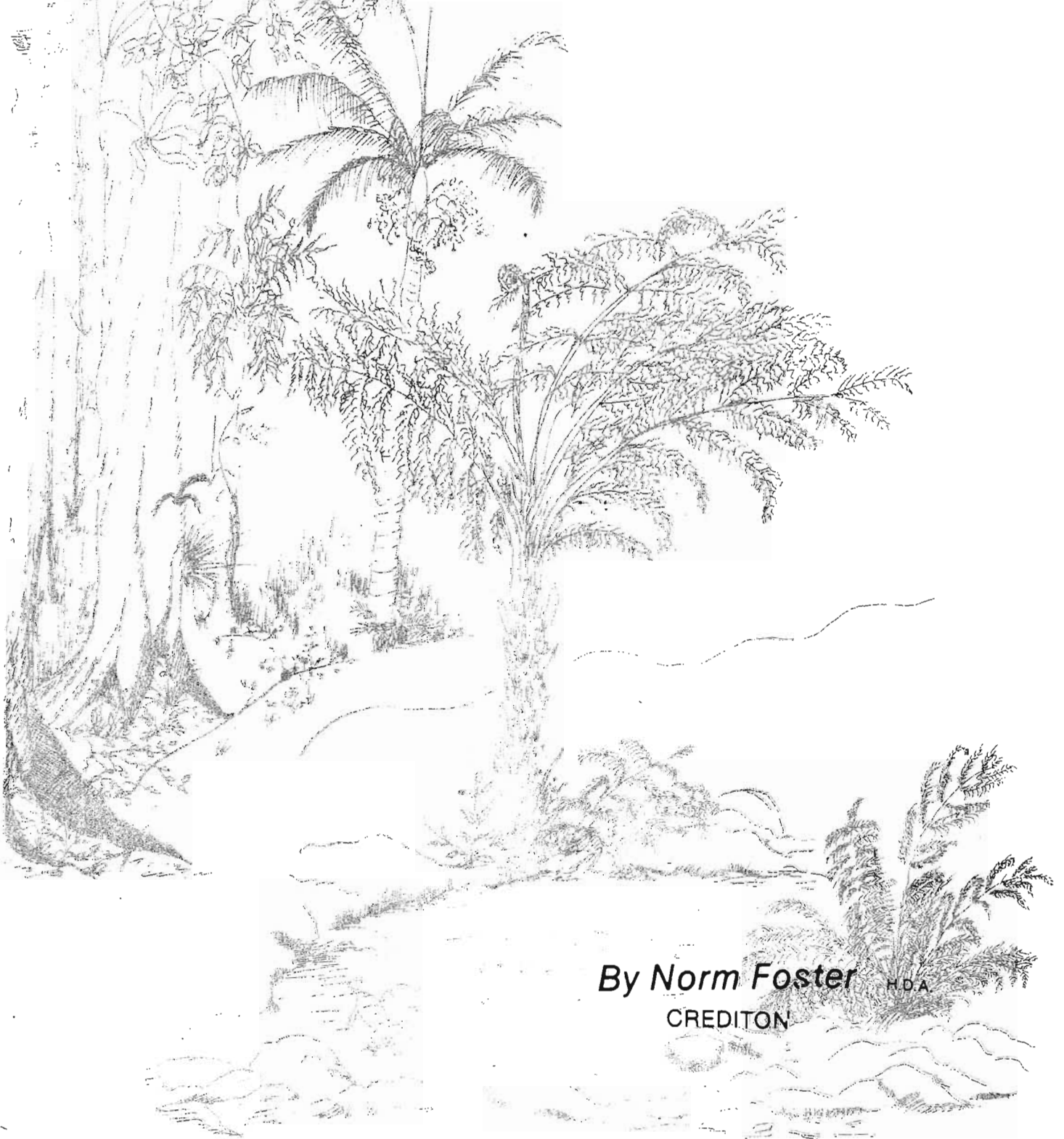


“THE ROOF GARDEN OF MACKAY”



By *Norm Foster* H.D.A.
CREDITON

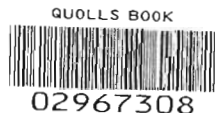
INDEX

| | |
|--|-----|
| Acknowledgement | 2 |
| Preface | 4 |
| Chapter 1 | |
| Crediton, England | 6 |
| After 50 Years - Editorial | 9 |
| 50 Years at Crediton | 11 |
| Bull Paddock | 31 |
| 3 Original Selectors Still On Selections | 32 |
| Chapter 2 | |
| P.E.I. Days | 37 |
| Memories | 44 |
| Chapter 3 | |
| Mills and Timber Getters | 60 |
| Chapter 4 | |
| Port Curtis Co-op Dairy and Dairy Farms, Shows, Competitions, Vegetables, Etc. | 71 |
| Chapter 5 | |
| Mining, Police, Ambulance, Churches, Clubs, Sports, Businesses, National Park | 92 |
| Chapter 6 | |
| Recreation Clubs and Schools | 112 |
| Finale - Poem: "Just Plant a Tree" | 123 |

To the Miskani Library
With Compliments

Norm Foster

8/92



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank all for their outright support in the concept of this History of Crediton and the years leading up to it, that it should be written and printed by me.

Despite efforts by a few, to block the flow of information to me more material has been gladly given than can possibly be used in this small book.

Every effort has been made to research some of the material meticulously, so that no errors have been perpetrated. Most of the material has been from my own recollections of the 50 years I have 'put in' living and serving Crediton. I herewith apologize for anything that might appear offensive to anyone, it is not meant to be so, but merely to reflect the nature of the times and the people as they appeared to me - to reflect the character of the period, which, at times, was colorful.

In particular I thank Dawn Smith, Jean's sister Myrtle Baille and another good friend, for their help in the hours and hours of typing, pushed in amongst their normal work, and all those who have supplied photos and information. I regret that all selected can not be used because of numbers and unsuitability for book reproduction. They will all be used in a separate album and available to be seen by anyone, anytime - together with all survey maps, Hansard records, school records. Police records, etc. will be passed on to the Crediton Museum and housed there.

I must also thank my wife, Jean, for her forbearance of my temperamental attitude to this strange work. "FOO" has surfaced again, after many, many years since the last world war. It is he who has misplaced some particular papers, time and time again, during the last 3 months. Also to son Bradley for his help in giving me extra time to spend on the book, by taking on many of my chores about the place, and listening closely to my queries, in the household, about verification of some point, saying nothing, and landing home with a book from the school library in the hope that it would help, which invariably did - then getting the same book again Friday evening, giving me all week-end to study it. Not bad for a 9 year old. I think I'll keep him.

CONVERSION TABLE

| <u>OLD</u> | | <u>NEW</u> | |
|------------------------|--|------------|----------|
| 12 pence | = 1 shilling | = | 10 cents |
| 120 pence | = 1/2 pound or 10 shillings or 10/- | = | \$1.00 |
| 240 pence | = £1.0.0 or 1 pound | = | \$2.00 |
| 1 quid (slang term) | = £1.0.0 | | |
| 1 guinea | = £1.1.0 | = | \$2.10 |

12 inches = 1 foot (ft)
3 feet ' = 1 yard (yd) or 36"
39 1/4" = 1 metre
22 yards = 1 chain
80 chains = 1 mile
10 square
chains = 1 acre
640 acres = 1 square mile
2 1/2 acres = 1 hectare

1 gallon water = 4 1/2 litres

OFF THE RECORD

FRED HERBERT

One of the "early birds" on his selection. We saw quite a bit of him, and gave him a hand to finish the last of his block of scrub falling for the year, 1935.

He decided he would need a wife to continue to pioneer his block, so wrote to the then "bosses daughter," down at Chinchilla where he had been working, and asked for her hand, which she gave by return mail.

Each one of us had to deck him out with a piece or two of clothes, for the occasion. My hat and a tie fitted but nothing else would -- but he got away looking pretty good, with the help of a few others.

Lil was very shy and self conscious person, but after Edna was born, she began to realise that she was as good as anyone else, -- and later after Hazel came to life, she was quite sure of it, and there was no stopping her from then on.

CEC ARCHER

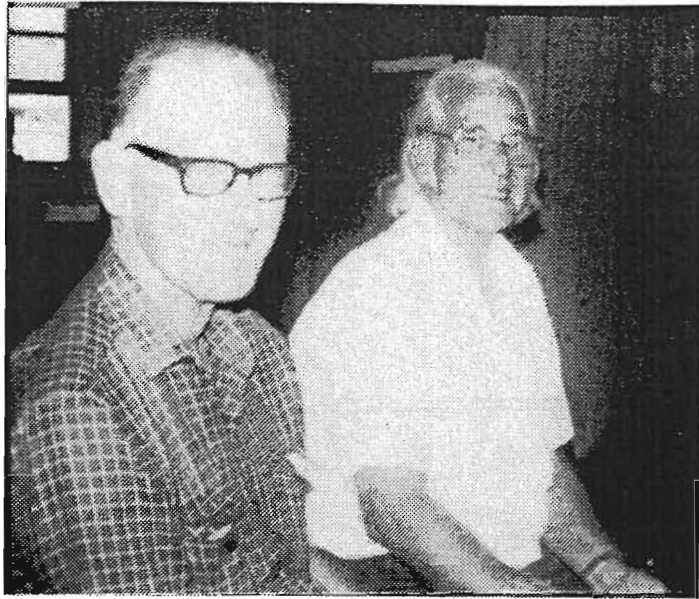
Cec came up from Victoria with his Dad to settle on Block 45. He cleared quite a nice bit of scrub, grassed it, and had a good line of Jersey Cows on it going nicely.

One of the chaps came on him, milking the cows, about midnight one night and asked him what was the idea?

It appears that his milking times had got "out of kimber" a bit and he hadn't been able to catch it up again and get back to normal time.

Later he gave the milking way and rented then and the grass to a neighbour, who soon pulled them into gear.

PREFACE



Charlie Linklater and Norm Foster

Charlie Linklater and myself Norm Foster landed up at Crediton on my selection on 22 August 1935.

We had stopped at Netherdale for a couple of days on the way up from Mackay, as it was raining and the road was wet and slippery.

At Netherdale some chaps had looked up at the mountains and said, "I'm not going up there" and turned around and went back. Charlie and I agreed we had come this far (About fourteen hundred miles) and we were going the rest of the way just to have a look. If we liked it we would stay and "take the Mickey out of that mountain".

We didn't quite do that as nature will always win - but we sure helped tame and civilize it.

We were known straight away at Crediton as the Squatters as we wore leggings for a while, as was the custom by all the men in the area from which we had been working sheep and cattle coutry, working quite often on horses.

On the occasion of our 25th Anniversary in 1960 we had the pleasure of the Rt.Hon the Post master General of the day Charles Davidson representing our Federal Seat of Dawson.

On this occasion, we have the privilege to direct our invitation to Sir Charles Davidson in his retirement, to the continue his association with Crediton with a message of support for this History.

Unfortunately he did not feel up to it through ill health but his son John has written this acknowledgement for him which we herewith print.

HON. SIR CHARLES DAVIDSON, K.B.E.

439 BRISBANE CORSO
YERONGA 4104

24th June 1985

Dear Mr Foster,
On behalf of my father, I reply to your letter of 14th June, for which he thanks you.

Dad has not been very well of late and he is sorry that he does not feel able to contribute to your booklet on the history of the District of CREDITON. He does recall his association with your 25th Anniversary celebrations and wishes to convey his warmest greetings to all his friends in the area.

He wishes you well in your present endeavours and in the 50th Anniversary celebration.

Yours sincerely,
John Davidson
(ON BEHALF OF
SIR CHARLES)

X

In doing this we thank John for his message from his father, and wish better health for Sir Charles in his retirement and congratulation from all at CREDITON on his Knighthood.

CHAPTER ONE

CREDITON, ENGLAND

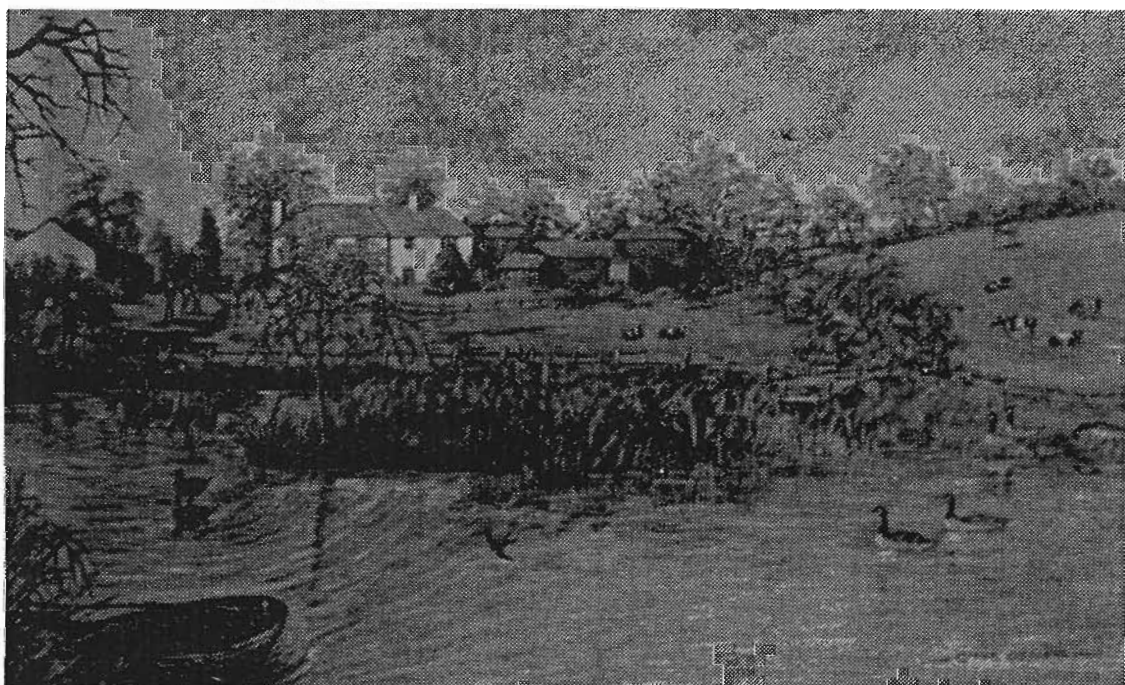
Our namesake town in England.

Two years ago, Mr Eric Cornish and Family (son and daughter) from Devon, visited Queensland and finished up in Crediton (Queensland) for the day touring in a small hire car.

Guess what? Both their son and daughter together with another son went to school in Crediton, Devon, England.

Although Eric was operating a large motor business throughout Devon he also owned a dairy farm, which had won the U.K. Farm House of the Year Award in 1976.

So Crediton - both here and over there is closely associated with dairying.



Leworthy Farm, Devon

OFF THE RECORD

BART SINCLAIR AND CHIEF

Two Finch Hatton characters, working at the Bull Paddock for Woodmans Mill. Tom Bull was another Woodman manager. Another Finch Hattoner was Jimmy O'Toole.

Eric Cornish had dropped his family off at the Broken River Bridge to walk up the National Park walking track to come out up near the Platypus and Wishing Pools at the eastern point of Crediton. He was to drive up there later allowing time for the walk, to pick them up. Unfortunately, he was driving up and down the road and couldn't find the east track over by Crediton Creek.

Jean Foster came to the rescue and escorted him to the right point, but when the family hadn't arrived by a reasonable time. Rodney Foster (16) decided to go in and investigate.

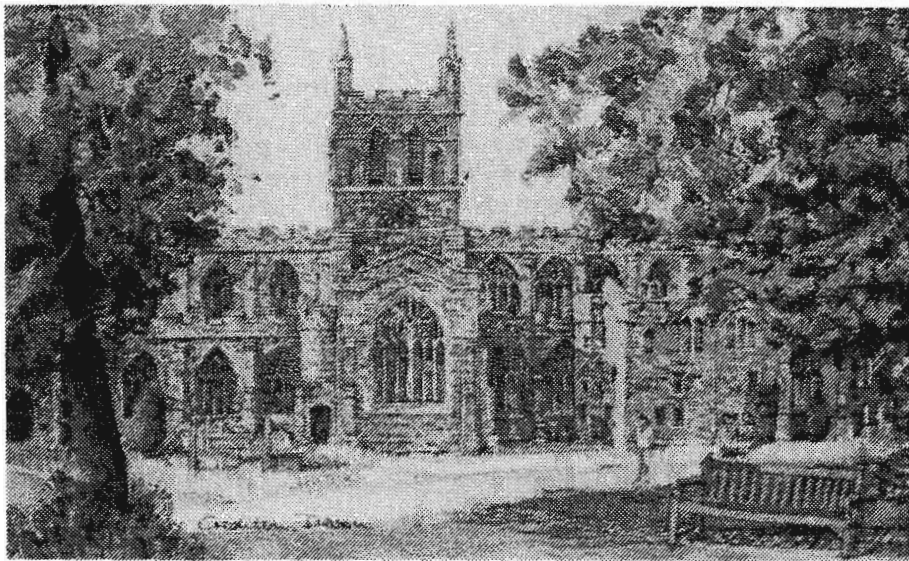
After a bit, he started to run and 'COOEE' as he went, and on turning a corner sharply, came on the party and startled them considerably with his noise.

"What's the matter - are you lost?" Mrs Cornish said.
"No" said Rodney "You are".

With that sorted out, their blood pressure returned to normal and on the way back to the car, they prevailed on Rodney to do many more "COOEE-E-E" calls, as they had never heard it before, and then again, on the roadside, for Eric's benefit.

So it has become now "COOEE-E-E" over the waters from one Crediton to the other - saying on the one hand "Hullo" Crediton, Devon, England, with out very best wishes and on the other hand, "Hullo" Crediton, Queensland, Australia, and wishing you the Best for your 50 year Celebrations and congratulations for such an illustrious and industrious start.

Thank you Mr and Mrs Eric Cornish and Family.



Crediton Church, Devon

0409 253488
LEWORTHY FARM
Eric and Marian CORNISH

22.6.85

Dear Norm and Jean,

We were delighted to receive your letter and memories of a wonderful stay in Australia flooded back. We remember the real friendship given so readily by Jean and Rodney when Marian, Paul and Joanne were wandering through the rainforest.

Brisbane remains in our memory as quite our favourite Australian city, Queensland will evoke memories of friendship, Barrier Reef and space, forever.

We had a visit to our District, from several Queensland Rotarians, and they left a wonderfully warm impression.

We expect two Australians from Lindfield, Sydney tomorrow, and are sure they will have a great time.

Our family are always on the move, Paul returns from Sydney in May, and Sarah returned in September. Paul has joined a local firm of Accountants and Simon, our third child has successfully passed his second year medical examination. Sarah of course will return to nursing and may well, in time, decide to live permanently in Australia. James, our fourth child is at public school Childs Hospital

Crediton is almost thirty-five miles from us, and our daughter Sarah was once a pupil at Queen Elizabeth School. This was a grammar school, but is now comprehensive with many hundred pupils and is part boarding.

Crediton has the distinction of a very beautiful sandstone church, which is dedicated to St. Boniface. There is a Bishopric of Crediton and it is a very busy town. I intend to contact such people as can furnish much more interesting information than I am able, I will ensure you get a formal town guide and church notes.

I note your remarks re schools, and of course this also happens in this country with rural de-population. The local people fought with success, so far, for the nearest school to us, and as the numbers have increased, the school remains.

Our farm is 240 acres in size as you have read. We have approx 200 cattle from suckler cows to calves and 250 sheep. The farm is run by myself, two young men, and a superb working collie (Border).

Marian, my wife, does much of the paper work and, of course runs the very busy holiday business. We will have six nations represented here tomorrow.

The lawns, fields, and hedgegrows, are looking beautiful at present, with much colour. My barley and oats have been sprayed for mildew, which I suppose you would not get. The heavy rain of this weekend has stopped the silage making, but washed the fertiliser in. One wins sometimes and loses sometimes!

You will be hearing further.
Our warmest regards to you all
Signed: Eric and Marian.

AFTER 50 YEARS - EDITORIAL

During the past 50 years, since the opening up and development of Crediton, it is interesting to note that both parties of Political persuasion in Qld., have taken almost equal parts in that development.

In retrospect, their views have been foresighted, first, in realising the need for land development, the utilising of resources (timber, minerals, water, etc.) the production of agricultural wealth (butter, milk, beef, veal, pork, fruit, and vegetables) and secondly the need to develop and preserve some parts of the area for future generations to see and enjoy.

This has been done through the establishment of National Parks. with their road service, allowing people access to see the natural beauty and wonder of our "rain forests", and the construction of walking tracks for people to see closer again, at first hand, the natural flora and fauna of the area.

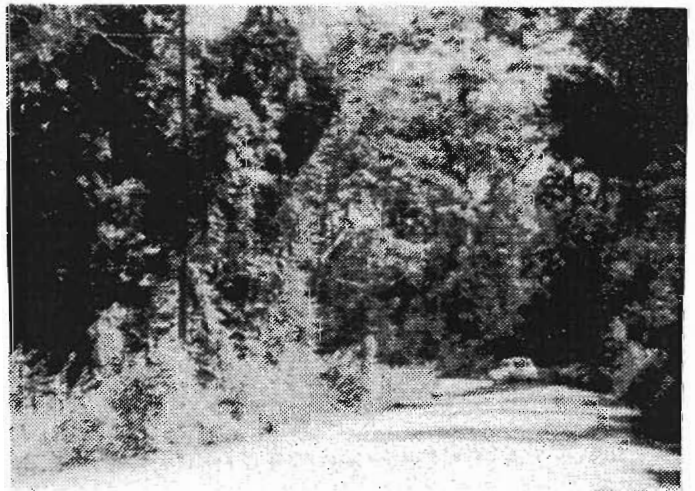
After 50 years living and working in Crediton and enjoying every moment of its beauty and wonder, through the four seasons of every year, I regard the development of Crediton to have been both necessary and well balanced.

As a developing civilisation, we must utilise resources to a degree, but also retain segments for a National and World Heritage. I believe this applies to all unique areas in Australia.

Any criticism that might be levied against the powers of Govt, both local and state, in the development of Crediton would have to be that they have lagged behind in the construction of such types of roads that have been necessary to handle the production and resources through all seasons of the year and the ever increasing number of tourists to the area which our natural features attract.



*John Thomsett and Tom Styles ploughing at River Hill 1935
Courtesy John Thomsett*



River Hill today



Modern road through National Park Rainforest

These features together with our beautiful climate will attract many more permanent residents in the future with utilisation of some land for sub-division purposes.

After 50 years, with the contribution of the men and women of Crediton, Mackay can now be truly regarded as the

"TROPICAL HUB OF THE NORTH"

With both Industry and Tourist Potential radiating in all directions from its centre.

To its west, in particular, we have the Eungella Range, of which Crediton is part, with its beautiful lush tropical vegetation and grandeur of the Mountain Mists. It must be regarded, at this point of time, 1985, as the **ROOF GARDEN OF MACKAY**

Congratulations, Crediton and all those who have taken part in its development and to Your 50 years of achievement.

We are proud of You and of Crediton and to have been a part it.

OFF THE RECORD

JACK SINGLE AND TOM PARROTT

Two timber cutters from Eton area working around the Bull Paddock blocks for Smithy. Good practical men with timber, got Smithy out of trouble on many an occasion.

Ted Smith was a goer and good business man but he had to have good men around him to keep things going. Otherwise he was in a lot of trouble. Everything he touched went wrong.

50 YEARS AT CREDITON

50 YEARS AT CREDITON 1935-1985

I had a job a Yenda in the Riverina (N.S.W.) in early 1934 at 2.50 (\$4.50) a week, but left it after six months as the conditions were pretty tough. I was working 16 hours per day, 7 days a week.

Times were hard in the late 1934 & 35 period, impossible to get a job at \$1.00 per week and keep. Finally, I landed a job in Queensland, at Kowgouran, west of Miles and the Darling Downs at 1.5.0 (\$2.50) a week and keep, we lived well - worked 8-10 hours a day, 5 1/2 days per week, with swimming, shooting, fishing and tennis Saturday afternoons and Sundays. However, when land was offered for settlement by the Queensland Government, we (Charlie Linklater and Norm Foster) applied for the Crediton Group Blocks, naming six blocks in order of preference. Applications closed on Friday, 19th June, 1935. The Ballot was drawn on Monday, 22nd June and we were notified a few days later, of our success in drawing a block. This notification gave us the right to proceed to the block, look it over and decide if we wanted to stay and develop or not. Authority to Occupy was granted later, when we applied to the Land Court, Mackay in November, 1935. Perpetual Lease (99 years) was granted three years later, after conditions of land clearing and fencing, had been met (25 acres per year for 3 years), together with three years residency. About twenty years later, it was possible, through the Lands Court, to convert these blocks to Homestead Farms and then to Freehold Tenure.

QUEENSLAND 1935:

When we drew the blocks, we decided to return to Sydney (our home town), for a few days and get some camping gear ready - also necessary, tools, axes, brush hooks, mauls and wedges etc. We had to return to Kowgouran for the shearing, classing the wool etc/ However, it was too wet to shear, so we did a fencing job on a neighbouring property running out 5 miles of dog netting and 15 miles of barb wire on a dingo fence.

That completed and with 120 (\$240) in the pocket, we headed North.

In those days, Queensland was virtually undeveloped. Large tracts of open Downs were under crops, but the development of all the brigalow and belah Country, back from Dalby, through Millmerran to N.S.W. Border was only just starting. The same to the North and also West through Chinchilla to Miles, Wandoan etc. North from Wandoan it was all grazing, except for a small area for irrigated cotton around Theodore.

Most of the Rockhampton to Mackay Road up the Coast was just a bush track, with literally hundreds of gates to be opened and shut, rough bush timber cattle grids and creeks to be crossed. The track was marked with blazes on the sides of trees, indicating the side to pass. Sarina to Mackay was the same, but parts of the track around the Mt Chelona area, I think it was, the timber had been cleared and the early earth works had been started, for a road.

MACKAY 1935

We landed in Mackay 17th August, 1935 and stayed the night at one of the 30 odd hotels in the town. There were horse troughs in the city proper and quite a few blacksmith and wheelwright shops operating to cater for the horse shoeing, vehicle building and repairs to the means of transport of the day. All farm work was, of course, done with the horses. They stabled at 4a.m. each morning and fed before day-light - basically on chop-chop and molasses.

It took us 2 1/2 hours to negotiate the road from Mackay to Netherdale, where it was raining very heavy ahead up the Range Road.

We stayed a couple of days at Netherdale Hotel, with Arthur and M. Bagley as hosts. There were two girls waiting at tables in the dining room in those days and they were kept busy. The wooden keg was under the bar counter, with a couple of wet bags around it and was pumped up to mugs on the counter by a wooden handle. It was still good beer and at 5 cents for 10 oz mug, you couldn't go wrong. Lager, Fosters, V and MB was served by the glass at room temperature, the bottles were taken from wooden crates - 2 doz large 26 oz bottles to the crate. I think they were sold at 1/9 (18 cents) a bottle or 5c for a 5 oz glass.

The Range Road was pretty tough in those days, the "Stony Pinch" with its rock ledges, required the assistance of a few helping hands to negotiate.

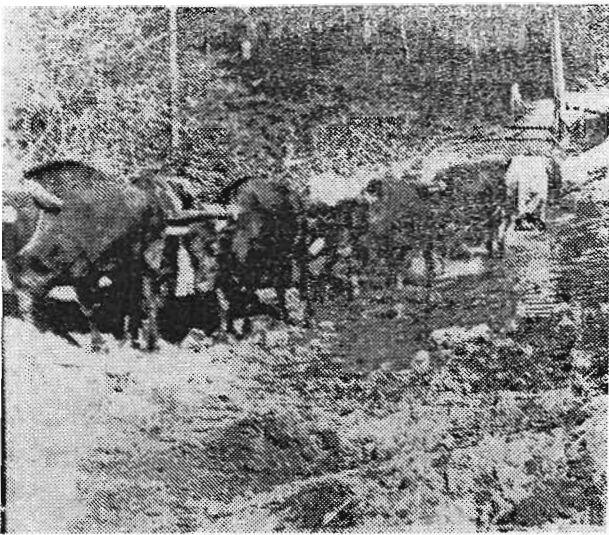
After making arrangements at the Store, run by Bluey (Roy) Swayne for the supply of bread and meat each Saturday morning, we headed towards Crediton over some of the new granite roads, put in by the P.E.I., which was the Public Estate Improvement Branch of the Land Department, and also some of the old corduroy tracks going back to the old gold mining days on the Broken River Fields. Some of these old tracks can still be located.

We found the survey pegs for our blocks about the 22nd August, got our camp up and then had another six inches of rain in the next couple of days, just to get us used to what was ahead.

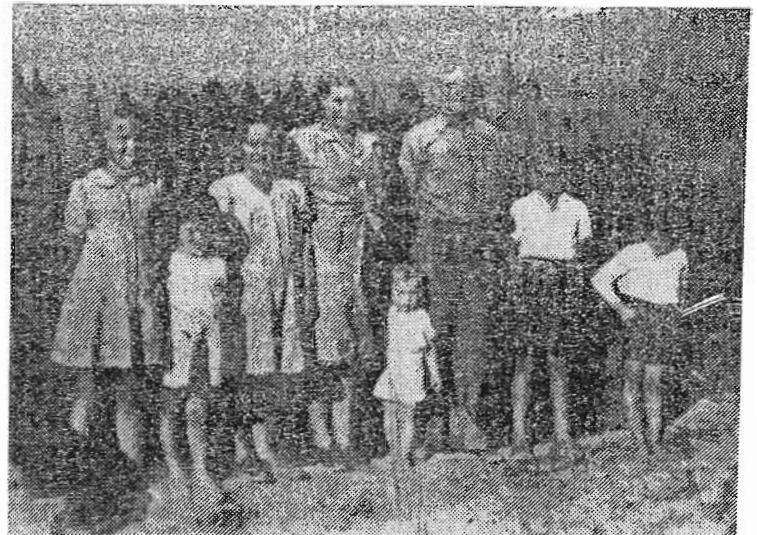
On our first run around the Circle, we met up with Gordon and Aubrey West at the 'bull paddock', Laurie Czislawski and Fred Herbert. Later we met Sand and Garet Freegard, Dean Ross, Dave and Andy Herron, Laurie (Jock) Morley and a few others like Bill Matthews and Dick Jack, Tom, Frank and Stan White.

Jack Cunningham, a bullocky, had his camp at the 'bull paddock' also Howard Aspinall and Bill Brownsey, both teamsters too - the latter was known for years as "Bullocky Bill". He was by far the toughest 'B' about, as he could camp on the lee side of a log, in the coldest of weather, with just one thin blanket, sound asleep, but shivering like blazes all night.

A few years later, Alex and Bob Cunningham, sons of Jack, had their own teams, as did Ted Smith and Jack Willett, working in the Crediton area.



"Bullocky" Bill Brownsey's Team



*"Bullocky" Bill Brownsey's other Team
(Wife and family)*

The Credition sawmill at the Bull Paddock was operated from 1935 by Matthews and White - later by just Bill Matthews, and then, Mrs Moran the owner, leased it to Fred Shaw - the publican at Finch Hatton, (I should say one of the publicans there), with Bert Willett as manager. A little later Woodmans Pty Ltd of Mackay took it over. Mark Woodman and Don Agnew were two of the Managers. It was closed and shifted to Eungella township in 1958. Merv Ostwald was the Manager then.

ON THE BLOCK 1935:

It became very obvious, right from the outset, that we had to live by the axe. There were good axemen, working on the road clearing for the P.E.I., like 'Ferdie' Elliott (or Elhart), from Koumala, to teach us all about axes, timber and bush craft in the scrub.

Our first job was cutting tracks in the scrub for the bullock teams. This was at £1 (\$2) per day, a 'princely' sum compared to the wages of the rest of the country. The teamsters were using teams of 16 bullocks each and spoke in six different languages, but sometimes the teams had to be doubled up to 32 bullocks, to get the logs out of tight places, or any particularly large logs. They were still getting Cedar and Beech logs off the blocks for the Forestry Department - that timber remained the property of the Crown - although not all blocks were cleared of it however.

After the tracks, we joined a couple of other chaps cutting Cedar up on the Plateau Blocks. We earned good money cutting on contract, but, unfortunately, the chap that had the contract, skipped with the money, leaving us only enough to cover the 'tucker bill'. But live and learn.

For the first five years, timber cutting was mainly Railways and Main roads contacts, some logging for the mills and posts for house blocks and horse stables. Sleepers for the Railway and Sugar Mills were, of course, mainly 'hog backs', cut out with the broad axw - as well all bridge timbers, girders, transoms, corbels etc.

The days of the broad axe are gone - it's hard to find a 'right' or 'left' hand broad axe anywhere. It's all done with the circular saws now. Likewise hard to find, a good chopping axe - its been replaced by the chain saw for the past 25 years or so.

Large areas of scrub were cut in the early period for burning and grassing. Some timber was lost in this period because there was no market for it. Don't blame the settler for that though - it was part of evolution - trade evolution.

The change came early in the War years when we, (W. Matthews and N. Foster) sent a couple of logs of the White Eungella Gum (satin ash) to Melbourne, for cutting and testing. The technological people down there computed the various load stresses for different sized timber, that it would bear, and shortly after, it was accepted into the trade as an alternative soft wood for building purposes - as was also the Red Eungella Gum, Growsfoot Elm (Tulip Oak) and various other scrub timbers.

