Oodnadatta Pub, BUT Harding seems to be one of those fellows who were quite happy to start a gold rumour in order to start a rush, good for business, selling supplies to the mugs. Our history is full of these sharp chaps, seems to have been imported from the Californian 49ers.

Good to hear you acquired a copy of Hubbard's book, enlightening reading. I mentioned in an earlier post another book that may interest you regarding matters Lasseter but the message could have been clearer, see if you can get a copy of Billy Marshall-Stoneking's 'Lasseter, the Making of a Legend' there is a second edition, as I recall titled 'Lasseter, In quest of Gold', either edition gives an Aboriginal slant to the Lasseter saga with interesting photographs and documents.

Regarding Page 96 of Gill's 'Petermann Journey' I've reread the page several times and find nothing untoward regarding treatment of the Aborigines at that particular passage of the narrative, but I do take the point about some of the ridiculous 'taboo's' we human invent. Well travelled fellow Gill, made his fortune on the Fijian goldfields.

Happy researching and hope to hear from you soon.

Regards Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Oct 26, '04

My apologies Sullivan,

Yes a mixed message in post 81. (Brain getting ahead of my two finger typing)

I meant to say there was mention of horrific dealings with the Aborigines in other parts of the book eg: pge 83 "break the nippers."

Will keep an eye out for Billy Marshall-Stoneking's book.

When will "Lasseteria" be found at the book stalls?

Regards

Peter



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 1, '04

Hello Sullivan,

"The search for Harold Lasseter- Murray Hubbard." The true story of the man behind the myths.

Incredible research resulting in the "likeable rogue" being revealed as a man who

was bordering on the genius level, a man way before his time.

After reading this book I believe Murray summed the myth up with his words on page 204;

*"Why then did he pursue this quest so relentlessly? Did he believe it inevitable a reef of gold would be located, and bring with it the elusive recognition he so desperately sought? Or did he have higher ideals, thinking that if a reef was found it could save Australia from the Great Depression;*

I personally will place this man, Lewis Harold Bell Lasseter, although not recognised in his time on earth, high up on the list of Australians who should be credited for his devotion to his country and his visions.

May Lasseter's remaining family go in peace.

Nightjar



Nightjar

[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Nov 1, '04

Gday Nightjar ,and all

you quote,

*"Why then did he pursue this quest so relentlessly? Did he believe it inevitable a reef of gold would be located, and bring with it the elusive recognition he so desperately sought? Or did he have higher ideals, thinking that if a reef was found it could save Australia from the Great Depression;*

---

*What motivates men, gratification is one thing, pretty things like gold and gems and the opposite sex (in most cases) is another, yes ! **To be remembered in the history of the country(world) is a form of gratification. an honorable trait, if from the point which the observer can see humane intent.** A lot has been said in regards to his character both in this thread and the parliamentary discussions that must have been recorded when the expedition was first mooted.*

***He (and his descendants) deserve an answer to be honestly and accurately written in history.***

*Another point you make ,regards "bordering on brilliance", one can only imagine he would have to*

*have been to survive in those times and conditions. (lot more easier nowadays with the technological advance of men and mice). When the obese lady does finally sing, he was smart enough in his own time to have a lot of people fooled, if in fact it was a hoax?.*

*I don't know whether this thread is tailing off ,it has been good reading!!!!*

*But the story on Harold Lasseter is not done yet.*

*I get the feeling we are gunna hear more .*

cheers(formerly NoNuggets1).

---

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[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 1, '04

Hello NoNuggets,

If you want to read fact about Lasseter, the man, I recommend you get your hands on Murray Hubbard's book. Very interesting reading. Again pge 204: *Through his prolific writings his ideas were exposed, and without exception they have a sound foundation, for Harold Lasseter was a man of practical concepts. He did not witness wrongs and complain, but saw opportunities and exposed.*

Lasseter may not have been out in Central Australia in 1897, but he was there when he wrote his diary shortly before his death, and within that diary there is a hidden message that will be revealed in given time.

No you haven't heard the last of L.H.B.L we're just getting started, watch this thread.

Auriferously

Nightjar

[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Nov 1, '04

Lifted from Treasure Enterprises` website:

## LASSETER'S REEF FOUND ?

Many expeditions over the past 70 years or so have been conducted in the hope of locating 'Lasseter's Lost Gold Reef'.

It appears that the original map drawn by Harold Lasseter was technically correct, but all the landmarks and details were reversed.

This then suggests that the location of Lasseter's Reef was actually to the east of Alice Springs rather than to the west as previously thought. All the geographical features mentioned by Lasseter now seem to line up.

For some years now, Vietnam Veteran Mr. Bill Decarli has undertaken much research into the famed 'Lasseter's Lost Gold Reef' and now believes that he has found the location.

When he applied for an exploration licence for 155 square kilometers around the reef and a syndicate was formed with a plan to mine it, the lands Council declared the area to be sacred.

A book entitled "***A Dead Man's Dream: Lasseter's Reef Found***" by Angie Testa and Bill Decarli recalls Bill's journey, is due to be published in November.

**PRICE: \$32.50 (Including GST & Postage)**

[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Nov 2, '04

Gday Nightjar,Bros ,Hardrock and All members,

Just a thought,if he was still alive in these days he would probably be diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. (unlike the rest of us)

cheers J.A.N1.



---

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[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 2, '04

Good evening Sullivan,

Would be very interested to read your views on the claim that during the altercation between Lasseter and Johns, Lasseter's was shot in the arm? Correct me if I'm wrong there was no mention of this in Lasseter's diary?

Was an autopsy done on Lasseter's body, if not why not? Surely his family would have requested this considering the known conflict between he and Blakeley.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 3, '04

Afternoon Nightjar, Nonuggs and fellow Lasseterians,

Last post first, re Johns wounding Lasseter, we must remember that we only have Johns word regarding this incident and it may, or may not, have happened, and a close study of Johns record shows a nasty duplicitous piece of work. Theft, false pretences, welching on debts, unmentionable liaisons with Aboriginal children and finally a bloody Nazi, and jail time in Queensland and Alice Springs. It would be a very naïve person who took the word of this fellow. And given that he threatened to murder a couple of the missionaries at Hermannsburg I wouldn't put it past him to murder Lasseter, one things for sure, there were no witnesses, hence we can only take Johns word for what happened during that "FIGHT in the DESERT" ( Chap. 12. L.L.R.)

A likely scenario, starting with the common version of the incident, somewhere in the Petermanns Lasseter goes off by himself and rediscovers his reef and returns with a bag of gold specimens, when Johns asks Lasseter for a look at the specimens, Lasseter refuses, Johns calls him a liar and a brawl starts, revolvers are drawn and Johns simply shoots Lasseter...DEAD!!! And that troubles Johns not one wit, but just in case the authorities decide to investigate Lasseter's disappearance, Johns returns with the above story, after all if hard questions are asked he can always claim self defence given Lasseter's well known liverish nature. Apparently the first person to hear Johns story was Pastor Albrecht at Hermannsburg and a week later,

Coote at Alice Springs. And both Albrecht and Coote have been proven unreliable recorders of events in Central Australia, circa 1930. Inspector Bill McKinnon at Alice Springs always "had a condition of doubt" regarding Lasseter's death, but never had the opportunity to closely inspect Lasseter's skull until 26 years later and by then any clear forensic evidence had deteriorated.

The only 'forensic' examination of Lasseter's skeleton was carried out in 1956/57 by two Adelaide doctors and that was very cursory, sufficient to say that the skeleton was that of an above average age, short white fellow. I now have records of varying authenticity to show that Lasseter was dug up and buried five times!!!!...The Aboriginals, members of the Quest Expedition, Walter Smith, Bob Buck, the Lowell Thomas film crew and finally by the authorities in Alice Springs, if only half of that is true then any forensic evidence would have been long destroyed by 1956. And No, to answer your question re the family asking for an autopsy, but I guess by this time they were only too happy to give Harry a Christian burial in a civilised cemetery, which seems fair enough to me. BUT...there is absolutely no guarantee, by today's standards, that it is Lasseter buried in Alice Springs.

Then given all of the above I have to explain who wrote the diary discovered in the cave on the Hull River by Bob Buck and the second C.A.G.E Expedition. I've already made my suspicions clear about Idriess's involvement in this and he has good reason, rounds out his story nicely and keeps the game alive and that has now been going on for 75 years, all because Harry wrote in his diary that he had rediscovered and pegged his reef, even photographed it. Best publicity Idriess ever had, Lasseter's Last Ride is now into something like 40 plus editions and it has spawned a lucrative Lasseter industry. But wait, there's more....There was a fellow by the name of Frank Green on the second C.A.G.E. Expedition and he later married Lasseter's widow. I've recently discovered that Green was in the Alice Springs lockup for three months in 1929 for unlawful possession, of what I don't yet know. Green was also involved, With John Bailey, (the Chairman of C.A.G.E.) in several shonky mining shows and both were well known to the authorities for a bundle of assorted scams and both kept very tough company where murder was not an unknown solution to a problem. I'm starting to get a glimmer of who might have started the Lasseter saga and hopefully the right files are on their way and you fellows will be the first to know.

So to Fred Blakeley and his 'conflict' with Lasseter, this never degenerated into anything more than heated words between the two men and Blakeley would never get involved in murder, too thick to plan one. However another scenario, what would be the consequences for Lasseter if Bailey and Green discovered that the little blighter was going to double cross them, after all Lasseter had apparently made separate deals with three, possibly four other parties to share the proceeds of HIS reef...a quick phone call to Johns....take care of the little bugger. But I still have to explain, convincingly the Diary. By the way, I finally found a document were Lasseter, Idriess and Green are connected.

Finally, the other part of the Lasseter/Johns altercation, is Lasseter's letter to the Government Resident in Alice Springs where he states his future intentions and asking the Gov Res to lock Johns up for brawling and threats etc, (COOTE, Hell's Airport, pages 233,234) There is no such letter, the attachment should be of interest.

In the interests of 'Time Management' and Happy Hour, the rest tonight.

Regards, Sullivan.

Attachment: [COOTE.JPG](#)

[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 3, '04

O.K. Readers, Part 2 of this afternoons post re matters Lasseter.



For starters lets not get too carried away with Lasseter's high ideals, as far as I'm concerned he didn't have any, apart from being in the jug for armed robbery, he abandoned his first family, literally left them stranded and destitute and he may well have done the same to his second family. Next, he was a TRAITOR and lets not mince words here, Lasseter was prepared to sell "secret and valuable" information to the Japanese, devoted to his country, like hell.. He was also disloyal to the C.A.G.E. Company and the company objectives by making secret and separate deals with Johanson, Walter Smith and his mate, perhaps Mallard, who knows who else. Leopards do not change their spots!!

Now to his world beating inventions, none of them were original!! Simply others dud ideas repackaged and re-presented to the authorities who had heard it all before, and on many occasions when Lasseter was asked to front up and present examples or explain his invention he didn't, my favourite is that Sydney Harbour Bridge nonsense, single span arch bridges had been around for years prior to Lasseter's ridiculous claim to being the original designer/inventor, the only problem with them was that the concept and the engineering was way ahead of the metallurgy, as if a world class engineer like Bradfield had need to purloin the ideas of the likes of Lasseter, I get bloody cross about this bit of nonsense and Bradfield should have sued Lasseter for impugning his reputation, not that Bradfield would have got much out of Lasseter, he was already stony broke. A spring loaded bridge indeed!! And by the way, there is no record of Lasseter having worked on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Next to his vast visions for developing the country, well off to the National Archives with all of you, and there amongst the dozens of digital files you will find some amusing reading from all the charlatans who preceded Lasseter with precisely the same ideas, give me a pound for pound subsidy and I will find a huge gold reef and an ocean of underground water, turn the country into a garden and become famous to boot....GAD!!!! And they all used the Country's economic plight as their spur to action, if we find another Kalgoorlie we'll all be saved, talk about a cargo cult mentality, shameful business, more so that it was so widely believed by the gullible and exploited by scoundrels.

Now for a nice piece of Lasseter hypocrisy, for some reason he utterly detested the British and took every opportunity to denigrate the Brits and the King and anything pertaining to vice royalty, (privilege envy I think) almost to the point of being, dare I say, traitorous, yet he has the nerve to suggest that the British would chip in and help him develop the country's resources after he had found his gold reef, yeah, the Brits had heard that one too. I wonder why he didn't suggest American capital to develop the country???

And while I'm flagellating the thoroughly disreputable scoundrel ask yourselves the obvious question, WHY would Lasseter leave the directions to his gold reef in some sort of code in a diary or buried under a camp fire. Remember he craved recognition via his inventions, his vision and altruistic plans for the good of the country, so he sez, yet he buries or encodes the directions to the one thing that will give him what he wants and salvage his reputation and set his family up for life. Any sane person would have left an easily discovered message clearly saying that the reef is located HERE....but we are not dealing with a sane person, check his Army record.

As for being compulsive/obsessive, well maybe, but he was certainly delusional, one record has him suffering hallucinations yet. And he was paranoid, Taylor, Blakeley, Coote and Blakiston-Houston all have Lasseter sleeping in the locked cab of the Thornycroft with the expeditions ammunition supply, ready to repel all sorts of imaginary boarders, some infer Blakeley and his dastardly mates, others the Aborigines, and this from a fellow who was supposed to have crossed the country alone. As Captain Blakiston-Houston noted, a skite and a blowhard and not a good one at that.



As for Lasseter pursuing his quest so relentlessly, he had no choice, once started on the search for a gold reef he had to keep going and hope to find one, because if he returned to Sydney without the goods the Baileys would have him in the bottom of the Harbour with concrete boots, at the very least he would have been laughed out of town, what lost your reef again Harry, not enough watches...and public derision is not a good salve for a fragile ego, Lasseter had no choice once started. About survival skills, he had none, that's why he perished, no rifle or for that matter dolly pot, pick, shovel etc, lets his camels get away because he doesn't tie them up, hasn't any clear idea where he is, eats the wrong tucker and gets crook, doesn't send up any smoke signals and hangs out in the black hole of a cave for weeks, almost like he didn't want to be found. Mind you if he was 'found' he would have some explaining to do. Considering his circumstances the best thing Lasseter can do is disappear or die.

Finally, for your interest have a look at Ruby's Story in the Simply Australia website, <http://simplyaustralia.net/> and go to issue six in their archives or through the F.A.Q.s page in LASSETERIA, I'd love an excuse to give this bit of corrupted history a jolly good thrashing.

What no comments on Decarli's story yet??!!.

Cheers all, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 3, '04

This is more like the Sullivan we have got to know.

Last first, I posted a brief reply about Decarli's claim in post 81. Most anyone could go out into the outback and line up a few hills and dream that they had unravelled the puzzle?

Your mention of survival skills also mystifies me. There is very little mention in any of the many explorers notes about supplementing supplies with local game. You would think a rifle would be almost standard.

One would think that when the camels bolted they would have made their way home, their footprints blazing a trail back to Lasseter. I recall mention of the runaway camels in "Hell's Airport" and the fact that they or their load was ever found? Maybe in their stampede their load would have jettisoned however their nosepegs would have remained. Remembering that back then there would have been very few if any feral camels in the region. It is interesting to note in last weekends paper there was a write up about local aborigines preparing to capture feral camels in the Petermann Ranges for live export. Who knows, these ferals maybe descendents of Lasseter's camels?

I truly believe that Murray Hubbard's summation of Lasseter- the man and his reef is near the point. He was desperate to find a reef, his visions had not let him down in the past. There was this huge expanse of unchartered country that could very well be auriferous.

We may never know whether or not the diary is genuine, until that time I go in the belief that it is a true account of facts leading up to Lasseter's death.

The burying of his diary in the cave was the norm, Burke & Wills spring to mind, if their notes had been dug up by the search party it is highly likely they would have survived?

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 7, '04

Hello Sullivan,

The Sydney Morning Herald seemed to be encouraging prospectors to go in search of wealth in the period following Lasseter's death. It is interesting they referred to him as "Das" Lasseter?

An article in the Australian National Archives confirms this;  
Control Symbol: Q373/1/5 Part 1  
Series number: A461  
pge; 50



Regards  
Nightjar  
[reply](#)  
[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 7, '04  
Evening Nightjar,

I've got some catching up to do.

About Lasseter and the notable lack of a rifle in his kit, fair point and you don't think Johns, Lasseter and Blakeley and all concerned got some stick over this one, and so they should have, the C.A.G.E. Company carried two 32 cal. rifles and one of them should have travelled with Lasseter. The only mitigating circumstances are that Blakeley thought Johns 44 cal rifle was sufficient or he didn't trust Lasseter with a rifle, (considering his record I don't think I would have either) But however or whyever there is no excuse for Lasseter not having a rifle.

As for the camels bolting and apparently disappearing, well quite a few people have wondered about those camels and their packs, Walter Smith who supposedly lent Paul Johns two camels to make up a string of five, reckons his camels minus packs eventually turned up at Hermannsburg and I have one report saying that one of the camels turned up at Oodnadatta, a well travelled camel that one. Then if you go to page 33 of Petermann Journey you will see where Bob Buck unashamedly rounds up some stray camels and includes them in his string, apparently the done thing in the Territory at the time. So Lasseter's camels may have ended up in some one else's mob, perhaps Bucks. And I'm not convinced that bolting camels always return home, if that were the case how did the feral mobs start??? I reckon the canny beasts return to the best waterhole and feed they last remember.

There's a passage in L.L.R. at page 225 where Buck finds one of the camel saddles with a message from Lasseter stuffed into the packing inferring that the camels threw their loads within a very short distance of bolting, BUT said passage involves Buck 'n' Idriess and I don't believe in fairy stories, albiet they're entertaining.

