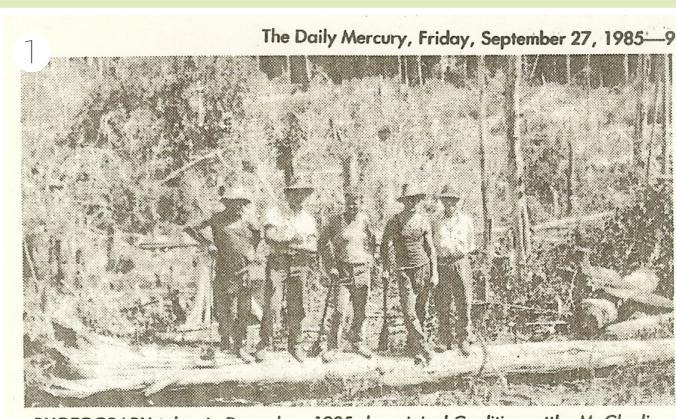
THE HISTORY OF DAIRYING FROM 1912-1942



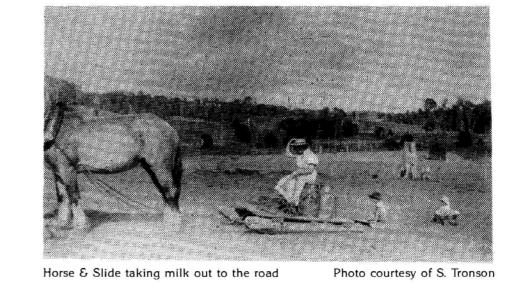




PHOTOGRAPH taken in December, 1935, by original Credition settler Mr Charlie Linklater (now of Ball Bay) on his property in Cathay Creek Road. He had earlier felled some timber on his block and other original settlers and a PEI worker had come to help him burn it. They are, from left; Gordon Childs (now deceased), Neal Hickey (now of Brisbane), Fred Herbert (deceased), Harry Ward (deceased), and Harry Harvey.



Crediton is known for a variety of seasons, with rainfall as high as 171 inches in 1955, a drought year in 1946, when a large number of stock were lost and temperatures falling as low as -13° (8 degrees Fahrenheit), freezing and bursting water pipes.



Farmers in our area have performed well, this is proved by the following performances. Rob and Robyn Burns won the 1985 R.N.A. Dairy Farm Management Competition and D. & R. Cortis won the Supreme Champion Dairy Cow at the 1985 R.N.A. with their cow "Carmar" Ultimate Dinah.

- 1. Article in Daily Mercury, September 27, 1985 showing Gordon Childs, Neal Hickey, Fred Herbert, Harry Ward, Harry Harvey who had come to help Charlie Linklater burn felled timber on his Cathay Creek block in 1935
- 2. Partly cleared scrub on Tom Dunbar's property Upper River Road, Crediton late 1930s
- 3. Dairy herd on Tom Dunbar's property Upper River Road, Crediton ca 1940s
- **4.** Tom Dunbar's 1st self built dwelling, a big bark hut Upper River Road, Crediton ca. 1938
- **5.** Horse and slide taking milk cans to road for pick up ca 1940s excerpt 'Memories of Crediton' book

Back in 1907, J. T. Bell, Minister for Lands in the Queensland Government, crossed the Eungella Range and was impressed by the immense scrub, the numerous watercourses and the rich soil. He saw the potential for further pioneering. In Brisbane, he initiated a vote of £20,000 for the construction of a road from Finch Hatton to the top of the range. Surveyor Bernard Dupuy was commissioned to survey blocks suitable for dairying.

By 1912 blocks of land surveyed by Kemmis and Dupuy were selected in the Dalrymple Heights area by Cummings, Rothwell and Polson.

In 1935 land ballots were drawn for 39

blocks of land at Crediton.

The range road was improved, with roads constructed to blocks by PEI (Public Estate Improvement).

The land was cleared of vegetation using brush hooks, axes, springboards and crosscut saws to make the blocks ready for burning off and seeding with grasses - suitable to carry cows and stock. It was a lease condition that 75 acres had to be cleared and grassed within 3 years. Some of the original settlers found the task too enormous and surrendered.

Dalrymple and Eungella dairy farmers would transport their cream by packhorse to Netherdale, to be railed onwards to Rockhampton. By the early 1930s, their produce went to the Port

Curtis Co-op Dairy Assoc. butter factory in Mackay. Cream for butter manufacture was their main produce, with the byproduct skim milk being fed to the pigs.

In 1941 the first milking machines were in use. Harry Ward had commenced a "cream run" to Crediton, Len Burgess who owned and ran the 'Eungella Guest House' had been collecting cream from Dalrymple for some time. Others to follow were Reg Wood and Cliff Old who later went to block 18 in Crediton to commence dairying.

Step Back in Time gathering Eungella's past

Images were contributed to the "Step Back in Time - Gathering Eungella's past" project by past and present residents.

Visit www.history.eungella.com.au for more information.