Harry Clay is thought to have taken his first steps towards becoming a vaudeville entrepreneur in 1898 when he toured his own Australian Eleven troupe around outer Sydney and possibly through several NSW regional areas. In 1900 his Continental Vaudeville Company also performed at the Coogee Aquarium (Sydney) on 26 January. Although he toured with Walter Bell's Waxworks Boer War and London Vaudeville Company later in the year (including Sydney and regional Queensland), by December he had committed his own resources to a tour of NSW and Queensland - this time billed as Clay's Waxworks and Vaudeville Company. The earliest known engagement found to date was a season at Grafton (NSW), where he booked the local skating rink for the six nights between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. A few nights later the company set up at Lismore's Federal Hall, and by the end of January it was in Bathurst for a season at the School of Arts. From here Clay and his company travelled north through NSW and Queensland. The first of 18 annual tours, its success helped establish not only his reputation in those regions but provided him with the capital to set up a permanent base in Sydney. His combined circuits eventually became the third largest vaudeville company operating in Australia during the first three decades of the 20th century.

Missing from this chronology are the 1908 and 1909 tours of Queensland by Harry Clay's Dramatic Company, along with Stanley McKay's 1911 pantomime tour (produced by Clay). For details relating to these tours see the relevant years in "Harry Clay and Clay's Vaudeville Company: 1865-1930."

A notable addition to this updated version of the chronology is the 1896-1900 section. Information relating to these years was initially discovered in early 2012 as a result of access to the National Library of Australia's Trove digital newspaper repository. Hopefully as the NLA expands its holding, further details will emerge regarding this period of activity by Harry Clay as well as the later years.
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Entries for each year will attempt to provide the following information:

- The Year
- The company's touring name
- Manager/Business Manager
- Advance Representative
- Operator
- Music Director
- Artists touring with the company
- Moving Pictures exhibited
- Farces staged
- Sideshow attractions (such as Waxworks, Cycloramas, Automatic Machines)

Tour Itinerary (providing those dates that have been established so far, and including the venues for each tour date.

Note: The dates provided as part of each year’s itinerary are both the opening and closing dates, and are separated by a dash (-). If there is no closing date shown after the dash, this indicates that no such date has been located. If an opening date is not followed by a dash, this indicates that the season was one night only.

There are no specific Townsville dates provided prior to 1912 due to the unavailability of Townsville’s Daily Bulletin. Townsville has been included within the itineraries before 1912 (with specific dates) only if the position of the season within the tour is approximately known. Cairns does not seem to have been part of the regular itinerary until 1909, and hence there are no dates prior to that year.

SYMBOLS / ABBREVIATIONS

# : placed before a name indicates that this artist was engaged for the second half of a tour.
θ : played the first half of a tour only (and replaced by an artist with #)
IS : Illustrated song
imp: Imported

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Details relating to Harry Clay’s season in Bathurst between 1906 and 1911 have been supplied by Robert Parkinson.
HARRY CLAY-MANAGED COMPANIES: 1896-1900

For detail concerning Clay's movements outside the dates shown in this section please see "Harry Clay Career and Personal Chronology, 1865-1930." (Entrepreneurs A-F)

1896

• Harry Clay's Australian Eleven Comedy and Variety Company:
  - Known engagements are - NSW: Sydney suburbs (ca. Oct.-Dec.)

1897

• Harry Clay's Australian Eleven Comedy and Variety Company:
  - Known engagements are - NSW: Sydney suburbs (ca. Jan.-Mar.) • (Gaiety Theatre, Syd; 13 Mar. - early Apr.)

1898

• Harry Clay's Australian Eleven Comedy and Variety Company:
  - Known NSW engagements are - NSW: Liverpool (Town Hall; 1 May and 18 May)

• Mascotte Minstrel and Variety Company:
  - Known engagements are - NSW: Liverpool (Town Hall; 11 June)
1899

- **Harry Clay’s Australian Eleven Comedy and Variety Company:**
  - Known NSW engagements are - NSW: Parramatta (Town Hall; 2 Jan. -) • Parramatta (Town Hall; 26 Jan. > billed as Harry Clay’s Continental Vaudeville Co) ▶ Coogee Bay (Coogee Aquarium; 26 Dec.)
  - The Bovis Brothers (Charles and Billy) appeared as special guests ca. January.

1900

- **Harry Clay’s Australian Eleven Comedy and Variety Company:**
  - Known engagements are - NSW: Coogee Bay/Parramatta (26 Dec. > Coogee Aquarium matinee, followed by an evening show at Parramatta Town Hall)

- **Harry Clay’s Waxworks and Comedy Company:**
  - Known engagements are - NSW: Grafton (Skating Rink; 26-31 Dec.).
CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND VAUDEVILLE COMPANY TOUR

The tour advertises "all the latest Novelties from London and Paris". This is Harry Clay's first known tour under his own name and as proprietor. Travelling with the tour, but not in any performance capacity are A.R. Abbott and Mary Clay, the latter believed to be either Harry's mother or older sister. The MDM: notes that (in Maitland at least) Harry Clay's name is "sufficient to guarantee that he is bringing along a first-class entertainment" (MDM: 14 Feb. 1901, 2). It appears that Jimmy Boyle was engaged as both the advance rep and comedian for this tour.

- **Advance Rep:** Jimmy W. Boyle;  **Manager:** Harry Clay;  **Musical Director/Pianist:** Prof T.W. Rhodes;

- **Admission prices:** 1/-; 6d (children)  Saturday matinee: 6d ; 3d (children)

- **Artists:**
  - James Boyle (farce comedian)
  - Will Bracey (musical artist/banjo/dancer/blackface/tambos)
  - Harry Clay (tenor/interlocutor/dancer/club swinging)
  - Essie Clay (child vocalist, aged 13)
  - Kate Henry (contralto)
  - Flo Murray (serio)
  - Smith Sisters [Ethel and ? (step dancers)]
  - Sam Wilson (comedian/character artist/blackface/bones)

- **Farces:** *The Ball's Going On* (written by Johnny Cowan, previously performed in Queensland by The Empire Minstrel and Specialty Co., 1893), *The Felon on the Rocks, A Game of Cards, A Little Boy Lost, Where Have I Seen That Face.*


- **Other attractions:**
  - Photographs of the Commonwealth procession, returned soldiers from the Spanish-American war, and panoramic views of England, America and the Continent (viewed with the aid of magnifying glasses, which brings "out some of the scenes with great distinctiveness" (MDM: 19 Feb. 1901, 2).
  - Theatrephone: selections given prior to performance, and is "worked on the same principle as the gramophone" (MDM: 19 Feb. 1901, 2).
  - Automatic (penny-in-the-slot) machines dispensing a delineation of one's character or packets of lollies etc.

- **Known tour dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSW</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lismore</td>
<td>Warwick</td>
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<td>Tamworth</td>
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<td>Charters Towers</td>
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<td>Longreach</td>
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<td>3 Jan. -</td>
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<td>31 Jan. -</td>
<td>12-16 Mar.</td>
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<td>5-6 Mar.</td>
<td>26 Mar. - 4 Apr.</td>
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<td>(Federal Hall)</td>
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<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>(Oddfellows' Hall)</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
<td>(Divisional Hall)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Warwick Examiner 6 Mar. (1901), 2.

CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND VAUDEVILLE COMPANY TOUR

- **Advance Rep:** Jimmy Boyle; **Manager:** Harry Clay; **Music Director/Pianist:** T.W. Rhodes;

- **Admission prices:** 1/-; 6d (children) Saturday matinee: 6d; 3d (children)

- **Artists:** # Carlton and Coleman (comics/dancer)
  Harry Clay (tenor/interlocutor/IS)
  Essie Clay (juvenile singer/IS)
  Richard A. "Dick" Davis (Irish comic/endman/character artist)
  Walter Edwards (baritone/endman)
  Stella Gonzales (contortionist/serpentine acts)
  Nina Gonzales ["Little Nina"] (serio/dancer)
  Amy Leslie (contralto/serio/soubrette)
  # Bobby Widgery (miniature 'pocket' comedian)
  Jack F. Williams (patter/dancer/endman)

- **Waxworks:** Incl. Breelong Blacks [The Governors], King Edward VII, Queen Alexandria, Joseph Chamberlain, H.R.H. The Duke of York, Paul Kruger (South African President), General Roberts, Dr Leyds, Pope Leo XIII, Fauré (France), President McKinley (USA).

- **Farces:** *Hurrah for Casey* (known to have been performed in 1894 by Slade Murray's Oxford Co.), *On the Fire, A Lord for the Night.*

- **Other attractions:**
  - Illustrated songs: "The latest and popular songs illustrated with the latest slides from New York and London."
  - Edison's latest audio machine - the "Polyphone," along with automatic machines.
  - A Cosmorama depicting incidents from the Boer, Spanish/American, and China wars.

- **Known tour dates:**

  **NSW:**
  - West Maitland 27 Feb. - 8 Mar. (Town Hall)
  - Tamworth 10 Mar. - (Central Hall)

  **Qld:**
  - Toowoomba 18 Mar. - (Theatre Royal)
  - Maryborough 26 Mar. - 3 Apr. (Town Hall)
  - Bundaberg 4-8 Apr. (Queen's Hall)
  - Mt Morgan 11-15 Apr. (School of Arts)
  - Rockhampton 16-26 Apr. (School of Arts)
  - Charters Towers 1-4 May (Theatre Royal)
  - Townsville
  - Mackay 4-9 June (School of Arts)
  - Bundaberg 12-13 June (Queen's Hall)
  - Maryborough 14 June - (Town Hall)
  - Gympie 16-21 June (Theatre Royal)
  - Toowoomba 3 July - 5 July (Theatre Royal)

  **NSW:**
  - West Maitland 10-14 July (Town Hall)
  - Bathurst 31 July - (School of Arts)

  **NOTE:** - No Gympie season on first leg.
THE FUNERAL of the late Mrs. J. Anderson will move from her late residence, Campbell's Hill, tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon, at three o'clock.

W. Sloan & Son,
Undertakers.

AMUSEMENTS.
TOWN HALL, MAITLAND,
COMMENCING TO-NIGHT.

CLAY'S WAXWORKS
AND Vaudeville Coy.

And all the latest novelties from London and Paris.
SPLendid Wax Tableaux, including the Breelong Blacks.
12 Star Variety Artists. 12 Selections on the Theatrephone from 7.15 to 11.0'clock.
6d—Admission—6d.

JAMES W. BOYLE, Advance, 691.

ST. PATRICK'S ANNUAL
Sports Celebration.

ALBION GROUND,
WEST MAITLAND.

Monday, March 18, 1901.
1903
CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND COMEDY COMPANY TOUR

Although the company toured for most of its dates with only a piano accompaniment, Maitland's Daily Mercury notes that there was a full orchestral accompaniment for the chorus number during the return visit to West Maitland in July.

- **Advance Rep:** Jimmy Boyle; **Manager:** Harry Clay; **Music Director/Pianist:** T.W. Rhodes

- **Admission prices:** 1/-; 6d (children) SATURDAY MATINEE: 6d; 3d (children)

- **Artists:**
  - Arthur Alberts (comic/endman)
  - Essie Clay (juvenile singer)
  - Harry Clay (tenor/Interlocutor/IS)
  - Wally Edwards (baritone/IS)
  - Harry Elliot (comic/endman)
  - Kate Henry (contralto/serio)
  - Jessie Lee
  - Bertha St. Lawrence (sketch artist)
  - Ted St. Lawrence (sketch artist/endman)
  - Ted Sutton

- **New waxworks:** The Kenniffs, George Bernard Shaw, Dr Leyds, Sir Henry Parkes, and The Bearded Lady.


- **Illustrated songs:** Advertised as the latest American songs and slides.

- **Stereoscopic views:** Presentation of the King's Coronation, and New York.

- **Known tour dates:**

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<tr>
<th>NSW</th>
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<td>West Maitland</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
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<td>6-14 Mar.</td>
<td>20 Mar. -</td>
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<td>Maryborough</td>
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<td>28 Mar. - 4 Apr.</td>
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<td>Mt Morgan</td>
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<td>Rockhampton</td>
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<td>13-18 Apr.</td>
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<td>Mackay</td>
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<td>21-25 Apr.</td>
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<td>Bundaberg</td>
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<td>28 May - 1 June</td>
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<td>Gympie</td>
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<td>2-8 June</td>
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<td>Ipswich</td>
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<td>9-17 June</td>
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<td>Toowoomba</td>
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<td>18-20 June</td>
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<td>NSW: West Maitland</td>
<td>6-11 July</td>
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**NOTE:** - No Gympie or Bundaberg seasons on first leg.
THEATRE ROYAL

TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY), 28th APRIL.
LAST NIGHT OF THE SEASON, and of the most popular theatre that has played in Rockhampton for years.

BARRY’S DRAMATIC COMPANY
EVENING by UNIVERSAL REQUEST, the magnificent play and superlative stage pageant.

IN THE SEA GIVES UP ITS DEAD.

