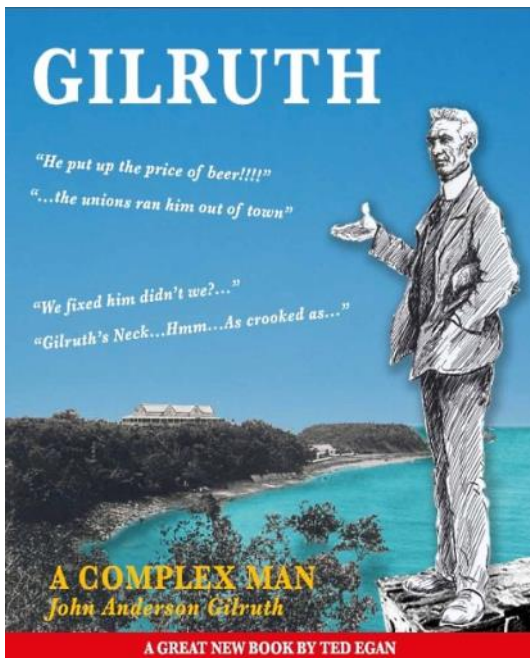


GILRUTH

A complex Man. John Anderson Gilruth.

By Ted Egan

Published by Ted Egan Enterprises , Alice Springs 2017



Knowing very little about Dr John Anderson Gilruth, the first Commonwealth Administrator of the NT 1912-1919, I was very excited to read this beautifully produced book by Ted Egan, a man who has also enjoyed the role of Administrator. Dr Gilruth had a challenging role in a very difficult time .So why did the NT Times (Oct 23 1913) describe him "as the most disliked man in the NT"

After reading this book with an open mind I know which side of Government House's picket fence I would have been on! Even with the positive evidence provided in the book, I wasn't convinced that Dr Gilruth and his band of associates H E Carey, RW Evans and Judge Bevan were completely above board. I don't accept that " naïve or trivial" cut it. I get the sense they were sailing very close to the wind.

What a wonderful Musical this story would be and we know who could write the lyrics and music ! The leading role would be a tall self important Scottish Veterinary scientist enjoying power and travel (and travel allowance of course) in the wild, untamed outback, his hardworking wife who raises heaps of money for the Red Cross and is granted an OBE, other dubious plotting officials, a handsome Union Organiser and hard nose unionists, a melting pot of different cultures, the wealthy Vesty family, not to mention a collection of Politicians.

The plot would include a Rebellion, a secret dodgy letter written in indelible pencil and included inside an envelope inside another envelope....stolen of course and published.....Lets have suspicious land and mine deals, very close links with big companies, many trips down South, lots of allowances and to top it off lets have officials put on ships and sent away. Oh, lets not forget a Royal Commission. It's got it all.

This book even includes a review of other books written about our leading star. These books are by very talented people like Frank Alcorta, Professor Alan Powel, Dr Austin Asche, Judge Dean Mildren. Great for additional insight into our hero. There is a time chart (very useful for the scenes in the musical) and a list of "primary sources" for additional characters. The amazing photographs will help with ward-robe.

The script can't get better than this. "If the German's had bombarded Sydney and smashed Homebush (the meatworks I presume) there might be something to thank the enemy for!" Thank you H E Carney and your secret letter.... Bring on the musical.

This is a terrific book that inspires you to read more about this man and the young Darwin.

Mim Regan