Tulip Oak was used by a Mackay Cabinetmaker, Joe Zemek, to replace timber imported for the manufacture of umbrella sticks and handles. (This timber was cut 1 1/8" thick and any width for 1 1/8" wide to multiples thereof.) Many more umbrellas were used then than now. It waaso used to replace parts in the manufacture of pianos and is still used today in ply and furniture manufacture.

During the construction of the Mackay Harbour, 64' and 68' test piles were cut, in this area, of the flooded gum species, for depth testing for rock bottom. These were easy to get, but took a bit of all night work getting them down the Range, springing the tails around the corners, because of their length. The road was only half as wide as it is now.

Incidentally, a tale from the present Chief Engineer, Mackay Harbour Board, is to the effect that, after the last pile was driven on the proposed line of the Southern breakwater, the tide came up during the night, covering the top of the outside pile and came daylight, one of the local fishing boats was found holed and sitting on top of it. How would you be?!!

Later, when the steam shovels were working at the Mt. Bassett quarries, loading 10 - 50 ton rocks, blasted out for the breakwater construction, into the rail trucks - a call was received in the 'bush' - "did we have a timber that would stand the shock of the large rocks dropping from the shovel - the Iron Bard and Spotted Gum deckings, although steel plated top and bottom, we are using, are being smashed?"

"Yes" we replied and proceeded to cut a load of Crowsfoot Elm to their size specifications for the job. They were 10" and 12" wide and 6" deep. This timber had the tensile capacity to revert to level after a load was dropped on it, without looking like fracturing. It did the job, thanks to Crediton timbers and timbermen and the harbour walls were built.

During the Pacific War Years, Crediton scrub timbers came into their own for the construction of defence buildings everywhere, on the islands and on the mainland, as well as for Army camp and temporary airforce strips. Millions and millions of super feet of timber were cut then and since then, for the building industry and still being cut although on a reducing scale now.

DAIRYING:

1937 and 1938 saw quite a few farms with enough land cleared and grassed to commence dairying.

Cream for butter manufacture was the main product, with the skim milk going to the pigs.

The first 'cream run' pick up was done by Harry Ward of Crediton, with an old red Ford Truck. Later Len Burgess, who owned and ran the "Eungella Guest House", carted it in his old dodge truck. It knew the road that well, that it could go around several corners, going down the Range, without a hand on the steering wheel guiding it, while Lennie lit his pipe. Oh what a pipe it was too.

Reg Wood of Eungella, was the next cream carrier, with a Morris Truck he bought from Bert Burgess. Then followed Cliff Old (who later went on Block 18 Crediton), then John and George Thomsett followed by Brodie and Petersen, later just Harold Petersen on his own, who saw the first bulk tanker on the job. He followed by the Aiken Brothers, Steve Grubb and then the present carriers Jordan Bros.

AMERICAN R. & R. CENTRE MACKAY:

The advent of the Americans in Mackay in the early 1940's with the escalation of the Pacific War, saw Crediton convert to the production of whole milk for pasturisation, as the Mackay Milk producers could not meet the demand, especially in the winter and spring months.

It was always a delight in the early days, to take the milk out to the roadside, two days a week, to meet the Yanks who came up in their 6 x 6's. Always two or maybe three Yanks and they always had a load of 2 gal containers of hot coffee, cold beer etc., and many other containers of other beverages, which we could not afford or couldn't get, like 'good scotch', gin or wine, which ever was your choice.

The milk supply has developed soundly since those early days, to the point where it has been able to meet the demands of the hinterland coal town development, also any short falls to the Atherton supply in the north and Rockhampton - Gladstone in the South.

OUTLOOK 1985:

The National Dairy scheme now under consideration, at this day (May 1985), by the Federal Government, together with cost price factors, now put a not so bright outlook on the future for the dairymen of the north particularly.

WAR YEARS:

Some of the Crediton chaps enlisted and went to the war, some tried to enlist but weren't allowed, because of their work and some others went to the war and then came back and settled at Crediton.

Unfortunately, a couple did not come back.

'VALE FRIENDS'. 'LEST WE FORGET!'

With the Pacific War getting closer to our shores I tried to enlist again at the Drill Hall in Mackay in March 42. I was told again that I was in "essential work" but to show up at Finch Hatton ten to fourteen days later where "medicals" were being carried out.

Apparently I passed the medical O.K. but no, they they wouldn't enlist me, but I had been 'seconded' for special duties.

"That alright with you?"

"Yes Sir I guess so - what do I do?" -

"Go home and wait, you will be contacted within fourteen days."

Yes, they contacted me, two officers in uniform and a Government man in civvies who I knew.

They convinced me that I could handle what they required, Australian Military Forces Civilian Intelligence man in the area. Then eight weeks later one Officer approached me again and asked if I would like to volunteer for a further assignment as he could not ask me to go ahead and do the job - a volunteer only. Yes I agreed, my assignment was to stay behind the Jap lines or close to them whatever, if and when they landed here in Mackay which appeared very likely doing mainly guide and intelligence work.

I could select my own men but not tell them. They would be asked to volunteer at the last moment by him. They all had to be experienced bushmen as they would all be working in pretty rough mountain country out the back of here. I could have what men I wanted but selected four top men only - that I knew could do the job and not refuse the opportunity when asked to serve.

While the Pacific War was escalating, Australian Military Forces Civilian Intelligence was at work in the Crediton Area, as well as elsewhere, unbeknown to the people of the area. This work was done quietly and unobtrusively. Enemy aliens were checked and reported on constantly, with dire results for only a few. Information was received in this area from a friendly alien in the Cattle Creek area regarding a German spy ring operating in Mackay. This included the leader Dr Karl Richelmann (Dental Surgeon), Det. Serg. O'Keefe (Officer in Charge Mackay Police) and Mr Culverhouse (Officer in charge Q.A.T.B). There could have been another but my memory has faded here. The American M.P.'s soon handled them. Another one or two were taken a bit later at Walkerston, transmitting from a tractor in a cane field.

Possible air strip sites were noted in the hinterland, as also a western retreat track, up Eungella Range, out through Crediton, Hazelwood to Plevna and down to Mt. Britton, Nebo and Clermont - as it was believed in military circles that a Japanese landing was eminent.

The Mackay area was to be evacuated, everything destroyed in a scorched earth policy, with only a minimum land defence of a few rifles and machine guns defending the retreat of the Corp of Engineer Sappers, after they did their demolitions.

The civilian population was to evacuate mainly by the Eton to Nebo Road, with those west of Mirani going up over Eungella and Crediton and on the Plevna escape route.

Luckily the Battle of the Coral Sea was won by the Allies and this put an end to the Japanese thoughts of advancement in this section. In fact, it meant a retreat from all points of thrust for them, as their supply lines were over extended and then undefendable.

THE BRISBANE LINE REMAINED INTACT:

That was as far north as Australia intended to defend this Continent - except for the local pockets of defence established at our two forward bases DARWIN and TOWNSVILLE.

EUNGELLA DAM

This project was first conceived at Crediton in 1956 as a possibility of supplying water for hydroelectric power at Netherdale, to augment the six stream turbines in Mackay which were expected to be at their maximum peak production about 1963. This was to be in conjunction with another dam built lower down the River at Urannah, to catch the huge quantity of water from the Mt. David - Mt. Dalrymple area down the Massey Creek.

Both dam supplies would have had syphon potential to feed hydro turbines cheaply at Netherdale and then the water would have been available to service every cane farm in the Pioneer Valley and much larger City of Mackay, for many decades to come.

All of the Crediton farming community was involved for a period of 5 to 6 years, in providing accurate rainfall information, coupled with the C.O.G (Co-ordination General's Department) river flow recordings and rainfall recordings going back as far as possible, the feasibility of the dam was established.

However, the Eungella Dam was built mainly for the purpose of supplying water for an enlarged thermal power station at Collinsville, to utilise coal from the state owned coal mine there, which had been in industrial and financial trouble for years, even after being fully mechanised.

The redeeming feature of this decision, however, was the fact that 1,000,000 gals of water a day was piped to Goonyella coalmine. It may have been difficult to have got this mine off the ground and run it without this water. So at least it helped to get the open cut coal

mining started. Hence, it was a bonus to the business section Mackay and the local labour force in general, that Crediton run water was available.

It is a pity the Urannah Dam was not built, even now at this late date. Water is the 'Key to all Life' to both farming, business and industry. It is frightening to think of what would have happened to our mines, cane crops and the business city of Mackay in general, if the drought had lasted just a few more weeks this year. Just stop and think!!

This dam, the Urannah, would hold several times more water than the present Eungella Dam and would be good insurance for the future of the whole of the Mackay district if it was built now. Forget about the little ones and plan for the future - it collects the runoff from our heaviest (and therefore safest) rainfall area around Mt. David and Mt. Dalrymple. The eight and ninth highest mountains in Queensland attract that type of rainfall.

OFF THE RECORD

PAT PATULLO

Father of Des., Lloyd, Noel, Warren, Bill and Sisters Ramona and Rose. They reckon if Pat got "wound up" he could clear a bar on his own. He was veritably like a "bull in a china shop"

He was actually a squatter on Block 23 the Forestry block west of the Crediton Blocks down to the River.

He had his family camped down Long Gully, his access was in by the small dam half way down the River Hill on the road to Eungella. This was known for years as Patullo's Turnoff.

He had a string of crossbred cows, the family milked and sent cream to Mackay for buttermaking.

Every now and again a couple of young shavers about 10 -12 years old would come up to my camp and ask in a long slow drawl
HAVE ----- YOU -----SEEN ----- THAT -----YELLOW -----COW -----
NORM -----OR HEARD ----- HER ----- BELL?

The "condamine" bells could be heard a mile away on a clear day, but the old yellow cow was too smart for young Des and his brothers. She would hide in a bit of scrub and stand stock still and not a "peep" would come from that bell.

CREDITON

Although this book is actually a history of 50 years settlement of Crediton, one has to ask, in all fairness to a lot of people, should it start when the blocks were first opened for ballot and the first settlers arrived, or can we go back before that time and enquire into the whole of the circumstances leading up to the decision to open the land up for settlement.

In doing that we must look at all those things which happened at the beginning, with the first entry of the prospectors, timber getters, surveyors, miners and bullock and horse teams, of those early years.

The first record that I have been able to ascertain so far, of Crediton, as a place name, is in a Survey Plan of a Police Reserve at Crediton, which was done by Bernard C. Dupuy in 1891. This shows the original "Track to Mackay" going past the reserve and, in the other direction to the Diggings on the Broken River, Plan No. 103.596. Other surveys were done on the Urannah Creek and Broken River areas showing the Eungella Run Boundaries and noting the Eungella Goldfields by surveyor Tindell in 1882. Plan No. 103.550. The first mention of the Parish of Crediton is shown in Plan HLN.13 by Valderman Jurs in 1916, which shows portions 1 - 6 Parish of Crediton. The town Reserve is noted and the boundaries of the Gold Field Reserve. It shows the positions of the Water Wheel and Battery (5 stamper head). The road to Plevnais shown unsurveyed, south of Portion 6. Crediton town reserve is shown in K103.622, 30.4.1891.

So Crediton as a place name and as a Parish name, goes back many years.

The gold fields had the initial effect of attracting people, some 5000 of them, but they didn't last. They did provide the original access routes up the Clarke Range in the form of Armstrongs and Carl Flors tracks and later the first tracks up the Range itself. This was followed by a survey of Bernard C. Dupuy in 1910 (Plan C1.321 Sh.2) which shows the road up the Range, East of the Eungella township, with indication of the previous unsurveyed road, which needed attention as it was deemed unstable by the Government men. Lands Department in 1910 finally agreed to spend £1083 on repairs, £2750 deviating the unstable portions, cutting out the zigzags and £2457 for roads on top of the Range to open up the area for selection.

Some early selectors came to Eungella. These included the Pools, Chas Dunning, Dobsons, Cunninghams, Commerfords, Parkers, Burgesses followed by Bells, Edens. Boons, Sullivans, Howies, Owens, Patullos, Phill Willet, and many others.

While the cedar was being cut, everyting was alright, but, because of the distance from Mackay, farming on the settled blocks was hazardous, and it was very difficult to make a living.

The Forestry Department claimed 3 - 400 yds of land held all along road frontages for themselves from the settlers, so it made access difficult. They also claimed any cedar and beech on the blocks, and

then if any further cedar or beech was found, after selection, they claimed half the royalty and the balance was held for 12 months. It was also required, that selectors improve their blocks to the extent of 400 - 500 per year for five years - this to include clearing, grassing, fencing and buildings.

The Forestry Officer from Mackay, Mr Greenslade, wanted to get the selected lands back for re-afforestation and only wanted the Crediton blocks opened up for the extraction of cedar and beech. This caused quite a bit of friction with the settlers, who got together with many top Mackay people like the Hamiltons, Websters, Chenowerths and others, who liked to visit the area regularly, to form the Eungella Progress Association -

The main point of this was to sponsor the opening up of more land, as well as the Crediton area, to entice more people up on the Range to make their own position secure economically, with maybe a butter factory or cheese factory and better roads etc. To this end the Land Commissioner Bergin was invited up from Brisbane to inspect the area and examine the present conditions and potential of the area. He decided to take notice of the claims of the people of Eungella and to put in a good word for the opening up of Eungella and Crediton blocks for settlement, provided roads were put in for the whole area to give good access. Ted Swayne MLA, then took the matter up also and the Crediton group blocks were opened up for ballot, after the roads were constructed.

Surely, Crediton settlers can thank all those people now, who pushed in the early days for Crediton to be opened up for selection, for their won salvation. Without them it is doubtful - extremely doubtful if Crediton and indeed Eungella, would have survived being anything but a forest reserve. Crediton area was gazetted to be opened up for selection in 1932.

Incidentally, a great many of the settlers on Eungella blocks were involved in the building of the road, out to the Crediton area and all the Crediton roads. Others were involved in the supply of rations to the road workers and also many were involved, over the years after 1935, in the cutting, snigging, hauling and milling of timber from Crediton blocks.

Others still, like Len Burgess, John Thomsett, Cliff Old and Jack Brodie and Harold Peterson were involved in the pick up and transport of cream from the Crediton, Bee Creek and Dalrymple farms to the Mackay Butter Factory and still later, the transport of large quantities of milk, which the City of Mackay and Hinterland development needed for its population.

Many letters were written to the Editor of the 'Mercury' in those days, on this matter and feeling was running very high.

The following poem was written anonymously and printed in the Mercury also, and it had the desired effect of crystalizing the matter and the people of Eungella could see the story in it that they had join forces, and work and pull together for their own salvation. The decision, in retrospect today, was absolutely 'spot on'.

THE COMPOSITE MINISTRY

The Progress Annual Meeting
Was held last Sunday morn;
Some Settlers came the night before,
While some lobbed there at dawn.

There were two rival factions,
Filled with the lust of power,
And all rolled up to witness
A struggle, grim and dour.

The leaders of these rival clans -
Which, by the way, are weak -
Are Jerry of Dalrymple Heights,
And Parker of Bee Creek.

How through the press these two had fought,
'Till Manning called a stop!
And now the fateful day had dawned
To prove who'd rule the Top.

The Meeting opened; minutes read,
Bert Burgess in the chair,
Dave Parker read out the report
Which told of progress fair.

At last the formal business o'er,
Bert Burgess left the chair;
And now we thought the storm would break,
There's thunder in the air.

Dave called for nominations
For one to fill the chair,
Bert Burgess thinking someone else
Should have a go as Mayor.

Then up jumped Jerry Sullivan
With voice rising to a swell,
Clansmen chered him as he cried,
"I nominat Bob Bell".

The new blood, having got in first
The old crowd scored defeat,
They put up Michael Comerford
Who's always hard to beat.

And Michael got elected too,
Upon a show of hands,
But Jerry had another shot
To further his demands.

As Secretary, he cried, "Vic Woods
Is surely just the man",
The other crowd said Parker was
The favourite of their clan.

Once more upon a show of hands
Poor Jerry 'got the boot';
He then declared an Armestice -
He'd nothing left to shoot.

The old clan victors then agreed
To even up the score;
They'd take some new blood in with them
And swear to fight no more.

They formed a Compo Ministry
From out the rival portions
And each one swore to blaze on forth
Fair Eungellas attractions.

John Goode, as Minister of Mines
Will do no mining now,
While Sully has his work cut out
To try and find a cow.

Bert Burgess, now the Forest King
Long may he live to reign
O'er all those lovely hoop pine scrubs
He'll plant with Cobber Swain.

Fran Owens, as the Tourist man,
Should do his job with vim,
As every tourist he secures
Should mean a quid for him.

Now we shall see how things will hum,
But just as a suggestion,
I think they should have 'Lenny' in
To stop the traffic congestion.

As Minister for Transport
He'd sure be hard to beat;
I'm certain 'twas an oversight
So please give him a seat.

An so the feudal war is o'er
So let us all agree
To help and not to criticize,
The Composite Ministry.

ANON

THE COMPOSITE MINISTRY

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Some Settlers came the night before,
While some lobbed there at dawn.

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A struggle, grim and dour.

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I'm certain 'twas an oversight
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An so the feudal war is o'er
So let us all agree
To help and not to criticize,
The Composite Ministry.

ANON

EDITORS NOTE:

The need for a 'Compo Ministry' is ever with us. That was a momentous decision in those days - that more or less decided the fate of Eungella, for many years to come.

The writing of this History is to show now, what has been done since then and the advantages that have been made to the District of Mackay, and to the State of Queensland.

I suggest here that a 'Compo Ministry' should have been set up for the writing of this history, but unfortunately it was rejected by a small handful of people, who thought they knew better.

I feel sorry for them.

YARNS

Jack and Lloyd Cullen were working in the bush one day, splitting a log. Some timber is likely to reject the entry of a wedge, even after it is part the way in - especially like yellow Stringybark.

Lloyd was belting the wedge in one day, when it shot out and got big Jack a beauty in the shin.

While he was hopping about on one leg and rubbing the injured member, he admonished Lloyd thus:-

"Cripes-you-want-to-be-a-bit-more-careful-next-time-Lloyd".

Big Jack also had a good remedy for the three foot problem of taking off in a vehicle, going up the range.

Have the left foot for clutch, as usual, the right one on the brake, but carry a long stick with you especially for such a purpose - to operate the accelerator.

Then there were the two farm boys David and Peter, in their early teens, one in the utility and the other in the Land Rover, stood off about 150 yards or so, revved their engines and decided to see who would make through the gate, way up ahead, first.

It was a dead heat. They finished up with a gateway twice as wide and both vehicles extensively damaged.

It proved one thing - neither was chicken.

REMARKABLE PROGRESS
EUNGELLA LAND GROUP

Its Development in retrospect

Carved from what was previously dense scrub and forest country, the settlements which have been established in Eungella, in the past few years have made remarkable progress. Those who were successful in obtaining blocks have set to work with a stout heart to make their homes on the virgin land, and at the same time make a living for themselves and those dependant on them.

Much work has been done; hundreds of acres of scrub have been cleared and grassed, cattle have been purchased and homes erected. Much still remains to be done before the area is a model settlement but, as time goes by, further work will be performed and the settlers will then come into their own.

It is but a few short years since the first blocks in the Crediton area were thrown open for selection. Those selectors who were successful knew what was ahead of them; they settled down to the task of pioneering dairying in that district under conditions that would have deterred many, but they have won through, and in years to come will reap the rewards of their labours.

On scrub lands planted to kikuyu, paspalum, Rhodes grasses and white clovers, these pastures are carrying a best of two acres all the year around and production of cream supplied to the Butter Factory at Mackay is increasing by at least 50% per year from this area.

The P.E.I. section (Public Estates Improvement) of the Lands Department have spent many thousands of pounds in providing road facilities and every block is served by a good road. It is estimated that by the end of the present year the sum of £100,000 will have been expended in providing road facilities in the settlement areas. Gangs of men are still at work at this date.

The scenic beauties of the Eungella district have long been recognised, and the Lands Department has not allowed the throwing open of large areas of land to interfere with the recognised beauty spots. In fact it is to be improved as a tourist attraction.

Taken by and large, the development that has taken place at Eungella in the last 2 1/2 years has been phenominal. The settlers have done much hard pioneering work which will stand them in good stead in the years to come and will have a reflection in improved conditions in Mackay.

EDITORS NOTE:

Although a lot of work was done by the Government in providing roads in the district, the type of construction was not suitable for the conditions, i.e. heavy rainfall and increased axle loads of vehicles using them in getting timber, cream, cattle etc. out to market. They were made of decomposed granite - and, although they gave a nice running surface when graded in the dry - they absorbed too much water and bogged in extended wet conditions. Please note here that, although £100,000 (\$200,000) was spent initially on these roads the return to the Government almost immediately, on the sale of cedar and beech was in the vicinity of \$5 - 6,000,000 in royalties and much more than that in later years from other varieties of timber sold.

Returns to dairymen have consistently been pegged by Government decree in both Butter and Milk prices and with these two factors outlined, land values have been kept down drastically, reducing rating capacity of the area and consequently the capacity of Local Government to service the area properly. If Government controls on pricing are to be maintained, then Government funds must be forthcoming to meet the ever increasing demands of modern transport to operate - especially when the increasing demands by tourism in this area accounts for so much of the Government's responsibility anyway.

The inflexibility of the Government system in the past, even excluded a price incentive of 1/2d per pint to cover the cost of importing milk into Mackay to cover any local supply shortage, due to cyclone or extreme weather conditions - necessitating milkless days in Mackay, in 1954.

No other industry suffers such a burden that we must supply at a fixed price no matter what the extra costs involved.

OFF THE RECORD

BOB RUSH

Bob was giving me a hand to pick tomatoes one Saturday morning. He was about 30 yards away up another row picking away, when a very big branch of a tree broke off and crashed down in the scrub across the creek.

About a minute later Bob hopped up and said
"What was that?"

"Oh don't worry about it Bob, it was nothing, only a woodpecker." I said.

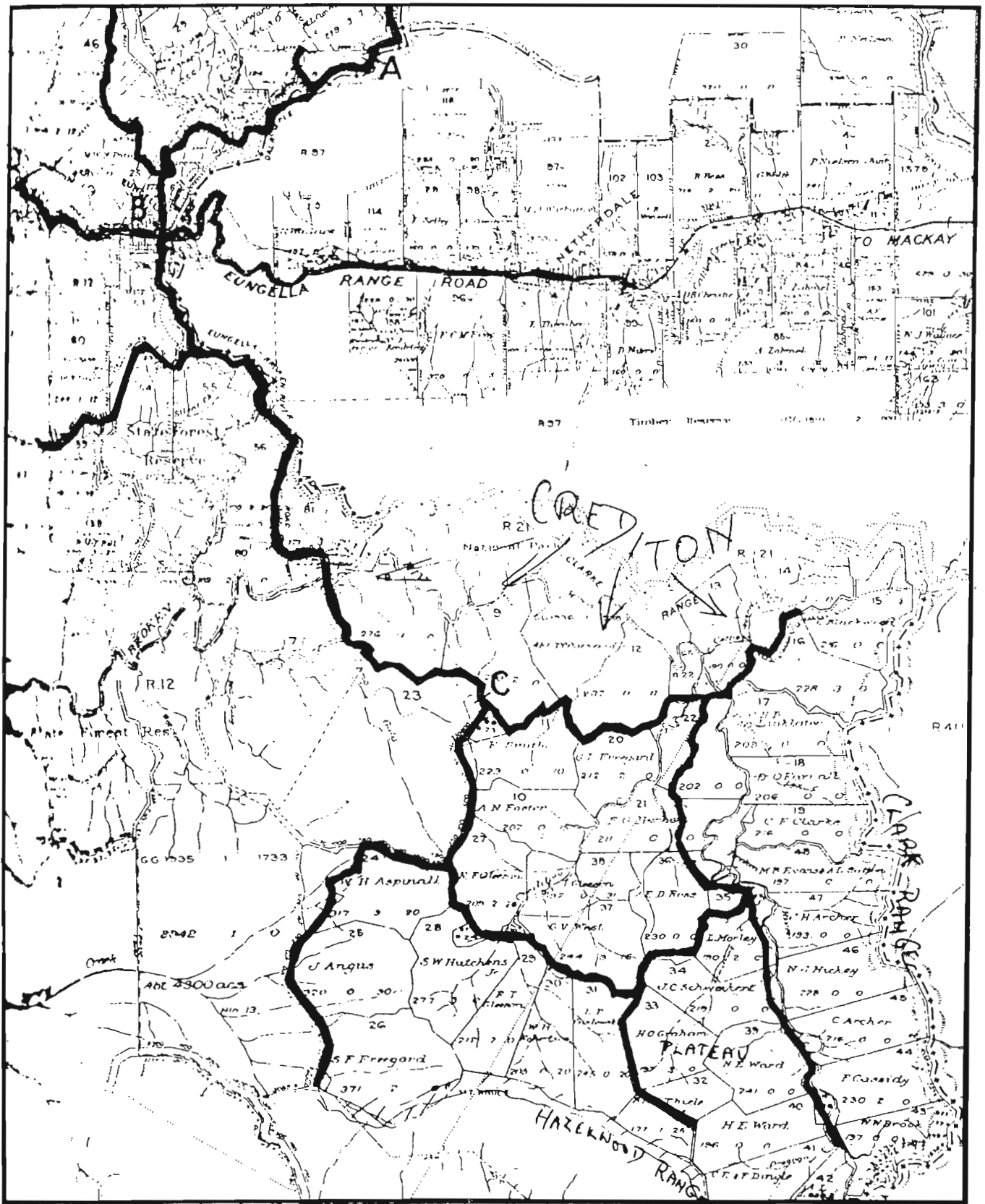
Time went by again and then he hopped up again and said
"Gawd, he hit that hard didn't he?" "a,a."

CREDITON GROUP SETTLEMENT 38 Blocks

| BLOCK | PARISH | 1935 ORIGINAL. | SUBSEQUENT | 1985 |
|-------|-----------|----------------|---|---|
| " | 56 | EUNGELLA | DAVE HERRON | D & J HERON |
| " | 80 | EUNGELLA | BOB KELLETT | MR & MRS SMITH BERYL SMITH |
| " | 81 | EUNGELLA | JOE GILOTTI | MAURIE HOWIE J. CUNNINGHAM M. LEWIS D. & A. HERRON A TURNER M. HOWIE |
| " | 10 | CREDITON | N. FOSTER | R & R BURNS N. FOSTER |
| " | 11 | " | F. SMITH | J. FOSTER R. WHITING J. NORMAN E. KEAST J. WILLIAMS |
| " | 8,9,10,22 | | RESERVED (CROWN) | J. BRIMBLECOMB |
| " | 13 | CREDITON | G. RUTTER | RAY SCOTT A. McDONALD |
| " | 14 | " | R. SCOTT | A. McDONALD |
| " | 15 | " | C. BLACKWOOD | FRAZER BROS E. ROSS |
| " | 16 | " | TOM DUNBAR SWAPPED WITH JACK ARCHER | B. GILLESPIE |
| " | | | BERT TRANTER GORDON LINKLATER | R & M McLEAN |
| " | 17 | " | CHARLIE LINKLATER | R & M McLEAN |
| " | 18 | " | D.O. FARRAL | AUSTIN TURNER C. OLD T. JONES |
| " | 19 | " | C.F. CLARKE | C & L SAMMUT D. MULLENHAGEN M. KELLY |
| " | 20 | " | GARNETT FREEGARD | C. ANDERSON |
| " | 21 | " | F. HERBERT | A & N FREEGARD |
| " | 23 | " | FORESTRY RESERVE | S. MATHIASON |
| " | 24 | " | HOWARD ASPINALL | H. CUNNINGHAM |
| " | 25 | " | J. ANGUS | L. HANSEN |
| " | 26 | " | SAM FREEGARD | S. MATHIASON |
| " | 27 | " | F. BRECKINRIDGE | A & N FREEGARD |
| " | | | RAY GLEESON J. WHITE J. DIXON M. OSTWALD | D. MARKEY |
| " | 28 | " | S. HUTCHINS | BLUE THOMPSON C & F FRAZER |
| " | 29 | " | DICK GLEESON | D & R CORTIS H. HAMMER CHAPPIE THOMAS McCONNELL PALMER |
| " | 30 | " | W.H. ROBERTSON | D. MARKEY J. WILLETT H. DEANS R. WEICK |
| " | 31 | " | L.CZISŁOWSKI | AVIBLUE P/L G & I RISLEY |
| " | 32 | " | D. H. THICLE | D & P WOODLAND J. WOODLAND |

CREDITON GROUP SETTLEMENT 38 Blocks

| BLOCK | PARISH | 1935 ORIGINAL. | SUBSEQUENT | 1985 |
|-------|--------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| " | 33 " | H.O. GRAHAM | S. TRONSON C. OSTWALD & J. WOOD | G. WOOD |
| " | 34 | J.C. SCHWEKERT | G. HARPER J. MORLEY M. HOLBERTON | E. ROSS |
| " | 35 | JOCK MORLEY | M. HOLBERTON | E. ROSS |
| " | 36 | DEAN ROSS | | E. ROSS |
| " | 37 | G.V. WEST | | J. BLOXSIDGE |
| " | 38 | IKE GLEESON | M. WOODMAN G. HAVILAR H. DEANS R. RUSH R. WEICK | |
| " | 39 " | NORM WARD | BILL MATTHEWS JIM COWAN W. COSTIGAN H. CHAMBERLAIN | AVIBLUE P/L COLIN CORNE |
| " | 40 " | HARRY WARD | W. JEFFS H. DEANS | D & P WOODLAND |
| " | 41 " | FRANK DINGLE | A. PLATH | R. BELDON |
| " | 42 " | A. L. LESLIE | S. BRAKE A.G. TURNER | D & M HELLEGE |
| " | 43 " | W.W. BROOK | GEORGE NEWHAM D. WOOD | G & S WELLBY |
| " | 44 " | F. CASSIDY | LEN PARKS | L. PARKS |
| " | 45 " | CES ARCHER | | C. ARCHER |
| " | 46 " | NEIL HICKEY | L. POWNELL SYMONDS | E. MOORE |
| " | 47 " | J.H. ARCHER | TOM DUNBAR L. TURNER | SUB-DIVIDED(2) |
| " | 48 " | L. B. EVANS & A.L. SUTTON | BILL THEDEICKE F. DINGLE S. KENNY N. TURNER D. MCGREGOR | I & M KING |



Roads constructed by Public Estate Improvement Branch shown RED

Section A-B, half-cost defrayed by Main Roads Commission.

Section B-C, whole cost defrayed by Main Roads Commission.

Roads constructed by Main Roads Commission shown BLUE

SUBDIVISIONS

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 16 acres | Sub. 1 Block to | Mr G. Viewers, Bundaberg |
| 5 acres | Mrs Anderson Block 19, | Ken Searle, Collinsville |
| 5 acres | Block 35, | G & S Ross |
| 5 acres | Block 48 | Mike Pearson |
| ALL | Block 47 | 1/2 Mr Chapman |
| | Now 47 | |
| | " 75 | 1/2 Mr I. King |
| 4 acres | Block 11 | W. Brown |
| 5 acres | Block 11 | V. Hansen |
| 12 acres | Block 10 | W. Bowwater |
| 168 acres | Block 10 | M. Ambrose |
| | | M. Stevens |
| | | G. Cox |
| | | & J. Barnett |

Original Block 24 4 sub-divisions now owned by
 portion 73 J.D. & B.A. Murray
 " 76 J & J Cockings
 " 77 H.W. Latter & C.L. Hodge
 " 78 J.C. Quinlan

Proposed subdivision Block 81 Parish of Eungella R & R Burns
 Lots 284 Plan Survey 42104 Cancelling Lot 2 Plan 22587 5.22ha
 1.32ha Lot 4 1st Stage Development of 3 units.

CREDITON

Basically is a saucer shaped tableland of 2400 to 3200 feet above sea level. With Clarke Range bordering it on the Northern and Eastern Sides with the plateau and Hazelwood Range to the South and to the west - just gently rolling out on to the Spring Creek Tableland with the drainage system for the area, the Broken River further to the west 300 miles to empty at sea in the Burdekin. Average rain 65" - But up to 160 inches.

OFF THE RECORD

BERT TRANTER

Could always tell when his wife Daphne was pregnant.
 He copped the morning sickness.

IKE GLEESON

Invented the first automatic washing machine. All you had to do, was tie your "Jackie Howe" singlet and trousers to a suitable peg along the bank of Crediton Creek, where water was running over rocks. Come back the next day, and take them out, and hang them over a barbed wire fence to dry.

DEAN ROSS & JOCK MORLEY

Were the two oldies. They were both short of stature, and the boys liked to pump a few extras' into them at parties and functions just to see them act up a bit -- which they liked doing. Both "untrained" entertainers.

Old Jock Morley got a bit full, and very tired about midnight on one occasion, and went outside the hall to have a camp in the back of their "tilly".

Unfortunately, he got in the wrong one, and woke up about 5.30am in a "tilly" locked in a garage and couldn't get out. So he created one hell of a din and woke up Stan and Mrs Brake.

He was 2 3/4 miles away from home and it appears that Young "Jock" Morley and others had been out searching all night thinking that "poor old Dad" had wandered off into the scrub.

AUSTIN TURNER

I can well remember Austin and his wife playing tennis with the Crediton team. Also daughter and young son (John of the Platypus Kiosk) being pushed around in a pram on tennis days.

McNAMARA BROS

Came from around Gargett probably Owens Creek and operated a sleeper mill on the site of No 2 P.E.I Camp, cutting flooded gum sleepers for temporary rail lines, building Harbour breakwater walls.

One of their earliest tractors on the job was an old single horizontal cylinder HART PARR.

