

MEMORIES OF CREDITON



1935 — 1985

FOREWORD

The Crediton Recreation Club would like to thank all those generous people who gave their time and effort into producing this book. Reading through the letters that are contained in here, it is incredible to believe the amount of work and struggle the pioneers had back in the beginning. Because of their perseverance and that of the many that followed them, the Crediton area is what it is today.

I have been proud to be involved with the 50th Celebrations and hope everyone enjoys themselves.

Mrs. Sue Ross.

PRESIDENT

* We take no responsibility for dates or incidents which may be incorrect.

THE DAY I CAME TO CREDITON

The Day I came to Crediton,
the weather was clouds and rain,
My gummies sank into the mud,
My days were such a pain.

The frost would bite me on the nose,
And the cold air was always around,
And I hated the way I'd have to fight
while the wind knocked me to the ground

One month later the rain didn't pass,
but I loved my life anew,
Because the people always smiled
And there seemed so much to do.

Slowly it stopped raining
And the sun began to shine.
I got used to the weather changing
and admired this life of mine.

Working bees and meetings,
Dancing lessons too,
Saturday night a cabaret,
plus so much more to do.

I must not forget to mention,
the farmwork done every day,
irrigating and milking,
collecting eggs the chooks would lay.

But deep within my mind
is a memory I can't forget
of nearby forest and mountains
of beauty, peace and yet —

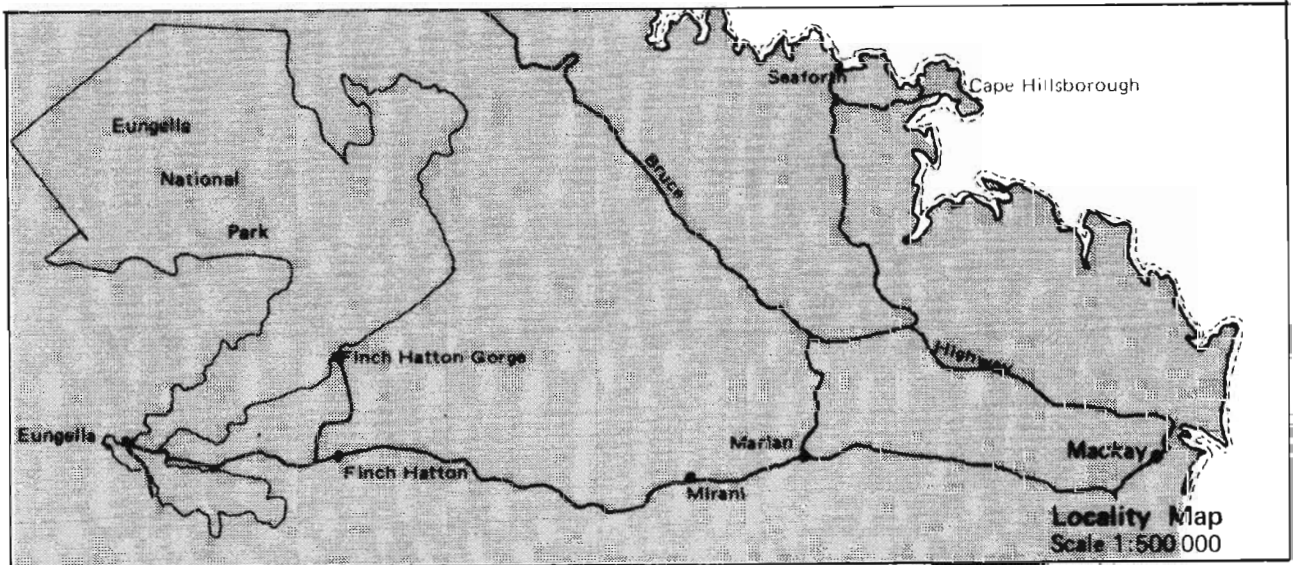
The day I came to Crediton
I swore I'd hate the place,
but everyone should live it,
'cause it's the best on our earth's face.

Diane Cortis

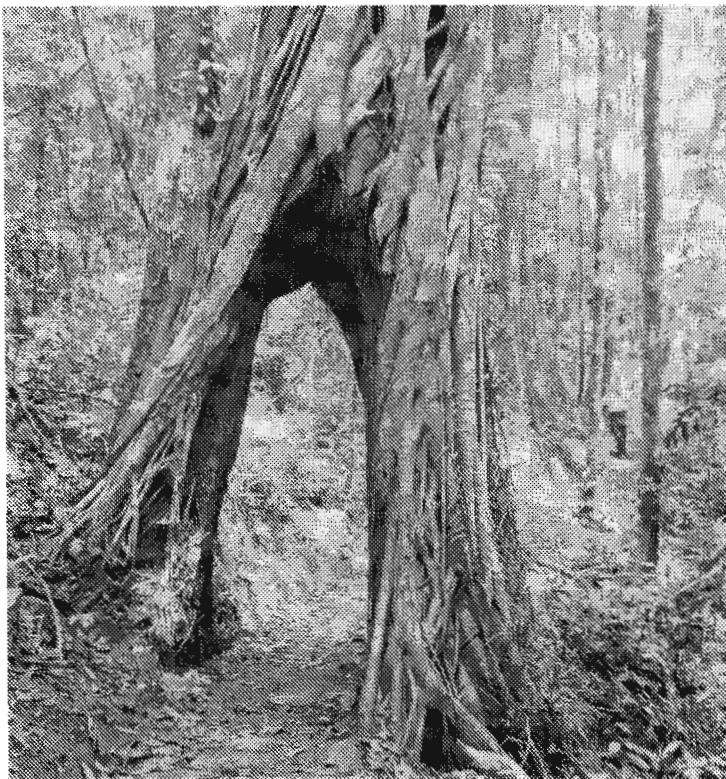
(Front and Back Cover Illustrated by M. Pyke)

EUNGELLA NATIONAL PARK

Eungella National Park, 80 km 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, carried 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 areas.



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 is still to be found scattered along the walking tracks. Ferns, ranging from small clumps of Maiden-hair 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 from the other eucalypt open forests. In central and northern Queensland it is restricted to only two

locations — one is on the Clarke Range at Eungella.

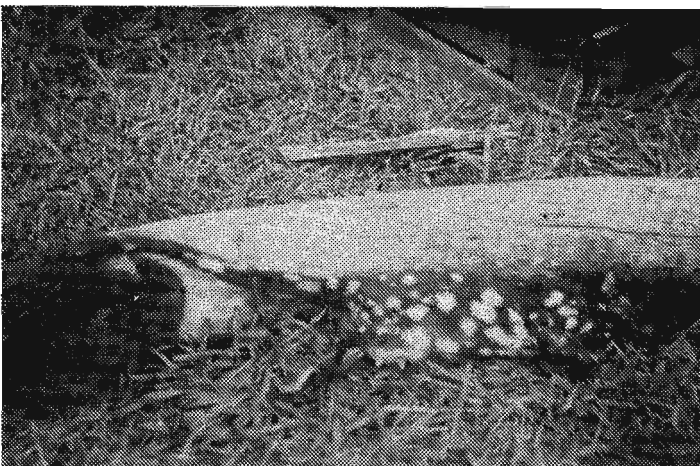
It occurs as a narrow strip from 200 — 1000 m wide along the western edge of rain-forest. It is characterized by the majestic Flooded Gum, the New England Blackbutt and the Red Stringybark with an understory of blady grass and bracken fern. A few of our native animals are restricted to this type of forest. The Swamp rat and the Yellow-bellied glider are two of these.

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 out done, the reptiles and amphibians are putting new names onto the lists. To date the Eungella/Finch Hatton/Crediton area 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 that are always the most noticeable are the kangaroos and wallabies, possums and gliders, and even the quolls or 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 its 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 off 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.



A native cat shot in someone’s chook house.



The national park wasn’t always there. It had a beginning.

In fact, the beginning goes back to the Wiri aboriginal tribe whose land spread from the Eungella-Crediton area to the Nebo area. They called it "Oongalla" or "cloud sit 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. It 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 pack horse tracks — Armstrong's and Carl Flor'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's D.A. Markwell 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 completed. Close to 18 km of walking track had been completed, 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.



Swimming Hole — Broken River — Courtesy M. Pyke

In 1984 the park received a significant boost with much needed money starting to flow into the area. Plans were drawn up for a complete redevelopment of the park. Already, some of these plans have started to be implemented. Car parks, a new camping ground, a new house, an 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.

NOTES FROM HOWIE FAMILY

Howie's farm Broken River.

Joe Gilotti selected this block.

John Cunningham bought it from him and built a dairy.

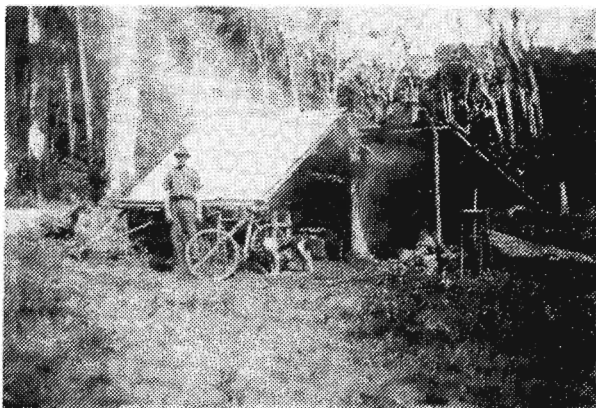
Dave & Andy Herron bought it later for £1,500 and got a loan for £2,000.

M. & J. Howie bought in 1960 and sold 1976 to R. & R. Burns.

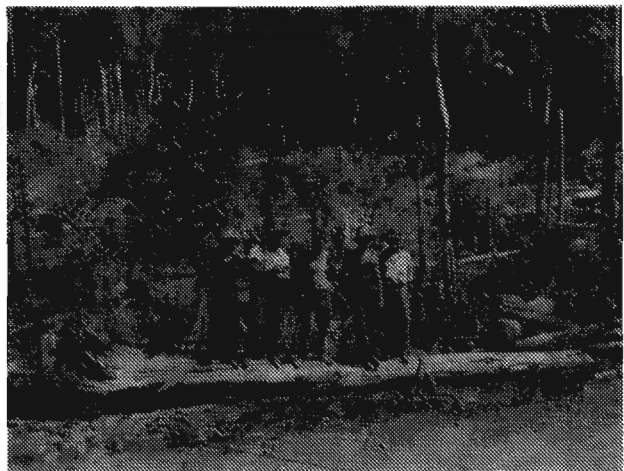
June Howie — nee Smith, started school at Crediton 1946. Don Read was the teacher. June boarded at Mr. & Mrs. Dean Ross. She remembers coming out on the cream truck on Sunday nights and used to watch for Les Willett's timber lorry going up the Plateau Road Friday afternoons to take her home. She would run across the paddock and catch him up. Sometimes she could only catch up to the back of the truck and would run for quite some time before Les would see her. He must have hated to have to pull up and start again, fully loaded.

P.E.I. Days

Jack Howie worked as a nipper. He was 14 years old in 1934 in P.E.I days under Jim Bell's team. He worked on the piece of road from the Old Diggings turn-off to the Springs Gully — closest to the triangle. Later he worked as a striker for Billy Williams the Blacksmith. Pay was roughly £2.10/- a week.



Temporary Housing? Seymour Tronson & Friend
Photo courtesy S. Tronson



Preparing to burn fallen scrub — Gordon Childs,
Neal Hickey, Fred Herbert, Harry Ward & Harry Harvey.
Photo taken 1935 — courtesy Ch. Linklater

Ration tent and truck 1934

Mr. and Mrs. Jock Howie had a ration tent near the Old Diggings Road turn-off. He was responsible for the ration truck and rations. The pay was round about £4.15/- a week.

There was no road through Broken River at that stage (1934) so the ration truck used to journey via The Diggings. Later a surveyed track was felled and a horse could be ridden through to Crediton via Broken River. Mr. Howie was responsible for getting timber from a mill across from the old Bakehouse at Eungella — a paddock owned by Mr. Dray. The timber was for the culverts on the Crediton road. Don't know who owned the mill.

Main P.E.I. camp was at Bull paddock and had a kitchen or ranch (as it used to be called).

After '34 there was great competition to see who would have the first shop. Michelmores backed Pat Patullo so he got the shop. Horse teams were worked by Snow Waters, John Thomsett, Jock Howie and Sid Boon (Kennedy Horse Trader).

ROAD BUILDING

In 1932 I started work with the P.E.I. (Public Estates Improvement) with a motor truck, to open the area for farming. The first load of metal was dumped where Cunningham's Mill is. We continued on to the river. I was the first truck over the Broken River up stream from where the bridge is now.

After 12 months I left the area to return in 1950 with a wife and three children, to start farming on the Broken River. We leased Andy Herron's farm for five years. Then we purchased Stan Brake's farm on the far end of Crediton, on Upper River Road.

We had a very happy and successful life up there, with plenty of hard work and lots of fun over the years.

I enjoyed my tennis. At one time Crediton could field two tennis teams. One travelled while the other played at home.

A.G. Turner



Typical first felling and grassing
Courtesy N. Wood

MEMORIES OF “THE SPRINGS” — by Nancy Clenning (nee Aspinnall)

My earliest recollection of Eungella Range was when my family lived at the “Old Diggings” on the Broken River, were about 1934. My father was William Howard Aspinnall, brothers Stan, Larry, Ron and Bill. My sister Jess was not yet born. We were living there in a bark hut and a tent, until our house was finally built by a Mr. Fred Hardwood, an English gentleman who, in his later years, lived in a hut on Jack Willett’s farm at Crediton.

I think my father was the only man to use a bullock team in the Crediton area, where he worked in the timber industry. Also, in the early 1930’s he had a contract with his bullock team to cart supplies for the road builders who were building the roads in the area. I remember my mother arising at 4 a.m. to help my father yoke up the team to go to Netherdale, down the range 13 miles and back in a day. My father would arrive back at about 11 p.m. For this he earned the grand wage of 5 pounds (£5/0/0) per week! This was considered good pay then.

We went to live on the farm at “The Springs”, Crediton at, I think, the latter end of 1935. My father “took up” this area which was 365 acres of virgin land. I remember my brothers aged from 13 — 16 years falling the scrub which contained some very big trees. This was then burned and planted with Rhodes grass seed to establish feed for the dairy cows. I well remember the dairy where later I helped my mother milk up to 30 cows by hand, when my father and brothers would be away working in the timber, or on nearby cattle stations.

Jack and Hilda Angus lived next to us on that road and next to them was the Freegard brothers Sam and Garnet.

When we first came to the farm there was no water laid on and I can still see my mother carrying water in kerosene tins up to the house to do washing, etc., Those were the “good old days”. Our cowyard was situated on the opposite side of Spring Creek to where our homestead was, so we had problems at flood times. My father and brothers felled a very large tree across the creek, which served as a bridge.

The nearest school was at the top of the Range in those days. My four brothers rode bikes 8 miles to school, while my sister Jess (born 1936) and I were taught correspondence lessons by our mother. This was somehow fitted in with all her farm and house work and looking after her family of six children.

The very difficult war years come back to me, when three of my brothers enlisted from Crediton, Larry and Stan A.I.F. and Ron R.A.A.F. Ration books came then, for there were shortages of some things like tea, sugar, butter, petrol and clothing.

I returned very briefly four years ago to the old place after 37 years. Such a change! Sadly only the stumps of the old homestead were left and the farm had apparently been cut into “hobby farms”. However I recognised some familiar landmarks and so many memories came flooding back.

“EXTRACTS FROM A PROPOSED BOOK BY GARNET FREEGARD”

In May 1935 Sam Freegard's sister was cutting his lunch and he was reading an old "Courier Mail" which was to be used to wrap it in, when his eyes spotted an advertisement in the paper. It consisted of a drawing of a post and rail fence enclosing a few dairy cows. The caption read: Crown Land for selection. Eungella Group Lands, for perpetual lease. Write for maps, etc.

He and I sent for maps. Eungella Group Lands. A Five Pound deposit entitled a person to put in for a maximum of six blocks. I recalled reading the parliamentary proceedings when the Eungella Group Lands passed through the house. Forgan Smith was behind it for Mackay's sake. Ted Swayne was the member for Mirani and knew the country well and was right behind it, as was Country Party member for Kennedy, Artie Fadden. Ted Swayne was retiring at the next election and Artie was trying for his old stamping ground.

The Labour government put a big team of P.E.I. road workers on the Crediton roads. This was enough to defeat Artie and put Ted Walsh in.

The ballot for the land closed on 17th June. On the 29th June letters came, one each for Sam and me. Mine was a fat one. Sam's was a thin one. Sam's said he was successful in drawing Portion 26. I was unsuccessful. I returned my five pound deposit to Lands Office and asked to be advised of any forfeitures. I put in for another five. At last on my 20th birthday, I was advised that I had drawn Portion 20.

We had a 1927 Chev. tilly. We loaded it with camping equipment:— one man saw, shovel, hammer, nails, etc., and set off on the 8th August. It took about three days to come from Tingoorra to Mackay.

Out the Pioneer Valley we went, through Mirani, we camped the night along the road between Mirani and Gargett. We had little idea where we were going next morning at Gargett. We went out as far as Langdon Siding before a chap told us we were off our track. We returned through this unusual country to Finch Hatton and Netherdale and our hearts quaked within us as we looked up and saw the giant range ahead of us. There was no turning back. Sam went to Netherdale Post Office. We had no idea there was a Post Office at Eungella and had left word at home for mail to be sent to Netherdale.

The range road was a perilous climb in those days. We saw a fellow on the range who said to his mate, "There's some people from Tingoorra come to look at a block. They won't stop long." We struggled up the rest of the way to the top. The Chev. must have worked hard. It was heavy laden. The range road was terrible in those days. Bursting over the top still takes my breath away, but just imagine August 1935. The rarefied air and the strangeness, weirdness or eeriness of such a high altitude.

We pulled in at Roy Swaynes' store and asked him about Eungella. We had to repeat the name a few times to get the proper pronunciation. Holding out the map, we asked how to get to Portion 26, Parish of Crediton. It was only then we found out the roads were being made in the area. Swayne said to go down Springs Road. We asked about petrol. He had it only in tins. We ordered meat and bread for another day and set off with a tin of petrol on the running board. A lot of tents had been erected around Broken River Bridge. The road was under construction, which meant detours all the way up the eastern side of River Hill. It was a steep pinch out of the River. Sam roared the Chev. and fine dust flew everywhere, but he couldn't make it. There was a roar and screeching of brakes and a cloud of dust as the Chev. ran back. Workmen raced out of their tents where they were having

dinner. Eventually with Dad and I carrying stones to chock him up, he succeeded in getting there. Then followed an awful track with sapling corduroy in some places. We came out on a new road at the top. Road work was in evidence everywhere.

