

## *Voices from the hills*

PLACES, PEOPLE AND PAST LIFESTYLES  
IN NAMADGI NATIONAL PARK



NAMADGI ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
DRAFT REPORT, SEPTEMBER 1990  
BY  
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A project carried out for the  
KOSCIUSKO HUTS ASSOCIATION,  
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H14

## CONTENTS

	Page No.
1. Introduction and methodology .....	1
2. Namadgi European history - a Canberra bibliography .....	7
3. Interview summaries .....	20
4. Index to interview summaries .....	168
5. Appendices .....	172
6. Acknowledgements .....	178

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## INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

### The brief

In the latter half of 1989 the Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA) was granted an ACT Government Community Development Fund heritage grant to carry out the Namadgi Oral History Project. The KHA, in turn, commissioned the author to produce a report which would (in the words of the brief):

- (a) Comprise a bibliography identifying the location and extent of documentary and oral history information that sheds light upon European cultural resources within Namadgi National Park.
- (b) Incorporate oral history interviews with people who have knowledge about European cultural sites within the Park.
- (c) Include copies of relevant photographs, maps, lease and mortgage agreements, diaries and other documents from private collections that come to light in the course of the oral history interviews.

The project was funded on a part-time basis.

The bibliography exercise should be fairly self-explanatory (the bibliography is found in the next chapter of this report); the remainder of this first chapter is devoted to the planning and execution of the interview phase which was the core of the project.

### The interviewees

Several criteria were employed in selecting the interviewees. These included the degree of the individual's association with and knowledge of Namadgi's history, the need to ensure adequate geographical coverage of the Park area and the need to properly cover each of the major themes within Namadgi's European history. (Regarding this latter point, it was decided early in the project not to interview people associated with the tracking stations but rather to devote the project's resources toward the 'older' themes of the area's history, for example, grazing, droving, rabbiting, brumby-running, skiing, forestry/botany, bushwalking; references to the tracking stations may however be found in the bibliography.) An effort was also made to avoid duplicating previous and current projects by other researchers. Following is a list of the persons interviewed, the dates of interview and the number of 30-minute open-reel tapes used at each:

Pat Wardle	5 June 1990	2	
Bill Bootes	12 June 1990	4	
Tom Gregory	13 June 1990	4	
Lindsay Pryor	14 June 1990	3	
Daphne & Colin Curtis	15 June 1990	4	
Noel Luton	18 June 1990	2	
Cletus Crawford	18 June 1990	2	
Stan Goodhew	19 June 1990	3	
Roma Brayshaw	21 June 1990	3	
Tom Brayshaw	21 June 1990	2	
Lach & Audrey Maxwell	25 June 1990	-	(declined to be interviewed on tape)
Hugh Read	27 June 1990	4	
Max Oldfield	28 June 1990	4	
Everard Oldfield	28 June 1990	3	
Stumpy Oldfield	29 June 1990	4	

Reg Alder	29 June 1990	2	
Granville Crawford	5 July 1990	-	(declined to be interviewed on tape)
Dulcie Oldfield	6 July 1990	2	
Alan Bagnall	13 August 1990	4	
Jack Reid	15 August 1990	2	

The project's target of 20 interviewees was thus achieved. A number of other people were also approached but could not be interviewed for various reasons: Iris Curtis and Ruby Miners declined due to ill health, Bill Osmond and Elsie Smith felt that their knowledge of Namadgi's history was not sufficiently strong and Peter McGrath was not interviewed for a similar reason, Dollie Oldfield felt she had been interviewed enough already, Maurice Franklin simply declined, Bill Cotter was to be interviewed but then declined (it is hoped that he will be able to participate in site visits during the latter part of 1990), Tim Ingram and Jim Crawford live at prohibitive distances from the author, Doug Waterhouse could not be contacted. Sylvia and Betty Oldfield, together with Rae Crawford, would have been interviewed had time and further opportunity allowed.

### Prior to the interviews

Preparation for the interviews took various forms. Compiling the bibliography was very useful in this regard as much of the material contained there (especially the KHA holdings) proved to be valuable background reading. 'Technical' preparation included receiving advice from the Oral History Section of the National Library of Australia, becoming more familiar with the guidelines prepared by the NSW branch of the Oral History Association of Australia, and absorbing the excellent publication Oral History: a Handbook by Louise Douglas, Alan Roberts and Ruth Thompson (Sydney 1988). The author's experience of previous oral history work was also drawn upon.

Simultaneously with the background reading, several field bushwalks were undertaken through those parts of the Park with which the author was not yet familiar. These provided a very good opportunity to not only get to know 'the lay of the land' but to also pinpoint specific sites (for example, a number of those mentioned in J. Winston Gregson's thesis which is listed in the bibliography; it may be noted that the grid references given in this report for many of these sites are at variance with those in that thesis).

A vital part of interview preparation was a preliminary meeting with each of the interviewees. This allowed an opportunity for author and interviewee to introduce themselves to one another, for the interviewee to gain a proper understanding of the project and to be stimulated to think more intensively about his/her memories of Namadgi, and for the author to form a good idea of the nature of the interviewee's association with Namadgi. It was at this stage too that most of the interviewees' family (and family history) details were obtained. Almost all of the information contained in the introductory paragraph that begins each of the interview summaries in chapter three comes from these preliminary meetings. The value of such meetings should never be underestimated.

A broad set of questions was established for each 'type' of interviewee (for example, 'rural', 'skiing', etc), to which was added specific questions pertaining to each individual (the questions will be apparent from the interviews themselves). Thus a questionnaire formed the basis of the interview structure, however it was not applied strictly or dictatorially, and interviewees were given the opportunity to depart from specific questions, and the order of those questions, whenever it was considered productive.

## Beyond the boundaries

The boundaries of entities such as national parks, states, etc, are often fairly arbitrary in comparison with the human activities traditionally carried out there. Namadgi's European history is intimately interconnected with that of areas surrounding the Park: some landholders in the Park had their homes outside the Park, people living in the Park sometimes held land outside the Park, some people living in the Park were educated outside it, people living both in and out of the Park took stock through the Park to land outside the current Park boundaries. To both properly understand the Park's history, and to see that history within its wider regional context, (and also to maximise the opportunity that this project represented) a conscious decision was made to include relevant material relating to that wider picture. Consequently, while of course focusing on Namadgi itself, the project also sheds light on aspects of the history of Canberra, Naas, Tidbinbilla, Brindabella, the northern snow lease country of Kosciusko National Park (for example, Murray Creek or Oldfields Hut, Pockets, Old Currango, Long Plain, etc), Bimberi Nature Reserve (the Leura area especially), Yaouk and Shannons Flat.

## Site visits

A series of site visits, during which certain interviewees would travel with the author (and a Park ranger) to sites mentioned in the course of interviews, was planned. Unfortunately, owing to several factors (extreme winter weather, illness amongst interviewees or their having commitments on their properties, etc) only one such visit took place (see end of chapter three). It is now planned to hold the remaining site visits during spring, if circumstances allow.

## The sound recordings

The interviews were recorded on a Nagra E tape recorder loaned to the project by the National Library of Australia (NLA), using seven-inch reels (also provided by the NLA). These field tapes have now been deposited with the NLA where they are to be stored in perpetuity, with working copies and user copies being made available to researchers in accordance with an agreement between the NLA and KHA. Prior to deposit of the field tapes, the author dubbed from them a set of cassette copies for KHA. These copies are numbered so as to show both the individual and total number of tapes relating to each interview (for example, where there are two cassettes, the first is numbered 1/2, the second 2/2; where there is a single cassette, it is numbered 1/1). It should be noted that because the open reel tapes each contain just over 30 minutes of sound, 90-minute cassettes (45 minutes each side) had to be used, and consequently there is about ten minutes or so of unused tape at the end of each side of each cassette.

While a good quality recording was achieved in most instances, the interview with Tom Brayshaw was of low sound quality owing to the presence of boisterous children(!), and much of the Gudgenby - Orroral site visit is also of low sound quality.

It will be noted from the list of interviewees that two interviews were not recorded on tape owing to the personal wishes of the interviewees. The written record of those interviews, contained in chapter three, therefore represents the fullest record of those two conversations.

## The summaries and index

The interview summaries are intended to be both a summary of, and a guide to, the interview tapes. They are not meant to be more than this, and while they are fairly detailed in regard to certain subjects (structures, for example), they are essentially brief documents which should not be considered as collectively forming a 'mini-history' of Namadgi National Park. The tapes, not the summaries, are the core of this project.

Despite the use of structured questions, interviews are often rather disjointed affairs, with the discussion ranging back and forth between subjects. The summaries could have been written as tidy narratives where all the individual references to subjects discussed in an interview are drawn together, or, on the other hand, they could be written to reflect the actual course of the interview. This latter method was adopted as the author considered that only in this way could the summaries properly act as a guide to the material on the tapes and assist users of the collection to more easily find that material. Sometimes, where an interview became particularly disjointed, some distillation was done in the summary for ease of reading.

Before their incorporation into the report, the summaries were sent to interviewees for checking. Any corrections made by interviewees are included in the summaries as they appear in chapter three. Some interviewees at this stage also contributed additional material in writing (often in response to questions asked of them by the author); where brief, this information was incorporated into the summaries, while more extensive information is to be included in the file of miscellaneous project material to be given to the KHA by the author at the project's conclusion.

Where material that is not on the tapes has been incorporated into the summaries (for example, grid references, author's and interviewee's comments) this is signified by square brackets.

The index is intended to be a finding aid for users of the report and tape collection, helping them locate all references to particular subjects and themes. Thus it is the first stage in that all important process of structuring the material, a process which users will, in turn, develop further for themselves.

## Copyright

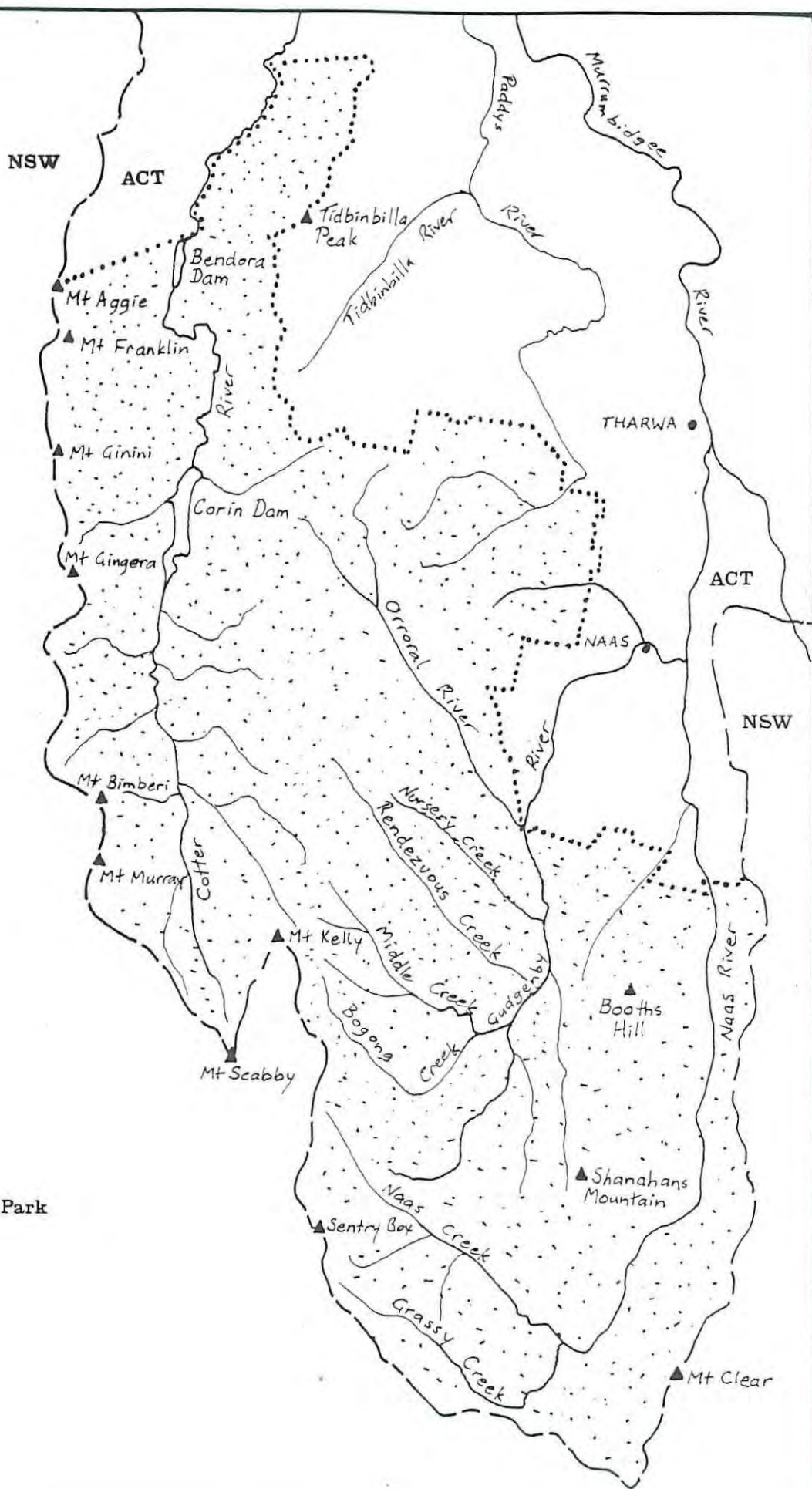
A copy of the project copyright form is included in the appendices. Under the agreement between the NLA and the KHA, the NLA owns mechanical copyright on the tape master copies, while the KHA owns copyright on the actual sound contents on the tapes. Copyright on photographs and documents copied under the project remains with the donors (or otherwise) of those materials. Each of the interviewees who participated in the eighteen tape-recorded interviews signed the project copyright form. Regarding the other two interviews, Granville Crawford signed a slightly amended form, while Lach and Audrey Maxwell declined to sign but gave verbal agreement instead. All signed copyright forms, together with the NLA-KHA agreement, are included in the file of miscellaneous material previously referred to.

### Questions historical, moral and legal

When using either this report, or the tapes particularly, it is important to remember that oral history consists of, among other things, the knowledge, understandings, perceptions, beliefs and opinions of individual men and women. Oral history has many strengths, but it also has weaknesses (as do most types of evidence used by historians). Individual interviewees sometimes differ from one another when talking about the same event, and this project is no exception. Where such contradictions exist, the author has attempted to point them out to users through cross-referencing between summaries. An endeavour has also been made to try to solve some of these conflicting statements. However, the author could not (and, indeed, was not contracted to) solve all such problems. Users of the material will need to try to solve them themselves, to weigh up interviewees' statements against one another, and, if desirable, to compare this oral evidence with that in available written or pictorial sources where possible.

Users should also be wary of bias in individual interviewees. This is important where interviewees are expressing their opinions about other people. For example, interviewee number two is very often noticeably critical when expressing such opinions, and other interviewees no doubt have their own prejudices too (as do most of us). These comments should not be seen as devaluing the interviews or as criticising individual interviewees (the author enjoyed a good relationship with all persons interviewed and feels particularly fond of a number of them) but should be seen as helpful advice to users of the collection. Simply put, persons should exercise sensitivity and discretion when dealing with the (relatively very few) potentially sensitive parts of the collection. Finally, having given this advice, neither the author, the KHA nor the NLA will accept responsibility for any legal action that might result from the publication, broadcasting or other public dissemination of material held in the collection. Such responsibility shall be borne by persons making public such of the material.

# Namadgi National Park



## NAMADGI'S EUROPEAN HISTORY - a Canberra bibliography

This bibliography lists primary and secondary sources that relate to the European history of the area that is now Namadgi National Park. While the resources available for the project dictated that this listing should be restricted to holdings within Canberra, any researcher working on Namadgi's history should visit the major Sydney repositories - particularly the Archives Office of New South Wales, the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, and the Land Titles Office.

The bibliography is divided into three areas. The first of these is a list of titles. Second is a list of collections (containing material unique to specific collections, some less widely available individual titles, and other material whose listing within a collection was felt to be more appropriate than by title). Finally there is a list of individuals known to be either working on, to have knowledge of, or to have sources relating to, aspects of Namadgi's European history.

### 1. List of titles

The following list is arranged alphabetically by author. At the end of most entries there is an abbreviation of the name of the library in which the title was found. It should be noted that many of the titles are held in more than one library; the one shown here was simply that in which the title was first located by the author. An explanation of the abbreviations is given at the end of the list.

- Access Archaeology, Conservation Plan for the Brayshaw and Westernman Huts, Canberra 1990. (ACTHU)
- ACT Department of Education, Ngunawal to NASA: Namadgi National Park, a resource kit for schools, Canberra 1990. (OEC)
- ACT Heritage Committee, Directory of Heritage Research Sources, Canberra 1985. (AHC)
- ACT Parks & Conservation Service, Namadgi National Park Management Plan, Canberra 1986. (NCPA)
- Reg Alder, 'Namadgi National Park', Canberra Historical Journal, No. 23, March 1989, pp 34-37. (CDHS)
- Cla Allen, Hiking from early Canberra, Canberra 1977.
- W C Andrews, et al, Canberra's Engineering Heritage, Canberra 1983. (NLA)
- Australian Heritage Commission, Submission for Namadgi National Park Plan of Management, Canberra 1985. (AHC)
- Graeme Barrow (ed), John Gale's Brindabellas and Australian Alps, Canberra 1985.
- Graeme Barrow, Exploring Namadgi & Tidbinbilla: day walks in Canberra's high country, Canberra 1987.

- Elizabeth Bilney, ACT Heritage Conservation Plan Stage 1: Outline History of the ACT 1820 - 1982, Canberra 1983-84. (AHC)
- Ric Butt, 'The 19th Century Pastoral Heritage of the ACT', ACT Heritage Seminars, vol. 1, October 1985. (NCPA)
- J F Campbell, "'Squatting" on Crown Lands in New South Wales', Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, vol. 15, pt 2, 1929 and vol. 17, pt 1, 1931. (NLA)
- Bruce Chapman, A Field Guide to Arboreta in the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra 1984. (CSIRO)
- P Corkery and E G Butt, Orroral Valley Homestead Conservation Plan, Canberra 1983. (AHC)
- Tony Corp, "'Enterprising Gaels" become Pioneer Pastoralists', Canberra Historical Journal, No. 9, March 1982, pp 24 - 29. (CDHS)
- Tony Corp, 'Gudgenby: the last 150 Years', Canberra Historical Journal, No. 24, September 1989, pp 21 - 30. (CDHS)
- Rex Cross and Bert Sheedy, Queanbeyan Pioneers - First Study, Queanbeyan 1983. (NLA)
- P R Dann, 'A tragedy at Boboyan', Canberra Times, 22 May 1971, p 13. (NLA)
- Brian Egloff, Orroral Valley Heritage Conservation Plan, ANUTECH, Canberra 1988. (ACTHU)
- A Fitzgerald, Historic Canberra 1825 - 1945, A Pictorial Record, Canberra 1977. (NLA)
- Peter Freeman & Partners, Gudgenby Homestead Proposed Reconstruction. (ACTHU)
- Robert Garran, Prosper the Commonwealth, Sydney 1958. (NLA)
- Matthew Higgins, 'Dan represents bush character of modern times', Canberra Times, 14 January 1990. (NLA)
- H W M King, Land Classification and Utilization in the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra 1946. (KL)
- Patricia Lay, Sources in the Australian Capital Territory for Family Historians, Queanbeyan 1986. (NLA)
- Errol Lea-Scarlett, Queanbeyan: District and People, Queanbeyan 1968. (KL)
- Errol Lea-Scarlett, P B Sheedy and R Cross, Queanbeyan Pioneer Cemeteries, 3 vols, 1 index vol, Queanbeyan 1984-85. (QDMHS)
- Margules and Deverson Pty Ltd, Proposed Gudgenby National Park land use study, Canberra 1976. (NCPA)

- Marist Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Group, Our Heritage: Young people explore the history of the Michelago region, Canberra, n.d.
- M S McRae-Williams, Sites of significance in the Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and Upper Cotter Areas, Canberra 1984. (NCPA)
- Bruce Moore, The Lanyon Saga, Canberra 1982. (AHC)
- National Capital Planning Authority, (N J Rosengren et al), Sites of Significance in the ACT, vol. 8, Cotter River Catchment, Canberra 1989, and vol. 9, The Gudgenby Area, Canberra 1990. (NCPA)
- F W Robinson, Canberra's First Hundred Years and After, Sydney 1927. (KL)
- Scenic Spectrums, Gudgenby Station and Environs: A Cultural and Natural Landscape Evaluation, Canberra 1989. (NCPA)
- F Watson, A Brief History of Canberra, Canberra 1927. (KL)
- J H Winston-Gregson, 'Gudgenby: a register of archaeological sites in the proposed Gudgenby National Park', MA Qualifying Thesis, ANU, 1978. (ACT Admin)
- W Davis Wright, Canberra, Sydney, 1923. (KL)

### Explanation of abbreviations:

ACT Admin	ACT Administration Library, ACT Administration Centre, off London Circuit, Civic.
ACTHU	ACT Heritage Unit, ACT Administration Centre, off London Circuit, Civic.
AHC	Australian Heritage Commission Library, Blackall Street, Barton.
CDHS	Canberra and District Historical Society Library, Griffin Centre, Civic.
CSIRO	CSIRO Division of Forestry and Forest Products, Canberra Laboratory, Library, Banks Street, Yarralumla.
KL	ACT Library Service, Kingston Library ('Canberra Collection'), Leichhardt Street, Kingston.
NCPA	National Capital Planning Authority Library, Brisbane Avenue, Barton.
NLA	National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Parkes.
OEC	O'Connell Education Centre, Stuart Street, Griffith.
QDMHS	Queanbeyan and District Museum Historical Society, Farrer Place, Queanbeyan.

## 2. List of Collections

### ACT Land Titles Office

- Address: ACT Administration Centre, off London Circuit, Civic.
- Access: public; \$7 search fee.
- Holdings: Lease documents for all ACT leasehold land since the inception of the ACT. Also held are some NSW land documents from the pre-ACT period.

Further lease document information is available from the Rural Leases Section, Office of Industry and Development, 220 Northbourne Avenue.

### ACT Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages

- Address: ACT Administration Centre, off London Circuit, Civic.
- Access: public.
- Holdings: Birth, death and marriage documents for the ACT from 1930.

### ACT Parks and Conservation Service

- Address: Riverview Visitors Centre, Namadgi National Park.
- Access: public access by appointment.
- Holdings: As well as holding published material listed elsewhere in this bibliography, the service holds notes of interviews between rangers and former landowners, as follows:

Source number 1:	W R Bootes re Gudgenby, by Barbara Bell.
Source number 2:	Noel and Faye Luton re Boboyan, by Judy Graham.
Source number 7:	Various landholders, by Phil Boreham.

Also held are the following documents:

Source number 3:	Manuscript on Marmaduke Watson Lee, by son Ted Lee.
Source number 10:	Notes on Gudgenby.
Source number 11:	McKeahnie family notes, by Tony Corp.
Source number 12:	Notes on Gudgenby by W R Bootes.
Source number 18:	Letter on Charles McKeahnie, by Edith Dulhunty.
Source number 20:	Notes for Gudgenby house inspections by Mr & Mrs W R Bootes.
Source number 21:	'Cotter Valley - the forbidden land, hidden features', by Dr J H L Compston.

Excerpts from published sources not listed elsewhere in this bibliography:

Source number 4:	<u>Exploring the ACT and southeast NSW</u> , by J Kay Donald.
Source number 5:	'Three hundred miles with note-book and camera', by G G Jefferies.



A 110/1	FC 1912/771	Permissive occupancy by Joseph Matthew Oldfield, Parish of Yarara, County of Cowley, 1909 - 1912
A 361/1	DSG/22/763	A G W Bootes and Camping and Water Reserve 1024, Parish of Orroral, 1922
A 358	358	Holdings of Charles Henry McKeahnie, valuations and improvements, 1916.
A 8001/1		Various skeleton maps of parishes now in Namadgi.

A two-volume guide, 'Canberra History', compiled by Alison Brown, includes a small number of references to files of apparent relevance to Namadgi.

#### Australian Heritage Commission

- Address: Blackall Street, Barton.
- Public access to library; access to register files is conditional upon their being examined beforehand by Commission staff.
- Holdings: As well as its public library (see list 1) the AHC has an extensive collection of files on places nominated to the Register of the National Estate; nominated places are also on the Commission's database system. To date, only one place of relevance to this project - Orroral Homestead - has been nominated to the Register (though there are files on other homesteads outside the Park, for example, Blytheburn). It is anticipated that the National Trust (responsible for many Register nominations) will nominate additional places in due course, and files will be created accordingly.

#### Australian War Memorial

- Address: Anzac Parade and Limestone Avenue, Campbell.
- Access: public.
- Holdings: The Memorial's Research Centre holds a wide range of records relating to the war service of local men and women. Among official records collections are nominal rolls, embarkation rolls, honours and awards files, unit war diaries, roll of honour cards, etc. It is possible that personal records holdings (eg: soldiers' letters, diaries, etc) may also relate to Namadgi service personnel. An extensive photographic collection is also available for use. Further information may be obtained from the Information Services Section or by consulting the Memorial's own genealogical publication, Roll Call!

#### ANU Archives of Business and Labour

- Address: Acton Underhill, 12 Balmain Crescent, Acton, ANU Campus.
- Access: non-academic users need the written permission of the depositor of the archival records being consulted.

- Holdings: There are no archival holdings of relevance. However, there are published works of some use, for example, The Australian Pastoral Directory from 1890s to 1960s, The Pastoral Review, 1890s - 1970s, and STADAN facility, Orroral Valley, ACT (n.d.).

(It is of interest to note that archival material relating to Currango and several other Kosciusko National Park properties is held.)

#### AUSLIG - Australian Surveying and Land Information Group

- Address: Unit 2, Cameron Offices, Chandler Street, Belconnen.
- Access: the library is essentially for in-house use; however, materials can be made available to the public. Any in-depth searches required by the public are charged for at \$50 per hour.
- Holdings: An extensive (though not complete) collection of portion plans arranged by parish (these plans show property boundaries, types of fences, buildings, dams, ringbarking and virtually any other type of improvement; even graves are shown). Field surveyors' notebooks are also held.

#### Basser Library

- Address: Academy of Science, McCoy Circuit, Acton, ANU Campus.
- Access: public by appointment.
- Holdings: No relevant holdings.