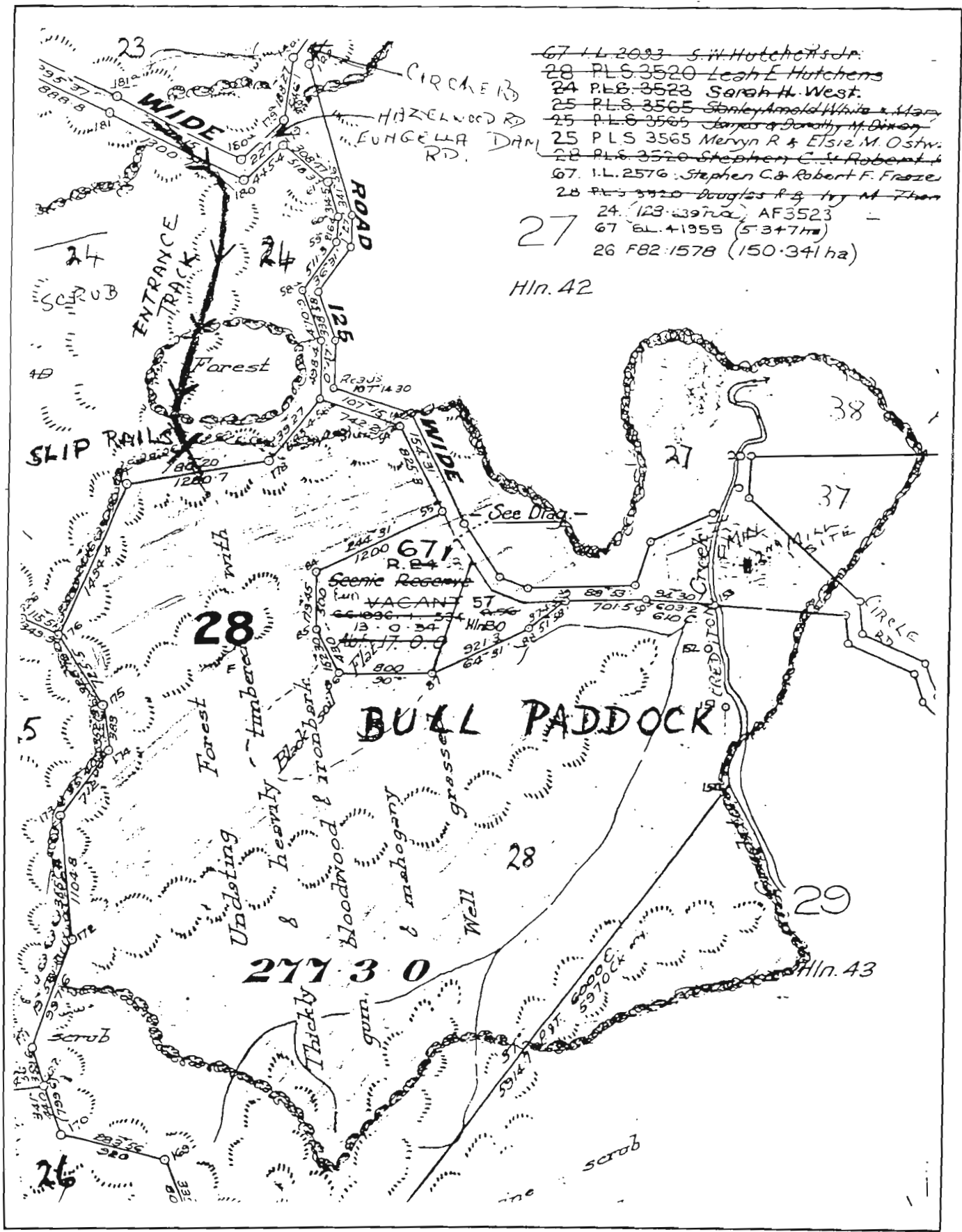
Some of the pieces of this relic were still in the bush last time I was there 20 years ago.

JOE AND MRS PASSFIELD AND FAMILY

Did a bit of share farming, or such like around the district. Good solid honest people. Pleasure to talk with them and call them friends. Also Arthur Ringuet and family. (Brother of Mrs. Iris Scott.)

JACK AND MRS MORLEY

Mother and Father of Laurie (Jock) Morley. Retired in England and came out to Australia to Jock's farm early in war years. One still marvels at how they took to the bush, and dairying, and carried on allowing Jock to enlist and go away to the war. Great people once you could understand the North of England accent.



- ~~67 LL 2093 S.W. Hutchings Jr.~~
- ~~28 PLS 3520 Leah E Hutchings~~
- ~~24 PLS 3523 Sarah H. West~~
- ~~25 PLS 3565 Stanley Arnold White & Mary~~
- ~~25 PLS 3565 James & Dorothy M. Dixon~~
- ~~25 PLS 3565 Mervyn R & Elsie M. Ostv.~~
- ~~28 PLS 3520 Stephen C. & Robert J.~~
- ~~67 I.L. 2576 Stephen C. & Robert F. Froze~~
- ~~28 PLS 3520 Douglas R. & Joy M. Khan~~

27
 24 (123.39 ha) AF3523
 67 EL. 41955 (5.3+7 ha)
 26 F82.1578 (150.34 ha)

Hln. 42

Hln. 43

BULL PADDOCK

The original paddock was an area of about 300 - 400 acres of open fresh country nicely grassed with plenty of water, totally enclosed by scrub.

The track leading into it was roughly about the Hazelwood turn off -- just down along the Eungella Dam Road. Slip rails were put across the track where it entered the opened country of the paddock about 3 - 400 yds SSW of the present day Markey Dairy, up in the Cortis paddock.

It was used by the early bullock teamsters in days of the Diggings gold mines, when that area was supplied by the inland route from Rockhampton and later from Eungella after the Range Road was built.

The early bullock trails from the South went by Fort Cooper to Exmoor and then later on to Bowen, but for the gold area, they came over through Mt. Brittain, Plevna and the Hazelwood Valley to the S W of Crediton and also from Eungella after the range road was built.

So the Bull Paddock was used to paddock the "bulls", as the bullocks were known; and comprised nearly all of the present Cortis Block 28 and parts of Doug Markey Blocks 27 and 29 and part of Bloxsidge Block and the small road reserve at the Crediton Bridge with access through Laurie Hanses Block 24.

The present day road when it was built in 1935 cut into the natural paddock at the Hazelwood Road turn off and part of it almost near the present day MEB sub-station.

OFF THE RECORD

SID HITCHINS

This character started to tell us, about 100 yards before he got to us, that he was going around to take up his Block 28 and he was going to grow cabbages and do this and do that.

He never got around to doing much at all, except building four different camps before he settled finally about 100 yards or so from Cortis's present home site, -- down towards the flat.

Sid's brother Joe told us they call him "Death Adder Joe".

All went well for him until they called him up for Military Service. Basic training proceeded OK, up to the point of bayonet practice, when Joe wanted to be real "realistic" and instead of charging and sticking the bayonet into the dummy bag, he took off after the Instructing Sargent who did not take kindly to this treatment, and had him out of the class, and the Army in no time.

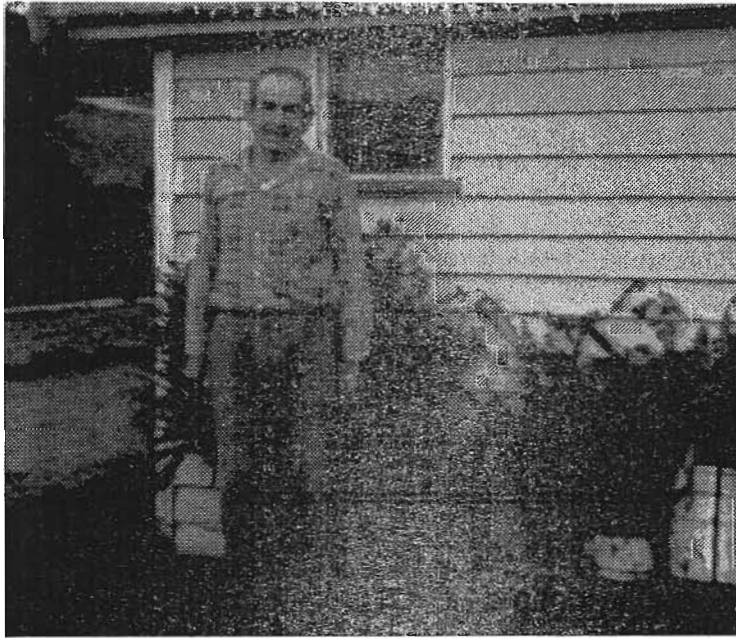
3 ORIGINAL SELECTORS STILL ON SELECTIONS

EARLY LIFE ON A CREDITON SELECTION

by Norm Foster 1935 - 8

One of the main worries when one took up a selection in August 1 was, how to earn enough money, on outside jobs, to keep going on farm. It was always a balance of time to get as much done as possible on the farm, and then as much done, on the jobs available off farm, to balance the budget and pay your way.

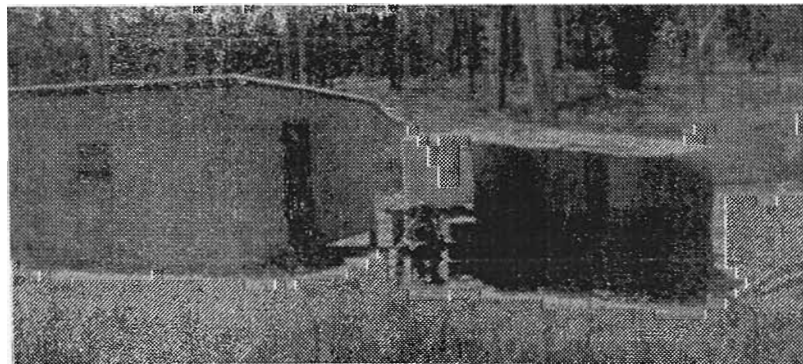
One had to set a target for advancement and then stick to it assiduously. The only way to make out was to work, and work and work, long hours and week ends to.



*Dave Herron, Original Selector Block 56
Still on Block*



*Cec Archer, Original Selector Block
Still on Block*



Norm Foster's First Camp

The Rural Bank was a great help. It allowed one to clear scrub on a loan borrowed from the Bank at a very moderate interest rate. Many hundreds of acres of Crediton scrub were cleared this way, with the loan being paid off later when we got the dairies into production.



*Spring Board Chopping
Up 4 Lifts
Courtesy N. Foster*

The sum of 2.10.0 per acres was available to chop, burn and grass a patch of scrub. A good man could cut the underbush with a brush hook and chop the timber at the rate of three acres per week - maybe two and a half acres if it was extra heavy. Good axes, well ground and sharpened were necessary, together with a couple of cedar springboards to use on the bigger trees. Tough work but we loved every minute of it - being young and healthy. Quite often it was possible to line up a drive of about half an acre or so - by just back cutting most trees (to save half the chopping) aming each tree onto another and working backwards to a suitable "driver" tree. When this tree was chopped through, it would hit the next couple in line and then it would have the pack of cards effect and take the whole drive out. Some varities had to be cut with a front or belly cut as well, because they would not split up or break off. Above all, each tree had to be cut with good direction so it went in the exact direction desired.

Scrub felled up to September and October, if the weather was vey hot, would burn nicely in mid December. The fire in the early felled piece would generate enough heat and draught to carry over the latter felled scrub.

After burning, we liked to get the grass seed on after about a week if there was no rain. Seed of mainly Rhodes grass and paspalum was broadcast over the area and some rain was good to wash the seed in the thick layer of ashes and follow up storms or wet season rain assured a good germination. A good paddock of grass helped to keep down any germination of second growth types of tree seedlings like Corkwood, red heart, black wattle, red ash and sarsaparilla. Quite often we would have Rhodes grass four feet high, in a matter of weeks

No 18439

Form 16.

Registered No.

No Fee.

"The Dairy Produce Acts, 1920 to 1935."

Certificate of Registration.

This is to certify that the premises described in the application dated 2 NOV 1935, 1935, situated at *Salisbury St.* have been duly registered as a **DAIRY**, subject to the provisions of "The Dairy Produce Acts, 1920 to 1935," and the Regulations for the time being in force thereunder.

R. WILSON,
E. GRAHAM, Secretary
Acting Under Secretary,
per *[Signature]*

Department of Agriculture and Stock,
Brisbane, *7 JUN 1936*, 19

M^r A. W. Foster.
Salisbury St. via Mackay

The person in respect of whose premises a certificate of registration has been granted shall affix in some conspicuous place near the entrance and so as to be plainly visible from the outside of such premises a notice setting out in legible block letters not less than three-quarters of an inch in length that such a certificate (specifying the number thereof) has been so granted.

Any alteration in ownership must be notified on the prescribed Forms, Nos. 11 or 21, as the case may be.

NOTE.—Registration does not mean that the dairy complies with the Act, and such registration may be cancelled at any time. Ⓢ

Cows milked well on new burns, with many over filling a two gallon bucket, night and morning, with butter fat tests of 6 and 7%. These cows were doing a couple of pounds of commercial butter a day just off grass.

Of course the milk had to be hand separated and one had to get used to turning the handle at just the right speed of 48 revs per minute, or it would alter the consistency of the cream. The factory liked to get cream at about 42 - 44% butter fat, but we found that we had a better quality cream and it returned slightly higher amounts of butter if we let it run a bit over 48% - up to 51 in the hotter weather. This was obtained by adjusting a little screw in the top cover disc in the separator.

Usually ten gallons of milk of average quality, butter wise, would give you a gallon of cream, returning you about five pounds of butter.

Quite often a settler would be milking twenty to twenty-five cows by hand, early in the morning, separating, cleaning up etc. before having breakfast and going into the bush for a days work on the axe, returning in the evening with the cows, to do it all again.

Such was a life without a wife.

CEC ARCHER

Original Crediton Settler still on his selection today after 50 years.

Cec regards himself as being fortunate to have drawn his block in the original ballot. It is good country well watered and well situated and easy to get out of it any time weather wise.

He thinks that over the period of 50 years we have made terrific progress in all aspects of our industry, pastures, cattle and production from few gallons of cream to the tanker pick up of the huge quantities of milk produced today.

He is now 81 years old living on his own, has a sister in Brisbane and a brother in Sydney. Originally came up here from Dandenong in Victoria with his father and his brother. Jack Archer originally drew Block 47 and he swapped it with Tommy Dunbar who had Block 16. Cec is quite happy with the idea that two history books of the district are being published as all history should be recorded not half of it left out.

DAVE HERRON

Original Crediton settler still on his selection today after 50 years.

"Did you do the right thing coming up here and staying back in 1935 Dave?"

"Yes most assuredly - things were bad down south. For a hundred cases of bannanas we had to pay seven pound ten shillings for cartage

seven pounds ten shillings for cases and a bit of commission and we got what was left, five quid. Sometimes we got only a few stamps, you couldn't eat them. They didn't even taste nice."

"Block 56 was taken up by me originally but worked later with my brother Andy as Herron Brothers. Later on we bought Jack Cunningham's Block 80. It was bought in Herron Brothers' name. My son John now has Block 57 out the back of Block 56 but backing up onto the diggings road."

"Yes, I can recall Reg Woods from Eungella was carting cream and rations for a period of twelve months or so after Lenny Burgess and Harry Ward in the Morris truck."

"Just as this generation of settlers has sold out and left the area to new modern way of dairying so has the social scene changed with a new type of farmer coming into our community. This will probably be more pronounced as subdivision takes place"

OFF THE RECORD

GEORGE RUTTER

A half Mouri from New Zealand. Another good axeman and broadaxe man on the "hog back" sleepers. A deep chested and strong man. A good mate in the bush - but a wild man with a couple of drinks under his belt. Very contrary and argumentative, hard to placate, anyway you like to try, -- except one way put em up and fight. Have a drink or a cup of tea afterwards and everything was OK again.

George went over to the Middle East with the A.I.F. when the call came and finished up with a machine gun bullet smashing everything from the wrist to the elbow on his let arm.

He was invalided back to the bush, made a strap to hold his useless left hand on the end of the axe handle and then proceeded to chop one handed in a very professional manner -- even up the trees working on the springboard.

He could hold his own with the best of them. You can't keep a good man down, so he then took up Block 13 Crediton and started to develop it -- but alas -- he came unstuck in a car accident down at Marian one foggy night.

P.E.I. DAYS

as told by Geoff Koch &
Mrs Thompson

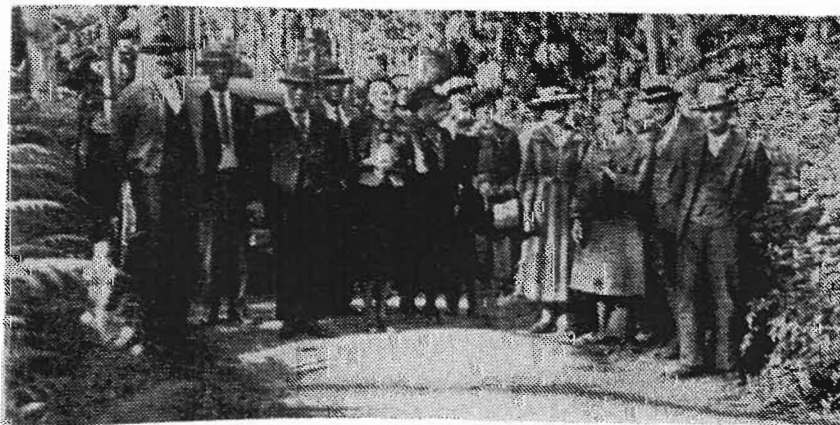
We came up to Eungella to stay with the school teacher, Irene Seagreave, first in 1929 and then every year, during the school holidays, to 1933 when we decided to stay.

Jack Cunningham and family were in the Hotel at Netherdale when we came up first.

The P.E.I. (Public Estates Improvement, Branch of the Lands Department) started at Eungella in 1929 and were here for 9 years altogether. Billy Williams and Bert Good were the two blacksmiths, and their job in the early days was to run the Range Patrol as well. The road really was just a good track, totally covered overhead with a canopy of scrub trees and vegetation. Cane fires later burnt out some of the scrub and half the road was vegetated with Lantana on the southern side particularly, which was prolific by 1935 and in later years it has been killed out by fire, and grass has taken over most of it now.

Geoff Koch took a job with the P.E.I. in 1933 at the age of 14. He can remember seeing Lal Turner on the job then (he had been since 1931), with his Willys Knight truck. Apparently Lal nearly lost his truck over the side of the Range, at the Top Quarry, (where the three power poles are, near the old mirror corner), when it took off backwards, (slowly of course), when the load was put on it, but, the driver, Bob Hewitt and Pat O'Brien managed to save it. Don't think Lal knew about this - but no good worrying now Lal.

Geoff saw George Bosel first at about the Diggings Road Turnoff, working his horse on the scoop, and later in 1934 recalls seeing "Bullocky Bill" Brownsey carting with his old "Chevy" truck, about the 'old Crooked Cedar Corner', a half a mile on the town side of Dave and John Herron's place now.



*Official Party inspect Crediton roads
Ted Walsh and Johnnie Ainscow (Chief P.E.I.)*

DIRECTOR OR P.E.I.

Top man of the P.E.I. in Brisbane was Johnny Ainscow

Eungella Engineers

First was Walter E. Bevan
 then Ted Rice
 with Joe Allen and Walter Mortinsen as assistants
 with the latter in control later.

Gangers were:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Bill Lynch | Ted Joyce |
| Shaw | George Walker |
| Tom Bannon | Tommy Menkins |
| Jack Street | Mick Golch |
| (Tommy Menkins started at about Herron's gate) | |

Clerk:

Warry Turner was a clerk for the P.E.I.

Tractor Drivers:

Pat O'Brien was a tractor and grader driver
 as also was
 Ted Williamson.

Axemen:

Laurie Ben (also known as "Appo"! As he liked to show off and flex his muscles.) was one of the axemen doing the original road clearing.

Fredy Elliott (or Erlahart) and I think, Neville Willet also axemen

Workmen:

Some of the men working on the road were:-

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Snowy Wadsworth | Tiny Henaver |
| Lofty Dwyer | Bill Carrera |
| Tom Jones | (Tasmanians) |
| Dick Wright | Lloyd Bramish |
| Alex Massey | Don Bramish |
| Lal Turner | (Horse Pugs) |
| Mick Kelly | George Bosel |
| Tim Ryan | Dan McNamara |
| Pat Patullo | Joe Adams |
| Bob Hewitt | Bob Bell |
| | Charlie Bramish (Barber) |

DRAIN PIPES

Concrete road pipe, draining the gutters under the road, were made at the "Diggings" by Tim Croft, with the assistance of his three sons, Jim, Mick and Henry. Apparently there was good supplies of sand and gravel available there, in the river and, of course, plenty of water, or maybe the mullock heaps from the mines was available and suitable material.

BRIDGES

The Broken River Bridge was built probable in early 1935. Bill Lynch was the original builder and he built three quarters of it, and it was completed by Ted Rice Jnr., a son of Ted Rice, the Engineer.

The Sonny Boy Creek Bridge was built by Nugget Sherlock.

PIT SAW

The Goode family operated a pit saw at the Diggings, long before Geoff came up here. They owned a property that was later Roy Whittings and now Laurie Hansens. George Bosel lived there for a time.

Howard Aspinall lived in a double story house, up on top of the hill behind the present Post Office. It was later pulled down and Wally Swaynes house was built on the site. Howard shifted with his family then, to the old place up by Flora Willetts present house. It was later lived in by Reginald Condaldi Woods, who had a Morris Truck and did the Crediton Cream and Tucker run for a while. Phil Willett and his wife lived in that place, after they came off the farm at Dalrymple Heights in the 1940's.

MRS THOMPSON'S RECIPE FOR HOME MADE BREAD

Take 1 heaped tablespoon EZY BAKE
1 heaped teaspoon SUGAR
1 heaped desert spoon PLAIN FLOUR
1 heaped teaspoon SALT
6 cups (slightly domed) PLAIN FLOUR, ALL WHITE
OR
4 WHITE & 2 WHOLEMEAL

Take the EZY BAKE, SUGAR, desertspoon FLOUR & SALT in a plastic container, mix and add a cup of fairly WARM WATER.

Put the lid on it and let it work up.

Then take a cup of HOT WATER, add a desertspoon of LARD and let it melt.

When the yeast has worked up, put the LARD and WATER into FLOUR and mix up into a dough. It might take up to another 1/2 a cup water.

Leave it by stove to rise and work down.

Second time kneed it for six minutes, let it rise again and bake.

P.E.I. CAMP AT CREDITON

Large numbers of men were employed prior to settlers coming into this area, in late 1935, by the P.E.I. in the clearing and construction of the roads from Eungella township.

No. 1 CAMP:

Was at the head of Long Gully where it crossed the new road turning south at the beginning of the Circle Road. The main decompose granite quarry backed into the camp site and is now the Council Tip for the area.

This camp had three wells sunk and timbered for water supply and had about 60 men under canvas.

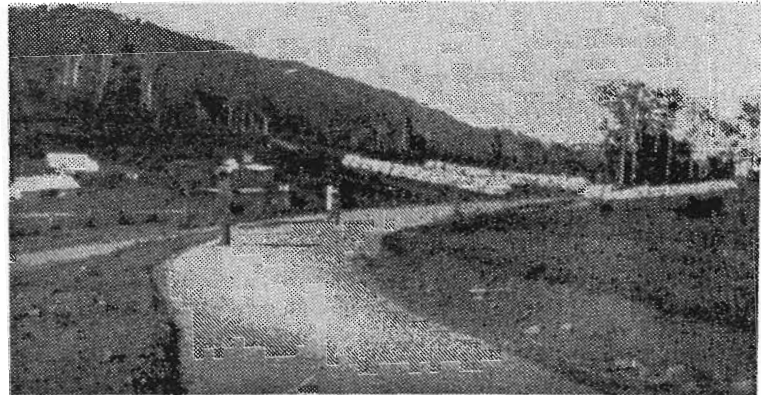
Only a caretaker was left by Christmas 1935 and he and the main store shed were shifted to Cardwell area soon after.

No. 2 CAMP:

Known as Bells Camp was between Crediton Creek and Broken River by the Lex Creed Road turnoff. About 50 - 60 men were there to. It must be remembered that everything was done by hand or horse drawn earth scoops and drays and light trucks.



*Jim Bell's camp on the site of Crediton Hall 1934-35
Courtesy John Thomsett*



*P.E.I. Camp, Eungella Township
Courtesy Geoff Bosel*

No. 3 CAMP:

Camp was at Bull Paddock. About 50 - 60 men with 2 - 300 men at peak of construction 1934 - 35.

MAIN CAMP

Eungella Township

SOME MACKAY PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SPECIAL TO CREDITON

FRANK ROLLINSON

Manager in the early days of Mackay Port Curtis Co-op Dairy Co Butter Factory. He helped the early battlers get going. He organised the start of the milk deliveries from Crediton with the Americans, for their R. & R. and later saw the trade develop.

HARRY WEBSTER

Hardware Store Keeper

ARCHIE BLACK

Auctioneer and Agent

MR TUFFLEY

Bank Manager - If you need a hand come and see me -

These were expert Public Relations men. Had a humane interest in everyone, visited the whole district every Christmas, going from farm to farm, on a good will mission.

KEN DUPUY

Chemist. 'Going up to Eungella are you? Just send down for anything you want. Don't worry about paying for it. Next time you are in Town will do.' His father was BERNARD CELESTIN DUPUY the celebrated surveyor who had an important part to play in the survey of a lot of farming country in the Pioneer Valley and in the Eungella Area and Range Road.

GUS MULLER

HERBY BURSTON

Served the dairying industry well in both the P.C.D, and the Queensland Dairymens Organisation. Both highly respected right throughout their lives.

TOMMY MAHER

Michelmores Machinery man. If Tommy could do anything for you he would. He did teach me a bad habit though, of slapping his thigh to emphasise a point or to seal a deal. I don't know how his thigh stood up to it, mine wouldn't. I had to start hitting the table instead.

BOB MCGINN

Always good for a half hour or an hours yarn each time you hit town. An interesting man and, interested in you.

NEV HOWLETT

JOHN HUNTER

TED SCOTT

Bob McGinn's Sons-in-law in the engineering business later. They all holidayed at Eungella on occasion, at their week-ender and visited farms regularly.



Crediton Primary School Break-up 1944 or 45

**LEN MORRIS
GORDON KANE**

Bank Managers extraordinaire. Sound personal advice and valuable words of wisdom from both men.

GEORGE CROOK

Manager C.O.D. He did everything he could to personally nurture growers and business was on a personal friendly basis. The sky was the limit if you could grow and deliver top quality produce.

SAM THORNING

Knew Sam first at Shepherds Anvil Stores, then C.C.C. on Rockmans Corner, later with his brother at Kemmis Supermarket. Can recall him shifting a load of potatoes, in a hurry, from a vehicle broken down at Te Kowie. What was that all about Sam?

MR PARKINSON

Mackay Inspector Rural Bank. A sound adviser and invaluable in getting the Crediton district settlers off the ground. He knew what was required and advised you accordingly.

**MR CLYDESDALE
NORM COODCHILD**

Two top agricultural advisers of the Department of Agriculture and Stock. Had good Public Relations and sound advice.

IAN WOOD

A sticker for the development of the National Parks in the area and a very helpful man when travel was required in a hurry. He was continually promoting Public Relations with locals and visitors for Mackay and the Tourist Industry, right from the start of the first DC3's for Australia National Airways - later Ansett.

CHARLIE JOHNSTON
FRED FEILD

Good business men with the right sence of personal touch.

There are probably many others to. All I can say here is 'THANK YOU' to all who have assisted.

It is to be regretted that this era has passed. One would think that the character of Mackay Business community has taken a change away (with the rest of the world), from the friendly personal contact, to the computer, credit rating, credit card control. Big profits are the order of the day, without regard to the balanced economy of the rest of the community.

OFF THE RECORD

HOWARD ASPINALL

A top timber man, bullock driver and above all a number one bush man. He was a good man in the saddle too -- with a great knowledge of cattle and country.

He took up Block 24 at the Hazelwood Turnoff, later sold to Gordon West and now Laurie Hansen.

Howard was a great one in a camp and loved to tell tales while sitting around the fire at night, waiting for the damper to cook.

He had a great store of snake yarns and such like and liked to get under the skin of any unsuspecting person in the camp causing night mares etc.

However, one night things "backed fired" a bit for him. Howard was asleep on the inside bunk in the tent, I was in the centre and Ted Smith on the outside. About an hour after we went to sleep, we were rudely awakened by ungodly screams from Howard. He leapt out of bed and was going about in circles, quite sure he had been bitten by a snake, was done for and going to die.

When we got a hurricane lamp going and had a look at him - he had blood streaming down both sides from the bridge of his nose.

A close examination of the nature of the wounds and the fact that there were little animals out in the tucker tent, we were able to quiten him down and convince him that it was only a little spotted native cat and he wasn't going to die.

Tough place to put a tourniquet on, if it had been a snake. The throat offers the only opportunity.

Then again he might have been OK, we had a chap down at Richmond in N.S.W. he told us that "he was bitten by a snake once, but he didn't die." He was uneducated - he said he was "Drug up out of the gutter." Good on you Syd, he was a good draught horse teamster, that guy.

MEMORIES

SID EVERETT

With his brother Jack took up Block 29 up Dalrymple Heights. A ch by the name of Childs on Block 30 had his camp built on Block 29 - Sid bought it from him. In 1929 when they came up here the range had the Devil's Elbow - not the zig-zag track.

Later in 1933 Sid worked with the Main Roads Department putting in the stone mitre drains across the roads from Broken River to the top. These were deep stones buried in the road surface on an angle across the road. They were okay for slow moving horse traffic but once the automobile came into vogue and mechanical graders were scraping the road surfaces these became a nuisance.

They worked the gold show down Bee Creek behind the pine plantation but it wasn't big enough. Finally sold a selection to a school teacher from Netherdale who later sold it to Bill Ward. I think Humphrey Ward later bought Child's Block 30.

To live cheaply in those days we used to get a bag of salt meat from Ross River and a bag each of flour and rice from Townsville. Even then it was cheaper than from Mackay.

Sid Everett has worked with the Mirani Shire Council since then and has spent much time in Eungella and Credton in particular on road work.

FLORA CUNNINGHAM

Phil Willett and family came to Eungella in 1923 when I was only four years old and selected a block next to Jack Cunningham up Dalrymple Heights.

The first saw mill at Eungella was Dobsons on site where Mrs Les Willett now lives. I recall a story being told of chaps falling a tree in the mill yard - felled it across a bullock wagon standing there. It was a good mill log but it finished the wagon.

Herb Burgess' first mill was about where Harold Peterson built his milk depot shed. Later he shifted it to Sunny Boy Creek.



*Phil Willet's first camp
Courtesy Flora Cunningham*

Our first house on the farm was built of timber slabs for the walls and split palms with the pith cut out for the roof. These were put on with each alternate slab over lapping one inverted the other way.

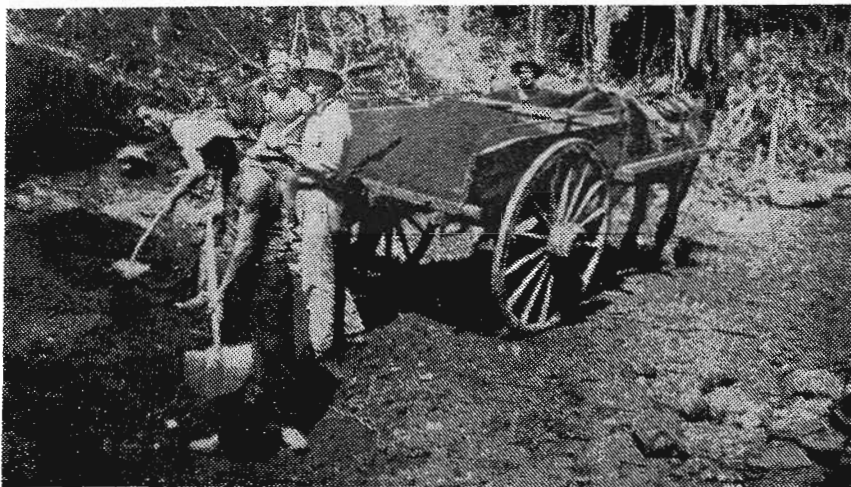
Later Flora milked cows while Dad worked on the P.E.I. roads and she carted the cream to Lenny Burgess at Eungella on the pommel of the saddle on horseback.

V. & A. THOMSETT

John recalls that they came up to Eungella in October 1931. Quite a few others like Jerry Sullivan, Sid Boon, Doug Mollenhagen, Charlie Eden, Harry Eden, Roy Whiting all up from Waymuran as conditions were bad down there in the bananas.

Wally Swayne had the store at the top then. Herb Burgess had the sawmill and Lenny Burgess was in the guest house.

John worked for the P.E.I. as a "horse pug" at the Bull Paddock camp firstly with horse and dray, later on the upper river road and along in front of Dean Ross's place. Then on the River Camp working on the River Hill on the Crediton side of the river with two horses and scoop and sometimes with Tom Style's two horses as well with a road plough.



*John Thomsett shifting fill at Ross's gully
Courtesy John Thomsett*

Jock Howie at his ration tent and run about the Hazelwood turnoff towards Norm Foster's place about 1932. Later Pat Patullo had a store at the Bull Paddock near where the West Crediton School was built later on. This was in 1932 and he sold it in 1933 to Brennan.

