

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

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Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2019

The Roy Dowle Photograph Collection

Roy Dowle was born in 1893, the first child to Charles and Madeline Dowle (nee Dominish) and siblings included Frank (1896), Edgar (1898), and Leonard (1904).

Charles Dowle purchased their 'Collingwood' property at Quarry Road, The Oaks about the time of Roy's birth and raised his family there, the property remaining in the Dowle family until just recently. It is presumed that Roy lived there until the time of his marriage in 1915 to Emily J. Smith.

In 2016? the Roy Dowle Photograph Collection, a collection of glass slides numbering around one thousand were donated to The Oaks Historical Society by Jill Large, the daughter of Jean (Dowle) Doust, Roy's daughter. A recent successful funding opportunity has enabled us to have these slides digitised so they are more readily accessible for public viewing. This process is almost complete and already we have been able to identify photos in this collection. We approached Rex Dowle for a photograph of Roy for this story and he was happy to help. Upon viewing some of the digitised photographs Rex was quickly able to point out Roy and Emily, the very photograph he had brought along, thought to be of their wedding. The photographs digitised to date have amazing clarity and quality, the content of the collection is vast and features individuals, weddings, children, buildings and scenes.

The Camden News of Thursday 26 March 1914 records Roy having received an award in the amateur photography section at the Camden Show. Other news articles published in the Camden News are accompanied by photographs taken by Roy and these are part of the digitised collection. Roy and Emily's home (pictured from the collection) was at the top of Barsden Street Camden on the south eastern corner. Roy also had a house at St George's Basin/Erowal Bay which many family and friends used for

holidays and may be reflected in the collection. Both Roy and Emily were very involved in the community, holding voluntary roles and organising events which were often reported in the Camden News. These reports have given us further insight into the life of Roy and Emily Dowle.



Camden's new Methodist parsonage was opened in February of 1935 and the photograph was taken by Roy and in January 1937 a series of photographs of Camden were submitted to Council by Mr Roy Dowle, these were secured to comply with the request of the Railway Dept. for reproduction and exhibition in railway carriages. On the motion of Aldermen R.M. Crookston and H.S. Furner these photos are to be forwarded to the Dept. for use as they require and Mr Dowle is to be congratulated on



his efforts in producing same. In 1943 Roy was called upon to make a presentation to retiring Mr. Charles Whiteman on behalf of the management and staff indicating he may have been an employee.

We look forward to viewing the completed series and being able to identify as many as possible ■

Camden News information courtesy Trove



President's Report

Trish Hill

As we have detailed over the past months the extension building work has now been completed at the Wollondilly Heritage & Museum. The scope of work has been significant and includes the main research extension, new toilet block, conversion of the old toilets to include a general storage area and completion of the kitchen stage 2 as well as the new Blacksmith facility. The Oaks Historical Society are having an 'official opening' of the extension in November and have invited representatives of the organisations and agencies that have supported the venture including representatives from the Retired Miners. The Society worked hard to bring this to fruition and the end result is very rewarding for the volunteers and visitors alike and the additional space, exhibition area and amenities enhances the Centre. The Oaks Historical Society would like to thank everyone who has supported us in this project and look forward to our improved spaces and new and exciting exhibitions.

With the holidays approaching we are looking at replacing some of the exhibitions with new ones and so will be working at various times through that period. We are also reviewing the length of time we close over Christmas and if we have enough volunteers we may re-open earlier in January and will advertise this on our website and social media.

Our volunteers Christmas party this year will be held on Saturday 14th December. The list is at the front counter to add your name to and see the back page for full details.

The Roy Dowle collection of photographs is almost completely digitised and we are thrilled with the progress so far. The details to view the photographs is http://www.digitalmasters.com.au/OaksB-051019/content/D080_001_large.html or by typing The Oaks Historical Society Digital Masters in the spacebar will find it for you ■



Unknown Roy Dowle pics



Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

Bargo Public School celebrated 150 years since opening with various festivities over the last week. The school borrowed furniture and artefacts from our colonial school room. These were used in the old classroom (see attached pictures) at the school on Friday when students and teachers dressed in fashions of old. They all looked spectacular! We had a stand at the fete held on Saturday and had a lot of interest from

the passing crowd. We hope to see some of these people visiting us at our museum soon!

