

# HAMILTON TRIP MARKS 40 YEARS

Ansett Pioneer, Melbourne, will celebrate 40 years of extended touring this month with a weekend trip to Hamilton.

The weekend will be on May 17 and 18, and participants will stay at the Botanical Motel.

Club liaison officer, Mr Hugh Taylor, said the company decided on

Hamilton for the celebrations because Hamilton was where the late Sir Reginald Ansett started it all in the 1930s.

Ansetts cannot resurrect one of the

original coaches or one of the original Ford or Internationals from the immediate post-war period, but will use one of the famous Flexible Clippers during the celebrations.

The vehicle is owned by Driver Coaches of Glen Iris, and has been restored to almost its original condition.

"The Flexible is

probably one of the best known of our former types, operating from 1948 when the prototype was imported from the United States of America, to 1973 when the last one was retired," Mr Taylor said.

"They were a familiar sight all over Australia, both on tours and on the express service which started in 1955 from Melbourne to Sydney."

One of the new Denning Landseer units, as a contrast in about 30 years of coach development, will also be used during the celebrations.

The passengers will include old travellers indulging in nostalgia, and the others just enjoying an outing.

## 10 Shillings a Day for the Sunday run

The Ansett Roadways Sunday service from Hamilton to Portland and return meant an extra 10 shillings in the weekly pay packet of Keith Wombwell in 1937.

A princely sum indeed in those days — but it meant that Keith would have to work a seven day week because Keith also drove the Hamilton/Ballarat route on the other six days.

In August this year, Keith retired from the company after 41 years' continuous service.



ABOVE: Part of an Ansett Roadways brochure, believed about 30 years old.



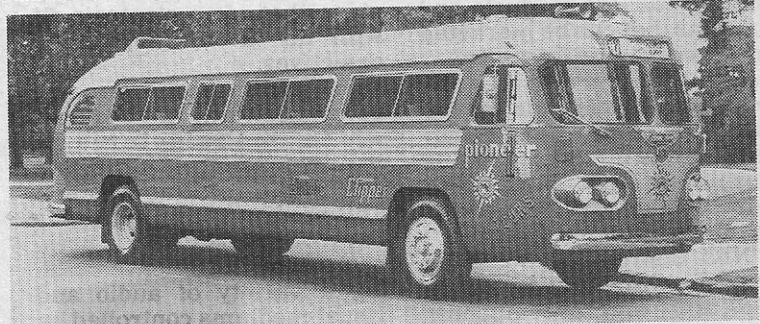
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## Run for historic Pioneer coaches

AS THIS issue went to press, Ansett Pioneer was preparing for a special weekend run this month in two historic coaches to celebrate 40 years of extended touring.

The route will be via Ballarat, Ararat, Hall's Gap and Dunkeld to Hamilton on Saturday, May 17, and the return to Melbourne the following day will be via Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Colac and Geelong.

The coaches which will operate the tour will be a 1954



Flexible Clipper and a 1958 Denning Landseer.

The Flexible Clipper, which has been restored to its original condition, is owned by Mr Gary Driver of Driver Bus Lines, who has lent it for the occasion.

Passengers will be able to transfer between the two coaches to observe the changes in coaches over 30 years.

The Flexible Clipper will be driven by Ansett Pioneer

• A Flexible Clipper.

National Operations Officer Hugh Taylor, and the Denning by Senior Coach Captain Keith Newell.