Jack Cunningham and Mick Commerford were the only ones dairying at the start up on Eungella.

EDITORS NOTE

John's wife Agnes was reported to me to be the first white woman on the Crediton P.E.I. road camps to be living at Crediton.

LAURIE HANSEN

Bought Block 24 Crediton from Gordon Westin.

Laurie started riding with Jack White and Jack O'Loughlin for E.M. McEvoy and Co., Eungella Station back in 1946.

Later Laurie and Jack O'Loughlin went on a working holiday trip up around the Gulf country in 1951.

While on Vanrook Station, Normanton, Jack was hit badly in the mouth with a piece of timber thrown from a circular saw. They were picked up by the aerial ambulance and while coming into Cairns crashed in the sea a few miles out.

The plane sank immediately, but they with the ambulance man survived the crash. All were bruised but Jack O'Loughlin seemed to be dazed and had to be assisted and it was decided Laurie swim to shore to raise the alarm and get help.

Unfortunately Jack was lost during the night but a valliant effort from Laurie for trying through shark infested waters.

Surely an unsung hero living amongst us.

MRS AGNES KEAST

My father, Charlie Eden, brought my mother and us two children, Billy and myself, up from Wamuran back in 1932. There was nothing left there for us - bananas were down to rock bottom and likely to stay there.

Dad started work with the P.E.I, as a "horse pug" and we lived in the camp at the 'Top' and later at the River Camp, doing the roads back to the Diggings turnoff.

Dad took up a Block up the Diggings Road (either 61 or 64) later held by Fred Short and then John Norman. We dairied there and walked to school at Eungella, after we had earlier years on correspondence. In the early days on this farm we lived in an old place, on what was later Roy Whitings farm and I can remember seeing Howard Aspinall going past with his team of bullocks, as this camp was right on the edge of the road.

About 1945, Dad sold our farm to George Torrens, of Milla Milla and we shifted to Block 51, down Bee Creek, which had been occupied by Ted Slide. He was a cabinet maker by trade and shifted to Eungella and built the house, and lived there where Alf Clews is now living.

We started a dairy there and also grew tomatoes, which did very well, sending them to Mackay and Townsville. About 1952, we sold out to Viv Powell and the family shifted to Seaforth, growing paw paws, bananas etc.

I had married Ted Keast in 1947 and in 1948 we started dairying on our own, on the old farm we leased for 2 years back from George Torrens. Later we went on to our own block up Schewmanns Road, Block 32, that used to be Alex Cunningham's and Billy, my brother, who had married Lal Parker, was on the adjoining block.

TED KEAST

My first look at the Eungella Range came about in early 1946 when I was invited by Fred Swankie from Tinaroo who was a costing clerk with the Main Roads to spend a weekend with him at the Netherdale Camp.

I arrived by the midday train at Netherdale which in those days boasted a Hotel, store, dance hall, school, church, station house and station mistress. I was introduced to Cliff Old the Eungella Cream and Milk Carrier who invited us to come for a run around the range while he delivered his goods.

During the trip it came out that I was a motor mechanic and Cliff talked of the possibility of starting a small garage at Eungella. He had three trucks and every farm had a milking machine engine. There were timber trucks and four sawmills and he had a shed I could use.

At the end of April, Dalrymple Motors opened for business with myself and Fred Swankie as proprietors. Fred however didn't stay long and ended up driving for Cliff.

Eungella in those days had a Post Office, general store, two butcher shops, two sawmills, school, Chalet and guest house and the general carriers. In the next couple of years a hall, church and store and bakehouse were to be built. On November 6th, 1947 I married one of the local girls, Agnes Eden, in the just completed Presbyterian Church being the first to be married in it and possibly the first to be married on the Range itself.

The garage turned out to be a 'fizzer'. Not that there was a shortage of work but more a shortage of money after work was completed. After closing the garage we shifted to Crediton and lived at the sawmill where I drove a timber truck for Laurie Willett.

In June 1948 we were offered a two year lease of a farm at The Diggings and so started my apprenticeship into dairying. The farm, leased from George Torrens was run down, the milking machines out of order, fences flat and the cow not used to being milked regularly. Until the machines were fixed we milked 48 cows twice a day by hand. I remember our first cheque was for forty-two pounds, of which we paid twenty pound lease. In 1950 the lease expired and the farm was sold to Fred Short.

We then purchased our own farm on Schewmanns Road, Block 32 that previously belonged to Alex Cunningham and Mick Nolan. It had 360 acres of which 80 acres had been cleared but let grow lantana and regrowth. There was only an old shack on the farm; no dairy or cattle. We started dairying with eight cows we bought from Jack Howie

of Bee Creek for eight pound ten shillings each. At the end of 19 we got caught up in a drought and rather than lose the cows, dri them off and went to work for Woodman's Sawmill at Crediton.

When the drought finished in 1952 we started from scratch again.

They say life wasn't meant to be easy and in the early years th was so. We tried to fall between ten and twenty acres of scrub a ye. and as this was before chainsaws it was a case of slogging betwe milking with brush hook and cross cut saw.

Being tulip oak country it also meant most trees had to be cut abov the spurs. This was managed by going up one or two lifts on th spring board. We could have had scrub fallen by contact for fou pound ten shillings an acre but couldn't afford it. In late year however we paid up to one hundred and twenty pounds an acre to have i pushed, ripped and bumpered by a tractor.

All milk and cream had to be carted to Eungella and the roads wer in such a poor state that as soon as it started to rain, on went th chains and they stayed there until the wet season was over. Th children had to be transported to and from school each day.

It wasn't until the introduction of tropical grasses and bette stock that we started to get on top and when we sold out in 1978 w had 320 acres cleared and grassed with tropicals and kikuyu, subdivided into 34 paddocks the third highest quota and the highest producing herd per cow on the range.

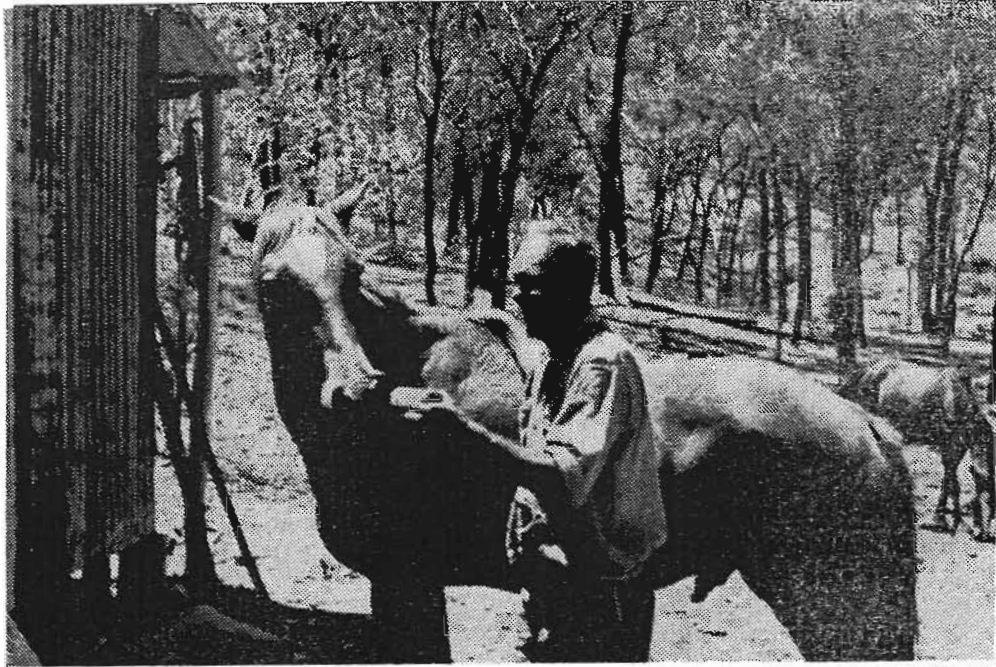
GEORGE BOSEL

At 12 years of age George came North with his father Pat who had been teamster working in the timber on Frazer Island. Pat was droving for Fred Shaw at Finch Hatton. Mum came up by boat and joined them. George started off as brake boy with the bullock wagons. Learnt the art (for which he had a natural ability) of breaking in bullocks and generally talking to and controlling bullocks and horses. He often told tales of teams with no real leaders, that didn't know "gee off" from "whoo" (or stop) or "Gee up".

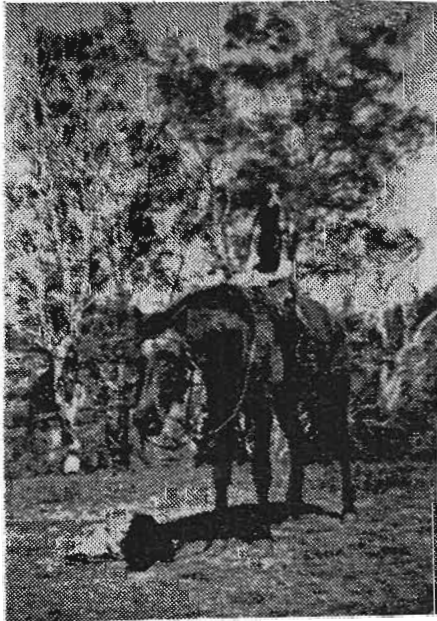
He spent some time out on Blenheim Station with Fred Angus where Arthur Bailey was manager in 1926.

Just for the record, George's father, Pat, was the original owner of "Queenslander" the top buckjumping horse of the day, leading the string for the Lance Skewthorpe Troup, throughout the buckjumping circuit of the East coast of Australia. George served his time tailing cattle from out the back, south to Rockhampton and all points of the compass in between and knew the county well everywhere. Later served his time as a "horse pug" on the P.E.I. road construction of the Eungella - Crediton roads as so did Fred Angus who also did some stone pitching on the retaining walls of the range road and George Brown, who did a lot of contract loading in the railway yard at Netherdale

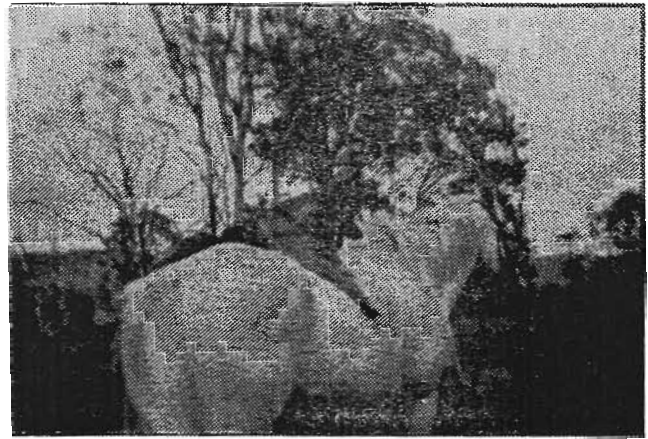
for thirty years which included a lot of Crediton timber, logs and sleepers. Being a "horse pug" had a slight advantage, in that they started work at 7a.m. at their camp. Other workers started at that time but had to be at least a mile out on the job.



*Tin of beer for his horse - George Bosel
Courtesy Geoff Bosel*



*Animal Training by George Bosel
Peter and Tony 1/9/1953
Nobody else could get near this horse
Courtesy Geoff Bosel*



*Mr Wong dingo pup on Snowy (George Bosel)
Courtesy Geoff Bosel*

A few names:-

Whittings, Whites, Havilah, Wests, Matthews, Czislawski, Risleys, Deans, Jack & Bert Willett, Tronsons, Ostwalds (2), Brakes, Mollenhagens, Blackwoods, Linklaters, Aspinalls, Angus, Freegards (2) Rush, Thomsetts, Cliff Old, Edward's shop, George Leach, Kluver, Plath, Morley, Rutter, Thediecki, Scott, Ross, Turners, Hickeys, Herberts, Dingle, Hutchins, Dudley Wood, Jack Woods.

TIN KETTLING:

When the men from the P.E.I. serenaded Mrs Morley Snr. in our covered cow yard. (Perhaps Jimmy O'Toole will remember this).

PICNIC DAYS:

At the River.

TYRE:

Filled with straw on the dodge when we couldn't get a replacement tyre during the war.

WOODEN MUDGUARDS:

Made of tulip oak on the Dodge. Driving into the top on foggy nights and out to Sam Freegards without lights during the war.

WEIGHT OF 10 gal. CAN OF MILK: (125lb.)

CHARCOAL BURNING

Burning hardwood in a pit during the war for Kaj Sprogoe. Used in his Producer gas plant driving his big car and also to fill as insulation around his coldroom. It is still there too, T & G hardwood walls 18" apart.

SUNDAYS AT TENNIS:

Stupidity of women always referring to each other as Mrs.

DOUG MOLLENHAGEN:

And the kid who dumped his pup in a can of cream and still got choice for it.

OLD CHARLIE BLACKWOOD

Still cutting scrub at 70.

THE GENTLEMAN BULLOCK DRIVER.

Bill Brownsey.

(She couldn't have seen him driving normally.)

THE OLD FELLOW WITH THE BISCUIT TIN FULL OF GOLD

TRUCK OUT OF CONTROL ON RANGE. with load of timber.

This was Alf Willett's blitz truck, but the low range on the gear box wasn't working. Consequently brake fluid boiled, full of air bubbles and no brakes. Had to keep hitting the inside wall of the

range to steady it. With a car full of passengers I saw him coming, and got out of the way - Steve Hutchinson only had 1 1/2 arms but he did a mighty job to keep it upright and pull it up right at the bottom.

THREE HOUR TRAIN TRIP TO MACKAY

With tea and scones at Newbury Junction. Joan Jennings was offered a cup of tea "all saucered and blowed" by a chap with drooping moustache and whiskers.

FIRST DAM ON THE RANGE

- and a boat Tim made himself - Note: still good after 30 years.



*Tim Foster and his boat 1955
Courtesy N. Foster*

CRICKET MATCHES ON THE TOP

JOAN:

School sports days at Finch Hatton and Christmas break-ups at West Crediton after which we had miles of cordial, icecreams and watermellons.

TEACHERS:

Very fond memories of Eddie Eschman and Colin Shepherd two of the best teachers I ever had - and Colin with his piano accordian and us kids doing the flag dance. How I always hid under a blanket going down the range.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Who is that ex-Crediton dairy farmer's wife now a movie star?

CHARLIE McLENNAN (Late of Walkerston)

Charlie McLennan has already appeared in this history in the Police story, saving an officer's life on the Eungella Range delivering mail from Gargett to the diggings.

Charlie's father Alec McLennan was born in Scotland, third August, 1860 and later came to Australia and was a bullock teamster. Charlie was born in 1881 and his mother was a Frazer (related to an ex-P.M.) was only a baby in 1890 when she was the only one saved in a vicious attack by blacks between Biloela and Rockhampton, by her mother throwing her under a bed.

Charlie married Grandpa Pascoe's daughter, Pascoe ran a horse team to Mt. Britton and it was he who took the first battery to the diggings up over Mt. Britton, up the Stork spur, with Billy Highman offside. He was Jean Highman's father-in-law.

Of interest too is the fact that Charlie McLennan did the first cremation in the district at Walkerston. That of a Japanese who drowned in a flood in the Pioneer River. Technical details of how this was carried out are not available. Suffice it to say half of the ashes (perhaps some wood ashes as well) were sent to Japan for burial while the police attended the burial of the other half in the Walkerston Cemetery.

Charlie, a bit of a devil, pinched one of the Chinaman's horses in Walkerston and painted him white "hey Charlie, you see my horse, no?" Ahwong said. "No Ahwong, no see", Charlie replied. The game was up at the end of the month when it rained, the whitewash washed off. Ah so.

Charlie was a good buckjump rider. He could ride anything. Old Wally Swayne had a place up Eton Range "Spring Vale". He used to drive cattle and did a bit of horse breeding too, ponies mainly. He had a top sire "Dandy Dick". Charlie got a colt "Digger" by him in about 1918.

Ron was born in 1905 and in the early 1920's Wally Swayne had a couple of hundred bullocks to go from Nebo to Mackay. Ron asked him to let him take them. "Do you think you can take them?" Wally asked. "Sure she'll be right" said Ron. "What's your name Son?" asked Wally. When he told him, Wally said "If you are one of Charlie McLennan's sons, you can handle anything - get going".

And, so, the ties with Eungella and Crediton gold diggings as Wally had been with his brother Ted in the teamster days to the diggings - Ted finished up a Member of Parliament for Mirani and pushed for the opening up of Crediton selections and Wally Swayne built the store and the first Post Office at Eungella, in our time.

SAM KENNY

Near the junction of the Circle Road and the road to Collinsville, was the farm of Norman and Eleanor Foster, with one girl and two boys.

Norman was the one who was always called on, when some farmer had a sick cow - a good vet. He was just as much at home vetting a sick engine with a stomach ache, or any other ailment. He did a lot of

reconditioning of the large number of stationary engines in the area, driving milking machines, water pumps etc., also installation of anything, building, repairing, carpentry or cementing.

At the last time I saw his place, he had more engines than cows, as he had relinquished dairying in 1960 and become involved in stockfeed, supplying at a reasonable, economic price to farmers, to help keep the industry viable, even among horse and poultry chaps, down the Pioneer Valley, as far as Sarina in the South.

Sam finished with the following verse:-

Give me a sense of humour Lord,
Give me grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life,
And pass it on to other folk.

MR CLIFF OLD RECALLS:-

Worked on the Crediton Roads for the P.E.I. first in January 1934. It took from 9am in the morning to 6pm that night, to travel from the Top, via the Diggings to Crediton.

He continued to work for the P.E.I. on the roads for 8 years to 1942. He married in 1938 and was camped then at the river.

In October, 1942, he took over the cream run from Len Burgess and was carting the milk after the Americans had established the trade. Cliff says that Gordon Ross, the son of one of the original settlers, Dean Ross - was a most efficient worker on the milk trucks. He couldn't speak too highly of him. Other drivers were Jack Angus and Dick Simpson.

Dick was the driver, whom I can recall, waiting at my place after having a feed at midnight and sleeping until the early hours, after we had finished packing tomatoes and loading his truck for him. So long as he arrived at Netherdale in time to load onto the train leaving at 5.45am for Mackay, he was happy. It was very civil of him.

Cliff bought Austin Turners farm in 1952 and successfully farmed there until he sold to Tom Jones and family, who legally took over on 1st January, 1968.

Cliff recalls that there were between 2 - 300 men in the Bull Paddock P.E.I. camp at the height of the construction in 1934 - 35 with perhaps 50 - 60 men over where the Crediton Hall now stands, in Single Mens quarters, with a few other married gangers further down the road.

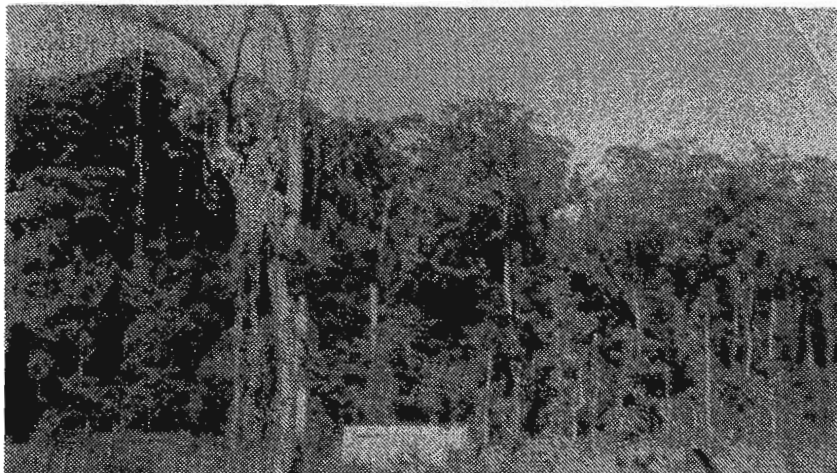
There were also other camps at the beginning of the Circle and at the camp known as Bells at the Crediton Creek and Broken River conjunction.

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF DALRYMPLE HEIGHTS

DAVE PARKER FAMILY

Mrs Ruby Bell-recalls:-

Back in the year 1922, Dave Parker, with his wife and seven children, of which I was one of two girls and five brothers, came from Shepparton, Victoria, where he had been operating a vineyard orchard, and selected a block out Bee Creek, on the Eungella range. Charlie Dunning, on the block further out, known as Bosels "Up Downs", felled five acres for Dave and, when it was burnt, it was grassed with rhodes grass and they built their first home.



First Camp - ~~N Foster~~ DAVE PARKER

First impressions on coming up the Range into the rainforest, were the beautiful butterflies everywhere, and the great number of birds, particularly the call of the whip bird, is always vivid in my mind. The smell of the wet moss on the trees is also everlasting - as also is the smell of the smoke of a camp fire lit with dried scrub wood, very distinctive smell. All the streams had crystal clear water absolutely clear and beautiful to drink and the pebbles in Bee Creek were lovely to look at.

Our nearest neighbours were Chas Dunning, 1 1/2 miles to the west and the Goodes, at the Top, 2 miles to the east.

We had practically no school for six years - us kids liked that then a bit of correspondence.

But we had a busy life, digging the ground with a mattock and planting vegetables which we sold around town. Irrigation? Yes we had the first irrigation, us kids carting literally hundreds of kerosene tins of water up from the creek to keep the crops going. Dad tried many fruit trees, but found the fruit fly too severe. Finally he settled on citrus and the Parker orange grove, at Bee Creek, was known for years.

Our first house was 24ft x 12ft to which was added side lean-too's later. We had a JR fuel stove in the kitchen and that made things easier for Mum, cooking. The house was made of sawn timber, iron roof, but no floor - just hard packed dirt.

Furniture was mainly kerosene cases (2 x 4gal tins of kerosene came in a case), and we used sugar bags, washed several time to make them soft, and opened out, to make aprons, hand and foot towels and for overalls for when we started dairying. Corn or potato bags, washed and opened out and sewn together, made good warm blankets for the beds. These were known as Waggas.

Washing was done by boiling in kerosene tins over an open fire - later the outside copper was in vogue - and scrubbing on the old fashioned scrubbing board.

Of course a set of Potts Irons, that is three flat irons, with a detachable handle were in use for ironing, - one hot and in use, while the other two were on the wood stove heating. Everyone was well turned out, never the less.

Going out was always a problem, only one or two smaller ones at a time on the horse - if any more, then on Shank's Pony.

Kerosene lighting was the order of the day, with an elegant glass lamp on the table and a couple of hurricane lanterns for outside use. Wax matches were much better than the wooden ones too, as they got damp and wouldn't light.

In the early days we made damper in the camp oven using plain flour, a little salt and 1 bi-carb of soda and 2 cream of tartar. Later, with bread making, we used first the Potato yeast, then Yellow yeast with 2 lemons, 4 tablespoons sugar, 2 tablespoons flour and a cup of water. As the years progressed, we used Dry Balm and solid yeast.

I can recall that Jim Goode (Bert's father) was the Mountain Officer on the Range Road. His job was to patrol it and see that it was open - and go to the Netherdale Railway Station, meet the midday train, in 1928's and later to bring up the mail and meat etc. Lennie Burgess did the carting after the Guest House was built in the early 1930's.

OUR OLDEST RESIDENTS

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| Mrs Alice White | Aged 94 | (Wife of Jack, Block 27) |
| Mrs Thomson | Aged 94 | P.E.I. days at Eungella Mother of Geoff Koch council worker for years in Crediton. |
| Mrs Walter (Jock) Howie | Aged 87 | P.E.I. days at Crediton and Eungella, Block at River. |
| Mr J.R. (Chapie) Thomas | Aged 85 | Block 28 |
| Cec Archer | Aged 81 | Original selector still on his Block. |
| Nell West | | First married woman on Crediton Block. |

On leaving for home, I had the pleasure of receiving from him an autographed photo of himself and an autographed copy of his latest book at the time.

"For Norman, in appreciation of his thoughtfulness of my stay in his mountains.

Alan Marshall

Aug 57"



Allan Marshall



Jack Cunningham, Nellie, Johnnie and Wayne

MRS JESSIE WARD RECALLS:-

Dad and Mum and family - the Cunninghams - first went up to Eungella about 1921 - 2 and held a bit of land at the top. Built a double storey boarding house on top of hill behind present Post Office, named "Linga Longa". Also took up a block up Dalrymple Heights.

Mrs Cunningham had a good voice and could really COOEE-E-E. She could stand at the Guest House and call the men down from the farm with a cooee for dinner. This must have been better than two miles as the crow flies.

While we were at the Top, Mum taught us children, Bonny, Alex, Mary, Jessie, Nellie and Bob, the correspondence school lessons.

Dan left and went down to the Greyhound Hotel for a time and then back to Netherdale Hotel, returning to Eungella in 1931.

Bonny was married in 1931, Mary in April, 1932, I was 3rd July, 1935 and Nell later that year when they were out at the Bull Paddock with the bullock team, on the cedar. Alex had a team then too.

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EDITORS NOTE

While working on the farm, Jessie made butter for the P.E.I. m working on the road.

BERT EDGE

While working on the P.E.I. his horse got sick. So Bert poured bottle of whiskey down his neck and raced him up and down the road mix it up a bit.

But he died anyway.

LEN PARKS

Had an old bull and let Fred Angus shoot him for pig feed.

Asked Fred if he would like a cup of tea - "Yes" said Fred, "We'll have a cup of tea".

Len made tea after he had fished out the egg he was cooking.

FRED HERBERT

Had trouble catching his horse. He was pretty stirred up by th time he got him to the extent that he laid him up against the wall o the shed like a bicycle.

That's standing a horse up!!

PERSON SERVING CREDITON

ON MIRANI SHIRE COUNCIL DIVISION 3 COUNCIL PROCLAIMED 16.1.1916

| | | | |
|------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Bill Ward | May 1943 | - August 1955 | Councillor |
| B.D. Wood | Sept 1955 | - May 1964 | Councillor |
| B.D. Wood | Sept 1964 | - March 1970 | Chairman |
| M. Ostwald | April 1973 | - March 1976 | Councillor |

PORT CURTIS CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY C., Ltd.

Mackay Zone Directors Walter (Jock) Howie
Harold Hewitt
Robert Bell
Eric Ross

Eric Ross is now Chairman of Directors.
Assistant Factory Manager - Stanley Mollenhagen.

QUEENSLAND DAIRYMAN'S ORGANISATION

Crediton Branch Secretary - Gordon Linklater
A lifetime of service to Crediton.

PATULLO FAMILY

Originally came to the Sutter Creek area to the west of Crediton in the hinterlands in 1870.

This would have been on the old bullock team trail from Rockhampton and on to "Exmore" which was the first station in the area in those days, about 1860.

Patullo is an old Scottish name, actually of ancient CELTIC origin.

The family included De's, Lloyd, Noel, Warren and Bill, Ramona and Rose.

They shifted to Eungella in 1931 and out to Crediton in 1932 where they operated a general store near where the West Crediton Pine Trees still stand, supplying mainly the large numbers camped there and in the other two camps for the road gangs.

Later they shifted down Long Gully on Block 23 towards the river where they were the first to engage in dairying from Crediton, supplying cream to Mackay in 1935. Pat also worked on the P.E.I. roads.

Mrs Patullo, now in her late seventies and is still well and has survived her husband Pat, a good violin player in his time and an excellent swimmer.

Lloyd Patullo can remember Eddy Lyons. Eddy Cash and Brett Rosalier in the old road camp days.

OFF THE RECORD

A PAIR OF JACKS

Jack Willett and Jack Cullen were probably the two best axeman in the Crediton area, in fact in the whole of the Mackay District.

Both big strong, well built men, of great disposition, Jack Willett was probably the fastest racing axeman, while I've seen Jack Cullen drive an axe into a log up to the eye that no one else could get out.

AUBREY WEST

Came up with his brother Gordon in mid 1935 on Block 37.

Aubrey had a wooden leg fitting onto a short stump above his knee -- but was still very capable and likeable man.

I can recall one day he rode a horse around to my camp -- came galloping into the camp, intending to pull up in a swirl of dust, unfortunately he hit the clothes line just in the waist section, got wipped into the air and then brought up a much greater cloud of dust than he had anticipated when he hit the ground.

Got himself up, dusted off, and then said with a dirty big smile across his face.

"Good day --- mate, How you going?"

Gordon would have been the first to get married in the settlement when he married Nell - one of there daughters of Jack Cunningham a bullock teamster.

MILLS AND TIMBER GETTERS

CREDITONS FIRST SAWMILL

by Dick Whi

When the gold mine at Mt. Coolan ceased operations in 1935, quite a lot of the men who had been put out of work as a result, came to Mackay looking for work. Four of these men, Bill Matthews, and the White brothers, Myself, Tom and Jack, had a good critical look around Mackay and its environs and liked what we saw. We could see a great future for this isolated country town.

We decided to go into the sawmilling business, in the Crediton area on the Eungella Range, as it had just been opened up for a good settlement for dairying and mixed farming. There was plenty of timber available, both soft and hard woods, and a site on the banks of Crediton Creek, within the Bull Paddock, was available for our mill. This was about eight miles from the township of Eungella, at the top of the Range.

We purchased a small portable steam engine (about 12 h.p.) from the Burgess family, who operated a saw mill at Eungella. The engine was hauled by truck to the Broken River, and from there to the mill site by a bullock team. The road from the river was still under construction and so the old corduroy track, roughly under the line of the present power line, had to be taken.

A breaking down frame, sawbench and other milling equipment was purchased from the Schneider Brothers at Mt. Ossa, and transported to the mill site in the same way as the steam engine.

Bill Matthews, who was married with a wife and three children, (two boys and a girl, Shirley, who later married Frank Dingle on Block 47 and later Block 48) was the architect and designer of the entire milling operation. What that man did with the tools and facilities that were available to him, at the time, was little short of miraculous.

Following the loss of our brother Jack, aged twenty-one years (acute appendicitis and too far from medical assistance), we were joined by the other members of our family, our father Jack, our Mother and brothers Frank and Stan and sister Molly. Dad took up a block of land that was over the Creek and across the road from the mill (Block 27) and began to dairy later on.

Things went well at the mill for about three years and then the road set in. There was a war pending and everything began to tighten up. One by one we were obliged to leave the mill and seek work elsewhere. We intended to return when things looked up again, but by late 1939 the war was a reality.

Eventually, with Frank in the Air Force and the other three of us in the Army, the mill was forgotten by us and left for Bill to operate a

best he could, with a bit of local, casual labour.

To end this story, Mum and Dad and Molly continued to run the dairy until after the war, when the four of us returned relatively unscathed, they sold out and moved to Mackay where our Mother still lives.

EDITORS NOTE

Jack Smith and Dick White formed Smith White and Co - and late Smith White Agencies, where Stan is also occupied (boiling the billy I think).

Frank joined the Pioneer Shire Council and was later a very competent and well respected Foreman for many years. Molly married Bob West - a brother of Gordon West on Block 37.

Mother White, a very special lady amongst the pioneering women of the times, was an excellent cook and house keeper, made all the shirts for her men folk, a terrific neighbour and is still alive today, Bless her - at the age of 94.

THE HOSPITAL BRIDGE

by Frank White

A recent article in the "Daily Mercury" stated that the Hospital Bridge was to be redecked in the near future. It might be of interest to record about a small part of the work involved in the construction of the original bridge.

It was built about 50 years ago and the tender for the supply of the timber, for the superstructure i.e. the decking, headstocks, kerbs and handrails etc. was granted to the small firm of Matthews and White, operating at the 'Bull Paddock', at Crediton.

This area was situated on the eastern side of Crediton Creek where the Circle Road crosses it, approximately 12 kilometers from Eungella township.

The quoted price for the supply of the timber was 37/6 (\$3.75) per 100 super feet, landed on the job site. As a bold statement, that does not mean much, but the work involved (for the monetary return) although common place in those days, would appear to be rather herculean by todays standards.

In proper sequence, the progress of events that gets the timber from the forest to the bridge goes like this;-

FIRSTLY, a permit had to be obtained from the Forestry Department, who designated an area from which to cut, which, in this case, was Hazelwood Creek, part of Crediton State Forest. This is a large uninhabitated (except for timber-cutters), virtually trackless section of land, which is now on the southern side of the Eungella Dam Road. The cutting area was 15 - 20 km from our mill site.

The Main Roads Department stipulated species of timbers they would accept, and that included the following, which were available Hazelwood.

IRON BARK Both red and gray in reasonable quantities and excellent quality. However it lived up to its name, extremely hard the cutter and his tools.

BLUE GUM Limited in quantity, but very doubtful in quality due the ever present risk of it being ringy or wind cracked.

BLOODWOOD Same as Blue Gum.

RED & YELLOW STRINGYBARK Very limited in quantity but good quality

SPOTTED OR SCENTED GUM Limited in quantity but good quality. This timber used to be greatly prized for use in dance floors, because of the very slippery texture of the wood.

Flooded Gum or Rose Gum as it was marketed later, was not acceptable, but they were beautiful trees, tall, straight and very easy to cut - the sawn timber was almost indistinguishable from Blue Gum. By some mysterious alchemy, some of this timber always seemed to get loaded amongst the other timbers for delivery. Unfortunately the bridge inspector was a very learned timber man, and rejected most of it. It was worth a try.

The next joy was to fall the selected trees. This was some with the axe and cross-cut saw. It was all 'Bloody Hard Work". Chain saw came 20 years too late for us.

The normal procedure when cutting would be to form two man teams drive as close to where your days timber stand was located and work a few feet from there. This presented no problems on the flat, but unfortunately, a lot of the best timber had a rather perverse habit of growing in the least accessible places.