One of our researchers this month was looking for the burial place of their Great Great Great Grandfather who was killed in a bullock accident at Bargo in 1852. Thanks to the detailed records, produced by Noel Collison, we were able to locate the reference at Old Picton Cemetery. I was delighted to inform our researcher who was from Canberra. She travelled up the next weekend and located the grave, then came on to visit our museum! Stories like this make volunteering and helping others so rewarding ■



Happy researching!

Sue Davis, Local Archives and Family History. Phone 0414703204.



Marketing & Bus Visits

Louisa Singleman

October Bus tours.

Once again last month, October was a very quiet month for bus groups with only two groups enjoying the sunshine and morning teas at our museum. The Sutherland Shire was represented by the Miranda RSL and the Wollongong region by the Berkley Seniors. Thanks to our hosts & hostesses for the great job they do to make our bus groups so welcome.

Marketing.

Thanks to Sue Davis for manning a stall at the 150th celebrations of Bargo Public School on Saturday 26th October. We also had a stall at the Picton Show on the same day. Thanks to Bev Batros, Allen & Debbie Seymour, Betty Villy and Colleen Haynes for all your help.

Razorback Memorial.

During October I attended the opening ceremony of the unveiling of the memorial to the Razorback Blockade when in 1979 the truckies took a last stand against the road taxes and other injustices to their industry. The memorial is very informative and worth taking a few minutes to take a look as well as enjoy the view.

Wollondilly Tourism Association (WTAI)

At the last meeting of the WTAI at the Picton Bowling Club it was agreed to change the Facebook name to "Destination Wollondilly" and gift the Facebook name 'Visit Wollondilly' to Wollondilly Shire Council ■



Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

Another quiet month. Our efforts in cleaning the Dowle collection glass slides unearthed some items that were in the boxes with the slides. One of these is a marriage certificate for Barry Doust and Jean Dowle. Some of the slides were wrapped in blank Heggies load sheet forms, so we have saved some of these. There were also some cigarette cards.

The glass negatives themselves are in the process of being scanned. There are about 700 done so far with another 400 or so to come, and they should all be finished by the end of the week.

Another item we received was a ceramic bowl which is a

souvenir of the signing of the peace treaty in France in 1919,



and this is on the bottom. The bowl has a picture of a soldier with a bottle of rum. From Marie Ewing-Terry comes a 1928 Ladies Home Journal. This has some great ads in it.

Thanks to everyone who has donated items ■

CARLON OF BURRAGORANG.

When tracks were rough to follow,
And ways were rude and wild,
He first came to the valley,
A little, laughing child.
There, walled by sandstone bastions,
With neighbours far and few,
From boyhood on to manhood
He dwelt, and worked, and grew.
Through many, many seasons,
He sowed and reaped the soil,

Grey dawns beheld him working,
Red sunsets still at toil.
Through rain and frost and sunshine.
Stout-hearted, strong of arm,
He fenced, and cleared, and furrowed
His little valley farm.
To those who dwelt about him,
Sore sick, or sorely tasked,
All neighbourly, all kindly,
He gave his help — unasked.
Thus, he served and laboured

For four-score years and more,
Till Death stole down the valley
And knocked upon his door
It maybe — this I fancy,
Though he seem dead and gone—
That west of West he wanders,
Still pioneering on.

Roderic Quinn

The poem was printed in the Australian Worker (newspaper) dated 11th November, 1925.

HANGER DAIRY FARM AT SPRING CREEK

Story by Noelene Mainwaring from an interview with John Hanger, Dawn (Hanger) Mulley, Shirley (Tickner) Carlon and Nola (Tickner) Maxwell. 8th July 2019.

The Hanger dairy is at 635 Spring Creek road, Spring Creek now known as Mt Hunter.