Yeah, you are right about the diary, as the evidence stands I have 'accept' the diary is genuine, but gee I have my suspicions. Dotty bit of verbiage anyway. Perhaps Lasseter (or was it Idriess) had Burke and Wills in mind when he took to burying things, which the Aboriginals promptly dug up anyway. The story of Burke and Wills reburying things at the Dig Tree amuses me, they did such a good job of it that when a couple of the main party returned within a matter of hours they completely missed the evidence that B & W had been there. But what a bunch of twerps that lot were, I've toyed with the idea of subtitling LASSETERIA, Burke and Wills on Wings and Wheels.

Now to 'Das' Lasseter and you don't think this one lead me on a convoluted path, it all began at Hermannsburg with Pastor Albrecht and it turns out to be a mistranslation on the part of us Aussies, not Albrecht. As it turns out 'das' is a pronoun, roughly meaning 'the'. Some examples of usage

that -- das  
the -- das  
whom -- das  
this -- das  
which -- das  
who -- das

And I thought I had another one to add to Lasseter's growing list of A.K.A's, non-deplumes, aliases etc.

As for LASSETERIA being published, it has to be, to get some return on the enormous expense of research, next year, 2005 would be good timing as it will be 75 years since events in Central Australia, but I have a lot of work to do yet.....dare I say watch this space.

And something for your amusement re the post Investors/partners from karavas61, the attachment from 1940 makes karavas61 look like a piker.

Regards, Sullivan.

Attachment: [BILLIONS 1.JPG](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Nov 8, '04

Wow, an enormous deposit of gold in Australia. Wonder if we can get the ACTU to finance an expedition?



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 8, '04

Sullivan,

Of course the German language?- "Das" ist a Volksvagen?

Take a look at this thread.

[GrumblyPeter-Norma](#)

[Nightjar](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-swampdonkey620](#) wrote on Nov 10, '04

Hello Nightjar

Have u tried this site it can help u look for the books u are after i hope. [www.biblioiz.com.au](http://www.biblioiz.com.au)

Cheers



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 10, '04

Thankyou Swampdonkey,

Received today, Lasseter making of a legend- Billy Marshall-Stoneking from

[www.biblioiz.com](http://www.biblioiz.com)

A search of Ebay has also been very fruitful in compiling a collection of books.

Now have a very valuable library of books relating to Lasseter, the man, Lasseter country & early Australian explorers.

Looking forward to adding Lasseteria in 2005.

Will compile a list and post it here and see if there are any issues I have missed.

Your help is appreciated anyway.

regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 10, '04

HEY SWAMPDONKEY,

YOU ARE WORTH YOUR WEIGHT IN GOLD FOR THAT LEAD TO BIBLIOZ, A PRE OCTOBER 1931 EDITION OF LASSETER'S LAST RIDE ON THE WAY AND WILL BE DISECTED WITH INTEREST, LOOK FOR A FULL REPORT HERE AND IN LASSETERIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

REGARDS SULLIVAN



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Nov 10, '04

Gday Nightjar,Bros and all,

Well this post has just hit the magic ton,and by the most recent posts could be in for double century.Good work guy's and happy reading with the new books on the "man and the legend".

cheers NoNuggets1.

---

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[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Nov 10, '04

Bugger you, Nugs, I was hoping to grab the 100 spot.

[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Nov 10, '04

Gday Hardrock,

Most humble apologies mate !

cheers NoNuggets1.

---

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[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 11, '04

Afternoon Nightjar,

Yep, 'das' from the German, Pastor Albrecht had only been in Australia a few short years prior to his involvement with C.A.G.E and Lasseter, and was still getting his head around the devils own language, English, and at the end of the day he did a fine job of it, as well as becoming expert in the Arrente language and more than passably fluent in a few other Aboriginal dialects as well. At the time he wrote of 'Das' Lasseter he had arrived at Illbilla, (06/10/30) shortly after C.A.G.E abandoned the camp, and he noted the sign left by Blakeley about not pilfering the supplies as they had been left for Lasseter, in this context Albrecht was writing about 'THE' Lasseter of legend, hence, das Lasseter. The S.M.H. and quite a few bureaucrats mistakenly capitalised the 'das' to 'Das' and so Lasseter ends up with another first name, as if he needed any more handles. By the way Albrecht wrote up his notes in German and then translated to the English where necessary. Remarkable fellow and deserved a better result for his efforts.

Look forward to your comments about Marshall-Stoneking's work as well as any outstanding items on your shopping list of Lasseter Literature, but it sounds like you

have got the essentials now.

By the way I can't get that thread to GrumblyPeter-Norma to work, am I pressing the wrong buttons here?? What was it about anyway??

Regards, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 11, '04

Hello sullivan,

Deviating off on another track.

Flora related to mineralised ground. In this instance Native Cherry and here in the West the Desert Kurrajong growing in the goldfields.

I was referring to the instance of Desert Kurrajong growing in Lasseter country supposedly not auriferous?

We have an unusual mineral concentration in the WA goldfields also, always associated to gold bearing areas and try as I may no one can give me an explanation.

Approximate metre diameter of highly mineralised broken rock approximately 50/75mm square in size. one would almost think they had been raked into a pile.

Light in weight, non magnetic but the detector goes into overload.

We have given them a common name "volcanoes" however when we wander across one of these from experience we know we are onto gold.

Peter



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 13, '04

Hello Sullivan,

"A tangled web we weave!" After reading Billy Stone-King's- Lasseter-The Making of a legend we have another insight to this mystery? It brings me back to why an official autopsy was never carried out on the remains of what was supposedly Lasseter, buried in a lonely grave?

Page 189 Nosepeg Tjupurrula's account: ***Nosepeg would grab various parts of his body to show what had been found. "This one here', he'd say, grabbing his leg; 'this one here', grabbing his head;' and here and here', grabbing his other arm and hand;' and this one here, all the way', he'd say, and grab hold of his teeth. But I remembered that Lasseter didn't have any teeth. Bob buck had, in fact, brought back a set of dentures which the police accepted as proof of the fact that he had found Lasseter..... Nosepeg was adamant about the teeth, but if there were teeth then it is not possible that the body that was found was Lasseter's.***

Could it be that these remains were of the mystery man from the West- Johannsen, who Lasseter claimed he was meeting up with at Lake Christopher? Remember he (Lasseter) said; "He was going out to Lake Christopher to get his bearings."

In Billy's book there are so many contradictions in what the local inhabitants saw and reported and what was put to print?

Very intriguing, no wonder this saga has caught the imagination of so many, and millions of dollars invested in the search for Lasseter's fabulous reef.

regards

Nightjar



reply

msn-nightjar wrote on Nov 13, '04

Hello Sullivan and any other interested readers,  
Have been reading preceding threads and have in particular post 194, have added comments below;  
*Evening Nightjar,*

*I've got some catching up to do.*

*About Lasseter and the notable lack of a rifle in his kit, fair point and you don't think Johns, Lasseter and Blakeley and all concerned got some stick over this one, and so they should have, the C.A.G.E. Company carried two 32 cal. rifles and one of them should have travelled with Lasseter. **I vaguely remember an account, I think explorer Forrest was sent out to try and locate lost explorers in WA, during the search they reported finding a chest and the burnt remains of a rifle lodged in a tree that they associated with Lasseter?** The only mitigating circumstances are that Blakeley thought Johns 44 cal rifle was sufficient or he didn't trust Lasseter with a rifle, (considering his record I don't think I would have either) **Don't believe Blakeley would have known at this time about Lasseter's misdemeanour all those years previous, and the records say he was in possession of stolen revolver but never fired a shot in anger?** But however or whatever there is no excuse for Lasseter not having a rifle.*

*As for the camels bolting and apparently disappearing, well quite a few people have wondered about those camels and their packs, Walter Smith who supposedly lent Paul Johns two camels to make up a string of five, reckons his camels minus packs eventually turned up at Hermannsburg and I have one report saying that one of the camels turned up at Oodnadatta, a well travelled camel that one. **Leslie Tjapanangka's account when she was only 10yo was that Lasseter dismounted to "relieve himself" and the camels bolted, he did however track them and retrieved food and personal items that had been jettisoned.** Then if you go to page 33 of Petermann Journey you will see where Bob Buck unashamedly rounds up some stray camels and includes them in his string, apparently the done thing in the Territory at the time. So Lasseter's camels may have ended up in some one else's mob, perhaps Bucks. And I'm not convinced that bolting camels always return home, if that were the case how did the feral mobs start??? I reckon the canny beasts return to the best waterhole and feed they last remember.*

*There's a passage in L.L.R. at page 225 where Buck finds one of the camel saddles with a message from Lasseter stuffed into the packing inferring that the camels threw their loads within a very short distance of bolting, BUT said passage involves Buck 'n' Idriess and I don't believe in fairy stories, albiet they're entertaining.*

*Yeah, you are right about the diary, as the evidence stands I have to accept the diary is genuine, but gee I have my suspicions. Dotty bit of verbiage anyway. Perhaps Lasseter (or was it Idriess) had Burke and Wills in mind when he took to burying things, which the Aboriginals promptly dug up anyway. **Believe there is documented proof that it was common for explorers to bury food caches and messages and it probably evolved that burying items under their campfires lessened the likelihood of them being exposed?** The story of Burke and Wills reburying things at the Dig Tree amuses me, they did such a good job of it that when a couple of the main party returned within a matter of hours they completely missed the evidence that B & W had been there. But what a bunch of twerps that lot were, **Do think you are being over critical here Sullivan, believe the responsibility here lay with the search party, they should have remained in the area a little longer and carried out a thorough search for clues.** I've toyed with the idea of subtitled LASSETERIA, Burke and Wills on Wings and Wheels.*

## Nightjar



reply

msn-bros0127 wrote on Nov 13, '04  
Morning Nightjar.

Re John Forrest and the burnt rifle butt in the bottle tree, Forrest was actually looking for Ludwig Leichhardt's remains or any evidence thereof, but the rifle butt story didn't surface until the 1920's when some prospectors/explorers found the burnt remains of an old rifle in the fork of a bottle tree in the Tanami Desert near the W.A. border. The rifle was supposed to have been engraved with the name 'Ludwig Leichhardt 1848'. The discoverers took a pencil rubbing of the engraving, why they didn't collect the rifle is highly questionable. The original rubbing is supposed to be in the South Australian Lands Department Archives. As for Leichhardt's tin box supposedly full of sovereigns, to pay the Aborigines for their assistance, I doubt if that tin box ever existed, but a lot of people have gone looking for it. The Simpson Desert seems to be the favoured search area. Great mystery that one.

According to Marshall-Stoneking, Blakeley's beef with Lasseter was that Lasseter had remarried without divorcing his first wife. Therefore a bigamist relationship with his second wife, apparently he didn't formally marry her either, a great social taboo in those days. And 'by his record' I mean Lasseter's bad tempered bloody mindedness may have precluded him being given a rifle, might use it on Blakeley.

And you are obviously reading your way through Marshall-Stoneking's book re the Aboriginal account of Lasseter's camels bolting, well that account may be so, but I have another that says the camels bolted because an old man Emu with chicks fluffed its feathers at the camels and scared the daylights out of them, dumping Lasseter immediately and scattering the load along their path. But whatever caused the camels to bolt doesn't change the fact that Lasseter didn't hoosh the camels before relieving himself. Entry 159A in LASSETERIA has a list of what Lasseter recovered after the camels bolted, taken from Lasseter's Diary, and for the moment, one must presume that diary an authentic record. And at the risk of causing great furore on this excellent board, I will state unequivocally, THAT ORAL HISTORY IS NOT WORTH THE PAPER IT'S WRITTEN ON, it is not history, it is anecdote, and 'oral history' is in fact, an oxymoron.

You are quiet right about explorers burying caches of supplies, the most logical reason was to lighten the outward load and have something in reserve for the return journey. Michael Terry made a successful practise of this with his petrol supplies. As for burying things under campfires ala Lasseter and the Petermanns, the only problem here was that the Aborigines dug up his campfires for the tins and bottles, a damn side more valuable to them than Lasseter's gold, the attachment will be of interest re burying things under campfires.

As for Burke and Wills, I'm being gentle, the Victorian authorities instigated an enquiry into the whole embarrassing debacle and Burke in particular was thoroughly and justifiably castigated, in fact he received a right old bollocking. He should have stayed right by that 'Dig Tree', instead he sets off for Mount Hopeless in South Australia, on shanks pony yet!! He should have left another message on the dig tree stating his intentions. As for the relief party taking the time to search about when they returned, they had no cause to, the silly Burke didn't leave any clues that they had been there, carefully covered up the evidence.

Any comment about Marshall-Stoneking??



Regards Sullivan.

Attachment: [DOMEYER.jpg](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Nov 14, '04

Hi, Sully, interesting bit about Domeyer. With him, Terry, Buck, Blakeney and Co. all trekking through that part of the country, it must have been busier than Pitt Street on a Saturday.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 14, '04

Hello Sullivan/ Hardrock,

The Domeyer account of events does conjure up a few questions. The aboriginals in the area would have taken Lasseter to this exploration team not past them?

Your reference to oral information being an oxymoron, very interesting.

Was involved with oral communication at a seminar.

10 persons in a line, the first was given a relatively simple message to read, the written instruction was then taken away. The first person then had to verbally pass the message to the second, whispering in their ear so the others couldn't hear. This was repeated along the line to number 10, number 10 then had to write the message down and then it was compared to the original message. Everyone present were amazed how mixed up and different the two messages were. This was in a time frame of approximately 5/10 minutes, so, as you mention verbal history is like throwing words to the wind?

Thanks for clearing up my vague recollection of Forrest's search, it was a story I heard or read many years ago and was not sure who it referred too.

So Michael Terry may have the unenviable reputation of introducing our aboriginal desert dwellers to "petrol sniffing" with his petrol caches?

If you are referring to Billy Marshall- King's, Lasseter- The making of a legend, I found it interesting reading with yet another twist to the Lasseter saga. Much of the info was obtained from previous writings Idriess, Blakeley, Coote etc however Billy's personal interaction with the Pintupi/Lutitja revealed another insight to life in Central Australia and the difficulties the Sand Dwellers and explorers faced in this unforgiving land.

One of many points that caught my interest was the use of flares to signal Paul John's? No where have I read with any other expeditions (other than maybe the Antarctica) the use of signal flares. If this is a true account one would think that flares would have been at the top of every explorers inventory.

If you are referring to my personal opinion of Marshall-King, the man, NO comment, I tend not to pass judgement on any person (there has been the odd occasion) unless I know them personally or have categorical evidence about them. Any comments about the remains of Lasseter, with teeth intact?

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 14, '04

Morning Nightjar,

I missed your 105 message, so my 107 will be slightly out of context regarding B.M.S. Doesn't change my observation about oral history though, in days of yore such history was known as folklore and it seems the advent of tape recorders has legitimised otherwise shonky history, especially in the case of Nosepeg and Lasseter's false teeth, don't know how B.M.S. and Nosepeg are going to explain Lasseter's military dental records.

However you do raise a pertinent point about who was in that grave at Winters Glen, the balance of evidence suggests Lasseter, and it was on the 'balance of evidence'

that Carrington made his judgement. I should add that Vic Carrington had been Administrator for about a year and was very much learning on the job, which, in time, he ended up executing very efficiently indeed. Some have called him the Father of Central Australia, although I don't think Carrington would have approved. There's a funning story about Carrington and the dilemma he caused in Canberra. Having the same rank as a Governor of a Colony posed the problem of what to do about vice regal salutes and all the other pomp and ceremony that goes with such positions. He was entitled to a nine gun salute but he didn't have a navy to back it, vast is the volume of correspondence in Canberra about what to do, the issue went all the way to the King. The problem was eventually solved by legislation when Central Australia was again made part of the Northern Territory. The problem fussed Carrington not one bit. Somehow I can't see Carrington on the steps of the Stuart Arms taking the salute of massed gunboats sailing up the Todd. We digress.

So if it wasn't Lasseter buried at Winters Glen, then who was? and perhaps more important, where is Lasseter buried??, perhaps in America as Blakeley reckons, but poor old Freddy Blakeley has already discredited himself with his own pen, and being the suspicious pig ignorant iconoclast that he was he was only too ready to believe in conspiracy theories to explain the cock up he made of the expedition. On the 'balance of evidence' we will probably have to accept that L.H.B. Lasseter is buried in Alice Springs, and unless you know a brilliant lawyer who is prepared to do a lot of pro bono work for us, the matter will have to rest there, (no pun intended)

And I've just caught up with your post 109, will reply this evening.

Regards Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Nov 14, '04

Good evening Nightjar, Sullivan, Hardrock,

I think that little exercise is called interestingly or (trivially) "Chinese Whispers" Nightjar.

cheers NoNuggs1.

---

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[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Nov 14, '04

Naught wrong with oral communication. Worked for Moses.



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 14, '04

Evening Hardrock, NoNuggs and Nightjar.

Firstly Hardrock, you are right about the busy Petermanns, lets see, Michael Terry and the Endeavour Expedition, Gall and Domeyer and the Quest Expedition, Buck and his motley crew several times, the second with Walter Gill. Walter Smith and Mick Roach. Johansen and Smith, not to mention Coote, Taylor and Tucker at the Rock as well as the unrecorded doggers and combos and Lasseter managed to avoid the lot!!!. Well hid in that cave I guess.

Indeed, why didn't the Aboriginals take Lasseter to Domeyer's camp, but then Domeyer was writing 37 years after the event and may have been suffering from 'Faulty Memory Syndrome', often a consequence of listening to and believing oral history, unfortunately the Quest Expedition appears not to have left a written record of their travels, how convenient.