A reasonable selection of equipment for a team would be an axe each a six foot cross cut saw (probably M tooth or peg raker) a few wedges in a bag, a fourteen pound hammer, a crow bar or a trewella jack and a water bag and tucker bag each. Doesn't sound much but could become a bit heavy at the end of a day clambering around rocky hillsides. A requirement of the Forestry Department licence was that the timber had to be taken on a face, whether they were on a rocky hillside, in broken gullies, in creek beds or on hill tops on flats.

Having fallen the timber, the next step was to measure and cut it into the required lengths according to our contract requirements. They were now ready to be measured by the Forest Office, Tom Ball or Ernie Corn, and stamped with the crown hammer, as also the stump from which they were cut. Royalty to the Crown was paid on this measurement, length in feet and centre girth in inches, clear of all bark, properly computed, gave a content of superficial feet, which is a piece of timber twelve inches long, twelve inches wide and one inch thick. It is now measured in cubic metres.

The logs are now ready to be 'snigged' into position from where they can be loaded onto trucks, for transport to the mill. This necessitated the use of bullock teams, of which there were quite a few available at that time. However, even then the bullocks were being gradually superceded by tractors.

Once the logs had been 'snigged' to a central loading position, loading could proceed, but this, even with the use of tractors, was a fairly laborious procedure. Experience is the key to all timber operations, The skids on which the logs were to be rolled on to the trucks, had to be fairly substantial to carry the weight, which could be from 4 to 10 ton each. These skids had to be put in place by manpower alone, quite an effort. The chains used for 'snigging' and tying down, had to be very strong and, although of 'high tensile' steel, were very heavy, as also the Trehwella jacks used for lifting and moving logs.

Once the load of logs was tied down securely, the trip to the mill could begin. Except in wet weather, this presented little difficulty, although the poor state of the roads, where there were any, made for a very slow trip. All the trucks and trailers used in those days, had to be in excellent condition to stand up to the work.

With the logs unloaded at the mill, they went firstly through the 'vertical breaking down' saws which cut the logs into three flitches, lengthwise. Each flitch went individually over the 'No. 1' circular saw bench then, and was cut down to what ever sizes were required, by the use of a fence, which was an adjustable bench gauge, allowing a fraction extra for shrinkage or seasoning or drying out. The work, although heavy, was alleviated by a well laid out mill and well greased skids made for fairly easy handling of the sawn timber.

Once milled, the timber was then loaded onto trucks for transport to Netherdale Railway Station. The trip to Eungella was a pleasure, a fair road with sufficient room for two vehicles to pass, and the beautiful surroundings, particularly from Broken River to the 'the Top', where the scrub timber was so thick and large that it almost formed a canopy overhead. Even on the hottest day, this part of the trip could be likened to driving through an air conditioned tunnel of timber. It was always a delight to hear the call of the 'whampoo pigeon' and to see the Goden Flash of the 'Regent' bird in its flight.

The top of the range at Eungella was always a mandatory stop. This was necessary to see that all chains and tying down ropes were tight and secure. If anything slipped or let go on the Range, the consequences could have been serious. Safety first was always the order of the Day, whether on the road or in the bush.

The Range road was much narrower than it is today, all dirt or decomposed granite construction, with the infamous 'Stony Pinch' to negotiate at the bottom, which was a bit steeper and included a few rock ledges to negotiate (a bit difficult going up on your own without a couple to push). Quite often we found, when we were going down with

a load, tourists going up were quite a problem, and provided many a 'hairy' moment. They would 'freeze' at the wheel and stop in the centre of the road. Quite often it was necessary to lock our own vehicle, by using big stones to chock the wheels, while you drove the tourists' vehicle out of what appeared to him to be a hopeless situation.

At Netherdale Railway Station, a quick visit to the Station Mistress, Mrs Trevethan, to sign the consignment notes and then the real fun began, the off loading of the timber from the road truck to the rail wagons was easy to start with, but as it proceeded, became more difficult as the heavy pieces had to be lifted higher. The average weight of a stick of decking 18 foot long and 9 inches by 4 inches. was between 3 and 4 cwt and a headstock 18 foot long and 12 foot by 7 foot was approximately 6 cwt. The serenity of the surrounding hills was often shattered by a bursts of expletives of rustic origin, as somebodys hands and feet did not get out of the road quick enough.

Once loaded and chained down with the railway chains and toggles, the timber was transported to Mackay and then the reverse procedure applied, from rail to road again and then the short trip to the bridge site. But even here the tribulations had not quite ended, as it still had to be unloaded and checked for quality. Any unsatisfactory timber was summarily rejected and no payment made.

While this account may seem to be full of complaints, such was not intended. Conditions as stated, were perfectly normal in those days and as such were accepted. There appeared to be a lot of hard work without much reward, but that was not entirely correct.

There were a lot of nice things about it, mainly concerning people.

The unfailing kindness and courtesy of the Netherdale Station Mistress.

The patience and good nature of the train crews, who, although they condemned us to eternal damnation, for being late, never failed to hold a train, while we finished loading or tightening down. To miss a train meant 'demurrage' had to be paid on the wagons standing idle until the next train removed them.

The total impartiality of the Forstry Officer who was always extremely fair in his assessment of faults in the timber.

The decency of the Main Roads Department Bridge Inspector who, (possibly because of our youth) always seemed to err on the lenient side when it came to condemning timber.

The Main Roads Department Officials who made every effort to see that payment was made as soon as goods were delivered.

The Foreman in charge on the Bridge, and the blokes who worked there for their smiling readiness to help unload.

AND, the welcome oasis of the Netherdale Pub on a hot day, hosted by Mr & Mrs Arthur Bagley and, last but not least, would you believe, we made a 'quid' out of it!

WOODMANS SAWMILL CREDITON

Woodmans Mackay Pty. Ltd., first started in Bridge Road about 1939.

The Principals were- Eddie Woodman, Mackay, Dr. Neete, Biggenden and Mr Geoff Gaydon, a Dentist of Childrens.

Mr Jack Cunningham of Eungella was appointed 'Bush Boss' for this area, securing contacts in the late 1930's, tying up large tracts of timber for their use later.

About the latter end of 1942, they bought the mill at Crediton from Matthew and White. This was located on the banks of Crediton Creek, and was managed by brother Mark Woodman until 1947. A new mill had been built up on the high bank, 50 yards away by them, powered by another 14 hp steam engine, which was built in with brick work. This engine, with a good head of steam, kept there by "Chief" and "Bart" sometimes, operated a marine type steam winch for yard work, vertical breaking down frame, No. 1 bench saw and a docking saw. Wally Manitschky had quite a bit to do with setting up this mill with Eddie and Dave Woodman.

Mark cut some beautiful full red cedar before he left, and later had it made into furniture by Bob Warry, Cabinet and Furniture Maker of Mackay. Table, beds etc. are still in use by members of the Woodman Family.

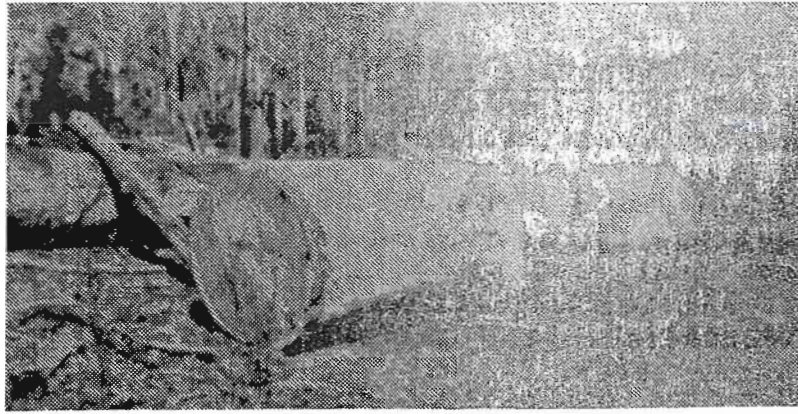
Incidentally, in 1944, Mark procured for me, from his Dad in Mackay, one of his Special 'Mons Maree' Cavendish banana suckers. He was a very keen gardener. So were both Mark and I. They are still growing behind my house at Crediton, at this date. Bananas from the first bunch were up to thirteen inches long. At our altitude of 2800 feet, they are 1100 feet over the projected maximum altitude of commercial production, which is 1700 feet. At 2800 feet the suckers take twice as lng to throw a bunch, and twice as long to mature and ripen.

MILL MANAGERS after Mark were Dave, Tom Bull, Pat Kelly, Don Agnew and Merv Ostwald.

BENCHMEN Top line men included Cyril Day, Eddie (Nugget) Smith, Pat Kelly and Ray Rogers.

MILL HANDS Some of the men working in the mill and yard include Ray and Bernie Rogers, Norm Deakin, Jack Fraxer (he also cut for Jack Willett), Fred Herbert, Bob Rush, Jack Wood, Gordon West, Seymour Tronson, George Rutter, Jim Cowan, Merv Ostwald, George and Sid France, Lionel Walz, Noel Taylor, Lance Johnson, Happy Patterson, Olga Funnell (kitchen), George Waters and wife (barracks kitchen), Doug Foster and Bill Robinson.

John Woodman came out of the Army in 1945 - came up to Eungella in 1946 for six months, then shifted into the quarters at Crediton and Mrs Johnie did the cooking for a period, helped by Mr Wright



*'Head Log' Flooded gum tree
Courtesy J. & M. Woodman*

Johnie was involved with logging with the tractors, particularly with the Fiat Crawler, with the wheel steering, and then with hauling the large amounts of sawn timber to the rail at Netherdale, with the first Mack six wheeler, carting 5 - 6000 super feet at a time, as body loads. The heaviest out put was at the of the Korean War Contract, when the mill was fully staffed and working 9-10 hours a day, six days a week, for about six weeks. This was for a total contact of supply of 1,500,000 super feet of timber, which was split up by them with their two mills and Lipscombes mill, Woodmans Crediton mill supplying the larger amount.

Normal licence of about 8000 super feet per day was suspended by the Forstry Department for the duration of the order, to an open licence.

Snow Woodman put in an appearance about 1951 - for three years, and then Garney who started in the bush, at about 13 years of age, "blue tonguing" for Johnie, getting the logs out.

EDITORS NOTE

Blue tongue is the term given to the "poor little sod" who has to run madly about the bush doing all the hard yakka(work), like lumping heavy snig chains about, pulling out the winch rope from the back of the tractor, getting a billy can of water, so fast and so efficiently that his tongue is certainly hanging out like a blue tongue lizard, while the tractor driver just sits up on a padded seat, in comfort, on the tractor, drives about and gives orders.

Keith Burgess was also carting logs and sawn timber, and both he and Johnie were skilled operators.

Merv Ostwald later operated the mill on a reduced scale, and then it was shifted to Eungella before it was closed finally with all milling then being done at the town plant at Ooralea, which had been built and operated since the late 1940's probable 1948 - this was all electric. It is still operating.

BURGESS FAMILY MILL AT EUNGELLA

Were on a farm at Finch Hatton at first where the Scriha family are now and also another up the Gorge.

The whole family came up to Eungella in 1923 - the range road was only a bullock track, used by teamsters to get wagons of timber down to the mills.

They decided to start a small mill to cut out their own house and took up a 6 hp International Engine to drive the bench, which they built themselves. This was on the site where Davis and Hall later built a Butchers Shop - on the corner of Harold Petersens property.

Dobson's Mill had been operating previous to this, but was gone then, so there was plenty of work just cutting for locals, Parkers, Bells, Howies etc.

There was plenty of beautiful white Eungella Gum around the Top and this was used for local buildings and Netherdale to Finch Hatton. There was no sale for it further afield as Dad Burgess went to Brisbane and tried to get orders but they would not listen to him.

Then they had a 20 hp Titan Tractor and with a wagon, were able to pull a couple of logs at a time from Bee Creek. When they had a few loads up they would line the tractor up with the bench and drive with that.

Fred Shaw from Finch Hatton came up and bought what timber was available and suggested we get a steam engine. There was one available at Ayr, from Kovorich's Cane Farm, a twin cylinder 35 hp, which had only been used a couple of times for irrigation, but was not suitable. We also procured two benches and a vertical breaking down frame from Mt. Coolan, which we brought in over the Blenheim Range and Mt. Barker.

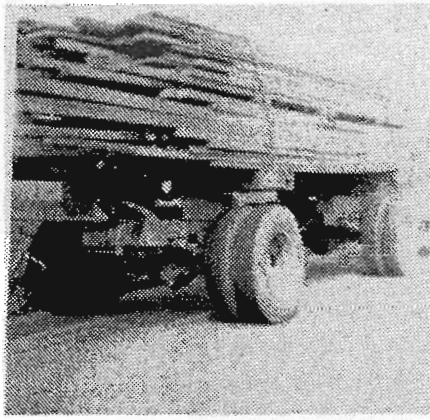
George and Cecil were growing up fast and cleared eleven acres of scrub on Block 97, Parish of Eungella, when it became available in early 1930's and as soon as it was burnt, the new mill was built there. That was on Sunny Boy Creek where it stayed for years. A second engine was bought and that was sold to Matthews and White who started up a mill at Crediton in 1935.

Later we bought a third engine, in fact it was part of a whole mill available from Charlie Bentley at Pine Vale for 800. This included another planing machine (already had one from Fred Shaw), two benches and a Canadian breaking down saw.

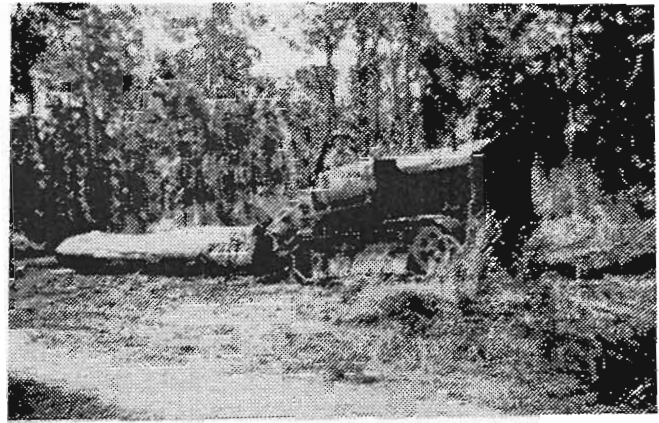
With this gear, they were able to tuun out good T. and G. flooring, also VJ Boards for internal wall cladding, and also cover stripping etc.

We can recall the old solid tyre truck we had still in operation in 1935, and the KS5 International and the old brown Cletnac tractor we had too. These were kept out of the sale when we sold the mill to Willett Brothers in 1948.

The KS5 was then sold to Petersen and White.



*Sawn timber leaving Burgess Mill
Courtesy Ken Burgess*



*Early Crawler Tractor
Courtesy Ken Burgess*

WILLETT BROTHERS

Comprised Jack, Les and Alf with the latter doing the milling. They operated quite successfully for a number of years probably ten to twelve years - when it was sold to Parkside (Tappiolas Brothers from Ayr).

Jack Willett had been working a bullock team and later tractor, logging out Crediton farms and carting on his International six wheeler. Les had been working firstly on the P.E.I. then on a D6 logging tractor, also pulling some of the biggest logs out of Cec Archers and Doug Mullenhagens Crediton blocks during the latter part of the war.



Flood damage on Range Road, Half way Creek 1958

The Willets had half a football team on their own. There was Jack, Bert, Alf, Harold, Roy, Les and Arthur.

PARKSIDE

Continued milling for a number of years, at a greatly increased tempo with a heavier staffing. They introduced the immunisation process of chemical injection, under pressure, to preserve timbers against attack from borers etc., and to greatly increase the life of some varieties of timber.

In the early 1970's they closed this mill and shifted their whole operation to their Bridge Road, Mackay plant, which is still operating.

LIPSCOMBE MILL

Was first set up by Alex Cunningham, with the help of Fred Angus. Most of the plant was bought from Eastment and shifted up from Sarina. Woodmans Pty. Ltd., owned it for a while.

This was later owned and operated by Bert Lipscombe and milled a lot of timber in the time it was operating. Bert later had a bit to do with the mill set up by Jackson and Edge at Netherdale, finally closing it down.

CUNNINGHAMS MILL

Was virtually a sleeper mill set up by Bob Cunningham and his two sons, Neil and Russell, with a limited licence for private merchant timber.

CLEWS MILL

Jim Clews Snr., built and operated a mill up Dalrymple Heights way on Sid Boons property for a few years. Sold to Ian Hazelwood and plant sold to A. Gibbons.

ALAN GIBBONS

Built a mill out along the Hazelwood Creek road, on the S.W. boundary of Sam Freegards Block 26. This was on Block 59, a special lease 26842, part of Crediton State Forest. This mill cut a great number of railway and mill sleepers.

TREVOR SMITH

Present day timberman, working mainly in the Crediton State Forest, Hazelwood Creek area. He is turning out all manner of hardwood products for mills, and bridges, girders, corbels, sleepers etc., using the circular saws, also cutting cedar stumps for specialty lines of figured timbers for table tops etc. A licence has been granted for this mill, which will progress to a saw bench set up shortly. Up until now, Hargan saws have been doing the job.

YARNS

A year or two later, when Nell West was due with her second child Ned (George Edward), Harry Ward the Carrier, got Charlie Linklater to run her into town in his car instead of his rough old truck.

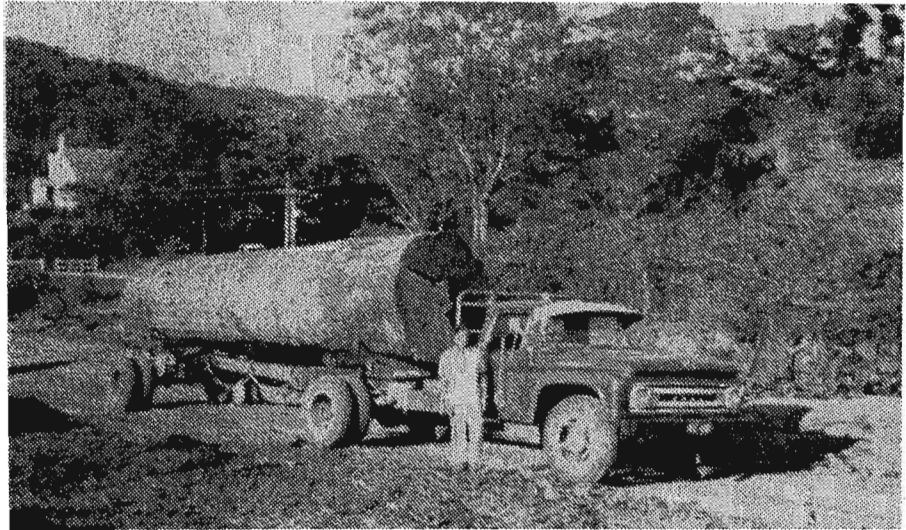
Harry charged West £5 (or \$10) for the service which Wests paid but I don't think Charlie got a Penny of the five Quid.

BATE'S SAWMILL

at Bee Creek, with Bill Cornwell and Bob McCliman.
Others engaged in timber at Crediton area.

Don Gurr (Inter. Truck)
Nobby & Pat Wennell
Ernie & Barry Campbell
Lorry & Betty Willett
Harold Peterson. (K.B.6. Inter)
Gordon & John Ross (D4 Cat & "Sally")
Alan Gibson (Inter)
George Brown & Jimmy
Jack Frazer
Ted Warner & Bert Edge
Bill & Mel Burgess (Trucks & Tractors)

THE BEAGLE BOYS- All those young Burgess's from
Ken down in the latter 1950's
to this present day for the
ravenous appetites for mowing
the logs down and their habit
walking across the paddock in
group like the comic bo
characters of those days.



*Rose Gum Log
Courtesy Mel Burgess*

BILLY BURGESS

With his D6 Cats was instrumental in doing much of the paddock
clearing of stumps and lantana for cultivation and pasture improve
work and also quite a few water conservation type dams at vario
points of the farms for easier crops and pasture irrigation purposes

PHILLIP WINDSOR

With his Allis HD21 put in our first water harvesting type dam, wi
aneconomic storage capacity of 6 1/2 times the storage to the amou
of earth shifted. Also other clearing work for Geoff Risley on t
plateau and other blocks also.

CHAPTER 4

PORT CURTIS CO-OP DAIRY AND DAIRY YARNS, SHOWS, COMPETITIONS, VEGETABLES, ETC.

PORT CURTIS CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY ASSN. LTD.

In March 1930, a new factory was opened on the Railway Wharf site, after the amalgamation with the Mackay District Co-operative Butter Association and the P.C.D. on 11th of July, 1929. Mr Frank Rollinson was appointed Manager in October, 1929 and supervised layout and construction during the building period, which cost 14,000. Later Mr H.A. Webster and Mr Galletly were the first two local directors of the Mackay Zone for the P.C.D. Association.

From this point on, Dairying in the Mackay District has not looked back - as supplies rapidly increased from the Mackay Coastal area, Rise and Shine area, Dalrymple Heights and Eungella and then in 1937 from the Blue Mountains and Crediton settlements. This development was of course due to the factory being available to manufacture rapidly, a perishable product, and road and rail service being there to get that product to the factory, expeditiously, daily.

All had to be provided and work hand in hand for success.

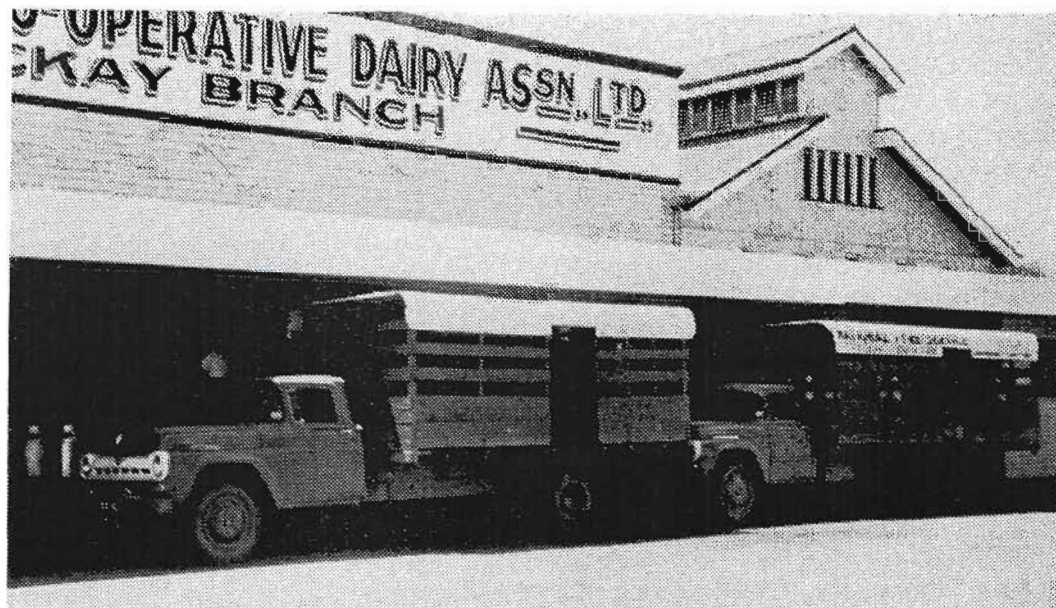
Unfortunately, on occasion, due to severe weather conditions and other factors, the road system fails now and again, and recourse has to be made for Government Funds for repairs and maintenance which are not readily available, and they definitely have not kept up with the modernisation of the transport of the industry, with 'on farm' pick up of 'bulk refrigerated milk'.

Sufficient ratings cannot be obtained up until this moment, by the Local shire Councils for any of this work, because of the recognised lower rate or return for the product of this industry. so it must fall back on the Main Roads Department to provide funding. It would be sound advice for the Government of the day to go back and read the Hansard reports of Parliamentary Debates from page 1292 on November, 8th 1934 to page 1325. It was the obligation of the Government to provide funding for roads, and as the need for the products of the industry are still there, and are being met by the farmers at a price set by the Queensland Government, then the obligation still exists to provide roads of a standard necessary to carry the type of vehicle of the day and, that for the dairying and the timber industry is large semi-trailer units - operating under severe weather conditions of heavy rainfall.

Mr Frank Rollinson was still manager of the P.C.D. factory in Mackay 1937, when Crediton cream was first produced. It was he who made an arrangement with Winchcombe Carson Ltd., of Brisbane, who were agents for Lister products from England, to supply cream separators through the factory, on a practically no deposit basis and very little per month taken out of the cream cheque as soon as a settler wished supply. On the same basis, the P.C.D. Association supplied cans, strainers and milking buckets, so that a farmer, supplying the

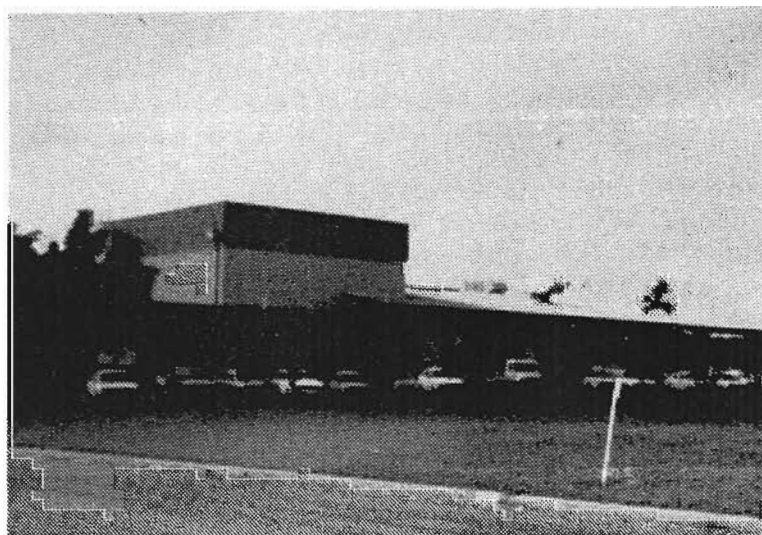
association was at almost no expense or capital outlay. This was a great boom and greatly appreciated by all.

By the same token, when the Americans required milk for their Recreation and Recreation centre in Mackay, in early 1943, the P.C.D. had a large number of 10 gallon cans that they used for inter city despatch to meet short fall in supply in any area. These were readily available to us, to meet the new demand of a changing transport situation.



*Milk Trucks - Old Factory 1966-67
Milk in Cans
Courtesy H.T. & T.A. Petersen*

Later, of course, the farmers provided their own cans mainly of the 8 gallon capacity. They still needed good men to lift them from the ground onto the deck of the road transport, especially if there were more than six lined up, to throw up in one swinging action.



*Mackay Milk Factory
February 1980*

Bulk pick up started with Harold Peterson still carting in 1976. Some milk still went by cans, but full conversion had to be by 1st July, 1978, when three bulk tankers were put on the job to handle all areas to Mackay, including Sarina.

Expansion of sales, and the necessity to up grade handling facilities at the depot, for full bulk delivery, necessitated the construction of a new factory built on the Paget Industrial Estate, at a cost of \$1.8 million. This modern factory has a rating of 40,000 litres per day and was opened in February, 1980 and should see the industry through the foreseeable future.

The need for quotas for individual farm supply came up in the early 1950's but it wasn't until November, 1955 they were introduced and it seems now they are here to stay - as a necessary evil. They were necessary in the first place because Crediton - in fact Eungella as a whole, was not getting their fair share of the flush summer milk supply - only called on for the higher cost winter supply which they were able to supply.

FACTORY MANAGERS

Frank Rollinson
Merv Wellings
Tom Taylor
Merv Carney

MACKAY ZONE DIRECTORS

Harry Webster
Mr. A.A. Gallethy
Gus Muller
Herb Burston
Alex Kippen
Jock Howie
Harold Hewitt
Fergy McFadzen
John Matson
Bob Bell
Eric Ross

CREAM RUN CARRIERS

Early carriers (cream)
Len Burgess
Harry Ward
Reg Woods

| | | | MILK | and CREAM |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------|-----------|
| Cliff Old | took over | October, 1942 | | |
| John Thomsett | took over | November, 1954 | " | " |
| Brodie and Petersen | took over | November, 1954 | " | " |
| Harold Petersen | took over | 1st April, 1964 | " | " |
| Aiken Brothers | took over | 1st July, 1978 | " | |
| Steve Grubb | took over | 1982 | " | |
| and now the Jordon Brothers | | | | |

STUD STOCK FOR CREDITON FARMS

Most farms at Crediton started with the best stock that was available.

Charlie Linklater had Jersey cows with plenty of good Crawford blood. He has always delighted in stringing off pedigrees to anyone interested or would listen. A remarkable talent, that only a few have

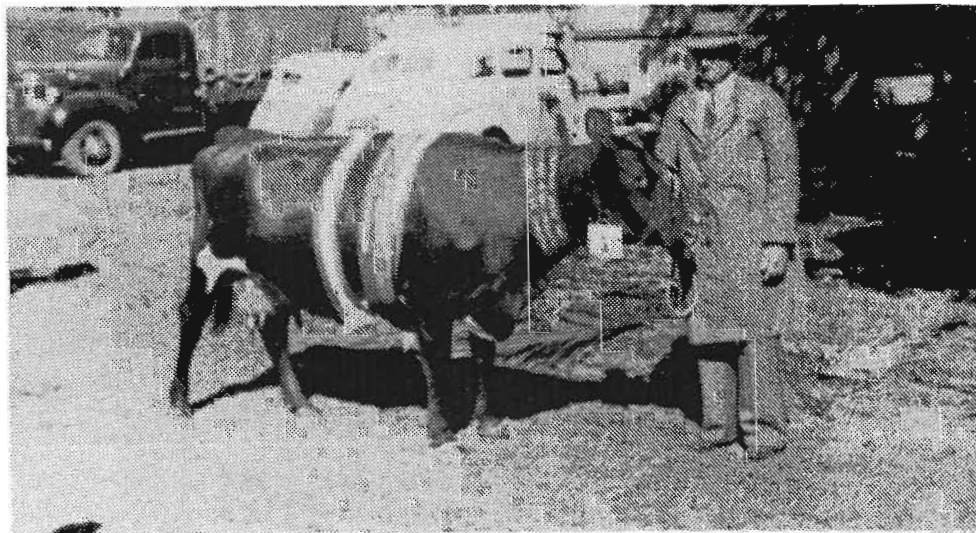
Fred Herbert, Cec Archer, Jock Morley, Dean Ross and myself had good Jersey also - some pedigreed, others high grades - which all did well as cream producers.

Later however, herds on the average were graded up with high quality pure bred bulls, while a few introduced stud stock and progressed to showing in the Mackay Show and later in the Finch Hatton and Sarina Show.

Early showing was Norm Foster with A.I.S. in 1948, Dudley Wood with A.I.S. a year or two later, Bob Bell with Guernseys about 1952-53 and later at the Finch Hatton shows:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Stan Mathiasan | A.I.S. |
| Glen Wood & Family | A.I.S. |
| Eric Ross | Ayshire |
| David & Raymond Cortis | Friesian |
| Ted Keast | Friesian |
| Bill Eden | Friesian |
| Ian Risley | Friesian |

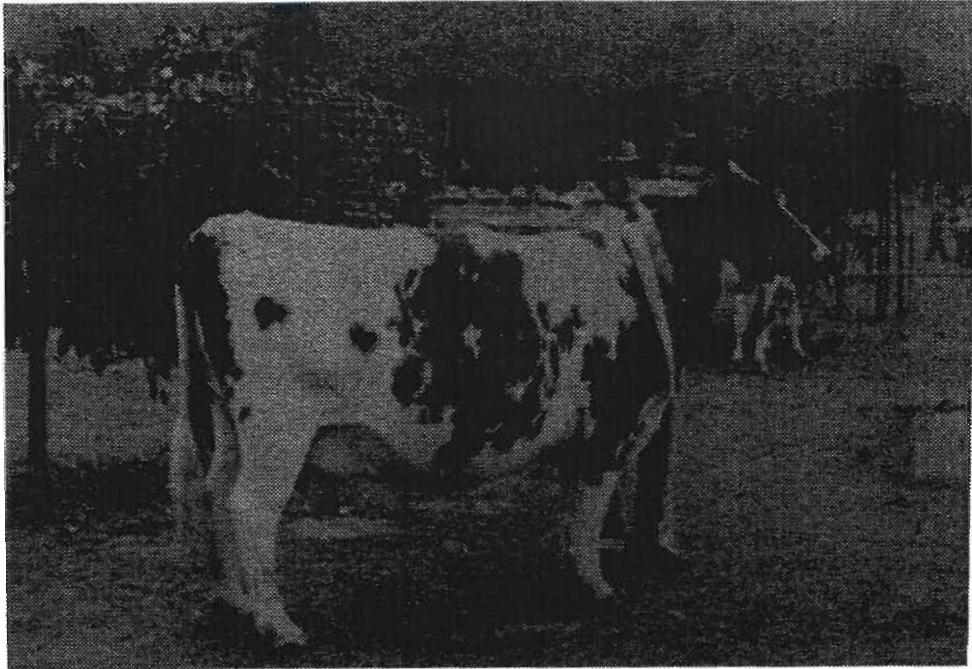
Having shown cows for many years and also judged all breeds of cattle offered at Mackay, Sarina and Finch Hatton shows, for quite a while, I would say the best two cows shown were:



*Sunny View 'Miss Tot II'
Courtesy N. Foster*

Sunny View Miss Tot 2nd and Hillalong Ruby, both A.I.S. of mine, who won all milking competition and classes they were shown in and a Friesian Bull of Ted Keast's which was shown and handled well and had class.