Swayne told us which way to go at the Palms. Tents again were everywhere there. On we went. A couple of chaps were fencing on Aspinall's half way down to top rails. Again the strangeness of that Hazelwood Road country crept into our bones. Our map was easy to read in the forest as we read 24, 24, 24 then 25, 25, 25, blazed on the corners. Then over the rise we went to Port 26. The magnitude of the moment, our arrival at the selection overcame us. Dad reached into the tilly for the axe and promptly rung barked the nearest iron bark. We boiled the billy and decided to camp on that knob. Dad reckoned he was old but was more eager than Sam or I to go exploring. Armed with the map and axe we followed the boundary around the forest up the back and entered the scrub behind Mt. Bruce. Selections had not long been surveyed and small undergrowth was just coming up. On entering, one of us brushed a luscious stinging tree on the northern side. All three of us had learned painfully what a stinging tree was like.

We found there was a scarcity of water. We went down a creek and barred and chiselled a hole there, but the water was not much good. We got what we wanted from a well in Howard Aspinall's selection. We knocked up the framework of a shack so we could put iron on it immediately we got back.

We went for a drive around the circle, through the Bull Paddock. That name amused us as another group of men were camped there. The name came about 25 years or more before. It is an area of forest surrounded by scrub and where bullockies and graziers could lock their stock within this natural fence.

We went up the Plateau Road. Cedar logs were snigged out all the way along, standing on the road, flanked by those enormous trees. We heaved a sign of relief that we had not drawn one of those blocks. Conditions of the ballot were that all cedar and beech was reserved for the crown and the crown may authorise any person to enter selections for the removal of same. We did not go up River Road, but had difficulty in finding our way. We went up Mollenhagen's Road till redirected. We later returned to Tingoora.

The end of 1935 and early 1936 saw preparations for our departure getting into full swing. Correspondence with Lands Office for Free rail passes, rebates or concessions on stock, chattels, etc., getting tools, furniture, etc., together. The buggy was cleaned up and painted.

Our friends at Home Creek Church arranged a Bachelor Shower for us on 15th January. Lantern, Towels, S.R. Flour, water bag, collapsible safe, meat cover, fry pan, pie dish, clocks, butter coolers, dish, lamp, socks, pillows and slippers, tea towels and a Hymn Book and Bible were presented. At last on the day King George 5 died, January 21st, we left home by rail on a goods train.

After a long journey of many days we arrived at Netherdale. We had ordered a truck-load of iron and barb wire from Pastoral Supplies in Brisbane. They had mucked up our order. When we got to Netherdale we found out it had not arrived. A shipping strike had eventuated in the meantime. A chap named Jaenke was there to take stuff up and he loaded our gear. Pointing to the buggy, he said "What are you going to do with that?" "Put the horses in and pull it up." "No need," he said. "Hitch it behind the truck." That is what we did. Sam went up with him and I started off riding one horse, leading another and another skipped along on her own. I was scared she would topple over the edge as she nibbled grass.

Eungella township looked a forlorn sight that hot January afternoon. Arriving at the block, I found Sam had settled things up a bit. The bed was under a tent fly and corn sacks sewn together. Boxes and boxes of stuff as well as a 100 gallon tank were crammed in.

We found the place destitute of water. The hole we had made had some unpalatable stuff in it. We had hobbled our horses and had bells around their necks. We found a hole down the forest for them. For ourselves, we went back to Aspinall's to a spring.

On the Wednesday we drove two horses to the top in the buggy for kerosene and other groceries. We made arrangements for meat which was sent up from Mackay. We locked a horse up in a bit of a yard we had quickly put up. On our return we found he had got out. We worried like mad but he eventually turned up safe and sound. We quickly got to work and put up a fence, along the front 5 chains up Jackies line. Twice a week we would ride 10 mile to the top for mail, meat and bread. Weather was working up to rain. Our horses began going further afield though the sound of their bells was still with us.

On our second Sunday we walked through the scrub and around the circle till we found Portion 20 blazed on a tree. Two hours walk there, then down the creek and up bottom boundary which we knew was 15 chains to the road. I had thought of starting to fall scrub down there, but fortunately changed to a 10 by 5 chain line road frontages. Another two hours walk home. Oh, to be young and strong and enthusiastic as we were then.

We found that White's Sawmillers at the Bull Paddock drove their truck to the top for groceries, so Sam contacted them to bring ours out too. Then on the night of 11th February, a storm came over and set in to general rain. We experienced a long session of being immobilised, under a scanty covering we had augmented with bark strips from stringy bark trees. It was hard to light a fire. By the 18th we had passed twelve inches of rain and gullies were running strong. We were getting soft and any time spent on the fence found us not so good. At last we received word that the Pastoral Supplies order had reached Netherdale and Whites brought it up on 29th February. We hastily threw the bark off, battened iron on top and around the shack.

We had our first experience of no tucker in that March flood. We lived on iron rations for a few days. Came a fine day we drove to the top in the buggy.

Lennie Burgess started bringing our tucker out and we had to go to the circle for it. I went up to the circle on 27th March and my horse got into step with a horse ridden by a chap going to look at his block No. 25. Thus began our long, happy and amusing association with Jack Angus.

As we had to go to Tingoorra for cattle, we ran a fence from tree to tree. We did Jackies line up to the scrub. Jack was charged five shillings (5/-) a day for my labour. Three loaves of bread cost us one shilling and four pence (1/4), a meal a shilling (1/-), pie and tea one shilling and six pence (1/6).

On arrival at Netherdale, Jackie met us with the horses and we went to take a bull from Hammers at Okuloo up with us. He couldn't be found and we took our stock to Hammer's overnight, a hot-bed of ticks and we suffered grievous losses. We spent a lot of time with them.

We felled 25 acres, burnt it and planted corn with dibbers. We got West and Gleeson to fall a patch for us on Portion 20, and finished it off by falling from the bails to the road. We took it in turns to camp on the survey line, while the other returned to tend the stock. A big drive did not go during the day, but started off in the middle of the night. The

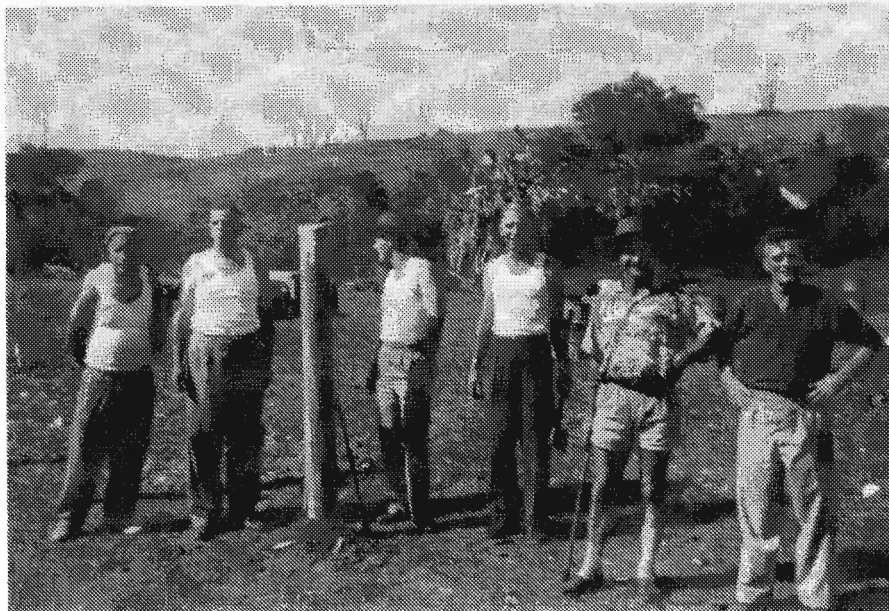
crash and consequent splintering for an hour after, terrified the man on the survey line, closed in by standing scrub.

Leeches were a menace during the year and my legs became infected causing me to lie off. We made sure of a first class day to burn the scrub on Portion 20. It went up with a terrific roar, sparks racing ahead of the fire and igniting. We had our horses on Linklater's side and had to ride around the circle home. We both raced up to the road through the smoke and almost became overcome, our faces deathly pale.

Fred Herbert was splitting posts out of a log by his camp. "Is it a good splitter?" we asked. "Bruist ya ring," he replied. Asked his opinion of the fire "trifle windy."

A couple of our cows calved late 1936 and we made butter, selling it to Bull Paddock residents.

The early part of 1937 was drearily wet. We built a calf pen with palings and a lot of hard yakka. The pen was not used for very long. Our second year's scrub falling was up the top. We started using a crosscut saw in the crowfoots and the spells off the axe helped us to go great guns. We worked together on our drives and natural falls. I left Sam to finish off one and went down to start another. As his tree began to fall I looked up and saw vines pulling it around my way. I ran but the top of it swooshed around me. Sam was alarmed. I put my head through the leaves and shouted "O.K. Sam" (relieved). "All the years I have been scrub falling (his second) and a thing like this happens". "Stop your gab and bring the water billy," I called. "Are you hurt?" He came to me. I had a heavy head of hair and three weeks growth of whiskers. A hit on the head had caused the blood to flow and it filled my hair and whiskers. I was a sight. Anyway I was able to continue till dinnertime. Then we called it a day. Sam himself got hit on the hip a couple of days later when a badly grained sapling sprang up as he hit it. In the meantime my bruise worked down my face and it felt like a couple of pounds of steak flapping. We went out to Plevna for oranges and bobbing along on the horse this bruise kept flopping. It made the others quite sick.



1960 25th ANNIVERSARY

L. Park, S. Freegard, C.H. Linklater, N. Foster, S. Kenny, Jock Morley

Courtesy C.H. Linklater.

When we took on the selection we had to vouch that we were physically and financially capable of fulfilling the conditions. A minimum of 150 pounds (£150) sterling was set. All through 1936 we had paid Roy Swayne cash for our groceries and other needs, so that when the time came for obtaining credit we would be right. However, in January he sold to Lou Edwards on a ten pound (£10) deposit. We went to Lou for credit and he was not in the position to give it.

Sam wrote to the Agricultural Bank for assistance. They sent out an inspector. "What do you want money for?" he said. Sam said "To pay our tucker bill." "We don't pay anybody's tucker bill," he said. "What can we get money for?" asked Sam. "To do improvements, scrub falling, etc." "Yes, we want to fall 25 acres," said Sam.

We told Lou Edwards we could get a Bank Loan, the first draw when the scrub was down. "How much a month can you live on?" asked Lou. We said six pounds (£6). "But your bill last month was fourteen pound (£14)." Anyway, sure enough it cost us 36 pound (£36) for two of us for six months.

CREDITON 1935—78 by C. H. LINKLATER

June 1935 saw the Crediton settlers arriving on their blocks having passed the first hazard of looking up at the mists of Eungella and starting on the climb up "that steep road" from Netherdale.

It was reported that more than one stood and looked and said "I'm not going up there!"

The road from Eungella to Crediton was a pleasure to travel on, a perfectly graded surface of decomposed granite which gave good service until increasing traffic and wet seasons necessitated the use of heavier metal.

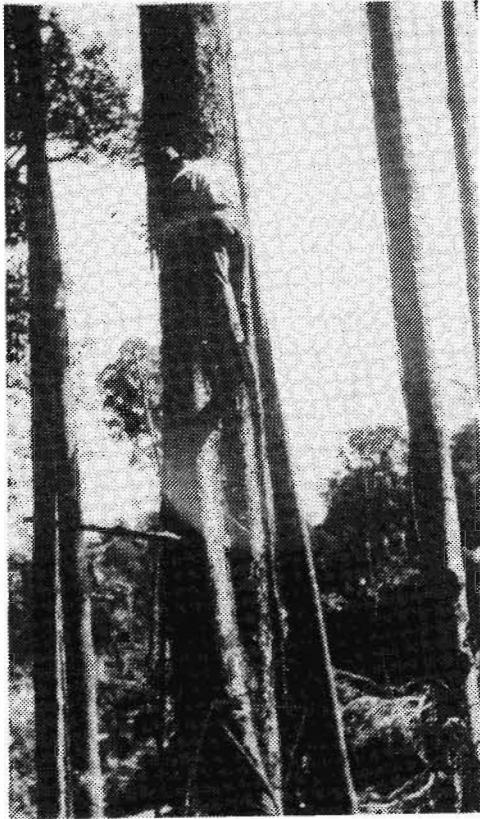
The construction was carried out by the Public Estates Improvement Branch and the final work was still in progress. The majority of settlers were single men in their early twenties and the first housing was mainly a tent pitched on the side of the road wherever there was a space large enough, until a portion of scrub could be felled, burnt and grassed. A popular second step was a bush framework of poles, covered with opened out sack bags sewn together for walls, corrugated iron roof, with a split slab floor or no floor at all. A cement wash over the bags made them fit to stand up to several wet seasons and cyclonic weather.

It was a condition of the lease that 75 acres of scrub should be felled in the first three years, so the brush hook, axe and spring board were in constant use from the start.

Fencing and the building of dairies were the next step and sufficient grass being available, the acquisition of dairy heifers and by the end of 1937 there were quite a number of cattle in the area.

The early clearings were mainly seeded with Rhodes and Paspalum grasses with small areas of Kikuyu, the runners coming from the Dalrymple Heights area.

The first carrier of goods in Crediton was Harry Ward, while Len Burgess had been picking up cream from the Dalrymple end for some time, and became the first cream carrier on the Crediton run which was growing rapidly and catching up with the older established areas around Eungella and the Dalrymple end of the range.



LEFT: C.H. Linklater on board.
Taken 1936.
Photo courtesy C.H. Linklater



C.H. Linklater on spring-board, Harry Ward at foot of tree.
Falling scrub on C.H. Linklater's property.
Photo courtesy C.H. Linklater

The early social events were mainly held under the Eungella State School, where many a happy evening was spent at well attended dances mainly to the music of the concertina.

In those days the main dances of the year at Finch Hatton, such as The Matron's and Spinster's Ball, were noted as might be expected for the long gowns of the Ladies, but also for the number of white ties and tails amongst the men.

While conditions might have been thought to be hard in the early days of Crediton, how much harder was the lot of the early Dalrymple men whose cream was transported on pack horses down a lantana covered track to The Top, then to Netherdale and consigned by rail to Rockhampton

Farm development was progressing steadily and by 1941 the first milking machines were in use and permanent houses were becoming more numerous while the number of bachelors were beginning to decrease, and the district population to increase.

Due to the significant developments affecting Crediton was the establishment in Mackay of a Rest and Recreation Area for American troops in the Pacific Area.

This necessitated a better supply of whole milk and initial pick ups from this area were made by trucks supplied by the Americans'.

From this developed the regular milk run conducted by Cliff Old, V. & A. Thomsett, Brodie & Petersen, H.T. & T.A. Petersen and from the 1st July, 1978 to be operated by D. Aitken of Mackay, then Steve Grubb and now Jordon Brothers.

The increasing number of children in the area called for the provision of some form of regular schooling and in 1944 a provisional school was opened in the original home of Mr. & Mrs. E.D. Ross, they having moved into a large new home.

Another need becoming more obvious was a social centre for the area, and by the combined efforts of the residents the Crediton Hall was built, and the Crediton Recreation Club formed, on the Recreation Reserve set aside by the Lands Department where a Tennis Court had already been constructed by community effort.

In 1946 the provisional school was transferred to the Crediton Hall which served as the educational centre for some 10 years until the Crediton State School was erected by the Department, followed by the building of the West Crediton State School.

Another mile-stone was reached in 1949 with the establishment of a telephone exchange at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ross, and after the amendment of legislation increasing the mileage of line erected by the P.M.G. Department, all farms were connected to the exchange by 1952.

The local branch of the Queensland Dairymen's Organisation became active on a voluntary basis in 1939 and by 1945 was a compulsory organisation, financed by annual levy. The branch has been continually active in support of measures for the betterment of the area and the industry generally.

The post war years saw a great upsurge in the local timber industry, and the scrub timbers, which in the early days could not be given away, then acquired a real value and ready market. Millions upon millions of super feet of rose and grey satin Ash (or Red and White Eungella Gum) were cut and removed from private properties where previously they had been burnt.

Another result of this activity was the availability of heavy tractors for dozing and clearing operations, and with the introduction of farm tractors heralded the start of pasture and fodder operations with its effect on dairy production.

On the social side, the Eungella Memorial Hall was built and many successful functions were held there over the years, some of the most memorable being the Race Balls, held on the Saturday evening following a day at the races on the track out near Buggy Bend on the present Eungella Dam Road. This race track was made on the site used as a track in the days of The Eungella Gold Field.



"And They're Racing" Eungella Amateur Race Club. Photo courtesy C.H. Linklater

The races were conducted by the Eungella Amateur Hack Club, the horses being supplied by local station owners, tote in action, run by the club, Mackay bookies fielding on southern events and not too keenly on the locals, and a picnic atmosphere over-all.

By the time the cows had been milked the races attended, the cows milked, and the Ball seen through to the end, it was definitely the day of the Year.

The year 1959 saw another development which was a real blessing to the whole area, in the provision of a bitumen surface on the Range Road and the general upgrading of the road to Mackay, removing the creek hazards between Eungella and Finch Hatton. The cats-eyes on the Range Road on a foggy night were as valuable as blind flying equipment on an aircraft.

Probably one of the most significant events occurred in 1961 with the availability of power supply from the Mackay Regional Electricity Board.

From hurricane lamp to city light and power in 26 years.

The advent of bulk handling of milk in 1974 was the swan song of the "Can". No more running in and out to see if the cans were full under the cooler, lifting into the fridge, out of the fridge, on to the tilly, off the tilly, on to the truck, collecting the empties, scrubbing, washing and polishing up the old cans.

Now we are in the laboratory age, with tests and standards of all descriptions, and no doubt more are being thought up all the time.

In the field of secondary education, for some ten years it has been possible for local children to attend Mirani High School from their homes each day, by school bus.

It is no longer necessary to send them hundreds of miles away to boarding school, with the consequent loss of their company over long periods.