And NoNuggs you are right about the exercise being named Chinese Whispers and it's a valuable lesson in the consequences of gossip and rumour and second hand information. Can you imagine the end result after a hundred people, fifty years and a thousand campfires. As for Moses and oral communication, fair enough, but I would have loved to have been around for the original message which I suspect is somewhat different from the word today, but wait what about those ten stone tablets??.

Nightjar, As far as I recall Michael Terry missed only one of his petrol caches and that as a result of having to take a different return route.

Now to B.M.S, of course I'm referring to his written work and not the person when asking for comment, and it is perfectly legitimate to comment openly and freely on a book or any body of written work and I expect plenty of the same, adverse or otherwise, when LASSETERIA hits the stands. B.M.S. and I have been in touch re matters Lasseter wherein an interesting subtlety came to light regarding his informants, namely the Aboriginal story of Lasseter's misadventures in the Petermanns is rightly a Pitjantjatjara story and not a Pintubi story, they have in fact inherited some oral history with it's consequential distortions and so back to NoNuggs and the second paragraph.

Regards, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 16, '04

Good evening, Sullivan, Hardrock, Nonugs, Sam (reading with interest in California) and anyone else who looks in,

Can you believe you're not allowed to upgrade your MSN email address with out creating a new net passport + nickname? Anyway I'm back and still have my old handle, I won't bore you with the details.

Mention of the Bindibu & Pintubi people in last paragraph of post 113.

Have attached a couple of pages from the introduction of the book, *Bidibu Country*. Written by the late Donald F Thompson O.B.E. D.sc.Ph.D the first holder of a Diploma Anthropology in Australia.

*Claude Levi-Strauss said in The Savage Mind, after quoting Thompson's work, "In the face of such accuracy and care one begins to wish that every ethnologist were also a minerologist, a botanist, an ecologist and even an astronomer..... he had an extraordinary career and could be best described as Australia's Lawrence of Arabia.....He travelled thousands of miles in the Outback Country, making contact with survivors of the Aboriginal tribes, studying their culture and collecting artifacts, and his achievements survive in his collection of documents, field notes and artifacts, believed to be the most important in the world....."*

After reading this book and the hardships encountered in the mid 1900's one would wonder why anyone would endure such deprivations and solitude other than to pursue a dream and a love for his work.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 17, '04

Good evening Sullivan,

This thread is uncovering not only "Lasseter" information but alleged collaboration with the enemy during 1942, not by Lasseter at this date he was long deceased or was he?.

Australian National Archives: MORLEY AUBREY HERMANN CUTLACK (sometimes referred as CUTLOCK. series: A52.

Another shady character who was being watched very closely by the National Security, who claimed to know the location of "Lasseter's Reef"

LUDWIG LOUIS NUDL claimed he (Cutlack along with many sidekicks) was in corroboration with the Japanese and Germans.

And there is more Bradfield (Sydney harbour bridge) gets a mention, as does Errol Coote on pge 48? (Definitely a "tangled web we weave.")

Have attached pge 4 which has brief reference to Lasseter.

Interesting to note that on an expedition 3 years after Cutlack claimed he knew where Lasseter's reef was located he was unable to lead the expedition to the location? He was exonerated due to required hasty return of their aircraft?

No doubt you have already dissected all this info and would welcome your views on this never ending saga.

Regards

Nightjar

[reply](#)

[msn-mark240857](#) wrote on Nov 18, '04



Hi Nightjar

The following site <http://gutenberg.net> is a huge reference library with free books online that you can search. I've looked at the diaries and journals of various early explorers etc thru Oz. I haven't checked but I'm sure that you could find something on Mr L. It's very easy to get bogged down or sidetracked so Good luck

MC

[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 18, '04

Evening Nightjar,



So who's starting to find his way around the National Archives Eh?!, got that G.P.S. working well I see.

Yes have read the file re Cutlack and Nudl, et al, hoping to find something murky on Coote, but nothing turned up, and in the interests of 'time management' I can't afford to get too side tracked although I would like to get into those national security files, some juicy reading there.

I have hundreds of pages on Hummerston and Cutlack and their unscrupulous companies raised to finance searches for Lasseter's Reef and holidays to the Centre and dalliances with Aborigines, an savoury lot, but so far have found no direct connection between them and the Baileys and Lasseter. It seems that Cutlack and Hummerston just exploited the well-known Lasseter legend for their own ends, although Hummerston seems to be the first to plant Lasseter 'evidence' and then arrange for someone to find the evidence as proof of his claims that Lasseter's reef had been rediscovered, thus financing more searches.

During the Second World War Cutlack simply changed his method of financing, (and the reason) for trips to the Territory, it was no longer Lasseter's Reef but 'important' war work and his knowledge of the Top End would be useful to the authorities in tracking down those nefarious Japanese spies that allegedly infested the place, the Commonwealth paid for a few trips but soon wised up. Bottom line is, Cutlack was nothing more or less than a two bit shyster and not overly successful at that. A little man with schemes bigger than his capabilities, he sure knew how to get publicity though. He and Hummerston won't be getting too much space in LASSETERIA.

As for Lasseter being alive in 1942, well poor old Freddy Blakeley would believe that, but Ern Bailey the Secretary of the C.A.G.E. Company put it best, "I wouldn't want to be as dead as Lasseter".

Regards, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 18, '04

Thanks MK2/ Sullivan,

There's a feast of reading here which will be of great benefit no doubt, thanks for the opportunity to share the site.

Sullivan, any comment on Bindibu Country?

Cheers

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 19, '04

Afternoon Nightjar,

You are right about the National Archives, I reckon the best anywhere and nowhere else will you find such a comprehensive digital archives, brilliant service, mind you I reckon a few so called professional historians must detest the facility, brings them unstuck frequently and so it should. Which leads to the Bindibu.

As far as I'm concerned there is only one fellow who has done the job of Aboriginal Boundaries right and that is Norman Tindale, at least he got much information down on paper before the great Diaspora of Aboriginal tribes and communities, particularly from the 1930's onward, towards the Missions, rail lines, mining camps etc, tremendous upheaval in Aboriginal life from then on and many boundaries and tribal affinities were blurred if not destroyed. Note what happened to the Jumu people, a bloody crime that, Blakeley and his mates should have come across the Jumu as they travelled along the northern slopes of Western MacDonnell Ranges, didn't see a soul.

Just type 'Tindale's Catalogue of Australian Aboriginal Tribes' into Google or whatever and from there you can explore the lot or go to the South Australian Museums web site at [www.samuseum.sa.gov.au](http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au) Over the weekend I will dig up my Tindale maps of the Bindibu country and hopefully send the map as an attachment.

Regards, Sullivan



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 19, '04

Hello Sullivan,

Will take a stroll around the sites you recommend when this run of 12 hour shifts finish.

Have been recommended good reading by (Terese Cook)

Warburton/Ngaanyatjarraku Council. <http://www.tjulyuru.com/comm.asp>

*A Nomad was Our Guide-William Grayden* involving help from a local Aboriginal in the search for Ludwig Leichhardt.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Nov 19, '04

Might have to start a Lasseter's Info Mark II thread. I'm getting scroller's cramp.



[reply](#)

[msn-ancient\\_river\\_bed](#) wrote on Nov 20, '04

gee you's must be getting close now with all the imfo from these useless books

???? well if that imformation was true it would have been found a long time ago dont you think. if people get out of there lounge room and just look, it might be found, if the (rumours) are true. a lot of gold gets driven over or passed looking just looking

these days, you must walk the ground to know for sure the same as the old timers did except we have metal detectors, 4x4's, solar and so now. not pan, pick shovel and a few camels. its a good yarn lasseters reef and the fact that he perished and it was never found makes it even better dont you think.  
i spent the weekend dodging thunderstorms but found a 2 grammer. keep looking thats all.



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on Nov 20, '04

Nothing useless about a book, Arby. If you don't find anything inside, you can always wipe your bum with the pages.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 20, '04

Hello members,

It seems like only yesterday when I mounted the prospecting roller coaster, not only have the years rolled, by but now, it is decades and I have never forgotten what and old and wise prospector once told me in the Yalgoo Pub. "Listen son and listen well, gold deposits in Western Australia run North/South, the reefs run East/West however do your RESEARCH, did you hear me, do your RESEARCH because so many in their blind quest for gold walk over other valuable minerals and don't give them a second look because they are ignorant and only see the gold."

So you see all the mineral deposits in Australia were probably found by observant and knowledgable prospectors who recognised important geology other than the bits of gold sticking out of the ground. For example, Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon & Monazite are all rolled into one class- Mineral Sands (Once commonly known as Beach Sand?) Now who would waste their time looking for gold in the desert sands which millions of years ago was a huge inland sea?

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-ancient\\_river\\_bed](#) wrote on Nov 20, '04

the research done by the average old timer, might have been as simple follow the others or there tracks, people asking for gps marks. not that much different. i think if you put yourself on the goldfeilds where nuggets were found and try your luck with good equipment.

i agree with what you say "Listen son and listen well"

ever spent months of research and when i got there all i could see was a great hole in the ground or detector holes everywhere, then wish you had just gone and had a look when you started your research, i bet.

one more thing research is where the gold was and gold is where you find it. realistic.

research 10%, looking 65%, luck 25%. if you take out research its about 70/30 looking and luck.

what do you think?

how much does research play.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 23, '04

Hello Ancient River Bed, (Great handle)

With regards to comments in post 125;

*"one more thing research is where the gold was and gold is where you find it. realistic.*

*research 10%, looking 65%, luck 25%. if you take out research its about 70/30 looking and luck.*

*what do you think?*

*how much does research play."*

Double barrel question here?

Yes, research can be valuble where gold was found, it would be almost futile to swing a detector for instance in the Boddington area, which was one of the largest gold mines in WA as is the Jarrahdale area. Gold area yes, detecting no.

I agree that areas you decide on can be cleaned out by the time you get there. If you step back and think about it you can be comforted by the fact that your research



revealed that you know your "stuff" and eventually you will arrive at "your" area first. Sullivan's research detailed in "Lasseteria" has almost ruled out any chance of Lasseter's Reef being found. The missing link here is no one knows where Lasseter wandered after his parting with Paul John's. To date the multiple searches have been concentrated in the Petermann Ranges without result. If the "fabulous reef" is truly out there it will only be revealed by research. It doesn't really matter whether it be by aerial, or ground work it is still research.

And I definitely agree that "luck" plays a huge part, but only after you have arrived in an auriferous area that you have recognised from your research whether it be a known area or not.

Sullivan,

Have been suffering withdrawal pains, day job (including nights) keeping me away from Lasseter research.

Errol Hampton Coote, now he wasn't our favourite son when it came to fighting in the 14/18 world war, seems like he spent more time in detention or the sick bay?

Change of name and birth place, was this the norm back then?

Have received William L Grayden's book "A Nomad was Our Guide" and looking forward to his account of the search out from Laverton into Lasseter's country in 1953. Although at this time he was searching for evidence of the disappearance of Ludwig Leichhardt's party back in 1848 and the mysterious metal box, it takes us into the Rawlinson Ranges/ Lake Christopher area where Lasseter was believed to have roamed?

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Nov 25, '04

Evening Nightjar, Hardrock, Swamp Donkey and Ancient River Bed.

Well it's finally arrived, a pre 'Second Expedition' copy of Lasseter's Last Ride and it was worth every penny; here's what this edition (3rd edition, 10th November 1931) doesn't contain...chapters 29,30 and 31. These chapters, which all relate to the second expedition, only appear in the fifth edition onwards and show excerpts of Lasseter's diary, with, as Marshall-Stoneking has noted, suspicious modifications, albeit minor ones. No problem there, but it does prove that the diary was not 'found' until the second expedition, (the one lead by Bob Buck) arrived at the cave on the Hull River on 16/10/31. Buck's expedition, correctly known as the Second C.A.G.E. Expedition, did not return to Alice Springs until late November 1931 and therefore too late to include any reference to Lasseter's Diary in the 3rd or prior editions of Idriess's bestseller.

Also missing is the endpaper, titled, "NOTES TO MAP OPPOSITE", and the map of Lasseter Country, of course these two pages with references to Patrick Whelan and the British Australian Gold Exploration Company can only appear in editions printed after the 4th August 1932. Yep, Idriess sure grew the story.

The 3rd edition also has some photographs that don't appear in later editions, the fairly common photo of Lasseter with wife and two children, Bob Buck's camel team at Piltardie Rockhole and a real gem, "The 'T' sign which saved Pittendrigh and Hamre". I've added this photo to entry 214 in LASSETERIA, the title and reference will be added shortly.

And the last page to the 3rd edition, page 228, has a notable addition, as follows.

"Lasseter is dead. Two prospectors who set out on his tracks are dead. Old Warts is dead. A camel party brings word that he was boned after Lasseter's death."

Later editions read as follows.

"Lasseter is dead. Two prospectors who set out on his tracks are dead"....and no



reference to poor Old Warts being boned, he's been resurrected, as he should be because his photo appears in later editions of L.L.R. and not in the 3rd edition, besides he has to be around so Buck can give him that bag of flour for being kindly to Lasseter, an incident that is very clearly described in pages 161 and 162 of Walter Gill's Petermann Journey. By the way there is no reference to 'Old Warts' in the index in any edition of L.L.R. An odd oversight considering the part the old fellow played in succouring Lasseter.....more to follow mates.

Now to research, Arby, I would give research 75% of any endeavour for two reasons, sound research might show that the ground is not worth treading so having done the research you wont be wasting your time heading off to barren ground hoping luck will smile on you and with diligent research you'll make your own luck. There's a couple of other factors that haven't been mentioned, preparation and know your equipment like you invented it. Best of luck!!!

Cheers Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 26, '04

Hello all interested,

Have attached a copy of a page that must have been taken from Lasseter's notes claiming he made some protective covering from treacle tins to try and ward off spears?

Sullivan,

Sounds like the arrival of the 3rd edition of Lasseter's Last Ride has given you some new material to work with? Will go and take a look at the photo you have added to Lasseteria.

Cheers

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Dec 1, '04

Hello all,

After much running around in circles have finally contacted Geraldine Reid from the Ngaanyatjarra Council. The necessary info is in the post to put the wheels in motion to obtain permits to enable an application to be lodged with the traditional land owners with the hope of gaining permission to tour the route from the Northern Territory border into Western Australia following the last Lasseter Expedition as far as Sladen Waters. From there up along the Rawlinson Ranges, pick up the Gunbarrel Highway back to Wiluna.

Hey Sullivan, is Lasseteria keeping you up at night?

Cheers

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Dec 4, '04

Evening Nightjar,

Making progress on the permit front I see, well done.

As for Lasseteria keeping me up at night, sure is, have just finished entry number 201 re Lasseter's benefactor while he was stranded in the Petermanns, namely 'Old Warts' and his resurrection by Idriess, am now working on entry 59A 'CODED TELEGRAMS' and because there's a touch of the Devil in me I'll leave you with the following for a few nights.

OWASEYXEC FYLKUPEXOO NYKEBRAKEB IGYEKUTWOD CYVXIOZSIN  
OIDITPOFIK UTWADUAZIZ AVBEAJXDYM  
OPYSHOGGSI PYJSKAMRIP TROWGGEXVY SIMIWOIDIT USICEABODI  
FOCORTIWAD UZOATOTTEPA GOVRES.

Now that's a great way to upset a spell checker, the telegram relates to Lasseter's movements after he left the main expedition.

Regards, Sullivan



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Dec 5, '04

Evening Sullivan,

Now have my **second** entry permit application and in bold letters I am informed that one is only allowed (Maximum three (3) days) in transit so there is some work to do to gain access to the traditional land?

Enjoy codes however your latest puzzle may take as long to unravel as anyone to find the fabled lost reef? However suspect your submitted telegram code is based on one of the many used during WW1. Thinking, thinking.

In the mean time here is my message to you regarding Lasseteria;

IPQFABMMAUIFAIPVSTABSFAXPSUIXIJMFAEFWFMPQJOHAMBTTTFUFSJB.AASF  
HBSETAAOJHIUKBS

regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Dec 6, '04

Hello Nightjar,

Touché Pete, so I've posted entry 59A 'CODED TELEGRAMS' to LASSETERIA.

Regards, Sullivan



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Dec 12, '04

Hello Sullivan,

Have only got one computer working on that code. Gave up after reading about some fella using 160: computers for 6 months to crack a code. How many bytes would that add up too?

Any way read the decoded telegram on Lasseteria 59A.

How did you go delving through the Alice Springs court proceedings?

Cheers

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Dec 12, '04

Evening nightjar,

If there's anything bigger than gigabytes then it would probably take several of them to crack that code, makes you realise what a remarkable job those boffins did to break the German Ultra codes in WW2. By the way have posted another coded letter to entry 59A.

Still working on the Alice Springs court proceedings, hopefully sometime this week I will be enlightened, I hope it does turn out that Green was in the jug for unlawful possession of gold, what a scandal, it'll be a real scoop if I can make the necessary connections.

So what does

IPQFABMMAUIFAIPVSTABSFAXPSUIXIJMFAEFWFMPQJOHAMBTTTFUFSJB.AASF  
HBSETAAOJHIUKBS mean??

Regards, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Dec 12, '04

Hello Sullivan,

Good luck with the Green affair.

IPQFABMMAUIFAIPVSTABSFAXPSUIXIJMFAEFWFMPQJOHAMBTTTFUFSJB.AASF

HBSETAAOJHIUKBS

Decoded the message reads;  
HOPE ALL THE HOURS ARE WORTHWHILE DEVELOPING LASSETERIA,  
REGARDS NIGHTJAR"

Cheers  
nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Dec 28, '04

Happy New Year to you all,  
Sullivan, in one of your posts you mentioned the "Three Hills"- SW of Lake Christopher and your search for who named them in relation to Lasseter's diary entry about "three ladies in bonnets talking?  
Explorer Frank Hann passed by there on the 03/08/1904 and the hills were marked on the map then 26 years prior to Lasseter's fateful journey in 1930.  
If there was ever an unrewarded explorer it must have been Hann. When I can get an hour or three spare in the New Year I'm going to follow up on him believe there is some interesting research.