#### Canberra Archaeological Society

- Address: C/- Department of Prehistory & Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, CANBERRA ACT 2601.
- Access: public (see below).
- Holdings: The CAS has for some years carried out work on Aboriginal sites in Namadgi. More recently the Society has taken an interest in ACT European sites and has had a report done; titled ACT Sites Inventory Project, Stages 1 and 2, it is by Philip Boot and the typescript is available for research through the Institute of Aboriginal Studies library, Acton House, off Marcus Clarke Street, Acton (the report includes a number of Namadgi sites). the society will shortly be following up this report with fieldwork on the sites. Additionally some Society members have done work on Namadgi sites.

#### Canberra and District Historical Society Inc

- Address: Griffin Centre, Civic.
- Access: public.

- Holdings: The CDHS library contains many of the published works listed in the list of titles. As one would expect, it also holds complete collections of the Society's Canberra Historical Journal (see list of titles for relevant articles) and Newsletter; indexes of both publications are also held - relevant Newsletter items include no. 48 April 1964 (Gudgenby demolition), no. 217 September 1980 (Mt Franklin Chalet), no. 89 December 1967 (Gudgenby excursion), no. 100 February 1967 (Gudgenby - Shannons Flat excursion), no. 285 June/July 1987 (Namadgi excursion), no. 180 February 1977 (Naas excursion), no. 199 November 1978 (J H Winston-Gregson lecture), no. 130 February 1972 (Charles McKeahnie), no. 179 December 1976 (McKeahnie family), and various obituary articles (it should be noted that the information in these Newsletter items is very limited). Also held are the following:
  - file of excursion notes (eg: Gudgenby, Naas, Orroral, Boboyan);
  - tapes of lectures given at monthly general meetings (eg: Tony Corp speaking on McKeahnie family);
  - Tony Corp research collection (McKeahnie family, Gudgenby);
  - baptism and marriage register data from Queanbeyan Methodist and Presbyterian churches;
  - newspaper cuttings collections, one on ACT people, the other on ACT properties and places;
  - a 'people index' to various publications;
  - photograph collection (only one relevant photograph - of Cotter Hut in 1941 - was found);
  - portion plans, arranged by parish, and various parish and county maps. The CDHS has for some time also been conducting a mapping project, which involves the tracing of pre-1910 European sites (eg: huts, fences, dams, etc) from portion plans onto a series of 1:10 000 maps. Part of the Namadgi area has so far been completed.

CSIRO Division of Forestry and Forest Products, Canberra Laboratory, Library

- Address: Banks Street, Yarralumla.
- Access: public.
- Holdings: As well as Chapman's book noted in the list of titles, the library also holds:
  - A F Rout and J C Doran, Arboreta in the Australian Capital Territory, Technical note 8, Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra 1974;
  - List of Arboreta in the ACT, Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra, n.d. (particularly notable for its maps);
  - L T Carron, A History of Forestry in Australia, ANU Press, Canberra 1985;
  - Field Information Sheet series, produced by the Forest Research Institute, Department of National Development, Canberra, n.d. (the single Namadgi sheet in the series that is held is 'Arboretum 26 - Mt Ginini');

An examination of the Flury (pre-1954) manuscripts catalogue revealed items by Lindsay Pryor and Charles Lane-Poole relating to forestry in the ACT.

#### The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc

- Library Address: Iluka Street, Narrabundah.
- Access: public; fees apply to non-members; membership application may be made; the library is open on a part-time basis.
- Holdings: As well as holding many of the genealogical records held in the National Library's microform collection (see below), the Society also has:
  - indexes to Anglican Diocese of Canberra - Goulburn parish registers, to 1919 (showing baptisms, marriages and burials);
  - a published series of cemetery transcripts for the ACT and Monaro;
  - a complete collection of the Society's quarterly, The Ancestral Searcher;
  - an index to the Canberra Times deaths column from the 1970s, and an index to the 'In Memoriam' column;
  - newsletters and journals produced by other societies (the Society has an exchange programme with 200 such groups).

#### Kosciusko Huts Association • Address: PO Box 3626, Manuka 2603.

- Access: by request to the president.
- Holdings: Of all the bodies or institutions listed in this bibliography, it is the KHA which has collected most information on Namadgi's European history. Interview reports, tapes and notes, extracts from published and unpublished written works, maps and plans have been collected and filed on a range of Namadgi sites and families. Families and/or individuals include Chalker, Crawford, Franklin, Gregory, McKeahnie, Morrison, Oldfield, Pryor, Roseby, Venables, Westerman. Sites include ACT Foresters Hut, Boboyan, Brandy Flat, Brayshaws, Cotter, Franks Hut, Gudgenby, Horse Gully, Lone Pine, Max Oldfields, Orroral, Old Station, Pryors, Rowleys Orroral and Rowleys Rendezvous Creek, Rusdens, Stockyard Hut, Tin Dish School, Waterholes Hut, Westermans. Notable written sources include Sue Aspinall's unpublished 'The Story of Gudgenby', and extracts from Archie Crawford's rare Eighty-Five Years in Australia (Sydney 1925).

#### National Library of Australia • Address: Parkes Place, Parkes.

- Access: public to most holdings; reader's ticket is required for certain collections.
- Holdings: The NLA has a vast range of material and holds many of the titles listed in the first section of this bibliography. Also accessible through the Main Reading Room are several extensive (though incomplete) runs of relevant serials, namely the Australian and New Zealand Ski Year Book (useful for Namadgi skiing history, including Mt Franklin Chalet), Frozen Acres (the periodical of the Canberra Alpine

Club, which built Mt Franklin Chalet; the publication contains material on the Chalet and on Namadgi skiing and bushwalking history), and the ACT National Parks Association's NPA Bulletin (which is also held in Kingston Library's 'Canberra Collection'). Items from the NPA Bulletin include vol. 20, no. 4, June 1983 Denise Robin, 'Orroral Homestead - A History'; vol. 21, no. 3, March 1984, Reg Alder, 'Gone - and going'; vol. 22, no. 2, December 1984, Babette Scougall, 'Brayshaws Hut'; vol. 23, no. 1, September 1985, Ken Eldridge, 'Arboreta in the Brindabellas'; vol. 24, no. 2, December 1986, 'Letters' re Cotter Hut; vol. 26, no. 2, September 1989, K O Johnson and A Fenton, 'Plans [of James Brayshaws hut and Tin Dish School]'; vol. 26, no. 4, December 1989, Syd Comfort, "A walk in the Naas Valley"; the Gudgenby grazing controversy is also well covered through the Bulletin's letters pages.

Among important nineteenth century publications held are Grevilles Official Post Office Directory and Gazetteer 1875-77 and the NSW Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings.

Material is held in the following separate collections:

#### Newspapers and microforms

In addition to its holdings of major newspapers such as the Canberra Times (from 1926) and the Sydney Morning Herald (from 1831), the NLA has the following regional newspapers: Cooma Monaro Express, Goulburn Herald, Goulburn Post, Queanbeyan Age, Queanbeyan Observer, Tumut and Adelong Times, Yass Courier. A newspaper clippings collection is also held.

The microfiche and microfilm collections contain many records of genealogical interest, including: NSW Electoral Rolls, NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages to 1900, NSW Certificates of Depasturing Licences 1837-52, NSW Colonial Secretary Index and Registers to Land Grants and Leases 1792 - 1865, NSW Census 1891 (including collectors' books), and British records copied under the Australian Joint Copying Project.

#### Maps:

All of Namadgi National Park lies within the county of Cowley. The NLA holds copies of the county maps and also has the following parish maps for those Cowley parishes which lie either wholly or partly inside the Park:

<u>Map</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Edition</u>
Boboyan	1912	3rd
Brayshaw	1912	3rd
Bumbalong	1927	3rd
	and 1969	4th
Cotter	1912	2nd
Fergus	1912	3rd
Gibraltar	1912	3rd
Greenfield	1912	3rd
Gudgenby	1931	4th
Milligan	1912	3rd
Naas	1912	3rd
Orroral	1912	3rd
Tharwa	1912	3rd
	and 1931	4th
Tidbinbilla	1912	3rd
Yarara	1920	4th

and 1968

5th

The following relevant maps are also held:

ACT Land Ownership - Skeleton Map series 20 chains:1 inch 1915 (?), sheets 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 a, b, c.

ACT Land Sale Plans - Freehold (some of which just touch on the Park area).

ACT Land Ownership - Federal Territory, 7 sheets, 40 chains:1 inch, 1914.

Plan of proposed roads from Naas to Gudgenby, 5 November 1910.

'Federal Capital Territory', Frank Leydon collection (hand-drawn, pencil, n.d.).

### Pictorial

Relevant holdings are small, as follows:

- One photo of Cotter Hut, 1941 (the same photo that is held by the CDHS library).
- One undated photo of skiers at Mr Franklin.
- Various photos of Honeysuckle Creek and Orroral Valley tracking stations.
- Cunningham family portraits.
- McKeahnie family portraits.

### Petherick and Manuscripts Collections: (a reader's ticket is necessary)

Among the Petherick materials are biographical press clippings and part of the Perkins Papers MS 936 (specifically some of the Monaro District News Items volumes and Index volumes); the remainder of the Perkins material is in the Manuscripts room. Also available through the Petherick Room is the NSW Government Gazette. There is not a great amount of relevant material in the Manuscripts collection. Clabon Allen's diaries 1922-53 (MS 7360) are a good source for Namadgi's early bushwalking history (and should be read in conjunction with his Hiking from early Canberra - see list of titles). Herbert Oldfield's diary and two letters from Ruby Cochran (MS 6196) contain a little information. The papers of late ACT parliamentarian Jim Fraser (MS 2802) are useful (particularly the files Rural Leases 1957-69, Naas Valley Area 1951-67, National Parks 1962-69, Space Tracking Stations 1963-68). Papers of the Cunningham (MS 6734) and Tong (MS 5670) families were consulted, but without success; however, it is possible that papers of other families that lived on the border of the Park could be useful, for example, W P Bluett papers, correspondence and farm diaries (MS 7343 and 4714), and De Salis family diaries and notebooks (these can only be read with the permission of Dr Eric De Salis, 19 Robe Street, Deakin ACT); photos of the De Salis family are held in the Pictorial collection).

The manuscripts collection also holds the Anglican Canberra - Goulburn parish registers mentioned earlier under the holdings of The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra.

### Historic Records Search

The index to the Register produced by this bicentennial project was examined by family names, property names and regional names. No relevant records were discovered (although some Brindabella and Cotter River photographs are listed). The Register does list the papers of Rex (late Queanbeyan historian) and Joy Cross (no. 708, restricted access - contact Historic Records Office, NLA).

### Oral History

No relevant holdings prior to the commencement of this project.

### National Trust of Australia (ACT)

- Address: Geils Court, Deakin.
- Access: public.
- Holdings: In the course of its work of classifying and recording places of heritage significance, the Trust has compiled files of reference material. The following files are relevant:  
  
Gudgenby Area, Gudgenby Valley, Mt Franklin Chalet, Namadgi, Orroral Valley Homestead. (While Blytheburn homestead is outside the Park, its file also contains relevant material.)

### Queanbeyan and District Museum Historical Society

- Address: Farrer Place, Queanbeyan.
- Access: non-members can have access when accompanied by a member (normally Rosemary Curry).
- Holdings: The library holds a range of local material including the Queanbeyan Pioneer Cemeteries series and a full collection of the Society's Queanbeyan History Bulletin.

### Yarrowlumla Shire Council

- Address: Farrer Place, Queanbeyan.
- Access: public.
- Holdings: Yarrowlumla Shire Council was established in 1906 and from then until the formation of the ACT landholders within the Namadgi area came under the Council's jurisdiction (they were in the shire's B riding). Council holds the valuation and rate books for these years (essentially 1907-10) and these show the property owner's name, portion number, portion size, value, rates and rate payment details.

### 3. List of Individuals

- Bill Bray, Deakin  
Mr Bray, a Canberra Alpine Club member since the early 1950s, is writing a history of Mt Franklin Chalet.
- Rosemary Curry, Queanbeyan  
Ms Curry, newsletter editor and publicity officer for Queanbeyan and District Museum Historical Society, oversees the Society's library, researches and writes on aspects of local history and has provided much information to the Kosciusko Huts Association.
- Lyall Gillespie, Campbell  
Mr Gillespie has written a number of historical works. He has a 30 000 card index on local people, places and subjects, a series of 200 research notebooks, and a large range of historical directories, photographs, maps and other records. Public access to this material is not available.
- Bert Sheedy, Narrabundah  
Mr Sheedy has been closely involved with Queanbeyan and District Museum Historical Society for many years and has contributed to several publications. He has a wealth of knowledge of local families. Enquiries about his collection should be directed, in writing, to the author of this report.
- A number of Kosciusko Huts Association members have undertaken research on Namadgi's European history. The results of their work are held by the KHA, as per list 2 above.

## INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

## PAT WARDLE, Garran, Canberra

Pat Wardle (nee Tillyard) was born of English parents in 1910 at Hornsby in Sydney. From 1920 to 1928 the Tillyards lived in New Zealand, returning in 1928 when Pat's father Robin became head of the Entomological Division at CSIR in Canberra. (Pat's mother, Patricia, had studied at Cambridge.) Pat taught overseas and in the late 1930s she was involved with the Mt Franklin Chalet before joining the Womens Auxiliary Australian Air Force in the second world war. In 1955 she married Robert Wardle. Pat is a former Councillor of the Canberra and District Historical Society.

### Side A

The interview begins with Pat explaining how she became involved with the Canberra Alpine Club and Mt Franklin Chalet. She and youngest sister Honor (known also as Sonny) were energetic and young and 'were looking for outlets for our energy'. There follows references to Warren MacDonald (the contractor who built the Chalet) and to Ken Oliphant who may have been the architect. At the time that Pat first got involved the solid-rock foundations of the building had been laid.

The Ingram brothers, Tim and Ken particularly (leading Chalet figures) are described.

Pat talks about the clearing of the ski runs at Franklin and contrasts the methods used (ie: axes) with RMC Duntroon's use of a bulldozer on Ginini after the war. Women at Franklin collected the timber felled by the men and burned it - 'a lovely grimey time', the women were 'a healthy, sturdy lot'. There is also reference to the good snow of pre-war years.

Pat talks about Chalet personalities Doug Hyles of Uriarra, Jim Anderson, Bill McNiven, her cousin Helen Dunncliff (who later married Tim Ingram), and Charlotte Lane Poole, better known as 'Charles' (a daughter of Forestry School head and CAC President C E Lane Poole), who was a real character - 'she could drink any man under the table'. Some description of the Forestry School is given.

C E Lane Poole's ski-making classes on the edge of Westbourne Woods are then described in detail. Spotted gum was used and, after being worked, the skis were bent in a steamer invented by Lane Poole himself. Brass edges were attached and Norwegian 'trap' bindings fitted. The skis were 'wickedly heavy'.

The Wood Run (whose location is a little unclear in the interview) and the other two Franklin runs of the time are described. The 'incredibly primitive conditions' of skiing then (including the use of skins for climbing) are mentioned and reference to Hotel Kosciusko ski trips is made. Pat has no recollection of tows at Mt Franklin; she does not recall the opening of the Chalet on 2 July 1938.

Using her diary entry for 28 July 1938 as an aide memoire, Pat describes a day at the Chalet. She refers to the canvas ski bag she later made for the top of her Vauxhall 14 and the use of chains on the then new Mt Franklin road. Ken Ingram, Bill Dunbar and Cam Grey were just leaving the Chalet disgusted by the snow conditions, and had added pictures from Man magazine to Tim Ingram's Norwegian ski pictures that decorated the Chalet's inside walls. 'Skis and Shivers', the Canberra Alpine Club's own version of the game Snakes and Ladders, is described (eg: 10 - forgot tucker box, return to Canberra; 19 - put on chains, miss a turn; 65 - good stem turn, go on to 70; 72 - lost ski, out of game). Local landmark Anderson's Shower is explained and skiers Fred Piggin and Bill Dunbar are described. The difficult snow conditions that day led to only a few runs being attempted and Pat, Sonny and friend Nan Hutchison returned home, having some difficulty on the Mt Franklin road.

There follows an entertaining and detailed description of the Piggin Family.

Pat describes the interior of the Chalet in slight detail and refers to an open fireplace which is corrected later in the interview to an enclosed wood stove. She describes how exhausted skiers went upstairs to bed at night while 'the drinkers set-to down below'!

Bill and Jim Ginn carried skiers to the Chalet on their flat-topped truck for 5s each.

Pat refers again to Warren MacDonald and makes the point that it was 'very enterprising' of him to attempt the project. Nothing like the Chalet had been attempted before by the 'rather unenterprising' Canberra community which, with the exception of Cla Allen's walking group, stuck to more conventional sports. Pat says that the chalet was 'an exciting venture which seemed to catch the public imagination'.

The general routine of the ski trips is then explained. Pat and Sonny 'went at it hell for leather', doing as many runs as possible; others were of similar bent, but some CAC members went more for the social life and rum around the fire.

The Chalet was open to non-members. Bill Dunbar's role as Canberra tourist officer is explained, as is that of his son John.

Mention is made of CAC office bearers, including then Federal Treasurer [and later Governor General] R G Casey, whose wife Maie, says Pat, was a well-known aviator. John Cumpston was also in the CAC and the Cumpston family is described.

## **Side B**

Description of the Cumpstons continues and Pat talks about the Brindabella/Cotter walking trips organised by John's father Howard. John's 'special affinity' for Ginini and his having been in the 2nd AIF's Lebanon ski unit during the war is also mentioned.

Further mention of the above CAC office bearers is made and Pat also talks about Elyne Mitchell, George Lamble, George Aalberg and cartoonist George Molnar.

Pat does not remember racing, but she does refer to 'madly enthusiastic' slalom competitions at Franklin. Tim Ingram, it is said at this point, was an instructor at the Chalet. The country was 'too bushed-up' for cross-country skiing, but skiers did ski to Ginini, although its potential wasn't realised until after the war.

Pat suggests that up to 50 people might have been at the Chalet on an average day. If you took your own car it was an advantage to have it full of passengers in order to keep traction on the 'perilous roads'.

The social makeup of the CAC is discussed. Pat says it was 'very cosmopolitan ... with a great leavening of public servants'.

Franklin skiers took their children, who had a great time, although it was probably too perilous (due to stumps) for tobogganning. Pat says that stumps were burnt out by drilling a hole into the centre, filling it with kero and setting it alight.

The interview then covers the Condor Creek section of the Chalet route, and how there used to be five crossings of the creek. Mention is made of the Blundells and Blundells Flat below Mt Coree, and also of McDonald's mail buggy from Uriarra having used the Condor route in years past.

After mentioning the imminent introduction of coloured ski route markers at Mt Franklin during the first winter ('it was bush - and you could easily get lost in it') Pat

returns to C E Lane Poole's ski-making classes, saying that it took about six weekends to make a pair of skis. The lessons were most enjoyable social occasions.

Colonel Goodwin, a surveyor, and his team of relief workers pushed the Mt Franklin road through to the Chalet and Pat describes his personality and his great contribution to Canberra during the Depression. Goodwin Homes at Ainslie are named after him. Included here also is a description of soup-making in the coppers at St John's Rectory during the Depression.

Leading CAC figures like Tim Ingram and Jim Anderson and also Cla Allen, were in the Rover Scouts and Pat here describes the Rover Scout crew meetings and the involvement of G A Currie and Laurie Fitzhardinge. Cla Allen had an early ambition to climb all of the Brindabella peaks.

Pat talks of a trip with other CAC members to the Hotel Kosciusko on the Queens Birthday long weekend in 1939, with Tim Ingram as instructor. They skied the Grand Slam and Little Slam runs and next day skied at Mt Perisher. Comparing the skiing there to Mt Franklin, Pat says that the Hotel and Perisher skiing was 'much less hazardous' than Franklin due to the clearer runs. The same ski techniques were used at both places, with Christie turns being the predominant type. Pat regrets that, while she became a skier of reasonable standard, she didn't take it up earlier. She effectively learned to ski at Franklin.

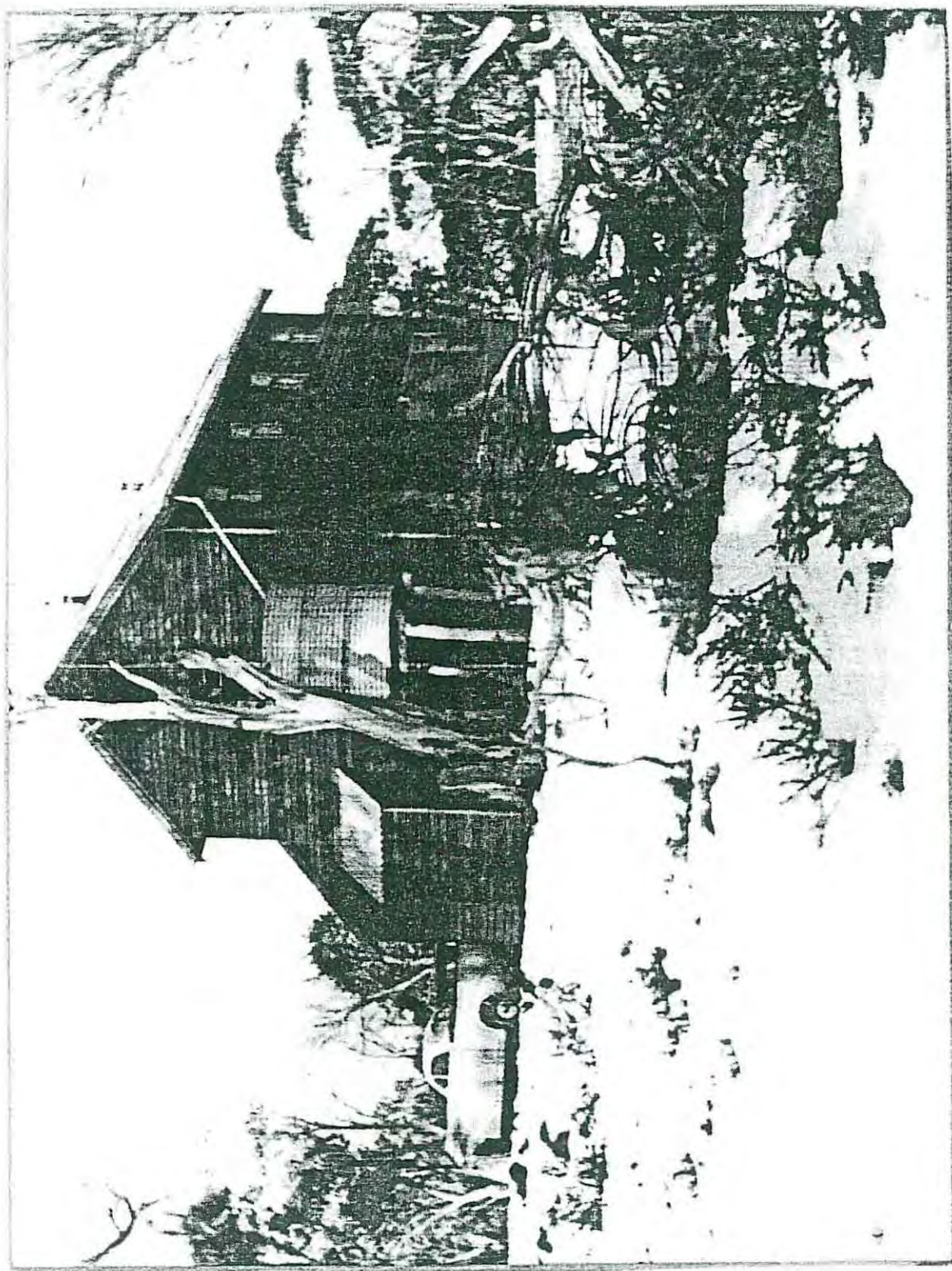
Towards the end of the interview Pat discusses the allocation of jobs at the Chalet according to sex (eg: women did the cooking, men cleaned the toilets). She recalls that the Chalet had showers and also a piano which 'added to the cacophany at night!' The noise at nighttime was a major reason for her doing mostly day-trips to the Chalet. The tape ends with a brief mention of car chains, stocks, etc.



Pat Wardle. (Author)



Pat works the plane during one of C.E.Lane Poole's ski-making classes.



Mt Franklin Chalet in the year of its opening. (Helen Cumpston/KHA Collection)



The Tillyards' Vauxhall 14 with the rooftop canvas ski bag made for taking skis to Franklin. (Pat Wardle)

Pat's friend Dr Grace Johnston at Franklin in about 1939. (Pat Wardle)





On the Grand Slam run at the Hotel Kosciusko in 1939, l-r, 'Digger' (Edna) Thompson, Stella Hutchison nee Novelle and Joan Humphreys. (Pat Wardle)

At Dainers Gap during the same 1939 trip. (Pat Wardle)



## BILL BOOTES, Farrer, Canberra

William Rex Bootes was born in January 1913 at Cootamundra; the family property was Bangus, near Gundagai. In 1910 Bill's grandfather, William Sidney Bootes, bought Orroral from Charles McKeahnie for Bill's father, Albert ('Boy') George William Bootes. (The family remained at Bangus, coming to Orroral at branding time in the summer holidays.) In 1923 Albert bought Bywong and the family moved up there. In about 1926-27, after selling Orroral to Andy Cunningham, Albert bought Gudgenby after the death of owner Marmaduke Watson Lee; the Bootes family continued to live at Bywong. In 1954, seven years after his marriage to Joan nee Carew, Bill Bootes became owner of Gudgenby and for the next ten years he lived and worked there during the week, returning home to Queanbeyan at weekends. In 1964 Joan joined him at Gudgenby and the new home was built there. The land was resumed and became leasehold in 1974 and in 1982 Bill and Joan retired to Canberra; their youngest daughter Jane and her husband Steve ran Gudgenby until the stock were finally removed in mid-1989.

### Tape 1 Side A

The interview begins with Bill talking about the purchase of Orroral and how a relation, Harold Bootes, was the first manager. He tells how the family would come up in summer and how they would get to Orroral. He then talks about Tom Oldfield as manager, firstly at Orroral from about 1914 until the Gudgenby purchase, then at Gudgenby until about 1934.

Bill describes the layout of both the living and kitchen wings at the Orroral homestead and tells of Tom Oldfield putting up a skillion extension in between to make room for his large family. Tom also built the school building just behind the house (it had two rooms, one for a classroom, one a residence for the subsidised teacher). One teacher who served there was a Miss Mould from Adaminaby. Bill then recalls an unnamed girl dying in a riding accident at Orroral.

Bill describes the sleeping arrangements at Orroral during the summer trips, and also aspects of the interior. He makes the point that the Gudgenby house was much better built than the Orroral one, the problem of slab shrinkage having been dealt with better at the former. Bill doesn't recall any other huts on Orroral at the time, but mentions he did not get around the valley much at that age.