In 1978 we find that the outlying small primary schools have long been closed and by virtue of the school bus runs, the Eungella State School is once more the sole centre of primary education, as it was 50 years ago.

In recent years the most significant change to the earlier years has been the multiple ownership of farms.

Where each farm had a family residing on it, now two to three farms may be under the one ownership, and while the district population is much smaller, owing to the improvement in farming techniques, production has steadily improved.

The writer retired from the Range in 1982, and now in 1985, looking back over the fifty years since he first stood at Netherdale looking up at "that steep road" that had to be negotiated in the old "Dodge Four", apart from family thoughts, the most persistent memories are those of the first few years.

A number of young men, mostly in their early twenties, having to fend for themselves under pretty rough conditions, moments of fun and humour, but also of tragedy, as when we carried one of our group to his last resting place, following his death, due to an infected axe wound received while falling scrub.

This was Gordon Childs, who made the first start on the present Hellwege farm.

Now, as an onlooker, there appears to be plenty of problems to be overcome, mainly on the marketing side of the dairying industry; "Ah well, Good Luck to you all".

At three score years and ten, I'll get on with my fishing and fossicking.

Charlie Linklater



Edward Brownsey, better known as "Bullocky Bill" hauling red cedar.
Some of the bullocks are Logan, Bowler, Scarlet, Don, Crimmin, Blucher, Smiler.
Photo courtesy C. H. Linklater.



A group of Crediton Ladies, including N. Wood, I. Scott, J. Kluver, R. Mollenhagen,
M. Cowan, J. Tronson, I. Risely, S. Dingle, A. Scott, Theidecke, P. Blackwood, E. Morely, E. Foster
Photo courtesy J. Tronson

STILL IN THE FAMILY by DAVE HERRON

When Andy (my brother) and I first arrived in Australia from Ireland in 1928, we worked on a banana plantation, our Mother's cousins place, near Gympie. We worked on this plantation for 2 years before leasing 5 acres of scrub, from dairyfarmer Bill Grady, also in the Gympie area. The 5 acres had to be cleared and planted with bananas, which took 18 months from planting to bearing the first fruit. When we left home, bananas were selling for 7 pounds (£7) a case in Australia. By 1928 prices had dropped to 5 pounds (£5) a case, and by the time we had our first crop, Andy and I only netted 5 pounds (£5) between us (2 pounds 10 [£2/10/-] each) out of 100 cases of bananas, due to the depression, which was affecting the country and no-one could afford bananas. I remember having to pay 7 pounds 10 shillings (£7/10/-) for the timber to make the cases for the bananas and paying 7 pounds 10 shillings (£7/10/-) to the carrier. Picking and packing 100 cases of bananas was one week's work.

During this time I saw advertised in the paper, blocks of land opening up for ballot in the Crediton-Eungella area. A maximum of 6 portions could be applied for by one person. Andy told me to apply for the portions closest to the township, being Portions 56, 80 and 81. Andy applied for three portions further out but was unsuccessful and they were drawn by Dean Ross, Fred Herbert and Jock Morley. I was successful in drawing Portion 56. Portion 81 was drawn by Joe Gillotti and Portion 80 by William Kellett. These portions were balloted in June, 1935.

After the banana cropping at Gympie was finished around 1st August, 1935, I boarded the train for Mackay, leaving Andy behind on the plantation. The train trip took 20 hours. Arriving in Mackay with 15 pounds (£15) and a reference from the bank manager from Gympie, I stayed overnight so I could see the bank manager at Mackay the next day. The bank manager at Mackay gave me another reference to buy necessary equipment for the task ahead of me from Paxtons. I bought an axe, brush hook and spare handles.

I caught the railmotor at 3 p.m. which took 3 hours to arrive at Netherdale. I was able to get a lift to Eungella with Len Burgess, who was then the carrier for the two grocery stores which were in operation at Eungella at the time. Len drove a 30 c.w.t. (1½ tonne) Dodge ute, which was good for climbing the range with its low gears. When we arrived at the top, I thought I was being attacked by fire-flies, as groups of P.E.I. (Public Estates Improvements) workers with their kerosene lamps met us to pick up their supplies. They were camped in tents on what is now the cricket oval. I stayed overnight at the Burgess' Boarding House, where I met George Bosel and Dave Waters, who at the time were working on the Dalrymple road. One man would have two horses with a plough to loosen the soil on the road and the other would have two horses with a scoop to remove the dirt and dump it over the sides of the range. Having a map of the portion I had drawn with me, I showed it to George who knew where the portion was and told me how to find one of the pegs.

With good advice and full of enthusiasm, I set out next day for the sharp bend in the road before the descent down to the river, where George said I would find a boundary peg. On finding the peg, I planned to find water, so heading west along the boundary pegs between my portion and portion 80, I brushed my way till I found water. I had intended to build a shelter close to the road and carry my water from the stream to the shelter, but the distance of my first discovery of water from the road was 36 chains, so I had to find an alternative. I then decided to brush my way approximately half a mile back along my boundary with the road to a spot which appeared on my map to be closest to a stream. I only had to brush a path west for 8 chains before finding water, and I decided then to build my shelter at the road opposite the water site. After finishing this day's work I then walked

back to the boarding house. I arranged with Len Burgess to get hold of some iron sheeting for me as well as some flour bags from the bakery at Finch Hatton.

The next day I cleared enough scrub to build myself a tent shaped shelter in readiness for the iron sheeting, I also built two beds using saplings and the flour bag. I had arranged before leaving Gympie for Cecil Bacon to arrive in a fortnight to help me with the clearing of the scrub. It was on the fourth night after arriving at Eungella that I first slept in my shelter on my portion. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (meat days) I would walk to Eungella to get supplies, twenty minutes up and a bit longer to come home. Meat was mostly eaten straight away with camp pie sufficing on the off days. All food was stored in a large kerosene box and butter was kept by wrapping it in material and storing it in a hole to keep cool.

When Cecil Bacon arrived we started felling from the creek back to the road, clearing about 10 acres. First we had to brush all the vines away to be able to fell the trees, then once the area was felled we then had to wait about 4 months for the timber to dry out enough to burn. During this period I returned to the banana plantation at Gympie, as I could not afford more wages for Cecil and it was too dangerous to keep felling by myself.

In January 1936, I returned with Andy to burn the fallen timber, not knowing that one week before we had 6 inches of rain and there was no way the timber would burn. It was our intention to build a suitable 24' x 16' shed close to the creek, so to clear the area we had to cut the trees up into short lengths and burn them. The shed was built using one dozen Ironbark posts, sawn timber from Eungella for the rafters and sheets of iron. The heavy traffic areas on the floor were timbered. This shed was a luxury compared to the tin shelter. The shed was built on the site of the dairy shed now in use and one of the original ironbark posts still remains. The building of the shed was no easy task. It rained for six weeks while we were building and we often spent several days in wet clothes whilst building, with clothes being very hard to dry. I remember on one of the first heavy down-pours, our tin shelter was flooded, and my suitcase of good clothes, of white shirts and ties were drenched, with the dye from the ties colouring the white shirts. I washed the dye out, and for six weeks these shirts stayed outside on the line waiting for the sun to dry them. Once during these tiring days of rain I told Andy I had had enough and was going back to Gympie the next morning. That afternoon around 3 p.m. the sun came out and I am still here after fifty years. Cliff Old, who was working on the P.E.I. gang at the time, recalls having 150 inches of rain the first year I was here, 1935.

In 1936 while Andy and I were clearing a ten acre block of scrub across the creek from our shed, we met Ron and Bill Aspanall, whose father had brushed them a track through the scrub from the diggings where they lived, so they could go to school. Andy and I were working away when we heard voices from close quarters. Andy thought he had heard ghosts, and was about to run, when out of the scrub walked the two children. It's hard to say who was the most surprised, they or us.

By Christmas that year we had our first crop of pumpkins and corn, which were brought across the creek by flying fox and then carried to the road where they were collected by Len Burgess who carted them to Netherdale to be railed to Michelmores in Mackay. We earned good money from our pumpkins and corn which enabled us to keep our heads above water.

When we planted the corn we also sowed some pasture seed, so that when the corn had finished, a good pasture remained. Each year we would develop another block of around 10 acres in this same way, so that after our crop we would have a new area of pasture.

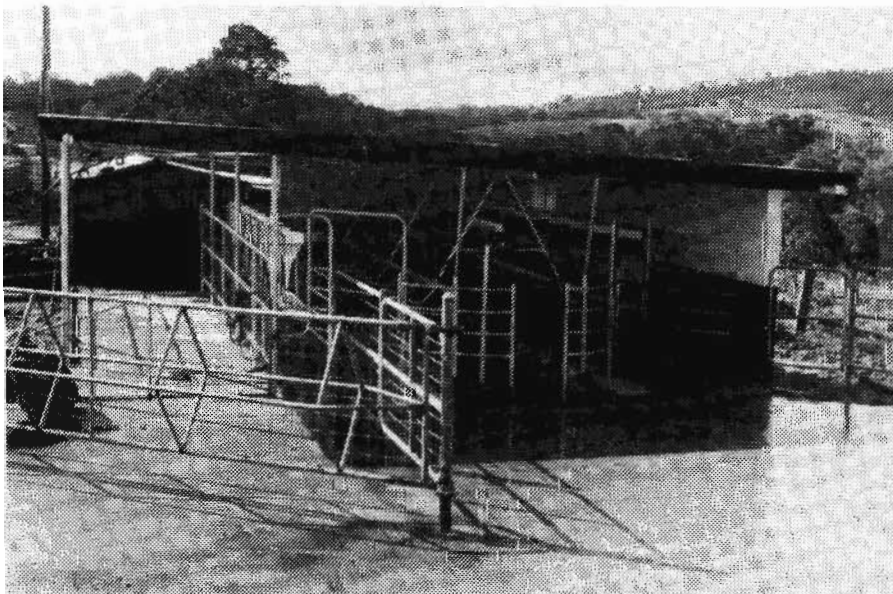
In 1937 we had the help of a horse which we bought from Jock Howie to cart our pumpkins and corn from the paddock to the road on a sled.

Because of the continual wet weather in 1939, the scrub we felled that year was unable to be burnt, and so we could grow no crop. I spent part of 1939 working for Lew Edwards, helping build a slaughter yard at Bee Creek and doing a few jobs around his butcher shop at Eungella. Also that year we bought 5 Illawarra calves, with the aim of rearing them for our dairy herd, which we hoped to start milking within a few years. By the time we had cleared and cropped and pastured another 10 acres of scrub in 1940, we had a total of 60 acres cleared, about 40 acres of which was good pasture.

In 1941-42 we built our house, which is the same one in which my wife Nettie and I still live. Also in 1941 we commenced milking our first herd of ten cows by hand in bails which we built in our shed.

In February, 1945 Andy and I purchased Portion 81 from John Cunningham, who had purchased the portion from Joe Gilotti. Fifty acres of the block had been cleared and grassed and there was a milking herd of fifteen good Illawarra cows which came from the Gladstone area. Andy and I moved into the house on Portion 81 and took my original herd and combined them with the herd from Cunninghams to milk them in the bails there, which were equipped with milking machines, that were installed at the same time as Dean Ross's — in 1943. The first milking machines to be installed in the district were in Charlie Wards dairy, at Dalrymple Heights. Our cows were grazed on my original block during the day and on Portion 81 at night.

On the 3rd November, 1945 I married Nettie Craig and with the intention of working on our own, Nettie and I installed milking machines in my original bails and moved my herd back to Portion 56 in November 1946, where we continued to dairy. The remaining 100 acres of our block was felled in the five or six years after my son John left school at fifteen. We then had our first chain saw, and I brushed the undergrowth while John did the felling. Since then he and his wife Judith have taken over from me and now operate a successful farm, milking 85 Illawarra cows in a modern ten-a-side Herringbone dairy, which is still on the same site as my original bails.



Modern Herringbone Dairy

Photo courtesy A. Ross

“Cliff and Alice OLD — REMINISCING”

Cliff worked for the P.E.I. (Public Estates Improvements) early in 1934. It had started up the year before. He married Alice in 1938 and in October 1942 they acquired the Guest House, taking over from Len Burgess. At the same time Cliff ran a Cream Run at night and in 1943 started a milk pick-up also. After a while he did both Dalrymple and Crediton areas and sold out to John Thomsett in 1946. At that time there were 62 suppliers.

Farmers would come into the guest house and stay overnight. Cliff would wake them at 4.30 a.m. for an early breakfast and take them down to Netherdale, along with the cream, to catch the train which left at 6 a.m. The train got to Mackay about 9 o'clock and left again at 3 p.m., arriving back at Netherdale about 6 o'clock. Cliff would pick the farmers up and let them off at their farms as he picked up the night's milk. All that for four to five hours shopping. Needless to say they didn't go to town very often.

Later on Cliff and Alice returned to Crediton, buying Austin Turners property on Lex Creek Road in October 1952. They dairy farmed there until selling to Tom and Lorna Jones on 1st January, 1968.



1960 25th Anniversary — Photo courtesy C.H. Linklater

“AN ORIGINAL SETTLER”

Ces came up here when he was 31 years old. His father came with him. They had never seen anything like the scrub that was standing all around them. His father stayed up here helping him for a few months. Funny thing was they both wrote to their brother/son and he received their letters and was a bit puzzled as one said they liked it and were staying and the other said they hated it and were leaving. Ces says he nearly left a couple of times over the past 50 years, but he is now glad that he never did. One of his brothers came up and had a block of ground also.

As told to Sue Ross by Ces Archer.



SOME OF THE 1945 POPULATION

W. Matthews, G. Linklater, F. Herbet, F. Dingle, N. Foster, D. Mollenhagen, G. Freegard, S. Freegard, R. Thiedecke, D. & D. Ross, J. Ross, G. Ross, D. Herron, J.E. Morley, E. Morley, J. & H. Angus, G. & Matthews, B. Tarlington, T. Hammer, G. Haviler, B. Tranter, C. Blackwood Snr., C. Blackwood, Jnr.
Taken 10.12.43 Courtesy C. H. Linklater

MY FIRST HOME by Mrs. Joan Tronson

I was a girl from the south. I was marrying a North-Queenslander, and had never seen a house on stilts or even heard of such a house. As my future husband wrote and told me how he was having carpenters in to renovate his bachelor home, I was of course very excited.

At last dawned the day when we were approaching the end of our journey towards the home of our married life. As we passed each house my suspense grew. Was this our home, or was it like this one and so on. Then at last there it was! A quarter of a mile distant. No, not a dove-cot, or a small house nestling among trees, but a huge galvanised monstrosity with Kin-Kara Tea Brand advertisement in huge red letters written half across the outside wall and for all to see.



The Kin-Kara Tea House — Photo courtesy S. Tronson

Not a tree sheltered the house. There it stood in a flat paddock solitary in all its grandeur. As I beheld it, my heart sank. My husband had forgotten to tell he his home had been a former shop in a northern town. I nearly groaned aloud, and then I beheld my husband's face. Pride glowed from every inch of his being. He looked at me so tenderly with mixed love and pride that I turned my head and said with tremulous voice, "It's lovely dear".

Anyhow, this shy reserved man, as we arrived at the foot of the wooden steps, lifted me up and carried me up the stairs to the landing leading into the house. As I walked through the bachelor designed alterations, through the lounge to the bedrooms and sunglasses off front verandah, I knew what it meant already to feel sad for one's husband and yet be in love.

Later that week, when the local farmers with their families came to tin kettle us and inspect our home, and look at the first cemented septic, shower room also cemented underneath the house, and then at the bathroom upstairs with all mod-cons, I then felt proud and happy for my husband. Though we have owned other homes since those far off days never has one given us such cause for laughter, pride and might I add, happiness as that first galvanised and tea branded home.

I was told by folks later on, that many of the farmers wondered what the new bride would think of the huge tea brand on her new home.

NOTES FROM LILLIAN HERBERT'S DIARY

1948	January	22nd	We bought a Rotary Hoe
	January	29th	The Day of Referendum Polling Day
	June	28th	Mrs. Dingle came home with her 4lb. baby girl
	August	7th	Jock Morley broke his arm falling with a ladder while painting
	August	13th	Send off for Mr. & Mrs. C. Blackwood
	September	20th	We went to town by Bedford in and out in one day.
1949	April	20th	G. Ross & M. French got married
	May	20th	32 of our fruit trees arrived - 4 to come
	May	30th	We are getting some rain
	October	1st	School dance at CREDITON made about £8.
	October	17th	G. Pearce tipped his truck over with logs on it, up Linklater's road, into Charlies paddock, no-one hurt.
1950	January	6th	J. & G. Ross bought a Fiat tractor
	February	12th	John Ross bought a new diesel engine for "Sally"
	March	22nd	Milked by machines this evening
	September	21st	A. Plath got molasses tank up. 2 cement and 1 iron one.
1951	March	4th	Sunday School started at Crediton Hall
1952	February	1st	Cliff Old bought A. Turner's farm.
1954	October	28th	Field Day at D. Wood's farm.
1955	March		Floodings at Mirani - 48 inches. 3 spans on bridge washed away. Dalrymple Heights 1086 points for a day.

“ A NEW START” — by B. Smith

When the blocks of land at Crediton were thrown open for selection, Charles Blackwood Snr. was successful in drawing a block up Cathay Creek. It was all dense scrub and under the terms of selection, he had to do a certain amount of clearing and improvement every year, which meant travelling from N.S.W. and living on the block for several months each year.

Scrub had to be fallen to make room to put up a bark hut. Cooking had to be done in billy cans on an open fire and all conditions were very primitive. I don't know how they managed to dry their clothes in those days, for there was always a lot of wet weather when the range was all scrub.

Mr. Blackwood, like others, would fall a big patch of scrub each year, then after it dried and was burned, would sow grass seed. This, of course, had to be all done by hand, walking up and down and scattering the seed from a bucket. When sufficient land was grassed, he then bought some cows and heifers, built a yard and dairy and commenced dairying, while still continuing to fall more scrub.

He then took his son, Charles Jnr. with him and together they built a house to live in. He then turned that block over to his son. Charles Jnr. married and took his bride Phyllis to live there and together they slaved for years improving the farm.

In the early days Charles used to carry cans of cream on his shoulders and walk 2 or 3 miles to the road to catch the cream truck, which did the run at night. He would have to wait till 11 p.m. for the truck to pick up bread, meat, mail, etc.