ILL PLAY. A WEIRD PLAY. AN EXCITING PLAY, replete with Sensation, Rollicking Roaring Humour.

3 POPULAR PRICES—3s., 2s., 1s.; the Little Ones Half-price. Commence at 8. Box Plan at MUNRO’S.

STANLEY GRANT, Business Manager.

NTED.

YES in large and small
Highest price given
O., Denison-street.

ISSUM, Bear., Kangaroo Valley Skin. Highest
B. MAY & CO., Deni-

od SLAUGHTERMAN
butcher. Must under-
be but competent and
apply. W. H. B. MAY
Skin Merchants, Deni-

D FOR SALE

T RESIDENCE, AT,
H. M. GERAGHTY.

AGE, Canning-street,
every convenience;
good Tenant. M.

FREE-WHEEL RE-
order. Apply "A."

AMUSEMENTS, MEETINGS, &c.

SCHOOL OF ARTS.

TO-NIGHT.

LAST NIGHT OF

CLAY’S

COMPANY.

NEW PROGRAMME.

ALSO

BABY SHOW.

FINEST BABY RECEIVE £1 1s.

Admission, 1s.; Children (10), Half-price.

THIS SATURDAY AFTERNOON, at 2.15.

CHILDREN’S PERFORMANCE.

Admission, Children, 3d. Adults, 6d.

HON. SENATOR T. GLASSEY will address Meetings of Lady Electors in Masonic Hall on MONDAY AFTER-
1904

CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND COMEDY COMPANY TOUR

- Business Manager: J.W. Boyle; Advance Rep: Lou Courtney; Music Director: T.W. Rhodes; Limelight Operator: A.T. McIntyre

- Admission prices: 1/- ; 6d (children) Saturday matinee: 6d ; 3d (children)

- Artists:  
  Arthur Alberts (eccentric comedian)  
  Jack Bryant (ball-punching)  
  Harry Clay (the "favourite tenor")  
  Essie Clay (the young contralto)  
  Mrs John Coleman (serio and scarecrow dancer)  
  Lou Courtney (juggler and equilibrist)  
  Walter Edwards ("the popular baritone")  
  Tom Edwards (comedian and acrobat)  
  # Bob Foster (comic/character sketches)  
  Lottie Lorne (singer)  
  The Phillip Sisters (duettists and dancers)  
  Will Wallace (the "Black Diamond")

- Waxworks: Incl. The Royal Family, The Pope, Digby Grand and Jones (the Auburn murderers), Mrs Sangal (the husband murderer), Todd and Madame Olga (the "boot-box tragedy")

- Cosmorama: Contains views of London and Paris by night. The return leg includes: stereoscopic views of Paris, Venice, Fort Alexandria, the Suez Canal and Mt Vesuvius in action.

- Illustrated songs: Showing lakes, ruins, blarney stones, old castles, and beautiful scenes from Ireland. MDM: notes that "the dissolving effects and the representation of a snow storm were beautiful and realistic. The lantern is of the latest American pattern, and the pictures are thrown on the screen sharply and clearly" (MDM: 10 Mar 1904, 2).


- Known tour dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bathurst</td>
<td>27 Feb. -</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Maitland</td>
<td>9-18 Mar.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>19 Mar. -</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>29 Mar. - 2 Apr.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>5 Apr. -</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>14-18 Apr.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Mt Morgan</td>
<td>20-23 Apr.</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>25-30 Apr.</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>Charters Towers</td>
<td>17-31 May</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<td>Mackay</td>
<td>8-13 June</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>16-18 June</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>Bundaberg</td>
<td>25-30 June</td>
<td>(Queen's Theatre)</td>
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<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>7-11 July</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Gympie</td>
<td>12-20 July</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>21-27 July</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>28-30 July</td>
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<td>Tamworth</td>
<td>1 Aug. -</td>
<td>(Central Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Maitland</td>
<td>5-11 Aug.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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NOTE:  
- No Tamworth season on first leg, possibly due to influx of companies in town for show week  
- No Bundaberg season on first leg of tour
1905

CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND COMEDY COMPANY TOUR

Tour advertised as "the most up-to-date company now touring Australia" (TC: 11 Mar. 1905, 1). This tour was Clay's first utilisation of film. They are advertised as being screened on the Bio-Zie-Tro-Scope (Biopictroscope), "producing the very latest and up-to-date moving pictures" for moving picture songs and films.

- **Business Manager:** J.W. Boyle; **Music Director:** T.W. Rhodes; **Advance Rep:** Lou Courtney; **Film/Limelight Operator:** J.T. McIntyre

- **Admission prices:** 1/-; 6d (children)  Saturday matinee 6d; 3d (children)

- **Artists:**
  - Amy Blackie (descriptive singer)
  - Harry Clay (interlocutor/tenor/IS)
  - Wally Edwards (baritone/IS)
  - Harry Elliot (singer/dancer)
  - Nina Gonzales (coon singer/acrobatic dancer/tumbler)
  - Kate Henry (contralto/serio-comic)
  - Blanche Leyfield (serio/comic/dancer)
  - Joe Rox (comic/tambo)
  - Little Claude Sullivan (child singer)
  - Ted Tutty (comic/bones)
  - Cissy Wakeford

- **Films:** *Seven Castles of the Devil* [25 mins] "One of the greatest London pantomime successes of recent years. The representation (is) an exact reproduction of the pantomime as presented to London audiences."

- **Cosmorama:** Scenes in connection with the Russo-Japanese war.

- **Waxworks:** Incl. King Edward, Queen Alexandria

- **Farces:** *The Two Statues, The Sioux Indian, The Ball is Going On, Zic Johnson, The Coming Man, Hard to Kill, Slocum's Dog, The Jealous Husband.*

- **Known tour dates:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NSW</th>
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<td>West Maitland</td>
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<td>(Town Hall)</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>27 Mar. - 3 Apr.</td>
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<td>24-29 Apr.</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>(Town Hall)</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>Mount Morgan</td>
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<td>5 Apr.</td>
<td>19-22 Apr.</td>
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<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
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<td>13-17 Apr.</td>
<td>24-28 June</td>
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<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
<td>(Queen's Theatre)</td>
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<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>Bundaberg</td>
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<td>20-22 June</td>
<td>24-28 June</td>
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<td>(School of Arts)</td>
<td>(Queen's Theatre)</td>
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<td>6-11 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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</table>

**NOTE:**
- No shows in Tamworth (both legs)
- No Bundaberg season on first leg of tour.
- Re-opens Sydney suburban circuit on 4 September (at Balmain)
Amusements.

THE BRIGAND CHIEF. in the Park,
NEXT SUNDAY AFTERNOON.
Look out for him.

THEATRE ROYAL.

FOR A SHORT SEASON ONLY.

MAY 16 | TUESDAY NEXT | MAY 16
MAY 16 | TUESDAY NEXT | MAY 16

CLAY’S CLAY’S
Waxworks and Comedy Company

NEW ARTISTS,
NEW ILLUSTRATED SONGS,
NEW PICTURES,
EVERYTHING NEW

THE STRONGEST COMBINATION
AT
LOWEST PRICES.

1/- ADMISSION. 1/-

Children under 10 Half-price.

LOU COURTNEY,
Representative.

EVERYBODY invited to the Park
NEXT SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

A BRIGHT and Sparkling Selection
of Music, in the Park, NEXT SUN-
DAY AFTERNOON, by the FIRE

Charters Towers: Northern Miner 16 May (1905), 1.
1906

CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND COMEDY COMPANY TOUR

• For the first time Harry Clay does not accompany the tour due to commitments with the Sydney circuit.

• **Manager**: Jimmy Boyle; **Music Director**: W.G. Farrell

• **Admission prices**: 1/-; 6d (children)  Saturday matinee: 6d ; 3d (children)

• **Artists**: Julia Braillie (singer/pianist)
  Wally Edwards (bass-baritone/IS)
  Frank Herberte (baritone/IS)
  Lily Hulbert (mezzo-soprano)
  Tom Leonard (cornerman)
  Frank Melvin (cornerman/acrobat/contortionist/coon singer)
  The Smith Sisters (Ethel and May) (serio-comics/dancers)
  Lottie Southwell (serio/comic)
  Joe Rox (cornerman)
  Ted Tutty (cornerman/singer/comic)

• **Films**: Screened via the Sperantscope (the latest machine from England which depicted "the latest and most exciting films shown in the States of the great French Steeplechase"). It is the first motor driven projector used by the company. The *Townsville Bulletin* is quoted as describing the pictures as "unanimously declared to be by along way the best ever shown in Townsville" (qtd. DM: 1 June 1907, 2). The films screened on tour included *The Great French Steeplechase* and *The Life of an American Fireman*.

• **Farces**: Incl. *Johnny Come Lately, Blow the Trumpet, That Boy Pete, Laughing Gas, Bibbs and Dribbs, Hurrah for Casey, The Sioux Indian*.

• **Known tour dates**:

  Qld:
  Toowoomba 3-9 Apr. (Town Hall)
  Ipswich 10-17 Apr. (Town Hall)
  Maryborough 19-25 Apr. (Town Hall)
  Rockhampton 27 Apr. - 5 May (School of Arts)
  Mackay 6-11 June (School of Arts)
  Rockhampton 19-26 June (City Markets/School of Arts)  This return season was initially held at the City Markets, due to the School of Arts' commitments to Show Week. The final two nights, however, were played at that venue.
  Maryborough 9-11 July (Town Hall)
  Gympie 12-18 July (Theatre Royal)
  Ipswich 19-23 July (Town Hall)
  Toowoomba 30 July - 4 Aug. (Theatre Royal)

  NSW: Bathurst 12 Sept. -  (Masonic Hall)

**NOTE:**
- No Tamworth dates (at least for first leg).
- No information available regarding Bundaberg 1906, due to missing issues of the *Bundaberg Mail*. 
1907
CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND COMEDY COMPANY TOUR

- **Business Manager:** Jimmy Boyle; **Theatregraph/Limelight Operator:** A.T. MacIntyre; **Music Director/Pianist:** Jessie Gray

- **Admission prices:** 1/-; 6d (children)  Saturday matinee  6d ; 3d (children)

- **Artists:**
  - Tod Callaway (comic/singer)
  - # Eileen Capell
  - Joe Cowan (comic/singer/endman)
  - Laura Diamond (singer/instrumentalist - mandolin/banjo/dancer)
  - Wally Edwards (baritone/IS)
  - Ruby Franklin (serio-comic/dancer)
  - Will Harley (acrobat/comedian/singer)
  - # Tom Hedley (musical act, billed as the "Musical Moke")
  - Stan Kerridge (baritone/IS)
  - Alma Lyndon (serio/dancer)
  - Lyn Murray [male] (singer/endman/comic)
  - May Reade (singer/IS)
  - # Andy Roberts (comedian/patterologist)
  - Ted Totty (comic/singer/dancer/cornerman)

- **Waxworks:** Incl. Bill Squires (Australian boxer), Richard Seddon (former NZ premier), Thomas Quinlan, John R. Brown, Stanford White (murdered American millionaire), Harriet and Edward Roberts, Barney Kieran.

- **Cosmorana:** Depicted places of interest in London, Sydney and "foreign climes."

- **Farces:** Incl. *The Lawyer's Clerk, Dr Slocum's Dog, The Automations, Rumpus, The Wig-makers, School, Fast and Slow, Loved, Divorced, and Poisoned.*

- **Films:** Screened via the Theatregraph (the latest Edison machine) which were billed as being the latest from London. They included: *A Detective Chase Around the World, In Search of an Adventure, The Haunted House, The Starvelings* (depicting the ups and downs of the street Arabs of London), *The Hundred Tricks, The Drunkard's Dream, A Tragedy at Sea, The Custom House Officers and A Fathers Honour.*

- **Known tour dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSW: Bathurst</th>
<th>13-21 Mar.</th>
<th>(Masonic Hall)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QLD:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>1-8 Apr.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>9 Apr. -</td>
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<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>18-22 Apr.</td>
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<td>Mt Morgan</td>
<td>1-4 May</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>6-11 May</td>
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<td>Charters Towers</td>
<td>27 May - 8 June</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>24-26 June</td>
<td>(School of Arts) Rockhampton Carnival Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt Morgan</td>
<td>27-29 June</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bundaberg</td>
<td>2-3 July</td>
<td>(Queen's Theatre)</td>
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<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>4-6 July</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gympie</td>
<td>8-11 July</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>13 July -</td>
<td>(Centennial Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>29 July -</td>
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<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>5-10 Aug.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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  | NSW: Bathurst   | 21-29 Aug. | (School of Arts) |

- **NOTE:**
  - No Bundaberg season on first leg.
  - No information regarding Mackay due to unavailability of local newspapers.
1908
CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND COMPANY

- **Tour Manager:** Jimmy Boyle; **Music Director/Pianist:** William G. Farrell; **Theatregraph/Limelight Operator:** Lou Courtney

- **Admission prices:** 1/- ; 6d (children) Saturday matinee 6d ; 3d (children)

- **Artists:**
  - # Joe Cowan (comic/cornerman)
  - Frank Herbert (baritone/descriptive singer/IS)
  - # Eva Hughes (serio and soubrette)
  - Frank King (descriptive/dramatic singer)
  - Pearl Lovell (serio/character comedienne)
  - The Martin Sisters [Phyllis and Doris] (duettists/dancers)
  - Con Moreni (the 'tired comedian’/singer/cornerman)
  - Will Rollow (comedian/singer/specialty artist/cornerman)
  - Will White (coon singer/eccentric dancer/cornerman)
  - Thelma Woods (contralto/IS)

- **Cosmorama:** Depicting "cosmoramic" views of Japan and other places of interest.

