

Goldfields Diggings

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society 20223-17

July 2023

July Dates to Remember:

5th July - Volunteers Morning Tea

19th July - General Meeting

31st July - Boulder Traders Meeting

Inaugural Winner of the Wilson Academic Bursary - Dr Belinda Beattie

It is with great pleasure that the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society announces the inaugural winner of the Wilson Academic Bursary - Dr. Belinda Beattie. Congratulations to Belinda on the success of her application.

Dr Belinda Beattie is a respected public policy scholar. She has a pique interest in Federation (1895- 1905) Western Australian Eastern Goldfields, specifically the interrelationship between local newspapers, community, political, social history and governance.

Belinda has successfully published research in academic journals, for example, in 2022 *Russel Ward on Staniforth Smith*, Media History; and currently in print, June 2023, *Kalgoorlie's Sex Trade and the Kalgoorlie Miner: 1896-1903*, Journal of Australian Studies. Research under review with Australian or international journals includes: *Letters to the Western Australian Goldfield Newspapers 1896-1904* and *Reporting the Kalgoorlie and Broken Hill Sex Trade: 1896-1903*.

As part of the bursary, Belinda will be working on a publication titled *The Most Despised Residents on Western Australia's Eastern Goldfields 1896-1905: Pimps and Brothel Proprietors*.

The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society would like to thank all the applicants for taking time to apply and congratulate Dr Belinda Beattie on the success of her application. If you feel you can add any history to this subject, including images, please email eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au.



EASTERN
GOLDFIELDS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.

Preserving & promoting Goldfields history

Can you Help?

We are looking for someone to help transport a microfilm reader from Perth to Kalgoorlie. You will need a large car with a fair bit of space. Let us know if you can assist.

General Meetings

7pm, 3rd Wednesday of the month (excludes Dec & Jan)

The **AGM** is held on the 3rd Wednesday of August.

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday
9am until 2pm

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BSB: 066514

Account: 00900580

Randall & Edwards - Johns Popeye

by John & Patrene Elsbury

A member of the public recently contacted the Society looking for an image of the old Randal and Edwards Storefront on Hannan St. We were able to find an old advertisement from the Kalgoorlie Miner, June 17, 1993, page 85. See over for advertisement. The following story was submitted as a result of the image.

John Elsbury was born in Kalgoorlie in 1949 to parents Mervyn and Alma Elsbury (nee Cadd). The Elsbury family owned a bakery know as the "Elsbury Brothers Bakery" and his grandmother, Lily Cadd, owned the Kalgoorlie Central School Shop, located opposite the School. John's mother Alma Cadd was born at Kanowna in 1925 and died at the age of 97 years.

At the age of 21, John was conscripted for the Vietnam War 1970-1972. On his return to Western Australia, he settled in Perth, but returns every year for the Kalgoorlie Race Round with friends that he made in Year 1 at primary school.

In 1957, for his 7th birthday, John's Mum purchased him a Popeye and Olive Oyl Tank toy from the Randall and Edwards store located on Hannan St. John remembers sitting on the footpath out the front of the store while his mother went in to purchase his present.



John with the gift his mother purchased for him on his 7th birthday.

During COVID lockdowns, as for many others, boredom set in. John still had a few old toys from his childhood, so while sitting on the lounge locked down like everyone else, we decided to do a Google search to explore vintage toys and to see if John's old toys held any value.

We discovered John's Popeye/Olive Oyl battery operated tank purchased from Randall and Edwards was extremely rare and one of only 5 samples ever produced.

We quickly checked our cupboard and box where Popeye had been living with us for the past many years and yes! We had him still safely stored and in mint condition with original box safely stored away. Not sure why we ever kept it, but we did. It is still working and extremely rare.

We didn't follow up very much at the time as we could see from all the stories Vintage Toys are very valuable in America, but there is a limited market in Australia and we were reluctant to send overseas in case it was lost or damaged.

We finally decided to make contact with Auction House in America that sold the last rare Popeye Olive Oyl Tank toy and they were excited and keen to get Popeye to their auction house in Willoughby, Ohio. It was quite simple exercise

DGR Status

Did you know that the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Is recognized as a DGR or Deductible Gift Recipient?