You never replied what your views were about Coote claiming to be born in the US?

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Dec 29, '04

Hello Nightjar and seasons greetings,

That Frank Hann put those 'three hills' on the map seems neat and logical, Basedow was quite familiar with Hann's explorations and may well have brought the locality to Idriess's attention.

And you are quite right about Hann being unrewarded by history, but from what I gather about the fellow, the lack of recognition would not have fussed him too much, he was more interested in getting on with the job and making sure it was done right.

As for Coote initially claiming to be born in Vancouver, the reason why remains a mystery, unless it was some quirk of a bent mind and being Canadian has more status than being Australian.

I suspect, without proof, that Coote had a run in with the law and was given the option of joining up or incarceration, a common enough choice in those days and he back dated his date of birth and place of birth to keep his misdemeanours from his parents.

Meanwhile, very best for the New Year, may your batteries stay charged and you nuggets enormous.

Regards, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Jan 2, '05

Hey Mates,

Happy New Year to all,

The question has come up occasionally regarding fellows who reckon they have discovered Lasseter's Reef, well here's another one with reference to an earlier post on his missing reef and it's whereabouts, seems to be closer to your patch Nightjar, what are you going to do about it??

Lasseter's Legendary Lost Gold Reef, Dream or Reality?

... in the most remote part of Australia. Harold Lasseter himself died near

there late in 1930. There are many versions of the legend ...  
www.no-big-bang.com/lasetersgold/to1970.html - 6k - Cached - Similar pages

And to give yourselves a good New Years chuckle, Google via the world web is best, and don't forget to include, 'repeat the search with the omitted results included'

Cheers, Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-tuck](#) wrote on Jan 4, '05

One of my rallies freinds works with the Aboriginal comunity out there. He has permission to traverse when he wishes too because of the job he holds. Over Christmas he was telling me about this one chap that he took out to the trible area so he could run his detector around for a while. I may be able to track down the GPS info if you wish.

Cheers  
from QLD



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 5, '05

Hello Sullivan,

I'm not going to do anything about post 138, just file it under "lost dreams and have a laugh from time to time, maybe buy a few shares in the company?"  
More likely to follow up on a few theories that have surfaced out of the desert haze and the Australian National Archive maze? Could be beneficial for the second edition of Lasseteria? (If I can get that permit to travel?) Very frustrating and time consuming making peace trying to travel and camp on the land.  
Meanwhile back on the border?

"Three ladies with bonnets talking."

Tuck, thanks for the advice however GPS co-ordinates are of little use to me or anyone else for obvious reasons, will be just looking at the lay of the land, while on the move, NO detecting, NO camping allowed where we will be going.  
A contact out there would be handy though (your rallies freind)

Cheers and 's  
Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 6, '05

Good evening Sullivan,

Do believe Frank Hann walked right through "Lasseter country" in 1905 noting a quartz reef approximately 12 mile long? Maybe it was quartz but not revealing the gold at that time that Lasseter reported to have found in 1897 and later in 1930?  
Have fresh batteries in the GPS and about to enter the Archives maze again.

"Three ladies with bonnets talking."

Thinking thinking, searching seaching?  
Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Jan 10, '05

Evening Nightjar,

Have found a couple of brief records regarding Frank Hann's explorations in Lasseter Country in Michael Terry's 'UNTOLD MILES' as follows...

1. 1903. F. Hann and Syd Giles. Laverton- Mount Shenton- Lake Yeo- Warburton Range- Rawlinson Range- Mount Aloysius- Barrow Range- Townsend Range- Sydney Yeo Chasm- Along outward track from Millar Breakaways.

2. 1906. F. Hann. Used camels from Laverton to Rason Lake- Morton Craig Range- Millar Breakaways- Sydney Yeo Chasm- Livesay Range- Burrows Hill- Lightning Rock- Rawlinson Range- Petermann Range- Musgrave Range- Cadnowie Station near Oodnadatta. He returned from there to W.A.

I take it you are reading 'The Exploration Diaries of Frank Hann 1895—1908' edited by Mike Donaldson and Ian Elliot. Certainly sounds like a fellow I would feel comfortable travelling with. Best of luck in the Archives and with those permits, keep plugging away mate, you'll need maximum patience.

Regards Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 11, '05

Good morning Sullivan,

You are once again correct on several points; Frank Hann's diaries and the fact he was a meticulous explorer who kept an up to date diary of his movements even if they were concise and a man you would feel comfortable travelling with. He reveals important information while travelling through "Lasseter Country."

What strikes me most is that travelled almost the length and breadth of Australia, mostly on foot, more than once through some hostile country with the company of Aborigines from differing clans and was never betrayed or set upon. He used the land and supplemented his supplies with local flora and fauna.

It is hard to imagine sitting down to a meal of "curried crow."

Maybe if Lasseter had taken less treacle and a few tins of curry the history books would read differently.

Like most explorers who crossed through Central Australia his greatest challenge was water. The lack of it!

And probably the reason he has passed almost unnoticed is that he wasn't immortalised by dying in transit.

Regarding the permits, yes I am extremely patient and yes I am plugging away laborously.

How's Lasseteria progressing?

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Jan 17, '05

Evening Nightjar,

Regarding the exploration of Lasseter Country, the attachment from Michael Terry's 'Untold Miles' should be of interest, as you can see Lasseter Country was well explored before Lasseter, Blakeley, Coote et al got there. And as you quite rightly point out, very few of these fellows got any publicity, simply because they were successful. Ironic how the failures get the headlines.

There's a fellow of interest in the attached names, A. D. Breden, who explored the area in 1897, (significant year that) you'll remember Breden from 'Petermann Journey' as Bob Buck's uncle, and he also gets a mention in Hell's Airport as the fellow who 'recalled' a chap by the name of Bell crossing the area in the late 1890's. As Bell was one of Lasseter's many names, Coote took Breadens recollection as confirmation that Lasseter had travelled the area previously.

Absolutely correct re the curry, may have saved Lasseter from dysentery too, but without burrowing around in my archives I don't recall curry being on the expeditions manifest.

As for Lasseteria, it goes wellish, only Francis Green and Lasseter in America to go, unless I uncover any more frauds and scandals, but I reckon I've garnered the lot after those two.

How go the permits?

Regards Sullivan.

Attachment: [explor-1.JPG](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-robmas](#) wrote on Jan 17, '05

This message has been deleted due to termination of membership.



[reply](#)

[msn-robmas](#) wrote on Jan 17, '05

This message has been deleted due to termination of membership.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 18, '05

Good evening Sullivan,

Has been a slow down of "Lasseter Country" proceedings over the festive season, however now all the clan have left will begin again in earnest.

Have to agree the Lasseter area has been crossed many times, however they would have had to follow the course of the available water holes. There's a lot of grains of sand in between, and that's where it is planned to search.

Have almost gathered all the required details together to submit a permit application, expect results in about a months time.

Happy to hear your Lasseteria is progressing towards finalisation looking forward to seeing it in the book stalls.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 28, '05

Hello Sullivan,

Everything is progressing to plan, slow but progressing.

Getting the ship in order as we count down the days.

OziExplorer to master, digital camera program to record our movements, supply and fuel requirements to last us a month.

Never a dull moment.

Will keep you posted, hope to see Lasseteria in the book stores when we return.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Jan 28, '05

Good evening Nightjar,Sullivan,Hardrock and awl,

When can we expect to see copies of Lasseteria on the bookstand, Sullivan?

Nightjar counting the days as well as the groceries,litres of fuel?

Looking forward to a comprehensive coverage of journey on your return.

cheers NoNuggs1.

---

Searching for that dream home? [Click here](#) for all your property needs.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 28, '05

Evening Nonugs who no doubt by now has Sumnugs?

Sure hope to be able to record a comprehensive route with waypoints recorded of interesting viewpoints that someday others can follow, not a grain of sand left

untuned.

My Nissan truck is not a camel but am sure I'll find enough humps to store enough water for the journey?

Will keep you posted.

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 28, '05

Central Australia, possibly one of the few remaining untapped geology regions in the world?

<http://www.ga.gov.au/news/mordor.jsp>

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Jan 28, '05

Gday Nightjar,

Some advice on how to go about getting the appropriate permits without upsetting authorities, might be handy as well mate. I understand this was an epic in itself?

Being a Tolkien fan from 20 yrs back, that was a good piece on "Mordor" pound mate.

All the best for upcoming trek .

cheers NoNuggs1.

---

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[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Feb 15, '05

Good Evening Sullivan,

The silence is deafening what's happening in your world?

The permit goes before the Central Land council next week should have reply by the end of the month?





Regards  
Nightjar  
[reply](#)  
[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Feb 18, '05  
Evening Nightjar,

Deafening silence indeed !!! You should be able to hear the clattering of my keyboard all the way over there in the West. Have been busy preparing the manuscript for publishing and going through yet more Lasseter documents, his probate documents arrived last Thursday, I was after these papers to see if there was any truth in the INVISIBLE INK story as per page 4 of Lasseter's Last Ride.

The probate documents were lodged in the N.S.W. Supreme Court by Ernest Bailey on 07/07/31 and he was after Lasseter's directions to the reef that he supposedly lodged for safekeeping in the bank, para 4 of the probate docs reads, "By the said agreement the said deceased also agreed to put in writing in a sealed packet the location of the said reef and to lodge such packet for safe custody and that in certain events one of which being the death of the said deceased the said Company was to be entitled to knowledge of the contents of the said packet".

These were the same directions to the reef that Lasseter was supposed to reveal to Blakeley when the Expedition was two days out of Alice Springs, but as we now know, Lasseter reneged on this deal too, he had no directions or location to give, that's why he wrote the directions in invisible ink. And there is nothing in the probate docs to clarify the matter, insofar as the Judge did not give any instructions or directions about accessing Lasseter's secret instructions. So it's back to the Mitchell Library to see if there's anything in the John Bailey papers, there's nothing more in the N.S.W Archives.

Para 27 of the doc is interesting, it reads as follows, "A Coroners Inquiry was held in Alice Springs and it was found that the deceased died somewhere about the 28th January, 1931. such finding being based on the reports of Robert Buck. Buck had stated the local Blacks had told him that the said deceased had died, two fellow moons jump ups. What a load of poppycock, a most appropriate term, poppy with reference to the drug and befuddled minds and cock with having their hands on it more often than not. But there is a reference to a Coroners enquiry in Alice Springs re Lasseter's death. So I guess I'm off to the Northern Territory Archives to see if there is anything substantial there re events out west, although I'm fairly certain that Bailey is referring to the short enquiry held at Hermannsburg by Heinrich re Lasseter's death.

In fact there are so many inaccuracies in Bailey's information to the Court that it is clear he didn't have much idea of what happened out West.....And the bottom line...I'm really none the wiser as to what Lasseter left in that packet he lodged in the bank for safekeeping and I'm certainly not prepared to take the word of Idriess or the Baileys on anything concerning Lasseter. Hope there's something worthwhile in the Mitchell.

I've stirred up the 'Lasseter in America' saga again, sent off all the information I have to the Clifton Springs town historian and asked him to investigate the matter thoroughly, given that I remain to be convinced that Lasseter ever left Australia, my instincts tell me that Lasseter spent those seven years between 1902 to 1909 lying very low and/or in the jug, after all he was on the run for absconding from the Reform School, so technically still a criminal. I mentioned in an earlier post about having a look at Ruby's Story re her fathers early adventures, if you do decide to read the story be careful you don't fall through the holes in that bit of nonsense.

Regards,  
Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-davsgold](#) wrote on Feb 19, '05

Hi

If anybody is interested there is this on ebay at present.

### LASSETER'S DIARY

L.H.B. Lasseter.

Facsimile edition of Lasseter's original diary of legendary Northern Territory gold seeker. This reproduction is of actual diary "pieces" from the Mitchell Library.

Card covers in the form of a note book. Direct copy of the Lasseter's original diary. 11 x 18cm. Approx. 94pp. Diary entries and sketches in black & white. Published in Sydney by Angus and Robertson. 1986.

This publication is in excellent condition.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Mar 20, '05

Good morning Sullivan,

Any news on when Lasseteria will be hitting the stands, looking forward to an interesting and in depth read.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Mar 23, '05

Evening Nightjar,

Well the manuscript is finally in the hands of a publisher, whether they accept my work or not is a matter of hurry up and wait, perhaps for as long as three months, you may get your permits before I get published, winners shout eh! Meanwhile I can now get back to publishing via the web, am working on that mysterious Eumos tribe as per Coote page 248. As usual there's a simple explanation and they are not so mysterious after all.

No word yet on Francis Green, but gently as it goes, and Lasseter in America is causing great puzzlement amongst our generous, (their time and resources) Yankee cousins, the whole shady business doesn't sit quite right with them.

Meanwhile for your considerable interest, check out the Mackay files in the National Archives, now there's a fellow who explored Australia with panache and all at his own expense.

Regards  
Sulli.



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Mar 23, '05

Gday Sullivan,

Good News Mate, Does this mean you can relax a while.

I look forward to seeing the printed edition on the shelves.

cheers NoNuggs1.

---

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[reply](#)

[msn-goldseeke5](#) wrote on Mar 25, '05

Often I read the articles in the Gold Detecting group with interest. Some thirty Five years ago, I read a book called 'Lasseter's Last Ride' by Ion Idriess and from memory found the book to be well written and somewhat fascinating. Well I have now had those beliefs slightly shattered after having just finished reading 'Dreaming Millions' by Fred Blakeley, which had been given to me by a very good friend of mine by the name of Len, who has a very good knowledge of matters pertaining to rocks and minerals. In the next few weeks I will endeavour to obtain a copy of 'Lasseter's Last Ride', just to see if my first impression was right or otherwise. In the mean time I will continue to read Gold & Ghosts - Volume 1, about Western Australia, where page 136 is about to be perused. My best gold detecting experience was around Mountain Hut Track, Caralup Track and up to the Kingower area. It is almost 11 years since I bought the Minelab 2000, which has paid for itself a number of times over. However it is the chance to be out 'there' and looking where the real value lies and the challenge is to find out what maybe in the dirt at that 'next tree'.

John

Goldseeker

E-mail:- [johncmct@vmpdev.com](mailto:johncmct@vmpdev.com)

Web:- [www.vmpdev.com.au/johncmct](http://www.vmpdev.com.au/johncmct)



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on May 2, '05

Good evening Sullivan,

How's the publishing progressing any time frame when it hits the book shops?  
It's full steam ahead here, Permit to enter a reserve has been granted (with restrictions.)

It has been a long haul but an amicable agreement has been reached. As a matter of fact it has been an enjoyable exercise and I have, I believe made some friends along the way. You might say it is a "win win."

Just hope I may have a copy of your book to read along the way?

Regards

Peter (Nightjar)



[reply](#)

[msn-fireman-den](#) wrote on May 3, '05

Hi Nightjar,

I have Lasseter's Last Ride- Author Idriess, email me at [dennis.lonelytraveller@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.lonelytraveller@gmail.com) with your mailing address and will send it on. Just send it back when you have finished with it.

Den.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on May 3, '05

Thanks for the offer Den, however I already have this book along with every book written about Lasseter, barring "Lasseteria" which I believe is at the publishers.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-\\_martin\\_r\\_](#) wrote on May 3, '05

**This message has been deleted due to termination of membership.**



[reply](#)

[msn-hardrock](#) wrote on May 4, '05

Hi, Sully, if you can't get a publisher, or are unhappy with the meagre divvies for so much work, think of going E-book. Sales mightn't be great outside Oz, but the profits are nearly all yours. Email me if you decide to go this way, as I might be able to save you some time.



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on May 4, '05

Good Evening Nightjar and all,

Quote--"not a grain of sand unturned"-I think your gonna regret that one mate.

lol,

**cheers1Nugg.**



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on May 4, '05

Evening 1Nugg,

Where did you get that quote from, am I missing something? hmm maybe Lasseter's last ride?

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on May 4, '05

Good Evening Nightjar,

[Sorry mate but I'm gonna have to hold you to it,LOL,post 150.on this thread.](#)

[I think I better come with you to keep an eye on the old timers,,,,,you have been working too hard mate.keep well and have fun,fun,fun,,,,,](#)

From: Nightjar

Sent: 28/01/2005 10:17 PM

Evening Nonugs who no doubt by now has Sumnugs?

Sure hope to be able to record a comprehensive route with waypoints recorded of interesting viewpoints that someday others can follow, not a grain of sand left unturned.

My Nissan truck is not a camel but am sure I'll find enough humps to store

enough water for the journey?  
Will keep you posted.  
Nightjar

**cheers1Nugg.**



reply  
[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on May 4, '05  
ps:---"don't forget to smell the roses".



reply  
[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on May 4, '05  
**This message has been deleted by the author.**



reply  
[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on May 4, '05  
Morning Nightjar, 1Nugg, Hardrock and fellow LASSETERIANS,

First things First, Nightjar, well done and have a great journey and I owe you a coldy with pleasure because you'll be on the road before LASSETERIA is published, when do you push off?

Next to 1Nugg, are you going to change your handle when you find your next nugget mate, think about that, 2Nuggs will get some risible comments from this lot, but I hope it happens and soon.

Hardrock, many thanks for that and it is certainly an option, because there is no guarantee that the publisher will accept the manuscript, although I've only tried one so far, and I have sets my sight rather high in presenting it to Random House. As for E-Book sales outside Oz, judging by my web server statistics, I'll sell twice as many copies in California than locally, for some reason our Yankee cousins love LASSETERIA. Went past half a million hits a couple of weeks back.