- **Waxworks:** include - Victor Trumper, M.A. Noblo ("Australia's greatest cricketer"), Henry Thaw (American Millionaire murderer), Harry Baxter (Newtown murderer).


- **Known tour dates:**

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<tr>
<th>NSW:</th>
<th>Bathurst</th>
<th>13-21 Mar.</th>
<th>(School of Arts)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Qld:</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>20-27 Apr.</td>
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<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>28 Apr. - 2 May</td>
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<td>27 May - 2 June</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>9-13 June</td>
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<td>Charters Towers</td>
<td>24 June - 4 July</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<td>(Queen’s Theatre)</td>
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<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>31 July - 1 Aug.</td>
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<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>3-10 Aug.</td>
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  | NSW: | Bathurst | 2-9 Sept. | (School of Arts) |
TOWN HALL.

TWO NIGHTS, commencing WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28.

Harry Clay's Dramatic Company,
Headed by Miss ESSIE CLAY (the Young Australian Actres) and ALBERT LUCAS, supported by a specially-organised Dramatic Company.

First Production,
"The World Against Her."

THURSDAY,
THE IRISHMAN

Popular Prices Admission, 1s; Reserved Seats, 1s extra. Box-plan at Mr. W. B. Darker's, where Seats may be Reserved free of charge.

JACK CAMPBELL, Representative.

ROSEWOOD STATE SCHOOL.

THE ANNUAL TREAT in connection with the above School will be held on King's Birthday, November 9th.
ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
and have a good day's sport.
**1909**

**CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND COMPANY**

- **Tour Manager:** Jimmy Boyle; **Music Director:** John "Jack" Hardiman; **Theatregraph/Limelight Operator:** Albert Dettmann.

- **Admission prices:** 1/-; 6d (children) Saturday matinee: 6d; 3d. Note: Cairns admission prices were 2/- and 1/-, with reserved seats 6d extra.

- **Artists:**
  
  - Erne Delavale (descriptive singer)
  
  - Wally Edwards (baritone)
  
  - Lulu Eugene (serio/dancer)
  
  - Will Gilbert (the "loose-legged comedian")
  
  - Essie Jennings (soprano)
  
  - Tom Leonard (comic/specialty artist)
  
  - Warwick Lumley (comedian)
  
  - Nellie Morrison (serio)
  
  - Major Meyers [Victor Meyers] (midget comedian)
  
  - Olga Pennington (balladist)
  
  - Alf Rockley (acrobatic comedian)
  
  - The Smith Sisters (duettists/dancers)
  
  - Ted Tutty (eccentric comedian)
  
  - Lily Vockler (serio/soubrette)
  
  - Will Wynand (comic/singer)

- **Waxworks:** includes - Tommy Burns, Jack Johnson.

- **Farces:** *Incl. The Ball is Going On, Blow the Trumpet, The Clockmaker, Cupid's Artful Dodge and The Mysterious House.*


- **Known dates:**

  **NSW:**
  
  - Bathurst 9-17 Feb. (School of Arts)
  
  **Qld:**
  
  - Toowoomba 15-22 Mar. (Town Hall)
  
  - Ipswich 23 Mar. - (Town Hall)
  
  - Gympie 31 Mar. - 5 Apr. (Theatre Royal)
  
  - Maryborough 6-8 Apr. (Town Hall)
  
  - Rockhampton 20-27 Apr. (School of Arts)
  
  - Mt Morgan 28 Apr. - (School of Arts)
  
  - Charters Towers 19-29 May (Theatre Royal)
  
  - Cairns 3-8 June (Shire Hall)
  
  - Rockhampton 21-24 June (School of Arts)
  
  - Mt Morgan 25-26 June (School of Arts)
  
  - Maryborough 6-7 July (Town Hall)
  
  - Gympie 8-12 July (Theatre Royal)
  
  - Ipswich 13-17 July (Town Hall)
  
  - Toowoomba 19-24 July (Town Hall)

  **NSW:**
  
  - Bathurst 10 Aug. - (School of Arts)

  *First time the company played in Cairns.*
Advertising in most places promoted the fact that this was the tenth annual tour by Harry Clay's company. Clay joined tour in Rockhampton on June 30 and performed on the stage after an absence of some years. He is also said to have also reunited with Jimmy Boyle, his old partner of 11 years during this season. The troupe was noted to be "comprised of a practically new band" with "all but one or two (making) their debut to a Toowoomba audience" (TC; 15 Mar. 1910, 3).

- **Tour Manager/Master of Ceremonies**: Jimmy Boyle; **Music Director/Pianist**: Percy Davis; **Operator**: Lou Courtney ("the well-known electrician")

- **Admission prices**: 1/-; 6d (children) Saturday matinee 6d; 3d (children)

- **Artists**:  
  - Eileen Capel (serio/soubrette/dancer)  
  - Harry Clay (tenor/interlocutor)  
  - Bert Corrie (comedian and tenor vocalist)  
  - Lou Courtney (operator/plate spinning and balancing)  
  - Bruce Drysdale (the quaint comedian)  
  - Harry Elliot (comic/singer)  
  - Lulu Eugene (singer/dancer)  
  - Phyllis Faye (serio and contortionist)  
  - Claude Golding (acrobatic comedian, with "thunderstorm vocal powers")  
  - Frank Herberte (patriotic singer)  
  - Stan Kerridge (baritone/IS)  
  - Clara Keating (the Australian comedienne)  
  - Elsie McGuire ("the favourite songstress/IS singer)  
  - Lyla Thompson (serio and character singer)  
  - Ted Tutty (comic/"Everybody's favourite")  
  - Harry Willis (ventriloquial artist)  
  - Will Wynard (comedian)

- **Waxworks**: Incl. Peter Bowling "the well-known strike leader" (highlighted in advertising).

- **Films**: Moving Pictures advertised as being imported direct from France and America, and "the clearest and brightest and most up to date films, both humorous and pathetic that could be obtained."

- **Illustrated Songs**: The illustrated songs were also "the very latest procurable."

- **Cosmorama**: Showed scenes from London.

- **Known dates**:

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<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>27 Apr. -</td>
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<td>Charters Towers</td>
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<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<td>Cairns</td>
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<td>Barcaldine</td>
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<td>Longreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>30 June - 7 July</td>
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<td>Mount Morgan</td>
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<td>Gympie</td>
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<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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**NOTE**: Will Wynard and Lulu Eugene working as a patter team.
NOTE:  
- No return Maryborough season found.  
- Clay sent a second company to Bathurst in early April (this was unrelated to the NSW/Qld tours)

1911
HARRY CLAY'S WAXWORKS AND VAUDEVILLE COMPANY

- **Manager:** Harry Clay; **Musical Director:** T.W. Rhodes; **Operator:** Leslie Cannis

- **Admission prices:** 1/-; 6d (children)  Saturday matinee: 6d; 3d (children)
  Note: Cairns admission price was 2/-, 1/- and 6d for reserved seats.

- **Artists:**
  - Con Carroll (comic/dancer)
  - Harry Clay (tenor/interlocutor)
  - The Coleman Sisters (acroats/dancers/duetists)
  - Harry Elliot
  - Lulu Eugene (artist)
  - Ida Jarvis (serio/dancer)
  - Tom E. Leonard (topical comedian)
  - Jules and Marzon [Fred Jules and Fred Marzon] (strength and balancing act)
  - Pearl Livingstone (serio/specialty artist)
  - John "Jack" Ralston (operatic baritone/patter)
  - Will Raynor (English tenor/comic)
  - Tom Rickarts
  - Ted Stanley (the "lively comedian")
  - Harry Williams (singer/dancer)
  - Will Wynand (patter comedian)

  NOTE: - Will Wynand and Lulu Eugene working as a patter team.
  - Arthur Morley and Elsie Bates are billed to appear in Rockhampton on the return leg, but apparently do not appear.
  - Harry Clay makes an apology for this on the 10th.

- **Films:** Incl. *East Lynne, Sister Angela, From Shadow to Sunshine, The Farmer's Daughter, A Child's Hate, From Fatherhood to Drunkenness and The Gaol Bird.*

- **Farces:** Incl. *The Insurance Agent, Hurrah for Casey, The Lawyer's Clerk and The Baby Elephant.*

- **Waxworks:** New figures include - Crippen, Ivy O'Brian.

- **Known Dates:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bathurst</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>9 Feb. -</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>21 Mar. -</td>
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<td>30 Mar. - 4 Apr.</td>
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<td>Mackay</td>
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<td>Cairns ~</td>
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<td>Mackay</td>
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<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>7-12 July</td>
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<td>26-28 July</td>
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<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>31 July - 2 Aug.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

  (School of Arts)  (Town Hall)  (Theatre Royal)  (School of Arts)  (School of Arts)  (Star Theatre, late School of Arts)  Return visit for Mackay Show Week (end date unknown due to missing issues of the *Daily Mercury*).

  NOTE: - No Charters Towers season found due to missing issues of the *Northern Miner* (6-26 May).
1912
HARRY CLAY’S COMPANY

The advertising promoted the fact that "a great change in the personnel of the company" had been made, with many performers appearing on the tour for the first time.

- **Tour Manager:** Jimmy Boyle; **Music Director:** T.W. Rhodes; **Operator:** Les Cannis

- **Admission prices:** Res 1/6; 1/- ; 6d (children). Saturday matinee 6d ; 3d (children).

- **Artists:**
  - Essie Clay
  - Harry Clay (interlocutor/tenor/IS)
  - Rosie Coleman (acrobatic serio) a.k.a. Jolly Coleman
  - Ern Delavale and Will Gilbert (comics)
  - Wally Edwards (baritone)
  - Arthur Elliot (acrobatic comedian), Little Arthur Elliot (child acrobat), Violet Elliot (serio)
  - Maud Fanning (coon impersonator)
  - Maud Florence (soubrette)
  - Frank Martin (comic)
  - The Martins [Victor and Maud] (comic jugglers)
  - Harry Sadler (comic/singer)
  - George Scott
  - Nellie Searle (motto song singer)
  - Ethel Smith (singer/step dance)
  - Maud Stewart (character artist)
  - Will Toohey (and his dog)
  - Joe Verne (coon singer/dancer)
  - Lily Vockler (singer/IS)

- **Illustrated Songs/Films:** Gaumont machine "manipulated" by Leo Cannes.

- **Farces:** Incl. *The Ball is Going On, Dr Cutemup, Dr Quack* and *Irish Justice*.

- **Films:** Projection unit is the Gaumont machine.

- **Known dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Venue/Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goulburn</td>
<td>25, 26-27 Feb.</td>
<td>(Oddfellows Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>7-8 Mar.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>9-16 Mar.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>17-20 Mar.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gympie</td>
<td>21-25 Mar.</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>26-28 Mar.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>6-16 Apr.</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>23-27 Apr.</td>
<td>(Druid's Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Townsville</td>
<td>29 Apr.</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charters Towers</td>
<td>6-11 May</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairns</td>
<td>14-18 May</td>
<td>(Lyric Theatre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chillagoe</td>
<td>20-22 May</td>
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<td>Irvinebank</td>
<td>23-24 May</td>
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<td>30-31 May</td>
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<td>6-9 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt Morgan</td>
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<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>17-18 July</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gympie</td>
<td>19-20 July</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  **NOTE:** Delavale and Gilbert, Verne and Smith, and Arthur Elliot and Little Arthur touring as partners.

  **Note:** Cairns admission price was 2/-, 1/- and 6d extra for reserved seats.

  The company canceled its opening night due to their late arrival in Mackay on the Wyandra.

  First time in Warwick.
Ipswich 24-26 July (Town Hall)
Toowoomba 27-30 July (Town Hall)

NOTE: The dates between Chillagoe and Atherton represent the Cairns district hinterland itinerary (information sourced from Cairns Post 17 May 1912, 4).

1913
HARRY CLAY'S VAUDEVILLE COMPANY

The Theatre reported that this was the 14th annual tour of Queensland. Harry Clay accompanied the tour as far as Bathurst before returning to oversee the construction of the Newtown Bridge Theatre.