A DGR is an organisation that can receive donations that are tax deductible.

What does this mean?

If you make a donation to the EGHS you may be able to deduct that gift from your own income - claim the donation as a deduction when filing your personal income tax return for the year.

For more information please speak to your accountant.

We are looking for a volunteer to help in the Bookshop. This role will include jobs such as dusting the displays, keeping the book shelves stocked and keeping our Hesperian Books in alphabetical order.

Ideally, it would be great if you could come in once or twice a week and spend about half an hour keeping your eye on things.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in doing please call in and have a chat.

Shout Out!

Massive shout out to Curator and Life Member, John Rees for the donation of a sea container to the Society.

Late last year John also donated his huge pharmaceutical collection to the EGHS. You may remember John had some of his collection on display in the Boulder Pharmacy.

The Society is in the process of trying to locate a suitably qualified person to help compile a significance assessment on the collection. If this is something you might be interested in helping with please get in touch.

John's collection, although not open to the public, is on display at the Hannans North Tourist Mine. Hopefully in the near future you will all get a chance to take a look.

A Social Armistice - FCB Vosper

The Society is on the look out for the above mentioned pamphlet.

Do you know the whereabouts of one?

Please get in contact.

Kalgoorlie Miner

Please consider donating your read daily newspaper to the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society instead of throwing it in the recycling bin.

Papers can be dropped off anytime between 9am and 2pm Monday to Friday.

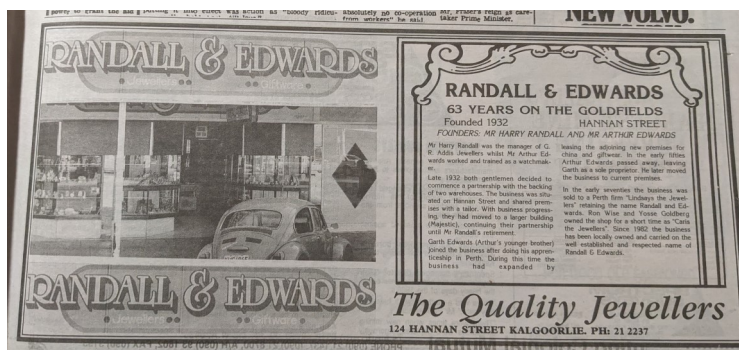
Randall & Edwards - Johns Popeye continued

and we were guided and supported by them to have a go. For \$300 air freight, Popeye has travelled from Japan to Kalgoorlie to Perth and now recently from Perth via Singapore, Cincinnati to Willoughby, Ohio safe and sound. He has lived his life in a box until now where he is out of his box and proudly on display at Milestone Auctions.

Milestone Auctions were very interested in the Kalgoorlie/John/Popeye story and wanted to share the Kalgoorlie history as part of their marketing plan. They are having a story written prior to the auction. They wanted to have fun with the story and couldn't really believe Popeye's history ending up in Randall and Edwards, Kalgoorlie as only five salesman samples were ever made by The Linemar Toy Company in Japan. How Popeye went from Japan to Kalgoorlie is a mystery.

Of the five ever made, three are in the Mint Museum in Singapore and the only other one anyone was aware of was sold at auction for \$105,000 by Milestone Auctions. John can now claim he has the last and only one left worldwide.

From the price on the box it looks like John's mum paid 2 shillings. John's mum died many years ago, but wouldn't she have loved this story?



The last Popeye/Olive Oyl tank that sold for \$105,000, April 2022 (as per link below) has been described as the "Holy Grail of Vintage Toys". Fortunately, we never gave our toy to grand kids to play with.

<https://www.antiquetrader.com/auctions/popeye-tank-sets-new-world-record>

With Milestone Auctions new history of Kalgoorlie, they laughed with John and said if you know any of your friends or family members in Kalgoorlie who might have a few vintage pieces hidden away, "please send photos to Milestone Auctions" for valuations. They said most rare finds come from coincidence or news stories and sometimes people are not aware of what rare items they have. We being one of them.





**EASTERN
GOLDFIELDS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.**

Preserving & promoting Goldfields history

Monthly Meetings & Guest Speaking

Are you an aficionado on anything Eastern Goldfields? Do you have a great story to tell about growing up, living on or anything Eastern Goldfields?