And patience for a couple of days, I've just about tied up the remaining two questions re Lasseter, namely his sojourn in America and Francis Green, the bloke who married Lasseter's widow, so if I haven't posted a précis on the results of these stories to this forum by the end of the week, someone give me a sharp reminder.

Keep smelling the roses all.

Regards  
Sullivan.



reply  
[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on May 5, '05

Gday Bros,

Many thanks for that mate,yes have considered some possibles-2Nuggs i hadn't thought of this one but SeveralNuggs had some consideration,2-Lumps might fit as well but I probably wouldnt get away with 2Nads unscathed.Just don't know what it might be if I find my patch.

**cheers1Nugg.**(waiting,waiting)

---

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[reply](#)

[msn-dr\\_edger](#) wrote on May 6, '05

Talking of nuggets, one question is what happened to the nugget samples that Lassiter claimed to have come from this fabled reef? Do any still exist for fingerprinting? As this would give a good indication of the location, for example the tip of the Holterman "nugget" is still on display at Hill End along with Tom and Listers cradle, if this can survive from 1850 it is not unreasonable to imagine that the odd nugget or two were pocketed and are still around today. something to consider or have they all been melted down and now lost for ever. Ed



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on May 6, '05

Dr Edger,

I don't think there ever was any Lasseter Gold a man on a mission to prove himself after his early failings in life. He was no fool until he took on the unforgiving Australian outback on his own and relying on backup from his team. I do believe if this event took place in our time Coote, Blakey and CAGE would have been brought to trial on manslaughter for deserting Lasseter and leaving him to die a lonely and painful death.

Sullivan's years of unrelentous research may reveal more to this intriguing mystery when Lasseteria is released.

I just want to go out there and feel the country he travelled and try and imagine the agony he must have suffered in his dying days. He almost blind, starving, no soles left on his boots and me with most of the comforts of home. The conditions will be no comparison however to walk in his footsteps will be a great experience that will be everlasting to the memory of this great man.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on May 6, '05

dr edger,

Regarding Lasseter's gold specimens or samples, he never had any to start with, for the following reasons.

1. He was never in central Australia in 1897 or 1900, or at any other time prior to 1930 to collect any.
2. He never, in his own hand, in correspondence far and wide, or verbally, refer to having any gold specimens.
3. There is no gold in Lasseter Country, reef or alluvial, from which to collect a sample or specimen.

But all of that notwithstanding, I reckon a wheelbarrow load of gold specimens attributed to Lasseter have been unearthed over the years. The first fellow to try this on was a shyster by the name of Paddy Whelan who reckoned he had found Lasseter's gold specimens as well as Lasseter's maps buried under a camp fire circa 1932, he also found Lasseter's mining pegs in the Livesey range in W.A. Thus setting Errol Coote off on a wild goose chase.

Next was a nasty piece of work called Stan Hummerston, depending on which newspaper he was talking too in the mid 1930's he unearthed the usual pickle bottle with specimens and Lasseter letters buried under a campfire. Financed trips to Central Australia for years afterwards on this one

The next that comes to mind is Neville Harding, of all things a former Lord Mayor of Sydney, in the early 1950's he dug up one of Lasseter's camp fires, just across the river from Lasseter's Cave and lo and behold found Lasseter's gold specimens in a treacle tin and those missing rolls of film, the lot in Lasseter's kit bag. The kit bag had been handed into the Alice Springs Police by Bob Buck some twenty years earlier.

Then there is Walter Smith, an Aboriginal camelman, bushman and prospector, who reckons he happened on Lasseter's grave at about the same time as Bob Buck and was quite certain that Buck had dug up Lasseter and purloined his specimens, which had been thoughtfully placed in the usual treacle tin and placed under Lasseter's head.

Also certain members of Lasseter's family mention having sighted or owned Lasseter's gold specimens, apparently seven of them in a tobacco tin, they of course have never been seen.

And I recall a German fellow who had vague connections with Lasseter, having his gold specimens, and for the right price the specimens and the appropriate map would be forwarded to your address.

But the fellow who really made an ass of himself over Lasseter's non-existent gold specimens was Fred Blakeley, the leader of the first C.A.G.E. Expedition, who tells a ridiculous story about boring holes in the specimens and filling the holes with white metal so he would recognise them in future if they were used as bait in another gold scam. Blakeley wrote his manuscript to Dream Millions seven years after events in central Australia, mainly as a self justification for the complete and utter cock up he made of the expedition.

Like I said, enough specimens to fill a wheelbarrow.

Cheers.  
Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on May 11, '05

**This message has been deleted by the author.**



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on May 11, '05

Morning Lasseterians,

Last week I promised to bring you up to date with some details of the remaining mysteries surrounding Lasseter and his reef, firstly to Francis Green.

The first fellow that Lasseter wrote to about his reef was the future Minister of Defence in the Scullin Government, Albert Ernest (Texas) Green; Green was the member for Kalgoorlie and represented his electorate for many years. By all accounts he did an excellent job and had a particular interest in gold, mining and prospecting, when the Scullin Govt. inherited a basket case economy in 1929, Green, along with many others saw the only way out was to find another Golden Mile. Then along comes Harry Lasseter with his outrageous proposal, well any port in a storm.

Why Lasseter wrote to Green is unknown, it may have been Green's constant agitation in Parliament for a gold bounty, less tax on gold, subsidising prospectors, encouraging mining in every way, Green got plenty of press time too and maybe his high profile on the issue caught Lasseter's eye...and imagination.

Whatever the reason, Green passed Lasseter's letter to Herbert Gepp, the new Governments trouble shooter extraordinaire. Gepp's brief was to enquire into everything and anything that may alleviate the parlous financial situation, he also



had a special interest and expertise in mining matters, especially gold and he gave Lasseter's letter especial attention. But he and his colleague, Keith Ward, soon saw through Lasseter's nonsense, although they did see a bigger picture and other possibilities in Harry's tall story.

And there the story of Texas Green and Harry Lasseter may have ended, the Scullin Government was out of office within two years and Lasseter had become history, but for an unusual letter that came to light during my research, in particular, what happened to Lasseter's tin trunk, the one that Fred Blakeley left at the Alice Springs Police station on 28/09/30. The trunk was completely forgotten until 1942 when wartime demands forced a clean up of the police premises and the trunk came to light, enquiries followed and through a very creditable piece of Police work, Lasseter's widow was tracked down, she was now married to a fellow by the name of Francis Green, now where had I seen that name before??.

He turned out to be the 'Prospector' on the second C.A.G.E Expedition, the one lead by Bob Buck during September to November 1931, retracing Lasseter's steps and of course, hoping to rediscover Lasseter's Reef. They were unsuccessful, the two geologists on the expedition declared the country explored as bereft of any sort of gold except the sunsets, however prospector Green returned with a specimen later assayed at 16 grains of gold per ton and allegedly commented that the geologists didn't bother to get off their camels to check his prospects.

So prospector Francis Green from the second C.A.G.E Expedition is now married to Lasseter's widow, now that would cause one to wonder if he was related to Texas Green, thus the beginnings of a nefarious scam... maybe. And what other connections, if any, existed between Francis Green and Harry Lasseter?

So off to the Avoca Historical Society, (Texas Green was born in Avoca, Victoria) to find out the names of his siblings if any, lo and behold Texas Green had a brother named Francis and both men had established themselves on the West Australian goldfields at the turn of the 1890's. Naturally, at this stage I reckon I'm onto a great scandal. Next stop, the Goldfields Historical Society to find out what happened to Francis and to confirm the connection.

While all this is happening, (historical research can be enlightening and entertaining) Francis Green pops again, this time in the National Archives, not under his name but in connection with a real shonky mining outfit called Scientific Gold Explorations Ltd. Utter rouges, after the usual Government subsidies and handouts. initially the company set out to find oil in Central Australia, well they found some, leaking out of rocks, and this is the entertaining part of research, the samples were sent off to the Government Geologist Dr. Woolnough, who discovered they were nothing more or less than....bat poo!!! The poor old Doc would have needed oxygen after that, I did.

A bit more delving into the National archives finds Green connected with several very dodgy mining companies, all of them blew the shareholders money for nothing more or less than very expensive trips to central Australia. One of the more interesting connections was an outfit named 'Arnhem Land Gold Development Co' and the chairman of this outfit was none other than John Bailey, who happened to be the chairman of C.A.G.E. so back to the Lasseter connection. My scandal antennae are fairly quivering by now, but wait there's more.

Greens various scams had come to the attention of Vic Carrington, the administrator of central Australia at the time, and to nip any further nonsense in the bud, Carrington wrote to the powers that be in Canberra, pointing out that the fellow was a shyster and that he had been locked up in Alice Springs in 1929 for unlawful possession. So off to the Northern Territory Archives for further details, in due course they arrived, reading as follows...Francis Theodore Green, age 40, in the jug from 5/6/29 to 5/8/29 for being a 'Rouge and a Vagabond'. Hopefully the court case details will follow shortly.

And Green was well mentioned in Parliament of the day, amongst his various misdemeanours he was involved in some scandal during the building of the Bunnerong power station, yet some other poor sucker took the rap for him, in Parliament, Green was variously named a rouge and a rascal. All of the above and this is the fellow who married Lasseter's widow...Yep, historical research can be revealing and enlightening.

Meanwhile word from the West arrives and it turns out that Texas Greens brother was Francis John Green, so that was nothing more or less than a coincident, two Francis Greens entirely unconnected. Can't say I'm too sorry though, I have my hands full sorting out Francis Theodore Green.

But you would have to wonder about the relationship between Harry Lasseter, his wife and Francis T Green. An attachment for your interest.

Cheers.  
Sulli.



Attachment: [green.JPG](#)

[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on May 12, '05

G'd evening Bros,

Burning the midnight oil again mate,,,

Re-;" **Illegal possession** " was this for '[funny tobacco](#)' or- alcohol,-guns,just puts a bit more light on the character of John Bailey.

**cheers1Nugg.**

---

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[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on May 12, '05

sorry confusion of names should have been **Francis Green.And "unlawful possession"**



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on May 12, '05

Gday Again Bros,

I guess i'm gunna have to wait till the court details arrive before you can answer this

one for me.

**cheers1Nugg.**



---

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[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on May 12, '05

Morning 1Nuggs,

A couple of things, firstly to Francis Green and the unlawful possession charge, from the scant details collected so far it seems gold was the unlawful possession, where it came from and who it belonged to I have not yet established, and if it was gold I can take a pretty fair guess what it's purpose may have been, bait in a gold fraud. Although I'll probably never be able to prove it I'm sure that Green was the one who sowed the 'lost reef' idea in Lasseter's mind. Gave Harry some scant details and let his runaway imagination do the rest. Wouldn't be the first time Harry had taken the germ of someone else's ideas and passed them off as his own.

By the way are you coming to the same dastardly conclusions I have regarding the 'unusual' three way relationship between Lasseter, his wife and Green???

Next, regarding your handle, yeah you'll have to be careful there or your mates will have some real sport, but when it happens how about 'Bulk Nuggs' or perhaps 'Manny Nuggs' but whatever and whenever I hope it's lotsa nuggs

Cheers

Sulli.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on May 12, '05

Sulli wrote; *"the samples were sent off to the Government Geologist Dr. Woolnough, who discovered they were nothing more or less than....bat poo!!!"*

This brings me back to an experience I had back in the 80's while prospecting back and beyond Sandstone, WA.

While prospecting through this area I came upon a ridge which I followed on foot for a considerable distance. I found a cave, and like anyone who stumbles upon a cave curiosity always draws you to looking inside. The cave extended back into the ridge and when I entered and proceeded into it's depth I realised it was too dark to proceed any further with safety. I backed out and then remembered I had a signalling mirror in my bag, was able to set the mirror up on some rocks so the suns reflection was shining into the gloom. At the back of the cave I found goats had been camping here and the smell was quite strong, however there was a dark coloured sticky substance oozing down the wall of the cave. I quickly realised that even if one of the goats had a severe case of "back door trots" it couldn't have sprayed so high up the wall of the cave. I quickly scraped a lump of this substance from the wall and retreated from the gloom.

Out in the sunshine I could see I had a substance about the consistency of plasticine very similiar to tar with an oily smell. Had nothing to wrap the sample in so I placed it in my sock for the walk back to my vehicle. On arrival I found due to the heat of my leg the sample had begun to melt leaving a dark smudge on my leg not disimiliar to grease. The oily smell was even stronger and my excitement increased; "Had I found the beginnings of an oil strike?"

On my return to home I contacted the Shell Oil Company and they were all over me like a rash, wanting to know where I had found this substance and that they would like to visit me and collect a sample of my find for analysis. In the mean time I took a sample into our laboratory at work and asked them to run tests.....?

## RESINOUS MULGA SAP FROM TREE ROOTS ON THE ABOVE RIDGE

Much ridicule from my so called friends and it was back to swinging the coil in search of "Dream Millions."

Auriferously

Nightjar

[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on May 12, '05

Good evening all

Bros,

hmm "unlawful possession "of the yellow metal, Am I assuming correctly,this would arise from the Government stance on 'strategic metals',or did he come by it by unlawful means and subsequently charged?

Sounds a little like some **triangulation** going on between the Lasseters and Francis Green.

-----  
Nightjar,

best i say nothing, to bring back those memories,,,,,many would not have shared that little tidbit mate.

**cheers1Nugg.**

[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on May 12, '05

Evening Nuggs and Nightjar,

Nightjar, great story mate and more power to you for telling it, don't mind a bloke who can laugh at himself.

Nuggs, good question and hopefully that's what the court case papers might reveal, if I recall correctly possession of gold bullion in those days was illegal, specimens and assays not.

Triangulation, good choice of words, might get my bum burnt here, but getting rid of Harry would appear convenient, now we've got a crime thriller on our hands.

Cheers

Sulli.

[reply](#)

[msn-adbgold](#) wrote on May 12, '05

Gday all

cant wait to get my hands on Lasseteria. seems youre putting in a lot of leg work sulli and have an enjoyable writing style so it should be a top read.

nice story nightjar. reminds me of a Ted Egan song, cant think of the name of it but the crux of it is; an old prospector up north was starting to grate on the townsfolk, particularly the publican as he could drink more than he could pay for. everyone is glad when the prospector heads out bush as theyre sick of him but before too long he returns. the sneers soon turned to cheers when he returned with a smile and a sample. everyone though he had struck it rich. the publican let him drink for free and convinced the prospector that they should go partners in the venture. things are going well, the prospector spends a few days drinking for free and the townsfolk actually seem interested in him and he's stories. that is untill the assay come back and reveals the sample was in fact kangaroo poo.

must be getting close to your departure nightjar? im sure youll have a great time soaking up the history and the myth.



[reply](#)

[msn-btheir4u](#) wrote on May 17, '05

Hi Nightjar.

Don't know if your still wanting information about the book , Lasseter's Last Ride by Ion Idriess.I didn't fancy looking through 100 plus posts to see whether you had received a response.Any how there is a book titled 'Hereos of the Outback' by Ion Idriess published 1993, that has a chapter titled Lasseters Last Ride.This book is being auctioned on eBay, item number 5197406240 and the current bid is \$5.00. Hope this helps,

Cheers

BushBaron



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on May 17, '05

Thanks for the reply BushBaron,

Ended up getting an early edition of Lasseter's Last Ride (Ion Idriess-1930's) this was interesting reading along with all the other books available.

Waiting with baited breath for Sulli's LASSETERIA to hit the book stalls, do believe this is going to create a resurgence of interest in this saga, the believers and the dis-believers. Sulli has proven beyond doubt that Harry didn't find any reef in 1897. However it is yet to be proven that his diary was not authentic when he endured a slow and painfull death in remote Australia recording the location of a fabulous reef of gold. Maybe, just maybe it really is there, but not in the area of all the previous expeditions?

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-\\_martin\\_r\\_](#) wrote on May 28, '05

**This message has been deleted due to termination of membership.**



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on May 29, '05

Hello Martin,

We depart on or around the 3rd July 2005, there are restrictions and limitations on the permit so we have to restrict our actions/movements to what the permit allows.

A traditional land owner must accompany us into sacred land so we do not contravene any of their sacred beliefs. The preparation has been rewarding and the friendships gained will only help us in our journey through this ancient land.

This is a trip of a lifetime the tradition and life style of the land owners will not be jeopardised in any way. If we are successful in not contravening the rules laid down it will leave the way clear to visit these lands again.

Unfortunately there are those who have abused this right and rightfully so the elders are suspicious and thorough in considering any permits.

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-jacksgold](#) wrote on May 29, '05

Nightjar, I havent been following the emails closely. Is it Lasseter's reef you are setting out for? If so, I may have a bit of info for you if you phone me, 02 49387670, or give me your number, Jack

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Nightjar](#)

**To:** [Gold Detecting](#)

**Sent:** Sunday, May 29, 2005 4:31 PM

**Subject:** Re: Lasseter info wanted.

New Message on [Gold Detecting](#)

[Lasseter info wanted.](#)

[Reply](#) [Reply to Sender](#) [Recommend](#)

Message 188 in Discussion

From: [Nightjar](#)

Hello Martin,

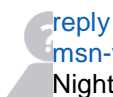
We depart on or around the 3rd July 2005, there are restrictions and limitations on the permit so we have to restrict our actions/movements to what the permit allows. A traditional land owner must accompany us into sacred land so we do not contravene any of their sacred beliefs. The preparation has been rewarding and the friendships gained will only help us in our journey through this ancient land.

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Unfortunately there are those who have abused this right and rightfully so the elders are suspicious and thorough in considering any permits.

Nightjar

[View other groups in this category.](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-vombat](#) wrote on May 29, '05

Nightjar,

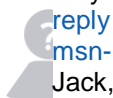
<http://www.booksandcollectibles.com.au> had this for Lasseter's Last Ride...

