

Step Back In Time

Stories of The Range Road

The photos of the Range Road 1908 in the last issue of The Regulla were supplied by Bonnie Davidson (now aged 77) a granddaughter of the engineer James McGinn. Bonnie's mother, Marjorie, (about 4 years) was being held by James in that photo. James McGinn was an older half brother to Robert C.A. McGinn founder of McGinn's Engineering Supplies'. Robert and associated families had holiday houses in Eungella. More on that in future Regulla issues.

[Info from: Glenda Parish's interview with Bonnie Davidson]

The "McGinn" a diabolical' invention, occurs wherever work has been done on roads. It is peculiar to the Mackay district, and in the exaggerated form in which it is found there. It is a gutter cut across a road way. The earth from the gutter is piled on the down hill side, and the object of this gutter and mound cut at an angle with the roadway is to divert surface water. These McGinns (named after their Mackay inventor) are not visible at a distance because they are the same colour as the road. There is the risk of meeting them in a car at a fair speed, when springs are in danger of being snapped and passengers likely to be catapulted out of the car.



James and Lillias McGinn

James McGinn was the Engineer for the building of Eungella Range Road completed ca !908]

Photo from: Early Settlers of Mackay 1860-1885 book in Mackay Library.

Re typed from an article in :

Our Illustrations. (1914, November 14). *The Queenslander* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1866-1939), p. 29. found on Trove Australia—Digitised newspapers

When they were building the Range Road the powder monkey Joe Hall put a big charge in the mountain and went up the mountain above it. When the charge went off it started a landslide and took Hall with it. He went down in the slide but wasn't killed. It crippled him up. A fellow named Hanley was the surveyor engineer on the Range Road.

[from John Cunningham as told to his grandson Neil Cunningham. Word doc]

The labourers building the drainage systems on the Rang Road were referred to as "The Jimmy McGinns"
[Info from Neil Cunningham]

Bernard Celestin Dupuy (father of the Parmacist Ken Dupuy) was a celebrated surveyor who had an important role to play in the surveying of the Range Road and a lot of farming country in the Pioneer Valley and Eungella area.

[Info from: Norm Foster's book " The Roof Garden Of Mackay" c.1985 page 41]