Coming on to modern day showing, the Ayrshire cow of Eric Ross, winner of the Champion Class ribbon and Supreme Champion All Breeds Cow of the Show award at Finch Hatton 1985, although shown dry, was excellent.



*Eric Ross Ayrshire Cow
Courtesy E. Ross*

The cow of the year must now go, however, to Carmar Ultimate Dinah, a six year old Friesian owned by Cortis Brothers, of Crediton, who has just won Champion Friesian Cow at the Brisbane Exhibition, 1985 and also Supreme Champion Dairy Cow against all breeds.

With many other awards from Rockhampton up to Cairns, last year, she is an animal that typifies what breeders are looking for, according to the Judge, Dr. Fred Forman of the Iowa State University, America. He had high praise for 'Dinah' when he judged the five dairy breeds and thought she compared very well with the best he had seen, in the Holstein-Friesian breed, when judging in other shows, throughout the world,

The future of the quality of dairy cattle in Crediton looks assured, with this class of cattle and this class of young breeders coming into our midst.

Crediton, in fact, the whole of Mackay are at this moment high elated, and say;

Congratulations to David and Raymond Cortis on an excellent achievement.

Well Done!

D. & R. CORTIS. "COLUMBUS." HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN9 STUD, CREDITON

Our dairy farm is spread out over 297 acres, in the Crediton district. It runs 135 cows and a number of young stock. Of the 135 cows, 85 are milkers, leaving the rest as dries, coming into the dairy when they have calved. All the cows should calve once a year, keeping only the heifer calves out of the top 20% of the cows, for replacement milkers. The calves are then fed on a bucket of replacement milk powder, once a day for ten months of growing, then are mated to bull. Artificial insemination is used on all the milkers after the first calf.

Dairy cattle, like everything else, can be problems. Cows can get footrot from wet and stony conditions, but is easily treated with a needle of penicillin. A small fungi can grow over the eye, which is caused by bacteria carrying flies, that can be treated with a spray powder. But the most common problem of all would have to be mastitis, just to name a few. Mastitis can lead to the milking quarter closing itself off, but is treated with a penicillin injection which is injected up into the teat. All the dairy cattle have to be dipped regularly, to keep their resistance to ticks high. They are dipped every six weeks in the months between October and April as during the colder months, there appears to be no ticks on the cattle. Worming also has to be done on a regular basis of once a year, while leptospirosis and vibrio have to be vaccinated against every six months.

Winter probably is the busiest time of all, as pastures of ryegrass, clover or oats are planted in March or early April, to give the grass time to get growing before the first frost arrives. The milking cows start feeding in these pastures six weeks later, for one to one and a half hours each morning. It can be strip grazed or allow cattle onto the whole paddock. With a ten acre paddock, it is fed off for seven days and rotated, while having a fourteen day spell, ten bags of urea fertilizer are spread and irrigated with 1 to 2 inches of water. After the cold winter months are over, it's time to start planting summer pastures. Usually planted is lablab, millet or sorghum. These are planted in October when the winter cold is over and the pastures grow with the help of storms, before the wet weather sets in. The wet season hopefully goes from November through to March, giving us an average rainfall per year of 85 inches. During the wet, tropical summer pastures are fed. Tropical pastures, if not heavily grazed can regrow for up to 15 years and are fertilized with a bag of DAP per acre, yearly. Planting of any new tropical pastures is best done in October to again catch the storms, usually planting Setaria, Glycine Sirato, Kikuyu or Clovers. Irrigation of all pastures is needed through winter from June to the first rain in November. Dams of 11 to 18 million gallons in capacity, are used to irrigate from throughout

Y these months. For feed in bad times, silage can be made from maize or
sorghum. Maize or Sorghum for silage is planted in November to get
the first rain. The ground is first well worked, as for all pastures,
when planting. The ground is ripped across the paddock of 20 acres,
then bumpered longways, any fertilizer needed after a soil test is now
spread and bumpered. Seed is now spread or sown for easy harvesting,
and either rolled or lightly harrowed, just to give a thin covering of
soil. After 10 to 12 weeks of growth, the plants should stand six
feet, with the help of irrigating, if no rain. Silage can be stored on
top of the ground, covered with a special plastic, which is costly as
after a long period of time, will deteriorate, so the better way is in
a hole covered by its own soil. On the surface it is easier to get
at, as with under the surface, once opened, it may rain making it
almost impossible to get the silage out. When dozing the hole for
storage, it is made approximately 10 feet deep and 30 to 40 feet long.
Plants are harvested and dropped into the hole. After each foot it is
rolled to release air bubbles. If silage has been stored correctly,
it is possible to keep underground for up to 15 years.

t Apart from these lush green pastures, the milking cows are fed
a molasses and grain in the bails at milking time. Out bails are an 8
s bail walk through and takes 3 hours to milk. The cows get one litre
r of molasses and one pound of grain at each milking. Molasses is
, stored at ground level in a 10 tonne tank, and from there is pumped up
g into a 100 gallon tank on a high stand, being gravity fed into the
s bails. Grain is stored in a 12 tonne silo and is daily bucketed into
d the feeders inside the dairy. Water is pumped out of a well for house
e supplies and into a tank and stored for troughs, at which cattle
g water.

MODERN DAIRYING 1985 by Robbie & Robie Burns

x This is a highly technical, modern farming operation, with an
, average yield of 4200 litres per year production on a three hundred
s day lactation. They manage their cow breeding to give a calf a year.

, Calving August to September will probable give a better overall
s production, but it is necessary to stagger the breeding programme as
a well, to maintain production over the whole of the year, to cover
o likely shortfalls that will influence quota allocations.

a IRRIGATED PASTURES where they can be grown, are a necessary part of
r modern farm technology, with rye grass pasture giving excellent
r grazing from May to November, for top farm production. However, with
e the heavy application of nitrogen, it will be necessary to watch the
, Ph of the soil in time and lime application may be necessary.

t Lime leaves the farm daily in the milk sold, so it is only a matter
n of time before the economic law of diminishing returns applies to
d milk production.

, On dryland farming, oats give quite good grazing for the cost and
r effort involved.

, Tropical pastures, although good for a while, tend to lose their
d legume content. It has been found that top dressing with phosphate,
o the old clovers - probably New Zealand Mother White are coming back
t this last year or two are giving good grazing, July to September.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION has been a real boon to the modern dairymen as it has provided semen from proven bulls to improve the herd standards. There has been a steady improvement in the class of cattle on the farms over the last 20 years and more importantly the production per cow, per year has been steadily increasing.

As a general guide, one man can handle 50 cows milking, doing the shed work in one and a half hours, twice a day. With the farm work added, this gives a pretty good work load but, remember this seven days a week.

DAIRYING by David and Peter Woodland

The nature of their country, red volcanic soil, on the top of the Crediton Plateau being Blocks 32 and 40, containing approximately 300 acres, with no apparent supplies of water for irrigation, only lend itself to 'dry land' farming.

This requires less capital investment in irrigation equipment, less annual cost for operating power and consequently less returns on the value of milk produced.

Their operation requires average rainfall to balance out a reasonable economic return. Above average rainfall, provided it is well distributed, is a definite bonus, while below average might mean extra cost and lower net returns in the provision of extra bought fodder, either meals or hay, to maintain quota production.

Usually they milk seventy cows all the year round, with twenty-five to thirty cows dry and only raise female calves from a limited number of ten top cows, artificially inseminated to top bulls, available in the state.

About thirty acres of supplementary oats and rye, mixed are sown each year for grazing. Another ten acres of pasture are fertilised each year with urea and superphosphate.

HERD TESTING

Herd testing started in the early 1950's and was no doubt instrumental in the initial upgrading of the dairy stock of Crediton.

Herd Testers who did a mighty job were:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Eric Milkins | 6. Charlie Beresford |
| 2. Bob Strickland | 7. Merv Holberton |
| 3. Bernie Hansen | 8. David Woodland |
| 4. George Davis | 9. Robin Burns |
| 5. Ted Ryan | 10. Wayne Brown |

With the advent of Artificial Insemination the full advantages of herd testing were realised, with the use of several top sires in a breed, available for general farm use.

Some herds are now of a particularly high grade. This, together with the growing of a much higher quality fodder in the form of grazing pastures, are the two main ingredients in lowering the cost of production and keeping the operation, viable and profitable.

ROYAL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
DAIRYING FARM MANAGEMENT COMPETITION

This year Robert and Robin Burns of Broken River Block 81 won the State Wide Competition after coming second on the two previous years.

"The standard of management shown by the Burns family was exceptionally high and would stand out in any competition based on the effective management of resources. The Burns property is on difficult country". Said the Judge, Richard Fell. However it has been fully developed into an integrated pasture based feeding system".

Without detracting in any way from this achievement let us record in this history that Fosters "Hillalong Farm" was also up to second place and then first place in the Dairy Farm Competition conducted back in 1950 and 1951.

Later in the mid fifties this farm also came second in the horticultural section of the Royal National Society water harvesting competition and was well in the running for first in 1956 when it had to be withdrawn from competition because the Stock Inspector, who was one of the judges refused to change his shoes before going onto the property after inspecting calves that had died from Black Leg on another property. No previous cases of Black Leg had ever been on "Hillalong Farm".

TRUE STORY 1936

About ten of us all went to a dance at Netherdale one Saturday night in the Dodge truck from Matthew's and White's Sawmill. Half the chaps were asleep coming up the range which was pretty wet and slippery. When the truck finished up against the inside bank with a heavy bump one chap woke up with a start and dived to get clear thinking the truck was going over the side of the range. Unfortunately for him he went the wrong way and hit the bank pretty hard falling back in a heap. It was Laurie Czislowski's brother Ken, only superficial wounds though.

SEGUS

An aboriginal Brake boy with Pascoe reckons he was the first white man down the Range with a team after his boss Billy Pascoe told everybody he was.

This was on his return empty, after carting machinery into the diggings Gold field in by way of Mackay to Mt. Britton and Plevna and the Yarrawonga Range to the Broken River.

SUNSHINE PRODUCE MACKAY
MODERN DAY C.O.D.

by Ken Morris, G. Manager
21.6.85

Crediton, and the area surrounding it, has for many years, through the media of fruit and vegetable growers, been closely associated with the C.O.D., now trading as Sunshine Produce. As a Grower Co-operative it has been natural for growers and potential growers, to seek advice and supply produce for sale through local wholesale and retail outlets. As in all areas, we recall some good and some not so good produce having been produced.

Over the years, a greater awareness of the importance to produce top quality, clean, healthy vegetables for marketing has been realised, and much of the ground work towards this was laid by some of the pioneers in the industry at Crediton.

As we recall names of some of the growers, both past and present, we are aware of an unseen bond that has existed over the years between grower and organisation. We recall too, the battle many have had against the hungry wogs and other elements that exist in commercial grown crops.

Some early Crediton growers were Charlie Blackwood, H. Hammer, Nor Foster, Sam Freegard, Jock Morley, Lal Turner and Dave Bloxsidge while other Eungella growers include Jock Howie, Lew Eden, John Thomsett, Bob Bell, Norm Woodard, Vince Smith, Robert Black, Kevin Barlow, Bill Edan, Dave Parker and T. Keast. All growers whether named or not have all contributed towards the history of the area in this way.

As others follow in their footsteps, we trust that, along the way they will spare a thought for those who have laid the foundation towards organised crop production, and that as improved quality becomes more evident in the results, some of the credit will be laid at the feet of those who we acknowledge at this time.

COMMERCIAL SMALL CROP GROWING AT CREDITON

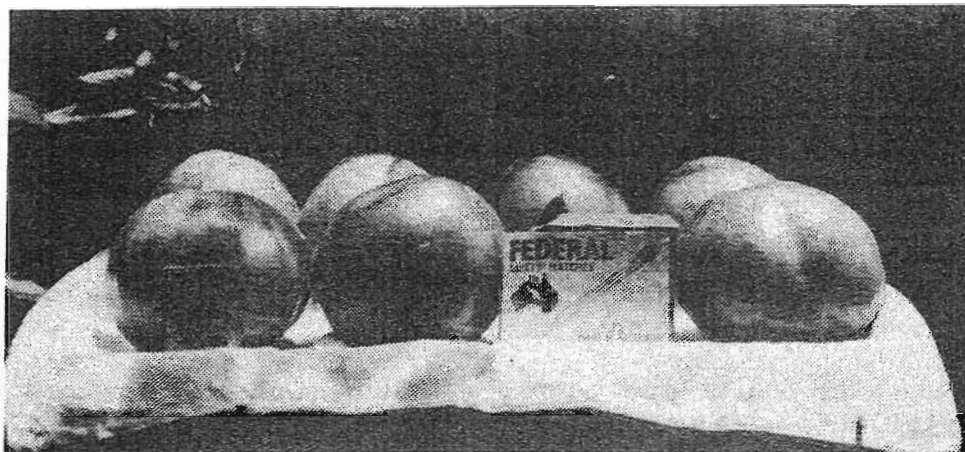
The main crop for Eungella and indeed Crediton has in the past been tomatoes - usually being a spring crop for local markets in the November, December and January period. Seeds needed to be in the ground by mid July for this harvest.

Early 1940 varieties were Earliana, Burwood Prize, Marglobe and Break of Day. These were followed by the varieties of which Gross Lizze and derivatives were the main group for many years. An excellent variety for the Mackay District was the Lady Cunningham which was bred in the area by a Mr George Wallace down Andergrove Bucasia way, I think, using Pritchard as one of the parent plants.

I favoured these for many years, as they suited Crediton admirably; a heavy cropper and cropped well into the wet season.

These were crossed successfully with the large sized Ox hearts tomatoes.

Ox-heart produced fruit up to 1lb 13oz weight under our conditions, as recorded in the Mackay Daily Mercury in January 1954. A few years later, with the crossing with Lady Cunningham and stabilising, fruit up to 2 3/4lb were weighed at the C.O.D., Mackay and recorded in the Mackay Daily Mercury. We had no trouble selling these large tomatoes of 1lb to 2 lb weight. The cafes snapped them up - especially the Tourist Cafe, Mackay. Making sandwiches with the large double sandwich loaf of bread - the Fatseas Brothers said one slice of tomato - one sandwich. I can still see George and Charlie Fatsea illustrating how this was done, by holding a tomato in the left hand, and with the right hand bringing a large knife, like a machete, through in a very fast slash from right to left, beheading a fine slice of tomato for the sandwich. A time action study that was important in their busy cafe.



*Ox-heart Lady Cunningham Tomatoes
Courtesy A. N. Foster*

There are still a few back yard growers 25 years later, growing some of the ox-heart and ox-heart cross tomatoes and of excellent eating quality too.

CABBAGES

Early varieties, Succession and Drumhead were not really suitable for this district as rain could destroy marketable heads by splitting overnight.

With the advent of the hybrid varieties, excellent control of this disability was obtained together with a much improved eating quality.

Yates Jubilee Hybrid was the first available, and we had crops averaging 14lb weight, with the best heads running to 18 3/4lb in the summer time, and with a top of 21lb grown as an autumn - winter crop.

These were shown in the Mackay Show probably 1954, 5 and 6.

The second hybrid was the Yates Junior Jubilee, which was as good as the first in all respects, except that it matured to a maximum of 10lb with a crop average of 7 - 8lb.

Later, Yates brought out their Ball-head Hybrid which was a commercial growers dream, as it could be marketed at any weight - it had a compact head at 3lb and could be cut at any stage thereafter up to about 12 - 14lb without loss from splitting - after that, look out! But with them in the paddock, it meant you could always leave some if they were not required this week, or provide a few hundred or so more next week, if the market required extra to what you had planned and programmed for. A top variety and excellent eating.

Yates Sugarloaf Cabbage

This was not a commercial variety prior to 1956, but we found it was readily accepted when they were presented at a weight for 4 - 6lb of excellent eating quality. By 1958 we programmed to supply 6 - 800 head a week to the C.O.D., Mackay, together with our normal cuts of the main varieties. Our heaviest loading would have been 11 tons of tomatoes and cabbages a week, for the christmas market - normal 6 - 7 tons per week. All cabbages were loaded in bulk, on trucks (not bagged) and all were branded by a rubber stamp on their stem, "Hillalong Farm", as a trademark that denoted quality.

Other Crops

Included Potatoes, both sweet and english, cucumbers, beans, carrots, sweet corn, pumpkins, cauliflowers, passion fruit and strawberries.

All types of produce are of excellent quality so long as correct cultural methods, watering and fertilising and insect and fungal control are carried out.

Many years ago, Dave Parker, one of the original settlers in the Eungella area, had a nice orange grove out at Bee Creek, which he harvested regularly. He also specialised in rhubarb which was very successful in those days, on his soil.

Likewise, Bob Bell grew onions successfully on the Bee Creek soils.

I have been asked many times what is my secret for growing Vegetables. Actually there is no secret about it at all - except commonsense agricultural practice. I do not grow according to the rule of the straight organic farmer or to the rule of the straight chemical farmer, but to a sensible combination of the two.

Use whatever organic material is available - viz night paddock camp for cattle, liquid manure from washing out cowyards, growing special crops for green manure ploughing in. Lime if you have to, to correct acidity, to break down clay soil or to hold together sandy soil. Use what chemical fertilizer is necessary according to the crop you grow and to the soil analysis of the paddock. Now if there is a secret at all it is the same as the last factor. - for in that you apply the

basic chemicals that might be in short supply, that is phosphate, potash and nitrogen but now you must take into account not only the soil you are working with but the crop as well and that is the trace elements - those minute chemical requirements that are lacking and each crop has different requirements.

Just as a very rough guide let me say now that on my soils magnesium in the form of epsom salts is a must of tomatoes and also manganese to a lesser extent, boron for cabbages and cauliflowers, molybdenum for pumpkins, melons and cucumbers and if you are having trouble setting flowers on dwarf beans again use manganese.

OPERATION CREAM LIFT. 14 MARCH 1955

Following 30" of rain for the first part of the year it came in a very wet on the morning of the 7th March as a cyclone reversed its direction and came back at us from the south-west. It was originally heading for Rockhampton but finally crossed the coast at Koumala. It gave us winds up to 90 mile an hour and a further 19 inches of rain through the night ripping out all telephone lines on the western side of the circle. We were probably within 20 miles of the centre.

Jennings and another person in Eungella lost their roofs and Freeguards lost their garage out here at Crediton.

The roads took a lot of clearing. Then followed another 20" for the following week.

We had a train stranded at Netherdale but it couldn't go anywhere. Centre spans were washed out of Mirani low level road bridge and about 70' of rail line with some sleepers on it are hanging in mid air and dipping into the fast flowing torrent of water below at the Ookaloo rail bridge.

On the 14th March we got to it and shifted close on 2000 gallons of cream (a weeks production) down the range to Netherdale and then on as follows:-

Worth reporting? - I'll say it is. The biggest Cream lift ever attempted on one day from Eungella, when between 1500 and 2000 gals. of cream were taken down the range transported 2 miles in a railway wagon, then across Cattle Creek Ookaloo on a pumper and flat top, and loaded into another wagon ready for the next train to Mackay. If anybody along the line hears some gentle popping or even noises up to fairly loud blasts, as the train passes, please don't be dismayed as it will only be a few lids blowing as some of the week old cream ripens a bit further.

Trouble started on the way down the range when one truck went into a soft spot very hard, came up with both front springs gone and promptly shot into the bank where it stayed for the rest of the day.

Our second misfortune struck us at Netherdale, when we found that we

had no way to get the cream from Netherdale to Ookuloo across swollen creeks. Arrangements had been made for the Railway to leave wagon on the town side to take the cream, but the use of another wagon on the Netherdale side had been refused. The engine on the train Netherdale was as cold as charity, without a driver and only just enough water left in the boiler for a cup of tea.

This occasioned a delay of a couple of hours while our Top Brass busily burnt up the telephone wires to Mackay. The word came back at the end that permission had been granted from Rockhampton that the wagon could be used under the supervision of the Netherdale Passenger train guard, Colin. (He was the regular guard on that train). From the railway point of view this turned out to be a very safe and sound precaution. Let it be known that the track is down hill from Netherdale and trucks that have got away on a solitary jaunt in the past have been known to go through Finch Hatton 8 miles away, doing better than 50 mph.

This truck, once we got it loaded, just didn't have a chance with Con on the brake. He brought it to a stand still at least six times within the first 100 yards after clearing Netherdale, much to our disgust and thereafter allowed it to proceed at a maximum of 3 mph. Even with many calls of 'let the "b" - brake off' (and there is a stuttering amongst our mob either) he kept his one car train, without an engine, rigidly under control, even when approaching the couple of hills on the line, when all hands had to push to get the wagon and ton load over, and believe me, we were flat on the last and longest when we could just manage to keep the wagon moving and that's all. The young bloods and the old horses alike were glad to see it over this bump. We finally reached Ookuloo and found the bridge intact but about 70 feet, of the bank on the far side was washed out, with just the lines and a few sleepers hanging. These dipped precariously and were immersed in the fast flowing torrent of water in the centre.

Highlight of the day came when two corpulent characters and a few others, manned a railway 'pumper' and pushed the little flat loaded with cream across the bridge, swooped down into the creek over the washout and struggled up the bank on the other side. This creature had been steadily tanking up at Netherdale Hotel all morning and had a full head of steam which lasted till the last can was over.

That 'pumper' must be worn out tonight as it's the fastest it has ever been pumped in its life. It certainly was a great sight to see it carreating madly across the big dip, lifting 12 tons of cream and returning with between two and three hundred empty cans out of the town wagon. Within an hour the whole job being operated by a working party of 29 dairymen and Col was finished.

There is no doubt about it, he gets the 'onion of the day'. I never ever looked like using the four great lumps of timber he placed the van to used to 'sprag' the wheels if she got up a bit of speed. On occasions we even found he had the brake on when we were over pushing.

Operation Cream Lift is all over this end but not yet for the P.C.

especially the cream grader. We thank everyone for their co-operation today - even Col, he's a good guy, and hope the grader is all our way too.

MILK TRUCK BROKE DOWN. 11th APRIL 1954.

News letter from Norm Foster to home. All hands to the rescue.

John Thomsett broke down in the milk truck and came walking in here at 9.45am this morning. He hadn't started the pick-up then, actually he should have been finished the circle and been on his way back to Eungella.

We did a bit of ringing up in a hurry to get a couple of the farmers to pick up the milk in their trucks and take it in. The roads were terrible and three farmers manned each truck with chains on, and I went back with John on the tractor to have a go at the truck. It was a diesel that they (V.A. & G. Thomsett) had recently bought. John wasn't too hot on diesels but after today he will know plenty.

We finally got around the circle with the empty cans, mail and rations around 3pm raining like hell all the time, all wet through but when we left we had located the trouble, the main one I should say as I had found several small ones during the day, and he set sail for home feeling very happy with himself. We did a bit more work on it the following day with Barny Gillam working too.

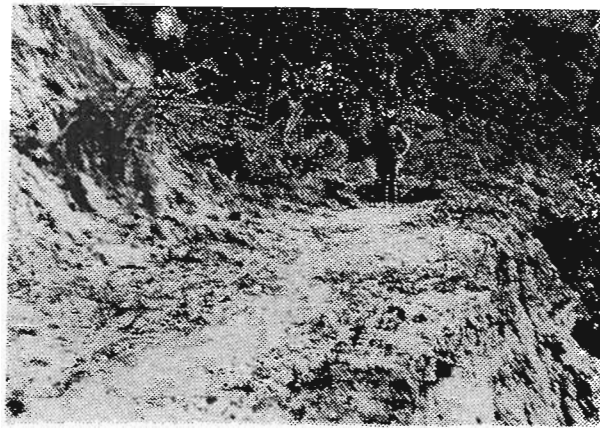
1940 CYCLONE

Saw almost complete obliteration of the Range Road, with debris from land slides and wash outs over its entire length. It was so bad in places that we never thought it could be rebuilt in time to save us - so we looked for, and found sections of the old track up the range and cleared them up with a brush hook and axe, in case they were required. As it turned out they weren't.

No dozers were available in those days, for the clean up job, and large gangs of men were employed, working from both ends of the road, with picks, mattocks and shovels, to clear the mud, dirt and rocks all bound together with lantana and trees, over the side, in wheel-barrows.

After a fortnight or so, a track was cut from the 'Top' down to where the grid is now, and a P.E.I. small Cletrack Crawler was used with a 'sledge' behind to get the cream to this point.

A human chain of dairymen manned positions down over the side of the mountain at this point, and passed the cans, one to the other, down to the road invert below, which was gone - completely washed out. A lift of the cans then got them to Mick and Johnny Lovis tuck about 150 yards down the road, (the closest they could get) for the transport to Netherdale railway.



*Range road after cyclone 1940
Courtesy N. Foster*

The invert here was damaged considerably and later had to be repaired and stabilised by building a large log wall down the low side, and another on the top side of the road above the invert, to hold it. These barriers have done an excellent job and are still there today. At the same time, the cutting on the top side of the 'Devils Elbow', back to the grid (which was not there in those days) was completely filled with debris and very large stones - some of which had to be blown with up to 200 sticks of gelignite for removal.

Quite a blow!

There were three blows that year if I remember right. The first was the worst with very heavy rain and winds up to 150 mph. It was almost impossible to see any of the range road; it was just covered with landslides and debris. No dozers then to clear it, so it was all done by hand - 200 - 300 men on the job.

The storekeeper at Eungella set up a temporary store in the goods shed at Netherdale Railway Station. Their train ran goods up as far as the creek crossing at Ookaloo, and the boys worked a railway pump and flat top, to get the goods up to Netherdale.

If you wanted to eat, you walked from the Top of the Range down to Netherdale and carried your purchases back up 1763 feet vertical and 1/2 miles long.

The average man was able to handle a 25lb bag of flour taking it steady and putting it down a couple of times. The best on this portage was one chap who took a 50lb bag of flour straight up, without putting it down, or stopping at all.

Don't think that it was a good road to walk on --- it was worse than the Kakoda Trail in New Guinea.

Then there was the time the Hazelwood Road was really bogged up from the Circle turnoff down past Aspinalls, Jack Angus' and out to Saffreygarads, Block 26.

Smithies truck was bogged 18" deep in the first patch of scrub going down hill from the Circle turnoff. It was impossible to winch it through, so the load of tucker had to be carried down to Howard Aspinalls camp at the start of Spring Creek.

This same character took a full sack of four (150lb) down in one lift (over a mile through the mud, a lot of it 12" deep and better), running the last 150 yards across some grass just for the fun of it. The other poor chaps came floundering in, ten minutes later, with 50lb each.

30 YEARS DAIRYING

by Fred Keast.

It has been often said that conditions in the Dairying Industry, on the Range, haven't changed much, yet, looking back on the thirty years I was dairying with my wife, Agnes (nee Eden) 1948 - 1978, I can see a remarkable improvement, the greatest of which is on the production side.

In 1948, we had some 56 suppliers, with a production for whole milk supply of 600 - 900 gallons (2727 to 4091 litres) on a four to six days a week basis, where as, in 1978 we had only 31 suppliers sending 2764 gallons (12160 litres) a day, six days a week.

This has been achieved by the following factors.

1. Closing of the industry and the introduction of quotas.
2. Introduction of Friesian dairy cattle.
3. Introduction of Artificial Insemination.
4. Introduction of better grasses, legumes and clovers.
5. The better co-operation between the Department of Primary Industry and the farmers.

THE INTRODUCTION OF QUOTAS

Some of the new farmers may curse the quota system and consider it not necessary. So I will give you a run down on how things were, prior to their introduction, and the closing of the industry.

In those days, anybody could send in as much milk as they liked, providing it came up to a certain standard, The factory on the other hand could only use a certain amount, so they cut the day you could supply, according to the amount they required. We were finding ourselves at times, down to supplying three days this week, six next week, four the next and so on. A lot of the cane farmers, on the coastal plains, had large herds, and when the harvest finished for the year, had the cows ready to calve and swamped the market, usually from November to June, when the cows would be dried off ready for the next season.

By this means they utilised cheaper grazing, summer and autumn feed and would not use high cost supplementary concentrate feed to maintain winter supply of milk to the market.

Quotas were introduced so as to make everybody supply all the year round, at a set amount. You knew where you stood. It also meant new suppliers were allowed to supply unless the old could not fulfil the required amount. New suppliers were let in on a six gal minimum quota.

The quotas were administered by the two local zone directors of P.C.D. and a suppliers representative from each supply area. Sarina, the coastal area and Eungella. The first Eungella representative was Norm Foster from Crediton, who also represented Crediton and Eungella on the District Milk Conferences and represented Mackay District at Brisbane on the State Milk Conferences in 1955 and 1956, and represented Mackay and all the North, including the Atherton Tableland on one occasion.

It was not long before the cane farmer dropped out and left dairying to the Dairy farmers.

THE INTRODUCTION OF FRIESIANS

Here again you will have some who will cast doubts on this, but you look around, you find the number of farms that do not have Friesian stock in some form, can be counted on one hand.

Although the spread has been greatest in the last 15 years or so, Friesians are not new to Eungella. In late 1946, a farmer of Crediton, Arthur Porter, introduced about 28 head. They were railed from the south to Netherdale, and walked up the Range - spelled there and then walked another 11 miles to Crediton. They were the first Friesians I had seen and they impressed me even though, at that time I was not farming. However, they did not seem to take, for some reason. Later Bill Palmer and son, Brian had a few, but again they seemed to become 'also rans'.

In 1965 I had the privilege of visiting the Clare Friesian Stud Bowen and was so impressed with production and quality, I bought a young working bull. I also bought six 'in calf' heifers from Do Park Stud in Oakie, and started "Glory View" Friesian Stud Eungella.

It appeared others had the same idea. Warren Costigan and Maurice Howie switched over to Friesians almost at the same time, and it was not long before others followed, until today it would appear no farm is complete without them.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Or rather the "Do-it-yourself" Artificial Insemination is another first for Eungella. In 1972 a Co-operative A.I. group was formed in Crediton, whereby everybody paid a membership fee, and this entitled a member to have cows inseminated at a set price. This applied only to those farming within a certain radius of the centre. Those farms outside paid an extra mileage for each service, and that involved a lot of us.

While this Co-operative worked reasonable well, it did have a few short falls. There was no service from Saturday morning to Monday morning, also those outside the radius were last to be serviced, and this meant at times the animal was held in the yard until after mid-day and so our chances of conception were reduced.

In April 1973, Robert Black and myself, flew to Tamworth and did a course, run by the Australian Artificial Breeders and started to do our own A.I. and with good results too. This was quickly taken up by others in the group who were not happy. The D.P.I. then started a series of "Do-it-yourself" schools throughout the area, the first of which was at Crediton.

Today, I don't think there is a farm on Eungella that hasn't at least one inseminator. The quality of semen available is limitless. You can now introduce top quality strains from all over the world, into your herd, almost overnight.

D.P.I. CO-OPERATION

It was not until the Dairying Division of the Department of Primary Industries stopped calling their field men inspectors, and renamed them advisers, and these men in turn stopped being inspectors and became advisers, that co-operation came about. When they were inspectors, you did your best to keep them out of your dairy, as they usually meant trouble, whereas now, if you are in trouble, you can call on them for help. They in turn work closely with the Agricultural Branch of the D.P.I. and the farmers, and take an active part in the experimental plots, that have led to better legumes and grasses being introduced to suit different areas and soils.

The Ayr research station, on the Burdekin River, was all to the fore in these trials, and we on Eungella have much to thank them for, especially in the introduction of clovers and rye grass strains, which have pushed the Eungella area ahead, especially in the last eight years.

In my own case, I believe that the above items lifted my eighty-five cow herd from below one gallon (4.5 litres) per cow, per day on a 300 day lactation, to over two and a half gallons per day average.

With rye and clover species that have been introduced since I left the industry in 1978, a lot of the farmers are doing well over this figure now.

The owner of Doro Park Stud, Oakie - Mr Alan Von Hoff, decided drive up to Eungella with these six heifers, Ted bought from him, his truck, Ted meeting him at Netherdale. After giving the cattl spell Ted said, "right, we'll take them up the hill".

"If you call that a hill", Alan said, "I'd hate to see a flam mountain".

"The Hill" is a familiar flippant term used by the locals, for t Range Road, but they treat it with utmost respect. It has elevation of about 1400 feet in four miles of road, with steep grades of about 1:2.5 in a couple of places.

OFF THE RECORD

GEORGE BOSEL

Back in the late 40's, George Bosel and myself, were buying cul dairy cattle around Crediton, driving them to the rail at Netherd and consigning them to Mackay buyers.

George was a top horse and cattle man, first class with a dog : whip controlling a mob too. And believe me you had to be right your toes to get a mob on foot, firstly, away from their home fa which they knew blindfolded and then over to my place on the West side of Crediton, through the unfenced scrub and lantana section. Once on my place, we held them for a few days driving them about 1 paddock daily, just educating them which George did with his dog. was an artist at leading a mob, restraining and keeping them in che an together, just flicking the whip.

This particular day, we just needed a few more head to make up c wagons. On the last farm, only the "Lady of the House" was home. inspected the cattle and offered £56 (5 to 6 was the going pri each for cattle in good condition in those days) she would "have see her husband when he came home that night" she said. "That's C we said, "see you tomorrow then."

Next day when we called, we were met with abuse by the cock "offering such a lousy price for such good cattle. We were ju rogueing bastards." Did we get some abuse!!

"That's all right mate" I said, "just what sort of price did y have in mind?"

" 48", he said, "not a penny less."

I whipped out my cheque book quick as a flash and wrote out his 48 quid cheque.

"There you are mate" I said, "its a deal."