There is then a discussion of ringbarking, the conditions applying to different sorts of land titles and the complex array of different titles at the time. Orroral had been cleared; it was not naturally clear. The Bootes' grazed stock on the open valley floor, and also at Nursery Swamp.

Bill recalls fishing in Orroral Creek (as it then was) and gives a lengthy description of a bushfire that came through in 1919.

The interview returns briefly to stock at Orroral; the fenced area of Orroral was about 2000 acres freehold and Bootes' grazed about 400 - 500 herefords.

Bill talks about the dog-proof fence having probably already been there by 1910 [see Max Oldfield summary] and talks about the large number of dingoes then - his father said 'they'd be howling there in the daytime even'. The killing of the last pure-bred dingo, about 1920, is described. There is a lengthy description of dingo trapping.

Bill then reveals how father Albert always took his managers' advice - it was always 'Yes Tom, Yes Tom' and at Gudgenby when Ted Brayshaw managed, it was "Yes Ted, Yes Ted!" - the manager knew the property.

The interview shifts to Gudgenby and Bill gives graphic descriptions of the problems of regrowth and rabbits at Gudgenby when Bootes' bought it. For the first few years Tom Oldfield had two gangs each of 10 men eradicating rabbits (Tom's brother Ted Oldfield led one gang at one time).

Bill states that for the 1926-54 period he generally went to Gudgenby only a few times a year, though he was there more often during the second world war.

### Side B

Bill continues the lengthy description of digging out rabbits in the late 1920s. Fallen timber (which provided harbour for rabbits) was also burned. Large stands of dead timber were still on Gudgenby from late 1800s ringbarking. Gudgenby carried no stock for the first year owing to rabbits.

Bill's education at Monaro Grammar School, Cooma, and then Canberra Boys Grammar, is sketched in (Bill is the oldest surviving pupil from the latter).

Referring to the old huts around Gudgenby, Bill says 'None were serviceable in any way at all when we went there'. The only two still standing at all were Jack Rustin's one room hut [grid reference 769429] and Miss Rustin's which stood very near to where Rowley's Rendezvous Creek Hut is today [grid reference 774458]. Bill discusses Marmaduke Lee's old sawmill, the use of its timber and its location a few hundred yards up Middle Creek from Jack Rustin's Hut, on the southern side of the creek. Lee's timber jinker was still there in Bill's youth. Bill also refers to Sinclair's Hut as just a pile of stones [grid reference 778419]. Bill makes the point that he didn't actually get about Gudgenby much until he moved there in 1954 [see also Cletus Crawford, Hugh Read, Everard Oldfield, Roma and Tom Brayshaw and Granville Crawford interview summaries regarding these and other Gudgenby huts].

Bill gives a detailed description of trout fishing in the Gudgenby River and Rendezvous Creek, and goes on to give a critical opinion of Marmaduke Lee.

Bill confirms that Bootes' only had cattle on Gudgenby and refers to Greenfield's experiment with sheep in the 1880s.

Gudgenby's managers are discussed and Bill clearly portrays Tom Oldfield as a hard worker and a tough manager. Tom and family lived in the old homestead; the Bootes' during their visits lived in the £900 Hudson ready-cut home over the creek. There is some mention of the men who worked for either Tom or, later, Ted Brayshaw, but generally few men were employed. Ted's dour nature is described. Bill mentions Granville Crawford senior's accidental shooting while rabbiting.

The point is then made that 7000 acre Gudgenby was 'impossible' to look after given its size. Albert's sale of a couple of thousand acres to Frank and Jack Oldfield (where the pine forest now stands) is described, and Bill says Albert would have sold it all if he could have. Frank Oldfield was manager by this time (and Bill states his critical opinion of Frank for owning his couple of thousand acres while being Gudgenby manager).

According to Bill there were no dingoes at Gudgenby, but in the late 1950s or 1960 feral dogs appeared (possibly resulting from the release of pet dogs by hydro workers following the break-up of Snowy Scheme camps). There is then a lengthy description of the damage done to fences by wombats and kangaroos, the trapping of wombats, and the organisation of kangaroo drives largely for sport. Bill's sympathetic attitude to eagles is contrasted with the attitude of sheep-farmer Rowley Gregory who, says Bill, saw the birds as enemies.

## Tape 2, Side 1

This tape begins with stories about Tom Oldfield and Ted Brayshaw buying their first motor vehicles, the difficulty of negotiating Fitz's Hill and an accident where Tom (who had Roy Neuss with him at the time) rolled his truck between Nursery and Rendezvous Creeks, near the so-called Stoney Nursery.

There follows a lengthy description of the state of the road between Naas and Gudgenby, how the only bridge over the Gudgenby by 1954 was still the Naas one, how the Rendezvous, Glendale and Rocky Crossings were all steep and difficult, etc. Gudgenby was not often cut off, but trips had to be timed to fit in with the weather.

Bill then talks about the footbridge at Gudgenby, built by him in 1956, and how he did the old homestead up when he went to live there in 1954. Mention is made that the kitchen built when his father bought Gudgenby consisted of slabs from Jack Rustin's Hut [see Roma Brayshaw summary].

Heavy snowfalls in the valley were generally rare, but did occur occasionally, and Bill mentions a couple.

Bill relates how Rowley's Rendezvous Creek Hut was very draughty, and goes on to talk about the relationship with brothers Alan and Rowley Gregory who had blocks at Middle and Rendezvous Creeks respectively.

Bill always had a man working with him, to help with the work and provide companionship. Bill spent the nights during the 1954-64 period reading either the week's papers, or books, or listening to the battery radio.

Bill badgered the authorities into putting the power through in about 1967 and he and his hand, John Grigg, surveyed the route from Glendale themselves using grandfather Bootes' theodolite. Pre-electricity living (pressure petrol lights, kero fridge, pressure petrol irons) is described.

Bill and Joan's daughters were at SCEGGS Moss Vale and thought it great to come to Gudgenby for holidays; for Joan and Bill themselves the week-long separations during 1954-64 were difficult, but there was no option.

There is then a discussion of the attractiveness of Gudgenby as a property, the use of superphosphate, prevalence of clovers, etc. Bill was still burning (with a mixture of kero and petrol), the rung timber from years past (it had to be packed or pushed together with the Ferguson tractor which had a blade). He believes horses may have earlier been used to haul timber for long fences; these fences were burned years ago to help keep down the rabbits. The method of getting rabbits out from narrow gaps in boulders is related.

While very familiar with the Yankee Hut art site, Bill knows no more about the Gudgenby Aborigines than is available in written works. His father had been told by McKeahnies about the Nursery Swamp art site, but it remained a mystery until being found again recently by David Kerr.

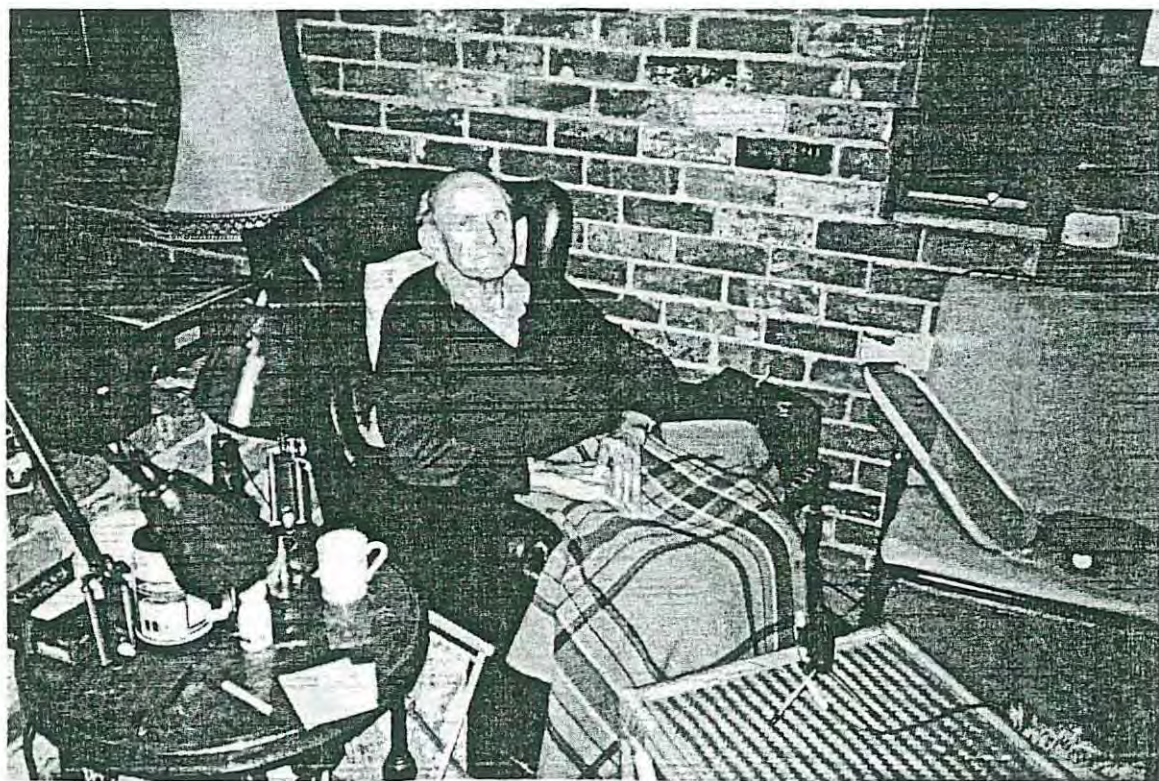
## Side B

This side begins with a lengthy discussion about Bill's relationship with bushwalkers, and, especially, fishermen, (who generally didn't ask permission to enter the property).

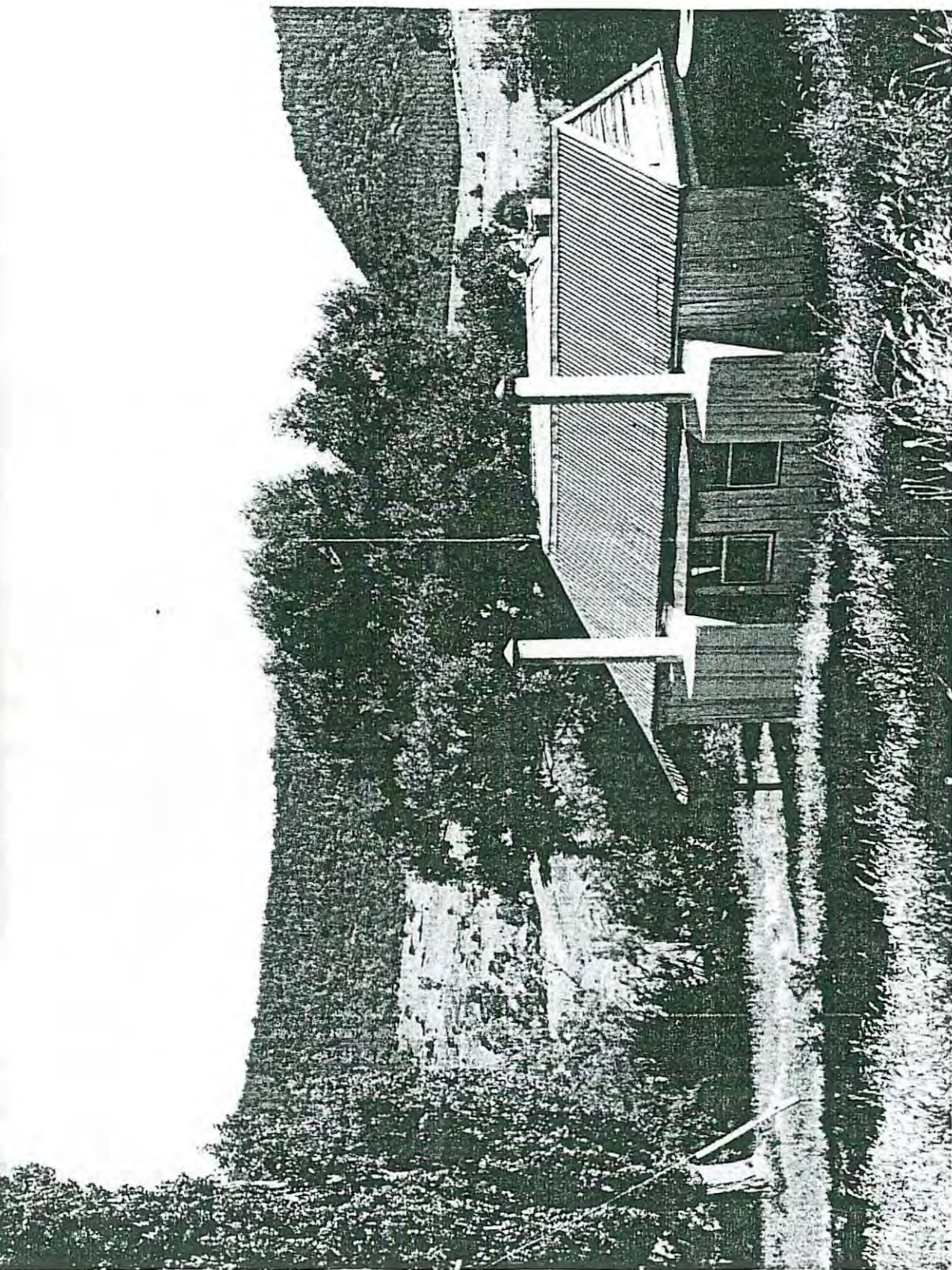
The subject of the Tharwa road is returned to, and Bill traces the order in which improvements (bridges, re-alignments, sealing) occurred. This is followed by a lengthy description of the old route to Gudgenby, which instead of going up Fitz's Hill went up the

Naas Creek valley then over upper Half Moon Creek and on towards Glendale, Brandy Flat and Gudgenby.

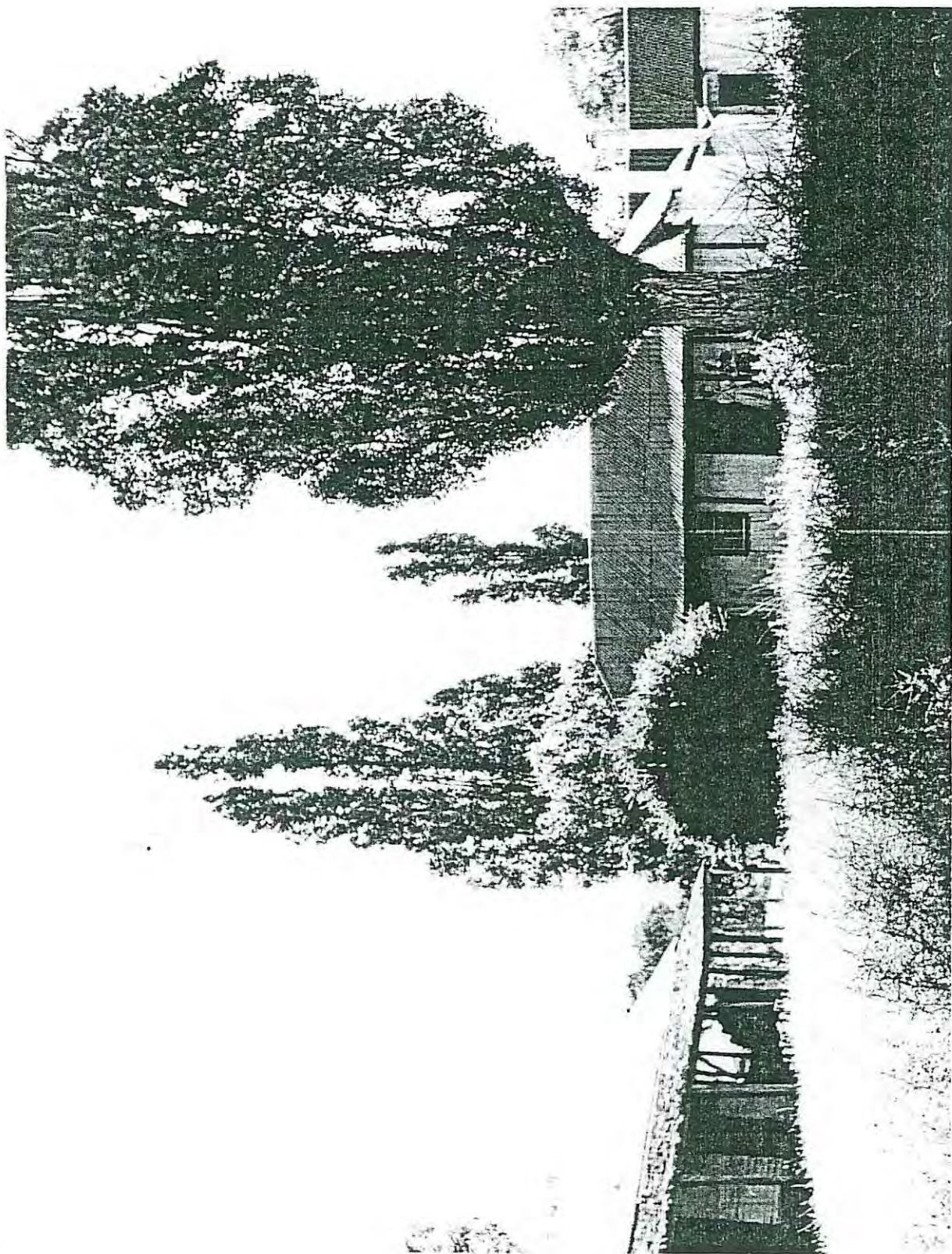
When asked about his family being the last grazing family in Namadgi, Bill emphasised the inherent qualities of the Gudgenby property - 'a damn good property' - and all the work that he had put into it. On the subject of resumption of the land and its conversion to leasehold in 1974, Bill said 'I didn't like it but I couldn't do anything about it'. The impact of the change to short leases is mentioned. The interview ends with Bill Bootes saying that Gudgenby, despite the cold, can be worked successfully if adjustments are made for the climate. He says he never overstocked and feels his mode of management is compatible with a national park.



Bill Bootes. (Author)

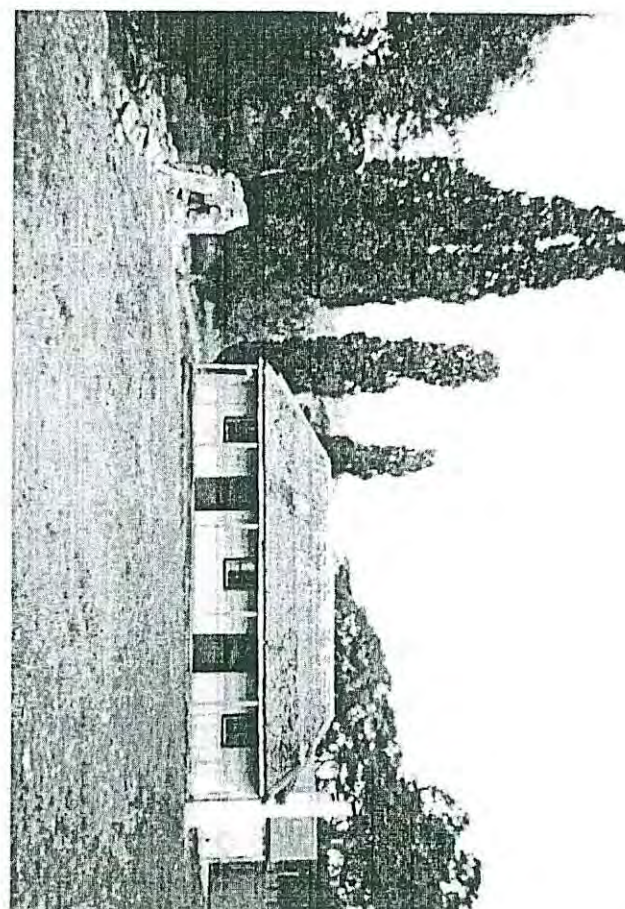
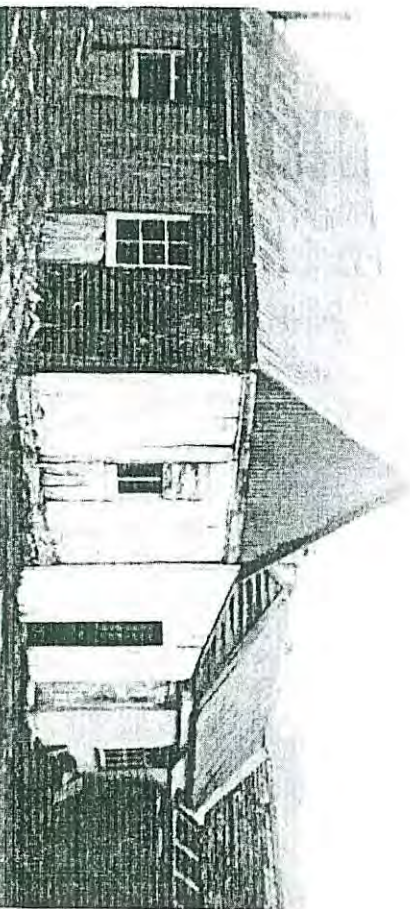


Old Gudgenby homestead. (Bill Bootes)



Old Gudgenby homestead. (Bill Bootes)

Several views of the old Gudgenby homestead prior to its demolition. (Bill  
Bootes)



Dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 1909

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## **TOM GREGORY, Ainslie, Canberra**

Tom was born in January 1922 when his family was living at Kambah. His parents were John Edward Gregory (1880-1939) and Georgina nee Pitcher (c.1892-1968) and they married in about 1915. Tom was Cotter ranger from 1956 to 1984. He married Roma nee Constance in 1978. Sadly, Tom died a few weeks after this interview was recorded.

### **Tape 1. Side A**

The interview begins with family history details. Tom's great-great-grandfather came from Ireland; Tom's grandparents were Tom Gregory and his wife who was of the Lambkins family (she died and Tom later married Barbara McMillan). Tom and Barbara had a selection at Brandy Flat and they probably built the original hut there. Both grandfather Tom and father John (a nephew of John and Rebecca Gregory of Naas) were teamsters. John's work at Lanyon is described.

The family's move to Hill Station and on to Kambah is related, as is John's work at Kambah for Campbell and Seawright. Tom describes their slab house, Kambah homestead and his education at Tuggeranong public school 1928-36.

Tom tells of his father's work as a ranger, then of his own employment as a ranger, first at Pierces Creek in 1938, then at Stromlo from 1939.

In 1956 Tom became Cotter catchment ranger and he describes the area of his responsibility (from Scabby to Coree, 110 000 acres), his being solely in charge and the regulations that he enforced (travellers were allowed to stay one night only in the catchment). That first year he initially went in via Yaouk - '84 miles and 24 gates'. Previous ranger was Jack Silk who in 1953 had succeeded Jack Maxwell. Reasons for the ban on grazing in the Cotter catchment (essentially health reasons) are given (travelling stock however were allowed to move through the catchment).

Tom then describes Cotter House (his quarters). Of slabs with an iron roof, it stood between the present Cotter Ranger's House and the shed nearest the large pine tree; 'she was pretty rough', with a hessian ceiling, clay and timber fireplace and gaps in the floor. Cotter House had been moved from its original location east of the river [grid reference 658533] in about 1932 according to Tom [see Lindsay Prior interview summary on this point]. Dave Perrott re-erected it; his off-sider Johnno Bluett had transported it across the river on his Chev 4 truck [see Lach Maxwell summary on this point]. Jack Maxwell assisted. The move was due to scarcity of firewood around the old site.

Following a discussion of local creek names (eg: Tom believes Jack's Creek was named after Jack Maxwell), Tom talks about the site of Smiths Hut near the Cotter bridge [grid reference 655544] on the east of the river and just down from the bridge (the Smiths being from Williamsdale or Michelago). He mentions also De Salis Hut on a flat on the south side of De Salis Creek [grid reference 652573]. Ted Oldfield and Cuth Kirchner shepherded here for De Salis when they were young. Little remains of either hut.

Tom had Cotter House renovated in 1957 and he describes the work done (eg: fireplace rebuilt, new stove). Water came from the river in buckets, there was also a well and an old spring.

### **Side B**

The description of the 1957 renovation continues; a 'bathroom' and chip heater were put in. Questions of lighting, refrigeration, etc are discussed.

Tom then talks about construction of the present Cotter Ranger's House, built to replace Cotter House in 1960. Materials were trucked in via Bulls Head and Ginini; construction, carried out by builder Don Greenwood, took 3-4 months. The frame was prefabricated. Cotter House was destroyed, to Tom's disappointment. [Note: At this point and during much of the interview, Tom like several other interviewees calls Ginini 'Ginina' and Gingera 'Big Ginina'; the author during this interview confused 'Ginina' for Gingera, which is incorrect.]

Construction of the firetrail from Orroral via Eighty Acres in 1959, and the extension of the Mt Franklin, Ginini road to the Cotter in 1958 is dealt with.

There follows a good description of the isolation of the job and the infrequent contact with outsiders (especially in winter). The quietness was a major attraction for Tom.

Relationships with travelling stockmen (taking stock through to the summer snow leases in Kosciusko National Park) had their ups and downs. Tom then explains why the Orroral firetrail skirted to the north of the Cotter Gap stock route.

Tom tells of his use of packhorses to transport his provisions into the Cotter in 1956 (he started from Victor and Jean Gregory's place at Rocky Crossing). From 1956/57 through till about 1967 he only took his vehicle into the Cotter as far as Cotter House and then rode about the catchment on horseback; from 1967 he used a vehicle to get about in the catchment.

There follows discussion of the Cotter bridge [grid reference above], and of the first bridge on the site built in 1959. Tom saw the water a foot over the bridge in a 1974 or 1975 flood. Then there is discussion of snowfalls, which have lessened over the years. Each winter brought snow to the valley floor, and in about 1964 there was a heavy three feet fall.

Discussion then turns to the annual migration of stock through the Cotter. Mobs generally would be about 2500 sheep or 100 head of cattle. Stockmen camped with Tom on their one night in the Cotter and a 'jug' or some fishing might be shared. He recalls the following stockmen: Granville Crawford, Ted Oldfield, Ted Tong, Granville Oldfield, Stumpy Oldfield, Everard Oldfield, Colin Oldfield, Lester and Tom Blewitt from Williamsdale, Gerry Sheahan and Joe Gullett. Descriptions follow of the time taken to get stock up to Murray Gap, and of the appearance of stock coming from Pond Creek. Tom says 'the dogs did more work than anyone'.

A detailed description of Tom's food supply (including the catching of trout and rabbits) is given.