Mr. Blackwood then bought a block of land at Broken River, which had been selected earlier but allowed to lapse. He continued in the same way there, falling, clearing and grassing the land until he had sufficient area to run some cattle. He again bought heifers — built a dairy and bails and began dairying. He used part of the dairy as his living quarters.

Eventually in 1945, he sold this block to his daughter Beryl and her husband Eric Smith, who at this stage had a girl of four (June). As there was still no house on the property, the Smith family rented an empty house from Dave Herron until their own house was built.

Being war time, nails and iron were very hard to get, slowing down the building of the house. Most of the nails were posted through from N.S.W. by Mrs. Blackwood.

When June was of school age the only way we could manage to send her to school was to board her with Mr. & Mrs. Dean Ross at Crediton, from there she attended the Crediton School. Having no vehicle in those days, Beryl would take June out on the cream truck on Sunday nights and usually she managed to get a lift home on Friday afternoons with a Timber truck owned by Mr. Les Willett.

After a few years we managed to get a quiet pony, so that June could then ride to Eugella School.



FAREWELL TO MRS. COWAN

S. Dingle, G. Turner, M. Cowan, L. Plath (half obscured), R. Mollenhagen, M. Linklater, N. Wood, F. Foster, B. Hamilton, M. Old, H. Morley, B. Smith (obscured), J. Oswald, E. Rush, M. Old, G. Dean, N. Herron, E. Oswald, A. Whiting, R. Freggord, M. Hickey, N. Oswald (Snr), I. Risley, P. Frazer, J. Bull, I. Scott, G. Hamilton. Children — J. Oswald, R. & J. Linklater, I. Wood, K. Foster, M. Turner, H. Herron. — Photo Courtesy C. H. Linklater

“A Cow of a Search for a Cow“ by Charles Blackwood

On leaving at 8 a.m. looking for a cow in the edge of the scrub on a rainy day, the silence was broken by running water and dripping leaves.

Hungry leaches kept one on the move and move I did. Somehow the scrub turned round and I ended up at a cane farm near Pinnacle just at dusk, where I was given a hearty meal by a cane farmer and his wife.

I called in on a wonderful neighbour, Mr. Ray Scott, who was canecutting near Pinnacle at the time. He drove me back to Netherdale Hotel, where I stayed the remainder of the night, catching the cream lorry at 6.30 next morning.

He took me back to Crediton, where I arrived at 10 a.m., just before the second search party started out.

I didn't arrive home with a cow but with two bottles of beer from the Netherdale Hotel. I can recommend the beer but not the scrub trek.



Provisional School at Mr. & Mrs. Dean Ross's Residence — Miss Tarlington, S. Thiedecke, E. Scott, A. Scott, W. Matthews, H. Scott, C. Thiedecke, E. Ross, J. Thiedecke, D. Ross, G. Ross R. Tranter — Photo courtesy Mrs. B. Sturgess (Tarlington)

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE SCOTT FAMILY AT CREDITON

In the mid 1930's Ray and Iris Scott drew a block in the Crediton area. Ray had previously been helping Mr. Charley Blackwood on weekends, bringing fresh provisions up for him and helping out in general. The couple got to like the way of life as pioneers and decided to place an application for a block of their own, drawing the block next door.

This meant lots of hard work and dedication for the family, having to clear the land while living in a tent during the slack season of the nearby Sugar Industry. After three years of this work, Ray had cleared enough land to start dairying with five cows. These were hand milked. The milk was then separated by hand and the cream sold in Mackay, for nine pence (9d.) a gallon.

About this time, Mr. Blackwood met with an accident and his son Charley Jnr. took over and worked the farm. As the Scotts were getting started into dairying on a very small scale, Charley Jnr. decided to take a bride. Ray looked after both farms while Charley and Phyllis took a short honeymoon. By this time Ray had built a hut for himself and Iris to live in while a dairy was being built. The hut had an iron roof with hessian bag sides. Cooking was done over an open fire and the bed was a bedspring, placed on four fork sticks. This was a little more comfortable than the tent, and was closer to the building site for the new dairy, in which the family later lived.

About this time discussions were taking place in the tiny community, trying to get a school started. This was achieved and the school was set up in the old Ross farm house. This made another change for the Scotts. They could now bring their family to live with them on the farm, and go to the new school, instead of being boarded with their Grandparents at Tannalo, and attending Pinnacle School. Anita and Eleanor rode double bank on one horse to attend the school, but Harold had his own horse.

Ray was still returning to the Sugar Industry each season to cut cane, while Iris and the children stayed to carry on the farm work. After three more years of this Ray was able to remove the house from Tannalo and rebuild it on the farm. This made life more bearable.

As the farm improved and the herd increased, the dairy became a dairy, instead of temporary living quarters. Money was still not plentiful and so, as many other new farmers were doing, the Scotts became market gardeners as well as dairy farmers. Fresh vegetables were sold in Mackay. This allowed Iris to buy cheap fabric, to make the children underwear, instead of using cotton flour bags for the purpose.

Of course all of this was taking place during the war when coupons were being used for purchases. Not being able to afford a utility to transport the cream, a horse and slide was used to convey the produce to the main road.

After a while the Scott family increased slowly and by 1952 when Trevor was born, Ray and Iris had seven children. Most of the farm had been cleared by this time.

The herd had increased substantially and a milk supply was in service instead of only cream.

Ray and Iris worked this farm for thirty years before selling it in the early 1970's and retiring in Mackay.

Aileen Comerford

“IN THE BEGINNING” by Geoff Risley

I first came up here in August 1944. I had read about Crediton in the Live Stock Bulletin. Walter Tronson used to write the articles. I liked the red soil and the yearly income was £50 more than I had been making. I decided I couldn't live on sentiment and bought our place from Czislawski.

Cliff Old was the cream contractor and would deliver our groceries, feed, etc. Our cream would get picked up at 11 p.m. One night I had a bag of chook feed dropped off and the next morning found that some wandering horses had eaten the lot!



Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Mollenhagen, Mr. Cluver, Mrs. Dingle, W. Matthews, J. & S. Thiedecke, S. Tronson, J. Tronson, L. Kluver. Photo courtesy S. Tronson

MADGE & JIM COWAN REMEMBER

On 3rd July 1946, Jim and I accompanied by our daughter Helen aged 18 months, arrived at 8.30 p.m. to our newly acquired farm at Crediton, by truck with our furniture. We had no car. It was a bitterly cold night. The van had to be unloaded and the men had to have supper before returning to Mackay.

No-one was in the house to have the wood fire going. Jim, with the aid of a hurricane light, had to find chips and wood. Everything he picked up was white with frost. Next morning the water pipes on top of the ground had burst with the cold.

Valda, our second daughter, was born in November. We would put the two girls in the pram, while Jim pushed the pram I carried the hurricane light and we walked a mile or so to the Recreation Hall to attend the social events at night. Most times when we started for home it would be drizzling rain.

Later we bought a sulky from Frank Dingle for 2 pound (£2.0/-). Mr. Jack Morley gave us a horse which made it easier to get around, until we bought our car. Before we bought our car our only means of going to town was by milk truck. The ladies would book a seat in the front and the men sat and hung on to a milk can in the back.

In the old days we had very heavy wet seasons and often the milk carrier could only get as far as our place, with the meat, bread and mail, which came three times a week. All

supplies for the farmers at the end of the road were left on a table under our house. Next day they would come over the hills and collect them. One night a horse belonging to Jim Woodland found his way in and ate all the bread. Imagine how we felt, explaining to our neighbours. Oh, they were the days, to which our memories go back from time to time.

“SOME NOTES FROM JOHN ROSS”

Dad (Dean Ross) arrived at Crediton in May 1936. We had been up there previously in 1935 to inspect.

Some of the residents there, when we arrived, were Dave & Andy Herron, Joe Gilotti on the block at Broken River that Maurie Howie had, Charlie Linklater, Freddie Herbert, Jock Morley, Frank & old Mr. & Mrs. Dingle, Cecil Archer, Bert Leslie and family on the block next door to Dingles. Harry Ward was on the block that first Matthews and then Costigans had. Gordon West was at the Bull Paddock. Gleeson's were on a block at the Bull Paddock.

Some people came as far as Netherdale and turned around and went back after one look at the range.

Also there were Norm Foster and Howard Aspinall and family.

When Mum Ross and family arrived there was 25 acres felled on their block. Dad had come 2 months earlier and built a cottage. Shortly after, they had 6 or more cows and Gordon and I used to carry milk and sell it to other residents.

Harry Ward used to bring groceries out weekly from Kelly's shop at Eungella.

Gordon and I did Correspondence Schooling for a while. Later we got a bike and used to take it in turns to ride to Eungella to school. We also rode the bike to the dentist at Finch Hatton. We tied a branch behind the bike to act as a brake, going down the range. Ronnie and Billy Aspinall used to do this also.

Every fortnight the family would go to Eungella in their 1926 Chev. Utility to pick up Dad's war pension and call on Herrons' for lunch on the way home. Later on things got worse. Money was short. Dad had to deregister the Chev. and walk into Eungella for the pension.

“EARLY EXPERIENCES AT CREDITON” by Gordon Ross

When I was nearly 17 years old I got a job with Cliff Old, driving his truck and carting cream and milk. The American Army also used to cart some milk from Crediton. We would pick up cream from Crediton and milk and cream from the Dalrymple end. We would do one end one night and the other end the next night. We would start work about 8 p.m. and finish about mid-night, grab a few hours sleep and then get up to have the load at Netherdale by 6 a.m. to go on the train. We would also deliver groceries, mail and newspapers, etc., on our run. When Cliff got sick once and had to go to hospital, we were allowed to do the pick up during the day. It was during this day-time pick up that I first met Mavis French, waiting for groceries, etc., for her family. We were married some 5 years later.

After working for Cliff my brother John and I bought a Blitz truck from Eagers — it was an ex-army truck. We used it to cart logs. We worked for Les Willett. John would drive the truck and I would drive the tractor, snagging logs. We worked on a lot of different properties — some of them were Thiedeckes, Mollenhagens, Freegards, Woodlands and Walter Jeffs. At night we'd go along to dances in the truck, picking up anyone else who wanted

SCHOOL ROLL

CREDITON

1943

Brownsey, Avis M.
Brownsey, Lorraine L.
Brownsey, Graham A.
Matthews, Wilfred S.J.
Ross, Gwendoline E.D.
Ross, Eric D.
Ross, Dorothy D.
Thiedecke, Josephine R.
Thiedecke, Shirley M.
Thiedecke, Clive W.
Tranter, Aileen R.

1944

Scott, Anita C.
Scott, Eleanor J.
Scott, Harold G.
Munster, Roger M.
Munster, Carol M.
Biddle, Kenneth J.

1945

West, George E.
West, Dorothy I.J.
Lovi, Ronald C.G.
Lovi, Keith D.

1946

Funnell, Daryl W.
Bradshaw, Vivian N.

1947

Porter, Ella J.
Porter, Leslie E.
Freegard, Annabella J.
Freegard, Beryl E.
Deans, Evalene G.
West, Dulcie M.
Risley, Janice I.
Smith, June I.
Jackson, Patricia M.
Hammer, Mavis E.

1949

Pallant, Kenneth E.
Foster, Timothy J.
Kluver, Brian L.
Willett, Barrie J.
Herbert, Edna
Freegard, Heather M.
Deans, Helen M.
Scott, Aileen I.
West, Gordon A.
Ostwald, Beverly A.
Ostwald, Darryl F.
Rush, Lynette E.

1950

Munster, Judith A.
Munster, Beryl N.

Munster, Margaret I.
Munster, Coral J.
Ostwald, Rodney J.
Cowan, Joy H.
Herbert, Hazel
Turner, Kathryn, M.
Dingle, Bevin F.W.
Passfield, Frances
Passfield, Kenneth
Passfield, David
Whiting, Madonna, A.
Kerridge, Kenneth E.

1951

Ostwald, Desley M.
Foster, Eleanor J.
Deans, Allison G.
Risley, Roslyn J.
Barker, Janet A.
Barker, Joan M.
Scott, Beverly J.
Hamilton, Heather J.
Hamilton, Catherine G.
Hamilton, Elizabeth E.
Smith, Colin E.

1952

Old, Helen F.
Old, Jeffrey C.
Dingle, Denise A.
Freegard, Ralph A.
Cowan, Valda E.
Mollenhagen, Stanley W.

1953

Mollenhagen, Kenneth J.
Tronson, Kim S.
Woudenberg, Reinder H.W.
Woudenberg, Hendrik W.J.
Old, Monica A.
Mollenhagen, Warren K.

1954

Dingle, Lynette
Freegard, Neville J.
Pullen, Rosemary P.
Pullen, Anne
Thomas, Susan
Reeves, Ronald J.
Reeves, Neville D.
Hamilton, Meryl A.
Hamilton, James R.

1955

Turner, Maxine G.
Turner, Noel

1956

Linklater, Alan C.
Linklater, Robyn S.

Dingle, Charles E.
Scott, Raymond D.
Costigan, Lorraine K.
Costigan, Lenore M.
Costigan, Trevor W.J.

1957

Hewitt, Lorraine J.
Hewitt, Betty
Deans, Nola J.
Deans, Stanley J.
Kenny, Margaret A.
Kenny, Samuel J.
Kenny, Lance T.
Kenny, John

1958

Wood, Ian C.
Mollenhagen, Donald D.
Costigan, Marcia F.
Kenny, Barbara E.
Kenny, Rosemary E.
Scott, Trevor J.

1959

Linklater, Judith
Wood, Glenn S.
Wood, Ruth D.

1961

Plath, Jennifer M.
Kenny, Robert B.
Pullen, Neil F.
Pullen, Phillip J.
Pullen, William

1962

Plath, Graeme A.
Turner, Diane A.
Wood, Sharon R.
Trevethan, Alan P.
Trevethan, Diane
Trevethan, Erele S.
Trevethan, Faye P.

1963

Frazer, Francis H.C.

1964

Wood, Jane A.
Mollenhagen, Rhonda M.

1965

Wood, David J.
Holberton, Michael M.
Frazer, Patrick G.

1967

Holberton, Deanna M.
Mollenhagen Russell V.
Duddin, Lynn

1968

Kister, Shayne P.
Kister, Stephen G.

SCHOOL ROLL

WEST CREDITON SCHOOL

1951

Deans, Evaline G.
Deans, Allison G.
Deans, Helen M.
Risley, Roslyn J.
West, Dulsie M.
West, Gordon A.
Foster, Eleanor J.
Foster Timothy J.
Hamilton, Elizabeth E.
Hamilton, Heather J.
Hamilton, Catherine G.
Smith, Colin E.
Rush, Lynette, E.
Whiting, Madonna
Ostwald, Howard D.

1952

Ostwald, Annette M.
Hamilton, Meryl A.
Rush, Leslie J.
Deans, Nola J.
Wilson, Lester N.
Hudson, Howard

1953

Ostwald, Darryl F.
Ostwald, Beverley A.
Ostwald, Desley M.
Woudenberg, Reinder H.
Woudenberg, Kendrik, W.J.

1954

Agnew, Donald, P.
Frazer, Mary E.M.
Frazer, Peter J.
Risley, Jennifer R.
Hamilton, James R.
Roger, Linette M.
Ostwald, Beth L.
West, Ivy L.
West, John R.

1955

Hill, Graeme E.
Bunting, John
Hobbs, June D.
Guthrie, Harold L.
Guthrie,

1956

McConnell, Linda L.
Deans, Stanley J.
Ostwald, Cecily A.
Rush, Trevor J.
Duel, Graham
Duel, Colin D.
Duel, Russell J.
Duel, Lynette M.
Kelly, Sharon A.
Kelly, Sheryl A.

1958

Frazer, Francis H.
Foster, Kevin G.
Risley, Ian G.
Ostwald, Robert M.
McLean, Gloria J.
McLean, Jack

1959

Pullen, Rosemary P.
Pullen Phillip J.
Pullen, Neil F.

1961

Pullen, William R.
Gibbon, Roy J.
Gibbon Allan F.
Edwards Anthony J.

CREDITON TEACHERS

Miss B. Tarlington
Mr. D. Read
Mr. B. Moore
Mr. C. Walker
Mr. K. Ryan
Mr. T. Fitzsimmon
Mr. K. Jarman
Mr. S. Fairley
Mr. D. McLachlan
Mr. G. Maynes
Mr. M. Dillon

WEST CREDITON TEACHERS

Mr. E. Eshman
Mr. C. Sheppard
Mr. C. Aldridge
Mr. P. Cantwell

F 679

102

& M.E. McEvoy

res 9093

N



State Forest

60

S.L. 38912

E.T. & H.M.T.