George was just standing there with his mouth open, in absolute astonishment and amazement. I was glad no noise came out of it to blow the occasion.

The customer is always right. Or is he?

We didn't take him down, we had offered him a good price -- he took himself down, but it cost him £8 to abuse us.

We got those cattle away with the others in that area later in the day and we had our work cut out till late that night, getting them home and settled. While having a bit of supper, George burst out laughing and he didn't stop laughing about it for the rest of his days.

He had seen plenty of funny things happen, but this really "took the cake."

FRIENDSHIP

Friendship needs no studied phrases,
Polished face, or winning wiles;
Friendship deals no lavish praises,
Friendship dons no surface smiles.

Friendship follows nature's diction,
Shuns the blandishments of art,
Boldly severs truth from fiction,
Speaks the language of the heart.

Friendship favours no condition,
Scorns a narrow minded creed,
Lovingly fulfills its mission,
Be it word or be it deed.

Friendship cheers the faint and weary,
Makes the timid spirit brave,
Warns the erring, lights the dreary,
Smooths the passage to the grave.

Friendship - pure, unselfish, friendship,
All through life's allotted span,
Nurteres, Strengthens, Widens, Lengthens,
Man's affinity with man.

MINING, POLICE, AMBULANCE, CHURCHES, CLUBS, SPORTS, BUSINESSES, NATIONAL PARKS

At the outset let me say that Geological reports of the Eungella mineral area substantiate the claims of many that Eungella is minerally rich and will one day boom again - maybe not with the independent miner but by the larger mechanically orientated companies the economics are right.

By and large, the Eungella gold fields has a basic bed rock which is an acid intrusive which varies greatly in mineral composition and should be classed mainly as granodiorite. The wide-spread distribution in this field of lead and zinc ores constitute its definite mineralogic province.

From 1881 gold was discovered at Mt. Britton to the South of Crediton and then later at Bee Creek and on the Broken River at Crediton in 1888. There was a certain amount of success at each of these fields but not as good as there might have been because of the fact that the country is recognised as being hard to work. Gold found there came out with a purity of 19.4 carats. Reef gold at Crediton and diggings require tunnelling.

For Crediton, and in fact the whole of Eungella the big benefit was to get access to the area and with it the surveyors and timbergetters and people who were expert in evaluating the potential of the area for future use in one way or another settlement.

MT. BARKER

One of the earlier mining ventures apart from the diggings was a silver-lead mine at Mt. Barker. Harold Kean who was the owner-operator in conjunction with Oscar Freilich when we arrived in 1935. It had been going on for quite a few years before this, probably anything up to thirty years.

Oscar and Harold had installed much machinery including a steam battery and floatation unit and at the peak work period had thirty men working on the site - but the separation operation was difficult. There was a small reverberatory furnace built of brick on the left bank of the Broken River between the Eungella Station homestead and the present Eungella Dam wall for this purpose. This was a furnace with shallow hearth and low arched roof, and the hearth reflected back over the charge of ore. A Mines Department report of 1910 quotes the record of output plus the ingots on the ground that the furnace was not then in operation.

In 1935 - 36 when I first saw the mine the lode ore was bagged (150 lb. bags) and railed to Chillagoe in the far north-west for smelting. I can well recall going down the shaft at midnight with Percy Kean and Lloyd Bramish and then later helping Lloyd to re-raise three tons of bagged ore (onto Lenny Burgess's truck) which was a

ten feet below the level of the road back along the Broken River. A bag of ore (150lbs.) is much smaller than a bag of sugar but twice as heavy. What you'd do to help a mate in those days.

Percy rode an Indian motorbike and called in at my camp for a cup of tea, a feed and a yarn. When the surveyors Ernie Twine and his four men were working out across the Spring Creek tableland all of them came in with Percy for tennis at the weekend on the Burgess court. The opening up and building of the Crediton roads from Eungella out, meant a lot to these people. Just imagine the butcher having to take the meat out to them once a week, as he did, when all the men were there with only a bush track from Eungella. Mr. & Mrs. Kean Snr. were there in the early days while in the latter 1940s Harold's wife was camping at the dam site with him. It closed a few years later. Transporting and recovery costs were too high and returns too low. It meant a lot to Eungella Station too. Especially to the "Mackie-Boys" when the road ways upgraded and the dam built.

THE MISTLETOE GOLD MINE CREDITON BLOCK 23

Situated on the spur on the left hand side of Long Gully at the north-west corner of the circle road opposite Vern Hansen's gate to his subdivision block. A large flooded gum tree will be seen growing close by overhanging the roadway with the mistletoe growing in it.

Jacob Lovi, an experienced prospector operating the Netherdale Hotel picked up the trace of 'colour' and followed it up the creek and found where it came out. Son Cecil found a bit of stone up the ridge from this point which carried a speck of yellow stuff "That's gold" said Dad, and that's where it was spilling from, giving a trace into the gully after every heavy rain.

Son, Tom Lovi did a bit of digging in the first shaft in the early days and when down about 6 or 7 feet his young son Louis was crawling around the edge of the hole on all fours calling "Daddy's a little piggy. Daddy's a little piggy." Two more shafts were dug after this one and the reef followed until it cut out.



*Mum and Dad Lovi, Colin Lovi
Dulcie Inch, Nell Bryans (child) about 1947*

Burnley was with Dad quite a bit, also Mick and Neville on occasions giving advice and helping with a bit of the timbering. Cecil was the main helper with Colin, in getting the shafts down and the reef out. Jacob had a three head stamper set up down at the old diggin on the Broken River to crush the ore with the mercury to hold a recover it. Three or four crushings of significance were made. Jac Lovi was the 'old gentleman' with the biscuit tin full of gold mentioned in the section of this book "Random Memories of the Fost Family".

Only had one accident when working this show and that was when the shaft was down about thirty feet the empty mullock bucket was accidentally knocked and fell down the shaft and struck Cecil on the head necessitating sixteen stitches to hold things together. Jac was down there too but was O.K.

A little bit of bad air was encountered at times but it was overcome with a blower.

Total Life of the Mistletoe Mine was 1941-1947.

Little Ted, Ted Bewenuti, ex-barman of the Eungella District Canteen shifted in there and camped 1969-1970 and did a bit of scratching also. He has camped out Bee Creek ever since.

BULL PADDOCKS - ZIRCONS

Although only small, have been found in Crediton Creek coming out Block 29 up above the bridge. This was originally known as the Bull Paddock Creek on the first surveys of 1924 by A.H. Cole and revised 1932 but later is shown as Crediton Creek on the surveys of A. Edmiston of 1934. (It is interesting to note here also that Whitcom Creek in the Bee Creek, Eungella township area is shown for the first time as Sonnyboy Creek on the revised Survey Map of 1932 by Cole).

Likewise, 'Mirror Corner' on the range was known previously as Jacky's Corner because of a wheel of his loaded wagon went over the edge of the road there but she didn't tip over. Maybe it will revert to Jacky's Corner now that the mirror has gone but I don't think so. It will get another name more fitting at a later date.

It was reported that besides Zircons in the Crediton Creek a blue Sapphire was found there too. From those who understand the geological matters it is claimed that the blue clays underlying certain areas to the south of block 29 and 28 towards Mt. Bruce could be a productive area for such precious stones - but what a clay work in!!

TRAIN RIDE

NETHERDALE TO MACKAY

One day I had occasion to go to Mackay, on business, early in the 1940's when the Americans were here on R & R Leave.

Four GI's had stayed overnight at Eungella and travelled Netherdale with me on the cream truck. It left at 5.50 a.m. It so

became apparent that they were in a party mood, especially when they bought up a big supply at Finch Hatton pub, just in case they ran out before they got to town.

It was a steam train in those days, pulling three carriages of passengers and a guard van and usually very well patronised. Besides civilians, there were probably 20 or so Aussie solders on leave from New Guinea and the Islands.

Everyone on board enjoyed their hospitality, including the guard, who was the first to religuish his post and duties and we put him to sleep on the mail bags. Stocks were recharged when they spotted the pub at Mirani and by the time we got to Newberry Junction only a few civvies wanted the usual cup of tea and scones.

Soon after that a volunteer had to be found to replace the fireman, who couldn't hold his footing on the rattling footplate, then a bit later the heat seemed to aggect the engine driver, so we gave him first aid and put them both in the guards van with the guard.

Well now anyone can put a bit of water in a kettle, boil it up, then pull a lever for the steam to come out into the piston and thats what our replacement drive did with the help of one who knew where the stops and signals were and blew the whistle at the right times for crossings.

As was the custom in those days the train was pulled up at the Sydney street Crossing, to allow passengers off who wanted to walk straight down Sydney Street to work.

We decided it would be prudent for us to leave too, as there appeared to be quite a few people --most in uniform a couple of hundred yards ahead, on the main platform, waiting for us. We didn't want to talk to them.

Actually we were only 35 minutes late--but a very enjoyable time was had by all. I believe the train crew got the cane. They were down graded for a few months, but regained their status later.

FINCH HATTON POLICE

The settlement at Crediton established in 1935 has been serviced by the Police Station at Finch Hatton. In the early days it was a Mounted Force throughout the country areas of Queensland. I can recall Constable Ron Horseford spelling his horse in my paddock back in 1936 while on official business in the area.

Originally Finch Hatton was policed from Mirani but on 13 February, 1907 Constable P.J. Hagarty was stationed in Finch Hatton at Cattle Creek Mill.

A Police Station was built in 1910. This was and has been since a Court of Petty Sessions although it hasn't been used as such over the last few years. This Station was burnt down in 1915. but was rebuilt the following year.

A temporary station was established at the Eungella Dam Construction Site in 1966 - 68 because of a few villains infiltrating the force and law and order had to be maintained. Eungella Dam Temporary Police Station

Opened 10.10.1966 const. Peter Jeffers
 Closed 01.12.68 const. V.A. Walker No. 6516 T'ferred to Mackay

In early years a Police Station was built at the Eungella diggings on the Broken River. This was within the surveyed town of Crediton, the only town of Crediton that ever existed. It closed after the great majority of the population left the area in 1891 for Charters Towers. Officer in charge was Constable Jim Safford with Constable Donoghane assisting

Station opened 20.12.1889
 Closed 21.11.1891

Originally survey of Police Station at Crediton was on plan survey k103.595. 596 made in 1891 by Bernard C. Dupuy. It shows original track to Mackay going past the reserve while plan no. 1 made in 1892 by Dupuy shows the track between the Police Reserve Portion 7Vv Parish of Mia Mia and Continuation of Karl Flor's along the rim of the range.

The Finch Hatton Police Force over the years from 1935 included:

| Sergeant Mulchay | Constables Bowman |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| " W. Newman | " Ron Horsford |
| " Rafter | " Mick Ryan |
| " Claud Cronk | " Frank Fishborne |
| " Vic Abrahams | " Jack Cziślowski |
| " Lofty Weissener | " Jack Cronan |
| " Geoff Little | " Athol Rybert |
| " Don Gray | " Jack Long |
| " Les Campbell | " Vaughan Gooley |
| COL NICHOLAS | " Peter Long |
| | " John Spredborough |
| | (relieving to date) |

Ron McLennon of Walkerston recalls that his father Charley who knew personally and who told me the same story himself many years saved a Policeman's life on the Eungella Range track.

Charley did the Pony Express ride with the mail from Gargett to diggings in the old days and came on this coloured gentleman from islands, doing the Policeman over and just about to operate on with a tomahawk. Charley dismounted quickly and took a hand on proceedings to the extent of putting the villain in chains reviving the Officer and generally getting things under control again.

Then there was the occasion of a more modern year when Kojak and had to bury a week old body in a remote area on a beach north Cairns.

He simply dug a grave beside the body in the sand and after making sure that there were no suspicious circumstances just rolled the body in with all due respect of corpses. It was then necessary for him to report the matter to his chief in Cairns recording the incident with the latitude and longitude bearings of the grave.

Back came the reply to our bloke from the top brass in Cairns - "please check bearings, You have buried him two miles out to sea.' How would you be?

OFF THE RECORD

Finch Hatton was in the police district of Townsville 1910-12.

First road construction on the range in 1912 when 60 men were employed

There were probably three boarding houses on the top of the range. Mrs. Hanley was in one of them. Mrs. Morrison an ex-publican from Charters Towers was in another.

Constable Hagarty was the man of the day. He was - Acting Clerk of Petty sessions - Inspector of Stamps, Assistant Registrar of Births and Deaths, Receiver in insolvency and Inspector of School Offences.

POWER

Although we had electric light and power from our private light plants back as far as 1941 it was a great day in June, 1960 when the M.R.E.B. switched on town power supply to the area. This allowed many jobs to be put over to a flick of a switch instead of the starting of engines (and the necessary maintenance of same). A new era in farming had started - milking, pumping, freezing, milling, everything over to the electric switch.

AMBULANCE BRIGADE FINCH HATTON

AMBULANCE BEARERS SINCE 1935 INCLUDE:-

| PERMANENT | RELIEF |
|--|------------------------------|
| HUGHIE RUSSELL 1935 | |
| D. TUCKER 1937 | |
| T.W. TEALE 1939-40 | |
| TOM LEACH 1939 | |
| STEVE WILLIAMS [1935 RELIEF 1940 & 1947] | |
| | [1958 SUPERINTENDENT/MACKAY] |
| C. FRY [1964] | |
| KEVIN PLUMB 1949 | |
| G.A. TAMBLING 1950 | E. EVERS 1950 |
| GEORGE BRITTAIN 1954-64 | W.F. THORNING 1940 |
| JIM DENNY 1974-.10.84 | C. FRY 1954 |
| PAUL BLACK 16/4/84 | G.A. TAMBLING 1955 |

FRED ANGUS

Recalls while working as a brake boy in 1923 for his future father-in-law Jack Cunningham, who had a contract for hauling Cedar down the Range with his team and wagon, that a Bill Jensen as offsider for J got a Forestry horse and put in as a 'pin' horse as he was short one, going down the Range this horse lashed out and kicked him in the face. Fred had to brake the wagon and load, making it secure and to run down to the farm at the Mango trees to get help, as this bloke in a bad way and thought he was going to die. Two chaps, Wallace Joy went up to lend a hand, one of them had the presence of mind poke a finger down his throat, felt his teeth down there and fished them out and his breathing came a lot easier - probably saved his life.

In the meantime, Fred got a horse, and rode to Finch Hatton 9 miles away at a gallop, and got the ambulance man, a Mr Push. He came up in a sulky after catching his horse and got the patient down to Netherdale, and Harold Chambers got him onto the mid-day cane train and on into hospital arriving there 7 o'clock that night.

Fred also recalls that August Push was a ambulance bearer, and a Speed was the Police Officer.

This Jensen must have been accident prone for a bit later on, taking a load of logs down the Range, Fred told him the Cedar brake blocks the brakes were worn out. Jansen wouldn't have it, said they would do another trip at least.

Then off she went, brakes and horses wouldn't hold, and down went the lot wagon, load and over she went.

It just wasn't his day again.



George Britain 1954-1964

STAFFY PUPS

by Murray Ambrose

Returning to my humpy at about 7pm on 11th March, 1985 I found my little Foxy bitch had died giving birth to four foxy-staffordshire terriers pups.

I did my best to save them by feeding with an eye dropper, but could not have managed, as I had to be away all day working.

So I had a talk to Jean Foster to see what she could do to help - she suggested trying one of their cats. There was one there with only two kittens left as a large carpet snake had taken three a couple of nights previously.

So to go and get the pups and try them.

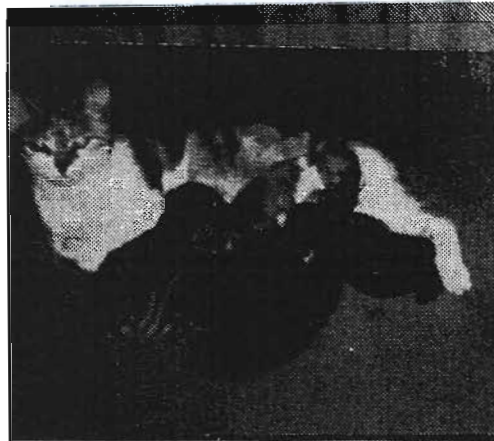
The cat started licking and cleaning them straight away and they started settling in for a feed.

She looked after them real well for four to five weeks, mothering and cleaning them together with the two kittens. With plenty of good tucker for her, she provided milk for the lot. They all turned out nice pups and are good ratters like their mother.

Thanks to Norm and Jean I saved my breed.

P.S. - from Jean. The cat used to purr like mad and after feeding and grooming her charges, she would sit back with a look of amazement on her face and wonder "what the hell have I done here?"

Mother cat and two kittens plus four puppies



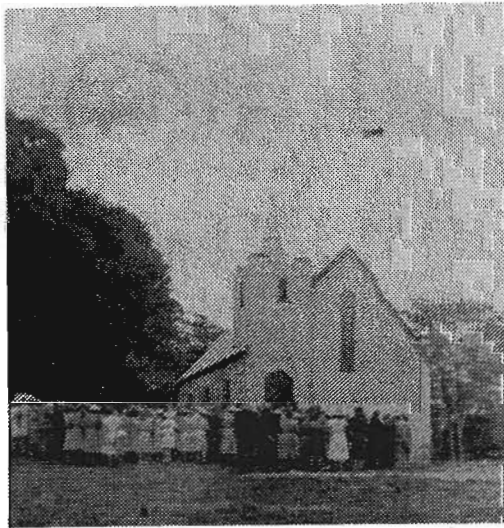
CHURCHES

One of the first church services held on the Eungella Range remembered by a present resident of long standing here Mrs Ruby Bell of Bee Creek was held in the open air up on the hill between where Mr Wally Swayne's house was built (this was almost the site of a double-storied guest house of Jack Cunninghams) and the Post Office and Store. There were a number of Cedar logs there for loading and the congregation sat on them.

This was a non denominational group led by Mr G. Windsor and Sims. These two gentlemen were working a horse team in the scrub down the Range and Mr Sims lived in a house over by the present Presbyterian Church.

In Crediton's early days Mr Doug Moodie now a Pastor of the Assembly of God in Mackay was in residence in Eungella township with his wife and children. They came out and held meetings at the residence of Dean Ross starting about 1943 I think it was. They were great people and great christians and their spiritual assistance was greatly appreciated by all who attended as they filled a need in this still wild country with a war on but not only because of that.

With the two halls built in 1945 one at Crediton and the other at Eungella, provision was made that each hall would be available at a certain time for the holding of any Church meetings. This was availed of and still is.



*Presbyterian Church November 1947
Courtesy Harold Petersen*

The Presbyterian Church is the only specific Church built on the Eungella Range. This was built in 1947 and opened on the 6th November and it contains timber cut from a large blue gum log from Bob Bell's property at Bee Creek. It was milled by Alf Willett and the Church was built by Mr Kyneston and is an actual replica of Mr Maitland's father's Church in Victoria. Before this was built they held their meetings under the Eungella State School.

THE CHALET

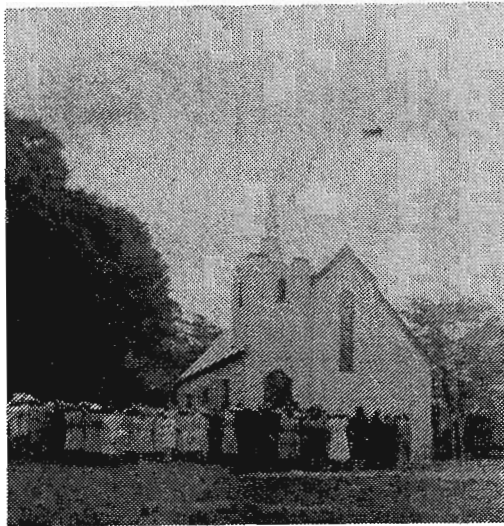
NOW HOTEL EUNGELLA

The site was bought from Jack Cunningham by Dr Chenoworth who with the Hamiltons and Websters wanted to build a Sanitorium, as they thought the climate on the range was ideally suited to people convalescing from various health problems. Frank and Florence Owen were installed in 1933 as the managers but unfortunately Mrs Owen died shortly afterwards and the two sons Max and Claud and daughter Joan took over the operations a little later.

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George Bosel had used his horses and scoop cutting out the site level before building commenced. The builder was Joe Growler and the timber was cut by Burgess's Mill including T & G hardwood flooring. The Chalet has a marvelous view of the Pioneer Valley and from below, is an imposing building on a commanding site.

Over the years particularly in the days of steam trains, holidays in the mountains were the thing. Kaj and Hannah Sprogoe were the ideal host and hostess for such a clientele who sometimes returned regularly over the years and extolled the virtues of the Mountain Chalet.

With the motor car really coming into its own, more people called as day trippers and the accomodation side not so much emphasized.

Laurence Barry of Mackay bought the Chalet from Kay Sprogoe in May 1973. Maurie and Judy Flynn went in as Managers and a very popular place it was in their time, especially with families with children, and the intorduction of Cabaret style entertainment each week or so.

John Hannay bought it from Laurence Barry and then later the Faux Brothers (Owen, Fred, and Terry) took it over until they sold it to the present owners John and Vicky Archer from Western Australia.

They believe that the Chalet is excellently situated for tourism, being centred firstly in it's own right with such a profusion of lush green tropical vegetation of 'rain forest', with beautiful ferns and palms, and with an immediate surrounding perimeter of land with a history of its own in early settlement, early timber getting, bullock teams, horse teams and gold mining.

Secondly, it is in close proximity to the beautiful island resorts of the Verdant seas and coral reefs. This has to be a combination that will grow on prospective tourists.

Even now staff from the island resorts are coming to the Chalet for relaxation and a change of scenery which they find most invigorating - in our 2300 feet altitude. Our beautiful valley view, in our moderate climate, our friendly approach of life, and our surrounding "ROOF GARDEN OF MACKAY" tropical vegetation.

Tourism is almost ready to explode in Mackay, and Eungella in particular, with the need for hotel and self-contained motel type accommodation and service to day trippers coming in ever increasing numbers each year. All visitors can now be assured of clean surroundings, excellent meals and good beer, wine, spirits and whatever.

CARAVAN PARK

Accommodation is also available at the top of the range and also camping facilities at the National Park at Broken River and also at the Eungella Dam.

**EUNGELLA STORE
SERVICING CREDITON**

The first store was owned and run by Rolly Goode. It was built the bottom side of the road to the present store. There was a H built along side of it until 1953, when it was sold and pulled do The store was sold to Jim Brennan, then later to Andy and Tom Kel It finished and was pulled down in 1937.

Wally Swayne bought the land over the hill behind the present st and Post Office and built the store in 1929.

As there was a letter posting slot in the front wall, until fai recently, he probably operated the Post Office inside the store, b in 1935, when we arrived in Eungella, he had his son Roy (Blu Swayne installed in the store and he operated the Post Office i little annex at the rear (1933-37) of the double storied resident section built by H.M. Lee.

Other owners of the store have been:-

Lou Edwards

leased to Roy Eastgate

George Leach

Alf Clews 1953-8

Kev Power

Bill Edwards, Kate Edwards and Jim Murray helping Lou at time

Freehold to Len Coben

" " Len Flack

" " Ron Joyce

" " Ron Gordon - present owner.



*Butcher Shop - Harold Petersen
Courtesy H. Petersen*

BUTCHERY AT REAR

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Lou Edwards | - with Harold Peterson starting at 13. |
| Fred Angus | - with John Angus and Chas Eden |
| Harold Peterson | - with Alf Clews for three months |
| Bob Cunningham | - with Neil Cunningham |
| Chas Eden | - finished May 1956 |
| Alf Clews | - 1956 - end of 1957 |

SHOP CLOSED.

Glen Cameron Butchery
Les Jackson and wife

Hall and Davis Butchery
Built down on corner of Harold Peterson's depot yard.
Operated later by just Bill Davis.

BAKERY

Built by Kaj Sprogoe on the Chalet land facing onto the Crediton Road.

Operated first by Kaj Sprogoe
then Horold Arndt
then George Hassell

Wally Swayne built a second general store up by the Butchery and Bakery and put his son-in-law Arthur Wells in to operate it on 1.2.47 later Harold Hewitt on 1.1.49 then George Hassell.

This happened when Lou Edwards was in the Butchers Shop. A piece of corned meat sent out to the Chelman timber-cutting camp, down Hazelwood Creek. It took a lot of cooking and, when it would not 'tender up' a bit, it was taken out and closely examined. It was found to be a cow udder, with the four teats cut off very flush.

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL (league)

and Cricket were played in the early days of the P.E.I., probable from 1930 onwards. These games were played on the flat opposite the Post Office and Store site, centred about where Harold Petersen built his first home, now occupied by Mr N. Field. The cricket pitch ran through where the laundry, is now at the rear.

CRICKET

Later in 1945, Cricket was played fairly regularly on a concrete pitch, built on the present oval, opposite the Memorial Hall. Players included John Thomsett, Bill Nielsen, Lloyd Cullen, Laurie Kliver, Neil Hickey, Norm Foster, Trevor Wyatt, Jim Anderson, Snowy Hack and others.

Glen Cameron Butchery
Les Jackson and wife

Hall and Davis Butchery
Built down on corner of Harold Peterson's depot yard.
Operated later by just Bill Davis.

BAKERY

Built by Kaj Sprogoe on the Chalet land facing onto the Crediton Road.

Operated first by Kaj Sprogoe
then Horold Arndt
then George Hassell

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This pitch was destroyed by loaded timber trucks running over it and had to be rebuilt later, after the Council did grading and forming work on the present field.

Many games were played in the 1945-1946 period, teams like the 'Colts' coming up from Mackay and also from Pinnacle, Gargett and Finch Hatton. We also played 'away' matches.

Later, in the 1960's when the Co-ordination Generals Department was building the Eungella Dam, good social games were played again between the districts. Alf Clews, Pat Hickey and Bill Quilan were playing this period.

In latter years, school matches and those involving dairymen and the Department of Primary Industries Staff have been very popular.

TENNIS

The first courts were at the old Burgess Guest House and the Chalet. Many social games were played on both courts - but they were in a neglected state at the end of 1936, after we were up here, for a while. I had the job of cleaning them up and getting them in playing condition again. The Chalet court was not used a great deal, as balls hit over the netting, on the Range side, were lost. The Burgess court was used a lot over the next ten years or more. In the first part of that period players such as Bill Matthews from Crediton, Surveyor Ernie Twine and his four linesmen, Percy Keen from Mt. Barrow mine, Norm Foster and others, and were followed later by Laurie Kluver, Alf Clews, Trevor Wyatt etc.

In 1944-45 we had good tennis going on a court we built at Crediton on the Recreation Reserve, where the Hall is situated. Other players included Austin and Mrs Turner, Neil and Mrs Hickey, Stan and Mrs Brake, Ray and Mrs Scott, Mrs Herbert, Tom and Mrs Dunbar, Bill and Mrs Thedeicke, Seymour and Mrs Tronson, Wally and Mrs Jeffs, Geoff and Mrs Risley, Henry and Mrs Deans etc.

A second court had to be built there in 1947 as there were too many players. Matches had been held at home and away, with teams down the Valley, from Finch Hatton to Netherdale and again included Ernie Huwiler, the Thomsons, Neilsens and Inches, great players amongst them too and good sports.

I was also instrumental in cleaning the court and reconditioning it at Eungella Station about 1952 - and a little later we built another court at West Crediton, for the school and local people. The new court was the one at Eungella township opposite the Hall, and this was very popular, and in fact, it still is, at one time being lit, after the power was available on 1961, for night playing, and it had an all-weather playing surface.

SWIMMING

Not many carnivals have been held on the Range, but one I can remember, that was a great success, was at the Broken River pool in December, 1936. It was run by a chaps of the P.E.I. and was an Ambulance benefit. pontoons were used at each end and proper float ropes were used for lane markers. Diving events both board and high, from way up in the Oak Tree were held. Novelty events like diving for the 28 white saucers thrown into the murky depths of the pool. Guessing the height of a sapling, 28 feet 3 inches, I think it was, and things of that nature - all together a great day - and it should have been repeated. It was advertised, and competitors came up from the Valley. Trophies were given for the Championship events. Geoff Koch and his were winners and Pat Patullo was a good swimmer too.

TABLE TENNIS

Was a great indoor sport in the second half of the 50's. We played mainly at Norm Fosters table and at Woodmans mill. Practice was for farmer and sawmill hand alike, the moment the 12 o'clock whistle blew at the mill - on the mill table with Tom Bull, Pat Kelly, Dulcie West Ruth McConnell, Norm Foster etc. Good games were held against the mob from the Top including Harold Peterson, Alf Clews, Beryl Smith and others, and later a team from Crediton was formed and played matches with us.

BADMINTON

A close friend of mine, Martin Newcombe and his wife Margo, were great exponents of the game in Colac, Victoria before they came north to practice Physiotherapy in Mackay. Later in 1957 they interested me in the game and I enticed our table tennis players into 'giving it a go'. We had to hire the Eungella Hall and its floor space was just enough to play the sport. It is a very fast and exciting game. It was kept going for a couple of years.

SPORTS DAYS

Have been organised from time to time on the Bull Paddock flat, Crediton and also the oval in Eungella. These were days that were enjoyed by everyone whether they participated or not, as there was always so much fun and good spirits. The only thing wrong with them was that they were always too far apart.

The Bull Paddock flat facing the road opposite the Markey farm, is still held as a Recreational Reserve (R24). The trusteeship has been vested in the Mirani Shire Council and still may be required, in years to come, if the local population increases, with sub-division.

THE EUNGELLA AMATEUR RACE CLUB

In the late 1940's, probably 1947-54, this club flourished for a few years, with the co-operation of locals and those of the graziers in the immediate hinterland, who provided good grass fed horses for the events. A fair bush track was cleared and partly fenced, halfway between Crediton and Eungella Station at Spring Creek, and an Annual Race Meeting was held, greatly patronised by many from near and far, complete with bookmakers, liquor booth, refreshments and the works and



Picnic Races 1951 - Mary Angus



Picnic Races 1951 - J. Wood

followed with a great Race Ball, at the Eungella Memorial Hall that night. It was without a doubt the event of the year and would have continued much longer than the few years it did only for some people wanting more out of it than they were prepared to put in. The graziers did not like the supervision of the funds and withdrew their support of the horses.

DANCES

Besides the Race Ball, there have been other dances and balls of various kinds held over the years. Probably the most popular would be the Dairy Ball in October each year with the crowning of a Dairy Queen. The photo of Peggy Cocks Orchestra in Finch Hatton 'Through the Mists', reminds me of the opening of the Crediton Hall back in 1945 and what a night that was too. She was booked to play for us then too.

YARNS

Talking to Lal Eden (nee Parker) on the 'phone she said, "Yes, I can remember Jerry Sullivan, he sold Dad (Dave Parker) a Jersey bull once. He was a pretty long fellow, with long hair and curled in horns (the bull that is not Jerry). The cows thought he was lovely and lick and groomed him every morning after milking, but as soon as it got a bit hot, he went down to the creek about 9am and stayed there all day to about 3pm or so".

"Gee", I said, "he missed a lot of life didn't he?"

"Yes he sure did" she said, "I can remember him getting only one calf".

It must have been a cold day that time!

The giant Bunya Pines about the old Glen Cameron Butcher shop were planted by Mary Angus (nee Cunningham) in the early 1930's.

JUNIOR FARMERS CLUB

It is good to see the renewed interest in the district with the reestablishment of these clubs now called Rural Youth. One was formed originally in 1949-50 period at Eungella with some content from Crediton young people.

The first leader was Snowy Parker and the first secretary Sheila Howie. Advisors were Bob Bell and Harold Hewett and Norm Foster.

It failed later, perhaps because too much emphases was placed on social activities and the nonuse of advisors and agricultural studies.

RURAL YOUTH 1985

A branch of the Rural Youth has been formed at Eungella with a good showing of Crediton youth interested. Although one club it will have two component parts, one up to 16 years olds and the other 16 to 25 year olds.

Open President or Leader..... Mick Burgess
Secretary..... Diana Cortis
Treasurer..... Kerry Banco
Public Relations..... Matthew Rosser

Junior President or Leader..... Adrian McLean
Secretary..... Eric Ross
Treasurer..... Michelle Rose
Public Relations..... John Cunningham

Other Members Include:- Adrian, Rick and Dean Ross, Zoe Rosser, Bradley and Donna Quinlan, Michael Roberts, Michael Burgess and Karen Foster.

At present the club is in it's early days with a proposed visit from the State President from Mt. Isa, and from a lady from the Education Department Townsville organizing an overnight camp of instruction.

In the near future they hope to have the Ambulance Bearer up from Hatton for first aid instruction and a Fete at the Challet with the "Man of the Mountain" race in October. Probable fortnightly meetings are planned for the future.

In the stockfeed business, working down the Pioneer Valley, we had many enquiries into the feeding and husbandry of all types of livestock.

A lady came in one day and enquired about her rooster which had died. Did I think she had too many hens for him? Apparently she had quite a few.

Realising that there were a good half dozen reasons why her rooster could have died, but impossible to hazard a guess without seeing him, I replied, "I didn't think so, they work within their limits. But you can be sure that if he did, he died happy".