Are you looking for a forum to share your information?

Do you have an historic building you would like to show off? Then we have the place for you!

Every third Wednesday from 7pm the EGHS holds a general meeting with a guest speaker that presents talks to our members and visitors. They are always interesting and entertaining. If you have something to share please feel free to get in touch.

We would love to hear your story.

Do you have an excess of clean paper bags?



Drop them off and we will reuse them in the bookshop.

☒ **VOLUNTEER**

dreamtime.



Trains

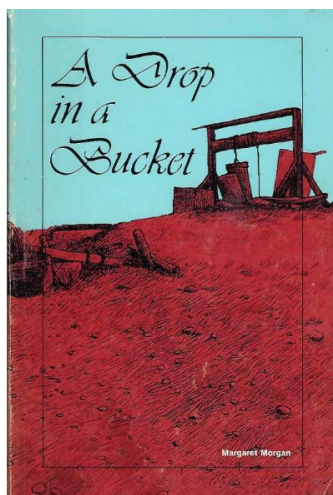
Peter Green recently visited the Bassendean Railway Museum and was pleased to see several old trains from the Goldfields, one still in use, on display. Thanks to Peter for sending in the images.



Left—Fruedy, the Golden Ridge to Boorara ore Train. **Below** - What is left of the track.



A Drop in a Bucket - Margaret Morgan



Did you know that the Aboriginal Language Centre has digitized the book *A Drop in a Bucket - The Mount Margaret Story* and it is available free online on their website? If you haven't had a chance to read this book, it is certainly worthwhile.

<https://wangka.com.au/3d-flip-book/a-drop-in-the-bucket/>

There are a number of books relating to Mt Margaret and other subjects available to read for free on their website - a great resource. Check it out.

Out of the Past - The Bardoc Murder

By Harry Ware

The grave of the victim of the unsolved Bardoc Murder is on the bank of a creek, leading down from Lindsay's Soak, which is crossed by the road from Dark Horse to the Bellevue, about three miles easterly of Grant's Patch. The grave, which is fenced, is in the north bank of the creek, on the Eastern side of the road, and a couple hundred yards from the road. The location is about ten miles from Bardoc, but because the murder was reported to the Police in Bardoc, it consequently was referred to as the Bardoc Murder. The victim was never identified, nor the culprit ever found.

In September 1894, three men, Messrs Mullard, Mogford and Glazier, were enroute to Bardoc from Balgarrie – 42 Mile dam area. As they approached the area of the grave in the afternoon, a man came hurrying towards them from an adjacent high point, intercepted them and enquired where they were going. The man engaged the party in conversation, and advised them to go a short distance to the north, where there were some prospectors on gold.

The party followed the man's directions, searched the area until darkness set in and camped, having found no sign of either men or work having been done. Next morning, after further searching, the party decided to ask the man why he had put them on a false trail, and went to where they had met the man the previous afternoon. They found no sign of the man, but noticed a freshly filled-in hole, and decided to investigate the situation by emptying the hole. They were shocked to find the body of a man whose head had been battered in with a pick. As they had intended going to Bardoc, they continued their journey to that place and reported the matter there.

The description of the man who intercepted the travelers was a tall, well built man, athletic, apparently of military training, dark complexion, English, but possibly of foreign extraction.

The description fitted many men on the Goldfields at that period, and several men were detained for questioning, but all were released, perhaps after some embarrassment. A report at the time said that, "Trooper Walsh had brought in another suspect on October 24th."

Trooper Walsh may have been detective Inspector John Joseph Walsh, who, with Detective Pitman, was the victim of the brutal murder by illicit gold stealers in 1925, near Kalgoorlie. Police records show that Det. Inspector Walsh was a Trooper on the Goldfields in 1894.



YouTube - Oral History Recordings

The EGHS is now on YouTube. Via video link only at this stage, members can listen to a selection of Oral History Recordings.

Do you have time to come down to the Society and help upload some of our oral histories?

BREAD TAGS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Aussie Bread Tags for Wheel Chairs

The EGHS is now one of the two collection points in the Goldfields. Don't forget to drop them off!