McEvoy

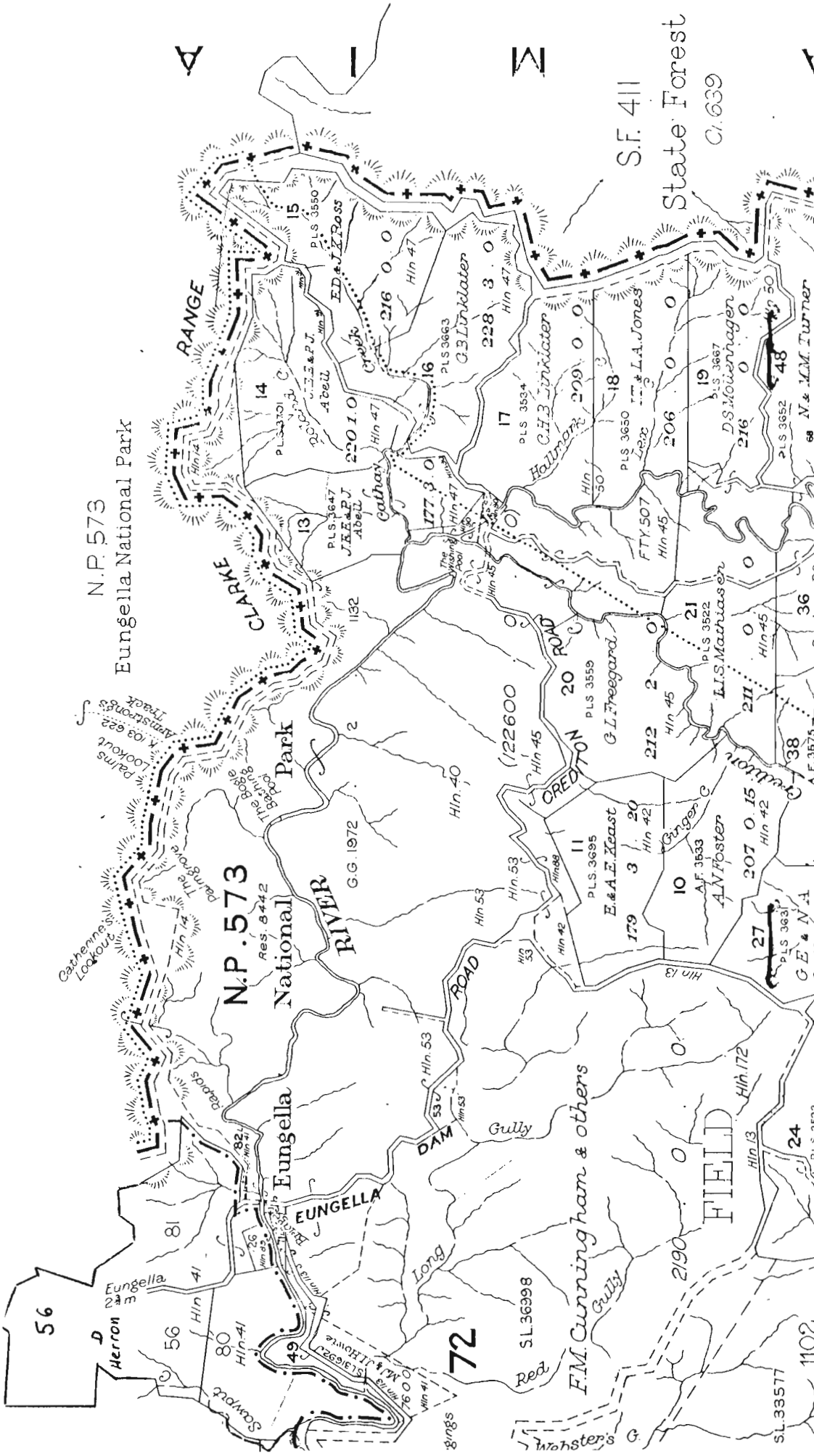
Lat 21° 15' S.

RANGE

WEST

208

C. 2316



N.P. 573
Eungella National Park

N.P. 573
Res. 8442
National Park

Eungella
EUNGELLA

S.F. 411
State Forest
Cr. 639

F.M. Cuningham & others

FIELD

SL. 33577
1102

GE & NA
PLS 3631

AF. 3575
36

N. & M.M. Turner
PLS 3652
48

D.S. Mowbray
PLS 3667
19

L.A. Jones
PLS 3650
18

H.A. Walker
PLS 3634
17

G.B. Linklater
PLS 3663
16

ED. & J.J. Ross
PLS 3550
15

U.E. & P.J. Abel
PLS 3301
14

J.E. & P.J. Abel
PLS 3647
13

CLARKE RANGE

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CLARKE RANGE

N.P. 573
Eungella National Park

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National Park

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CLARKE RANGE

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Eungella National Park

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Res. 8442
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Eungella
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ED. & J.J. Ross
PLS 3550
15

U.E. & P.J. Abel
PLS 3301
14

J.E. & P.J. Abel
PLS 3647
13

CLARKE RANGE

PARISH OF CREDITON

Portion 10	A.N. Foster (Now subdivided into 3 Lots) Lot 1. RP. 37954 M. Ambrose & Ors. (66.8 ha) Lots 2 & 3 RP. 37954 A.N. Foster (15.98 ha)
Portion 11	Previously forfeited J.A. Foster S.A. Whiting S.P. Trevethan J.K. & L.O. Norman E. & A.E. Keast J.H. & J.R. Williams (Now subdivided into 3 Lots) Lot 1. RP. 34206 W.L. & G. Brown (1.65 ha) Lot 2. RP. 34206 V.R. & E.J. Hansen (4.1 ha) Lot 3. RP. 34206 J.H. & J.R. Williams (67 ha) (Lot 3 RP. 34206 re-subdivided into 2 Lots) Lot 1. RP. 35628 D.N. & R.J. Meyers (1.3 ha) Lot 2. RP. 35628 J.H. & J.R. Williams (65.7 ha) C.L. & M.E. Brimblecombe
Portion 13	G.G. Rutter I.O. Scott J.E. & P.J. Abell A.J. & B.J. McDonald A.J. McDonald (An area of 6.6 ha recently subdivided into Lot 1. RP. 40735 G.J. Vivers
Portion 14	R.S.P. & I.O. Scott J.E. & P.J. Abell A.J. & B.J. McDonald A.J. McDonald
Portion 15	Previously forfeited C. Blackwood (Snr) C.O. Blackwood (Jnr) R.F. Frazer S.C. & R.F. Frazer J.O. & S.J. Windsor E.D. & J.K. Ross E.D. Ross & Co. I.R. Gillespie & D.L. Fitzsimmons

Portion 16	Previously forfeited A. Tranter G.B. Linklater R.J. & M.M. McLean
Portion 17	C.H.B. Linklater R.J. & M.M. Mclean
Portion 18	Previously forfeited A. Turner R.C. Old I.T. & L.A. Jones C.V. & L.M. Sammut
Portion 19	Previously forfeited D.S. Mollenhagen S.M. & L.M. Kelly C.A. Anderson (Now subdivided into 3 Lots) Lots 1 & 2 RP.41327 C.A. Anderson (41.5 ha) Lot 3. RP. 41327 T.F. & J.O. Searle 45.9 ha)
Portion 20	Previously forfeited G.L. Freegard N.J. & A.J. Freegard
Portion 21	F.G. Herbert L.I.S. Mathiasen
Portion 24	W.H. Aspinall S.H. West L.H. Hansen (An area of 4.1619 ha was subdivided into Portion 73 - S.H. West, Portion 73, re-subdivided into 4 Portions, their description being —) Portion 73 S.H. West (1.737 ha) J.F. Barnett, B.A. Tucker & G. Cox S.A. & A.F. Hogg J.D. & B.A. Murray
Portion 76	S.H. West (1.195 ha) M. Cole J.A. & J. Cockings
Portion 77	S.H. West (3636 sq.m) M.W. & M.H. Slatter & C.J. & L.M. Hodge
Portion 78	S.H. West (8660 sq.m) C.J. & J.M. Bradshaw J.C. Quinlan

Portion 25	Previously forfeited J. Angus S.A. & M.E. White J. & D.M. Dixon M.R. & E.M. Ostwald M.R. Ostwald L.I.S. Mathiasen	Portion 33	Previously forfeited S.V. Tronson E.E.C.Ostwald J.W.T. & D.C. Wood J.W.T., D.C. & G.S. Wood J.W.T. & G.S. Wood G.S. Wood
Portion 26	S.F. Freegard R.E. Freegard N.J. & A.J. Freegard	Portion 34	Previously forfeited G.J.G. Harper J.E. Morley L. Morley M.H. & M.O. Holberton E.D. & J.K. Ross E.D. Ross & co.
Portion 27	Previously forfeited J.C. White J. & D.M. Dixon M.R. & E.M. Ostwald M.R. Ostwald G.E. & N.A. Gallaway D.B. & B.J. Markey	Portion 35	L. Morley M.H. & M.O. Holberton E.D. & J.K. Ross E.D. Ross & Co. (Now subdivided into 3 Lots) Lots 1 & 2 RP. 37541 (6.9 ha) G.W. & S.N. Ross Lot 3 RP. 37541 (70.76 ha) E.D. Ross & Co.
Portion 28	S.W. Hutchins S.C. & R.F. Frazer D.R. & J.M. Thomson C.C. & C. Cortis D. & R.G. Cortis	Portion 36	E.D. Ross E.D. & E.D. Ross E.D. & J.K. Ross E.D. Ross & Co.
Portion 29	R.T. Gleeson H.A. Hammer J.R. Thomas T.A. McConnell W.F.J. & B.W. Palmer M.R. Ostwald G.E. & N.A. Gallaway D.B. & B.J. Markey	Portion 37	G.V. West H.R., M.E. & J.Bloxidge
Portion 30	Previously forfeited J.J. Willett H.G. Deans R.L. & C.C. Weick R.L. Weick Aviblue Pty. Ltd.	Portion 38	Previously forfeited I. Gleeson G. Havilah W.G.M. Woodman O. Willett H.G. Deans R. Rush R.L. & C.C. Weick R.L. Weick Aviblue Pty. Ltd.
Portion 31	L.P. Czislawski W.G.E. Risley W.G.E. & I.G. Risley	Portion 39	Previously forfeited W.B. Matthews J. Cowan W.A. & F.V. Costigan C.H. & B.E. Chamberlain C.P. Corne
Portion 32	Previously forfeited R.J. West W.O. Chelman & W.J. Woodland W.J. Woodland K. Woodland D. & P. Woodland		

Portion 40 H.E. Ward
S.V. Tronson
W. Jeffs
G. Deans
K. Woodland
D. & P. Woodland

Portion 41 C.E. & F. Dingle
F. Dingle
A.H. & L.A. Plath
R.R. Beldan

Portion 42 A.L. Leslie & J.G. Childs
W.C.F. Brake
A.G.L. Turner
D.R. & M.G. Hellwege

Portion 43 G.M. Newham
B.D. Wood
G.R. & S.A. Wellby

Portion 44 Previously forfeited
L. Park

Portion 45 C. Archer

Portion 46 N. & J. Hickey
W.C. & A.E.C. Pawnall
T.C. & E.E. Symonds
E.J. & G.L. Moore
E.J. Moore

Portion 47 Previously forfeited
T.P. Dunbar
A.C. Porter
S.V. Tronson
G.E. Turner
R.L. Turner
A.G.L. Turner
D.R. & M.G. Hellwege &
N. & M.M. Turner

(Portion 47 subdivided into 2 Portions, their
description being —)

Portion 47 D.R. & M.G. Hellwege
(40.37 ha) A.L., K.D. & L.V. Chapman
Portion 75 N. & M.M. Turner
(39.454 ha) D.A. & V.G. McGregor
I.L. & M.J. King

Portion 48 Previously forfeited
W. Theidecke
A.E. Pallent
F. Dingle
S.M. Kenny
N. & M.M. Turner
D.A. & V.G. McGregor
(now subdivided into 2 Lots)
Lot 1 RP. 37540 D.A. & V.G. McGregor
(1.868 ha) M.D. Pearson
Lot 2 RP. 37540 D.A. & V.G. McGregor
(77.85 ha) I.L. & M.J. King

PARISH OF EUNGELLA

Portion 56 D. Herron
D. & A.J. Herron
D. Herron
D. & J.M. Herron
J.M. & J.A. Herron

Portion 80 Previously forfeited
W.A. Kellett
C.O. Blackwood (Jnr)
C. Blackwood (Snr)
D.E. & I.B. Smith
I.B. Smith
M.J. & J.I. Howie
M.L. & R.L. Burns
R.L. & R.K. Burns
& W.A. & K.M. Bourke
R.L. & R.K. Burns

Portion 81 J. Gilotti
J. Cunningham
A.J. Herron
M.J. & J.I. Howie
M.L. & R.L. Burns
R.L. & R.K. Burns
& W.A. & K.M. Bourke
R.L. & R.K. Burns

* Occupiers of portions forfeited are not shown
on this list.

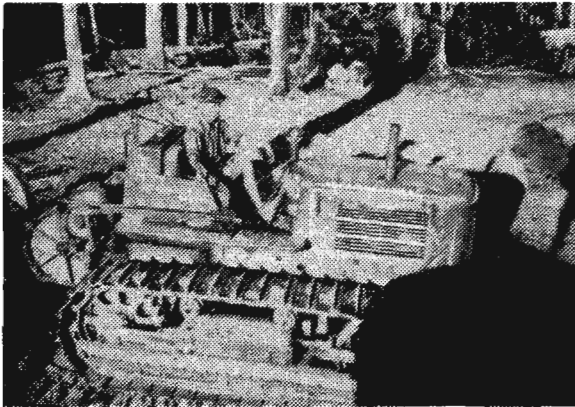
“EARLY EXPERIENCES AT CREDITON” by Gordon Ross (cont.)

to go, along the way. The blitz was affectionately called “Sally” and Don Read painted her name on the doors. I’m sure lots of people would remember “Sally”. Mum would come to most of these dances with us. She would sit up front and everyone else would pile on the back. Any time a new family moved to the area or one left, there would be a party. Mum was a great one for having a party.

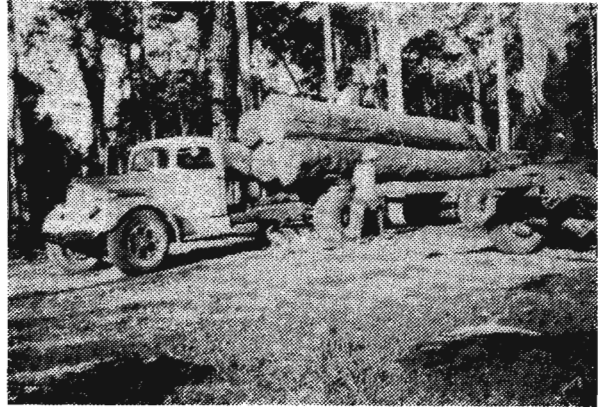
Later on we bought an amphibious “duck” from Frendeley Motors, also an ex-army vehicle. We called it “Sue” and Don Read once again did the art work. We used to go to the football matches down at Finch Hatton and North Eton and barrack for John & Don, who played for Finch Hatton, in the “duck”.

When Mavis and I got married we came out and lived in the house which had been used for the school. We lived there for 2 years during which time our daughter Carole was born. In 1953 we moved up the Dalrymple end and worked in the timber and lived in a tent. We later drew a block right up near the end of Dalrymple road and lived and dairy farmed there for 10 years.

Our son Gary and his wife and two children now live at Crediton.



Gordon Ross on Les Willett's International Tractor snigging logs back of Thiedecke's farm.
Photo courtesy Don Read



Les Willett's "White" truck loaded with logs from back of "Thiedeckes"
Photo courtesy Don Read

“THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO YOUNG GIRLS”

When we had visitors a little girl in our family used to go bush (literally) and hide until they left.

We didn't have a stove inside the house and I can remember Mum cooking on an open stove.

We were a family of 7 (5 children) and lived in a 2 roomed house, not lined. In winter we had to put rain coats on our bed to stop the drips from the unsealed roof, wetting our beds.

One of the greatest treats I can remember was during winter when we used to set water and next morning, after milking the cows, we would sit in the morning sun and thoroughly enjoy chewing away at the ice.

Before our father could clear the land and grow grass to feed cattle, so that he had an income, our family was probably more fortunate than most as Dad had a Return Soldier's Pension. Once a fortnight he walked 10 miles to Eungella to collect the pension and get groceries we needed. When the range slipped (dirt from the bank falling over the road), cars couldn't get through, so no groceries could get through. The men of the district carried bags of flour, etc. up the range.

Our father and two brothers would go away of a morning to fall the scrub and left the three youngest to the mercy of our school teacher — Mum. When we failed to co-operate, we would be reminded that HER kids were not going to grow up DUDS! After the war we moved to a new home and our first little house became our first school with 9 pupils. Our mother was very instrumental in getting the school, maybe because of the problem pupils she had. After our new school was built the same small house became a home for a few families, before finally collapsing.

This same determined woman carried much mirth. One day when she was in the mud in rubber boots, they were left behind and she fell flat down. Life was never dull with two older brothers who bought a war Blitz "Sally" and a Duck, which were used by the family to attend dances and the pictures. How I remember waiting in the Duck for them to say "Good-night" to their young ladies after an evening out. It was a real "family affair".



OFF TO THE MACKAY SHOW!

Doug Mollenhagen, Daphne Clews, Don Read, Mary Douall, Gordon Ross, Frank Jackson, John Ross

Photo courtesy of Don Read

Can you imagine young children going to the beach, who were unaware of what to expect, never having seen it before. This water that goes on and on, as far as the eye can see. Also having two brothers who would practice for months throwing stones to knock tins off posts and then going off to "THE SHOW" and returning with all their exciting stories and Violet Crumble Bars for all.

Dot Fordyce and Gwen Ruckman — nee Ross

MY TIME AT CREDITON by Don Agnew

Pat and I arrived at the "Bull Paddock" in Crediton in 1950, from the Atherton Tableland. I came to manage the Sawmill owned by E.N. Woodman & Co. of Mackay. It had been operating for about 15 years previously.

There were ten men employed at the busy little mill, which was powered by steam. We got our water from Crediton Creek, which flowed next to the mill, and I well remember in the big drought of 1951, when the mill had to stop until all the men had dug a passage for the water to come down to the mill to supply the boiler.

On our arrival at Crediton, we noticed the countryside was dairying country, and we soon found that the dairy industry and the timber industry were very important to the district.

The timber logged from the rain forests was scrubwoods, such as Red Cedar, Eungella Gum and hardwoods such as Flooded Gum, Spotted Gum, Blue Gum, sawn at the mill by men such as Bart Sinclair, Jim O'Toole, Lionel Waddington, Tom Bull, Norm Deakin and a few dairy farmers, who also worked at the mill in lean times. Men such as Robby Rush, Merv (Muddy) Ostwald, Jim Hamilton to name a few.

After it was sawn, the timber was transported down to Netherdale, which was a very busy rail centre in those days. The loggers, who did a sterling job were Laurie Willett, Ernie "Bull" Campbell and John Woodman.

During the Korean War, Woodmans obtained an order from the Defence Department for 1,500,000 superficial feet of sawn timber to be delivered within a specified time. To expedite this order, it was split up between the three mills on Eungella Range, two at "the top", one owned by Bert Lipscombe and the other by Alf Willett and the Crediton Mill that I managed.

This little mill cut half of the prodigious order, and on time. It took five trainloads to haul the timber from Netherdale to the Mackay Harbour on to the overseas boats. All the men at the mill had worked ten hours a day for six days a week, until the order was completed.

We found our neighbours very friendly, and Pat and I made lasting friendships. Some of our hard working dairy farmer friends were Jim and Gwen Hamilton, Pat and Frank and Charlie Frazer, Iris and Ray Scott, Dudley and Norma Wood, Nancy and Cliff Ostwald and Merv and Jean Ostwald.

There was such a crop of children living close to the sawmill, that the Department of Education opened the West Crediton School in addition to the other school at Crediton. The first teacher was Mr. Eddie Eshmann. Our son Donald started school at West Crediton, but his brother Glenn, who was born in Mackay, just two months after we arrived, did not get the opportunity, because I was transferred to Proserpine in 1955.