The property was originally owned by the Willis family and was known as 'Graham Park'. Their daughter, Matilda, married George Hanger in 1882 and George and Matilda had nine sons and one daughter. George Hanger is recorded in the 1901 census as residing at Westbrook (Mt Hunter), with 10 male and 1 female at the house that night. Their last child, daughter Nellie, was born in 1902 after the census. Their eldest son Jack (John) Hanger married Amelia Harriet (Rita, nee Cloke) and in 1904 they went on to live in this house and raise four children. Vera, Cecil, Ned (Edgar Stanley) and Bill were all born at home.

Jack's parents, George and Matilda Hanger, were living at 'Tennyson', on Picton Road, now Montpelier Drive, The Oaks.

Ned (Edgar Stanley) married Stella (Seymour) in 1935. They raised their two children, Dawn and John Hanger, in the second house on the property while Ned's parents, Jack and Rita, were living in the main farm house.

Vera married Bill Tickner in 1933 and moved to live in Camden

where their daughters, Shirley and Nola would visit their grandparents most weekends joining in with their cousins Dawn and John at the farm.

The dairy farm was over 300 acres and the dairy cattle were mainly Ayrshire and Illawarra Shorthorn and Ayrshire/ Illawarra

cross. They were the

preferred breed as they were good for milk supply. Grandfather Jack, bought the red colour Ayrshire and later bought jerseys to get the butterfat content up.

Ned and his father did the milking with John and Dawn helping out sometimes before school. Hand milking started at 4am and finished at 8am and the afternoon milking was between 2pm and 5pm. Winter mornings were very cold with the big frosts.

60 head of cattle were hand milked giving approximately 7 to 8 cans per day. The farm had a 10 can quota. The cans held 10 gallons and if more than the 10 cans were produced they would be paid half price for the excess cans. Payment was monthly by cheque. Cream was sometimes supplied and the cream cans were much smaller. In the early days there was no measurement of how much each cow produced, but the 3 gallon milk bucket would give an indication. Some individual cows would produce better than others and the average would produce 3 gallons. John remembers one cow missing the morning milking and produced 2 buckets (6 gallons) in the afternoon.

John's job was to separate the milk and make the butter in the mornings. Separated milk was used to feed calves and dogs or was discarded. The milk was not separated every day. Shirley remembers putting her hand in the milk bucket to encourage the poddy calves to bucket feed and to suckle from her fingers, and she lost her signet ring. John was a good hand milker. He didn't have any names for the cattle, but he could tell them all apart from each other unlike his grandfather who couldn't tell them apart.

The bull ran with the cows and two months prior to calving the dry cows were removed from the herd and taken up to Picton Road (Montpelier Dr) Hanger properties. They came back to the dairy after the calving and the heifer calves were kept and the bull calves were sold. Heifer calves were raised on the waste milk and separate to the dairy herd.

The cattle were branded prior to 1940 with the registered stock brand for Jack Hanger. After that time cattle were

earmarked with a V cut in the right ear. Calves were branded at 12 months. Bill and George



Tickner, twin brothers, originally had the milk truck carrying business together. When they both married, the one business wasn't enough to support two families so Bill canvassed the dairies at Spring Creek for support and he went

on to collect from the Spring Creek dairies, and George did the Orangeville district. Shirley and Nola, have many memories of their dad and the milk truck pickups and deliveries to Camden Milk Depot. Bill carried milk cans as well as almost anything his customers asked for including bread, feed, hay and material. One lady asked Bill to bring her a boiler. Bill searched the shops

for a large boiler. When he delivered it, he discovered she wanted a 'broiler', an old chook. On another trip Bill had run over a snake. It went up under the truck and came into the cabin through the gear stick. One trip that Shirley, Nola and Dawn will always remember was when they were travelling on the back of the truck, on top of the cans, and as they went around a corner on Spring creek road they all fell off with the cans. Luckily they were not hurt.

There were 17 dairies at Spring Creek when Bill was doing the milk business. One trip took some time to do with lifting heavy milk cans by hand onto the truck and delivering orders to the farms. This trip was done twice per day at 9am and 4pm. Bill would bring Dawn and John home from Mt Hunter school in the afternoon. Vera would come with him on some trips to visit her parents.....

