

The last couple of issues have shown bullock teams operating in the timber industry in the Eungella region in the 1920s. Tractors/crawlers and trucks gradually replaced the bullock teams in the 1930s & 40s.

This week we look at Eungella's last bullock team, as these photos show more closely the type of 'gear used'.



Jim Clews' Bullock Team yoke

Yoke U made from Creek Oak, fashioned to sit on bullock's neck.

Held there by those iron Bows.

In the middle of the yoke is a start ring to which the chains are attached
"I had a pattern to go by to make yokes. There was very little bullock gear around. I found an old set and made these up myself."

In 1933 Jim Clews (jnr) aged about 13, drove up to Eungella with his father Jim, in an old Plymouth ute. They came from down near Wamuran, Caboolture area to start work on clearing block 44 that his father had selected on Dalrymple Rd a couple of years before. This farm is now owned by John & Robyn Chick

The rest of the family of 3 girls Vi, Hazel, & Thelma and young boy Alfie came up later with their mother. They initially lived in a hut type dwelling on the flat in Eungella, opposite where the church was later built. The house eventually built on their Dalrymple Rd farm has since burned down. Jim and his father worked hard to clear the land and establish a dairy, no mean feat. Cattle station life was more younger Jim's passion. So he left the dairy for station work around Nebo in about 1939, later joining the armed forces serving various posts, some in New Guinea during the war. Eventually he got "man powered out" to come back and help his father on the dairy.

At a local dance he met Daphne Jarrot, who was teaching at Dalrymple Heights Provisional school (opposite and a bit further on from the now Black's Rd)

Jim and Daphne married and ran the dairy at the Dalrymple Rd farm for 7 years.

At this time his parents took over The Eungella Guest House from The Old Family.

(previously Burgess' guest house. It was near the current Platypus Take Away, see The Regulla July 2011)

It was during this time that young Jim got a bullock team going again, following the tradition of his family.

"My father's father started him off with a bullock team when he was about 17 years old. They both had a team down around Caboolture, carting logs to mills down there and electric light poles and that for Brisbane". So in about 1950 Jim had the last bullock team in Eungella. "I used to cart the smaller logs 2-3 mile down the road to dad's case saw mill on Sid Boon's place. We sold a lot of our bigger logs from our property to Willett's Mill in Eungella" (formerly Burgess' mill). By this time most timber getters who had taken all the big logs out had left, so Jim would take his team in to the scrub finding small logs that were made into tomato cases at his dad's mill.

Jim & Daphne and their young family left Eungella in the early 1950s.

Their farm was sold to Les Willett



Jim Clews' Bullock Team leaders
"Skipper & Stumpy"



Jim Clews' Bullock Team
Snigging a log out of scrub using a block & tackle.
Log was in a difficult place

Photos from: Jim & Daphne Clews

Notes from Glenda's interview
in Mackay Oct 2009 with

Jim Clews
aged 89 then

& wife Daphne
aged 84 then



(92 in Aug 2012)



(87 in Oct 2012)