The EGHS has set up an account with containers for change. If you would like to donate to a worthy cause please consider us.

Scheme ID: C10397895

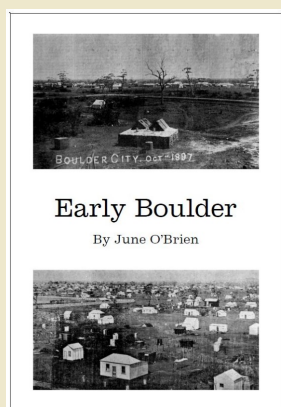


Kanowna

We are looking for images of Kanowna to help build a pictorial history of the town. Please forward your images to:

eghs@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

We still have lots of books that we would like someone to read and write indexes for. If you are interested, please get in contact with us.



\$8.00

We are also on the look out for a small garden shed. If you have one that you might like to donate to the Society, please let us know.

We are always interested in images and stories from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and up until now, that pertain to the Eastern Goldfields.

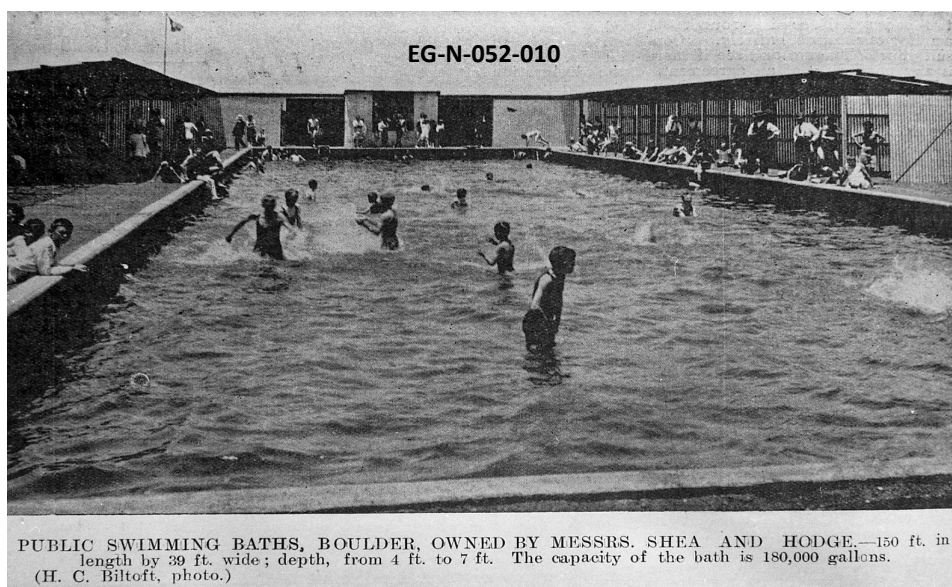
If you have them and you would like to share them, come and see the volunteers at the Society.

Out of the Past - the Bardoc Murder continued

At the time of the Bardoc murder, feeling was high amongst men on the Goldfields that greater publicity was not given to the description of the murdered man. It was evident, at the inquest apparently, that the man had undergone major surgery to his back and to the male organ. It was claimed that identification could have been established as a consequence of the knowledge.

Boulder Swimming Baths - Tess Thomson

These Baths were situated at the south-west corner of Millen and Keegan Streets (close to where Johnston Street has since been extended). The length of the baths ran north-south, with the deep end at the south... Duncan, Noeline: *At the Deep End: A Century of Goldfields Swimming*, (pub. 2001)



Mrs Duncan, in her *History of Goldfields Swimming*, writes on pp5-6, "The first [carnival] may have been at the new Boulder Baths in February 1910" and on p.8 "In 1909, when the privately-owned swimming baths were built at the corner of Keegan and Millen Street, Boulder, a Club was formed which made way for very interesting inter-club meetings for several years."

On p.73-74, Mrs Duncan has a section on the Boulder Amateur Swimming Club in which she notes that the last reference to the Boulder Club was for their AGM in October, 1913, and she surmises that the war period may have been the reason for the Club's demise. Mrs. Duncan does not give any references in her book.