She was quite satisfied that she had not done him wrong.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
CREDITON STATE FOREST

by Clem Page

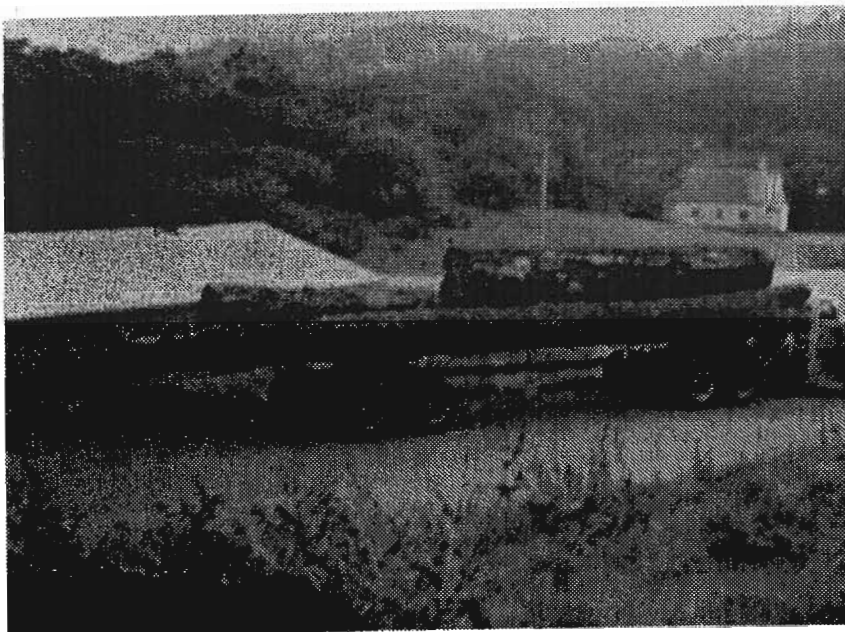
Crediton State forest which contains approximately 12,000 acres prime hardwood forest in the areas known as Red & Diggings, Slaughteryard and Rose, all Hazelwood, St. Johns, and Burrou logging areas.

Hardwood will regenerate and cut lightly every twenty years provided there is an average rainfall.

Hardwood growth rate, approximately half an inch per year diameter, while softwood are slightly less, one third of an inch.

There is a fair to large patch of softwoods on the eastern fall Hazelwood west. Mills are on an allocation of softwood which reviewed every five years to see if it can be increased or cut back. We can see supply to the year 2005 but with further review we may be able to supply indefinitely on a reduced allocation.

*Red Cedar Logs
Courtesy Mel Burgess*



SOFT WOOD VARIETIES

White Satin Ash
Red Satin Ash
Tulip Oak
Beech
Carribean
Sassifras
Silver Quondong
Red Cedar.....Touna Australis

HARDWOOD VARITIES

Rose Gum.....Eucalyptus Grandis
Forest Red Gum.....Eucalyptus Teriticornis
Spotted or Scented Gum.....Eucalyputs Citriodoroa
Ironbark.....(Gray) Eucalyptus Drepanophylla
Bloodwood.....(Red) Eucalyptus Intermedia

The forest Red Gum is the best regenerator of the hard woods. don't devastate the forest these days. We tree farm - that is on harvest to allow a continuing on going supply.

Eungella National Park, 80km west of Mackay lies within the parishes of Lacy, Gamma, Pelion, Mia Mia, Eungella and Crediton. Of the approximately 50,800 ha within the park only a very small portion lies in the parish of Crediton. This small portion however, carries the bulk of the developments - camping and picnic areas, walking tracks and staff accommodation.

This area straddles the Broken River, six kilometres south of Eungella township and is covered in thick rainforest, giving way to tall open forest around the picnic area.

The rainforest is characterised by tall Red Eungella Satinash and Mackay Tulip Oak which abound in Birds nest ferns, elkhorns and king orchids. The Red Cedar, whose timber was Australia's main export in the 1820's from the Northern Rivers of N.S.W. is still to be found scattered along the walking tracks. Ferns, ranging from small clumps of Maidenhair to the beautiful tree ferns grow in profusion on the forest floor.

The big, moist, shady forest is popular with visitors from all over. The other forest - the tall open forest is not so vast and is not so well known. It is actually different to eucalypt open forests. In central and northern Queensland it is restricted to only two locations - one is on the Clarke Range at Eungella.

It occurs as a narrow strip from 200 - 1000m wide along the western edge of rainforest. It is characterised by the majestic Flooded Gum, the New England Blackbutt and the Red Stringybark with an understory of blade grass and bracken fern. A few of our native animals are restricted to this type of forest, like the Swamp Rat and the Yellow-bellied glider.

The park has recorded over 100 different birds - magpies, pigeons, finches and parrots, but one that is quickly gaining popularity among the 'Bird Watchers' is Eungella's own bird the Eungella Honeyeater. Found throughout the park, it was named in 1979 and is found only in this area.

Not to be outdone, the reptiles and amphibians are putting new names onto the lists. To date the Eungella/Finch Hatton/Crediton areas has two skinks and three frogs found nowhere else, including the latest find - the Eungella Gastric brooding frog. This frog is unique in that the female broods the young in the stomach and ejects them as fully developed frogs. It is one of two species of frogs which are now, legally protected in Queensland.

The animals are always the most noticeable, the kangaroos and wallabies, possums and gliders, and even the quolls, spotted native cats. These ferocious little marsupials were caught in the ceilings of two Crediton houses and one Eungella house in early 1985 and released elsewhere.

The most unique and probably the most popular among the animals is the platypus. It is common in the Broken River and its tributaries and even in many a dairy farmer's dam. This little animal with webbed feet, duck bill and beaver-like tail is one of the most common reasons people come to the National Park. It is most commonly seen at the foot bridge over Broken River, in the early morning and late afternoon. People as far away as West Germany and Switzerland come to the park to see the platypus.

The national park wasn't always there. It had a beginning.

In fact, the beginning goes back to Wiri aboriginal tribe whose lands spread from the Eungella-Crediton area to the Nebo area. They called it in "Oongalla" or "cloud set down 'longa mountain".

The area was used by these nomadic people for thousands of years and then in the 1880's the first prospectors started looking for gold. Gold was found and the mines started to operate. The access to the gold fields was either by a long route through Mt. Britton or by two parallel horse tracks, Armstrong's and Carl Flora's tracks, up the side of the mountain range. They joined at the top, not far from the Broken River Walking track, to form a single track through the Broken River rainforest. This track then crossed Broken River and passed through the existing picnic area.

Later on in the 1930's, the picnic areas were used by construction workers building the Eungella-Crediton road.

Also around this time. Senator Ian Wood, the Mayor of Mackay, pressed to have the area declared a national park. In 1940 Forester D.A. Maxwell and A.H. Cole added their recommendations that the area be declared. Thus in January, 1941, Eungella National Park was born and became the responsibility of the Department of Forestry.

Mounting pressure from local businesses in Mackay led to the commencement of tracks and facilities in 1947, under National Park Ranger J.A. Gresty. By 1953 most of the work was stretching from the present Eungella township to Crediton Creek. The area round the bridge over Broken River became the National Park headquarters. In the years following, the park grew with small additions being made and more facilities being built.

On the 15th June, 1975, the control of National Parks in Queensland passed from the Department of Forestry into the hands of the new Government department - the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. Money continued to slowly trickle into Eungella National Park allowing improvements to be made and some new facilities to be built.

In 1984, the park received a significant boost with much needed money starting to flow into the area. Plans were drawn up for the complete redevelopment of the park. Already, some of these plans have started to be implemented. Car parks, a new camping ground, a new house, and office and information centre are either in construction or

soon to be built. The major track is being redesigned to cater for incapacitated people. These new developments are needed to keep pace with the ever increasing tourist population - 47,000 day visitors and 5,000 campers in 1984.

The park is the place you pass through on the way to the "pub". The place you can call into to have a barby, a swim, a walk or a chat with a ranger. Maybe to forget the waistline and indulge in the tempting array of cakes and eats at the Platypus Kiosk. This is Broken River of the Eungella National Park.

EDITORS NOTE

TIGER CAT

Perhaps it is not generally known that this animal has been seen in the district. Only one by myself in 1938 on my block down on the Crediton Creek flats. I knew this animal by the description in N.S.W. in 1933, and by Howard Aspinall when I came up here in 1935, and I had no doubt what it was. At 9am in the morning it was in the fork of the young sapling about 16 feet from the ground observing me closely as I walked along the log snagging track about seventy feet away. I could feel him on the back of my neck before I spotted him. He is a very hairy animal, hair probably three to four inches long and contained a space about eighteen inches square in outline sitting in the tree fork, a tail about eighteen inches long and a very ferocious feline face. Don't take the fight up to them or they will attack. This one had black hair or what appeared to be black from a distance, but one my wife Jean had seen dead, had some brown hair which gave it a brindle appearance. They fight giving a hundred percent performance with every claw on four feet fully extended and all teeth going at the same time.

BEWARE

Also of interest, Koala Bears were in the open forest area near Crediton and out west of here 1935-1940 at least.

NATIONAL PARK KIOSKE - PLATYPUS KIOSKE

This was built in mid 1960 by Frank Gow and was under the control of the Forestry Department.

1975 Sold to Mrs J. Cheshire
1980 Sold to Mrs L. Smith
1981 Sold to J. Wake & J. Turner.

Now under the control of The National Parks and Wild Life Service.

RECREATION CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

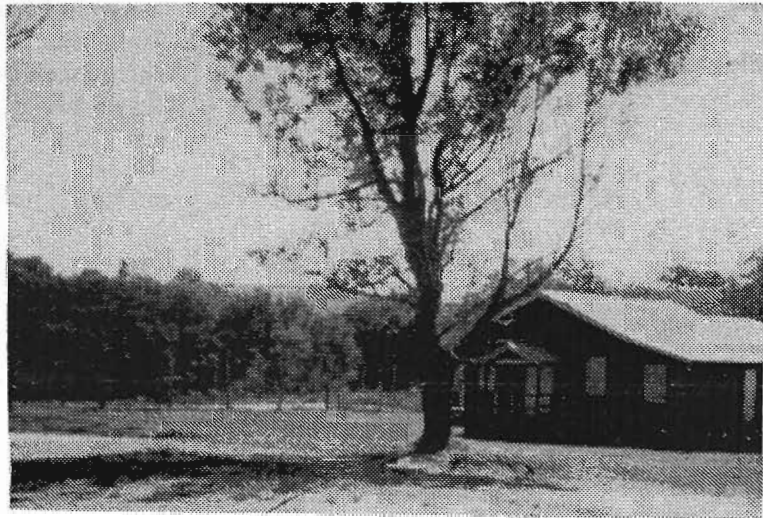
CREDITON SCHOOLS AND RECREATION CLUB

The first school at Crediton was a Provisional school located in a small house on the block of Dean Ross - gratefully offered by him, the purpose of getting the school going and educating the early crop of children available.

Date of admission of the first children was 18th October, 1943 with twelve pupils were enrolled, including four from the bullock teams Bill Brownsey. Miss Tarlington was the teacher.

As Mr Ross required the use of his building again shortly afterwards it became a necessity for the Crediton settlers to build a hall - for their own purposes and to be used as a provisional school.

A piece of land on the reserve at the junction of the Circle road and the Upper River Road had been obtained previously from the Lands Department for this purpose - three Trustees appointed to hold it. The Recreation Club formed to manage it and provide the amenity of a Hall building, tennis court, horse paddock etc., and anything else required in the future in the way of recreation facilities.



Crediton hall and tennis court

In forming the Recreation Club it was decided on a donation of \$5 per family towards the building of the hall. Most families obliged and the balance of the funds required, were to be from functions at the hall later on. All families of the community were to be members with an additional cost only for men and women over sixteen, who wanted to play tennis to defray the cost of the sport, such as tennis balls, nets, netting and marking lime etc.

Previous to this, we had card parties, and such like, organised to raise funds for the building of the first tennis court, way back as far as August, 1942 when one at Tommy Dunbar's house was held. Others followed at various venues. Euchre was the game of choice.

The school operated successfully in the Crediton Hall for some years, with children travelling up to about 2 3/4 miles from each direction. However, when three children were obliged to travel up to four and a half miles to school in 1951, we applied to the Department of Education for subsidised transport for the area involved. We had previously tried on three occasions to have the Crediton School Committee make representation, on our behalf, but we found, as it wasn't in their interest, they would do nothing about it. That applied to other matters as well. As the required number of children over the three mile limit was not available (such is the rigor of Government regulations) this was refused, but on pressing the Department for consideration disregarding, the Regional Director of Education from Rockhampton, Mr Guymer (later State Director) granted a school at the Bull Paddock to be known as the West Crediton State School, which was opened in a temporary building on Gordon and Nell West's property, on the fifteenth of October, 1951, with sixteen children in attendance and Mr Eddie Eshmann as teacher. This decision was made wholly on the number of children available as permanent pupils from resident farming families. Any extra numbers from itinerant workers, timber cutters, mill workers etc., would be purely incidental. As it turned out, study of the children on the roll show that only one carpenter's son was enrolled in 1951, out of sixteen and he was only there for one week. Next year, 1952, there was one mill worker's son enrolled and he attended for two months. Again in 1954 only one sawmill manager's son was enrolled and he attended for that year only. He was Donald Patrick Agnew.

Land was obtained on a special lease fronting the main flat on Cortis's present property, a section for the State School and horse paddock and the rest for a Sports Recreational Reserve, held under three trustees; H. Dean, G. Risley and N. Foster.

All material was on hand and the Works Department carpenters arrived on the twenty-fifth of May, 1954 to commence building and was nearly finished by the end of June, but it was not until the middle of August painting was finished. Teacher hoped to be ready for opening in October, 1954.

The Crediton State School was built in 1956 and occupied on the fourth of February, 1957.

West Crediton continued to twenty-ninth of September, 1961 when it was closed and the pupils were transported by School Bus to Eungella State School while the Crediton School was closed later on the twenty-second of May, 1968 and the pupils from there were also taken to Eungella. The days of the area schools was now well established where children were transported to central schools,

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION:

On our part, after past experiences, we decided to form a Parents and Citizens Association to assist with the running of the school rather than the usual school committee of five. Actually, only a few such Parent and Citizens Associations were operative in Queensland at that time, although it was acceptable to the Department of Education but not advised by them. We believed that much more community involvement was generated by this move, resulting in full school meetings every time and the people did not have to be parents if they just wished to be involved in the district where they were working. At this date, it would be hard to find a school committee operating - they are nearly all Parents and Citizens Associations.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO MACKAY

From a letter home dated 21 March, 1954 we quote. "yes, we went down to see good Queen Liz and the Duke on Monday. Milked early, here about 6.30 a.m. with Mr & Mrs Risley and Mrs Morley, Eleanor and myself, the kids having been sent down to the train at 5 a.m. with the teacher as they were to assemble at the Mackay Railway Station to march to the show grounds to an allotted place in the ring in front of the dias.

It was an excellent arrangement as all schools in the district were there and the official car drove around them, on the way in and through the centre of them all and then around them on the way out. I got seats in the grandstand for Eleanor and Mrs. Risley with the babies, Jeff and I had a good view almost in front of the track.

There was a Maltese woman in front of me with a little girl of three years old and I finished holding her up. (The little girl is). Half sitting on one knee and me standing on the other leg of the form running around the ringside. Then as the Queen approached I had to take my hat off and hold it and the little girl in the hand still balancing on one leg and wave with the other hand. I wonder I didn't wave the little girl, isn't it. I was glad when the Queen made the dias and I could get down.

I forgot to mention it, but it rained like blazes for half an hour just after we got there and me in just an open shirt, I asked a woman in front if her sunshade would be any good in keeping out rain and she said she hoped so and put it up. It worked pretty well and I only got wet a bit down one arm and a little down the back. A lot of people were absolutely drenched but all in good spirit for the occasion.

We picked up the kids after it was all over, the Crediton mob had lunch at the show grounds and then headed for home.

I took Mr and Mrs Risley and baby Ian, Mrs Tom Bull, Mrs Frazer and her two children and Eleanor and Kevin and self home in the Buick, the rest of the kids went with Cliff Ostwald in his utility.

We all thought it was a great day and well worth the effort to see our "Monarch."

Telephone 4 December, 1949

Our phone Crediton 8 was working today. Mrs. Dean Ross operates the exchange at her residence as this is a very central place to service the majority of houses in the Crediton area - basic rent being set on a 2 1/2 mile radius from the exchange site.

CREDITON PROVISIONAL SCHOOL

18.10.43

1 Avis May BROWNSEY
2 Lorraine Levena BROWNSEY
3 Graham Arthur BROWNSEY
4 Maureen Eleanor BROWNSEY
5 Wilfred Stanley John MATTHEWS
6 Gwendoline Eileen Dean ROSS
7 Eric Dean ROSS
8 Dorothy Dean ROSS
9 Josephine Ruby THIEDECKE
10 Shirley May THIEDICKE
11 Clive William THIEDICKE
12 Aileen Rae TRANTER

02.02.44

13 Anita Clair SCOTT
14 Eleanor Joyce SCOTT
15 Harold Griffiths SCOTT
16 Roger McKenzie MUNSTER
17 Carol Mary MUNSTER
18 Kenneth John BIDDLE

12.02.45

19 George Edward WEST
20 Dorothy Ivy Jean WEST
21 Ronald Clement George LOVI
22 Keith Denzil LOVI

07.05.46

23 Daryl Walter FUNNELL
24 Vivian Norman BRADSHAW

17.02.47

25 Ella Jean PORTER
26 Leslie William PORTER
27 Annabelle Joyce FREEGARD
28 Beryl Evangeline FREEGARD
29 Eveline Grace DEANS
30 Dulcie May WEST
31 Janice Irene RISLEY
32 June Isabelle RISLEY
33 Patricia May JACKSON
34 Mavis Elizabeth HAMMER

01.02.49

35 Kenneth Edward PALLANT
36 Timothy James FOSTER
37 Brian Laurence KLUVER
38 Barry James WILLETT
39 Edna HERBERT
40 Heather May FREEGARD
41 Helen Margaret DEANS
42 Aileen Iris SCOTT
43 Gordon Alexander WEST
44 Beverley Adrienne OSTWALD
45 Daryl Francis OSTWALD
46 Lynette Elizabeth RUSH

06.02.50

47 Judith Ann MUNSTER
48 Beryl Naomi MUNSTER
49 Margaret Isabel MUNSTER
50 Coral June MUNSTER
51 Howard Clifton OSTWALD
52 Rodney James KLUVER
53 Ivy Helen COWAN
54 Hazel HERBERT
55 Kathryn Mary TURNER
56 Bevin Francis William DINGLE
57 Francis PASSFIELD
58 Kenneth PASSFIELD
59 David PASSFIELD
60 Madonna Ann WHITING
61 Kenneth Edward KERRIDGE

15.02.51

62 Desley Maye OSTWALD
63 Eleanor Joan FOSTER
64 Allison Gloria DEANS
65 Roslyn Joan RISLEY
66 Janet Anne BARKER
67 Joan Marie BARKER
68 Beverley June SCOTT
69 Heather Jean HAMILTON
70 Catherine Gwendoline HAMILTON
71 Elizabeth Ester HAMILTON
72 Colin Edward SMITH

04.02.52

73 Helen Francis OLD
 74 Jeffrey Clifford OLD
 75 Denise Ann DINGLE
 76 Ralph Samuel FREEGARD
 77 Valda Elinor COWAN
 78 Stanley William MOLLENHAGEN

04.02.53

79 Kenneth John MOLLENHAGEN
 80 Kim Christopher TRONSON
 81 Reinder Hendrick Wouter WOUNDENBERG
 82 Hendrick Willem Johan WOUNDENBERG
 83 Monica Ann OLD
 84 Warren Kevin MOLLENHAGEN

02.02.54

85 Lynette Emily DINGLE
 86 Nevillè John FREEGARD
 87 Rosemary Patricia PULLEN
 88 Anne PULLEN
 89 Susan THOMAS
 90 Ronald REEVES
 91 Neville Desmond REEVES
 92 Meryl Ann HAMILTON
 93 James Richard HAMILTON

18.77.55

94 Maxine Grace TURNER
 95 Noel TURNER

31.01.56

96 Alan Charles LINKLATER
 97 Robyn Sandra LINKLATER
 98 Charles Wayne DINGLE
 99 Raymond Darryl SCOTT
 100 Lorraine Katherine COSTIGAN
 101 Lenore Mary COSTIGAN
 102 Trevor Warren James COSTIGAN

CREDITON STATE SCHOOL**04.02.57**

103 Lorraine Judith HEWITT
 104 Betty HEWITT
 105 Nola Janette DEANS
 106 Stanley James DEANS
 107 Margaret Anne KENNY
 108 Samuel James KENNY
 109 Lance Thomas KENNY
 110 John KENNY

03.02.58

111 Ian Craig WOOD
 112 Donald Douglas MOLLENHAGEN
 113 Marcia Frances COSGROVE
 114 Barbara Ellen KENNY
 115 Rosemary Elizabeth
 116 Trevor James SCOTT

29.01.59

117 Judith LINKLATER
 118 Glenn Stanley WOODS
 119 Ruth Diana WOODS

23.01.61

120 Jennifer Margaret FRAZER
 121 Robert Bruce KENNY
 122 Neil Francis PULLEN
 123 Phillip John PULLEN
 124 William PULLEN

30.01.62

125 Graeme Arnold PLATH
 126 Diane Alexis TURNER
 127 Sharon Rhonda WOOD
 128 Alan Paul TREVETHAN
 129 Diane TREVETHAN
 130 Erele Finley TREVETHAN
 131 Faye Patricia TREVETHAN

02.09.63

132 Francis Henry Charles FRAZER

28.01.64

133 Jane Anne WOOD
 134 Rhonda Mary MOLLENHAGEN

25.01.65

135 David John WOOD
 136 Michael Mervyn HOLBERT
 137 Patrick Gerard FRAZER

23.01.67

138 Deanne Marion HOLBERT
 139 Russell Victor MOLLENHAGEN
 140 Lynn DUDDIN

13.02.68

141 Shane Patrick KISTER
 142 Stephen George KISTER

**CREDITON PROVISIONAL SCHOOL
OPENED 18TH OCTOBER, 1943
LIST OF TEACHERS**

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Miss Beryl TARLINGTON | 1943-45 |
| Mr. Don READ | 1946-50 |
| Mr. W. MOORE | 1951-52 |
| Mr. Chas WALKER | 1953 |
| Mr. Kevin RYAN | 1954-56 |

**CREDITON STATE SCHOOL
OPENED 4TH FEBRUARY, 1957**

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Mr. Kevin RYAN | 1957-58 |
| Mr. Thomas FITZSIMON | 1959 |
| Mr. Ken JARMAN | 1960-63 |
| Mr. S. FAIRLEY | 1964 |
| Mr. D. McLACHLAN | 1965 |
| Mr. G. Maynes | 1966-68 |

SCHOOL CLOSED 8TH SEPTEMBER, 1968

**WEST CREDITON STATE SCHOOL
OPENED 15TH OCTOBER, 1951**

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Mr. Eddie ESHMANN | 1951-56 |
| Mr. Col SHEPHERD | 1957-59 |
| Mr. C. ALLDRIDGE | 1960 |
| Mr. P. CANTWELL | 1961 |

SCHOOL CLOSED 15TH DECEMBER, 1961

WEST CREDITON STATE SCHOOL

15.10.51

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Evaline Grace DEANS | 11 | Heather Jean HAMILTON |
| 2 | Allison Gloria DEANS | 12 | Catherine Gwendoline HAMILTON |
| 3 | Helen Margaret DEANS | 13 | Colin Edward SMITH |
| 4 | Janice Irene RISLEY | 14 | Lynette Elizabeth RUSH |
| 5 | Roslyn Joan RISLEY | 15 | Madonna WHITING |
| 6 | Dulcie May WEST | 16 | Howard Clifton OSTWALD |
| 7 | Gordon Alexander WEST | | |
| 8 | Eleanor Joan FOSTER | | |
| 9 | Timothy James FOSTER | | |
| 10 | Elizabeth Ester HAMILTON | | |

04.02.52

17 Annette Mary OSTWALD
 18 Meryl Ann HAMILTON
 19 Leslie James RUSH
 20 Nola Janette DEANS
 21 Lester Neil WILSON
 22 Howard HUDSON

02.02.53

23 Darryl Francis OSTWALD
 24 Beverley Adrienne OSTWALD
 25 Desley Maye OSTWALD
 26 Reinder Hendrick Wouter WOUDEBERG
 27 Hendrick Willem John WOUDEBERG

02.02.54

28 Donald Patrick AGNEW
 29 Mary Elizabeth Margaret FRAZER
 30 Peter John FRAZER
 31 Jennifer Robyn RISLEY
 32 James Richard HAMILTON
 33 Lynette Mary ROGER
 34 Beth Lorraine OSTWALD
 35 Ivy Letitia WEST
 36 John Robinson WEST

08.02.55

37 Graeme Emerson HILL
 38 John BUNTING
 39 June Dixon HABLES
 40 Harold Leslie GUTHERIE
 41 Edward Sven GUTHERIE

31.01.56

42 Linda Louise McCONNELL
 43 Stanley James DEANS
 44 Cecily Anne OSTWALD
 45 Trevor John RUSH
 46 Graham DUEL
 47 Colin Douglas DUEL
 48 Russell John DUEL
 49 Lynette Marcia DUEL
 50 Sharon Ann KELLY
 51 Sheryl Ann KELLY

03.02.58

52 Francis Henry CHARLES
 53 Kevin George FOSTER
 54 Ian Geoffrey RISLEY
 55 Robert Mervyn OSTWALD
 56 Gloria Jean McLEAN
 57 Jack McLEAN

02.09.59

58 Rosemary Patricia PULLEN
 59 Phillip John PULLEN
 60 Neil Francis PULLEN

23.01.61

61 William Robert PULLEN
 62 Roy Joseph GIBBON
 63 Allan Francis GIBBON
 64 Anthony John EDWARDS

CREDITON CHILDREN ENROLLED AT EUNGELLA STATE SCHOOL
AFTER CREDITON SCHOOL IS CLOSED DOWN

25.01.60

430 Heather Mary HERRON
431 Jennifer Joy LOYNES

31.01.62

495 Stanley James DEANS
496 Jennifer Robyn RISLEY
497 Ian Geoffrey RISLEY
498 Cecily Ann OSTWALD
499 Robert Mervyn OSTWALD
500 Jeanette Margaret OSTWALD
501 Trevor John RUSH
502 Brina Jane PALMER
503 Christopher Neil LOYNES

03.03.62

511 Robert Nathan WEICK

29.01.63

518 David WOODLAND

04.02.63

524 Stephen James WEST

13.05.63

527 Jean PRETSELL

03.09.63

529 Alan Paul TREVETHON
531 Diane Mary TREVETHON
532 Earle Stanley TREVETHON

28.01.64

539 Kerry Ann OSTWALD
540 Bronwyn Wanda TREVETHON

25.01.65

584 James PRETSELL

25.01.66

601 Peter WOODLAND
602 Veronica Rose TREVETHON
606 Majella Theresa ROSS

23.01.67

649 Adrian Joseph ROSS

26.01.67

664 Malcolm Mark WEST

30.01.68

701 Daniel John WEST
712 David Evan WEICK
713 Helen Valmae TREVETHON

28.10.69

735 Jeanette Maree ROSS
736 Gavin Thomas JONES
737 Patsy Gaye LOYNES
745 Stuart Leighton WOOD
746 Murray Alan WOOD (Twins)

27.01.70

762 Barnard John JORGENSEN
764 Gary John OSTWALD

25.05.70

767 Therese Daphne PULLEN
768 Veronica Helen PULLEN

13.10.70

776 Geoffrey Malcolm SPENCER
777 Lee-Anne Judith SPENCER
778 Karen Elizabeth SPENCER
779 Clifford William SPENCER
780 Deborah Jane SPENCER

25.01.71

790 Ian Lachlan WEICK
791 Douglas Alan JORGENSEN

25.05.71

796 Michael Mervyn HOLBERTON
797 Deanna HOLBERTON

21.01.72

814 Richard ROSS

15.05.72

819 Tracyanne Joyce ABELL

29.08.72

822 Kevin SANDERSON

02.09.72

823 Robyn Joy CHAMBERLAIN

19.03.73

828 Raymond Gerard CORTIS

05.11.73

843 Margaret May ANDERSON

844 Lorraine Joy ANDERSON

845 Debra Lee ANDERSON

846 Edward John ANDERSON

04.02.74

852 Troy Andrew McEVOY

18.07.74

863 Gregory John THOMPSON

864 Darren Mark THOMPSON

865 Janelle Ivy THOMPSON

28.01.75

876 Mark Anthony GALLOWAY

877 Michell Sheriee GALLOWAY

23.06.75

881 Rodney BROWNSEY (FOSTER)

27.01.76

888 Paul Robert HELLWEGE

890 Gregory Dean ROSS

891 Noel Robert TURNER

24.01.77

904 Leah Ruby GALLOWAY

905 Elise Fay HANSEN

906 Geraldine Maxine HELLWE

907 Melinda Jo-ann JONES

908 Rosemary Elizabeth WEIC

23.03.77

912 Eric FULLER

23.01.78

922 Kathryn Leigh HERRON

929 Kerry Ann SMITH

930 Anthony James SMITH

931 Karen Maree SMITH

932 Patrick Lawrence FULLER

933 Kirsty Bellier McGREGOR

935 Karen Gail FOSTER

936 Erica Dean ROSS

941 Robyn Patricia McDONALD

30.01.79

946 Lloyd Alexander McDONALD

947 Jason Aaron KELLEY

955 Jillian Maree HANSEN

956 Shannon HELLWEGE

29.01.80

967 Bradley John HERRON

968 Jodie Leigh Markey

969 Ngairie Gay McGREGOR

25.06.80

977 Mark William PIETZNER

25.08.80

978 David Wayne BROWN

979 Suzanne Joanna BROWN

17.11.80

980 Sharon Lee CORTEZ (MOORE)

05.06.81

988 David John ANDREWS

989 Anthony James ANDREWS

26.06.81

990 Melissa Jane KING
991 Melanie Joy KING

25.01.82

999 Michelle Ellen ANDERSON
1004 Bradley Norman FOSTER

28.01.82

1006 Anthony Robert McLEAN
1007 Nicholas John McLEAN
1008 Andrea Leah McLEAN

04.02.82

1009 Kerrie Marie KING
1010 Jason Lloyd KING

01.06.82

1012 Murray Ronald AMBROSE

06.12.82

1019 Clinton Robert MILTON

24.01.83

1025 Daniel Thomas HELLWEGE

11.07.83

1029 Stephen Charles SAMMUT
1030 Christopher James SAMMUT

12.07.83

1031 Karen Dawn SMITH

23.01.84

1039 Natalie Jean MARKEY

12.03.84

1041 Russell Leslie McCURLEY
1042 Pauline Kay McCURLEY
1043 Scott Adam McCURLEY

24.04.84

1044 Natalie SMITH

29.11.85

1046 Christian Bruce AMBROSE
1047 Alexander James ANDERSON
1049 Crystal Laurette ROSS

HEAD TEACHERS EUNGELLA STATE SCHOOL

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Edward Arthur POLKINHORNE | 16.04.62 - .07.65 |
| Peter Lindsay DOUGLAS | 26.07.65 - .07.69 |
| Alan John YOUNG | 07.07.69 - .12.71 |
| Michael TANNER | 24.01.72 - .12.77 |
| David Graham WOODWARD | 30.01.78 - .12.79 |
| J. OUYDYN | 25.01.82 - .12.82 |
| Steve MULCAHY | 24.01.83 - .12.84 |
| Steve KWIATKOWSKI | 29.01.85 - Present |

Mrs. M. Lovi and Mrs. L. Woodland (nee COLE). have been teacher quite a few years standing as well.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Following the education of our children in virtuall one tea schools to start with and then high school at either Mirani or other private Secondary School some of the children went on to hi standards in their own chosen careers.

It is very difficult to compile a full list so I must apologis advance if anyone has been lift out or placed in the wrong caterg It most certainly is not intentional.

Nursing

Margaret Ann Kenny
Beryl Evangeline Freegard (Matron)
Beverley June Scott
Joan Eleanor Foster (Double Certificated)

Agricultural Diploma (Gatton)

Ralph Samuel Freegard
Jeffrey Clifford Old
Ronald Turner
Alan Charles Linklater (now draftsman)
Stanley William Mollenhagen (now assistant Manager P.C.D.)
Ian Craig Wood

School Teachers

Judith Linklater
Ruth Diana Woods

Colleges

Glen Stanley Woods (C. & E. College Burdekin)
Stuart Leighton Wood (Rockhampton Grammer School)
Murray Alan Wood (Rockhampton Grammer School)

University Degrees

Peter John Frazer - B.A. Townsville
Timothy James Foster - B. Elec. Eng. Sydney
Jennifer Margaret Plath - Pathologist
Kim Christopher Seymour Tronson - Dr. Sc.
Mark Tronson - B.A. Bach. Theology & Chaplain Canberra
Suezette Tronson - B. Med. Sc. Research Fellow
Med. Education, Dundee Scotland
Nova Scotia & Melbourne

Crediton School Colours - Black and Gold

West Crediton School Colours - Black and Red

Eungella Schol Colours - Light Blue and Light Yellow

School Bus Operators

Bill Palmer up to March, 1971
Ces and Val Lowry March 1971 to December 1983
David Plath December 1983 to present.

FINALE

I like those words written by Grandma Tolcher - Jeans Grandma who wrote some time ago:

POEM "JUST PLANT A TREE"

The tree you plant, in time will bring
The birds with new found songs to sing
Who'll, from a stage within the tree
Enrich the air with melody.

And with the tree, perhaps my soul
In company will find it's goal
So when I'm gone, lay over me
No souless stone -
So cold and dead and so alone -

Just Plant a Tree

Nanna Tolcher