- **Manager:** Jack Campbell; **Advance Rep:** George Reynolds; **Operator:** Les Cannis; **Music Director/Pianist:** Clare Walford; **Stage Manager:** Wally Edwards

- **Admission prices:** 1/-; 6d (children) - Saturday matinee: 6d; 3d (children)

- **Artists:**
  - # May Allen (musician) Also referred to as May Campbell (?)
  - Joy Beromont (serio/dancer)
  - Ivy Bowman (patter artist/comic)
  - Billy Cass (patter artist/comic)
  - Wally Edwards (baritone/interlocutor)
  - Muriel Eskbank (contralto)
  - # Ida Jarvis (serio/comic)
  - Ward Lear (comic/mimic/impersonations, including Chinese)
  - Harry Little (tenor)
  - # Lyall Sisters [Dora and Mazie] (specialty artist)
  - The Martin Sisters [Doris and Phyllis]
  - # Roy Rene (comic and impersonator, a la Julian Rose)
  - # Ada Sadler (contralto)
  - # Shipp and Gaffney [Les Shipp and Jim Gaffney] comics and dancers
  - Pearl Smaile (specialty artist/acrobatics/singer/dancer/contortion)
  - Gus Stratton (Scottish comedian)
  - Ted Tutty (comic)
  - # Dan Weldon (baritone)

- **Farces:** Incl. *School, Oysters a Bob a Bucket, The Indian* and *The Coming Man*.