Aspects of the history of Cotter House are related, including its having been built by Thomas Oldfield. Son Herbert Oldfield [born 1886] was eight years old when the Aboriginal stockman coming over Murray Gap was kicked by his horse and cared for at the Cotter House stable by Queen Nellie and others until he died. Tom says the man's saddle is still on a tree near the site of the accident, and that he was buried about forty yards up river from the Cotter Ranger's House and just on the eastern side of the Yaouk track. At one time the grave was fenced.

Mention is made of a few mining shafts near the old Cotter House site and at Rotten Swamp.

Tom then talks about Jack Maxwell who was ranger from about 1926/27 to 1953. There is also a humorous story about Max Oldfield packing in to the Cotter a keg of beer, for which a tap had to be hand-fashioned on site.

## Tape 2, Side A

Tom continues his recollections about Jack Maxwell and tells of Jack's brumby-running activities with people like Fred Tutty from Wee Jasper. One of their yards may still be standing half a mile north of Stockyard Gap [this is possibly the yard mentioned in the Lach Maxwell interview].

A ski hut built just west of Stockyard Gap in 1932 [approximate grid reference 603646] is described as having been of pine boards, tar paper and a bush timber frame [see Alan Bagnall summary]. There is mention of a slab hut preceding the Mt Franklin Chalet [this may be a mistaken reference to Bill Ginn's slab hut which was built after the Chalet] and brief discussion of Stockyard Creek Hut and the use of the work 'Stockyard' in these local names.

Tom then describes his own brumby trapping methods and the use of salt-baited trapyards, one of which remains on Ginini [grid reference 605660].

Described at some length are the RMC Duntroon ski hut built on Ginini in the 1940s according to Tom [grid reference 609667; see also Alan Bagnall summary], the 'manpowered' rope tow there and various runs, including that at 'Mt Jagungal corner' to Ginini's north [probably the Little Ginini run or New run mentioned by Stan Goodhew and Alan Bagnall]. Tom mentions both the motorcar and motorbike-powered tows at Franklin, and the ranger's role as 'sort of unpaid caretaker' for the Franklin Chalet.

Tom tells how he and Louis Margules in the late 1950s packed in timber for the Bendora Dam surveyor's camp.

Discussion then turns to extremes of cold weather in the Cotter and recollections of the river freezing over. This leads on to the water supply at mountain huts and how races were so often used - old Cotter House had a race from Licking Hole Creek, and the race at Old Currango even powered a generator. Tom's only skiing experience was at Old Currango in 1946/47 when Henry Curtis and Jack Macguire had the snow lease there.

Tom refers to Jack Silk (whom he thought of as not much of a bushman), then relates recollections of Harry Cribb from the Goobarragandra who was one of several men who got work in the Cotter with Jack Maxwell during the Depression (rabbiting, foxtrapping, brumby-running, etc).

The sites of Garrett Cotter's and Bill Oldfield's huts, just south of the Cotter Arboretum by 150 yards or so, are discussed [approximate grid reference for both 653538]. Bill Oldfield is described (eg: his buying of Murray Creek when he lost the Cotter, his being a skin buyer and Queanbeyan iceworks owner, etc). Rowley Robertson's hut site and fruit trees near the Porcupine Creek/Cotter River junction [very approximate grid reference 662486] is referred to, as is Rowley's Hut at Yaouk.

## Side B

Tom continues about Rowley Robertson. He goes on to talk about the first appearance of pigs at the Cotter in the early 1960s and how he trapped them. Dingoes and feral dogs are mentioned. Native wildlife held no great attraction for Tom. Use of gas at the Cotter Ranger's Hut is explained (electricity still hasn't come through to the hut).

Tom talks then about the beginning of work on Corin Dam in 1960 and how the Corin Dam road via Kangaroo Creek follows the route of a former stock route once used to take stock to Long Plain, Cooleman, Leura, Peppercorn and Tin Pot. Problems with Cotter bridges at the time of Corin Dam's construction are described.

After a reference to 'Bung' Harris, Tom then talks about various incidents when he was ranger (policemen fishing not in accord with the rules, hikers, and a stand-off with a man armed with a shotgun).

Asked about his feelings on having to leave the Cotter in 1984, Tom says it was very difficult. He finishes by affirming his love of the Cotter's quietness, describing how Roma would sometimes stay up there with him, how improved access has led to increased numbers of people in the area, and his critical opinion of current bushfire management policies.



The late Tom Gregory on the afternoon of the interview. (Author)

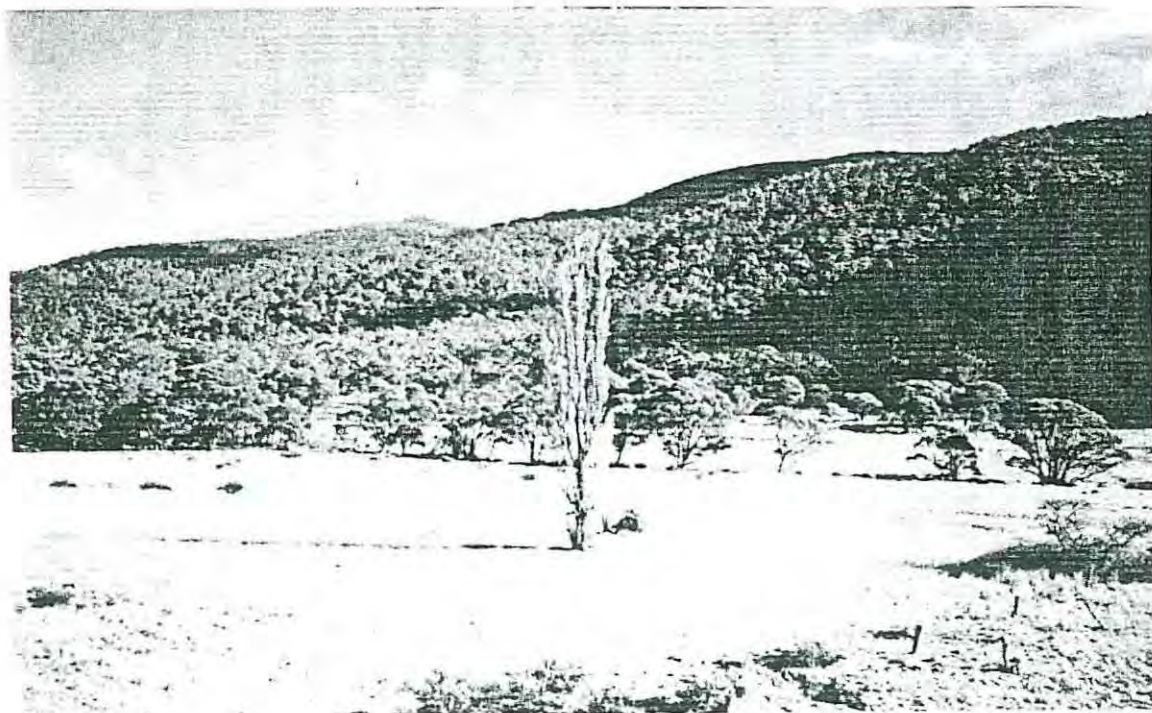
Tom when Stromlo Ranger, pictured at Green Hills above Coppins Crossing, 1940s. (Tom Gregory)





Cotter House, in its original location, in the early 1930s. Coronet Peak is in the background. The old stable stood just uphill from the building and at the extreme left edge of the photo. Note how the river bank has been worn down by stock crossing at this point. The two people are bushwalkers Malcolm Pike and Jim Anderson. (Tom Gregory/Rose Allen)

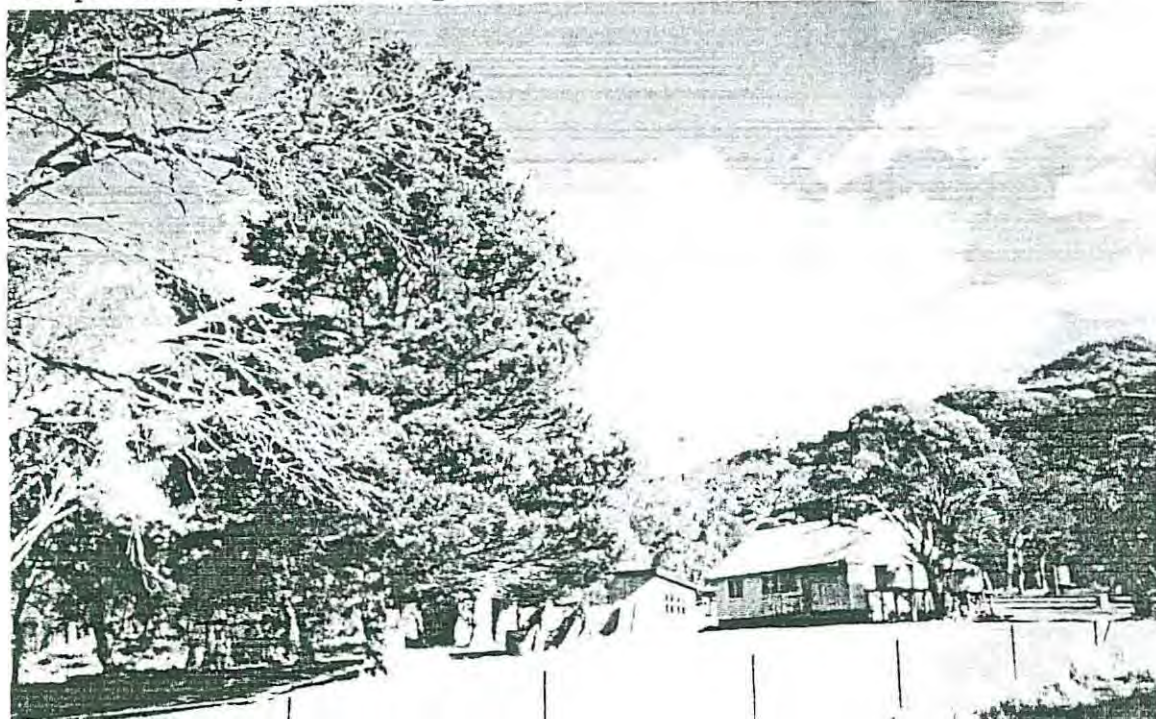
The original Cotter House site is marked by a poplar today; Mt Murray and the lower part of Bimberi are seen in the background. (Author)





Cotter House, in its relocated position on the western side of the river, in 1959. The people are Tom and a fencing team who put in the fence around the building. (Tom Gregory)

The present-day Cotter Ranger's House, built in 1960. (Author)



## LINDSAY PRYOR, Red Hill, Canberra

Lindsay Pryor was born in October 1915 at Moonta, South Australia. He began studying forestry at Adelaide University in 1932 and in 1934 he came to Canberra to complete his studies at the then seven-year-old Australian Forestry School. In 1936 he became Assistant Forester, ACT, and then ACT Acting Forester during the second world war. In 1945 Lindsay was appointed Superintendent (later Director) of Parks and Gardens, a position he held until becoming Professor of Botany at the ANU in 1959. Retiring in 1977, he now does forestry consulting work. His first wife, Wilma nee Percival, died in 1978 and he has since remarried, his second wife being Nancy nee Cook.

### Tape 1, Side A

Beginning with a description of forestry studies at the time that he did his course, Lindsay moves on to a valuable portrayal of Charles Edward Lane Poole who was head of the Australian Forestry School and Inspector General of the Forestry and Timber Bureau. This includes Lane Poole's studies and work overseas, his career in Australia, and his having lost part of his left arm in a gun accident. Lindsay was appointed Assistant Forester in June 1936, and he describes his work in the mountains (under ACT Forester Cyril Cole) and the establishment of pine plantations at Pierces Creek, Uriarra, etc to control rabbit erosion in the Cotter and to establish a productive industry.

Jack Maxwell's responsibilities as Cotter ranger (policing illegal grazing, controlling brumbies, etc) are then related. Lindsay spent a lot of time with Maxwell in the course of his work and he talks about brumby-running trips around Ginini in the late 1930s. Trapyards and their rough locations are mentioned. Lindsay says that probably 30% of runs were successful; he in fact rode a broken-in brumby at one time. Others involved, like Maxwell's sons and Harry Cribb, are mentioned.

Lindsay describes Maxwell's personality and says he was 'a superb bushman' and very conscientious about his horses. He also says he was 'a bit of a loner'. Ivy Maxwell's holiday trips to see Jack are mentioned.

Maxwell's fire prevention practice of 'frequent and light burning' greatly impressed Lindsay (a major part of his duties revolved around prevention of bushfires) and he describes how this was done by flicking wax matches from the saddle while riding along trails, etc.

Lindsay got around the Brindabellas and the Cotter largely on foot and also on horseback. He relates rides with Jack Maxwell, and tells of an occasion when their packhorse, Boxer, nearly drowned, and states Maxwell's reaction.

### Side B

The Boxer incident in concluded.

Lindsay then talks about the original Cotter House and how he and fellow student Bill (William George) Sharpe first saw it in winter 1935. He believes the building was moved across the river possibly in 1939; he lists Jack Maxwell, one of Maxwell's sons and maybe Harry Cribb and Dave Perrott as the people involved in the move [see also Lach Maxwell summary in regard to this point]. The move was due to depletion of firewood at the old site, and reconstruction was faithful to the original building.

After talking more about his winter 1935 trip to the snows of Bimberi, Lindsay returns to Cotter House and mentions how draughts were overcome, and sleeping arrangements. There follows a humorous recollection of a trip with Jack Maxwell to Gudgenby (via Rendezvous Creek bridle track) and a night's accommodation there.

Maxwell's provisioning of Cotter House, and the old bush ration of 10,10,2,1/4 (flour: meat: sugar: tea respectively) is given a little later.

Lindsay talks of a long hike in August 1938 taking in Brindabella, Argalong, Tumut, Yaouk, Cotter House and Snowy Flats, and describes the impact of the 1939 fires at Snowy Flats. Again reference is made to fire prevention and how Lindsay travelled with a packhorse-mounted radio set around the Brindabellas, Argalong, Fiery Range, Currango and Wee Jasper in the early 1940s. Permanent aerals were located at several places, including Aggie Gap.

Bendora Hut [grid reference 628785] and the Arboretum are described. Lindsay talks then about Stockyard Creek Hut, built probably in 1938 by Jack Newlyn, Tom Rawlings, Norman Coulton and consisting of a bush timber frame, slab walls, a bark roof and bush bunks of forked sticks and bags. It was 'a trivial affair really, but something you could overnight in and get out of the weather'. It was built to service Stockyard Creek Arboretum and timber from the area was also taken for Lane Poole's ski-making activities. Location of the hut was probably at grid reference 616654 or possibly 617653. [See also the Lach Maxwell and Max Oldfield summaries regarding the hut's roofing.]

Of Mt Franklin Chalet, Lindsay recalls the Canberra Alpine Club's enthusiasm and Lane Poole's leading role. In January 1939 Lindsay gave a lift home to a very sunburnt Gough Whitlam after a working bee on the ski runs.

Brief mention follows of the RMC ski hut, the Bulls Head forestry settlement, Rayner's 1934 sawmill at Lees Creek and logging in the area. The interview then focuses on Pryors Hut which was built to provide shelter for workers connected with the nearby alpine botanical annexe. Lindsay gives a detailed explanation of the purpose of the annexe which was intended to be a public display area for alpine and sup-alpine plant species, including local plants and endemic Kosciusko varieties. The project was instituted by the Parks and Gardens Section, of which Lindsay was head - though he is amused that the hut was named after him.

## **Tape 2. Side A**

Description of the alpine botanical annexe [located at about grid reference 614618] with its huon pine markers, paths, etc, continues and Dr Erwin Gauba's role is noted.

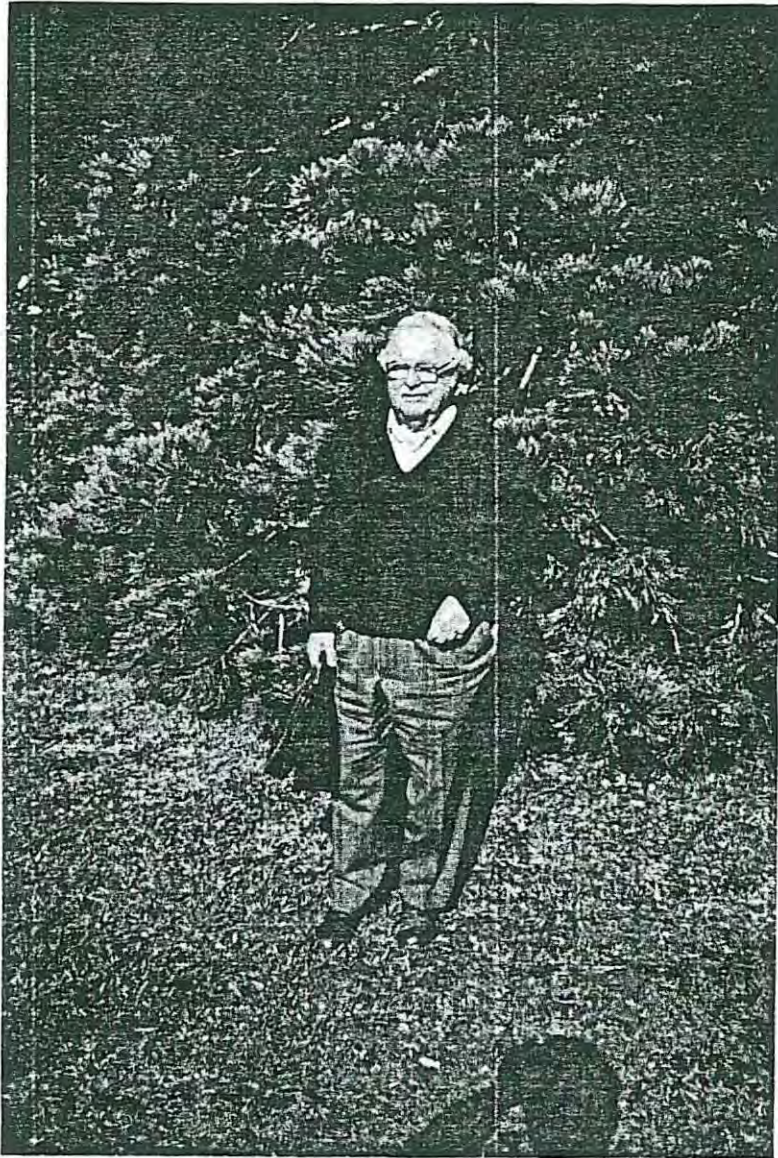
The hut was built mainly by Ted Kennedy, with assistance from Jack Newlyn, Tom Rawlings, Pat Fisher, Jimmy Boyd and Norman Coulton. It was built over a period of about four to six weeks one summer in the early 1950s. Lindsay describes his work visits to the hut and mentions the many times that it has provided shelter to parties caught in bad weather. The annexe project unfortunately eventually languished.

Lindsay talks then about the Scotts Pine arboretum adjacent to the hut, planted either in or contiguous to the old horse paddock (the paddock, says Lindsay, was not part of the hut/annexe project, but was put in so that the Cotter ranger could leave a horse at that point). The pines were planted by Lindsay as a trial on behalf of Dr Jürgen Raeder Roitzsch and Dr Marie Phillips who were working for the Snowy Mountains Authority on erosion control work. Aspects of the Australian climate and its effects on northern hemisphere trees like these pines are described.

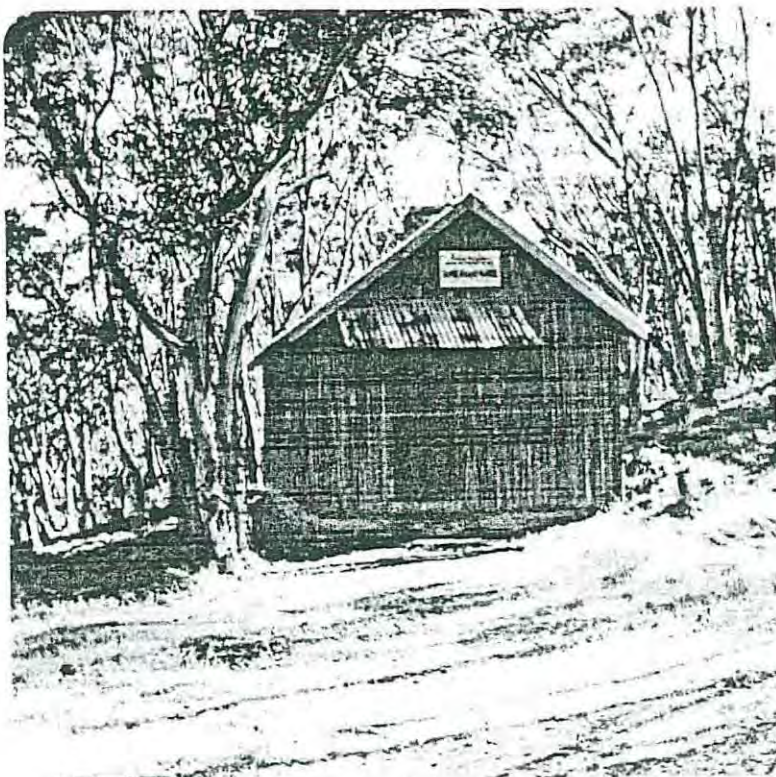
Lindsay then contrasts the way the materials for Pryors Hut were trucked in, with the use of local bush materials for Stockyard Creek Hut.

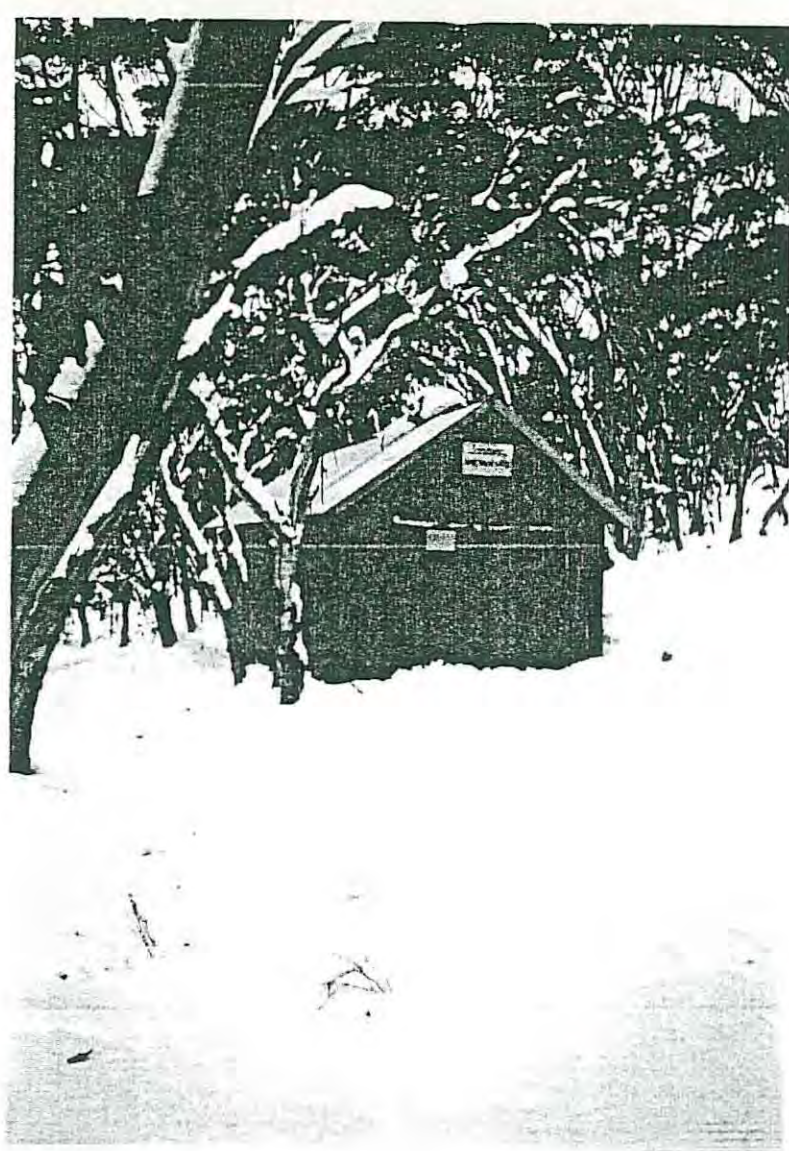
Before concluding, the interview touches on a range of different points: the manning of a firetower at California Flats (north-west of Mt Coree) by Long Plain gold-miner Billy Jemmett; the place on the old Chalet road nicknamed Andersons Shower [rough grid reference 625784] and its connection with the water supply for Bendora Hut; the roles

of Colonel J T H Goodwin and Harry Wark in the construction of the Mt Franklin Road in the 1930s-40s (including aspects of Goodwin's personality); trips with ANU botany students to Snowy Flats in the 1960s and, finally, description of Jack Maxwell's trips home to Queanbeyan from the Cotter.