There was quite a lot to do socially in those days. Most of the residents were young married people with children, so we made our own fun. There were dances nearly every fortnight at the Crediton Hall, tennis all day Sunday and cricket matches. The women used to look forward to a rare visit to town at Mackay every month or so.

Great interest was caused by challenge cricket, tennis and football matches between Dalrymple Heights and Crediton. As far as I know, there is only one of our football players still resident in the district, and that is Eric Ross, who was our devastating tackler and

half back. "Muddy" Oswald and Scotty were our two front row forwards. Charlie Frazer the hooker, Eddie Eshmann was on the wing, and I was the five eight.

Often when cricket was played at Dalrymple Heights sportsgrounds, a thick, heavy fog would come down about 2 p.m. in the afternoon, and no-one could see the ball until it lobbed beside someone. No wonder it is called the "Land of cloud".

There was quite a little township around the mill in those days, and now it is all gone. Where once there were big trucks bringing huge logs to the mill and taking out sawn timber to be railed to Mackay, the sound of the saws as they bit through the logs, there is now just a quiet countryside.

"OUR INTRODUCTION TO CREDITON" by Jim and Gwen Hamilton

Jim and Gwen Hamilton and family came to West Crediton in July, 1951. They share farmed on Chappie Thomas' block for 6 or 7 months before moving on to West's farm where they stayed for 2½ years.

At that time there was a provisional school at West Crediton and Eddie Eshmann was the teacher. Clair Wilson taught the piano and with Eddie Eshmann, put on a concert with the children all playing different instruments.

Tom Bull, from the sawmill, also taught the children gymnastics. Eddie Eshmann was also good at making up poetry. One, well remembered, goes like this :—

We stroll through the gumtrees
For five days each week
Down to the little hut
Close by the creek,
And there with its washouts
All lovely to see
Is our temporary State School
Called the W.C.
But we are so proud of our W.C.
The best school for three miles
We all must agree,
The kids are all dumbbells
The teacher is mad
The way we are heading
We'll all turn out bad.

John and Mrs. Thomsett used to play for the dances at Crediton with Gwen playing extras. Charlie Walker, who was the school teacher at Crediton, played the saxophone. When Charlie went on holidays once to Brisbane, he was able to purchase a set of second-hand drums for Jim for £15/0/-.

While in the district, Gwen also taught sewing at Crediton.

PAT FRAZER REMEMBERS —

The Good Times:—

- Sundays spent round at the Tennis Courts.
- Saturday night dances in the Hall or at “The Top” with babies bedded down in the side room or under the seats. Older children taking to the floor between dances vieing with each other to see who could skid the greatest distance down the Hall.
- The musicians who gave generously of their time and talents — the Thomsetts, the Hamiltons, the Deans, Mrs. Ross, “Waggie” Matthews, Mrs. Wilson, Eddie Eshmann with his accordion.
- Inter-school Sports days, when we transported our young athletic hopefuls down to Finch Hatton or Pinnacle, and cheered them on to victory in their various heats — The Dean girls and Tim Foster were very fleet-footed.
- When Tom (“Bloody”) Bull, Eric Ross, Maurie Howie and others staged a Gymnastic display at the Hall — Bev. Scott showed that she could equal the boys in the ability to leap the vaulting horse.
- The Sports days held on the flat at West Crediton, when the “old boys” proved they had not forgotten how to play football — and how the fun of one of these matches was marred when Neville Freegard had the misfortune to break his leg.
- Boxing Day and New Year’s Day family picnics at the Broken River — how popular that water-hole was in summertime.
- Children’s Fancy Dress Balls, when mothers (and fathers) used their imagination and ingenuity to come up with some wonderful creations.
- The Annual Xmas Tree — with the older kids trying their best to identify the “Santa” of the night.
- Picnic Races at Buggy Bend.

* * * * *

The “Not-So-Good” Times:—

- Those wet, wet seasons, with the resulting mud and slush of the cow yards. The problem of keeping dry nappies up to babies (before the advent of electricity), when in one year we did not see the sun for 3 weeks. The anxiety of being close to confinement when the “wet” set in, and the problems of getting safely to Mackay before due time. The great relief I felt at being on the Mackay end of the Pioneer River when the Mirani bridge was washed away round Easter time in 1956.
- The ascent and descent of Eungella Range in the rain and mist (before the road was bitumen sealed and cats-eyed) — chains for our wheels were often needed to make sure we made it to the top. Frank never had any problem with a back-seat driver on those occasions — I maintained a prayerful silence.
- The cold, cold of winter — with cracked skin on the lips, hands and feet.
- The occasional grass fires that got away.
- When someone wandered too far into the scrub after stock and got lost trying to find a way out.

Our Years With The Teachers of West Crediton —

..... In order to ensure that our children got a good grounding in the “3 R’s” it was necessary for us parents to take our turn boarding the various teachers. Eddie Eshmann (or “Threeshmann” as our kids dubbed him, because one of their school-mates wrote his name with the capital E appearing as a 3) was the first occupant of the teacher’s room in our home. “Sir” to our kids at school, but at home he was just like their older brother. There were times when chaos reigned supreme with the tom-foolery that went on — but, like an older brother he took upon himself “extra curricula” chores like helping with a paint brush if necessary, and on one occasion made an emergency dash to Mackay for medical attention to Peter, who almost severed his ear in a cow-yard mishap. In the class-room Eddie would fascinate the kids with his ambidexterity at the black-board — he would stand at the centre of the board, writing from the left with his left hand, then switch to the right and continue across without missing a beat or change of handwriting style.

Then along came “Shep” (Colin Shepherd) — a complete change of personality altogether. He was a likeable cove, who chose to keep himself a little aloof from his pupils out of school, which we adjusted to in time — and if, at times, we missed the hilarity of the Eddie era, we were compensated by having a more organised and peaceful household.

“Col 2” (Colin Aldridge) was the third, and last, occupant of the little corner room. He fitted very well into our world, having come from farming stock himself. However, here I must tell what a hassle it was to get him out of bed each school morning — three calls used to be the norm. I sometimes wondered what time school would have started if I had given up the battle some mornings. Suffice to say that none of us are perfect, and we really did like Colin a lot — Margot and I were very happy to be present at his marriage to Margaret in Ipswich and to meet all the members of his family.

We also have happy memories of the nights when we had the teacher from Crediton over for an evening meal, a game of cards, or just “shop talk” round the kitchen table — Kev. Ryan, Tom Fitzsimmons and his young bride Margaret, come to mind as folk whose company we enjoyed on these occasions.

When our children were to move on to higher education, we were to appreciate how fortunate we were in having had such good teachers in our little “one-teacher” schools — our kids could hold their own very well (scholastically) with their city cousins.

The children of both the Crediton schools (now closed) have gone on to take their places in many fields of endeavour, be it in trade or profession, arts of sciences, public service or armed forces, or in carrying on the farming tradition of their parents.

We say a heart-felt “Thank you” to the young teachers who set them on their way.

Absent Friends —

..... As we gather to celebrate a Golden Anniversary our thoughts turn to some of those who are no longer with us — Garnet, Sam & Ruby Freegard (wouldn’t

Garnet have loved this nostalgia trip!) . . . Fred & Elsie Herbert . . . Irene Risley . . . Ruth Mollenhagen . . . Jean Ross . . . Diana Wood, . . . Ray ("Scottie") Scott . . . Charlie Frazer . . . Jim Woodland . . . Dean Ross . . . Mr. & Mrs. Morley Snr. . . . Mrs. Linklater Snr. . .

We all have our own special memories of these good people and I feel sure they are all with us in spirit.

Vale, dear friends, and thanks for the memories we have of you.

* * * * *

Random Recollections —

..... We had a celebrity in our midst, without being fully aware of it at the time. Alan Marshall, one of this country's well-known authors, paid a visit to his nephew, Alan McConnell, who was farming at the time on Chappie Thomas' place. Alan Marshall's book "I Can Jump Puddles" was beginning to take off at the time of his visit — it has since been televised in a Mini-Series.

..... Remember GRAND SLAM? The Army exercise carried out in our area — can't remember what year. Crediton was to acquire another resident as a result of it, when Brian Palmer (one of the Army personnel) returned to take up farming on Alan McConnell's place. Brian later returned to Army life.

"20 YEARS LATER" by F. Costigan

We, Warren & Frances Costigan, purchased a dairy farm from Jim & Madge Cowan at Crediton. Together with our four children, we started dairying sending our first milk to the Mackay Factory or P.C.D. on the 7th December, 1955. Some of the cows got three days sickness and some died from it. We remember we thought it was a disaster at the time, as we were new to dairying. We all liked dairying and it gave the children an interest and they all liked the country living.

Our children namely, Lorraine, Lenore, Trevor and Marcia all attended Crediton State School and were taught by the following teachers over the years, namely — Kevin Ryan, Tom Fitzsimmons, Ken Jarman, Stewart Fairley and Don McLachlan. Quite a few children passed their scholarships at our local Crediton State School, then went on to High School. The Crediton School children used to look forward to their annual all-school sports day, which was held either at Finch Hatton or Pinnacle, which was a very big day with all inter-schools competition, and a very enjoyable day for all the families. The mothers would prepare, the day before, all the goodies for their picnic lunches.

All Crediton children did well at the annual school sports, bringing home their trophies, cups and ribbons.

Our eldest daughter Lorraine married our local school teacher, Ken Jarman. They lived in a small caravan along-side the Crediton Hall for twelve months before Ken was transferred out west to Rolleston.

Lenore married Geoff Bosel and they are living at Bee Creek, Dalrymple Heights, therefore we still have a family interest in Eungella area, which we like to visit quite often,

going home again as we call it.

We had two extremely wet years, being 1958 and 1959. There were land slides and some parts of the Eungella Range Road had fallen away and there were no bridges over the creeks, etc., and the main bridge washed away at Mirani. In March 1959, our local milk carriers J. Brodie & H. Petersen were unable to get down the Eungella Range for 2 weeks, hence some cream was nearly two weeks old by the time it reached our Factory. Mostly we got choice, 1st grade for our cream. The same thing happened again in April 1959, when with land slides and wash outs again on the range, farmers had to hold cream and look after it each day to make sure it was keeping fresh for two weeks. When our milk truck could not get down the range, Warren went down the range in the utility with a set of chains on the back wheels to pick up a load of empty milk cans and the Ross brothers went down behind him in their Blitz truck to get a load of empty cans too. Quite a few Crediton farmers walked from the top of the range to Finch Hatton to obtain a few essential provisions in April 1959. They had to cross Cattle Creek at Boongana, via the Railway bridge and when one farmer, J. Morley, missed his footing and fell into the swirling current, some of the others had to rescue him.

Our local store keeper, then George Hassel, arranged with some farmers to go to Finch Hatton to get provisions, to help him load up, etc., and help back along the road. Arriving at his store, George had the task of weighing up, measuring or counting of items for each family on the Crediton Milk run as we called it then. Thanks go to George and his willing helpers.

During those big wets in 1958 and 1959 we had only wood stoves. We would have to dry the chips and wood on top of the stove and in the oven and make what I called pan scones and fried scones. Bread making was out for me as I couldn't get the oven hot enough.

On 19th July 1965, a very unusual thing happened. Snow fell in the Mackay district, with falls at Dalrymple Heights, Eungella and Blue Mountains. Freak snow, the first on record! We remember in July 1965 after a week of bitterly cold winds and wide spread frosts these rain like dark clouds came. The sky was overcast, while we were milking and there was a roaring sound. We thought rain was coming. However the rain didn't arrive. A neighbour came past in his truck and blew the horn, trying to draw our attention to the sky, as he had seen snow and sleet falls before in the south. Mr. Len Park told us that he brushed snow off his jacket that evening. After the snow fell, next morning, we had 13 points of rain and the drops of rain which fell on my face felt like the size of ping pong balls and hurt very much. We heard that the snow was like small balls of cotton wool.



PUPILS AT SCHOOL IN RECREATION HALL, 1947 — C. Theidecke, A. Scott, G. Ross, D. West, J. Theidecke, N. West, E. Ross, E. Scott, A. Scott, J. Smith, S. Theidecke, J. Rislely, A. Freegard, B. Freegard, M. Hammer, . Porter, E. Deans
Photo courtesy Don Read

The neighbours would always lend a helping hand, when anything went wrong or in sickness. We sold our farm to C.H. & B.E. Chamberlain and left Crediton on the 31st August, 1972.

P.S. — Our local carriers, Messrs. J. Brodie and H. Petersen and their men, did a mighty job, always getting through with their trucks and delivering mail, groceries, meat and whatever feed, etc. to all the farmers. Later Harold and Thelma Petersen bought out J. Brodie. They too gave a great service to the community, which was very much appreciated by all the farmers of Crediton.

NOTES FROM SAM KENNY

I have been honoured by a request to write of events that happened and circumstances that prevailed, at the time, and during the time, I made my home at Crediton, 1st October, 1957.

The first impressions I got were the friendliness of my nearest neighbours, who showed that they "cared about people". They had young families themselves and I suppose their youngsters were keen to get acquainted with the new arrivals that had come to their district.

My wife and I had seven of a family when we went to Crediton, the eldest being over twelve and the youngest two years.

Crediton State School was only 200 yards from our home.

I think it would be proper at this time to give the names of my neighbours, and other farmers who lived in that area.

My closest neighbour lived up Lex Creek Road, Doug Mollenhagen and wife Ruth, with their four boys and later a little girl — to keep the boys in order. Doug was an ex-Serviceman like me, and here is an item of note: Mrs. Mollenhagen's father was in the same Light Horse Regiment as my wife's uncle.

Next to Doug was Cliff and Alice Old's farm with two girls and a boy, to boost the ranks of the school.

Dean Ross and Mrs. Ross who were the most senior members of the district at that time, were our next nearest neighbours. Mrs. Ross operated the telephone exchange, and a more obliging couple would be hard to find. Their family of five were grown up. Eric, a young man of about nineteen was on the farm with them at that time. Now Eric is among the Senior Citizens of that area. Next to them was Fred and Mrs. Herbert and their two girls.

Going up "Up River Road" there lived Jim and Gwen Hamilton and family of six. Three girls and a boy were going to school.

Then there were Lawrence (Jock) and Hazel Morley on a farm opposite to Jim Hamilton. Lawrence was an ex-Serviceman also.

Further up the road was Neil and Mrs. Hickey — another ex-Serviceman.

Then opposite Neil was the farm of Warren and Frances Costigan with their girls and a boy.

Then Cecil Archer and Len Parks were next up the road on the left. Cecil and Len are the most senior citizens living up that road at the present time.

At the end of the road lived three families. Arnold and Lily Plath with two children. Lal (Alexander) and Grace Turner with four children. Dudley and Norma Wood with two children at that time. The school was closed before the twins they were blessed with were of school age. Dudley was an ex-Serviceman also.

Now going around Crediton Creek way, there were the families of Charlie and Monny Linklater with three children. Charlie's brother Gordon was with him on the farm.

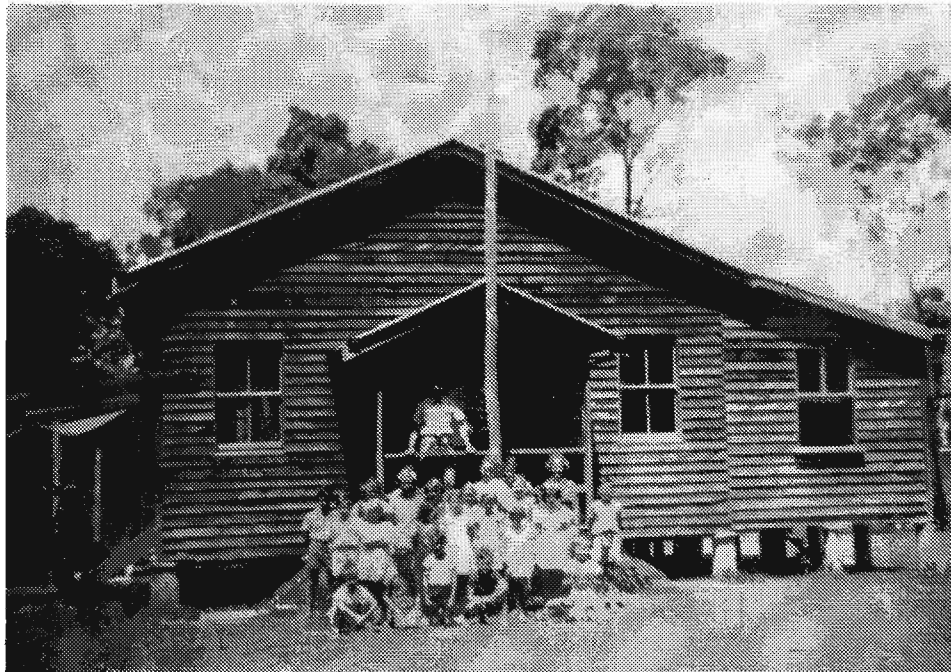
Then we come to Ray and Iris Scott with seven children to boost the school numbers.

At the end of that road was Frank and Pat Frazer with four children, two of whom went to Crediton School, Sam and Ruby Freegard and five children. All had done schooling at Crediton.

Up on "The Plateau" lived two more ex-Soldiers, Jim Woodland and Kath and two children, Jack Wood and Diana with four children.

So you can see that the Crediton School had a good supply of products.

The school teacher at that time — October 1957 — was Kevin Ryan.,



Teacher Kevin Ryan — Noel Turner, Aileen Scott, Hazel Herbert, Cathy Hamilton, Helen Old, Edna Herbert, Beryl & Annabel Freegard, Ralph Freegard; Maxine Turner, Meryl Hamilton, Valda Cowan, Beverly Scott, Helen Cowan, Lynette & Denise Dingle, Stanley Mollenhagen, Neville Freegard, Warren Mollenhagen, Jimmy Hamilton, Jeffrey Old, Ken & Donald Mollenhagen.
Photo courtesy M. Cowan

Later on Ken Jarman was in charge. Both these men were suitable for a country school, where the teacher has to mix more with the parents and children of the community.