- **Known dates:**

```plaintext
NSW:
Lithgow 22 Feb. -
  Bathurst
  Kurri Kurri 7-8 Mar.
  Weston 10 Mar.
  Cessnock 11 Mar.
  Dungog 12 Mar.
  Maitland 13 Mar. - (Town Hall)
  Tamworth 17-18 Mar. (Theatre Royal)

Qld:
Toowoomba 22-29 Mar. (Town Hall)
  Ipswich 31 Mar. - 2 Apr. (Town Hall)
  Gympie 3-7 Apr. (Theatre Royal)
  Maryborough 8-10 Apr. (Town Hall)
  Bundaberg 12 Apr. - (Queen's Theatre)
  Rockhampton 19-29 Apr. (School of Arts)
  Mt Morgan 30 Apr. - (School of Arts)
  Mackay 6-10 May (Star Theatre)
  Townsville ~ 12-20 May (Theatre Royal)
    The Townsville Orphanage children were guests for the Saturday matinee (TDB: 17 May 1913, 3).
  Ayr 22-23 May (Delta Theatre)
  Charters Towers 24 May - 2 June (Theatre Royal)
  Hughenden 4-6 June
  Richmond 9 June
  Friezland 11 June
  Cloncurry 12-14 June
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Cairns</td>
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<td>Mt Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>21-22 July</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gympie</td>
<td>23-24 July</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nambour</td>
<td>25 July</td>
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<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>31 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dalby</td>
<td>4 Aug.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>11 Aug.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrabri</td>
<td>21-22 Aug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamworth</td>
<td>26-27 Aug.</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singleton</td>
<td>2-3 Sept.</td>
<td>(Mechanics' Institute)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dungog</td>
<td>5 Sept.</td>
<td>(Victoria Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maitland</td>
<td>10-11 Sept.</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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</table>

**NSW:**

- Narrabri: 21-22 Aug. (Town Hall)
- Tamworth: 26-27 Aug. (Theatre Royal)
- Singleton: 2-3 Sept. (Mechanics' Institute)
- Dungog: 5 Sept. (Victoria Hall)
- Maitland: 10-11 Sept. (Town Hall)

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_Ipswich:_ *Queensland Times* 20 July (1914), 1.
1914
HARRY CLAY'S COMPANY

• Manager: Wally Edwards; Advance Rep: George Reynolds; Musical Director: Percy Davis; Operator: Les Cannis

• Admission prices: 1/-; 6d (children) Saturday matinee: 6d ; 3d (children)

• Artists: Essie Clay (contralto/dancer)
  Percy Davis (pianist)
  Lulu Eugene
  Harry Little (tenor)
  The Two Kays (cyclists billed as the "kings of the wheel")
  Max Martin (comic/dancer)
  Billy Maloney (billed as the "Man in the Red Velvet Suit")
  George Pagden ("sixteen stone of comedy"/negro comic)
  Lillian Rockley (soubrette/singer/dancer)
  Wal Rockley (comic/ragtime singer)
  Joe Rox (comic) returns after 8 year absence
  Kitty Stanley (balladist)
  Three Starrs [Stella, Rita and Vera] (serios/dancers)

• Farces: Incl. Mr Johnny Come Lately.

• Specialty entertainment: Demonstrations of the Tango.

• Known dates:

  NSW: Maitland 5-7 Mar. (Town Hall)
         Tamworth 9-10 Mar. (Theatre Royal)

  Qld: Warwick 11-12 Mar. (Town Hall)
       Toowoomba 14-21 Mar. (Town Hall/Elite Picture Gardens) The Elite was used for St Patrick's Night due to the Town Hall having been booked for the 17th.
       Ipswich 23-25 Mar. (Martoo's Olympia Theatre)
       Gympie 26-30 Mar. (Theatre Royal)
       Maryborough 31 Mar. - 2 Apr. (Town Hall)
       Rockhampton 11-20 Apr. (School of Arts)
       Mt Morgan 21 Apr. - (School of Arts)
       Mackay 28 Apr. - 2 May (Star Theatre)
       Townsville 4-9 May (Theatre Royal)
       Charters Towers 11-18 May (Theatre Royal)
       Ravenswood 1 June (School of Arts)
       Maryborough 20, 22 June (Town Hall)
       Gympie 29-30 June (Theatre Royal)

  NSW: Lismore 9-10 July (Federal Hall)
        Casino 11 July (School of Arts) First time in Casino
        Grafton 13-18 July (Theatre Royal)
        Casino 19 July (School of Arts) Return season

  Qld: Ipswich 22 July (Martoo's Olympia)
       Toowoomba 25-27 July (Town Hall)
       Warwick 28 July (Town Hall)

  NSW: Tamworth 3-4 Aug. (Theatre Royal)
       Maitland 6 Aug. (Town Hall)

NOTE: Sketch partners on tour were Pagden and Stanley; and Lillie and Will Rockley.

NOTE: - No return season in Rockhampton, possibly due to Show Week.
       - No Cairns season found.
1915
HARRY CLAY’S COMPANY

- **Manager:** Wally Edwards; **Music Director/Pianist:** Will Hunton

- **Admission prices:** 1/- ; 6d (children)  Saturday matinee:  6d ; 3d (children)

- **Artists:** Bert Corrie (patriotic singer/specialty artist)
The Eclair Brothers [Will and ?] (specialty act/acrobatics/strength/balancing etc)
Muriel Eskbank (contralto)
Arthur Farrell (dancer)
The Phillip Sisters [Eileen and Bessie] (duetists/singers)
Amy Rochelle (mezzo soprano/operatic ballads)
Joe Rox
Arthur Tauchert
Lyla Thompson (serio/balladist)
Ted Tutty

- **Known dates:**

  **NSW:**
  - Katoomba          23 Mar.          (Town Hall)
  - Maitland         26-27 Mar.       (Town Hall)
  - Weston           24 Mar.
  - Cessnock         25 Mar.
  - Tamworth         29-30 Mar.       (Theatre Royal)

  **Qld:**
  - Warwick          31 Mar. - 1 Apr.  (Town Hall)
  - Toowoomba        3-8 Apr.         (Town Hall)
  - Ipswich          9-13 Apr.        (Town Hall)
  - Gympie           14-16 Apr.       (Theatre Royal)
  - Maryborough      19-21 Apr.       (Town Hall)
  - Gladstone        26 Apr.          (Theatre Royal)
  - Rockhampton      29 Apr. - 4 May  (School of Arts)
  - Mount Morgan     5-7 May          (School of Arts)
  - Mackay           12-15 May        (Star Theatre)
  - Townsville       17-22 May        (Theatre Royal)
  - Charters Towers  27-29 May        (Theatre Royal)

**NOTE:**
- No Cairns season found.
- No return Rockhampton season found.

NB: The four cornermen were: Arthur Farrell, Joe Rox, Arthur Tauchert, and Ted Tutty.
TO-NIGHT TO-NIGHT.
ENTIRE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME!

CLAY’S
WAXWORKS and COMPANY.
BIGGER, BRIGHTER, BETTER THAN EVER.

14 Star Artists 14

INSTANTANEOUS SUCCESS OF
TIN HEDLEY, “the Musical Moke.”

New Illustrated Songs, “My Sweetheart from Savannah,” “Beneath the Shadow of the Cross.”

THEATREGRAPH—“In Search of Adventure,” and “The Haunted House.”

1s. ADMISSION 1s.
Children under 10 Half-Price.

Public Notice.

ALL the Business People of Gympie have consented to close their Estab-
**1916**

**HARRY CLAY’S COMPANY**

Also promoted as Harry Clay’s New Costume Company. The company’s advertising invariably said: "Laughter is the Best Medicine. Toowoombaites [or whatever town being played] Come and Get Your Medicine." Also advertised as the 17th annual season.

- **Manager:** Wally Edwards; **Advance Rep:** Mark Higgins; **Music Director/Pianist:** Madame Levarto (billed as the female Paderewski)

- **Admission prices:** 1/- ; 6d (children). **Saturday matinee:** 6d ; 3d (children)

- **Artists:** Peter Brooks (tenor)  
  Ern Delavale  
  Louie Duggan (the "Devonshire Nightingale")  
  Will Gilbert  
  Ward Lear (versatile artist)  
  Phil. Levarto (the man of many acts/juggler)  
  The Phillip Sisters  
  Will Rollow (eccentric comedian)  
  Lily Vockler (a popular ‘ginger’)

- **Farces:** Incl. Military Tactics.

- **Known dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lithgow</td>
<td>13-14 Mar.</td>
<td>(Oddfellows' Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt Morgan</td>
<td>22-26, 29 Apr.</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>2-6 May</td>
<td>(Star Theatre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charters Towers</td>
<td>13-17 May</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Townsville</td>
<td>19-25 May</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alligator Creek</td>
<td>26 May</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>22-26, 29 Apr.</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt Morgan</td>
<td>27-28 Apr.</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gympie</td>
<td>9-13 June</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>14-16 June</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>17-19 June</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Warwick</td>
<td>26 June</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>6-8 June</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>29 May</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
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<td>Gympie</td>
<td>9-13 June</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>14-16 June</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>17-19 June</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>26 June</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>6-8 June</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamworth</td>
<td>28-29 July</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maitland</td>
<td>1, 3 July</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>Westown</td>
<td>4 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katoomba</td>
<td>12 July</td>
<td>(King's Theatre)</td>
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**NOTE:** - There is, for the first time, no Toowoomba season on the first leg of the tour.

Visitors could secure a return fare on the Majenta for 2/-. The boat left the Townsville wharf at 4 pm.
The tour was occasionally advertised as just "Harry Clay." The programme also changed with this tour, disposing of the minstrel first half in favour of a first half revusical. The admission price also rose for the first time in some of the far northern towns. These charges were generally £2/2 and 1/1 + Tax. Matinees stayed the same at 6d (Adults) and 3d (children).

- **Business Manager:** Wally Edwards; **Tour Manager:** Art Slavin

- **Artists:**
  - James Caldwell
  - Ivy Darrell (musical act)
  - Bert Desmond (parody and patter)
  - Matti Jansen (parody and patter)
  - Max Martin (eccentric dancing)
  - Ida Merton (singer)
  - Phillip Sisters [Bessie and Eileen]
  - Art Slavin
  - Lily Thompson
  - Redhead Wilson (acrobatics/patter)

- **Revusicals/Farces:** include - *School, Fooling the Farmer, Insurance* (farce), *Dockum Street, Woolloomooloo* (revusical, *The Count of Brazil* (revusical), *Why Don’t You Marry The Girl* (revusical) and *Baby* (farce).

- **Known dates are:**

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<td>18 Apr. -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gunnedah</td>
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<td>Gympie</td>
<td>7-8 May (Olympia Theatre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>16-19 May (School of Arts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>21-26 May (Star Theatre) Mackay Carnival Week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charters Towers</td>
<td>2-7 June (Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>25-27 June (Theatre Royal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>29 June - (Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>30 June - 2 July (Town Hall)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** - Partnerships on tour were Desmond and Jansen, Slavin and Thompson and the Phillip Sisters.
- There is also a reference to Wallo and Cliffo being on the tour at some stage, although this is yet to be confirmed.
A diversified entertainment, comprising an entirely new apparatus. In Brisbane recently he completed a wonderful magic. You should not miss this and cleverest magic that has ever come to

TOWN HALL TOOWOOMBA.
THE EVENT OF THE YEAR.
TO-NIGHT AND MONDAY,

HARRY CLAY’S COMPANY.
Mr. Harry Clay has in the past set many companies to your town, but he has no hesitation in proclaiming this the greatest of all.

A GRAND DOUBLE BILL.
MUSICAL COMEDY and VAUDEVILLE.
An entertainment full of sparkle and life. The opening production will be—

“DOCKUM ST., WOOLLOOMOOLOO”.
A clever satire on Sydney. Street Life introducing topical numbers and clever witticisms.

16 — STAR ARTISTS — 16.

REDHEAD WILSON.—A Novelty Act in which clever tumbling is interspersed with bright fooling.

THE PHILLIP SISTERS, JAMES CAILLE, SLAVIN and THOMPSON, MAX MARTIN, DESMOND and JANSEN.
It’s the greatest show travelling.
PRICES: 6d., 1/ and 2/.
Box Plan at Nicholson’s.
754 WALLY EDWARDS, Manager.

GRAND
EUCHAR TOURNAMENT
AND DANCE.
(IN AID OF A.M.A. MEMBERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NEXT,
MASONIC HALL

1918
HARRY CLAY’S MUSICAL REVUE AND VAUDEVILLE COMPANY

Advertisements in the TDB: indicate that this was the company’s 21st annual visit (to Townsville at least). The reasoning behind these statements is unknown to date.

- **Business Manager:** Wally Edwards;  **Tour Manager:** Art Slavin;  **Music Director/Pianist:** Mary Chesney.
- **Admission prices:** Advertised as "popular prices." In the southern Queensland centres the prices were 1/- and 1/6 for reserved seats.
- **Artists:** Lalla Brooke (quick change impersonations)
  Clyde Cameron (tenor)
  George Crotty (American revue artist)
  The Four Kings [Marie,] (female acrobats)
  Ida Jarvis (soubrette)
  Wal Rockley
  Art Slavin
  Lily Thompson
- **Revsicals:** Incl. *Casey's Ashes* (by Art Slavin), *Oh That Hat* and *Thirty Thousand Miles a Minute*.
- **Farces:** Incl. *The Lunatic Asylum*.
- **Known dates:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<td>15 May</td>
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<td>QLD: Warwick</td>
<td>16-17 May</td>
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<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>18-21 May</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<td>(Olympia Theatre)</td>
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<td>27 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>28-30 May</td>
<td>(Town Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>14 June -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Townsville ~</td>
<td>17 June -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charters Towers</td>
<td>25-28 June</td>
<td>(Theatre Royal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>10-11 July</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Morgan</td>
<td>12 July</td>
<td>(School of Arts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:**
- Final night of Townsville season unknown due to incomplete issues of the *Daily Bulletin*.
- The tour opens at Inverell (the length of season or exact dates unknown).
Advertised as both "Clay's Theatre's Ltd" and "Clay's Vaudeville Company" the tour was promoted as both "The Big Show at Small Prices, and "A Joyous Feast of Fun." Some advertisements also promoted the company as: "Presenting Their Musical Comedies, headed by Nellie Kolle, who will perform her latest chorus song successes." The Pre-tour reports refer to the fact that "quite a number of years have gone by since the late Harry Clay sent a company."

- **Admission prices:** 4/4, 3/3, 2/- and 1/-
- **Artists:**
  - The Atlanta Girls (singers/dancers/contortionists/acrobats)
  - Billy the Boy Wonder (ventriloquist, with his doll "Smiler"/comic/patter/singer)
  - Sydney Clarke (dancing violinist)
  - Clay's Jazzy Jazz Band
  - Lily Coburn (soubrette)
  - Chun Lin Foo (Chinese magician/escapologist)
  - George Hathaway (comic)
  - Julian (French comic/cartoon artist billed as the "Komedy Kartoonist")
  - Nellie Kolle (headline act, singer/pianist/male impersonator)
  - Bessie Lester (American comic)
  - Mabel Morgan (soprano)
  - The Weatherley Trio (sisters billed as the "boneless wonders")

NOTE: Chun Lin Foo, Mabel Morgan and Bessie Lester are promoted for the Maryborough season. It is not yet known whether they accompanied the whole tour or just part of it.

- **Known dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qld:</th>
<th>Toowoomba</th>
<th>18-19 Mar. (Town Hall)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>27-28, 30 Apr. (School of Arts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mt Morgan</td>
<td>29 Apr. (School of Arts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finch Hatton</td>
<td>4 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>5-7 May (Star Theatre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charters Towers</td>
<td>23-25 June (Theatre Royal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>21-22 July (Town Hall)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: - No Gympie dates found for first leg.
- No Townsville dates found, possibly because there are quite a number of missing issues in the Daily Bulletin during May.
STRAND THEATRE

Matinee To-day, 2.30, To-night and To-morrow.

PRESENTING