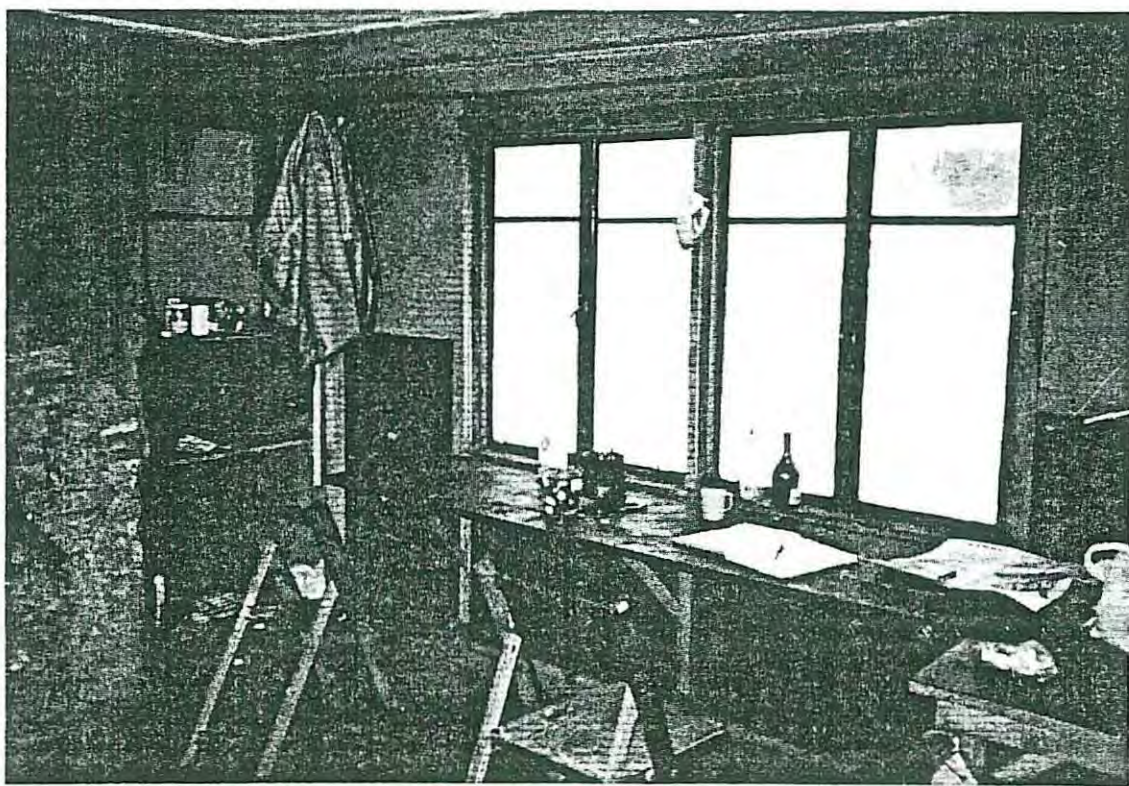


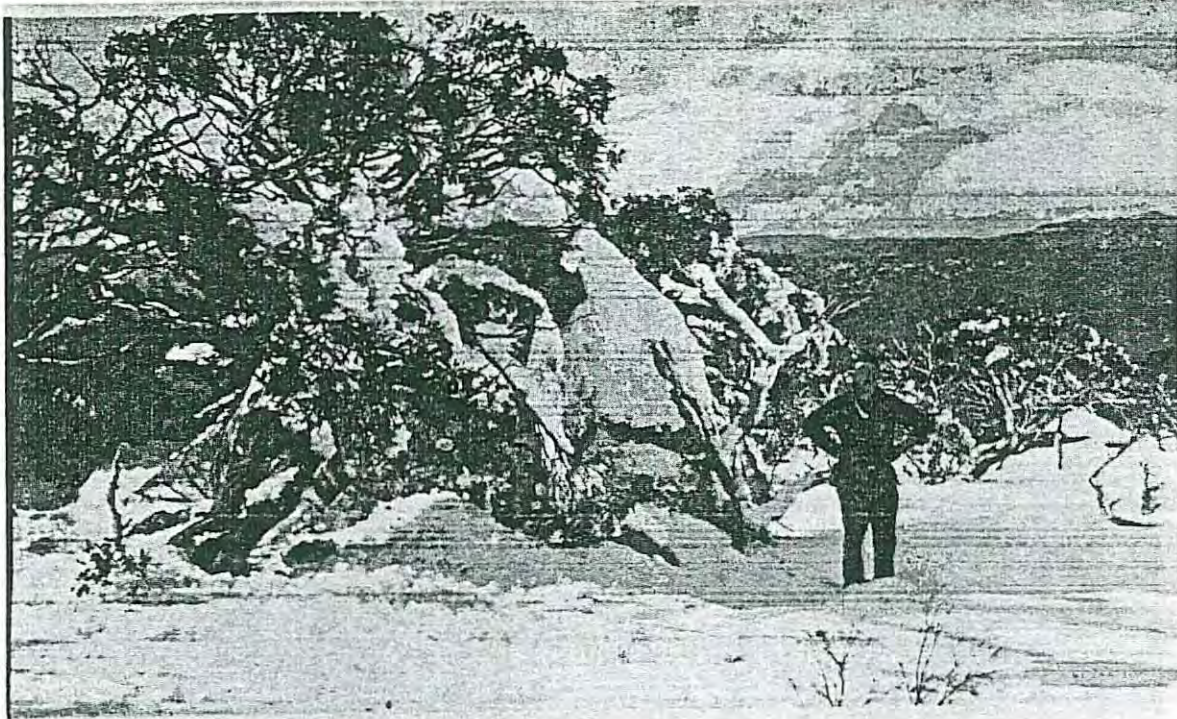
Lindsay Pryor and the hut which bears his name. (Author)





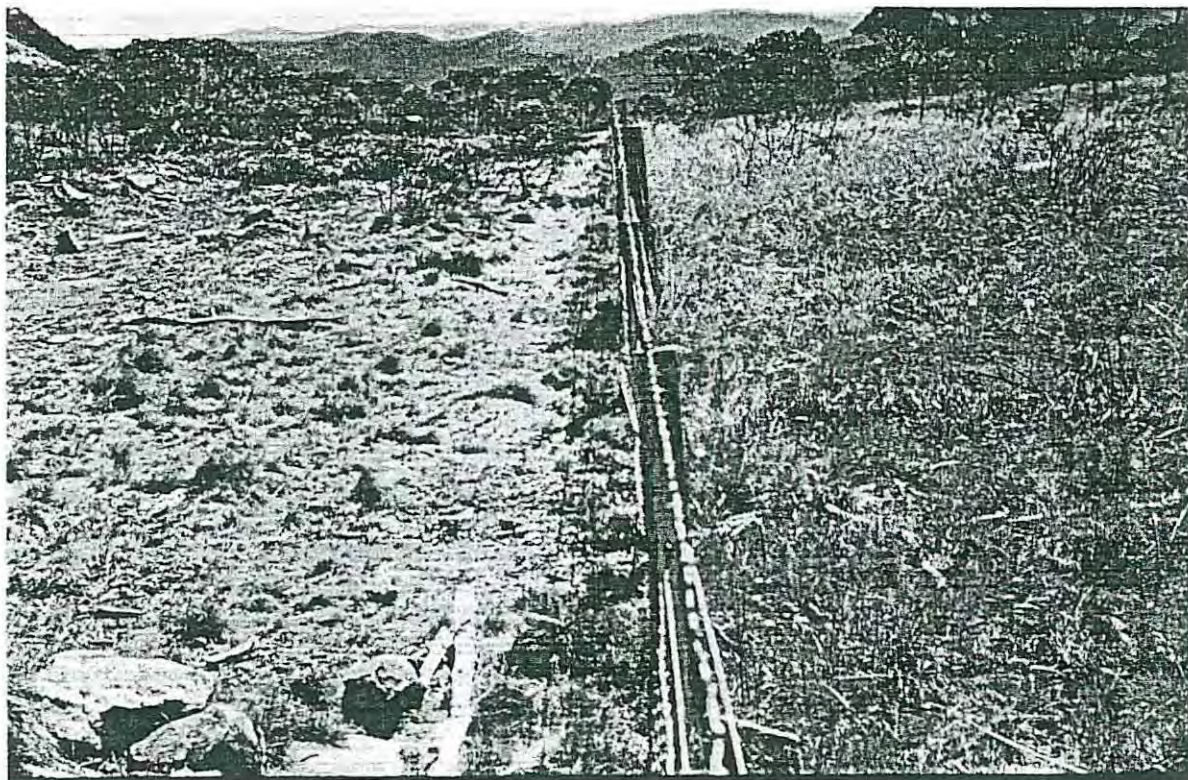
External and internal views of Pryors photographed by the author during a ski tour on 10 August 1989.



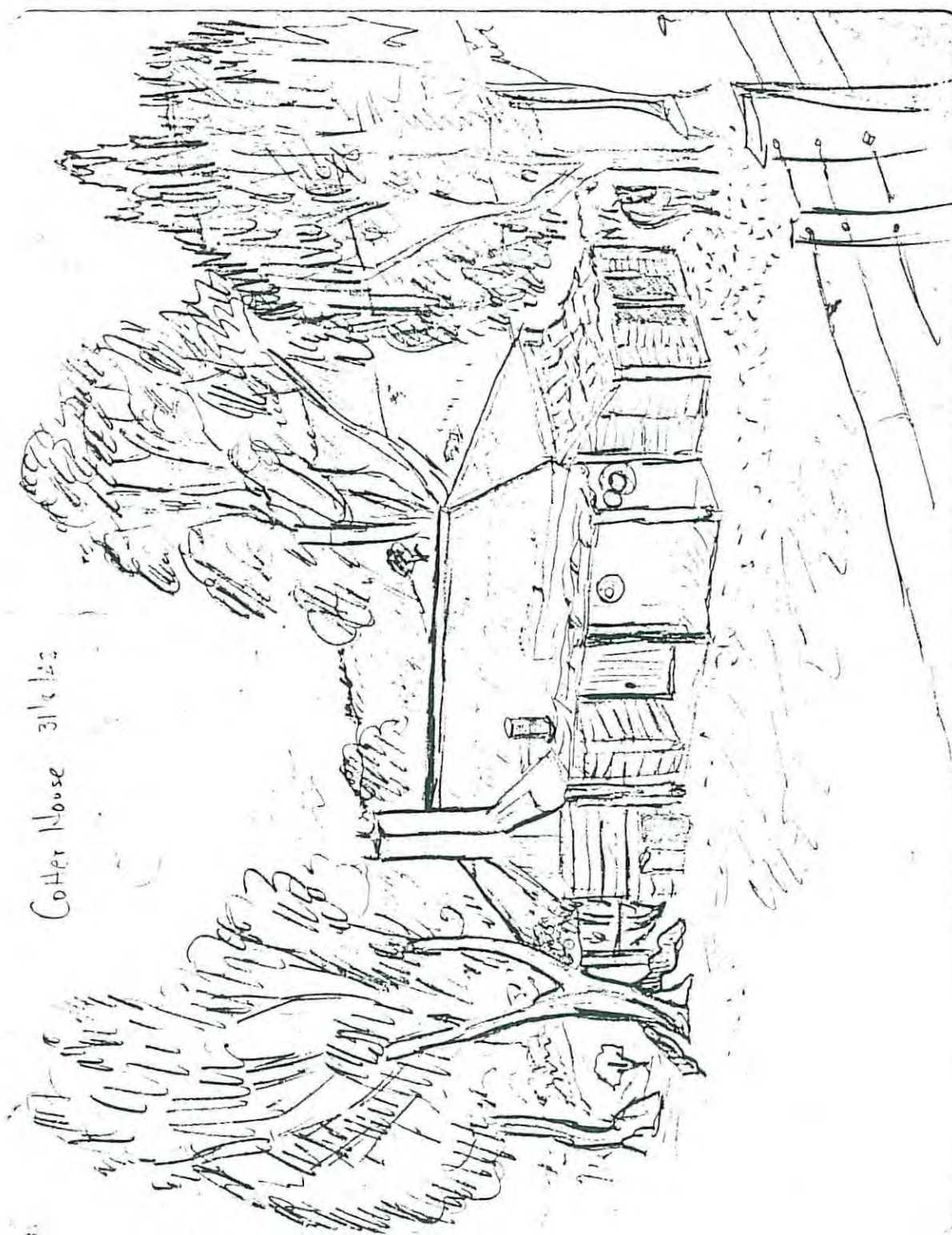


Lindsay (above) and Bill Sharpe (below) at the summit of Bimberi during their winter 1935 trek. (Bill, who like Lindsay was a South Australian, joined the RAAF during the second world war and was killed in North Africa.) (Lindsay Pryor)





An early 1950s photo of the horse paddock adjacent to Pryors (the view is looking west). The picture graphically portrays the impact of one horse confined to too small an area. (Lindsay Pryor)



Cotter House 31/8/42

L. D. PRYOR

Lindsay's sketch of Cotter House in August 1942. This illustration shows the building from the rear; Tom Gregory's 1959 photo depicts the view from the front. (Lindsay Pryor)

## COLIN and DAPHNE CURTIS, 'Balgala Valley', Binalong

Colin Curtis was born in July 1938, one of four children of Henry Curtis (1908-1972) and Iris nee Oldfield (1911- ). The family at that stage were living at David Brayshaw's old house adjacent to the Bobeyan Road. In 1951 Henry and Iris bought Con Kelleher's property Rockview near Rocky Crossing; after finishing his schooling Colin worked for his parents and then later in the 1950s he and brother Norman bought land in the Mt Clear area. Colin in 1961 married Daphne nee Reid, oldest daughter of Tom Reid and Flossie nee Venables (Flossie's sisters Lucy, Lesley and Sylvia married interviewees Cletus Crawford, Stumpy Oldfield and Everard Oldfield respectively). Colin and Daphne and their four children lived at Mt Clear until 1973 when their land was resumed for the then Gudgeby Nature Reserve. They bought their present property near Binalong a year later. (It should be noted that in this summary, and in each one following, the traditional spelling of Bobeyan has been used in preference to the modern Boboyan; the traditional spelling more accurately reflects the name's pronunciation.)

### Tape 1, Side A

The tape begins with details about Henry Curtis, his birth at Adaminaby, the move to Peak View, his work rabbit-trapping for T A Field at Lanyon, his marriage to Iris and their move to Lenanes, Naas, and Henry's rabbit-trapping for Tom Oldfield. There is mention here of Brandy Flat, which in the 1950s was held by Kevin Smith. Colin then recounts how Tom Oldfield bought David Brayshaw's old property jointly for son Jack Oldfield and son-in-law Henry Curtis and how Henry and Iris moved there in 1936; Henry paid for his share of the property after a winter's trapping. [During the interview the Brayshaw house is variously referred to as David Brayshaw's place, Tin Dish, Bobeyan and Curtis's.] This is followed by a brief discussion of the name Tin Dish. Daphne points out that the so-called Tin Dish school nearby was more correctly called Bobeyan school.

Henry bought land adjacent to Grassy Creek from Bruce Jeffery just after the second world war and it was here that Colin's brother Norman built his house in 1956 [at grid reference 786261].

Colin then recounts his earliest memories of going to school at Shannons Flat and he and Daphne describe the school. In 1949 snowfalls kept Colin away from school for six weeks and he tells of numbers of kangaroos dying from the cold and snow (some sought shelter in Potter's chimney). Daphne too went to Shannons Flat school and she later took up nursing.

The old slab David Brayshaw house is described; the fibro extensions came from the Gudgeon's property a little east of Bobeyan homestead and were transported and re-erected at Curtises by Claude Bridle in about 1946 or 1948. These extensions were needed because Curtises had workers living with them; apart from seasonal shearers, two workers were Percy Chalker and Wallace Bates. The shearing shed (built about 1936-37 and extended about 1945-46) is also described. Russells (of Mt Clear) used to have their sheep shorn at this shed too.

There is discussion of the fruit trees and fencing down the hill to the north of the house [at about grid reference 792283]; Colin believes this may have been a grave [there is some uncertainty about the site actually being discussed].

During 1952-54 Colin attended Tnarwa primary school; he was put up by aunt and uncle Dulcie and Jack Oldfield at Willow Glen. Jim McKissick's school bus and teacher Dick Hopman are mentioned and comparisons with the Shannons Flat school are made.

The David Brayshaw house and property remained in the Curtis family until 1973; after finishing school Colin lived and worked there with brother Norman and also worked at the Rocky Crossing property.

## Side B

This side begins with a story about Henry Curtis buying 100 sheep from Morris Luton at 1s per head. This is followed by further recollections of riding to school at Shannons Flat in the 1940s.

Colin talks about the sort of work that he did after finishing school (eg: stockwork, ringbarking) and then the land purchases made during the 1950s: he and Norman bought Horse Gully in 1954, in 1956 they bought Jack Cotter's Mt Clear property and then a year later Henry bought Russell's Mt Clear property for them.

This is followed by a lengthy discussion of the Russells and the Mt Clear property. Aub Russell and his wife (nicknamed Jinx), bought Mt Clear in about 1934 or earlier (from either Barretts or Brayshaws), but they spent most of their time on their home property, Riverview, near Adaminaby. Aub's nephew Claude (better known as Sam) Russell helped run the property, and lived part-time in the old Barrett house on Naas Creek [grid reference 833287]. Then in 1946 the Mt Clear house was built [grid reference 818286] by Bill Warner for £500 and Sam and his wife Paula moved in there (though they still lived and worked on the property part-time, spending the rest of their time at Riverview). Workers who lived on the property included a bullock driver named Thompson (or Thomson), Bernie Halloran and Frank and Molly Fletcher. Colin moved into the Mt Clear house soon after the purchase in 1957.

Daphne and Colin describe the Barrett house as having a shingle roof, a mixture of slab and weatherboard walls, 'a good stone chimney', and at least two rooms. The second building at the site was largely stone, having possibly been a cool room which was later converted to a garage. They salvaged materials from it for their garage at Mt Clear.

They describe the Mt Clear house as being built of weatherboard with an iron roof, lined with plywood and with a fibro ceiling and four main rooms; the verandah was later filled in for a bathroom and laundry. Sam Russell had also had a three-roomed fibro shearers quarters built.

Daphne talks then about cooking on the fuel stove, ironing with flat irons, washing with a copper and how water was carried from the outside tank until pipes and taps were brought inside. There are very good descriptions of the impact of the cold winter climate (eg: the kettle freezing at night) and this leads on to discussion of kangaroo and possum rugs and tanning with alum and salt.

The Curtises salted down their own bacon and meat and shopped monthly at Cooma or Queanbeyan. Daphne was not worried by the isolation (she once went 12 months without a female visitor) and she accompanied Colin around the property when able.

Daphne talks about aspects of the births of her four children in relation to the isolated nature of Mt Clear.

In discussing the arrival of the telephone in 1966 Colin tells of losing the sight in his right eye through an accident with the wire.

## Tape 2. Side A

Discussion of the routine of stockwork begins this tape and Colin mentions that one year he was off his horse for only nine days. Shearing and dipping are discussed and Colin talks about construction of the dip on Grassy Creek [grid reference 770282] in about 1947 by his father, Frank Oldfield, Charlie Westerman, Percy Chalker and possibly Wallace Bates. Morris Luton's spring cart was used to carry sand for the concrete and the

timber for the yards came from out of the bush. [NB: the name Frank's Hut is here used to refer to Waterhole Hut.]

The constant routine of drenching - a 'pretty well continuous job all the time' is covered, as is the movement of stock between properties according to the climate, feed, etc. Daphne talks of how she coped with Colin's absences and of the work she did in the sheds during shearing time.

Sam Aboud, and his purchase of Jack Maguire's Long Flat property, are briefly mentioned, as is Aboud's landmark open air toilet.

Colin understands that Ted Brayshaw was born at Aboud's site and that Ted's father Edward must have had a selection there; the Brayshaws left there about 1904-05 to move to Bredbo. Edward was a carpenter and he built many sheds around Billilingra, Bombalong, etc. His death from an adze wound in 1911 is described.

Colin has no information about Chalker's chimney [grid reference 840263], although his paternal grandmother was a Chalker. He mentions that Brayshaws must have owned the land at some time. There is then brief mention of Reg Brayshaw's place [grid reference 810270].

Both Horse Gully and Curtis Refuge huts were used by Colin and Norman when mustering or drenching (Curtises always called the latter hut Mt Clear Hut). The cattleyards half way between the two [grid reference 860325] were built by Colin in 1968. Sheepyards between these and Horse Gully, together with the large yards built by Gary Cotter near Curtis Refuge, are also discussed (both have since been lost to fire). Colin confirmed that Bill Cotter built Curtis Refuge hut; he states that Horse Gully was built not by Tom Roseby but by a trapper working for Roseby\*. There is mention here of a man, Nolan, who got lost near Horse Gully and lost toes to frostbite.

Colin then talks about his ownership of vehicles and this leads to discussion of transportation and the monthly shopping trips. Daphne describes the goods bought (eg: sugar in 25lb bags, etc) and the way that meat was kept at Mt Clear. The acquisition of a 32 volt generator in about 1966-67 made a big improvement in the Curtises life (powering a washing machine and electric lights - 'it was fantastic' says Daphne).

Snow leases are then referred to. Colin describes his first trip with Jack Oldfield to the Pockets, and then talks about Old Currango (which was held by his father until 1954) and the annual trips up there with stock, trips which were 'one thing we used to look forward to'.

## Side B

The description of Old Currango continues, with Colin saying 'I always thought it was a mansion'. He recalls that the newspaper lining on the walls included one paper dated 1872. The route to the lease went via Yaouk and Colin met many of the Cochrans there; 'it was a great thing this going to the snow leases ... you'd run into people all the way'. A bottle of rum was in most packsaddles.

Daphne talks about her own riding experiences and then how she and the kids used to go by vehicle to Horse Gully Hut when Colin was working there and perhaps camp there for a week at a time.

There is then quite a lot of discussion on local wildlife - a sudden influx of tiger snakes one year, the need to cull kangaroo numbers when they got into the oat paddock, etc, the delights of the local birdlife. Daphne feels there was more wildlife there then than now; for the Curtises wildlife was an important feature of life at Mt Clear. Attention is then

\*[N.B. See also Margaret Roseby interview with her father Tom Roseby, KHA Collection.1]

given to feral animals - goats, pigs (which arrived in the 1960s) and dogs (1970s). Daphne mentions having found Aboriginal tools on the property one day.

People using the Bobeyan road 'fairly frequently' ran out of petrol and Colin and Daphne had to assist. (It was Daphne who had the sign put up at Tharwa advising motorists of the lack of facilities on the road.)

The Curtises saw only a few bushwalkers and shooters and the huts on the property were never used by these groups. The huts were never locked and, in accordance with 'hut law' were always provisioned with emergency food and wood should passers-by be in need. As an aside to shooters being in difficulties in the area, Daphne mentions a rescue helicopter landing at Mt Clear in 1965 after a heavy fall of snow.

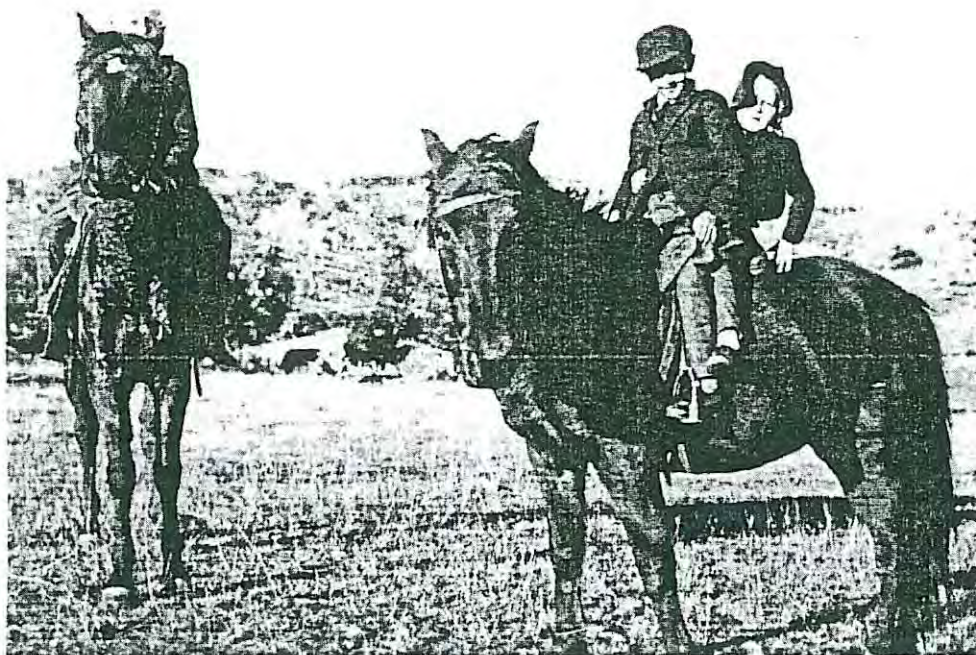
The interview finishes with Colin and Daphne talking about the resumption of the property, the compensation payment made (which they feel was not a fair one), the national park (which they see as a recreation area for Canberra), and their life on their present property compared with life at Mt Clear. Mt Clear is remembered as being in many ways a better life.



