

ange opening — a new era begins

The two Miss Lascelles recall grand days past

By Slavka Brdar

MISS Hilda Lascelle's eyes sparkled mischievously as she recalled the first time she attended a wool auction.

"I was about 12 at the time and I'm 86 now," she volunteered.

"It was the most boring thing I had ever been to."

By contrast yesterday's opening of the new Geelong Wool Exchange in the National Wool Centre was "marvellous".

"It was so good of the organisers to ask us here, we've been treated like celebrities all day," she said.

The two Miss Lascelles, Hilda and her older sister Cicily, were special guests at the opening of the Wool Exchange which is housed in the building their grandfather Charles John Denny owned.

Between them, they share a wealth of history which spans generations and had a huge impact on Geelong's development.

Events were recalled in sharp detail.

"He started as a 'stamp-licker' and worked his way to the top," Miss Hilda said of her grandfather.

The last of six children, the women don't mind taking the time to talk about their colorful history, and have strong opinions about the current state of the wool industry.

"It's very sad to see big companies swallowing up smaller ones, I think wool selling should remain in the



• The two Miss Lascelles — Miss Cicily (left) and Miss Hilda — take pride of place at the Geelong Wool Exchange opening yesterday.

hands of individual companies," Miss Hilda said.

The women live in what was once a family holiday home in Lorne.

They have never worked and never married.

"You wouldn't understand," Miss Hilda said.

"It was different in those days, we were very lucky because our family kept us, there wasn't any need to work and we all lived at home."