"THE RANGER OF THE BIG' PINES."

WITH

KENNETH HARLAN AND HELENE COSTELLO,

-IN A PICTURE-

WHERE SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS STAND ALONE FROM THE PETTY WARFARE OF MEN.

-ALSO-

"THE LITTLE FIREBRAND"

WITH EDITH THORNTON.

A COMEDY DRAMA WITH PLEASANT MEMORIES.

Comedy—"Wall Street Blues." Pathe and Australian Gazettes.

BOX PLAN AT PALS, or after 7 p.m. Strand—"Phone 1059.

DON'T FORGET—"MADEMOISELLE FROM AMENITIEZ,"-STRAND, MONDAY, MARCH 21st, 22nd AND 23rd. PRICES, 3/, 2/, & 1/.-

TOWN HALL

FRIDAY 18, SATURDAY, 19 MARCH.

MATINEE—SATURDAY, AT 2.30.

CLAY'S THEATRES, LTD.,

PRESENTING THEIR

Musical Comedies, headed by Miss Nellie Kolle,

PRESENTING HER LATEST CHORUS SONG SUCCESSES:

JULIAN,

Kelly, the Wonder Boy,

Comedy Kartoonist (Direct from Paris) Australia's Most Versatile Performer.

CLAY'S JAZZ JAZZ BAND,

THE MIRTH AND MELODY MAKERS.

GEO. HATHAWAY,

The Dancing Violinist.

LILY COBURN,

The Dainty Soubrette.

THE WEATHERLEY TRIO—THE BONELESS WONDERs.

A JOYOUS FEAST OF FUN.

A JOYOUS FEAST OF FUN.

PRICES: 2/ and 1/—THE BIG SHOW AT SMALL PRICES.

MATINEE—CHILDREN CAN SEE IT FOR 6d.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS, TODAY, THURSDAY, 17th MARCH

Procession 10.30 a.m. from James Street (opp. St. Patrick's Church), via Neil, Lawrence, Buthera, Rosdelle and West streets, to Holy Name Grounds.

Sports, including Horse and Motor events, and Tug-owar, Holy Name grounds.

Grand Irish National Concert, Town Hall, commencing 8 p.m. Specially selected artists. Admission 3/, 2/ and 1/. Reserved 1/ extra. Children half-price.

P. S. CARROLL, Secretary.

You'll be all over the insect

The tour began within days of Roy Rene's and Sadie Gale's marriage. The company was known in Sydney as The Merry Monarchs, although this is not advertised in the Queensland tour's promotion. As Chapter Five notes, the tour is believed to have been underwritten by Clay's, although there is no mention of this in any advertising or reviews of the tour. In Rockhampton and Townsville the seasons are recorded as having been presented by Vaude and Verne, who are known to have been the lessees of both theatres. The itinerary is also thought to have included only the far northern centres of the state.

- **Music Director:** Arthur Rodney
- **Admission prices:** 4/-; 3/-; 2/-
- **Artists:**
  - Binns and Alma (sketch artists and specialty act)
  - Billy Bovis (comic)
  - Clyde and Yvette (novelty dancers)
  - Stella Collier (soprano)
  - Sadie Gale
  - The Four Rainbows (soubrettes/dancers)
  - Roy Rene
  - Robert Raymond (baritone)

- **Known dates:**
  - Rockhampton 21 Sept. - 12 Oct. (Coliseum)
  - Mt Morgan 14 Oct. - (School of Arts)
  - Townsville 18-24 Oct. (Theatre Royal)
BULLETIN, ROCKHAMPTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 1929.

AMUSEMENTS.

TIVOLI AND ARCADIA.

Direction:
Tivoli And Arcadia Theatres,
COMPELLING TO-MORROW -
GEORGE ALEXANDER and OSSU
OSWALD in a farcical comedy
of love, jam and dentistry.

FORBIDDEN FRUIT.

A hundred laughs in this comedy of
light comedies.
Also — NENIA DEENIN
Nobody's Children.

SHE was a lonely waif, a child of
the Revolution, but how she, born
through, reached fame as an actress
and found her father, will touch
your heart.

TOPICAL—SCENIC—ACE.

TO-SIGHT—LAST NIGHT.

THE mother-lose war story,
"MUMSIE."

AND BILLY SULLIVAN in
"THE GALLANT FOOL."

JUST LOOK SATURDAY,
12—STAR ARTISTS—12.

JUST LOOK SATURDAY,
"SHOW PEOPLE:"
A comedy of Hollywood.

MRS. BILLY VERNE'S
SCHOOL OF DANCING.
NEW THEATRE (upstairs).
Adult Class Ballroom Dancing, 10
a.m., 10.15, 11 a.m., 12.15
J. F. Veitl's classes, theatrical and fancy, Saturday Morning 9 a.m.

EUCHRE PARTY AND DANCE.
LECHARD SCHOOL,
SATURDAY, 24th September,
1929.

In aid of the School Funds.
Mr. A. A. Diepenbuck, Mr. M. Ginnon.

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL BAZAAR.
ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, ROCKHAMPTON.
NEXT THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, Octobers 22nd and 23rd.
Attractive and Useful Articles for Sale. Interest.
Singers, Mr. Sandberg's Orchestra. Admission Free.

DANCING CLASS.
MRS. MILLER and MISS CARPENTER will hold their usual Dance
Class at Mrs. Miller's Residence, 48
Albert-street, TO-NIGHT (Tuesday).

DRAWING—ART UNION. Council Employed — 1st prize, No. 270, C. H.
Hodges, 
2nd prize, No. 296, B. J. Watson; 
3rd prize, No. 127, Walter H. Wright; 
4th prize, S. E. Neaton.

FOR FURNITURE,
RING 969.

EMPIRE

Wednesday;
AL WILSON, the Ace of Stunt Flyers,
in—
"THE CLOUD DODGER."

A tremendous drama woven around
Wilson's acrobats. There are effects
in the sky, changing from plane to plane,
and there is a wedding in the heavens.

MADGE KENNEDY in—
"OH BABY."

What a rip-roaring comedy. Oh Baby,
what situations. Little Billy, the tough
fight manager; impersonating an young
girl and the Aunty falling for the deception.

"RETURN OF THE RIDDLE RIDER."
(A Western Drama.)
COMEDY. * GAZETTE. NEWS.

FOR SALE.

Rich Tone "MAXIM" Piano £50.
Cabinet Reversal £3 3s.; Round Polished Top Cedar Table 3/5, £1.
Silky Oak Sideboard 12/6, £1.
Wall Stand 12/6; Violin Outfits from 4/6; Baby Grand 5/-; and
9/- each. Box Ice Chests £2 15/-. and £5 each, practically new.
Hammer Machines 1/10/-, Accordian 20/-, 30/-,
and 40/- each. Austrian Recorder 10/-, Half Plate T.P. camera., with 3 plates,
Pocket Lens and other accessories £1, and various other lines at
CRANE BROS.
WILLIAM ST. ROCKHAMPTON.

COLISEUM

GRAND GALA RE-OPENING,
SATURDAY NEXT, SEPT. 21st.
LOOK WHOSE HERE——
MO, MO MO,
The Famous MO of STIFFY & MO,
AND ALL NEW COMPANY.
Headed by
SADIE GALE SADIE GALE,
The Arms of Versatility.
There is MO in Motion, the MO in
Motion, the MO in Motion; but the MO
in MONOTONY is Exiled by MO.
THE MONARCH OF MIRTH.
BOOK NOW AT PAILING'S.

SKATING
COLISEUM. COLISEUM.
Admission 2/., including Skates.
SPECIAL SESSIONS FOR LEARNERS.
ONLOOKERS 6d.

DAN GILLINDER
Specialists in Motor Tents, Soft Case Covers, Carpenter's Tool Bags,
Water Pumps, Blinds, Chair Seats and Sheep Blankets.

SAIL, TENT AND TARPALIN MAKER.
Motor Trialling in All Branches.
ADDRESS:
FITZROY-ST., NEAR BAXTER'S.
PHONE NUMBER — 1556.

PICKLES HOT
OR PICKLES SWEET.

It Doesn't Matter Which.
They're both Good if they're
JONES - MILLER
PICKLES
ASK YOUR GROCER.

Sole Agents:
J. M. YEARDLEY & CO. LTD.
GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

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1. ADMISSION PRICES

The price of admission over the first 18 years of touring varied rarely, being 1 shilling and 6d for children under ten. From 1917 the price was adjusted to 2 shillings for reserved front and circle, seats, and for some of the more distant centres in the far north. The following comparison with other entertainment shows touring Queensland prior to and during that period of Clay's association with that state indicates the different pricing policies.

1888

• St George's Minstrels: 2/- (dress circle); 1/- (stalls); 6d (pit).

1893

• D'Ensem-Doyle Company: 4/-; 3/- and 2/-
• Walter Bentley Qld "Hamlet" tour: 5/-; 4/-; 2/-; 6d
• Empire Minstrel and Specialty Co: Dress Circle 2/-; Stalls 1/-; Pit 6d

1894

• Grand Minstrel and Variety Entertainment (Townsville Amateur Minstrels): 3/-; 2/-; 1/-
• Slade Murray's Oxford Company: 3/-; 2/-; 1/-

1895

• Blind Jubilee Singers: Res Seats 3/-; Front Seats 2/6; Back Seats 1/-
• Black Diamond Minstrel and Variety Co: (Amateur Minstrels) 3/-; 2/-; 1/-
• Coghill Bros New Minstrels: 3/-; 2/-; 1/-

1896

• Delohery, Craydon and Holland: 3/-; 2/-; 1/-
• Alfred Dampier Co: 3/-; 2/-; 1/-
• Harry Rickards New Tivoli Specialty Co: Res Seats 4/-; 3/-; 2/-; 1/-

1900

• Genuine Georgia Minstrels and Original Alabama Cake Walkers: 4/-; 3/-; Pit 2/-
• Bell's Waxworks, Boer war and London Vaudeville Co (with Harry Clay): 1/- and 6d (Child)
1901
• Percy St. Johns Royal Burlesque Specialty Co: 3/-; 2/-; 1/-
• Hawtry Comedy Co: Res Seats 5/-; Stalls 3/-; Pit 1/-
• Pollards Opera Co: Res Seats 4/-; Stalls 2/6; Pit 1/-

1902
• The World's Entertainers - Polite Vaudeville: 4/-; 2/6; 1/-

1903
• I. Cole's Limelight and Variety Entertainment: 1/-; 6d

1904
• Ted Holland's New Vaudeville Enterprises: Front Seats 2/-; Back Seats 1/-
• American Comedy Co: 4/-; 2/6; 1/-

1905
• Fiske Jubilee Singers: 3/-, 2/-, 1/- (children under ten half price to front and stalls)
• Richards' Entertainers: 2/-, 1/-, children half price.

1906
• Richards' Entertainers: 2/-; 1/-

1908
• J.C. Williamson's New Dramatic Co (touring Brewster's Millions): 5/-; 3/-; 1/-
• Webber’s Pictures and Vaudeville Entertainers: 2/-; 1/-

1911
• D.B. O'Connor Opera Co: 4/-; 2/6; 1/-

1913
• Birch, Carroll and Coyle (pictures and vaudeville): 1/-; 6d

1916
• D. B. O'Connor's Comic Opera Co: 4/-; 2/6; 1/-

1917
• Hugh Huxham's Serenaders: 3/-; 2/-; 1/-
2. AUDIENCES

Country touring was quite naturally a different environment altogether from that of city based shows. In her 1994 Ph D dissertation "Australian Travelling Theatre 1890-1935: A Study in Popular Entertainment and National Ideology" (1994), Barbara Garlick focuses on several travelling theatre companies during the late 1800s and early 1900s. She writes:

A consideration of Australian travelling theatre in the period... collapses the idea of both a class-targeted audience and a class-targeted repertoire. While the city seasons of the companies may have permitted the applicability of both demarcations... leaving the main line resulted in audiences who were defined primarily by their geographical location; under these conditions the repertoire ceased to have any overt class value, which was superseded by a more fundamentally important value, that of entertainment.... We have then, at this period a geographically diverse society in often isolated areas, united within those areas not by class so much as by common geographical or by national/patriotic concerns (254-256).

A review in Townsville's Daily Bulletin suggests, however, that by 1914 (in that in that town at least), some differentiation was being indicated by the local audiences with regard to the different entertainments on offer:

Some companies which come to Townsville appeal to a particular section of the community, and get either a good downstairs or a good upstairs house, but Harry Clay's company somehow seems to suit all classes and they get a good house in all parts (5 May, 1914, 4).

Harry Clay's tours, as with the ideology behind the minstrel show, were fundamentally entertainment based. His programmes generally catered for all classes on these tours, as opposed to the working class audiences who supported his Sydney and suburban circuits. The role of his touring company was not simply to provide comic, visual or aural entertainment for the general pleasure of his audiences, however. More than this he strove to create a rapport with them, incorporating local, as well as national issues into the programmes. The reason for this being simply a financial and business philosophy which Clay saw as presenting him with the opportunity to return annually to each town with the support of the locals, and not as Albert Goldie indicates, as a species of spieler attempting to take money out of a town (TT: June 1917, 10). In this department the comics he toured were very much involved in a form of bonding, forming an alliance with the audiences rather than distancing them. The use of patriotic and sentimental songs (perhaps the most popular types of song during the period) were often performed as illustrated songs, along with Irish themes, and turns or songs about everyday heroes. These were often ordinary folk like the fireman or the young soldier. All contributed to providing for the sensibilities of the country audiences.

As to the behaviour of the audiences, it is difficult to know. Reviews of Clay's shows or those of others during the same period, seldom account for their behaviour apart from the persistent calls for encores, or their vocal appreciation. It seems that perhaps, the "wild and woolly" behaviour of the Sydney audiences (as described in Chapter Three) was not a familiar occurrence within country theatres of Queensland.

Another aspect to country touring, and which has not yet been the subject of investigation, is the differences in nightly attendance - that is, the occurrence of "dead nights." For example, the Toowoomba Chronicle in 1908, indicates that Friday's in that town were "bad for theatrical entertainments" (31 Oct. 1908, 3), while the Bundaberg Mail in 1905 notes that Saturday nights were "particularly bad for travelling entertainers [attempting] to bid for public patronage" (26 June 1905, 3). In this regard, the general opinion was that Clay’s seldom had difficulty filling the venues in these towns on those nights due to their abundant popularity.

3. CHILDREN'S MATINEES

The company would perform children’s matinees on Saturday afternoons, usually beginning at around 2-2.15 pm, with admission charges almost always being 3d (children) and 6d for adults. Prizes would be on offer in such categories as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Dressed Doll</td>
<td>Tug of War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Skipping</td>
<td>Best Basket Trick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Singing</td>
<td>Best Singing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Recitation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The prizes in 1906 included:

**GIRLS:**
- Best Dressed Doll (Rolled gold bangle, value 10/6)
- Best Recitation (Ladies dressing case)
- Best Skipping (Rolled gold bangle, value 10/6)

**BOYS:**
- Best Singing (Gents Gun Metal Lever Watch, value 10/6)
- Best Basket Trick (Handsome Penknife, value 5/-)
- Tug of War (6 Handsome Prizes)

### 4. FARCES AND REVUSICALS

A farce would generally finish each evening's entertainment on tour, and utilise the skills of a number of the company. The 1917 and 1918 tours also saw the company introduce one act musical comedies (revusicals) either as a replacement for the farce or as an additional entertainment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Farce/Musical Comedy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1901 | The Ball's Going On \(^1\)  
Where Have I Seen That Face | Little Boy Lost, A  
The Felon on the Rocks | Game Of Cards, A |
| 1902 | Hurrah for Casey \(^2\) | A Lord for the Night | On the Fire |
| 1903 | The Mysterious House | An Untamed Savage | Zic Johnson |
|      | Razor Jim | The Baby Elephant | The Chinese Servant |
|      | Slattery's Home | Cupid's Artful Dodge | |
| 1904 | The Mysterious House | The Coal-heaver's Revenge | Razor Jim |
|      | The Fellow that Looks Like Me | Dr Cutemup | Johnston's Dead |
|      | The Coming Man | | |
| 1905 | Two Statues | The Sioux Indian | The Ball is Going On |
|      | Zic Johnson | The Coming Man | Hard To Kill |
|      | Slocum's Dog | The Jealous Husband | |
| 1906 | Johnny Come Lately | Blow the Trumpet | That Boy Pete |
|      | Laughing Gas | Bibbs and Dribbs | Hurrah for Casey |
|      | The Sioux Indian | | |
| 1907 | Loved, Divorced, and Poisoned | The Lawyer's Clerk | Dr Slocum's Dog  
The Rumpus |
|      | Automations | The Wig-makers | |
|      | School | Fast and Slow | |

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\(^1\) Written by Johnny Cowan, and previously performed in Queensland by the Empire Minstrel and Specialty Co in 1893.

\(^2\) Known to have been performed in 1894 by Slade Murray's Oxford Co.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Film Title 1</th>
<th>Film Title 2</th>
<th>Film Title 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>The Indian Chief</td>
<td>Dr Cutemup</td>
<td>The Haunted Pawnshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On the Fire</td>
<td>The Baby Elephant</td>
<td>Love Versus Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Theatregraph</td>
<td>Johnny Come Too Late</td>
<td>Quite Lodgings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>The Ball is Going On</td>
<td>Blow the Trumpet</td>
<td>The Clockmaker</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cupid's Artful Dodge</td>
<td>The Mysterious House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>The Lunatic Asylum</td>
<td>The Indian (The Silly Indian)</td>
<td>The Mysterious House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lizzie</td>
<td>Sizzle</td>
<td>Bits and Bits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Razor Jim (starring Harry Clay and Ted Tuffy)</td>
<td>Johnny Come Lightly</td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>The Insurance Agent</td>
<td>Hurrah for Casey</td>
<td>The Lawyer's Clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Baby Elephant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>The Ball is Going On</td>