Daphne and Colin Curtis. (Author)

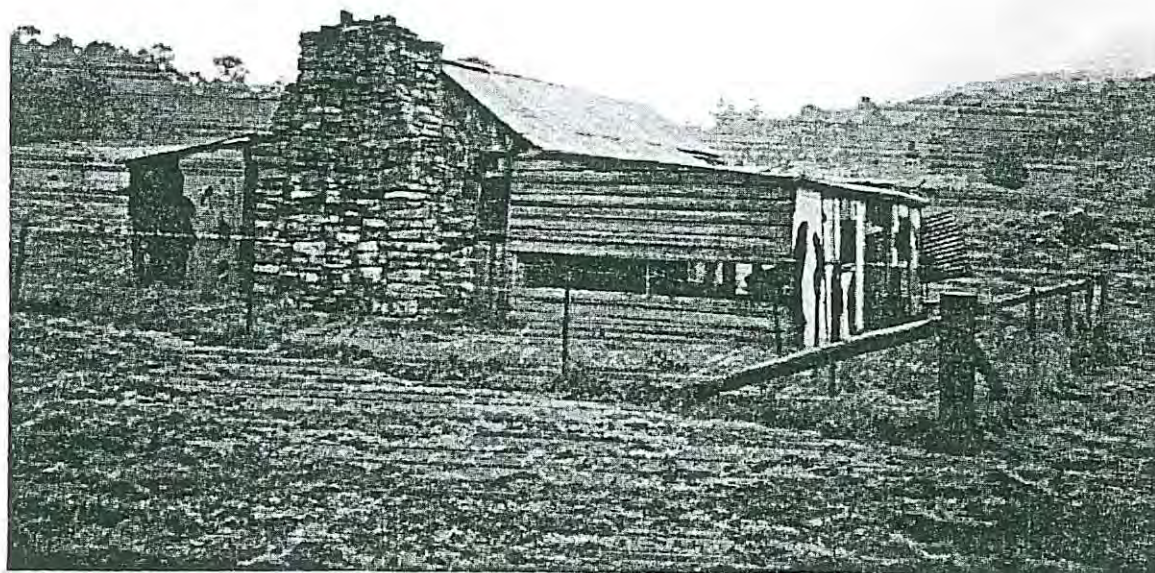
Seen here on Colin and Daphne's wedding day at St Raphael's, Queanbeyan, are their parents, l-r, Henry Curtis, (Lillian) Flossie Reid, (Edwin William) Tom Reid and Iris Curtis. (Daphne and Colin Curtis)





Colin and his sister Joan on Pod, with, at left, brother Norman on Pony, about to leave home for Shannons Flat School in about 1947. (Daphne and Colin Curtis)

The David Brayshaw house today. (Author)





Colin with two of his and Daphne's children, Sharon and Michael (left), and two of his sister Joan's children, Susie and Garry Cameron (right), in front of the Mt Clear shearers' quarters, 1967. (Dog Prince at left!) (Daphne and Colin Curtis)

Mt Clear shearing shed in about 1972. (Daphne and Colin Curtis)





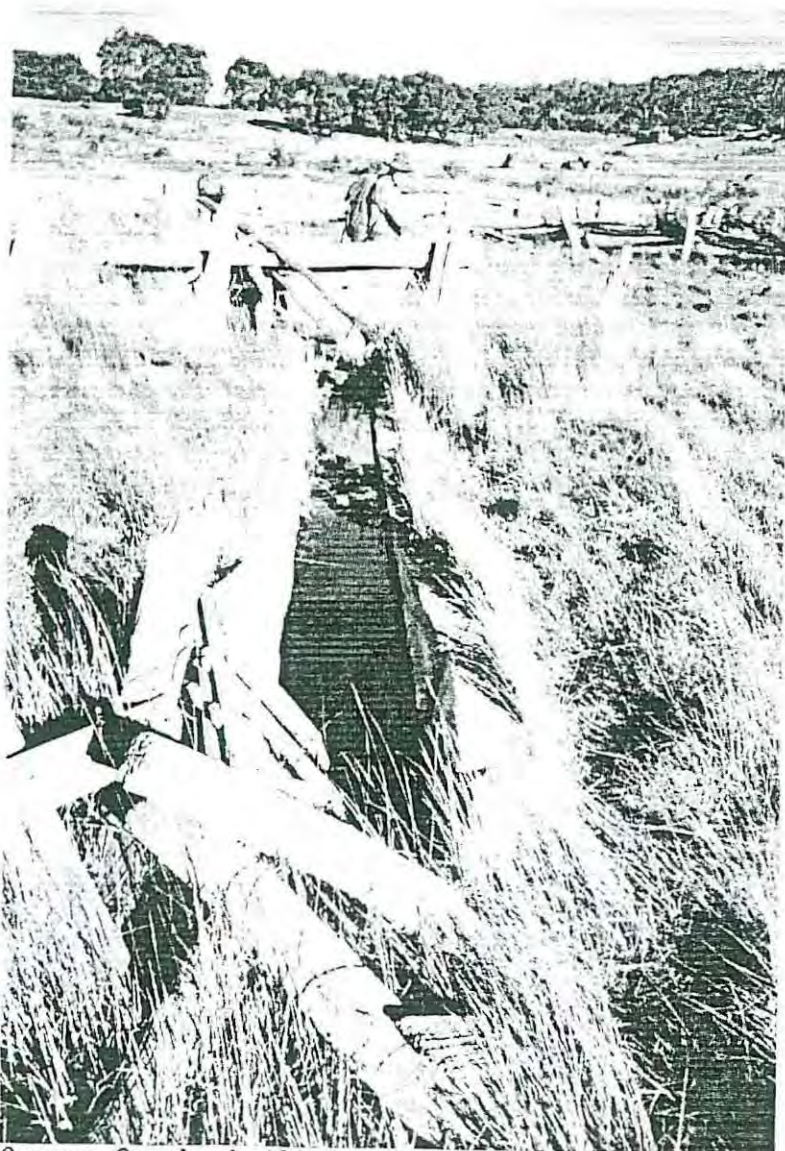
Shearing at Norman Curtis' shed in 1972. (Daphne and Colin Curtis)

Snow was still lying around the Mt Clear house three weeks after a big fall of about 3½ feet in July 1961. (Daphne and Colin Curtis)





Yards built by Colin between Curtis Refuge and Horse Gully huts. (Author)



The dip on Grassy Creek, built in about 1947. (Seen at the far end of the dip is KHA President Graham Scully - the photo was taken during one of the bushwalks carried out in preparation for the interviews; KHA Namadgi Huts Maintenance Officer Maurie Sexton also participated in this day walk which



Bill Cotter, who built this hut, called it Demandering (pronounced Demondring) and subsequent owners the Curtises called it Mt Clear Hut. Today it is called Curtis Refuge Hut - a name used by none of its previous owners. (Author)

Horse Gully Hut. (Author)

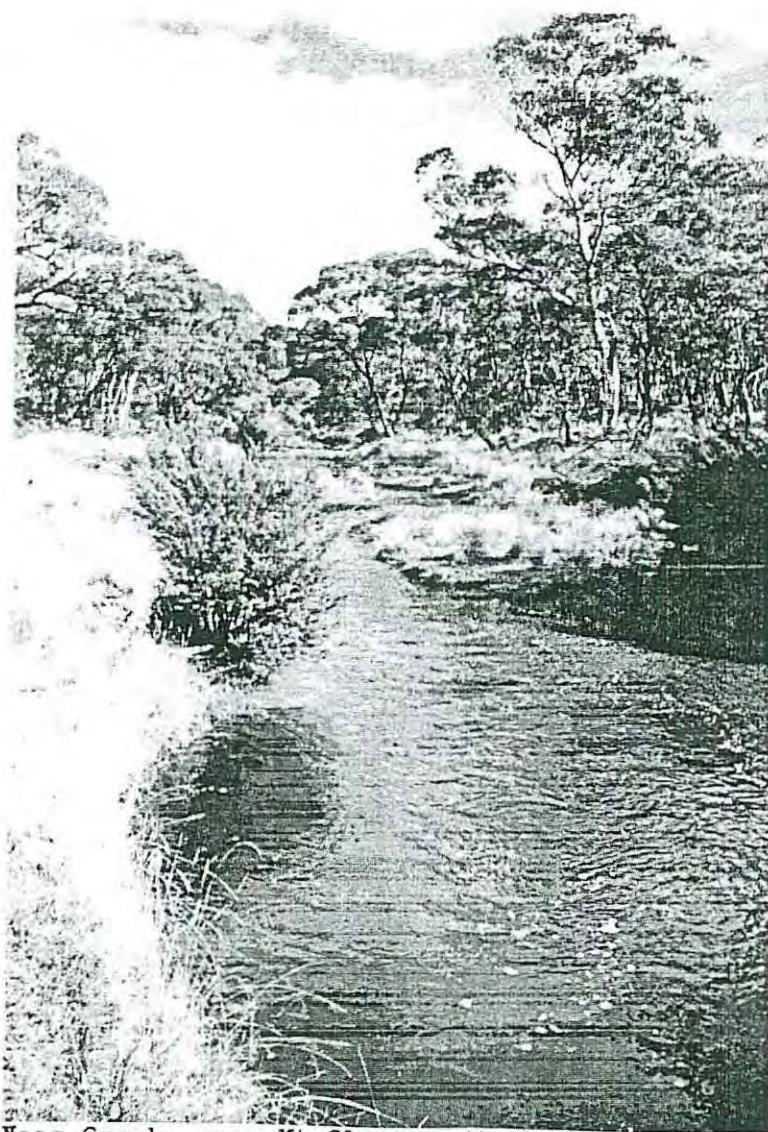




Potters chimney. (Author)

Chalkers chimney. (Author)





Naas Creek, near Mt Clear. (Author)

Sam Aboud's landmark outdoor toilet. (Author)





Wedding group at Jim Barrett and Annie Locker's wedding: (rear, l-r) Walter Locker (brother of bride), Charles Locker, Henry Barrett nursing daughter Ruby (now nonagenarian Ruby Miners), Sid Barrett (brother of groom), Sam Clugston, Arthur Locker (brother of bride), Daisy Locker (sister of bride), Henrietta Freebody, Edith Clugston (nee Locker, sister of bride and wife of Sam; (front, l-r) Mrs Henry Barrett snr (nee Brayshaw), Mr and Mrs George Barrett, Jim Barrett (groom), Annie Locker (bride), Alice Locker (sister of bride), Mrs Charles Locker (sister of groom) nursing Herbie, John and Betsy Locker (nee Woodfield) bride's parents, Edith Clugston's daughter Edna.

## NOEL LUTON, 'Muzzlebrook', Shannons Flat

Noel Luton was born in November 1931, first son of (Charles) Morris Luton (1908-c.1987) and Frances nee Clugston (1903-1974). In 1952 Noel married Fay nee Murphy who was born in 1924 in Cooma; they have three sons. In 1952 Morris (whose home Roseview - built about 1929-30 - is opposite Muzzlebrook at Shannons Flat) arranged the purchase of Bobeyan for Noel and Noel's brother Greg (both of whom paid for the property). The Lutons had Bobeyan until it was resumed in the early 1970s.

### Side A

The interview begins with Noel talking about the arrival of the Lutons in the Shannons Flat area in the 1870s. The history of Muzzlebrook follows (built about 1913-14, it is the third house on the site). Noel went to Shannons Flat school from about 7 to age 15, and his schooling is compared with that of his children at Cooma.

Morris Luton worked for Dick Brayshaw at Bobeyan from before Noel's birth. Noel talks of this work, then of his own earliest recollections of Bobeyan, of opening gates for mailman Herb Jones and of the close relationship between the Lutons and Dick Brayshaw (to whom Noel was related, through his maternal grandmother who was a Locker). (While Brayshaw is referred to as Dick in this summary, many locals still called him Richard.)

Noel trapped rabbits on Bobeyan for pocket money in the late 1930s-1940s, and he describes trapping.

There is then a detailed description of the Bobeyan homestead, both the back or kitchen wing and the front or living/bedroom wing. Dick used to spend his time mostly in the rear wing (only sleeping in the front part). However, when one morning in the late 1940s or early 1950s he awoke to find that the kitchen chimney had fallen down, he had to move into the front wing. There is a lot of detail on the materials used in the front wing: slab walls covered in weatherboards (the weatherboards went on during a 1901 renovation), a shingle roof later covered in iron, hessian ceilings in some rooms, internal walls ranging from tongue and groove boards to wattle and daub covered in newspaper or wallpaper. The order of the bedrooms is also described.

Noel talks of Shannons Flat people getting their fruit from the orchard, the well which was the main water supply for the house and the later dam built by the Lutons for the sheep dip down below the house (the dam's stones came from the old kitchen fireplace).

There is brief mention of the graves, one of which may be that of one of the Woodfields who used to live over the Naas Creek near Copmans Crossing. [During the preliminary meeting both Fay and Noel expressed a desire to see the graves restored.]

Noel talks about Dick's personality and his many superstitions (eg: not turning back once a journey had begun - a similar story is related in the Cletus Crawford interview). Following is mention of earlier sections of the house, and the problems caused by the front section not originally having had a back door.

Morris Luton arranged the purchase of Bobeyan in 1952 in Noel and Greg's names and he looked after Dick until Dick's death two or three years later, having specially built two extra rooms at the Roseview shearers quarters for Dick to live in. (Dick had in fact once been told by a fortune teller that he would not spend all his days at Bobeyan!) Dick had always been critical of sheep, having only cattle on the property; Lutons ran both sheep and cattle.

## Side B

The problems involved and changes necessitated by the introduction of sheep at Bobeyan (eg: mustering, drenching, sheep bridges of Naas Creek) are discussed. Noel then talks about the crutching shed further up the valley [grid reference 757333]. Prior to its construction crutching was done in the open with a portable petrol-powered plant. The shed, built to provide shelter and to keep the sheep dry, was built by Noel, Alan Robinson and Herb Dyball; Greg Luton may have assisted. Lutons also built the adjacent yards which were used for both sheep and cattle. All shearing was done at Roseview.

After a brief mention of the Brayshaws having virtually bought out the Crawfords in the Bobeyan valley, Noel describes the old Crawford home [grid reference 756334] as being two roomed, slab, probably shingle roof, with a large fireplace. He also recalls Granville Venables living there in the mid 1930s and describes Granville's work and the way that rabbit skins were pressed in bundles. Lutons bulldozed the house site as the collapsed building provided harbour for rabbits.

Noel explains why the dangerous state of the Bobeyan homestead led to it being bulldozed. Some materials were used on sheep sheds, while the slabs went to Neville Locker at Adaminaby.

This is followed by discussion of the impact of the cold climate on grazing - 'I guess you tend to do your work around the weather' says Noel. He talks of snowfalls and how the stock instinctively sought shelter in the bush country, away from the open valley floor, in the winter.

Mention is made of a small amount of clearing done at Bobeyan, the Luton's plans to have cleared much more of it and the considerable amount of fencing put in.

The building qualities of mountain ash are referred to and later Noel mentions a sawmill run by the Crawfords at Bradleys Creek; the hardwood in the Muzzlebrook home came from the mill and had been logged from Yaouk Bill.

Lutons put in the new Bobeyan road in 1956 and Noel describes in detail the problems with the low-lying old road, Henry Curtis' suggestion that a new road be built over the hills to Gudgenby, Morris' involvement, the work done with the Luton's bulldozer (eventually assisted by an ACT dozer), completion of the road in 14 days and the change in some locals' initially cynical attitudes. There is some discussion of other tracks in the area.

The interview begins to conclude with Noel talking about the generally good relations with walkers, the problems with troublesome shooters and the way in which Dick Brayshaw welcomed strangers but was sometimes taken advantage of. He talks of the 'devastating' impact of the resumption of Bobeyan in the early 1970s, and feels that the national park should be limited to 'the hills' and that good grazing land should not be locked up for walkers. He feels that older people can't get into the park very much.

A brief general mention of old sites around Bobeyan finishes the tape.



Fay and Noel at Muzzlebrook, pictured with a Brayshaw family chair from the Bobeyan homestead. (Author)

Noel's father Morris (right) pictured with brothers Albert (left) and Archie while fire-fighting in the upper Grassy Creek area in about 1930. (Fay and Noel Luton)



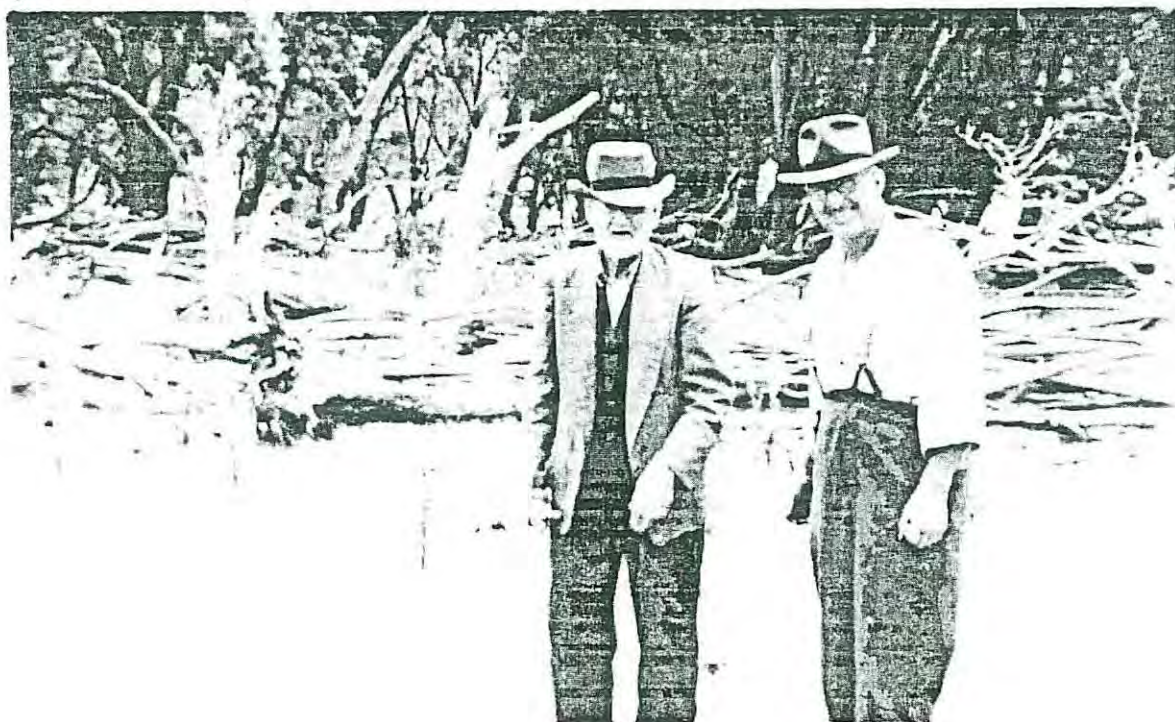


Noel's grandfather Walter Lewis Luton (1868-1944), with Walter's second wife Maude Emma nee Freebody (1883-1950). Walter married Maude in 1923; his first wife, Alice Dwyer (born 1875), whom he had married in 1894, died in 1914. (Sylvia and Everard Oldfield)



Dick Brayshaw's brother Jim (whose hut remains can still be seen in the Bobeyan valley) is seen in this photo at Yaouk (Jim is the first seated fellow from left). Also identifiable are Angus Cochran (at far left), Lachlan Cochran jnr (third standing from left) and brother Donald Cochran (fifth standing from left). (Fay and Noel Luton)

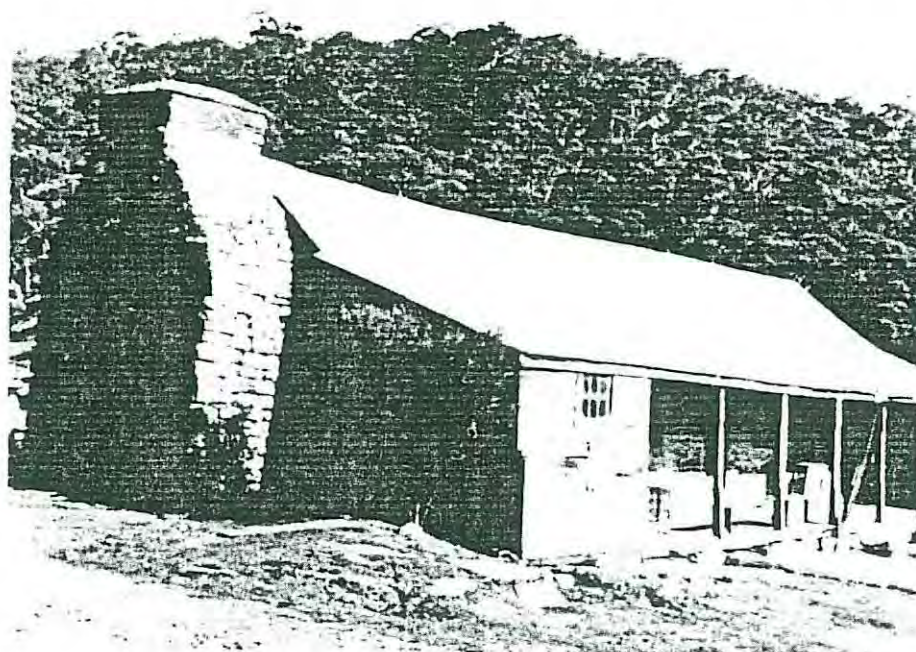
Dick Brayshaw and Morris Luton in the early 1950s, probably at Bobeyan. Morris had just brought Dick down to show him the Lutons' bulldozer at work and it was the first time that octogenarian Dick had seen such a machine in operation. (Fay and Noel Luton)



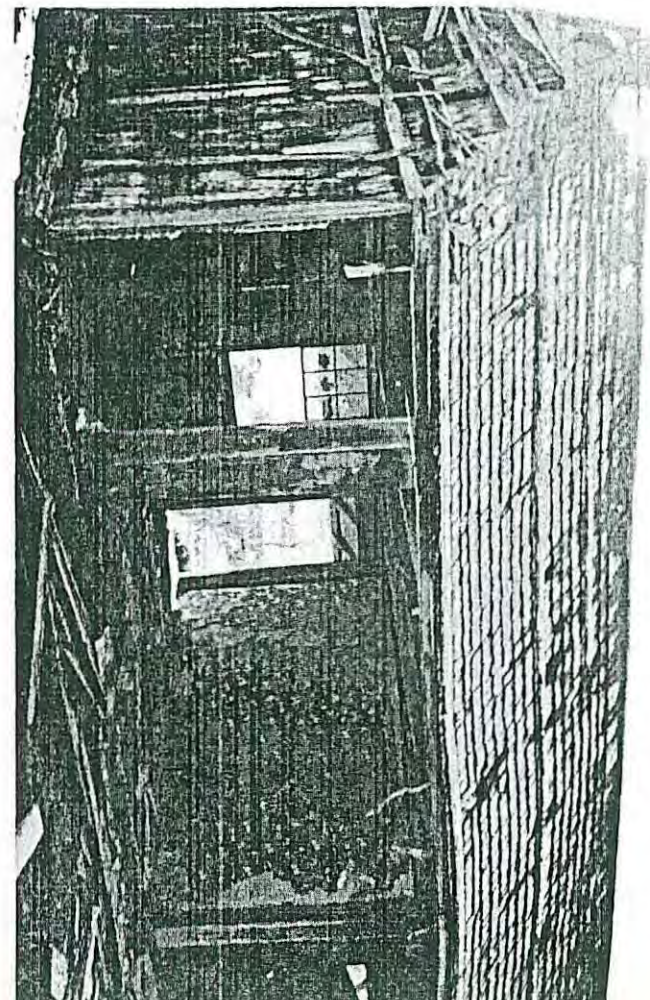
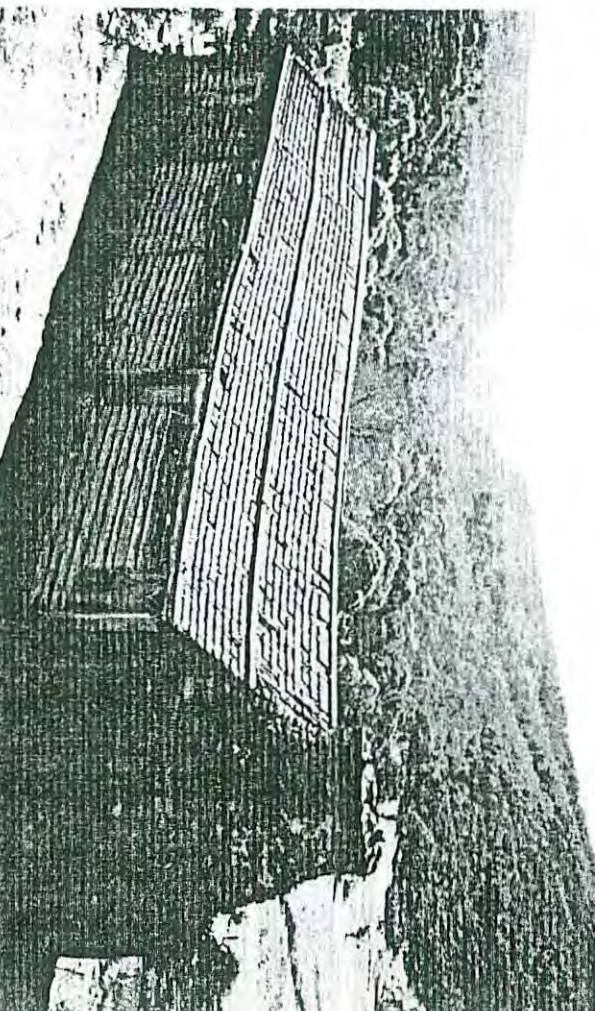


This building, now gone, is that referred to in J. Winston Gregson's thesis as the '1866 homestead' at Bobeyan. It is thus, presumably, the original Brayshaw home at Bobeyan - a most historic structure. Dick in his advanced years called it the laundry and Noel recalls a large iron pot set in stone just down hill from the building which was used for boiling water. The skillion built at the western end housed the sulky etc. (Fay and Noel Luton)

Bobeyan homestead in the mid 1950s. (Fay and Noel Luton)



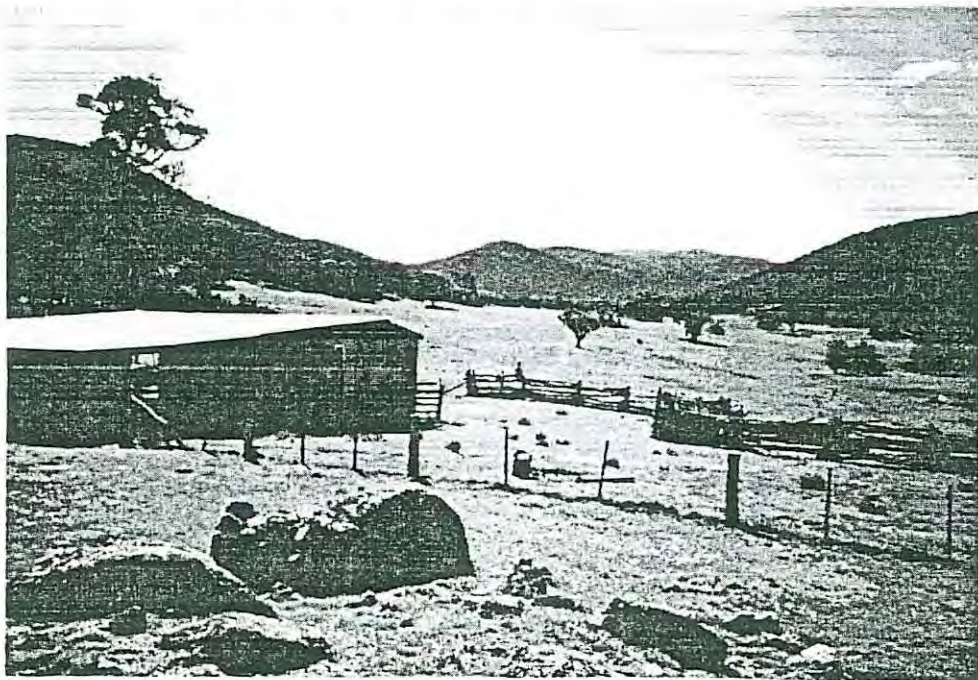
Series of photos taken during the demolition of Bobeyan. Although not especially visible in this photocopy, the upper photo even shows the design and colour of the wallpaper in the end room (which, as is said on the tape, was the "boys' room". (Fay and Noel Luton)