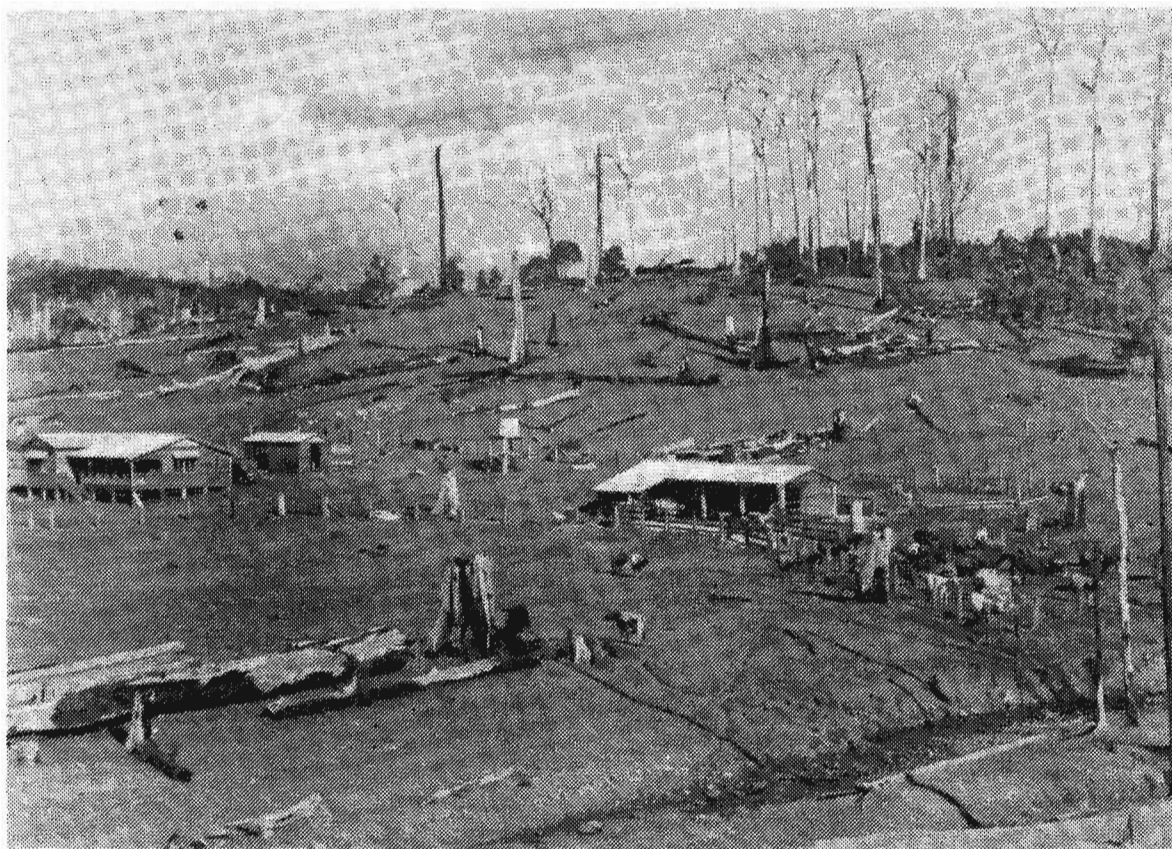
Country folk are much more involved with each other's affairs, because they need each other to make a way of life a happy experience. People care for each other, more, because of this dependance on little kindnesses that are given and exchanged.

“MEMORIES” by A. Fregard

One of the first memories was starting school at the Hall with my sister. I was six and she was 4½. Our teacher was Don Read. We spent nine years at school, doing scholarship at West Crediton School with a class from there.

After the first year at school we all had the measles before Neville was born. I have had to wear glasses ever since. I still remember the many trips to town to visit the Doctors and Optometrists about my eyes, until I got glasses. Sometimes we were driven to school, but most times we walked through our paddock and Herberts' to school.

When Sunday School started up we all were pupils and Mum was assistant pianist, then pianist. Later on Mum, Beryl and I took classes.



Typical Farm in 1940

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Phot courtesy D. Read

Tennis and Sunday School became a regular feature of our weekends. Some weekends we went to Finch Hatton for pictures.

On leaving school, Beryl and I worked on the farm till Beryl went nursing, when she was 17. I was Cub Mistress with the Boy Scouts and Cubs for a few years.

I have lived at Crediton all my life and have had a good life here. There are quite a lot of grown up families that I remember as babies. Quite a few funny and sad stories could be told about them as they grew up.

Just before Crediton School closed, I was sewing teacher, teaching children what my good sewing teachers had taught me.

I became Treasurer of the Crediton Recreation Club a year before dollars came in and have held office every year except one since then. I have thoroughly enjoyed working for the Recreation Club.

One of the greatest thrills with the Club as Secretary, was the organising and running "Back to Crediton" 40th Anniversary celebrations in September 1975. There was great excitement for all, with the shifting of the school, and joining it onto the Hall. The functions that followed, the coming back of old residents, was enjoyed by all.

My brother and I have run Portions 20 and 26 since our parents' and uncles' failing health and later their deaths. We find dairying a tied-down life, but wouldn't and couldn't be happier anywhere else, while we are still fairly young. It is a good life.

"HAPPY ANNIVERSARY CREDITON

"CHILDHOOD MEMORIES" by M. Hellwege

When we moved from the Broken River farm to Crediton, I must have been in grade 2. Noel and I attended school in the Crediton Hall for a few years, before moving over to the new school. We rode horses to school. During school the horses were put in a horse paddock, down behind the present tennis court. I remember once having chased our horses all over Crediton to catch them, up the plateau, up Lex Creek and around as far as Herberts (now Stan Mathiasens). I wasn't looking forward to coming home that day, as the hobbles were tied around the horses necks, the whole time.

Being a small school, we all played together, and seemed to get along well. Hidey was a favourite at one stage and it took all dinner hour to find everybody. In the ceiling of the tucker box at Lex Creek was a favourite hiding spot. Once in the new school, long ball, football and poison ball and hop scotch seemed popular.

When it came to sports day, we practised for months beforehand, especially ball games. We were a force to be reckoned with, when we got to Finch Hatton. In our stiffly starched uniforms, we'd march right through Finch Hatton to the sports ground.

Now, as an adult, I appreciate things I never thought of then. Mr. Ryan (a teacher) or "Old Kev" as we called him, as a young man, was sent out here to Crediton,. I guess he learnt a lot about our way of life, but he must have missed a lot of youth, friendship and fun too.

Mrs. Plath, superintendent for years, of the Sunday School in my era, also taught sewing at school. I'm sure we didn't realize then, what a help all this would be to us, later in life.

I know there were plenty of willing people to make our childhoods happy, in all areas, teaching us schoolwork, sewing, handicrafts, Sunday School, music, scouts, tennis and there are probably more.

There were regular dances at Eungella and Crediton and all us kids, especially the girls, could dance. The Hamilton family provided the music and later the Deans family. We were always allowed on the floor and joined in with the adults in the progressive barn dance. The boys quite often ran far and wide in the darkness outside.

I left the district to finish my education, to work and to marry. My husband and I, with two small children, returned to buy my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lal Turner's farm. We now have four children and I hope their childhood memories will be as happy as mine.

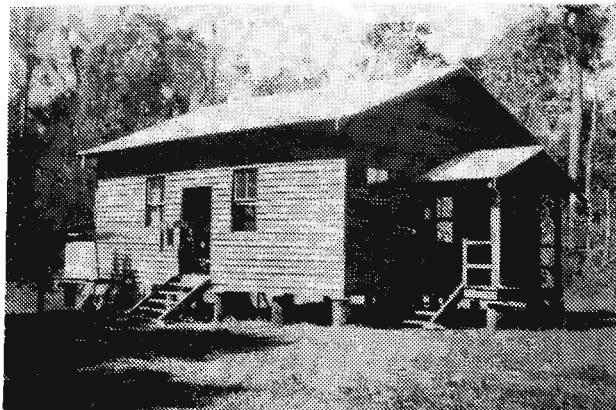
“LIFE IN THE 80's” by Gary & Sue Ross

We came here in August, 1980. I can still remember those first few frosts and thinking the place looked like a Christmas Card. We had no intention of settling here, Gary had 6 - 8 weeks work cutting and snagging timber, and then we were moving on. But the best laid plans go wrong and after 5 years, we are nicely settled in and thoroughly enjoying it.

I went to work for Eric Ross, helping with the telephone “exchange”, 3 days per week. Over the next few months it was interesting for me to go out and be introduced to someone and be able to put faces to the numbers on the exchange. Automatic phones were introduced in 1983, making me redundant.

A popular place in summer is the Eungella Dam, which is only a half an hour drive away. Many a hot sunny day is spent out there, either water skiing, wind surfing, jet skiing or just for a swim.

Our children travel by bus to the Eungella State School, which is a different story to when Gary's father used to take turns with his brother John in riding a pushbike all the way in. Gary and I also did our schooling at Eungella. We feel very much at home at Crediton.



Crediton Provisional School 1946-1947 — Now Crediton Recreation Club

Photo courtesy Don Read

“FOND MEMORIES OF CREDITON” by Don Read

Many thanks to the Crediton Recreation Club for its cordial invitation to attend the “50 years at Crediton” celebrations and to contribute an item for your booklet. Though unable to attend in person, perhaps the following reminiscence may be deemed suitable for inclusion in the anniversary booklet. But first things first. A cheery “hello” to all my “old” pupils and congratulations to Crediton on its 50th Anniversary.

My memories of my introduction to Crediton are as clear now, as though it happened yesterday. My transfer from Ingham caught me between salary cheques and I arrived at Netherdale at about 6 p.m. with the princely sum of 7½d. in my pocket.

Cliff Old was the cream carrier at that time and he took me aboard his cream truck and we headed towards a dip in the ranges, fast disappearing in the fading twilight. “That’s Eungella” Cliff informed me, “affectionately known as ‘the Top’”. And just as we rolled over “the top”, the mists rolled down to envelope us.

Cliff negotiated his way through the fog to a misty light which turned out to be Mrs. Clew’s guest house. “You can have a bite of tea here Don,” Cliff suggested, “and I’ll pick you up later. We still have quite a way to go.”

I explained my financial situation to Mrs. Clews, and she provided me with a most welcome supper, and kindly allowed me to pay for it after I had received my first pay.

Around 8 p.m. Cliff once again took me aboard and with our cargo of empty cream cans, bread, meat and mail, we set off into the all enveloping fog once again. The road, like a misty tunnel, wound and twisted its way through the jungle.

Every couple of miles or so we came upon a misty glow, which resolved itself into a muffled and overcoated figure with a lantern, who collected his mail, etc., and once again faded back into the mists. The atmosphere of that first trip out to Crediton was such that I don’t think I would have been overly surprised had our headlights illuminated a mythical Bunyip sitting on a log waiting for his mail and provisions.

Finally while I was wondering where on earth I had landed myself and why had I ever left home Cliff said “Next stop yours Don!” and sure enough, just down the road a bit was the misty lantern and muffled figure which turned out to be Bill Thiedecke. Board had been arranged for me with Bill and his family.

With a cheery “Good Luck Don!” Cliff climbed into the Ford and whined off once more into the scrub while this time I followed Bill and his misty lantern.

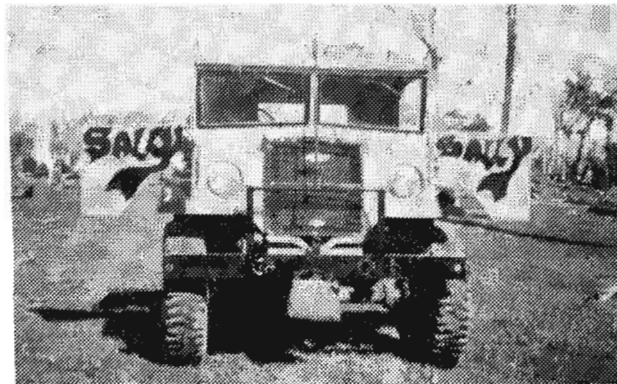
I was soon being introduced to Bill’s family over a welcome “cuppa” in a cosy well lit homestead, and some of my misgivings began to fade, Crediton’s new school teacher had arrived, a teacher who as it turned out was not so many years older than some of the pupils he was to teach.

The next day turned out to be one of those clear crystal days that make you feel good to be alive and while I will never forget my first trip out to Crediton, I began to think it may not be such a bad place after all.

The school, at that time, was conducted in one room and the verandah of a corrugated iron cottage kindly provided by Dean Ross. The enrolment was made up of the three Rosses, Dot, Gwen and Eric, the three Scotts, Harold, Anita and Eleanor, the three Thiedeckes, Clive, Josie and Shirley and the two Wests, Ned and Dorothy. We managed quite nicely here for twelve months or so till the Recreation Hall was completed, when with the help of John and Gordon Ross and their Blitz Timber Truck "Sally" we moved into the Recreation hall, where I taught (and learnt) until I resigned in early 1950. At that time our numbers had grown to almost state school status. A status which it has now of course achieved.

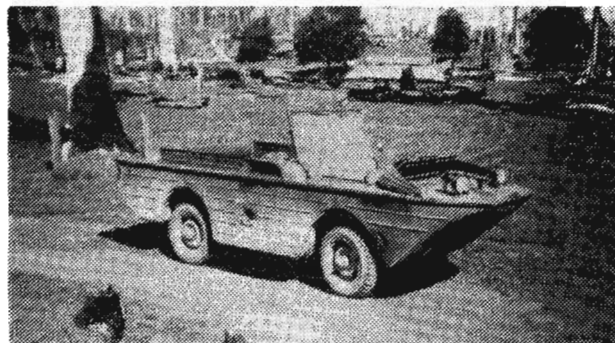
My years at Crediton were happy ones. I stayed in turn with the Thiedeckes, Rosses, and Morleys, all of whom made me very welcome and treated me as one of their family. For this I offer a belated "Thanks". In fact all the folk of Crediton were friendly and helpful to me and the school. However, it is to John and Gordon Ross that I owe a special debt of gratitude. Shortly after my arrival they included me in all of their social outings. At the start on their two motor bikes. Many hundreds of miles we covered with me as pillion passenger on Gordon's Harley Davidson, and I must say to Gordons credit, over all of our outings never once did he spill us onto the gravel, nor do I recall John ever coming to grief, although in wet weather we had a couple of close shaves.

From the motor bikes we graduated to the little red Morris 8 Ute, the old chev ute, and later the amphibious jeep. At times even "Sally" the timber blitz was pressed into taxi service while we attended dances, socials, parties, steak parties, etc., from Crediton to the far end of Dalrymple Heights.



"SALLY" — John & Gordon Ross's Timber Truck — Photo courtesy Don Read

We would pile aboard the vehicle and the mist and cold went unnoticed and the miles reeled away behind us as we sang the current numbers of the "Hit Parade" and what was lacking in quality was made up in volume and quantity.



"SUE" the Amphibious Jeep — Photo courtest Don read"

Thinking back on that happy period, I recall that all of the Range folk worked together, the younger people as well as the older folk. We made our own fun, and we had it in our own district. All too often now the younger folk seem to want to gravitate to the larger cities and the artificial entertainment they provide. In so doing they miss out on the simple genuine pleasures that can be found nearer to home.

I would like to think that the young folk of Crediton have resisted that drift to the cities, and are continuing the traditions of friendly co-operation that I found evident in the district 35 years ago. It is a strong possibility that this is so if this celebration organised by the Recreation Club is any indication.

Crediton will always hold a special place in my memories — quite apart from my rather forboding introduction to the area — It was my first experience as Head Teacher of a small school. I met my wife during my stay at Crediton and while still at Crediton relinquished my single status. I arrived at Crediton as a teenager and departed as an adult.

For these reasons June and I regret we will be unable to attend your celebrations in September due to circumstances beyond my ability to change. However, our thoughts will be with you and we both express the wish that the people of Crediton approach the next 50 years in the same spirit of friendship and co-operation that they have experienced over the past 50 years.

Kindest regards to all

Don & June Read

HISTORY OF THE CREDITON RECREATION CLUB

Crediton Tennis Club was formed in November 1944 with 26 members, 14 men and 12 ladies, on the Recreation Reserve. The Crediton Recreation Club was formed at a meeting at Crediton Tennis Court on 20th May, 1945.

First Chairman was A.N. Foster, Secretary Treasurer was G.B. Linklater. First discussion was on building a Hall. Arrangements were made to start on erection of the Hall. Donations were called for around Crediton, Eungella and Dalrymple Heights. Just on one hundred pounds (£100) was collected. Carpenters commenced work on building the Hall on September 1946. Later the Hall was added to. Opening night was some time in November 1946.

Tennis matches were held between visiting teams and Crediton teams in the early days of Crediton Court. These were kept up in later years. Many tennis tournaments were held over the years.

After the erection of the Hall, dances and card nights were held, sometimes fortnightly. Bowls and Pool were played during the seventies. Thomsetts, Hamiltons and Deans provided much of the music.

W. Thiedecke was asked to run lights from his place but he sold to A. Pallent who later sold to F. Dingle before anything was done. Mr. Dingle was unable to provide lighting due to the state of his engine. Later a lighting plant was installed in a shed behind the Hall, till power came to the district.

A second tennis court was added later to accommodate the growing number of players. Hot water for tea was boiled in a wood copper, looked after by several men.

Donations were called for our first piano, purchased from Mrs. Ross, Snr. another piano was later bought. Sports Days were held for several years on a flat at West Crediton.

There have been various trustees of the Club. Contitution of the Club was first set up in May, 1949. The Club was registered under the charitable organization act in '58, '59. By-laws were set up. These were revised in the late seventies.

The lining and ceiling of the Hall was carried out in '63 - '64. Painting of the inside of the Hall was done at the end of '67.

The ex-Crediton School was purchased by the Club in 1970 and that reserve combined with the Hall reserve. In 1975, approaching 40 years of settlement of Crediton, local men shifted the school and joined it onto the Hall, making it larger. Many hard hours were spent by the men under the supervision of Gerald Galloway.

The 25 years celebration was held with a Sports Day. A luncheon was held for original settlers. A tree-felling competition was held for old-timers and won by Sam Freegard. A tree planting ceremony was held for old settlers and their wives. Many of the trees have grown even though frosted every year.

The 40 years celebration was held with a luncheon and a Ball at night in the Crediton Hall. A good day was had by all. Our thanks go to the late Harold and Bernice Chamberlain for their hard work during the celebrations, they being fairly new to the area.

The Club has had various fees for members over the years, to cover the cost of power and insurance.

It has run an annual Christmas Tree for many years. It has been enjoyed by all, especially the children, many trying to guess who Santa was and looking forward to their gift from him.