*Angus & Robertson Sydney 1991 reprint dust jacket Near Fine octavo 185pp., Australian Classics series. Boards bumped at top o/w nice copy*

Andrew Barnes Booksellers (Australia) **\$24.00AUD**

[http://www.booksandcollectibles.com.au/bsearch.php3?bsearch\\_submit=Search&auth=lon.L.Idriess&title=lasseter&pub=&sub=&sort\\_by=author&block\\_size=20&country=00](http://www.booksandcollectibles.com.au/bsearch.php3?bsearch_submit=Search&auth=lon.L.Idriess&title=lasseter&pub=&sub=&sort_by=author&block_size=20&country=00)

Do a search at <http://biblioz.com/> there are heaps of copies of Lasseter's Last Ride by Ion Idriess, and a couple of Hell's Airport but they are in UK and cost AUD\$56 and AUD\$78. <http://www.booksandcollectibles.com.au> has some copies of Hell's Airport but they are AUD\$120 and AUD\$235!!!



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jun 2, '05

Jack,

There's no Lasseter's Reef, we are just retracing his journey with information to hand and try and get a feel of the hardships he endured. Anyway the current Central Land Council (NGAANYATJARRA) does not permit prospecting/mining on their lands.

However I'll give you a call because I always enjoy your stories in the GG&T. Would love to get over your way and maybe catch up with you during one of your trips. You and your family seem to be keen prospectors who enjoys not only finding gold but enjoying the great Australian outdoors and that is what appeals to me also.

Vombat,

Thanks for the post m8 however I do already have every book available (except Lasseteria) regarding the life of Lasseter.

Cheers

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jun 21, '05

Hey Sulli,

Any more info before we set off in 11 days time.

The final preparations are taking place now, our inventory is complete just final food supplies to be bought in last few days.

The excitement is becoming quite overwhelming and thought of once again being out under the Southern Cross every night is putting an extra spring in the step.

Hope to return with great memories of an eventful trip with many stories to tell and many photos to show.

However as we all know there is no Lasseter Reef "out there" or is there?

'Three ladies with bonnets talking.' not the three hills you refer too Sulli?  
Regards  
Nightjar



reply

[msn-spottyman1](#) wrote on Jun 26, '05

Hi nightjar. heres some brief info you can look at on lasseter!

<http://www.gold-net.com.au/lasseter1.html>



reply

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Jul 1, '05

Afternoon Nightjar and fellow Lasseterians,

So nightjar, who's counting down eh, have a great journey mate, take care and look out for Gidgea Bears, Cave Growlers and Sand Worms. We expect a full report on your return to civilisation.

To matters Lasseter, I recently received the following mail from Fred Gifford, the Clifton Springs town historian, Clifton Springs is the town in New York State where Lasseter hung out during his American sojourn and as you are probably well aware I've had my doubts about the authenticity of that claim. But it looks like I'm going to have to accept the 'fact' that Lasseter did spend some time in America, shucks, I was hoping that I could prove that he never left Australia. Time to let that issue go I guess, and looks like I'll have to make a few corrections to some entries in Lasseteria.

Recently Murray Hubbard, (Lasseter's biographer) wrote an account of his visit to Clifton Springs checking Lasseter's bona fides and in the article mentioned that Lasseter was on the run after escaping from the Pakenham Reform School and so headed for America via Europe, all things considered that seems quite plausible. By the way I have to make a correction re an earlier post, it was Hubbard, through excellent and persistent research, who established Lasseter's whereabouts in 1897, namely the above reform school.

And for your interest, Fred Gifford wrote an account of Hubbard's visit to Clifton Springs, go to [www.comtrader.com/archives/100103/news/lasseter.html](http://www.comtrader.com/archives/100103/news/lasseter.html), you will probably find the article in Google's cache

Dear Bob,

Thanks again for the book and items on Lewis Herbert Lasseter. I have fully discussed this individual with the people at the Phelps Historical Society who were most hospitable to Murray Hubbard who visited Clifton Springs and Phelps in 2003. The most telling document of all that we have developed seems to be the application for United States Citizenship that a Lewis Herbert Lasseter made in his "Declaration of Intention" on or about December 17th of 1907. He at that time must have "considered" becoming a citizen of these United States, later changing his mind and returning to his native Australia.

In that document" Lewis Herbert Lasseter, aged 27 years, occupation, farmer did declare he was, white, dark complexion, height 5 feet and 3 inches tall. He weighted 123 pounds; his hair was black and his eyes brown. He states that he was born in Banganie, Australia on the 27th of September 1880. In this declaration he then resides in Clifton Springs, NY. He further states that he emigrated to the USA\_ from \_Glasgow, Scotland on the vessel, (looks like - Eikume or Enkume). His last foreign residence prior to that time was listed as Melbourne, Australia. He is about to renounce his allegiance and fidelity particularly to Edward VII, King of Great Britain & Ireland. He says that he arrived at the Port of Baltimore, Maryland in the State of Maryland on the 15th of September (looks like 1900) This was all sworn and signed Lewis Herbert Lasseter before: H. R. Spencer, Clerk of the Supreme Court on the 17th of December 1907.



Either this IS YOUR Lewis Herbert Lasseter or they are two separate individuals both from Australia, which seems VERY UNLIKELY! This document above all others should prove to anyone's full satisfaction that there was indeed such an individual here at that time.

I'm always interested in your further work, but after extensive research I feel that we have done everything possible here to assist you in this matter.

Best regards,  
Fred Gifford.

Happy Tails Nightjar,  
Regards Sulli.

P.S. what does LOL mean that appears in so many posts?



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Jul 4, '05

Gday Bros,

LOL==Laughing Out Loud, LMAO==Laugh My Ass Off

**cheers2Nads**



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 20, '05

Hello all including Sulli,

Have returned and will pass on info when I have descaled the multiple layers of mud from my little truck.

Sulli, The co-ords you gave me for the "Three Hills"- the hills do not exist??

Interestingly though, on our return journey along the Old Gunbarrel I stood atop of the sandhill that the GPS indicated was the spot. Away in the distance (Rawlinson Range/Schwerin Mural Crescent) three hills stood out very distinctly. Have photos I will send to you. Several of these high points are approximately 900metres high. My brother and I scaled the ridge adjacent to Withers Pass earlier in the expedition (975metres high)

Will write more later.

Peter (Nightjar)



[reply](#)

[msn-spookmore](#) wrote on Aug 21, '05

Hi,Nightjar hope you"s had goodtime,spookmore.



[reply](#)

[msn-poorfellow73](#) wrote on Aug 21, '05

the author of Lasseter's last Ride - Ion Idriess. I will have a look at home, I have a few of his there, but unsure about this one. If you have any mates in Bathurst, there is a grouse second hand bookstore there. I think it's called.....nope, can't remember sorry. I probably have that info at home too, will check it out. Anyway, they have a stack of Australiana classics, well worth checking out.



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 22, '05

Nightjar,

Good to hear you've returned and all's well, what's this about getting the mud off your wheels? Wet trip?. Somehow I'm not surprised about those three hills, question is who named them on the map and when, no wonder Lasseter couldn't find his reef. Looking forward to a full account of your journey.

Regards Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 22, '05

Good to hear from you Sulli,

Yes it was wet/wet most rain they had had in several years (85mm) I was told. We then encountered heavy rain from Mt Beadel into Carnegie Station, off the road more than we were on it.

Am interested in which map you are referring too which shows the three hills at the co-ords you gave me. The NatMaps + Mosaic do not show any hills here. Believe me I stood on the exact waypoint and beneath my feet was only sandhill and the usual sparse growth. As mentioned there are three prominent peaks away in the Rawlinson Ranges, will study my maps however at a guess they lay to the NNE of the waypoint you provided. The mystery hills (waypoint you provided) are only a few kilometres to the east of the abandoned Gunbarrel it is hard to understand Len Beadel didn't make mention in his notes about these non-existent hills yet he mentioned Lake Christopher to the NW of the GBH?

Could you scan and send me a copy of the details you have?

This almost confirms my theory that all previous expeditions east of the WA border were no where near where Lasseter believed his reef lay?

Regards

Peter (Nightjar)



reply

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Aug 22, '05

Gday All,

Welcome back NJ. Good to see you back mate!! Your input has been noticeably absent my friend. The journey was all you expected of it?.

With some but considerably less hardship than those who went before I'll wager.

**cheers2Nads.**



reply

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 23, '05

Nightjar,

Copy of the COBB 1:250,000 geo map attached, with longs and lats, so I don't get us temporarily misplaced again. If you have a look at the inside cover of Lasseter's Last Ride you will see that Idriess has placed his "Three Hills" in precisely the same place.

Question is, are these Lasseter's 'Three women under sunbonnets talking'. Which then raises the question who came first, Idriess and the hills or Lasseter and the sunbonnets.

By the way, I have no idea what a sunbonnet looks like, and I don't think Idriess or Lasseter did either.

Regards,

Sullivan.

Attachment: [3 hills.JPG](#)



reply

[msn-tuflux2](#) wrote on Aug 23, '05

This probably old news, but have you read the two books on Lasseter by Billy Marshall-Stoneking? "In quest of gold" and "The making of a legend". I found these two books to be far more factual and posed objective questions rather than the "good reading novel" type of Idriess. That's just my opinion.



reply

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Aug 23, '05

Gday Bros, NJ and All interested readers

Bros heres a piccie of a Sunbonnet Im sure youll recognise the style ,once youv'e seen it



cheers2Nads

[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Aug 23, '05

Nads.

I knew that!! My word you're a versatile fellow, nice work. Seriously though, and allowing for gravity, Lasseter's famous landmarks could only look like this in profile, as per the attachment (see anything like that in your travels Nightjar?)

By the way Nads, how do you get a picture to stick in the main body of a message rather than as an attachment?

Tufu.

And that's a fair opinion; I would recommend Marshall-Stonekings books, especially the second edition, "Lasseter, In Quest of Gold" to any collector of Lasseter material.

Regards,  
Sullivan.

Attachment: [sunbonnet-2.JPG](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 23, '05

Good impression of a bonnet 2Nuggs (You must be more than 2 by now)

Sulli,

I will repeat what I have mentioned previously there are no hills, no bonnets where your Cobb map indicates other than 12/15 metre high sandhills. And as also mentioned previously Beadel would have made mention while building the Gunbarrel hwy in '56 if there were any significant hills. You will have already noted that the position is within 3/4kms from the GBH.

What date was the Cobb map surveyed?

I suggest that Cobb did not do their homework and relied on Idriess's map information to place this landmark on their maps which is geographically incorrect.

When I get organised I will send you what I believe are the "The three ladies with bonnets talking." A mosaic of Lasseter country far removed from here.

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-tuflux2](#) wrote on Aug 24, '05

I had a look at the area around Christopher Lake on OziExplorer. As NJ said, there are no 3 hills in that spot but S-SW of Lake Farnham, there are 3 hills in close proximity to one another. They are Quartz Soak Hill - 495', West Hill - 501' and Diorite Hill - 493'. These are in the vicinity of 25 degrees 10 minutes S, and 127 degrees 07 minutes E.



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Aug 24, '05

Gday Bros,

When replying to a post "**on the message board**" **on the forum**, click on the little yellow square box with a picture of a mountain and the sun behind it (Insert picture tool). (This explanation might be a bit confusing), **until you reply on the message board!!!. If you reply from your inbox you won't have the little emblem (Tool) come up.** I usually click on the discussion heading of the e-mail from my inbox which takes me to the "thread" at the site. When I click on [Reply](#) a new window will open, from this response window - beneath where it says **Type in your message below:**

**(In the message toolbox)** You will see a pair of **scissors**, the copy insignia, and the pasteboard. **Paragraph**, and below **Font Style** you should have the yellow box depicting a mountain. This is the insert picture tool. I hope you can make sense of

this mate, cause it's bl\*\*dy hard for me to explain it, lol

**cheers2Nads.**

[NJ-Still smelling the roses, whilst watching for bees \(and trying to get a little business off the ground\) Currently sleeping with the running shoes on.](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Aug 31, '05

Sulli,

Pic taken standing on your co-ordinates of the "Three Hills", could history be rewritten?

Regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Sep 1, '05

Nightjar,

Excellent photo, as for rewriting history, well the only thing we have to go on is Coote's transcript of Lasseter's directions to the reef and perhaps something has been lost in the translation, but I'm none the wiser as to where the reef is in relation to Lake Christopher, the Three Sisters, Quaker hatted hills or landing lakelets.

Lasseter, and perhaps more so Coote, very conveniently left out the bearings and/or directions from Lake Christopher, the all-important radial point. To reinforce the point, we don't know in which direction the Three Sisters lay in relation to Lake Christopher, and are we meant to presume that Quaker Hat Hill is 35 miles south east of the Three Sisters or Lake Christopher?.

As for the lakelet that a plane may be able to land on, where is it? We know it's ten miles west of the reef, but we don't know where the reef is, so back to square one. Perhaps the 'lakelet' is Lake Farnham, about 14 miles WSW of Lake Christopher?

And if Lake Christopher is the radial point for directions to other landmarks then there are no Quaker hatted hills about 35 miles to the south east, it's a sea of sand on the SCOTT geo. map.

And if the 'three hills' in your photograph are Lasseter's "three women in sun bonnets talking" then his infamous reef is to the south east of there.

So Nightjar, where are the three hills in your photograph?? And don't mention 'radial points' else I'll need oxygen!!. Mind you I would very much like to be part of changing history.

For those who came in late, the passage below, from Errol Coote's, 'Hell's Airport', page 158. is the only known set of directions to Lasseter's Reef, and it should be emphasised that these are allegedly Lasseter's directions as written by Coote. It is possible that Lasseter said no such thing and Coote wrote the directions in order to justify continuing the search. He had convinced a lot of people to put money into the company that backed Lasseter and by now he may be thinking that he and the Company have been lead on a wild goose (reef) chase. When Coote eventually returned to Sydney, without the reef, he discovered he was not Sydney's most popular fellow and shortly after thought Melbourne was a healthier place to live.

"I'll tell you where the landmarks are." Picking up a stick he (Lasseter) sat down on the sand.

Describing the position of Lake Christopher as a radial point, he indicated three hills which he said could not be mistaken. They looked like three women in sun-bonnets talking to one another. About thirty-five miles away to the south-east was another hill shaped like a Quaker hat: a tall hat, conical in shape, with the top cut off. The reef lay about ten miles east of a lakelet, and looking along the line of reef in a north-westerly direction, the Three Sisters, as he called them, appeared to be sitting on the far end of the reef. It was possible for the 'plane to land on the lakelet, but, close up against the reef, the country was thickly timbered. It could be seen from the air, just peeping through the mulga".

If any reader can make sense out of these directions then Nightjar and I would like to hear from you, might even take you on as partners in developing the world's largest gold reef that's never been found.

Cheers,  
Sullivan.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Sep 2, '05

Hello Sulli & hello members,

Sulli you wrote: "[So Nightjar, where are the three hills in your photograph?? And don't mention 'radial points' else I'll need oxygen!!. Mind you I would very much like to be part of changing history.](#)"

All I can say here at this point in time is, with all the brain power poured into research and the multiple millions of \$'s involved in the later searches, it is an absolute mystery why these searches were concentrated over the border in the Petermann Ranges given the description by Lasseter in the sand where the reef lay? Did they have "blinkers on" and thought Lasseter died here so his "Lost Reef" must be in the Petermann vicinity?

Geology reports state this is not auriferous country.

If you refer to my post on 31/08 "Does this look like auriferous ground" you will realise that from this photo, gold is possibly in the area we covered, damn pity 55mm of rain had dumped there and we were unable to penetrate and had to retreat. You Sulli or I may not go down in history as finding Lasseter's Reef, however I am now convinced that he, Lasseter was onto something.

Am trying to fathom out the sand map Lasseter scratched into the sand for Coote, the Lasseter diary, something doesn't weigh up here with his NSEW directions? The quaker hat I believe holds the most important clue?

You are very flippant here Sulli, it is quite clear you still believe the Lasseter story is a great hoax. You wrote: [If any reader can make sense out of these directions then Nightjar and I would like to hear from you, might even take you on as partners in](#)

[developing the world's largest gold reef that's never been found.](#)

For the thousands of visitors through this area since 1930 would know the area is vast and very remote and if like the beginning of the "Golden Mile" Kalgoorlie, could easily be missed by mining companies if they didn't direct their planes to fly over the area?

Not being a geologist by profession I can not quote fact and details, however in the years to come this area will become the greatest mineral, gas/oil maybe diamond deposit in Australia.

I rest my case.

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-mallee00](#) wrote on Sep 20, '05

Nightjar book on ebay listed under prospecting A dead mans dream by Bill Decarli published 2005. Might be of interest to you mallee00



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Nov 30, '05

Hello Sulli,

How's Lasseteria progressing, will we see it on the book stalls soon?

Regards

Peter



[reply](#)

[msn-davsgold](#) wrote on Dec 21, '05

Hi Nightjar

Came across this link, it should bring back some memories.

[http://www.nissan.com.au/owningNissan/pdfs\\_treks/jan2002.pdf](http://www.nissan.com.au/owningNissan/pdfs_treks/jan2002.pdf)

cheers dave



[reply](#)

[msn-sucklemons](#) wrote on Dec 21, '05

Merry Christmas all.

here's a wildcard:

Nightjar, I'm wondering if a "falconi" expedition could also aid finding the lost reef?

It's bound to happen. . . the old mystery and the new.