<td>Dr Cutemup</td>
<td>Dr Quack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Irish Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Oysters a Bob a Bucket</td>
<td>The Indian</td>
<td>The Coming Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Irish Justice</td>
<td>Hurrah for Casey</td>
<td>The Midnight Intruder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Johnny Come Lately</td>
<td>The Pawnshop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>The Insurance Office</td>
<td>A Lord for a Night</td>
<td>Zie Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Secret Agent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Military Tactics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Why Don't You Marry The Girl (revusical)</td>
<td>The Baby (farce)</td>
<td>Fooling the Farmer (revusical)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Count of Brazil (revusical)</td>
<td>Insurance (farce)</td>
<td>School (farce)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dockum Street, Woolloomooloo (revusical)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Casey's Ashes (revusical by Art Slavin)</td>
<td>Thumbs Up (farce)</td>
<td>Oh that Hat (revusical)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Lunatic Asylum (farce)</td>
<td>Thirty Thousand Miles A Minute (revusical)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. FILMS

The films were projected through various machines over the years. These were advertised as the latest machines imported from London (or where ever). The images would be "thrown on the sheet," supplied no doubt, by the company, as they most often worked venues which had not been adapted for cinematic screenings.

NOTE: In 1899 Harry Rickards Musical and Comedy Company advertised that the Theatregraph they toured with superseded the Cinematograph and Biograph. "Everything life-size, showing living pictures the full size of the stage...” (NM: 2 Nov. 1899, 1).

1905

Films were screened via the Biopictroscope.

Seven Castles of the Devil (the only known film toured that year)

1906

This tour utilised the Sperantoscope, and advertised the fact that 1500 ft of new Moving Pictures was to be screened nightly. The projector was described as the very latest machine "being driven by a motor [and giving] the best moving picture” (GT: 7 July 1906, 3). Films toured included:

- The Grand French Steeplechase
- The Life Of An American Fireman
- The Water Spout
- The Lost Child
- Blind Man's Bluff
- Love Letters

1907

Theatregraph operated by A.T. MacIntyre. Films screened included:

- A Detective Chase Around the World
- The Hundred Tricks
- The Custom House Officers
- The Starvelings (depicting the ups and downs of the street Arabs of London)
- In Search of an Adventure
- The Drunkard's Dream
- The Great French Steeplechase
- The Haunted House
- A Father's Honour
- A Tragedy At Sea
- The Starvelings
- The Witches Kiss
- William the Poacher
- An Affair of Honour
- Her Sweetheart When A Boy
- Love Conquers All
- His First Row
- A Kind-hearted Gentleman
- Durant Family at the Seaside
- Pretty Typist
- The Half-caste's Revenge
- Her Sweetheart When A Boy
- An Awkward Situation
- A Case of Spirits
- Gunner Moir and Tiger Smith (English Boxing Championship)
1910

Lou Courtney again operated the Theatregraph projector. Films toured included:

- The Anarchist's Sweetheart
- The Hungry Child
- The Punchtown Steeplechase
- The Lady Doctor’s Husband
- Sister Angela

1911

Advertised films were:

- East Lynne
- From Shadow to Sunshine
- From Fatherhood to Drunkenness

1912

Gaumont machine was operated by Les Cannis. Films were apparently screened, but as yet there is no indication of what they were.

1913 - 1918, 1927, 1929

There appears to have been no films screened during these tours.

6. ILLUSTRATED SONGS

The highlight of the second part of each show and arguably one of the most popular elements of each show during the first decade at least were the illustrated songs. These were songs performed to background scenery, mood visuals created through the use of limelight and slides, and thrown onto a large screen. They were usually sung by the troupe's star performers. They operated through an oxy-ether lantern which flashed the pictures onto the screen. In many instances, venues would have to extinguish all gas equipment while the limelight lanterns were in operation (TC: 18 Mar. 1905, 4). By 1910 it is believed the visuals for the illustrated songs were being screened by the film projector.

- The dissolving effects and the representation of a snow storm were beautiful and realistic. The lantern is of the latest American pattern, and the pictures are thrown on the screen sharply and clearly (MDM: 10 Mar 1904, 2).
- The limelight illustrations in each instance consisted of a first-class series of coloured pictures (GT: 8 Apr. 1905, 3).
- The coloured slides, typically American, are excellent productions and form a realistic accompaniment ([GT: 11 Apr. 1905, 3).
- A feature of particular merit about the performances given by Mr Clay are the picture songs. The music of these is both new and pretty. They are admirably sung, and the manner in which the company's operator, Mr MacIntyre, manipulates the lantern, particularly in the matter of getting the beautiful dissolving effects which he secures, supplies all that is necessary to make these contributions absolutely the best of their kind ever seen on the local stage (NM: 22 May 1905, 7).
- Wally Edwards' 1909 illustrated song "Nailing the Colours to the Mast" was accompanied by pictures of several heroes, and the [audience's] enthusiasm at times made the singer’s voice inaudible. Lord Kitchener, Baden-Powell, the Dreadnought, Earl Dudley, and his Majesty the King were cheered vociferously, but the greatest enthusiasm was shown towards the Union Jack and the New South Wales Lancers. Cries of "where is Lord Roberts" were heard from several portions of the hall (TC: 20 July 1909, 3).
The shows from 1901 to 1916 were generally arranged according to the following plan. The doors open at 7.15/7.30 allowing the audience an opportunity to view the waxworks, look at scenes depicted in the Cosmorama, or operate the penny gaffs, all of which were either in the auditorium or the foyer. Musical selections from the Theatrephone would also entertain the audience as they wandered about and socialised. The variety entertainment would begin at 8 pm. The performance area would be picturesquely and scenically staged, using backdrops, plants, and a variety of visual paraphernalia.

The first part consisted of Minstrelsy, which opened with an overture (performed by the pianist) and then followed by a chorus which would include all the members of the troupe. This would be followed by individual turns, in a form described as the "usual cycle business" (TC: 28 Mar. 1905, 9). The show would be MC'd by the interlocutor (in the early years this would be Harry Clay) who would most often interact with the two endmen, with the cast on stage in a semicircle. The first part is also known to have occasionally finished with a film (or films).

The second part, the olio (which generally began with its own overture), would again consist of individual turns (without all cast members being on stage). The highlight of the second part was often the illustrated songs. If a film or films were not screened at the end of the first part, they would be shown during the second part (usually in the middle).

Each show would end with a farce involving most of the cast. Some farces presented in earlier years would be toured again some years later. As some seasons were naturally shorter in some towns than in others, it is believed that the company would have kept a record of performances, so that those farces not previously presented in a particular centre on an earlier visit could be played at a later date.

On some occasions the show would be followed by a dance.

NOTE: The last evening of a season was known as "favourites night" when the audience could request any item heard during the week. To do so they would put in their request to the manager prior to the start of the show.

The following are some examples of tour programs presented over the years. Generally speaking, the first night performance in one town would also be the same performance given in successive towns. This allowed for the same printed programs to be used for the length of the tour. In each case only the name of the town, the dates and/or the venue needed to be changed.

**1901**

**WEST MAITLAND: West Maitland Town Hall (Mon 18 February)**

**FIRST PART**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T. W Rhodes:</th>
<th>Overture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cast:</td>
<td>Chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Clay:</td>
<td>&quot;The English Speaking Race Against the World&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Bracey:</td>
<td>&quot;Move On&quot; (nigger song)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Henry:</td>
<td>&quot;A Picture of My Best Girl&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Sis:</td>
<td>&quot;Mamie Dooley&quot; (dance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Wilson:</td>
<td>&quot;Too Strong&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Clay:</td>
<td>&quot;She Was Happy Till She Met You&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Clay:</td>
<td>&quot;Many Happy Returns of the Day&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Wilson:</td>
<td>(comic act)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SECOND PART**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T.W. Rhodes</th>
<th>(Second Part Overture)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W. Bracey:</td>
<td>&quot;Where Am I Lodging&quot; (song and dance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Clay:</td>
<td>&quot;Do, My Dinah, Do&quot; (song and clog/Indian club dance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farce:</td>
<td>(title unknown)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1905
MARYBOROUGH School of Arts (Mon 24 April)

FIRST PART

T.W. Rhodes: Overture
Cast: Chorus
Song W. Edwards: "The Gauntlet"
Song B. Leyfield: "Kindly Step This Way" plus step dance
Comedy T. Tutty: (comic act plus dances)
Song K. Henry: "Mary Green"
Song C. Sullivan: "Blue Dell"
Song N. Gonzales "Talk Don't Buy Me Nothing" plus acrobatic dance
Comic Song J. Rox "Pom Tiddley Pom" plus eccentric dance
Song A. Blackie: "The Best in the Whole Wide World"
Song H. Edwards: "Dig Away Dempsey" Irish song plus dance

SECOND PART

T.W. Rhodes: (Second Part Overture)
IS H. Clay: "In Dear Old Fairy Land"
IS W. Edwards: "The Man in the Overalls"
Comedy T. Tutty: (songs and dances in the character of an old woman)
Song N. Gonzales "The Hottentot" plus eccentric dance
Comedy H. Edwards
Song A. Blackie "When It's Moonlight on the Silvery Rio Grande"
Comic Song J. Rox
Clog Dance B. Leyfield: "Ragged Jack" plus "Goodbye Mr Jackson"
Farce: (title unknown)

1910
TOOWOOMBA Town Hall (Wed 23 March)

FIRST PART

P. Davis: Overture
Cast: Chorus - "March Away"
P. Faye: "Send Them to Me"
H. Willis: "Another Little Girl in my Eye"
E. McGuire: "Society"
B. Drysdale: "I Don't Know Where They Are"
C. Keating: "Every Fellow's in Love with a Girl"
B. Corrie: "There'll Come a Day"
C. Golding: "Cannibal Love"
L. Thompson: "Oh! Oh! Johnnie"
S. Kerridge: "Live and Let Live"
T. Tutty: "Corned Beef and Cabbage"
E. Capell: "Vanity Fair"
SECOND PART

P. Davis: (Second Part Overture)
E. McGuire: "I Can't Forget My Mother" (IS)
S. Kerridge: "Dancing Sunshine" (IS)
H. Willis: (ventriloquial act)
L. Thompson: (comedy)
Corrie / Golding (patter)
E. Capell (Hottentot dance)
B. Drysdale / Faye (Comedy)
C. Keating: "Harold and a Girl Inside"
Films: "The Anarchist's Sweetheart" and "The Punchtown Steeplechase"
Farce: "The Lunatic Asylum"

1915

ROCKHAMPTON: School of Arts  (Thu 29 April)

FIRST PART

W. Hunton: (Overture)
Cast: (Chorus)
Song B. Corrie: "We're All Under the Same Old Flag"
Song/Dance A. Farrell: (ragtime)
Song M. Eskbank: "Cairo" (an Egyptian ballad)
C/Songs L. Thompson: "Alice, Where Art Thou?" and "Broke Me Basin"
Songs A. Tauchert: "Pilgrims of the Night" and "The Polka"
Song A. Rochelle: "That's How I Need You"
Songs J. Rox: "I'd Better Go Back Again" and "Squirty, The Policeman"
Song/Dance Phillip Sis: "Baby Grand"

SECOND PART

W. Hunton: (second Part Overture)
Imp/Dance A. Farrell: (Jewish impersonations/dance)
Spec. Act Eclair Bros: (Hand-balancing/strength act)
Imp Phillip Sis: (Coster impersonations)
Song/dance Corrie and Tauchert: "In the Heart of the City"
Song A. Rochelle: "Only Been Married A Week"
Song J. Rox: "Love Me While the Loving Is Good"
Farce: "Zic Johnston" (with the lead taken by Ted Tutty)
8. Sideshow Attractions

Automatic Slot Machines (Penny Gaffs/Peep Show): These operated by inserting a penny, and provided various entertainments including delineations of one's character. There were also machines which delivered bags of sweets.

The Cosmorama: As Chapter Five has already noted [see page 110] the Cosmorama was a portable optical picture exhibition. It is believed to have been a box which contained at one end a lens through which a person looked. A tunnel effect, which also provided both a sense of depth and a separate reality, was created through two flanking walls. At the far end was positioned an intricately painted scenic view. Although Cosmorama is the name used, there is reason to believe that Clay's may well have toured a stereoscopic exhibition, which differed in that two pictures and two lenses were used allowing a 3D style effect to be created. That this may have been the case is suggested by several references to "stereoscopic" and "panoramic" views in reviews of Clay's shows. For example, Maitland's Daily Mercury records that "a number of interesting stereoscopic views of the King's Coronation and views of New York were also shown" (7 Mar. 1903, 2). Stereoscopes had been in use since their invention in 1832. By the early 1850s they had incorporated the two lens system in tandem with two pictures, thus creating their three-dimensional perspective. Whichever contraption Clay used, it is known that the boxes were illuminated, although how this occurred remains unknown.

Some of the scenic views toured by Clay's included: views of the Commonwealth procession and "other interesting scenes," famous wars/battles, such as the Boer, China, American, Russo-Japanese wars, and views of London, Japan, Sydney, Paris, New York. (sometimes these were by day, other times by night)

Edison's Polyphone: The latest addition to Edison's audio machines was toured in 1902.

Waxworks: Each tour would contain up to around 50 waxworks (MDM: 7 Mar. 1903, 2). While there is little doubt that some models had been toured in previous years, there would always be a number of new representations, particularly the criminal characters. "As fresh crimes are discovered," wrote one reviewer, "figures of the perpetrators are added to the collection" (QT: 7 Apr. 1904, 7). Some models, as with the Breelong Blacks, were set in tableaux and presented along with photographs of victims, crime scenes, and the police etc. Figures known to have been toured by Clay's include:

Alexandria
Baxter (Newtown murderer)
Bearded Lady, The
Bismarck
Breelong Blacks, The (in tableaux)
Brown, J.R.
Buller, General
Burns, Tommy (boxer)
Butler, Lord
Deeming (criminal)
Edward VII, (King)
Faure (President)
Grand, Digby
Johnson, Jack (boxer)
Kelly, Ned
Kenniffs, The (Aust cattle rustlers)
Kieran, Barney
Kitchener (Lord)
Kruger, Paul
Leo XIII (Pope)
Leyds, Dr
McKinley (USA President)
Noblo, M.A. (Australia's greatest cricketer)
Olga, Madame
Parkes, Sir Henry
Quinlan, Thomas
Cecil Rhodes
Roberts (Lord)
Roberts, Harriet and Edward
Sangal, Mrs
Seddon, Richard (recently deceased NZ premier)
Shaw, (murderer of Constable Guilfoyle and other policemen)
Squires, Bill (Australian heavy-weight boxer)
Thaw, Henry (American Millionaire murderer)
Trumper, Victor
York (Duke of) 1902
Victoria (Queen)
White, Stanford (murdered American millionaire)

Photographic Exhibitions: The tours sometimes included photographs of foreign places, people and events, with these generally being set up in an annex to the theatre or hall.
THEATRE ROYAL
TO-NIGHT

Harry ('CLAYB') Company

IN A COMPLETE CHANGE OF
PROGRAMME.

PICKED VAUDEVILLE ARTISTS.

MANY NEW ARTISTS.
MANY OLD FAVOURITES.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST
MEDICINE

Gympieites

Come and get your Medicine.

Prices as Usual.

Admission, 1/- everywhere. No Half Price.

Further particulars, see Day-Bills, etc.

WALLY EDWARDS, Manager.