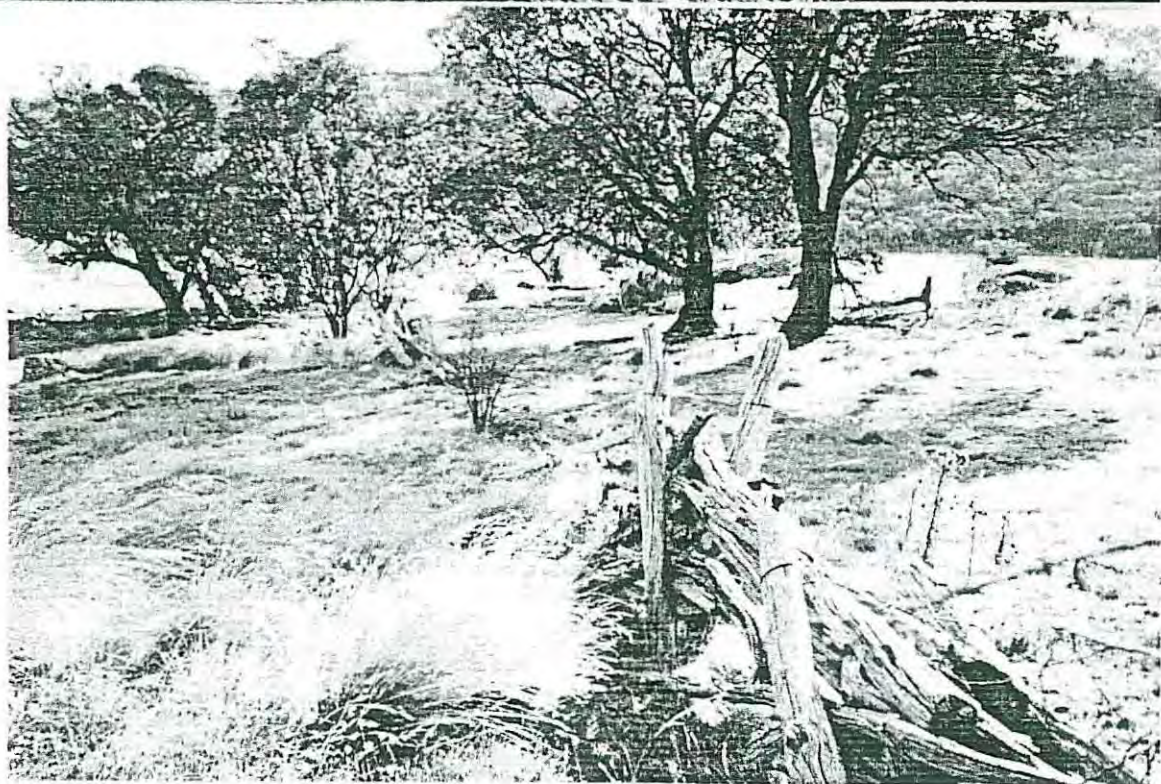
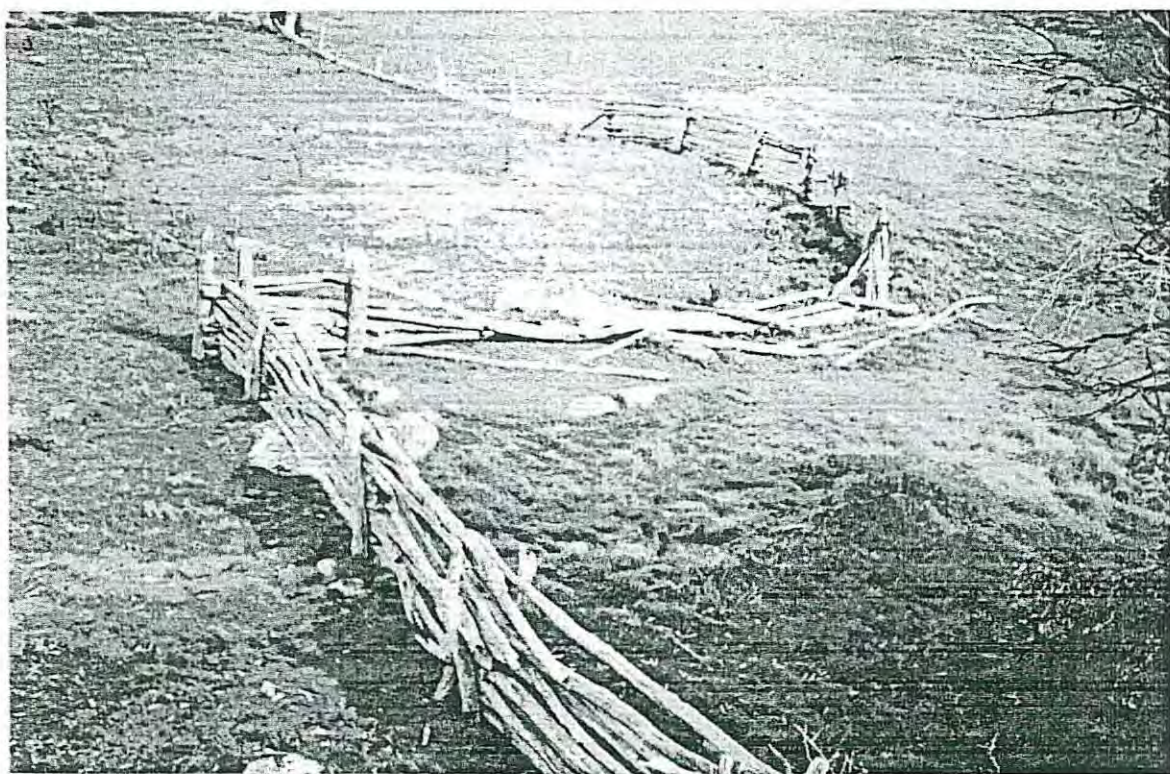




Elizabeth Jane Woodfield, 1855-1924. Betsy (who married John Locker) was a member of the Woodfield family that lived on the north side of Naas Creek near Copman's Crossing. Another family that lived on the north side was the Wards (Robert and Emma) who occupied Tom Brayshaw's old block opposite the Bobeyan homestead (Fay recalls how Emma told her in later years how they used to wash pots and pans in the creek using gravel from the creekbed). (Fay and Noel Luton)

Lutons' crutching shed. (Author)



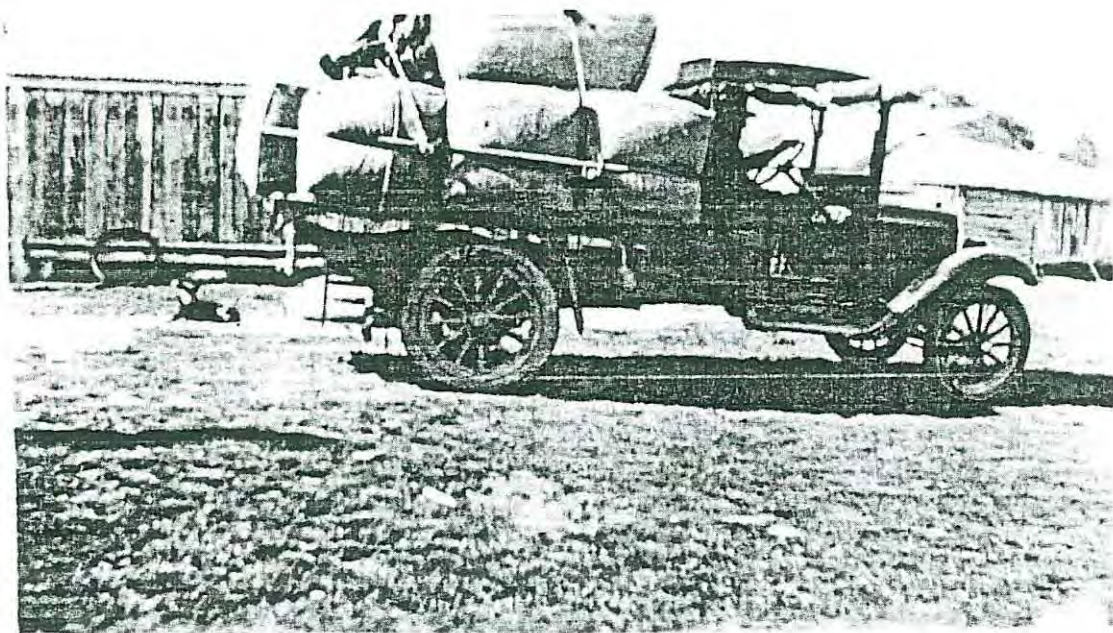


Examples of fencing in the Bobeyan valley (that in the upper photo is the yard at Lutons' crutching shed). (Author)



Bullock team in front of the Muzzlebrook woolshed. (Fay and Noel Luton)

Some of Walter Luton's wool on the truck at Muzzlebrook. (Fay and Noel Luton)



## CLETUS CRAWFORD, Adaminaby

Cletus was born Thomas Cletus Crawford in 1912 and was the eldest son of Dan Crawford and Della nee Westerman who were then living at Lone Pine. The family moved to Long Corner and then to Fairy Dell, near Shannons Flat, in about 1919, where Cletus stayed until the early 1960s. He married Lucy nee Venables in 1943 and they have a son and a daughter. (Cletus' older sister Irene was the mother of interviewees Everard and Stumpy Oldfield, both of whom married two of Lucy's younger sisters, Sylvia and Lesley).

### Side A

The interview begins with a brief mention of the Crawford family's association with the early years of Bobeyan and then moves on to the Lone Pine homestead on Sheep Station Creek [grid reference 747323]. Cletus describes the incident where his father's leg was broken, the long series of operations that followed and the leg's amputation in Sydney. The injury, of course, had a severe impact on the family, for Dan 'never got on a horse afterwards'. Cletus talks about the move to Uncle George Crawford's place at Long Corner (north of Bolaro) and then to Fairy Dell (up Alum Creek from Shannons Flat) where Della had to do most of the stockwork, assisted by the boys. Also discussed here are Cletus and Lucy's moves later in life (from Fairy Dell to Cowra, then to Crowther, then to Tumut and finally to Adaminaby).

Lone Pine was built of weatherboards cut at a sawpit nearby. Cletus talks of the appearance of the sawpit when he last saw it forty years ago.

After touching upon his education at Shannons Flat school (which he attended up to the age of 12) Cletus describes in some detail the Cooma-Shannons Flat-Bobeyan mail run which he operated in 1931, 1932 and 1933. At Bobeyan Cletus 'always had Sunday dinner with Dick Brayshaw'; Dick 'could make a good apple pie'. Cletus talks about Dick's nature, his superstitiousness (as reflected by his never turning back once a journey had begun; Cletus tells a story very similar to that told by Noel Luton), and his habit of locking everything up. During their lunches together, Dick never talked about the past or about aspects of Bobeyan's history. Dick's brother David (always known as Davey) would arrive at Dick's place about 1pm each Sunday to collect his mail, and Cletus tells how the two old brothers would go into the front section of the house to talk privately (perhaps Dick did Davey's correspondence for him as well).

There is some discussion of Davey's personality, appearance, and of his death in 1931 while on the way home from Dick's place.

During the mid-1930s Cletus trapped rabbits in winter time at Bobeyan, camping in the old Crawford family house with rabbitier Granville Venables (an uncle of Lucy's). The Crawford house, known as the Old Station [grid reference 756334] is described on side B of the tape as having been built of slabs with a shingle roof, consisting of a main room with fireplace (in which Cletus and Granville lived) and another room which leaked and in which the rabbit skins, etc were stored. A third room had fallen down; the posts of another building were a short distance away. Cletus describes the bedding (you'd 'perish all night!') and says the place was 'a pretty rough camp'. After talking of the food they ate he says rum was not usually on the agenda there. Cletus gives quite a detailed description of how he and Granville went about trapping. Skins were bought by the Leibmann family (of which TV personality Steve Leibmann is a member). Cletus also mentions that Granville (who did stock work for Dick Brayshaw in the summer) was able to buy a property out of the rabbit skins. Cletus' brother Ted owned this section of the Bobeyan valley where the Old Station stood, and he continued with the trapping after Cletus and also had run the mail occasionally for Cletus in the early 1930s. Ted was killed in New Guinea during the second world war.

## Side B

After talking of the Leibmanns, Cletus describes the times that he worked for Dick Brayshaw, especially cattle-branding. Dick was then nearly 70, and his attitude to work is portrayed in these recollections.

The conversation then briefly ranges over Cletus' work on Gudgenby around 1939-40, Reg Brayshaw's hut ruin [grid reference 810270] (Cletus used to do sheep work here for his uncle, Bruce Jeffery), the Brayshaws, Barretts, Potters, Russells and Copman's Flat near Bobeyan.

Tom Brayshaw (a brother of Dick and Davey's) had a hut on the north side of Naas Creek and its location is discussed; Cletus recalls that the block was across the creek from the spot where Davey's body was found. Ted Brayshaw later got the block, fenced it and put a caravan on it (which was subsequently stolen).

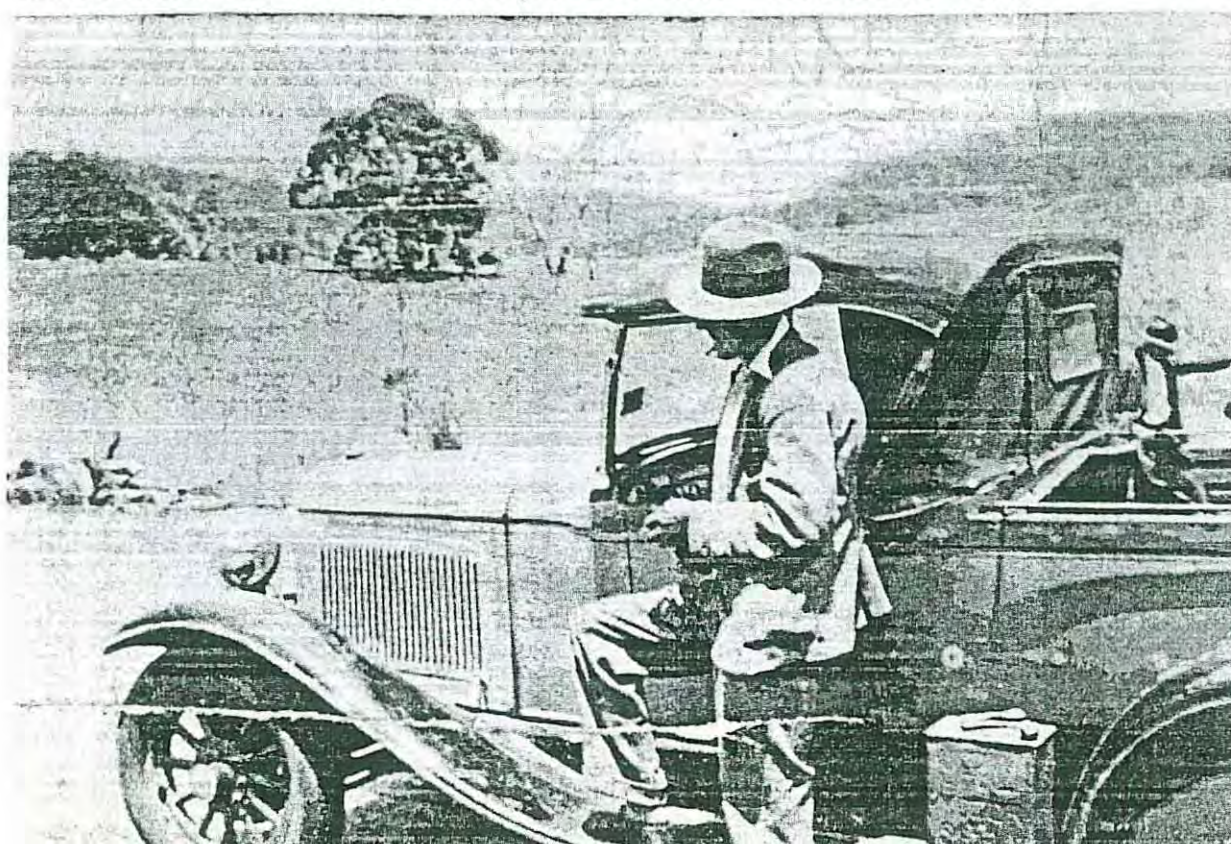
There follows a fairly lengthy recollection of the period when Cletus worked on Gudgenby, fencing and digging out rabbits. He and Frank Oldfield lived in two huts on the property, though their identity is unclear and rather confused on the tape. The huts were on Middle and Rendezvous Creeks (they lived in one hut one winter, the other the next); it is possible the huts were Jack Rustin's and Miss Rustin's. One of the huts was without a floor and Cletus tells how they 'got an axe and some boards' and put a floor in. Any spare time at night might have been passed reading with the aid of a hurricane lamp.

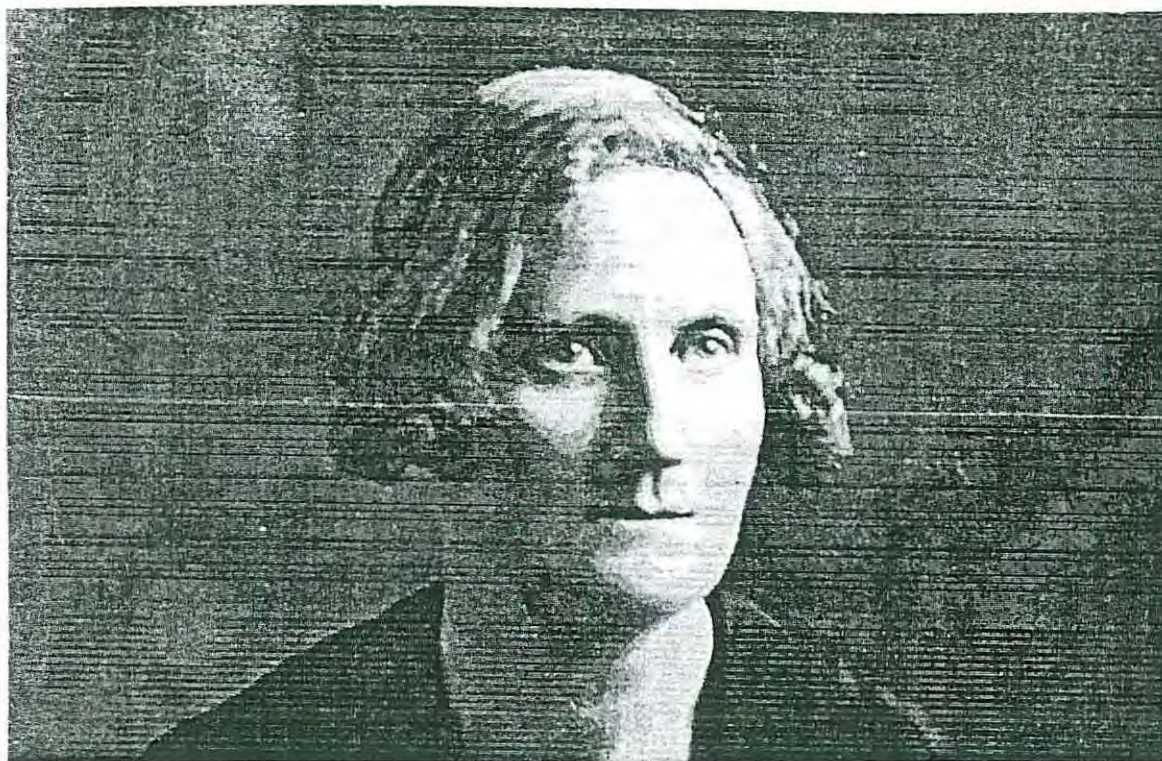
The interview finishes with descriptions of droving trips to Bairnsdale.



Lucy and Cletus Crawford; Cletus holds one of his hand-made whips.  
(Author)

Cletus with his 1929 Plymouth utility (which he bought for £255), the  
vehicle used for the Cooma-Bobeyan mail run. (Cletus Crawford)





Cletus' mother Della Crawford. (Sylvia and Everard Oldfield)

The remains of Lone Pine today. (Author)





Two photos of Ted Crawford, who was killed in the second world war.  
(Sylvia and Everard Oldfield)

The remains of the Crawford home, known as The Old Station. Lutons' crutching shed can just be seen in the distance at left. (Author)



## SHANNON'S FLAT

(From our own correspondent).

## MR. D. BRAYSHAW'S DEATH

We deeply regret to chronicle the death of the oldest resident of our district in the person of Mr. David Brayshaw, of Bobeyan, F.C.T. He was last seen alive on Monday, 31st August, at about 4.15 p.m. by his brother, Richard. He had been working on his property and had called at his brother's place to get a whip which he had left there the previous day while after his mail. He appeared in good health and spirits. He was not seen again until his body was found by his brother on Wednesday morning. On the return journey from Cooma on Tuesday night R. Brayshaw, E. Brayshaw and N. C. Luton noticed that there were neither light nor smoke coming from his house so they made investigations and found that he was not there and that his saddle and bridle were also missing. They then went to their nearest neighbours, the Westermans, and made enquiries but without result. With the assistance of J. Westerman and C. Chalker they made a search for him till after midnight but still without result, and the search was then given up the next morning.

It was on his way to join the search party that Richard Brayshaw found the dead body of his brother lying near the main road leading from Cooma to Queanbeyan. His hat was lying a few yards away; the two stirrup irons and his whip were lying quite close to him; and his horse was grazing on the flat nearby, and still had the saddle on, but no bridle.

The Cooma police were immediately informed and Constable Morrissey and Tracker Brindle were soon on the spot. Constable Morrissey examined the body and it was removed to Deceased's late residence until the Sergeant and Coroner could arrive from Canberra. On Thursday, 3rd inst., Mr. J. W. T. Forrest, P.M., and Sergeant Cook from Canberra, arrived and an inquest was held.

Deceased was born at Bobeyan, 19 years ago and had resided in and about the district all his life.

He followed grazing pursuits. He was a very active man for his age and had done mostly all his own work right up till the time of his death. He was highly respected by all who knew him. Although he did not take an active part in sport of the district, he was always patriotic and assisted in any benefit movements.

The corpse was taken to St. John's Church of England, Adaminaby, where Rev. H. S. Brown held service, and the funeral continued to the Adaminaby Cemetery, where the remains were laid to rest in the C. of E. portion. Rev. H. S. Brown officiating at the graveside. The pall

bearers were Edward Brayshaw, Carl Kelly, Maurice Luton and Bruce Jeffery.

Deceased leaves two brothers and two sisters to mourn their loss Archie of "Holly Mount," Adaminaby, Richard, of Bobeyan, F.C.T.; Mrs. Barrett, of "Inglewood," and Miss Jennie Brayshaw of Adaminaby.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. J. F. Allen who had a very difficult task to carry out same owing to the bad state of the roads and snow having fallen heavily the night before, but with the assistance of Maurice Luton and Bruce Jeffery in helping to clear the road the task was overcome after taking three hours to accomplish—a distance of between four and five miles.

Wreaths were sent from Jim, Tom, and Mrs. Westerman; Bruce, Dolly and family.

## THE INQUEST

At the inquest conducted by Mr. J. W. T. Forrest, P. M.

Richard Brayshaw deposed: I am a brother of deceased. He was single and was born at Bobeyan 19 years ago. I last saw him alive on Monday, 31st August, at about 4.15 p.m. at my place. He left to go to his own home about two miles away. He was in his usual good health. He had no enemies.

I did not see him again until Wednesday morning at about 7.15 a.m. when I found his dead body lying near the road about half a mile from my place. The body was lying on its right side, the two stirrup irons and his whip were lying near the body. His hat was some distance from it; his horse was grazing on the flat nearby with the saddle on and both stirrup leathers broken.

Sergeant Cook, of Canberra, deposed, I was shown where the body was found; I examined the spot and saw two stirrup irons and a whip lying there; a hat was lying about 20 yards away, which I was told was the property of deceased. The horse was grazing in the paddock nearby with the saddle on; both stirrup leathers were broken; I examined the body of deceased at his home on Thursday, 3rd September, and found slight bruises on the left temple and broken ribs on the left side. There was a sum of £5/2/11 in his pocket.

The Coroner found that death was due to shock and exposure, following deceased's fall from his horse.

## NOTES

The heaviest fall of snow this year was experienced on Friday morning, 4th inst.

So far there is every prospect of an early and good spring.

We are very sorry to report that Mr. Teddie Luton is still in Hospital in Sydney, but wish him a speedy recovery and that he will be back among us again very shortly.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Granville Oldfield on the birth of a daughter

## OBITUARY

### MR. THOMAS BERNARD WESTERMAN

As already briefly recorded, the death occurred at his home, "Lons Vale," Bobeyan, on 13th inst., of Mr. Thomas Bernard Westerman, one of the oldest and well respected residents and natives of Monaro. He was born at Coolamon, near Adaminaby, on 7th August, 1852, and was therefore within three months of his 84th birthday. Throughout his long life he had only had a medico's attention on three occasions, the last being one week before his death. His final illness was of only a few days' duration and death even then was unexpected.

At the age of 13 years he started work at Billilnggra for the late Mr. John Cosgrove, and he used later to entertain friends with the tales of his various duties including the picking of feathers with which to stuff the mattresses.

On 4th January, 1875, he was married at Big Bredbo Station to Miss Mary Jane Perry, of Araluen, who was on the domestic staff of Billilnggra Station. The officiating priest was Very Rev. Dean O'Brien who had married his wife's parents and also baptised her.

Mr. Westerman rose to be head stockman for Mr. Cosgrove and after holding that position for a number of years selected the property at Bobeyan now known as "Lons Vale," on which he and his wife have lived for the past 52 years.

When the Cooma railway line was being constructed he drew most of the posts for the railway fences.

In January last year Mr. and Mrs. Westerman celebrated their Diamond Wedding, a distinction that falls to few couples.

His memory was good up to within a week of his death, and he could be most entertaining in telling of incidents among the wild horses and wild cattle in the early days and of various other happenings in the history of Monaro since the days of his youth.

He is survived by his wife, now over 82 years of age, one son Charles and four daughters, Mrs. M. Chalker, Mrs. J. Chalker, Mrs. Dan Crawford and Mrs. Bruce Jeffery. His eldest daughter, Mrs. Sex Shiels, died 14 years ago, and his brother James, who was unmarried and who had resided with him for 60 years, died only last September.

The funeral took place on Thursday, 14th inst., the remains being laid to rest in the R.C. section of Adaminaby General Cemetery, Rev. Father J. O'Connor officiating. The pall bearers were Messrs Tom Chalker, Cletus Crawford, Clarrie Jeffery, Don Jeffery (grandsons), Carl Osmond and Granville Oldfield (grandsons-in-law) and Mr. Jas. F. Allen had charge of the funeral arrangements.

Wreaths were noted from

His loving wife and family; Little Dorrie, Mervyn and Keith; Doll, Bruce, Clarrie, Donnie, Lavender and Maria; Granville, Irene and family; Della, Dan and family; Liz and Beryl; Elaine, Lila and Ernie; Flossie, Maurice and Francie, Lucy, Archie, Tot and family; Walter and Maude; Cecil, Eve and boys; Sid, Mary and family; All at Yaouk; Carl, Della, Pat and Bill; Agnes, Mick and family; Mr. and Mrs. G. Bell and family.

### MR. JAMES WESTERMAN

Our Shannon's Flat correspondent writes—

We deeply regret to record the death of one of our oldest and most respected district residents in the person of Mr. James Westerman. He had been in ill health for some time and despite the greatest medical attention he passed away quietly on Thursday, 12th. September, at the residence of Mr. Dan Crawford, at the age of 73 years and 4 months.