A group dedicated to finding the body of falconi, could enable a search a bit further North. Perhaps too far for some, but the country is dotted with old prospecting shafts I have hear.

lemons



[reply](#)

[msn-spookmore](#) wrote on Dec 23, '05

Hi,sucklemons,all the best to you to,regards,spookmore.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [sucklemons](#)

**To:** [Gold Detecting](#)

**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2005 12:34 PM

**Subject:** Re: Lasseter info wanted.

New Message on [Gold Detecting](#)

[Lasseter info wanted.](#)

[Reply](#) [Reply to Sender](#) [Recommend](#)

Message 215 in Discussion

From: [sucklemons](#)

Merry Christmas all.

here's a wildcard:

Nightjar, I'm wondering if a "falconi" expedition could also aid finding the lost reef? It's bound to happen. . . the old mystery and the new.

A group dedicated to finding the body of falconi, could enable a search a bit further North. Perhaps too far for some, but the country is dotted with old prospecting shafts I have hear.

lemons

[View other groups in this category.](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Jan 9, '06

Evening Mates and all the best for the New Year, seems I have a bit of catching up to do.

Firstly I have received all of the National Archives files available on Lasseter's so called "inventions" and it's a sad and sorry case of plagiarism and potential patent violation, not one of Lasseter's inventions is original and most seem to have originated in America when he was resident there between 1902 to 1909. And Harry gets mightily peeved when the authorities reject his inventions as impractical, impossible or just plain ridiculous.

One of my favourites is the correspondence that ensued when the Army knocked back his suggestion for using shotguns in the trenches during the First World War and his offer to raise and equip a shotgun brigade, (with himself in charge of course) The Army quite rightly pointed out that the use of shotguns was against the Hague Conventions. A couple of years after Harry complained bitterly that as the Americans are using shotguns in the trenches why were his suggestions rejected. Lasseter couldn't accept that America was not a signatory to the convention and if she was going to fight Europe's wars then she was going to do it her way and that included shotguns. Perhaps Harry should have joined the American Army.

Then there's the classic about digging a trench across the Gallipoli Peninsula, wide and deep enough to float the Queen Elizabeth through. According to Harry it would only take 50,000 men, 75 days, digging 4 cubic metres a day to complete the job. It seems Harry expected the Turkish Army to sit on its bronze while the Allies laboured away digging a trench across their peninsula. Suggestion rejected (with mirth)

Next the bullet for a smooth bore rifle, Harry was right across the arcane science of ballistics, another idea rejected. And the cannon capable of firing a shell a hundred miles, by all means Mr. Lasseter please supply some plans with your suggestion, naturally none were forthcoming, and this seems to be a common theme with Lasseter's inventions and ideas, when asked to supply plans, drawings or sufficient



information for a patent he went strangely quite or went onto another idea. And so it went on for nearly ten years. The authorities showed remarkable patience.

And that nonsense about Lasseter designing the Sydney Harbour Bridge has finally come to light. Some of you will be familiar with Lasseter's letter to the magazine, 'Australian Coal, Shipping and Steel in September 1929' Here Lasseter complained bitterly about Bradfield pinching his idea to span Sydney Harbour with an arch bridge. Arch Bridges had been around for thousands of years so the idea was not new, what made the Harbour Bridge practical was vast improvements in steel technology. And bearing in mind that Lasseter lived in New York State for several years, probably from 1902 to 1909, then Harry would have been perfectly familiar with one of the wonders of the age, the Hell Gate Bridge over East River, New York as per the attachment, remarkably similar to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Lasseter's design as per attachment two would have snapped shut like a clam under its own weight.

Finally a massive contradiction appears in Lasseter's correspondence re his inventions and ideas, when writing to the Army re his Gallipoli trench he reinforces his claim to expertise on the subject as follows, "I am fairly well acquainted with that country and the navigation of the straights having served nine years at sea". Wait a moment Harry, you were supposed to be in America farming and looking after your crook Mother in Law!!!! As I mentioned elsewhere Harry would find it impossible to get a passport today with the credentials he has presented to history.

As for LASSETERIA appearing on the bookshelves, well it will eventually, after I've completed the other two thirds of it, the research is starting to snowball and dragging some very interesting info out of the woodwork. There's a few entries that will have to be rewritten in the light of new info. Recall Johansen who was supposed to meet Lasseter at Lake Christopher but was killed by the Aborigines before he got there? Well the antecedents to that Idriess furphy have come to light. And so it goes.

Regards, Sullivan.



Attachment: [archbridge.JPG](#)

[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 9, '06

Great to hear from you again Sulli,

Was beginning to think you had gone the same way as Lasseter and your bones were bleaching out there in the desert.

May be able to supply you with a bit of info you may be interested in. Remember the photo of the "Three ladies with bonnets" I posted some posts back, from co-ordinates you gave me?

Lasseter maybe proven to be a charlatan but how do you prove his description of the three ladies is false if as claimed, he wasn't in the area. Or is this pure coincidence?

Regards



Nightjar

[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Jan 16, '06

Evening Nightjar, and fellow Lasseterians.

Fair question Nightjar, but I never said Lasseter's description of the Three Sisters or the Three Ladies in sun bonnets talking, was false or a coincidence, and neither did Lasseter make any first hand claims about the location of the landmarks. All the information we have on the three hills and their significance comes from Coote and Blakeley and is therefore second hand information and from remarkably unreliable sources at that, especially Blakeley, who didn't where he was on most occasions, that's what happens when you don't keep a logbook of your travels.

Lasseter may have been in the area during November/December 1930, but even so, in his diary, only mentions Lake Christopher in passing, with reference to phenomenal rainfall, and that he had found his landmarks and consequently the reef. He never gives a description or location of those landmarks. Which I find more than passing strange given his wishes that his wife and children profit from the reef, put another way, if Lasseter was so concerned about the financial future of his family he would have left very explicit directions to the reef in the diary. Instead we have dozens of hopefuls and shysters running around central Australia digging up campfires looking for secret and coded directions to the reef in sauce and pickle bottles, now why would Lasseter do that if he were so concerned about his family's welfare??

And I reckon it was Nuggs or Sandy who said, way back at the start of this thread, that you can probably find dozens of similar landmarks throughout Australia that would match Lasseter's alleged description perfectly, my favourite is a group in the Ochre Hills just east of the Rumbalara rail siding on the old Ghan line, there's another set north of Port Augusta, just to the west of the Stuart Highway, and Bill DeCarli was so certain that he had found the 'Three Sisters' that he put pen to paper about his find, albeit the other side of Alice Springs and the opposite direction to Lasseter's Reef, and so it goes.

And perhaps I can claim to be the modern day discoverer of Lasseter's landmarks simply by going over the Geoscience Australia's geo maps of the area (COBB) and noting the 'Three Hills' a little south west of Lake Christopher and wondering if someone like Idriess or Coote had not already noted the same landmarks and concocted a story around their significance, given that Lasseter never made any mention of them. After all Idriess has to produce a best seller and Coote has to justify the enormous expense he has imposed on C.A.G.E. and you can bet with some certainty that I would come up with half a plausible story if I had old John Bailey on my tail.

So the question remains, when and who gave those Three Hills a name and location on the map in time for Idriess and Coote to note them and incorporate them into an improbable tale about directions to an improbable reef????? Besides what was

Lasseter doing fiddling around with sextants and other gadgets he didn't know how to use, hundreds of kilometres north of the landmarks that indicate the location of the reef, you cannot see the Petermann or Rawlinson Ranges from Mount Marjorie!!

And here's another conundrum for your consideration, Lasseter spent Xmas day at the reef, (wouldn't you?) and his camels bolt on the 27<sup>th</sup>, lets say a day and half later, given a camels best pace in that country, that's a generous forty miles over Boxing day and the 27<sup>th</sup> no way known, unless he is riding F1 racing camels is Lasseter going to get from his reef to the Hull River in two days, it also presuppose that Lasseter can see through mountains and over the horizon, meaning the only thing you can see from the Hills or Lake Christopher is the end of the Rawlinson Ranges and that's a weeks ride on the swiftest dromedaries. Another good reason for suspecting that bloody diary is shonky and not authentic. After all look at the protagonists in it's creation, Harold Lasseter, Ion Idriess, Errol Coote, Bob Buck, all proven liars, many times over, two of them made a living out of being bullshit artists!!!

My best bet, Idriess or Coote saw maps prior to writing their stories that showed 'Three Hills', in a plausible location and took it from there.

So a question to all Lasseterians, can any of you come up with a map printed prior to 1930 that shows a landmark named 'Three Hills' a little south west of Lake Christopher?

Finally a review of the whole messy business, we know from Lasseter's hand that his camels bolted on the 27 of December 1930, we also know from Lasseter's diary that he spent Xmas day at his reef, therefore I will give him a generous two whole days to get from reef to cave, say fifty miles, therefore Lasseter's reef is somewhere 50 miles westerlyish from the Hull River, according to Lasseter. The 'Three Hills' and Lake Christopher are a further hundred plus miles further west thus making them out of sight from the reef and therefore as landmarks to anywhere, quite superfluous and a nonsense.

You know I reckon I write more betterish answering these posts than I do Lasseteria, thanks for the inspiration Pete.

Regards Sulli.



[reply](#)  
[msn-adbgold](#) wrote on Jan 16, '06  
Gday Sulli.

Good to see you back here - always enjoyable an informative to read yr Lasseter yarns. If Lasseteria reads like your 'more betterish' writing here, it will be a top read

indeed!

cheers, kristan



[reply](#)

[msn-mi-karma-runover-yadogma](#) wrote on Jan 16, '06

Gday Bros,

Good stuff mate,-your "more betterish" post makes for good logic.

Lasseteria is bound to be **great** reading!!!!

[cheers2Nads.](#)



[reply](#)

[msn-\\_martin\\_r\\_](#) wrote on Jan 16, '06

**This message has been deleted due to termination of membership.**



[reply](#)

[msn-malleeboy54](#) wrote on Jan 17, '06

G'day Sulli,

In post number 217 you mention the name JOHANNSEN. Would that be Kurt Johannsen By any chance? He wrote a book called A SON OF THE RED CENTRE and in the book he mentions looking for the reef. He flew a tiger moth out and landed on lake hopkins, becoming bogged as the plane tipped up it broke the end off the propeller so he cut the other end off to balance it. He was able to take off next morning when the air was cool.

There is a chapter or two in this book you should read that might help with your research. Let us know if you need any more help.

Mike.



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Jan 18, '06

Evening Mike,

Thanks for your question mate and it's a reasonable conclusion, but the short answer to your question is ...no!...there is no connection between Kurt Johannsen and Lasseter's mate, W. Johansen. A bit of background on the subject that may interest you, Billy Marshall-Stoneking who wrote, 'Lasseter, In Quest of Gold', was also sufficiently intrigued by the similarity in names to contact Johannsen regarding any connection with Lasseter and the reply was in the negative, besides Kurt Johannsen was only 15 at the time of W. Johansen's alleged death in the Petermann Ranges. There is also a difference in the spelling of the names. To add further mystery to the name W. Johansen, who was to meet Lasseter at Lake Christopher in late 1930, there is no hard evidence that the fellow actually existed albeit there are two copies of corres and telegrams from him to Lasseter in Marshall-Stoneking's book. A lot of hard nosed historians have gone after Johansen because of his supposed Lasseter connection and to date no one has laid hands on him, reams of second hand info though, but to put it in trenchant terms, no body.

In entry No. 137 in LASSETERIA, regarding W. Johansen, I conclude the entry by inferring that Johansen may be a case of, 'dead man writing', not the first time this has happened, up to recently used to be a very popular way of establishing an identity for passport purposes. Even so, to date, no one can find a headstone or grave for the fellow, a bloody aggravating gap in history that. Or it may mean that Johansen never existed, meaning the corres cited in Marshall-Stoneking's book is a forgery or a red herring, that being so leaves the obvious question, why would Lasseter do that???

Seeing as how you were so minded to read Kurt Johannsen's book, I would recommend Marshall-Stoneking's book, but make sure it's the one titled 'Lasseter, In Quest of Gold', as it has the Johansen corres, read and be puzzled, and if you come up with even a half plausible possibility please let me know.

And at this point I may as well elaborate on a possible antecedent to the Johansen story as per the reference in post 217. Firstly a quick review, 'apparently' Johansen and Lasseter had made arrangements, before the expedition left Sydney, to meet each other at Lake Christopher, Johansen failed to keep the rendezvous because he and a mate had been, "speared by the Blacks in the Rawlinson Range", to quote Idriess. Eventually word of this rumoured murder reached the West Australian Police who made a very expensive and thorough investigation and it incident turned out to be nothing more or less than a 'camp fire yarn'.

So to the antecedents of the story, precisely the same incident occurred in 1923 to one of the 'Centres more notorious poddy dodgers and cattle duffers, namely Jimmy Wickham. In this case, Aboriginals near Lake Surprise, south of Tanami, reportedly speared Wickham and a mate, their camp raided and cleaned out and the camels chased off. The incident was reported by 'Bush Blacks' to a couple of Aboriginal women working on Napperby Station who in turn told the station manager who informed the telegraph operator at Ryans Well and the N.T. Police eventually got to hear about it and duly investigated. Now by my count that's fifth hand information and I recall 'Chinese Whispers' being mentioned on this thread ages ago. So the cops investigated and found it was another campfire yarn. Jimmy Wickham was sighted in Halls Creek a couple of weeks after the patient plods returned to civilisation, furthermore Wickham spent many happy years thereafter chasing his version of Lasseter's Reef somewhere south of Tanami and talking a lot of gullible fools into financing him.

Nevertheless read Wickham's story for yourself as a National Archives digital file, following ref, <http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp> , and if that doesn't work try this, 'J. Wickham & T. Murray Alleged Murder of', Control Symbol. [NT1923/3646](#). Makes you wonder if Wickham, and for that matter Lasseter, didn't correspond with Idriess. After all Idriess's biographer reckons that Idriess had 'Lasseter's Last Ride' well written before the fellow was dead.

And a quirky sideline to Jimmy Wickham and his shifty ways, the fellow who arrested him for branding other peoples cows was one Alf Butler, who happened to be a life long friend and partner to Bob Buck, the same Buck who found and buried Lasseter. Yep, Centralian history is as tangled and incestuous as a barrel of cut and peppered ferrets, good fun though.

This all make sense Mike? Get that book.

Regards Sullivan.

[reply](#)

[msn-bob creasy](#) wrote on Jan 18, '06

Alf Butler was station cook on Owen Springs in the 1960's earning 3 pound a week, He had drunk himself out of 3 stations by this time but was marvellous company , the station was owened by Ted Hayes but I think it was the first syation that Kidman bought.

sorry about leading the thread astray because I do enjoy this one

regards Bob Creasy

[reply](#)

[msn-bob creasy](#) wrote on Jan 19, '06

**This message has been deleted by the author.**

[reply](#)

[msn-bob creasy](#) wrote on Jan 19, '06

a picture of the old homestead ar Owen Springs 40 odd years ago

Attachment: [Owen springs \(563 x 558\).jpg](#)

[reply](#)

[msn-malleeboy54](#) wrote on Jan 19, '06

G'day Sulli,

Thanks for clearing up the Johanson names. I was able to get a copy of Marshall Stonekings book , should be good reading.

I re read Murray Hubbards book THE SEARCH FOR HAROLD LASSETER over xmas and i am convinced he never found the reef in 1897-8. Why would any one wait 30 odd years before going back to look for it? I think some one told him about a reef they found in WA and the seed grew in his mind till it became an obsession.

Bob Creasy, Have you ever herd of gold being found a round the warburton area by any chance?

Mike W.

[reply](#)

[msn-bob creasy](#) wrote on Jan 19, '06

Mike

north off

bob

[reply](#)

[msn-malleeboy54](#) wrote on Jan 20, '06

G'day Bob,

Thanks for the reply.

Mike.

[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Jan 20, '06

Mike,

Fair point, why would one wait thirty years before trying to rediscover a gold reef that had the potential to be the largest single gold mine ever worked, 14 miles long yet!!! The story that Lasseter put about was that gold was being easily won in kindlier places in the west and no one was interested in his reef away out in the desert. The interesting thing is, all the protagonists in the Lasseter saga ignored the fact that all the 'easy gold' had already been pegged and claimed and/or was being worked, besides any capitalist with half a cheque book would have figured out that the cost of a railway and water supply to the reef, no matter where it was out in that vast

desert, would have been petty cash compared to the return on that enormous reef.

And I reckon you are quite right about some one planting the idea in Lasseter's wayward mind, and I suspect the culprit is a real villain by the name of Francis Theodore Green. Green already had a string of convictions prior to 1930, robbing his Army mates, A.W.O.L several times, named in Parliament for graft, corruption and standover tactics in the construction of the Bunnerong power station and in 1929 was in the Alice Springs jail for illegal possession, he was the prospector on the second C.A.G.E (Lasseter) expedition and involved in at least three shonky mining company's. He was also a good friend of John Bailey who was the Chairman of C.A.G.E.

The best part is, he went on to marry Lasseter's widow, now given his background one can draw all sorts of nefarious conclusions. And that reminds me, Lasseter never had an original idea, he always took the germ of some one else thoughts, suggestions, inventions, whatever, added his own embellishments and claimed the effort as his own, wouldn't be too difficult to sow the seed of an idea, or lost gold reef, in a febrile mind like Lasseter's.

How goes Mashall-Stonekings book?

About your question to Bob re the Warburtons, do you mean the one in Vic or West Aus.

Regards Sulli.



[reply](#)

[msn-malleeboy54](#) wrote on Jan 22, '06

G'day Sulli,

Thanks for your reply. I am still waiting on the book to arrive.