MISCELLANEOUS QUOTATIONS FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS

Quotations concerning the non-vaudeville tours (1908 Dramatic Co, 1909 Walter Bentley Co, and 1911 Stanley McKay Pantomime Co) are presented as part of their respective inclusions within Appendix C. This section applies only to the Waxworks and vaudeville/revue tours.

1901

(Maitland) A Waxworks and Variety Show - Elsewhere Mr Clay tells our readers he is visiting West Maitland, and brings with him a splendid waxworks collection.... The variety company is a strong cast as it includes the names of Mr Sam Wilson... the Smith Sisters... little Essie Clay (the child vocalist who is a great favourite here), Mr Will Bracey... and, of course, the redoubtable Harry himself.... The hall should be crowded nightly, Mr Clay’s name being sufficient to guarantee that he is bringing along first-class entertainment ([MDM: 14 Feb. 1901, 2]).

(Ipswich) The unsettled weather has militated against the attendance at Clay's waxworks during the last couple of evenings, but, nevertheless, usual programme has been submitted, and much appreciated by the patrons who were present. The company intends remaining throughout the week, and given anything like favourable weather, the proprietor feels confident of drawing big houses (QT: 21 Mar. 1901, 5).

(Rockhampton) The waxworks have been greatly improved since the company last visited Rockhampton, and now included the figures of a large number of celebrated or notorious persons... The best song of the night was Mr Harry Clay's "White White Rose," which was given in fine voice and loudly applauded (MB: 7 May 1901, 5).

1902

(Maitland) This company, unlike many others that have visited the town, continues a source of great attraction, and liberal is accorded each evening (MDM: 7 Mar. 1902, 2).

(Maitland) This evening the company will appear for the last time, prior to going to Tamworth. Presents were distributed last evening, and will also be given away to-night (MDM: 8 Mar. 1902, 2).

(Tamworth) Mr Clay since his last visit, has been through Tasmania and Victoria, and has had a very successful tour (TN: 7 Mar. 1902, 4).

(Rockhampton) It is almost needless to say that Mr Harry Clay's Waxworks Company met with a splendid house at the School of Arts last evening. The building was crowded upstairs and down (MB: 17 Apr. 1902, 6).

1903

(Maitland) An overflowing house. The hall was packed in such a manner as few have ever before witnessed. There were no seats available, and every foot of standing room was occupied. Those who went early had a glimpse at the waxworks, those who didn't go early simply couldn't get near the figures for the great crush. But it was not the waxworks that proved the draw, but the excellent artists engaged by Mr Clay, and the evident popularity of the prices (MDM: 7 July 1903, 2).

(Tamworth) The theatrical organisation run by... (Harry Clay), and which has paid several visits to Tamworth, is so favourably known here that comment is needless (TN: Tue 17 Mar. 1903, 3).

1904

(Charters Towers) The utmost seating accommodation of the Theatre Royal, with every available inch of standing room, and also a considerable part of the road, for those who could not get in, was utilised at the first appearance of Clay's Waxworks and Vaudeville Company, who are now paying their usual yearly visit, and judging by the unanimous note of approval struck by Tuesday night's audience, are likely to have one of the most successful seasons they have ever experienced here. From beginning to end there was no sound of disapprobation, but instead, enthusiastic recalls, only varied by most pronounced double and treble encores (NM: 18 May 1904, 2).
(Charters Towers) The exceptional value given by Clay's Waxworks and Vaudeville Co., for the nimble shilling is filling the theatre every night they open, even in this their second week, an experience that comes to but a few companies (NM: 25 May 1904, 2).

1905

(Rockhampton) There is no more popular and well-balanced company touring Queensland than under the management of Mr Clay, and not withstanding its frequent visits by a judicious change in performers and songs, there is always something new and engaging to interest those who patronise the performances (MB: 25 Apr. 1905, 6).

(Bundaberg) As a general rule Saturday night here is a particularly bad night for travelling entertainers to bid for public patronage, but all rules have their exceptions and apparently Mr Harry Clay can succeed in dissipating the evil reputation of the night just as often as he comes along (BM: 26 June 1905, 3).

1906

(Toowoomba) As seasons and successive years roll by, it is unusual to find entertainments improving as the season draws to its close - as a rule they gradually lose their interest - but it is in this feature in Mr Clay's entertainments, which has enabled him to achieve the unique success that has rewarded his judgment and ability as a promoter of vaudeville shows (TC: 5 April 1906, 3).

(Toowoomba) The most characteristic feature about the present visit of [Clay's] company [to Toowoomba] is the fact that so many are turned away each evening. Last night the house was packed, many being unable to gain admission (TC: 4 Aug. 1906, 3).

1907

(Toowoomba) It is not surprising that crowded houses greet this company every evening, for besides the excellence of the performance, the admission fees are extraordinarily liberal (TC: 10 Aug. 1907, 3).

(Gympie - return visit) Among the many companies which visit Gympie, none have been more popular or better patronised than Harry Clay's Waxworks and Vaudeville Companies.... Mr Clay has added new wax figures to the waxworks and has imported the Theatregraph, the latest importation from London (GT: 6 July 1907, 3).

1908

(Toowoomba) [Clay’s Waxworks and Company] opened in the Town Hall last evening to a magnificent audience, the hall being packed from stage to escape doors.... The company wish to state that the picture songs and moving pictures could not be produced last evening owing to the electric light not being connected, but they will be produced to-night, when a complete change of programme will be given (TC: 21 Apr. 1908, 3).

(Gympie) Clay's popular vaudeville Company is at present occupying the boards at the Theatre Royal. The season opened on Thursday night to a packed house and again last night the building was crowded to its utmost capacity (GT: 9 May 1908, 6).

1909

(Gympie) While Mr Clay supplies an entertainment of remarkable cheapness he also supplies a galaxy of talent second to none in Australia, and unlike many other managers he always sends along the same class of entertainment and entertainers as he provides for his Sydney theatres (GT: 27 Mar 1909, 3).

(Charters Towers) All [of the company was] out to please, and all did so most successfully. There is not a "Passenger" in the crowd; all have their special claims to public recognition, and it is little wonder that Harry Clay, with the close attention he has always paid to the taste of the people, should occupy a distinctive position among touring companies, as one who never fails to afford patrons the best of talent procurable (NM: 25 May 1909, 5).
Ipswich

Amongst the many entertainers that visit Ipswich none are more welcome than Clay's Waxworks and Company, who are unanimously regarded as the finest travellers' organisation of the kind yet seen, and fully up to metropolitan standard (QT: 12 July 1909, 4).

Toowoomba

There is no one comes with a better repute than [Clay's Waxworks and Company], and experience teaches us who are welcome and vice versa; but the above now on their return visit, having just returned from North Queensland, have never looked back. They have had a triumphant tour onward (TC: 19 July 1909, 3).

1910

Toowoomba

Harry Clay's Vaudeville Company performed again last evening for the third time this season, and another large, appreciative audience assembled to witness what has been rightly termed "the cleverest and daintiest vaudeville show ever presented to a Toowoomba audience." Patrons rush the door like thirsty dodgers storm a free coffee stall, and are passed through the entrance like sheep through a crush. Meanwhile, the countenance of the popular manager, Jimmy Boyle, is a huge smiling wrinkle (TC: 19 July 1910, 3).

Rockhampton

In the interval Mr. Clay explained that his company had advertised to show the moving picture of "The Funeral of the late King Edward." He regretted that they would be unable to do so, because the film that had been sent on to them was not quite up to his expectation: They had shown it at Longreach and he was not satisfied with it. An excellent film of the funeral of King Edward was now being shown in Rockhampton by Mr G.H. Birch. He (Mr Clay) had seen it, and it was a very fine picture. He had now been before the public for very many years and he had no desire to show anything that was not of the very best description. Mr Clay's manly speech was loudly applauded (DB: 1 July 1910, 4).

Rockhampton

Mr Harry Clay, who was in fine voice, achieved success in the opening number "It's Only an Old-fashioned Cottage", but his best effort was in the illustrated song he has sung with so much success elsewhere "In the House of Too Much Trouble". Mr Clay was vociferously recalled.... The entertainment concluded with the farce "Razor Jim", in which Mr Harry Clay and Mr Ted Tutty created considerable merriment (DB: 4 July 1910, 4).

1913

Toowoomba

On Saturday evening last, when [Clay's Company] commenced a season, the Town Hall was packed with an immense audience, the seating accommodation in every division being taxed to its utmost. The company includes some of the cream of Australia's vaudeville artists, and on Saturday evening the huge audience showed their appreciation in no stinted manner for the splendid and liberal manner in which they were catered for (TC: 25 Mar. 1913, 6).

Ipswich

The holding capacity of the Town Hall was well tested last night, when Harry Clay's Waxwork Company commenced their season.... Ted Tutty received a great ovation on appearing on the stage (QT: 1 Apr. 1913, 4).

Maryborough

Standing room at the Town Hall last night was scarcely obtainable long before the time for the commencement of Harry Clay's Vaudeville Company's performance. As is customary with this noted and talented company an excellent programme of mirth and music was afforded (MBC: 9 Apr. 1913, 8).

Charters Towers

Another crowded house at the Theatre Royal last night followed the initial success of this talented company. Opening with a circle of dark men and fair ladies, bright in their gay attire and attractive in personal charm, an entertainment was provided at once melodious, witty, and clean.... Encores were frequent throughout the evening, scarcely an item passing without a recall... (NM: 27 May 1913, 4).

Gympie

Numerous as have been the different companies that have visited this town, none have been more popular or have met with better success than [Harry Clay's company] (GT: 17 July 1913, 3).
1914

(Toowoomba) In consequence of the Town Hall being otherwise engaged, Harry Clay's New Vaudeville Company appeared at the Elite Picture Gardens last evening to an audience which taxed all seating accommodation to overflowing. A special holiday programme of Irish songs, dances, etc was submitted and was greatly appreciated (TC: 18 Mar. 1914, 4).

(Townsville) Some companies which come to Townsville appeal to a particular section of the community, and get either a good downstairs or a good upstairs house, but Harry Clay's company somehow seems to suit all classes and they get a good house in all parts (TDB: 5 May, 1914, 4).

(Charter Towers) Any company that can draw such a house as was present at the Theatre Royal last evening must be something out of the ordinary, and it can safely be said that Clay's Company is (NM: 16 May 1914, 4).

1915

(Toowoomba) Throughout Harry Clay's long and successful career as a showman, no better vaudeville combination has he had than that which gave its opening display to a packed audience in the Town Hall on Saturday night. It was a tribute to Mr Clay's past excellence in vaudeville service, and that reputation has been worthily upheld (TC: 6 Apr. 1915, 6).

(Maryborough) It is doubtful if any visiting vaudeville company is more popular to Maryborough lovers of clean and refined vaudeville than Clay's (MBC: 20 Apr. 1915, 5).

(Mackay) Mr Harry Clay is well-known in Mackay as a successful impresario, who knows just exactly what suits the tastes of his clientele, and he has always had a favourable reception here. His companies have always pleased and the one engaged on the present tour is as good as any which has visited our town. It was greeted by a full house at the Star Theatre last evening... (DM: 12 May 1915, 5).

1916

(Charter Towers) Harry Clay has become almost a household expression in Charters Towers, and little wonder, for the companies brought along each year by this astute business man have invariably offered entertainment of the highest standard, and they have included some of the best acts on the vaudeville stage (NM: 13 May 1916, 3).

1917

(Charter Towers) Since its inception, over seventeen years ago, Clay's Vaudeville Company has been a household term amongst the amusement lovers of the North, and its annual visit has been welcomed with relish and looked forward to with glad anticipations. Good from the beginning, each recurring visit has seen the company grow stronger in numbers, and more advanced in quality and merit, and its all-round popularity has waxed greater in proportion, till it now holds a unique position in the minds of northern theatre-goers (NM: 26 May 1917, 4).

(Charter Towers) When the curtain was rolled up at the Theatre Royal at 8 o'clock on Saturday night there was not even standing room in the huge auditorium - eloquent testimony of the popularity of this grand old company of entertainers (NM: 4 June 1917, 3).

1918

(Toowoomba) A very fair audience offered greeting... The name of this company is a household word in Toowoomba, as well as other parts of Queensland, and not a playgoer in the city would without good cause miss seeing any one of his recurring performances (TC: 20 May 1918, 6).
**1927**

(Toowoomba) Great interest is being aroused by the return of Clay's Company. Quite a number of years have gone by since the late Harry Clay sent a company to Toowoomba.... It is the intention of Clay's Theatres Ltd to bring back their old name and popularity.... The show they are bringing is a very strong one, headed by that famous artist Miss Nellie Kolle, who is one of the most popular performers in Australia.... One big feature of the show is the prices. The late Harry Clay made his name with his small prices. This show is going to do the same (TC: 17 Mar. 1927, 3).

(Toowoomba) Judging by last night's entertainment the quality of the vaudeville, so well known and appreciated in the old days, has in no way been, lowered and the performance was most enjoyable. There was a large audience.... A second performance will be given tonight, with a complete change of programme (TC: 19 Mar. 1927, 5).

**1929**

(Rockhampton) Mo and Sadie Gale, the two bright stars of the new company to open at the Coliseum next Saturday, arrived with their company by the southern mail yesterday and are busy rehearsing. This is the inimitable Mo’s first appearance in this city and he is doing his best to have a long season here. He has practically an unlimited repertoire and laughs should be loud and long during his season. Sadie Gale, the leading lady, is sure to become a warm favourite and the popular open air resort should be crowded when this show opens (MB: 18 Sept. 1929, 3).

(Rockhampton) It is many years since the management of the Coliseum has staged an entertainment which attracted such a huge gathering as the opening performance on Saturday night of "Mo and His Merrymakers." Long before 8 o’clock the theatre was comfortably filled, but by the time the show commenced many continued to seek admission. Some were fortunate enough to be able to obtain seats, and the remainder had to postpone their visit to another night this week.... That the huge gathering was not disappointed was evidenced by the spontaneous outbursts of laughter which greeted them... The humour, though undeniably broad, was of the type on which these artists’ reputations were gained, and was apparently expected by the crowd. Splendid vocal items and clever artistic dancing were features of the numbers of the other members of the company, who were also seen in may comic sketches (MB: 23 Sept. 1929, 3).

**FURTHER REFERENCE**

"Clay's Vaudeville Co."
"Harry Clay's Company."
"Harry Clay's New Company."