

MR ARTHUR SHAND'S JOURNEY THROUGH AUSTRALASIA 1878



THE BARMAN WAS MURPHY HIMSELF, A LARGE GINGER BEARDED UGLY CUSS WITH ONE EYE AND A WOODEN LEG

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THE LEGENDRY ARTHUR SHAND ARRIVED IN NZ IN AUGUST 1878 FROM AUSTRALIA IN SEARCH OF OUTLETS FOR GUINNESS & SONS NEW BREW GUINNESS STOUT NOW A POPULAR TIPPLE IN IRELAND.

After a gambling loss in Dunedin, a stolen horse, nearly robbed in Clyde and a run in with the Burgess Gang up the Buller Gorge Arthur made for Nelson to exchange his gold nuggets for cash at the Assays Office. He also wondered if 'The Little Fiddle' bar was for Nelson. It wasn't! He exchanged the gold nuggets for pounds at the Assays Office and rode a ways up the dusty street.

There were pubs everywhere, on street corners, in general stores with one even at the Catholic Church. Arthur spotted what looked like an Irish bar 'Murphys' so he tethered his horse, well not his actually, his stolen horse which he called 'Nicked' and went in to Murphys bar. It was rough as guts he thought to himself but with trail dust in his gizzard he stepped up to the bar and ordered a beer.

The barman was Murphy himself, a large ginger bearded ugly cuss with one eye and a wooden leg. "Who are you and what's ya business?" he asked Arthur "and that'll be a penny!" Arthur took a gulp of the amber suds and said "Arthur Shand and I'm here for Guinness & Sons looking to open a bar" tossing a coin on to the beaten pewter bar top. Murphy grabbed his wooden leg and swung wildly at Arthur yelling "Piss off ya Irish git you'll not be opening another firkin Irish bar here! Lads!" Arthur spun around only to be grabbed by two big burley buggers who then threw Arthur into the street.

He dusted himself off and climbed back on his horse thinking about his gun in the saddle bag but thought the better of it. He grinned to himself riding off at a walk up the busy street thinking of the small musical instrument also in the bag. "Come on little fiddle this is no place for you!"

He headed for Kaikoura where it was said they ate big bugs from the sea and had a whale of a time.



THE **LITTLE FIDDLE** EST. 2018

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