The Club has had many happy associations with the district and has been happy to have given most people who have left the district a farewell gift.

The Club members are happy to have been associated with the running of the 25th year and 40th year celebrations and now 50th year celebrations of settlement of Crediton.

Office Bearers of the Club for the 50th Year are President - Sue Ross, Secretary - Maxine Hellwege, Assistant Secretary - Adrian Ross, Treasurer - Annabelle Freegard and Vice-President - Roy Beldan and a great lot of helpers.

SCOUTS by Sam Kenny

We parents discussed the idea of starting up something to use up the energies of young boys. It was decided unanimously in favour of "Boy Scouts".

A meeting was called in the Crediton Hall on 1st September, 1959 with the Commissioner of Scouts, Mr. Frank. Head in attendance, from Mackay.

The parents elected me as Scout Master. Later I approached Ron Turner to be A.S.M. (Assistant Scout Master) and Annabelle Freegard as “Cub Mistress”. They both consented and both proved a great help. Ron had to leave the area to go to cut cane so I got George Bell to take his place. George also got on well with the boys, which is very important.

Many of the boys had to come several miles to scout meetings and they came on horseback.

I gave much thought to the idea of fitting a “boy on a horse”, into the scout principles. When I had my ideas all worked out, I approached the Commissioner and his staff and after they heard all the ideas, they agreed and left it to me to make a start.

Now I had good stuff to start with, as many boys could ride, and their horses and ponies were quiet and would not get upset while being put through some of our “antics”.

I will have to be brief now. — After months of training, which was necessary for both horses and boys, it got to a stage when four of the senior boys, on their horses, could carry a stretcher between the four horses — at a canter. I was the patient all of the time. I used to tell them, that, if a patient they had to carry was not unconscious he or she would be made unconscious with fright.

The A.B.C. News Media sent a man around to take a movie. We went to a lot of trouble to “make a story” for them.

Everything went well and they were very pleased, “Cubs” and all were involved.

It was to be shown on TV but it seems the camera men were not properly familiar with the film, and it was unsuitable — spoiled!



Scouts of the “Credition Mounted Troop” 1960 saluting the flat at opening ceremony — Scout Master Sam Kenny
Photo courtesy Sam Kenny

Ken Jarman took a rehearsal with a little private camera of his own, which he kindly donated to us. This I still have somewhere.

Much thanks goes to Mr. Frank Head, the Commissioner, who was affectionately known by his scout name of “Skip” (short for Skipper), by all the Scout Troops in Mackay. Our troop was known as “The Credition Mounted Troop” and was the only one in Queensland. I knew of no other in Australia at that time — or since.

Affectionately Yours,
Sam Kenny.

SUNDAY SCHOOL by G. Turner

In the years we lived at the River and then at Crediton, Sunday School was held in the Crediton Hall, with as many as fifty children attending. Most, if not all, non-Catholic children attended the one Sunday School, firstly being Methodist inspired then Presbyterian and Methodist. Many took part in teaching. Mrs. Plath, Dudley Wood, Mr. & Mrs. Crouch, Mrs. Turner, Mr. & Mrs. Tronson, Mrs. Risley, Mrs. Oswald, Annabelle Freegard, Sam Kenny, helped along by the young girls of the district, were some of the Teachers.

Concerts and little Plays were a feature of Prize Giving Days.

Church services from the different denominations were held in the hall.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Amongst these are:— Evelyn, Helen & Alison Deans, Helen & Valda Cowan, Denise & Lynette Dingle, Lynette & Lesley Rush, Monica & Jeffrey Old, Ron & Noel Turner, Darryl Oswald, Janice, Roslyn & Jennifer Risley, Annabelle & Heather Freegard, Kim Tronson, June Smith, Edna Herbert and Eleanor Scott.

Photo courtesy S. Tronson

“RACE DAY” by Grace Turner

A day to be remembered was when the Amateur Races were held yearly, on Eungella Station. Some of the remains of the race track are still standing. Much hard work was put in by the committee, and the Station People came in with their horses.



Eungella Amateur Race Club Horse Paddock

Photo courtesy of C.H. Linklater

For us it was up early to milk and get away to work the day on the Refreshment Stand, under the brough roof shed. We had to pick up cakes along the way, as the thing in our day was Big Sponge Cakes, Lamingtons and Peach Balls and there were good cooks on the Range too. These and plenty of corned beef sandwiches. Tea was free and you poured your own out of the big tea pots. Home-made sweets were there for the children and sweet tooths.

We ladies found time for a bet, not much thought went into the breed of the horse, but a particular winning jockey made us richer by a few shillings on the day.

The day was followed by a Ball at night, held in the Memorial Hall at Eungella.

These functions were well attended and people travelled long distances.



Eungella Amateur Hack Club Picnic Race Meeting — Photo courtesy C. H. Linklater

Some Aspects of Development in the Eungella-Crediton Region

Mainly Roads by D. Wood

It is to the credit of the government of the day that the development of the Eungella region was carried out in such a balanced manner with provision being made for rural areas, national parks, a town site and reserves for public amenities such as schools, community halls and recreational areas, plus an internal road system. However, no provision was made for an all weather connecting road to Mackay, the infant butter based dairy industry and tourism having to rely on the antiquated rail link for access, a 44 mile journey of three hours!

Road development within the area was constructed by the Public Estates Improvements Trust, under the supervision of an able engineer by the name of Walter Bevan, hence "Bevan's Lookout". The work on these roads was carried out as a relief scheme to alleviate the unemployment so evident during the '30's as a result of the "Great Depression". Many of the wooden bridges built then are still serving the community in a remarkably good condition to this day. Even gravel road surfaces retained their trafficability over many years, as a result of a careful maintenance programme and the low volume of traffic. However, many people paid tribute to the Council grader operator, Ron Ironside for his conscientious workmanship during that time.

My first contact with the Eungella Range region was through an early settler of the area, Harold Hewitt, who wrote in a 1937 issue of the "Livestock Bulletin" inquiring about the

effectiveness of Kikuyu grass as a dairy cattle pasture. At the time I was working in the Northern Rivers region of N.S.W., one of our tasks being the eradication of this "giant couch" from first class arable land. As a result of answering this request for information and I quote my answer at the time "an excellent grass for hills or rougher country but a menace in cultivation". I soon found myself infected by Harold's enthusiasm. Unfortunately, the advent of World War 2 delayed a visit to Eungella until late 1945, when we purchased Portion 43 at the end of Upper River Road, Crediton, spending 36 years farming and together with many others, endeavouring to assist in the development of the area.

Early discussions with the first manager of the Mackay Branch of P.C.D., Mr. Frank Rollinson, determined the future direction of our planning in the dairy industry, namely whole milk production. Having spent five years on butter and whole milk farms in N.S.W. before the war, it was easily seen which was the most viable proposition even in those days. However, there were many difficulties to overcome; lack of communication, distance from market, no all-weather road to Mackay, no electricity, poor educational and recreational facilities, etc. Serving on the Q.D.O. underlined the above problems and as a result of representations to the Federal Member of the time, the Hon. Charles Davidson, the first of these goals was achieved with telephones being introduced to Crediton in 1952. Our major problem, the road to Mackay, still remained unsolved!

In 1955 the member for the area on Mirani Shire Council, Cr. Bill Ward, announced his retirement and asked me to nominate for the position. On being appointed, I little realised what lay ahead! The next 15 years were packed with the busiest years of our lives and I pay tribute to a great family and the many resident property owners who gave me tremendous support during this very demanding period.

The fifties were marked by extremely heavy wet seasons and intense cyclonic periods. These conditions were highlighted by rainfall officially recorded at the average rate of 157" for the years 1955, 1956 and 1958, including 26" in 24 hours and 77" for the month of one February. Widespread damage to roads, bridges and telephone services resulted in Eungella becoming cut off from the outside world for periods of up to eleven days! These circumstances created havoc for outgoing produce, incoming supplies and medical emergencies. They were difficult times, with the area's cartage contractors showing remarkable skill, courage and daring in their endeavours to maintain services!

During 1956 a change of State Government occurred; this change proved significant for the district as the Member for Mirani the Hon. Ernest Evans became the Minister of Mines and Main Roads. The Minister acted promptly, declaring emergent expenditure for the Range Road with work to proceed immediately on all flood damaged sections; with restoration, widening, drainage and sealing to be of sufficiently high standard to cope with future flooding. He took a great personal interest in the area and kept calling for well prepared cases expressing the needs of the district and soon the connotation of "the perishable product" was aired in the media, Parliament and even Cabinet!

Flood damage attracted a great deal of extra money usually being paid for in equal percentages by Federal, State and where applicable, Local Governments. So, it was out of the mud and slush, that arose a sealed surface on the much widened and better drained Range road, new rail and road bridges at Mirani and the establishment of a long term policy by the Main Roads Dept. and Mirani Shire Council for top priority being given to an all weather Road between Eungella and Mackay.

Shortly after, came an Electricity scheme completed in 1960, then the Eungella Dam, with a full mining survey being implemented at the same time. Unfortunately the

Minister died suddenly, early in 1965. This was a great loss to Queensland and Eungella in particular.!

In retrospect, I can recall the Mackay-Eungella Road when the bitumen seal finished at Mirani, apart from a few isolated patches, 17 wet crossings between Finch Hatton and Netherdale, ascending the Range Road with wet brakes, our overloaded vehicle stalling at "Mirror Corner" and being forced to back on to the steep bank thus effectively blocking all further traffic including the "Royal Mail"! It is interesting to note that the widening of the same corner (often described by M.R.D. engineers as an "engineering impossibility") was finally achieved 38 years later.

Rising costs and lack of funding has slowed the pace of road building. Governments of the day have found the taxes derived from the motorist a convenient method of adding to consolidated revenue instead of the provision and maintenance of an adequate Australian road network. Inadequate allocations very often lead to readjustment of priorities as well as political considerations. Highways, of course, having top priority, get the largest share of the financial cake with Arterial, Secondary and Council roads receiving decreasing percentages. Unfortunately Mirani Shire has a larger share of minor roads as well as a difficult terrain.

Another influencing factor at the time was the emphasis on the construction of the Peak Downs Highway via Eton Range to service the coal towns of the region, taking precedence in Mackay District funding at the cost of local road priorities and development.

CREDITON BRANCH Q.C.W.A. by Norma Wood

In 1964, officers of the Pioneer Division of the Q.C.W.A. held a meeting in the Crediton Recreation Hall, with the purpose of forming a branch in that area. A branch was duly formed, on the 15th July, 1964, with a membership of 13, with an increase to 16 that same year.

First president was Diana Wood, secretary, Lil Herbert and treasurer Monica Linklater. Over the years other office bearers were Lil Plath, Grace Turner, Jean Ostwald, Marlene Turner and Norma Wood. In the years Eungella Dam was under construction, membership rose to 25. We always had well attended annual meetings, and worked well with the division, but, by 1976, our numbers had dwindled to 5, so, sadly, it was decided to close the branch. A very happy time had been enjoyed, by members over the years.

My apology to any office bearers not listed, as records were limited.

1964 Members were:—

Diana Wood	Irene Risley
Lil Herbert	Ruby Freegard
Monica Linklater	Annabelle Freegard
Lil Plath	Frances Costigan
Grace Turner	Madge Hickey
Alice Old	Norma Wood
Ruth Mollenhagen	Carol Pretsell
Iris Scott	Jean Ross



C.W.A. ladies — Mrs. Linklater, Mrs. Plath, Mrs. Old, Mrs. Mollenhagen, Mrs. Costigan, Mrs. Freegard, Robyn Ware, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. D. Wood.
Photo courtesy of Norma Wood

DAIRYING 50 YEARS by Eric D. Ross

On the 17th June 1935, a ballot was drawn for 39 blocks in the Crediton, Broken River district, for landless men for the purpose of dairying.

There were 23 of these original blocks, Portions 8 and 9 withdrawn and later 2 more portions, 13 and 14 were submitted.

Successful applicants to abide by conditions of the ballot, had to clear and grass 25 acres of scrub each year for 3 years. Some of the original selectors found the task too enormous, and surrendered.

Following on the clearing of scrub, 38 dairies were eventually commenced, this number has now declined to 18 suppliers, with some of the farms being amalgamated, and others relinquishing dairying.

As farmers commenced milking their cows, cream was firstly supplied to the Mackay Butter Factory of Port Curtis Co-operative Dairy Assoc. The cream was initially carted by pack horse to the Netherdale Railway Station. Later in the early 1940's, Harry Ward commenced a run to collect the cream, which was taken to the roadside, by horse and slide. Lennie Burgess took over the run later on, followed by Cliff Old.

In 1943 the U.S. Services commenced collecting milk for the supply of milk during the occupation of servicemen in the Mackay Region. This was continued on after the war was over, and the Mackay people were provided with pasteurized milk.

Later in 1948 Cliff Old sold his cartage business to Jack and George Thomsett. Further changes followed with the sale to Jack Brodie and Harold Petersen in 1954. Then in 1964 Harold Petersen took over the run on his own.

Bulk milk collection from the farm was commenced on the 1st July, 1974. Then in 1978 Harold Petersen sold to Don Aitkens, who sold to Steve Grubb in 1982, and then to Jordon Brothers in 1984.

Milk production has increased over the years, even with the loss of numbers of farmers to an average of 13,000 litres (3,000 gals) daily.

The breeds of dairy cattle in the early settlement were Jersey and Australian Illawarra Shorthorn, these were crossed with Guernsey, Ayrshire and later Friesians, and now, today, Friesians are the dominant breed, with more emphasis on milk yields than butterfat.

Pastures planted have changed and varied over the 50 years, with the original selectors planting Paspalum, Rhodes and Kikuyu grasses. Later with the clearing of areas by bulldozers, land was cultivated and crops of oats, Ryegrass and clovers were planted and irrigated. Further improved pastures to be planted were Nandi and Kazengula Seteria, Greenleaf and Silver Leaf Demodiums, Glycine and Safari Clover, most of these later pastures have been planted on the higher and rougher land.

There are only 3 of the original selectors still living on their selections. They are Ces. Archer, Norm Foster and Dave Herron. Descendants of original property owners still here are Neville and Annabelle Freegard, John Herron and Eric Ross.

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



Horse & Slide taking milk out to the road

Photo courtesy of S. Tronson

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

Dairy farmers have progressed a long way over this 50 years from hand milking a few cows by all members of the family, to modern milking sheds, where over 100 cows an hour can be handled by one operator.

It will be interesting to see what changes the next 50 years will bring.

DAIRYING IN THE EIGHTIES - by R. & R. Burns

This is in no way easy for us personally to write, sitting on our upholstered chairs, sheltered inside our comfortable house, from the overcast, miserable day awaiting us outside. The washing machine is washing the children's last load of clothes and the electric dryer is drying the first load.

Credit is certainly to be given to the pioneers who felled and cleared the land those 50 years ago. Absent in their years were the modern conveniences, which we too often take for granted. By comparison with the early days of dairying in the Crediton, Broken River areas, many changes have come to pass. The Kelley axe and cross cut saw have given way to the Bulldozer and Chainsaw. The mattock and brush hook have been made obsolete, by modern chemicals and weedicides. There are now many modern herring-bone dairy sheds on farms, some of which are capable of handling up to 120 cows in an hour, a far cry from the conditions endured by the pioneers. Most farms can now take advantage of modern technology and equipment, to produce high quality irrigated pasture, with average cow production of up to 16 or 17 litres (3½ gallons approx) per day, year round production, not being uncommon. Production figures such as this are being achieved with the aid of modern Herd Recording programmes, which help in the selection of breeding stock for Herd Replacements, which are mainly the product of artificial insemination, from sires especially

selected from all over Australia. Accompanying the improved genetic potential of today's herds, is the need to monitor each cow's reproductive performance, so that each animal is a profitable unit. Management aids, such as computers are now available to farmers, to assist in the keeping of Herd Health and Financial Records.

Farmers in this day and age feel that they are still faced with many challenges and pressures, in keeping pace with advancing technology and the need to produce milk with ever increasing efficiency. It is easy to overlook the courage and determination which must have been a part of many of the early pioneering families, in the Crediton, Broken River districts, but if today farmers can face and overcome the challenges which lie before them in the next 50 years, with the same enthusiasm as that of the original settlers, we can look forward to a progressive and rewarding dairy industry for many years to come.



Typical mode of transport used by the Ross family in the beginning.

DO YOU REMEMBER

A familiar sight on the Loop Road was Len Park on his motor bike. Len was among the early settlers and being a very strong man, was often called upon to help when dairy fridges first came into the area. Len is retired and living on his property, still.

One to remember was the farmer who used to walk to the shop. He decided to get a push bike and this made the going much easier until one day a small tree suddenly appeared across the road in front of him and his eggs, which he was carrying on his shoulder, ended up in his face.

When times were tough, a round tin tub was all you had to bath in. As times got better there was a farmer who brought a plunge bath, but couldn't wait to get it installed, so he filled it up out in the yard and enjoyed a bath with a bit of room to spare.

The Botanist Lady

She just seemed to appear overnight and lived in the scrub or in anybody's dairy or roadside cream box. She would follow the timber fellows around and gather the different leaves from the trees and dry them on the top of a wood stove. She would also be seen bathing in the cold water under the Crediton Creek Bridge.

Years ago Santa Claus always got Mr. Morley's cow with a bell on her to bring the toys to the Christmas Tree at the Crediton Hall.

When hurricane lamps were all the go, one farmer had an unusually large lamp. Another farmer remarked how much he liked it because you only have to fill it once a week, and in jest offered his smaller lamp as a swap. Much to his surprise the owner of the large lamp agreed. When the new owner of the large hurricane lamp got home he soon found out he had to fill just as often as his old one. It leaked!

The good old sing-alongs we had on the back of the open truck going to the pictures in Finch Hatton. Also, how we used to dance in the small hall at Crediton. Sometimes John Thomsett would call the Lancers and the Quadrille. However, did we find room. For the 40 Years Celebration the school was attached to the Hall. A great bit of engineering, considering only tractors were used.

Tennis was recreation on a Sunday and there were so many players a second court was built. Tournament Days were held with Clubs from the Valley.

The Roadside Camps when the Tourist Tracks were being made. They were referred to as the Gooseberry Tracks.

Remember the native cat that got amongst the chooks in the early hours of the morning. Neighbours headlights picked up the lady of the house in knee boots and nightie with gun in hand, heading down the road to her husband, who kept watch over the creature. Took a bit of explaining next day!