Continued over page



Nola, Shirley Ned & John Hanger



If a flood was in Camden the milk cans could go to Menangle depot. There were milk depots also at Campbelltown and Picton. In the early days Spring Creek road was in front of the Seymour property and it diverted and crossed the creek. Bill drove his truck across the creek and up the steep mountain to pick up milk at Glendiver Road, The Oaks, but today that road is no longer there. Electricity was connected in the 1950s. It was an eventful time and a big change when the electricity poles went up. From around 1960 electricity operated milking machines came in and the herd increased to 80 or 90 head.

Milk in the vat was passed over the cooler and funnelled into two cans.

Every cow was leg roped to prevent the milker being kicked but not all dairies did this.

On the farm they grew corn, oats and Lucerne. Shirley remembers getting into trouble for running through the crops. Later on they bought dairy meal, bran and pollard to feed cows when milking, as it was an inducement for the cows to the bail. They were content to feed and 'let down' the milk, making the process easier. The crops were cut and stored in the large purpose built concrete and brick pit. This brick pit was very old and very well built. John thinks the Willis family may have built it. The pit took months to fill. Contents were used to feed the stock during winter. The chaff cutter was beside the pit. Ned was the only one to use the chaff cutter and no children were allowed to operate it for safety reasons. There were no employees, but the neighbours helped with the lucerne for no payment.

Grandfather Jack, was very strict. There were no holidays. Jack did play football and he rode a motorbike, going on rides with Sid Dunk. Jack was involved in the Camden show as an organiser, but he didn't exhibit. The milking was done early so they could attend the show. John remembers still milking at midnight after the show. Thank goodness the show was only once a year.

In the dry times water was originally carted behind the horse on a slide. John and Dawn would help to scoop the water from the creek with buckets and then into ten 10 gallon milk cans. The water was taken up to the dairy and put into the well beside the dairy and this water was used to wash up the vat, cans and buckets.

There were two big dams for water, which were gravity fed to the dairy and later on they had a pump on Spring Creek. Spring Creek has never stopped running. There was no spring on the farm. There were water tanks for washing up of the cans, separator and equipment. A copper for hot water and a scrubbing brush. There was a concrete well close to the main house. It was well built and had no cracks and could also have been built by the Willis family.

There were three main buildings. The dairy was separate from the bales.

Transport in early days was by horse and sulky. There was no car. If they needed a car they could borrow one from the neighbours, the Butchers or the Dunns. Ned got his licence when he was in his forties.

The farm used four draught horses for ploughing and pulling the slide and five riding horses. No tractors back then.



Nola and Dawn

Shirley remembers they were only allowed to ride one horse. All other horses were working horses. John remembers riding one day with his dad, Ned. Ned sang out 'DUCK'. John hit the tree and fell off the horse. One time Nola especially remembers when she rode her grandfather's horse 'Gypsy'.

She tried to jump the fence and Gypsy got hooked up on the fence. Gypsy's leg was badly cut. Dawn was with Nola and came home to tell that 'Nola is up the paddock and won't come home'. Nola and Gypsy were brought home. Grandfather knew how to mend Gypsy's leg by firstly standing her in the Spring Creek water.

There were a lot of snakes at Spring Creek, often brown snakes would get under Dawn and John's house and their grandfather would come over to shoot the snakes.

There were always plenty of dogs at the farm and could have been up to twenty, which were used for rounding up cattle and going rabbiting. There were fox hounds, fox terriers, beagles and the kelpies for the cattle. The men were often out rabbiting. On one occasion Nola and Dawn went rabbiting and came home with Nola crying, as her fingers were trapped in the rabbit trap. They went out again the next day and came home both crying, with Dawns fingers trapped.

They had great neighbours at Spring Creek, and they were also their friends. Kath, Lil and Bertha Dunn. Bertha



Shirley Tickner Carlon –they started them young in those days

was a big help when John was born as he was premature. The Mulholland family had the farm called 'Williamwood'. Later the Halfpenny family owned this property and Dawn helped with their milking. Perce and Tom Butchers had the dairy across the creek. Vera often spoke of the Butcher boys.

Ned Hanger sold the farm to his brother Cecil and Nina (nee Smart) in 1965. The Hanger dairy was the last operating dairy at Spring Creek.