General and personal comments:

I do not know for certain when these swimming baths closed, but an item in the *Western Argus* of December 16, 1913 reports that "A letter from Mr. A. Shea, owner of the Boulder Baths, was read at last night's meeting of the Boulder Council offering the baths to the council for £250, for cash or on terms. Cr. Graham moved the offer be refused. The opinion was expressed that although the baths had been put down at a heavy cost, they could not be made a payable proposition."



The History Council of WA is delighted to announce nominations for the 2023 History Council Awards are now open.

Entries close 5pm Friday, 28 July 2023.

www.historycouncilwa.org.au/awards-2023

Individuals, groups and/or organisations may be nominated for:

An outstanding contribution to the understanding or impact of, or advocacy for, the history of Western Australia;

A significant contribution to the understanding or impact of, or advocacy for, the Indigenous history of Western Australia;

A significant contribution to the understanding or impact of, or advocacy for, local history in Western Australia; an outstanding contribution to the teaching of Western Australian history;

An innovative project, published or unpublished work by an emerging historian;

An innovative contribution to understandings of Western Australian history, or its advocacy, by a student or students.

Boulder Swimming Baths - continued

I am aware from conversations with my father (b.1910) who lived close by the Baths, that the neighbourhood children used the bottom of the abandoned baths to play cricket.

I remember the Baths myself from the period c1948-1954 when it was being used as an illegal dumping ground for household rubbish - although some of the bottom of the baths was still accessible for walking about in.

Although the baths have now been filled in and covered with earth, the mound is still clearly visible (June, 2010) at the corner of Keegan & Millen Street, and can be seen from Johnston Street.

In January 2003, Sandy Hansen, then Heritage Officer for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, compiled a list of 'historic' plans held by the Council. She lists an undated plan of 'Baths' and a February 1914 plan of 'Proposed swimming and hot water baths - 4 possible locations'. I have not sighted any of these plans.

Tess Thomson - June 2010.

R.A.C. Kalgoorlie

Saturday the 29th April 2023, saw the Kalgoorlie Miner report that the RAC on Hannan St had closed its doors for the last time, citing a lack of walk-in customers and a shortage of staff as contributing factors.

2023 would have seen the RAC operating in Kalgoorlie for its 93rd year, closing only during the war years. An advertisement that was published in the Kalgoorlie Miner, 17th June 1993, stated that the RAC first offered club services in September 1930, when R. Dorrington used a motorcycle to carry out necessary repairs for customers.

Kalgoorlie Branch is R.A.C's Oldest Branch, September 1930

Club services were first introduced to the town in September 1930 by resident patrolman R. Dorrington, who was based at 28 Victoria St and used a motorcycle with sidcar to carry the necessary tools and equipment for the breakdown service he provided.

the branch was closed, RAC Kalgoorlie has supplied a continuous service to the townsfolk and club members in surrounding districts.

Today's branch can be found at the corner of Hannan and Porter Streets.

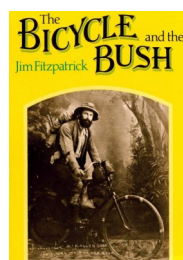
It was opened in 1977 and was the second branch to have been specially designed for RAC purposes.

RAC Kalgoorlie has a full-time staff of 5 plus 1 part-timer, and offers just about all the services of today's expanded RAC group.

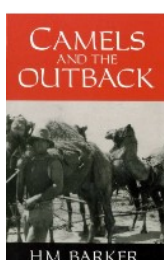
With 63 years of history in the town, it seems that Kalgoorlie residents have quite a soft spot for the RAC.

RAC Kalgoorlie: (left to right) Rochelle Callaghan, Denise Roberts, Colin Neilson, Bob Watts, Ceresse Mitchell and Linda Kelly

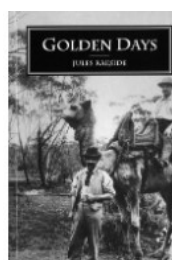
Can you afford not to be a member?
CNR PORTER AND HANNAN STREETS, KALGOORLIE
TELEPHONE (090) 21 1511



\$50.00



\$30.00



\$30.00



\$22.00



\$50.00

AGM - Spotlight on

Cleaner Needed

We are looking for a person to help with the cleaning at the Society. Once a week or as often as you like.