I was refering to Warburton in W.A. If i had to put money on it this is where i would be looking.

catch you later Mike.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 22, '06

Hello Sulli and other interested viewers,

I'll put my money on looking NW from Rawlinson Range lining up Two Gullies to the North of Carnegie Range. Our trip in July 2005 was cut short by about 35 kilometres with heavy rain making progress impossible. From this point, time and distance to Lasseters Cave is within the equation to be feasible with what is written in Lasseter's diary?

Hoping the next trip to this region will qualify the the theory.

regards

Nightjar



[reply](#)

[msn-vb4meta](#) wrote on Feb 6, '06

**This message has been deleted by the author.**





[reply](#)  
[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Feb 9, '06

Mike, Nightjar and VB4meta (clever)

Mike has Marshall-Stoneking's book arrived yet? Look forward to your comments when you have finished reading it. As for the Warburtons being a possible location of Lasseter's reef, well I don't hold much hope, it has been well and truly prospected, the place must look like a Swiss cheese with the number of drill holes in it. Western Mining was probably the largest company to try their luck; they did find some copper but not enough to get excited about and only traces of gold. Michael Terry thoroughly prospected the Ranges, no luck. Sam Hazlett, the Quest Expedition and dozens of others, all with the same result. In total, enough gold to fill an egg cup.

Nightjar, there are many things that niggle me about Lasseter's diary, not the least is the passage at page 80, (probably 82 in the usual facsimiles of the diary) that reads as follows, "*I had to go right out to Lake Christopher which is 100 miles across the W.A. border in order to get my bearings then I was able to go direct to the reef*". Now having written all of that, and another 90 or so pages besides, why hasn't Lasseter bothered to add the bearings. Wish Bob Buck hadn't found the bloody thing!!! Question is can you see the Carnegie Range from Lake Christopher??. I take it the Carnegie's are the range in your photos.

And VB4, interesting, from what I have gleaned so far re the Lasseter's at Steiglitz it seems the old man was the rabbit and fencing inspector in the district and many have alleged that Harry Lasseter gained his prospecting experience in this area. Of course I have my doubts that Lasseter had any prospecting experience whatsoever bearing in mind Philip Taylor's trenchant comments about the specimens that Lasseter left at Illbilla, "*greatest load of rubbish ever seen*". I'd be interested in a précis of the documents you found. Look forward to hearing from you on this one.

Regards Sullivan.



[reply](#)  
[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Feb 10, '06

Hello Sullivan,

All I'm prepared to say at this moment is that the photo I posted many posts ago was taken from the co-ordinates you gave me of the non existant "Three Hills that were marked on your map." The only hills, were the natural sandhills at even heights and I took that photo from the top of one of them, as close to your waypoint as possible. I cannot verify whether you can see Carnegie Range from Lake Christopher (heavy rain prevented our expedition from reaching Lake Christopher or other points of interest.) however I strongly suggest you would be able too from a vantage point.

Regards  
Nightjar



[reply](#)  
[msn-malleeboy54](#) wrote on Feb 13, '06

G'day Sulli,

I finished the book a few weeks ago and it more or less confirms that Lasseter was not in the Alice Springs area in 1897-98. The question asked by the

old timer about what size bags of flower did he buy at the store that wasnt there 30 years earlier confirmed this. The story about the tribal elders going away for about three weeks to get some gold and coming back in a new landrover is properly true. There is possibly a small gold patch out there some where but not a reef like Lasseter dreamed of. W. Johanson seems to be the missing link that could answer a lot of questions.

Regards Mike.



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Apr 29, '06

Morning Sulli,

How is progress with Lasseteria, will we see it in the stalls this year?

Slowly putting together plans for another journey out into Central Australia, probably 2008. One would have to think that we could not strike rain again like we did in 2005. Anyway we were still able to enjoy the country and open our eyes to the beauty of the outback. Many fond memories to dwell on and many mysteries yet to unfold. The view of the "Three Hills from your non existent way point keeps running around in my head. Would be very interested in receiving details of the map you have with your "Three Hills" marked.

Regards Peter



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jun 18, '06

Hello members,

Remember Sulli's post with this poem with the final line "*Then we'll know where the Nightjar was.*"

Well for those of you who are interested I have put together a short *Photo Story* on VCD that will run in your DVD payer for approximately 1/2 hour. I can burn it in either PAL or NTSC format to suit respective payers. It includes some of the images taken during the journey with accompanying verbal description and music.

Auriferously

Nightjar

Sent: 22/07/2005 6:37 PM

From: [bros0127](#)

Way outback where the Nightjar is  
Travelling east on Lasseter biz  
Searching gold reefs, said enormous  
And under Lasseter's campfires, also numerous  
For those golden specimens and clues obscure  
To a glittering bonanza in the 'Centre

By Christopher lake and Circus Water  
Detour to Lasseter's Cave he ought to  
To ponder Harry's ghostly lamentation  
Of bolting camels and starvation  
Then onwards east to Winters Glen  
Where the prospecting legend met his end

Ever eastwards to the Olgas  
Not like Terry bashing mulga  
Nightjars' road is now well travelled  
With trackside flats he should not be troubled  
Unless he turns north to Lake Amadeus  
Then his disappearance will confound us

On to the 'Alice for a resupply  
Then northwest to the Tanami  
Where golds been found, more or less

Maybe a chance for a detector test  
At Hall's creek he'll have better luck  
Before he tackles the infamous Canning track

And all this on one slab of Emu Bitter  
Never happen, maybe later  
When he's back in the Golden West  
Successfully reflecting on the severest test  
Of man and wheels and detector too  
But no doubt, his laptop maps have seen him through

Then onto keyboard with fingers pounding  
Via this forum with tales astounding  
Of his journey through central Oz  
Then we'll know where the Nightjar was

Sullivan



[reply](#)

[msn-nightjar](#) wrote on Jan 7, '07

Hello Sulli,

Gone but not forgotten, how is "Lasseteria" coming along?

Would welcome you sharing any further information you have delved out of the archives.

The time spent and the information collected thanks to you is a life long memory of a trek of a lifetime made through the "Lasseter Country."

Kind regards



[reply](#)

[msn-bros0127](#) wrote on Jan 8, '07

Hey Nightjar,

Good to hear from you mate, and seasons greetings to you and all our readers who chase the weight, I like optimists.

As to LASSETERIA, well it's keeps getting bigger as I uncover more material, so there will have to be some severe editing before it ends up between hard covers, it'll be a two volume work otherwise. But web sites are good fun and an excellent way to present such works, you can correct the mistakes and the readers are the best editors, ruthless sometimes, but that's o.k.

And so to recent revelations, there are two that'll probably interest you and fellow Lasseterians; firstly I reckon I've finally figured out what's wrong with that bloody diary, it's a suicide note!!!!. And the second is a wonderful example of just plain good luck, Francis Theodore Green's misdemeanours have finally been revealed.

First to the Diary and why I think it's a suicide note. Imagine yourself in Lasseter's position in late December 1930, there he is on his camels, mooching his way back from Lake Christopher where he failed to rendezvous with Johanson, and wondering

what the hell he's going to tell the Baileys, the shareholders and the rest of the world about his gold reef that he has failed yet again to find, and any excuses like crook watches and dodgy maps will cut no ice this time. He simply cannot return to civilisation without hard evidence that he has found a reef. If he were to do so he would be arrested for fraud and held up to public ridicule, and that's before the Baileys and the shareholders have their way with him. I see concrete boots and the bottom of the Harbour if that lot got hold of him.

He can of course return to Illbilla, replenish his supplies, and continue searching for a reef, and if he finds one, lo and behold it becomes Lasseter's Reef. But he can only do this until his supplies run out and that will happen before he finds gold in Lasseter Country, and I reckon Lasseter has at last realised this unhappy truth.

Or he can disappear, as Fred Blakeley reckons he did, to a Mormon institution in America, but Blakeleys suppositions are nonsense as we then have to explain the body found by Bob Buck at Irving creek in March 1931. And he can't hide among the Aborigines, he has already alienated them, and sooner or later he would be found anyway, still having to explain his lack of gold reef.

So he can't go back, he can't go on and he can't disappear, ergo no more options, he's stymied well and truly and knows it, and while he 's pondering his non options his camels bolt, the nail in the coffin so to speak. So what to do?? Harry knows that when his body is found, if ever, he will be a headline for a day and his already questionable reputation will be mud, the name Lasseter will be a laughing stock far and wide.

However....knowing he is going to die, he can do something to save his reputation at least, and reputation is of paramount importance to Harry. He can write an elaborate, but essentially nonsensical suicide note, where he infers he has found his gold reef and gives the vaguest directions accordingly, nothing specific because he has no gold reef to give specific directions to. But it has the desired result when the diary is found, Lasseter becomes famous and Idriess has a bestseller.

Now to Frank Green, and I have a feeling this bloke is the instigator of the fraud. Frank Green was the prospector on the second C.A.G.E. expedition, the one lead by Bob Buck. Green and the Lasseter's were already well acquainted, and to me at least, it comes as no surprise to learn that Green and Irene Lasseter later married. Green was also well acquainted with the Baileys and involved with them in a couple of blatant gold scams after the Lasseter debacle, perhaps not such debacles as far as Green and the Baileys were concerned, thousands of pounds of shareholders money simply disappeared, as usual.

And Green had a long and varied criminal record, starting with robbing his fellow Diggers during the first World War, as well as A.W.O.L. disobeying orders etc, etc. He then moved on to graft and corruption during the construction of the Bunnerong power station, got himself well and truly named in Parliament over that one. Sydney became a bit hot for the time being so he choofed off to Central Australia for a while, allegedly prospecting but probably a standover merchant for the A.W.U. John Baileys back door so to speak. In the mid 1930's he helped Bailey set up two, possibly three bogus mining companies in Arnhem Land, nice little money spinners these.

But to 1929, you will recall me writing some time ago that Green had spent three months in the Alice Springs jug for 'illegal possession' and I think most of us assumed perhaps gold. That turns out not to be so, Green was initially arrested for breaking and entering premises twice and charged accordingly, however, because of the nature of the charges the court case had to be heard in Darwin at considerable expense and time to the Administration of Central Australia, so Ernie Allchurch, magistrate as well as postmaster, reduced the charges to 'illegal

possession' so the case could be heard in C.A. and the business over and done with expeditiously.

The illegal possession was of a pair of trousers.....with 90 quid in the pocket, a very tidy sum, for which Green served three months. He got off lightly, it seems those trousers belonged to Ben Nicker, a young man of consequence in C.A. So after Green gets out of jail he returns to Sydney and shortly thereafter Lasseter writes that infamous letter about his gold reef to Texas Green, Minister for Defence, and the rest is history. By the way Frank Green and Texas Green were not related, the names and connection to Lasseter are purely coincidental, damn!! I thought I was on to a real scandal there.

Green's biography will take some putting together, although I've got the goods on him re Lasseter I'll have to tread carefully, in a legal sense, there is still family extent. And this is one I'll have to run by a lawyer before posting to the web, if it reads right it will be quite a revelation.

So there you go Nightjar, a suicide note starts a legend and a bestseller, and a real villain just may have planted a crazy idea in Lasseter's head in order to get rid of him. I reckon the whole shonky business has all the ingredients for a great T.V. mini series....comment??

Speaking of comments, keep them coming readers, especially regards logic and readability and flow of story, because if it doesn't make sense to you then it won't make sense to anyone else, including potential publishers. I have to remind myself occasionally that I am sometimes too close to the story.

And when am I going to read a headline from the West about a 32 kilo nugget??

Regards

Sullivan.  
reply



reply  
msn-nightjar wrote on Jan 9, '07  
Hello Sulli,

As a matter of interest, my signature below shows the low lying cloud over Schwerin Mural Crescent across Vladimar Pass looking WNW, the point where we had to abandon our trek across no mans land to Mt Johnno and onto Mt Carnegie. The view from 975 feet up was magnificent even with the cloud cover.



reply  
msn-bros0127 wrote on Jan 10, '07

Evening Brett

You're absolutely right about digging to bedrock, just like metal detecting, gotta cover a lot of ground to find a nugget. And if I may extend the analogy a little further, a couple of times on this forum I've read where you chaps have spent a long days fruitless search on a likely patch, given it up as a lost cause and returned to camp, miles away, still trailing the detector when....beep beep, bingo!! In the most unlikely and unexpected place, a nug.

This happened twice when tracking down the elusive Frank Green. First time was a Northern Territory Archives file re Lasseter's Tin Trunk, a gem in itself, but the piece de resistance was the letter from Irene Green where she replied to a letter from the Northern Territory Police instructing them on disposal of her late husbands tin trunk and it's contents, so the ex Mrs. Lasseter is now Mrs. Green, hmm...hmm I sez to myself, and naturally wondered if there was a connection with Texas Green, the Minister for Defence to whom Lasseter wrote his outrageous letter in 1929. The chase lead me from Vic. To W.A. and back to Vic, eventually to learn that Texas Green did have a brother by the name of Frank (Francis) At the time I thought I was onto a piece of history changing info. Not so, Texas Greens brother had the wrong birth date and was an exemplary citizen, so I shelved the chase for the time being, putting it down to one of those remarkable coincidences that happen in historical research.

Some time later I was following the machinations of that notorious rouge John Bailey, the Chairman of C.A.G.E. (the Lasseter company) and his shady doings with the Arnheim Land Gold Company, the National Archives have a lovely fat file on the subject, and there, lo and behold, Frank Green pops up again as the field boss and a company director. Further research into Baileys shenanigans reveals that Green was in the Army, First World War, so off to the Australian War Memorial and there all was revealed, Frank Green married Lasseter's widow!!! Soooo.....sez I, what about Frank Green??? Now that there were a few leads, compliments of the N.A.A. quite a bit of info turned up and eventually I arrived at the file re oil in central Australia, and Nightjar will remember that Green and his mates were the one that misidentified bat poo as oil and attempted to claim a Government subsidy for further exploration.

Vic Carrington, who was the Administrator of central Australia at the time, wrote to his boss in Canberra pointing out that Green couldn't claim to be a prospector, he had spent three months in my jail for 'illegal possession' and the man was a rouge and a vagabond!!! As per earlier posts, we had all hoped illegal possession of gold. Northern Territory records confirmed just that Green was in the jug for illegal possession, but of what was a mystery.

A couple of months ago, (and this is the second case of finding an unexpected nugget) I was researching legal and judicial problems in Central Australia, circa 1930, when I came across a N.A.A. file where the Administrator complained to Canberra about the expense and disruption to local policing as a result of having to have certain types of court cases heard in Darwin and he cited an example, the example was that of Frank Green, arrested on two counts of breaking and entering and thievery, serious charges that legally warranted a trial by jury in Darwin, but due to the expense disruption etc the charges were reduced so they could be heard in Alice Springs, so Green served three months for illegal possession. Canberra was quite put out by those practical Centralians taking the law into their own hands, But it did solve the mystery of what Green illegally possessed. Case closed!!!!

So Brett, after a lot of digging to bedrock, a lot of it in dead ground and a few false lead(er)s, I hit pay dirt, so to speak. By the way, when it comes to Lasseter all thought are creditable.

Now to Nightjar, that's a beaut sig banner and a rare photo catching the Rawlinsons with such a low cloud cover, but two questions come to mind, what stopped further progress? and what is that lop eared critter (no the other one) on the left of the

banner?

Regards

Sullivan.



reply

msn-nightjar wrote on Jan 11, '07

Hello Sulli,

A new twist to the saga, good luck I hope you turn up pay dirt soon. It would seem the search for answers has almost become an obsession for you. Sure hope you can get down to the base rock with your research.

The lop eared critter on the err ahhhh left of banner is my namesake, a rarely seen and even more rarely photographed member of the Owlet family.

**Australian Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus***



reply

msn-nightjar wrote on Apr 26, '07

Morning Sullivan,

Haven't heard from you for a few months. What's the latest update on Lasseteria?

Cheers

Nightjar



reply

jefgold wrote on May 4, '07

Hey Nightjar

Are you going to write a book on this? Has anyone done any further research or gone looking again?

Jeff



reply

msn-faccray wrote on May 5, '07

Hi

I see that Lasseter's diary is on ebay at the moment....gold mining - books....



reply

msn-nightjar wrote on May 5, '07

Hello Jeff,

Sullivan is writing the book, I believe he has researched Lasseter more thoroughly than any other on this planet.

The book Lasseteria, is going to be very interesting reading when it finally hits the stalls.

Would like to head out into Lasseter country in the years ahead, However permission to enter is very difficult to get.

Nightjar





reply  
msn-bros0127 wrote on May 10, '07

Evening Nightjar,

Sorry about the delay mate but have been up to my whatits in galliators, still busy beavering away on Lasseteria.

And now for the news,

You will recall my scepticism regarding the Lasseter's sojourn in America between 1902 to 1909 and a suspicion that he may have been in an Australian institution during the above period, well due to the generous assistance of a Queensland researcher, who had spent some time following the women in Lasseter's life, I was given a large amount of material that probably settles the issue once and for all and I am now prepared to accept that Lasseter was in fact resident in the States for those years.

There are still a few gaps in the story, like the vexing lack of birth, death, and marriage certificates and much of the information is from Lasseter's first family, remember 'Ruby's Story', a bit sieve like in many ways, but I'll put that down to the passage of time and memory, I guess the clincher was the census records and I don't suppose you can fake them, although one of those records shows his name spelt, "Lastr" and another very cheekily shows Lasseter as American born.

I think it's a case of weighing all the evidence and concluding that he was in America, in a way I'm relieved as I can put that extensive search to rest, although it would have been a great thrill to find him elsewhere, no matter.

There is one thing that puzzles me though, Murray Hubbard, Lasseter's biographer, mentioned that the reason Lasseter left Australia was that he was on the run from the authorities after escaping from the reform school, that seems logical, but if so, why did he return to Australia?? And run the risk of being rearrested, may have been a statute of limitations thing.

Regards

Sullivan.