

Transcription BSF001

Harold Peterson Milk Run Interview

Interviewer – Sue Howie

Transcribed - GC Yates

Harold Peterson

"We shifted to Eungella in thirty three. We were married in nineteen fifty the wettest fifties, we went straight into the butcher shop for four years. Vicky the eldest girl was born in nineteen fifty four, the rest of them came along after and all went to school here in Eungella.

We went into the milk runs; bought Thomsett's out in 1954, and at that time when we took over there were fifty one suppliers, as the farmers were called then, we carted everything that was carted to Eungella more or less. We've seen all the slips on the range, the two big slips in '58 with the road closed ten days at a time"

Interviewer

"What happened then, what happened to the milk was it just tipped out?"

Harold Peterson

"They'd separated it and made cream and we had a lot of it stored in a little shed, by the time we got it to the rail they had started of with six gallons that was needed to go down every day and they'd^[ed] take out a few handfuls so as to make room; they ended up using it all to make soap and whatever down in the factory in Mackay; there was none wasted."

Interviewer

"So what time did you start work then?"

Harold Peterson

"I had the alarm clock set for 5 o'clock for twenty four years every day, Christmas day, cyclone days I was driving up Nebo Road in Mackay with a truck load of milk, turned the wireless on and they said Mackay has been ravaged by a cyclone. I forget the name of it, it was going through Koumala/Carmila and I got to the butter factory and there was no one there to unload my milk! I got the truck home six weeks later. Frendeley Motors hadn't supplied a truck in Mackay for donkey's years and we couldn't buy any other vehicle and I went to Frendeley Motors, Andy Frendo and Fred Lapsley and Fred Lapsley said to me Harold I'll guarantee to have you a truck in ten days so that's what started it. I don't know how many we bought after that quite a lot but they all just went well and done a great job"

Interviewer

"And obviously the milk was in the cans at that time and that was your work out was it? Did you have to pull them off the platform?"

Harold Peterson

"The farmers had ramps and they would load it there and quite a lot, when you'd go out there, would have it in their slides or tillies or whatever they had and load it straight on the truck. We had the semi-trailers for a while and then we used to have a separate run, I did Crediton for nineteen years and the other boys - there was Alfie Clews, the Clews family youngest brother, he worked for me for

twenty years. Then he gave me notice so I said bugger it I'll sell out, so that terminated that employment."

Interviewer

"So who did you sell to?"

Harold Peterson asks Thelma, his wife

Mrs Peterson

"Don't ask me, I used to get so annoyed I didn't want to sell up, I didn't want to leave Eungella."

Interviewer

"So when you actually sold did you leave immediately or what?"

Harold Peterson

"Vicky & Mick the son in law and my eldest daughter they took over the general carrying part of it for a couple of years and we left in October seventy eight and shifted to Seaforth."