The property now belongs to Cecil's only child, Norma and her husband, Robert Bonnett ■

A selection from Roy Dowle



Left-Gordon Smith
Above-Frank Dowle
Right- Mt Hunter Memorial



Above Bart & Stella Chesham at Bullecourt



Above left- Ted Egan with baby Dorothy.



Above right-The new Methodist Parsonage
Menangle Road Camden



Right -Hansens Garage Camden



Above -Davy Nolan's Team, Mt Hunter.



Above right- Ephriam Tompkins



Right- The Wineshop at Oakdale.

Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER

NOVEMBER	
Pam & Helen	Saturday, 2
Doreen & Ben	Sunday, 3
Colleen & Kathy	Saturday, 9
Marlane & Cheryl	Sunday, 10
Laurette & Phil	Saturday, 16
Maria & Betty	Sunday, 17
Vivian & Bob	Saturday, 23
Debbie & Allen	Sunday, 24
Pacita & John	Saturday 30th
Working Bee	

MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER

November	Debbie & Pacita
December	Please bring a plate

NOVEMBER MEETING

Date: | Time: 7.00pm

Doreen presenting an overview of proposed exhibition changes

&

Viewing the Roy Dowle Photographs



Volunteers Christmas Party



Saturday, 14th December at 6pm

Don't forget to bring your cutlery, salad or sweet, nibbles & drinks

Please add your name to the list at the front counter or

RSVP to Trish Hill on 0432 689 034 or Debbie on 0417 782 065



BUSHFIRES IN PICTON

From the publication 'Tales of Old Macarthur' by Liz Vincent



The summer of 1938/39 in the Wollondilly Shire is one of few who endured it will ever forget.

Suffering the worst heatwave ever experienced, residents witnessed the inevitable crop of small bushfires.

In mid January fire at its worst broke out on all sides surrounding Picton. Following news of an outbreak at The Oaks, the excitement heightened as the first of the fires to endanger Picton flared up at Thirlmere and despite massive breaks made near the Queen Victoria Home, threatened to destroy it. Many hands fought and saved the home as flames licked the exterior of the building.

Turning east, the fire careered over the hill to Picton. The homes of Mr Claude Prior, W. Bollard, Mr Whitfield, Mr Penny and Mr Sheldrake were barely saved. It continued its path of destruction right down to the west side of Argyle Street seriously menacing the homes of Mrs Dill-Mackie, Mrs George, Mr Ryan, Mr White, Mr Ware, Mr James and the Church of England rectory. In her brick cottage next to the school Mrs Ivy Bollard, still confined to bed, nursed her newborn son and waited evacuation or a miracle. The miracle came in the form of response to the call for volunteers. It was the saving of the town.

While most of the townspeople were busy saving Picton from the attack on the southern end of the town, word was received that the suspension bridge at Maldon was on fire. The police attended first to find the decking alight. Extinguishers were of no use. James Ashcroft hurried back to the highway and commandeered Stan Rutter's lorry, then Les Shiel's milk cans, filling them with water from Mr Attansio's cheese factory next to the railway station. This action also proved useless as the fire was now too large for the volunteers and the 350 gallons of water in the cans.

Gradually the wooden sections of the bridge burnt and dropped into the river until only the steel frame remained. Cinders from a fierce blaze burning in the vicinity of the bridge were blamed for the tragedy.

Having burnt its bridges behind it, the fire enveloped the steep cliffs along both sides of the river and made its way towards Picton. The homes of the Wonson and Buggy families and the Nicolson brothers were saved. Fortunately the flames were extinguished when the fire reached the Nepean River and Picton was safe ■

The publication is available from our shop and the price is \$7.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: The Oaks Historical Society Inc. holds its meetings on the first Monday of each month (except January) at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum, 43 Edward St. The Oaks starting at 7.00pm. Next meeting is Monday, 4 November and Monday 2nd December 2019. Our patrons are Judy Hannan and Richard Booth. The Oaks Historical Society Inc. takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the articles, papers or reviews that appear in this newsletter. The statements made or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Oaks Historical Society Inc. Copies of the minutes are available.

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