The AGM for the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society will fall on the 16th August 2023 and all positions will be declared vacant. Over the next few newsletters we will highlight some of the roles that are available at the EGHS which may interest some of our readers. If you are interested in joining the committee call in and have a look around. Being on the committee is very enjoyable an rewarding.

Outlined below is the role of the research coordinator. All support is offered from the Executive Committee, the EO and our team of great volunteers. Ideally you would be required to come into the Society at least one full day a week to help complete the above tasks.

Introducing a book & puzzle swap for volunteers and members. Call in and drop off some books and pick up a few new ones to read.

Take a book - leave a book

Did you know that the EGHS has a subscription to Ancestry.com? Members are welcome to come down to the Society and search for information on Ancestry. Non-members are also welcome, for a small fee.

DISCLAIMER

Accuracy of facts or the opinions expressed in any of the articles of this newsletter, are not necessarily those of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Inc. and the Society cannot accept responsibility of any action taken as a result of statements contained within.

Curator/Preservation Coordinator

- Manage collection, collect and record information about artefacts and pieces, and work with stakeholders and volunteers
- Manage outwards loans of collection
- Use MOSAIC Software to manage collection data
- Acquiring, researching, and recording information about acquisitions.
- Ensuring that pieces not displayed are stored properly.
- Prepare notes, agendas and minutes for curatorial subcommittee meetings
- Provide brief monthly report for members for General Meeting Agenda
- Review policies and procedures relating to curatorial
- Provide customer service when able, taking payments, promoting books sales and membership and answering research requests
- Attend Committee and General meetings

Librarian

- Acquisition, accession, organisation, of library materials
- Manage borrows and returns of members public library
- Manages and seeks growth opportunities for EGHS book shop
- Provide customer service when needed, taking payments, promoting books sales and membership and answering research requests
- Provide brief monthly report for members for General Meeting Agenda
- Attend Committee and General meetings

Research Coordinator

- Interest of history in the Eastern Goldfields region
- Strong skill with computer applications to research internal and external archives for research.
- Provide customer service when able, taking payments, promoting books sales and membership and answering research requests
- Provide brief monthly report for members for General Meeting Agenda
- Attend Committee and General meetings

Members' Corner



We have been sent this image of the Associated Football Club . Can you help with the year of the image?

Do you have this in your collection? Do you know the history of the Associated FC? Get in contact.



Strategic Plan 2019-2024

Our Vision

To work together to inspire communities about the unique histories and heritage of the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia.

Our Mission

To enrich current and future generations through the preservation of our collections, and through communication and education about the diverse histories and heritage of our region.



EG-N-006-003a, The Palace Hotel, Kalgoorlie

Our Goals

- To manage and preserve the various collections, entrusted by the community, to best practices
- To communicate the histories and heritage of the Eastern Goldfields.
- To maintain financial viability of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society.
- To maintain an inclusive environment and enable opportunities for our people.
- To increase community awareness of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society.

Our Collection

Manage and preserve the various collections, entrusted by the community, to best practices.

1. Establish and implement policies and procedural guidelines.
2. Determine what collections EGHS hold.
3. Document the entire collection.
4. Digitise the various image collections.
5. Improve the care of the collections.

Community Engagement

Communicate the histories and heritage of the Eastern Goldfields by:

1. Organising and promoting events for the wider community
2. Maintaining media and social media presence
3. Developing Eastern Goldfields Historical Society publications and promoting other publications
4. Commemorating events, people and places

Finances

Maintain financial viability of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society by:

1. Developing merchandise for sale
2. Applying for appropriate grants
3. Offering tax deductions for donations
4. Continuing to develop fee-for-service activities
5. Increasing financial memberships

Our People

Maintain an inclusive environment and enable opportunities for our people by:

1. Developing regular activities for members
2. Providing opportunities for professional development of volunteers and staff
3. Establishing volunteer policies and procedures

Perception

Increase community awareness of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society by:

1. Supporting heritage tourism activities
2. Co-operating with other organisations



EG-N-097-011, Launceston Prospectors Slater and McGowan, with two laden camels with two prospectors in bushland. Photographer Unknown.

OUR SPONSORS