He is survived by his brother, Tom, who has reached the grand old age of 83 years. Tom's wife is also still living and has passed her 81st birthday. For the past 60 years Jim, who did not marry, had constantly lived with them, and much sympathy is felt for them in their sad loss.

Deceased was born at Adaminaby and has lived in the surrounding districts all his life. In his early days he was noted as a great horseman and recognised as one of the best wild horse runners Monaro held.

The funeral took place at Adaminaby on Saturday, 14th. inst., where the remains were laid to rest in the R.C. portion of the Adaminaby General Cemetery, Rev. Father Brennan officiating at the graveside. The pallbearers were Messrs Bruce Jeffery, Cletus Crawford, Walter Oldfield and Teddie Crawford. The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Jim Allen.

Wreaths were noted from

Tom and Jane; Charlie; Doll, Bruce, Clarrie, Donnie and Lavender; Della, Dan and family; Morris and Francie; Ernie, Lila and family; Walter and Maud; Mr. and Mrs. W. Oldfield; Gwen Neuss; Cecil, Eve and family.

(Fay and Noel Luton)

## STAN GOODHEW, Hughes, Canberra

Stan Goodhew was born in September 1932 in Canberra. After serving an apprenticeship as an electrical fitter, he worked on the Snowy Mountains hydro-electric scheme in 1954. He has worked mainly in the electrical and mechanical fields and currently operates a coffee machine agency. Stan joined the Canberra Alpine Club in 1953 and was closely involved with Mt Franklin Chalet during the 1950s. He married Barbara nee McKinnon in 1961 and they have two children.

### Tape 1, Side A

The interview begins with Stan's recollections of his 1945 Canberra High School geography teacher whose infectious enthusiasm about the Brindabellas inspired Stan. In 1946 Stan and other students had a skiing excursion to Mt Franklin Chalet; skis and bindings were made at school prior to the trip, and the idea was to ski as fast as you could - no one knew how to turn!

After brief mention of trips to the Hotel Kosciusko in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Stan refers to when, in 1952, as an apprentice with the radio section of the Department of Works and Housing, he accompanied Gordon Smith, Morrie Rees and Ivan Bozic to install a radio at the Chalet. On two successive weekends the heavy snow defeated their four-wheel-drive jeep and they never got to the Chalet.

Description then follows of a group of Franklin skiers who used to travel up to the Chalet in an old Studebaker. Among the group were Gus Angus, Don Lennon, John Gdowski, Don Olbrychtowicz and Jim Webb. The poor state of the Mt Franklin road is described, as is Bendora Hut.

In 1953 Stan and friends travelled to the Chalet on a GMC six-wheel-drive truck, a timber-jinker converted for the trip. Stan broke his £6 skis during the first run and retired to the Chalet building where he decided to join the CAC.

While working on the Snowy scheme in 1954 (living at Cooma, Tolbar Camp and Eucumbene Portal) Stan skied with Bavarian-born Willie Zeiss at Johnny Abbottsmith's rope tow at Smiggin Holes and learned much about ski technique and clothing.

At this point Stan goes back to 1953 and talks about making skis at a friend's father's sawmill at Oaks Estate; the timber was blackwood from the father's timber lease at Tidbinbilla and the skis were used at Franklin. There is a lot of detail here about the fashioning of the skis, waxing, and cable bindings (including Gresshopper and Kandahar brands). At Franklin some CAC members used genuine seal skins for climbing uphill; others used tailors' bias binding on their skis.

Discussion then turns to the Brumby tow, the first rope tow installed by the CAC in 1957. It was powered by an adapted Harley-Davidson motorbike, fitted to a sled to make it portable; skiers attached themselves to the rope with a 'nutcracker' attachment. The tow was used mainly on what Stan here calls the Ginini Run (he shortly after also calls it the Little Ginini Run) on the next peak south of Franklin [the run crossed the road at grid reference 597684; although modern maps give the name 'Little Ginini' to the peak between Ginini and Gingera, the skiers called the peak between Franklin and Ginini 'Little Ginini'. The peak between Ginini and Gingera was called 'Little Gingera'.] The tow was also used on the Nursery and Slalom runs on Franklin.

### Side B

Following a few more details about the Brumby tow, Stan tells of the later tow, powered by an Austin A40 car. The vehicle was driven up by Karl Erett, Bruce Bray and Klaus Schiller and then was backed down the Slalom run to the appropriate point and put

on blocks; the rope went around one of the back wheels. This lift was installed in the early 1960s.

Discussion then turns to aspects of ski gear (including the introduction of safety bindings) and the impact of second world war rationing on skiing and Franklin. The various Franklin ski runs (Wood, Nursery, Slalom, Morning) and their locations are covered, as is the clearing of these and the Little Ginini run. Harry Trevillian did some ski run clearing in the Brindabellas with a bulldozer (particularly the Slalom run).

On Mount Ginini, a Rover Scout Crew ski hut was built by Dave Cook, the Gillen brothers and others about 1949-50 [see Alan Bagnall summary on this point]. This lease was then relinquished to RMC Duntroon which built a ski hut adjacent to the Mt Ginini run in the early 1950s [at grid reference 609667]. This was a standard army hut, of hardwood frame, cypress pine weatherboard walls and floor and gabled iron roof. It was demolished in the 1960s. According to Stan there was little if any fraternisation between CAC and RMC skiers. The Rover hut was iron and had a radio aerial and stood about 100 metres north-east from the RMC lodge [see Alan Bagnall summary and photographs].

Stan was fully involved in the procuring and installation of a replacement cooking range for the Chalet in 1957. The new range originally came from the Prime Minister's Lodge. Stan tells of Dame Pattie Menzies' reorganisation of the lodge (which resulted in the range becoming available), the Kingston auction at which the range was bought for £2, and the bricking-in of the stove at Franklin by Stan with the help of Bernie Tregillis.

There follows a lengthy and detailed description of the attempted introduction of a wind generator at the Chalet in 1957. Stan created the unit and he tells of the various stages in its development.

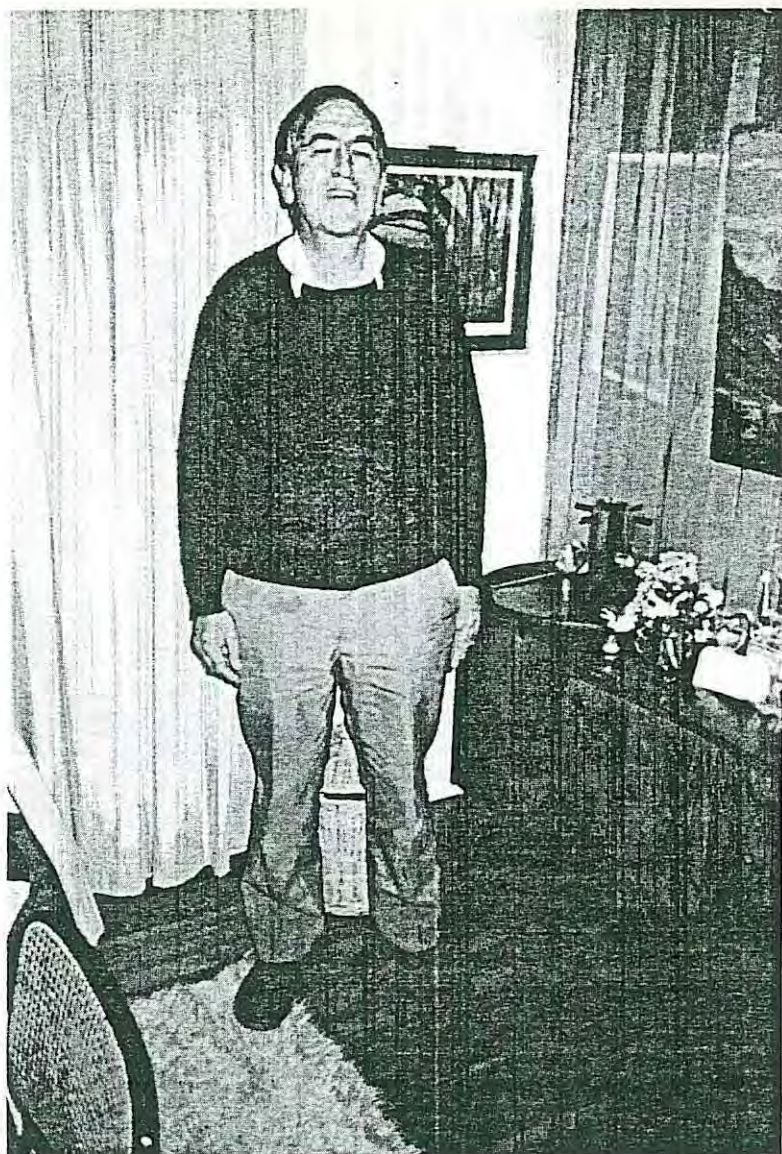
## **Tape 2, Side A**

The story of the wind generator continues. Although the generator worked satisfactorily during the hosting of the Balmain Cup, the Franklin site was found to be unsuitable because of the gusty nature of the winds. Subsequently a Quirk's wind generator was tried out, but it too failed. A 12-volt battery system was finally resorted to for electricity.

Stan then talks about the 1957 Balmain Cup ski competition which that year was for the first time hosted at Franklin [see Alan Bagnall summary]. He tells of the participating clubs, the events and the snow cover which almost didn't arrive in time. With 60 people staying in the 30-bed Chalet, some guests slept in adjacent Bill Ginn's hut, only having to evacuate it when the fire got too hot! Ginn's hut was built of slabs and stood about twelve metres south of the Chalet; it was removed in the 1960s and the slabs were used for the outbuilding at Blundells Cottage.

Turning to the social life at the Chalet, Stan recalls that musicians were sometimes hired to play at the lodge. A big event each year was Cracker night which was fully organised and catered for. Stan says that gluhwein was 'always on the menu' and he sketches in the recipe. Stan feels that the rigorous accommodation and travel problems at Franklin helped to keep out the pseudo social ski set, for most Franklin skiers were fairly intent on their skiing. He comments that the Chalet offered an escape from Canberra hostel life. Of the social make-up of the CAC, Stan says that it was pretty mixed, including a good sprinkling of tradesmen and professionals.

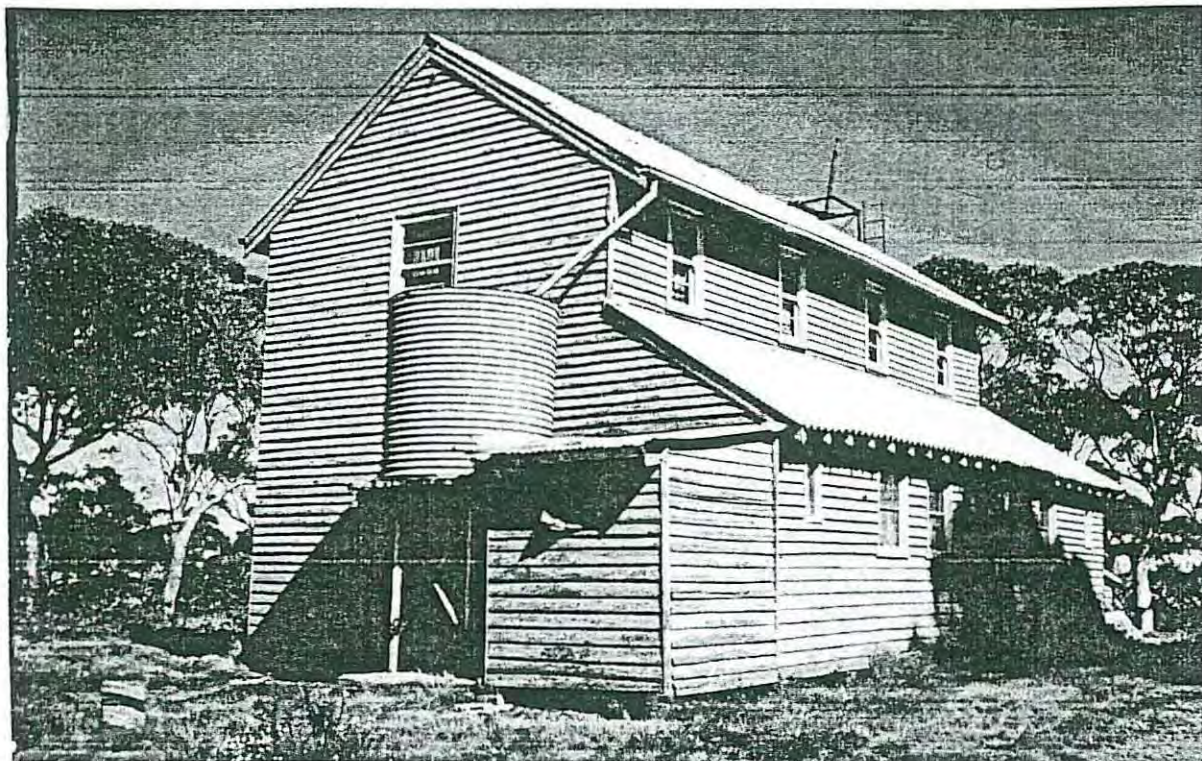
The interview ends with discussion of the end of the lease in the early 1960s, problems faced by CAC owing to the Chalet being in the Cotter catchment, the building of the new CAC lodge at Perisher and the decline of the Chalet as a ski lodge.



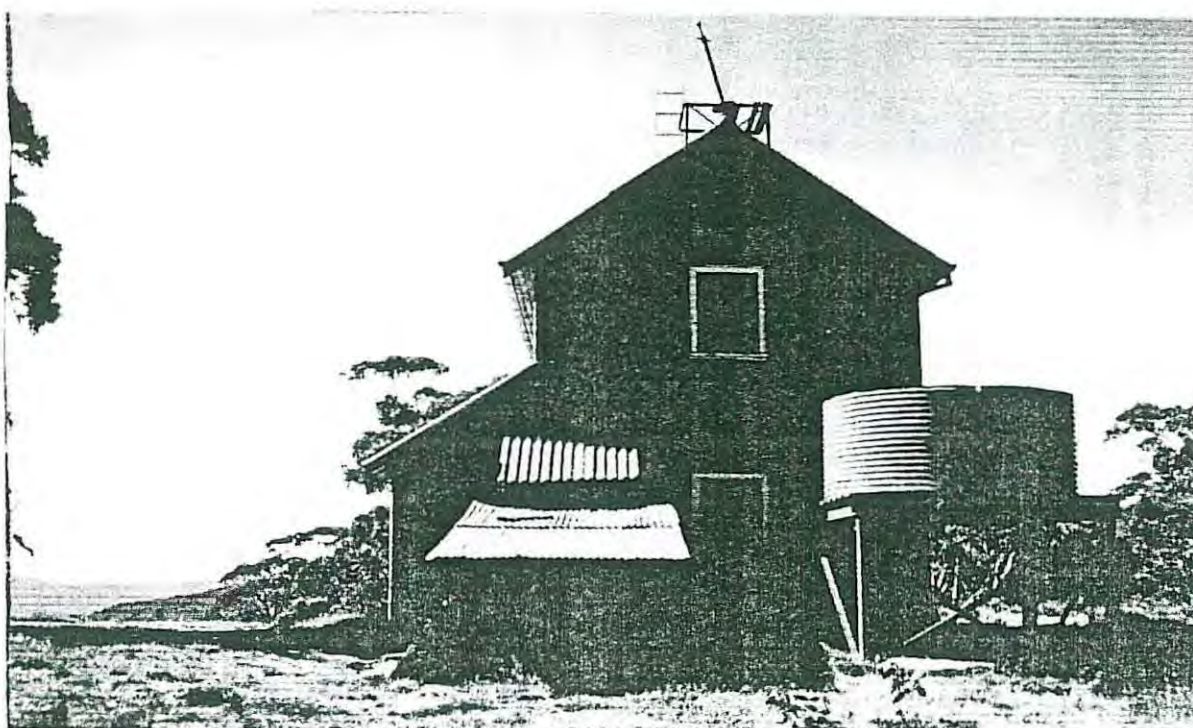
Stan Goodhew. (Author)

Stan at the Chalet piano in October 1989. (Stan Goodhew)





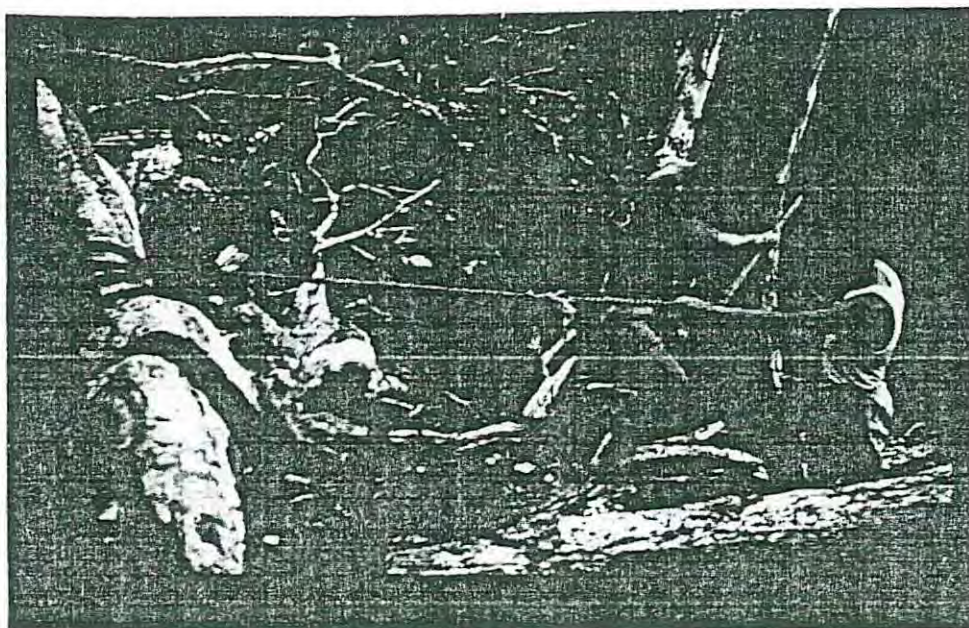
These two photos of the Chalet depict the rooftop frame which supported the wind generator designed by Stan. (Author)

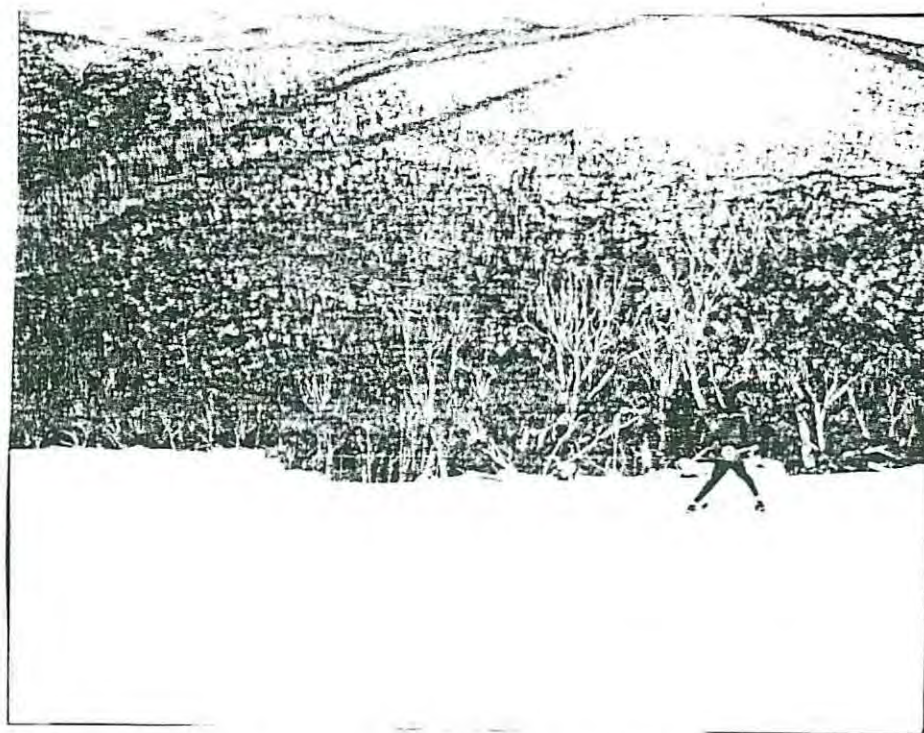




Mel Pratt, CAC Club Captain, addressing a work party at Franklin in 1952 (note the slalom flag beside him). (Stan Goodhew)

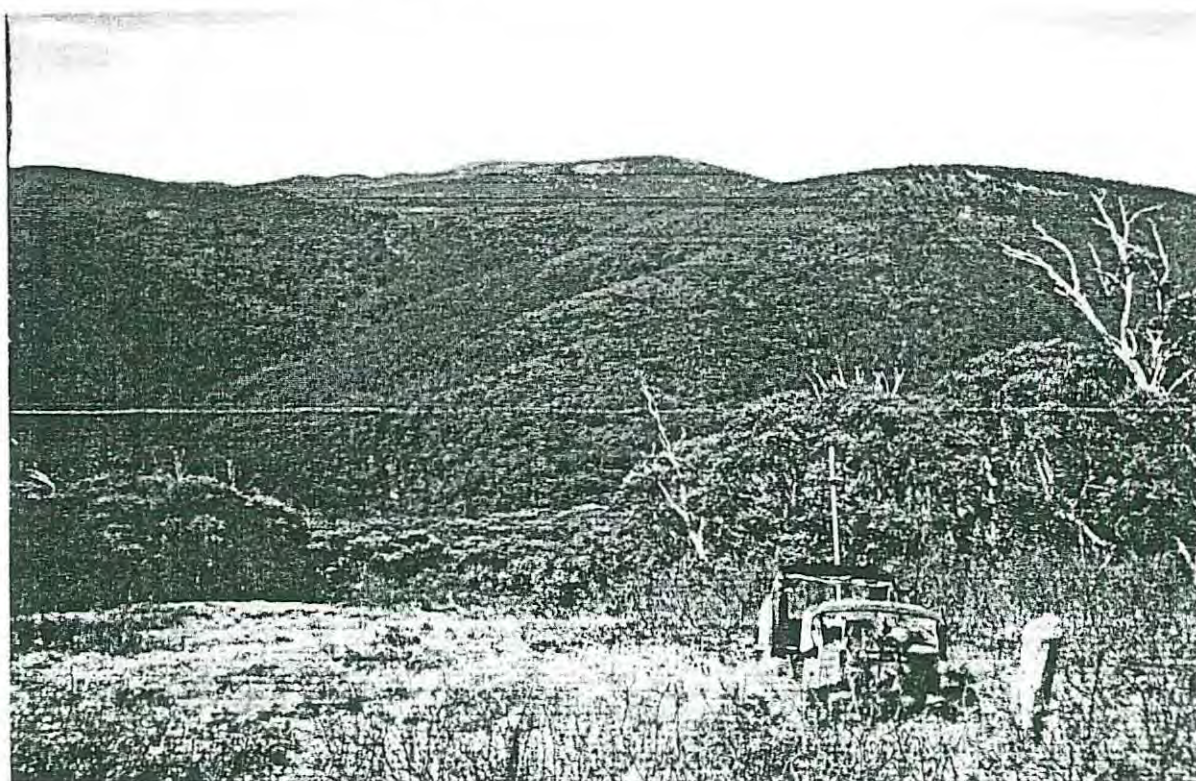
Clearing ski-runs at Mt Franklin in the 1950s. (Stan Goodhew)





On the Slalom run, 1950s. (Stan Goodhew)

The present view down the Slalom run in summer - note the remains of the Austin A40 at right. (Author)



## ROMA BRAYSHAW, 'Allandale', Yarra

Roma was born at Lanyon in October 1909 and was the first of eleven children born to Tom Oldfield (1883-1966) and Ada nee Cregan (1889-1969). Roma lived at Orroral and then Gudgenby while her father managed these two properties for the Bootes family. In 1932 she married Ted Brayshaw (1899-1985) and they lived firstly at David Brayshaw's old house on the Bobeyan road. From 1935 to 1937 they lived at Orroral while Ted was manager there, and then Ted became manager at Gudgenby and they lived there until 1948 when they moved again, this time to Rocky Crossing. Roma and Ted moved to Allandale in 1971. Roma's eldest son, Tom, was also interviewed.

### Tape 1, Side A

Roma begins by talking about her birth at Lanyon (where her maternal grandparents Isaac and Jemima Cregan worked for James Cunningham) and about her parents' place and paternal grandparents' place up Naas Creek [although Top Naas is mentioned on the tape, Roma confirmed after the interview that her parents' place was The Old Place]. When Tom and Ada first went to Orroral in about 1915, Roma stayed at Lanyon and only moved to Orroral in about 1919-20 when a teacher, Mr Hughes, arrived there. The slab school building is then described and Roma remembers how she and her siblings made dollhouses outside from wood chips and placed in them 'dolls' cut out from mother's catalogues.

Roma describes the room layout of the kitchen wing and main block at Orroral, describes how bathing was done in a washtub once a week, and talks of papering the walls with newspapers once a year. The stone floor in the kitchen was later replaced with a timber one. Apart from a flowerbed in front of the school, there was not much of a garden.

The Bootes' came up each year for the cattle-branding. Roma recalls that among the women who were put on as domestics during the Bootes' stays were Mary Gregory and Gladdie Cotter.

Drovers taking stock through to the Cotter and on to Murray Creek would stay at Orroral; Bill Oldfield, Jack Feaney and George Rowley are three names recalled.

Roma does not remember there being any old selectors' huts on Orroral. She does talk about a building called 'the hut' which accommodated Orroral workers and stood just up behind the homestead and out from the end of the school building.

The Oldfields moved to Gudgenby after Bootes' purchased it and Roma tells of the move aboard the old buckboard. She says that the Gudgenby house, being bigger, was better than Orroral. The Orroral teacher at the time of the move, Mr Tregant, came with them to Gudgenby. After discussion of the various teachers Roma talks of the housework (milking, etc) that she did once she finished school. Leisure time was devoted to reading. The mail came weekly, brought by Herbert Oldfield; the mail route was via Brandy Flat which then was held by Foster and Frank Smith of Williamsdale. Tom Oldfield's parents, Joseph and Elizabeth, were at Brandy Flat when son Harry was born; this was before they moved to Reedy Creek which is where Tom was born.

Each of the Gudgenby slab huts, still standing in Roma's time, is then described in turn: Paddy Moore's one-room hut [grid reference 799441], Patrick Smith's two-roomed hut [796412], Sinclair's two-roomed hut [769390], Jack Rustin's three-roomed hut [769429], and Miss Rustin's hut which Roma understands was the hut where Tom Brayshaw lived and in 1919 died and which, she says, was partly dismantled and the timber used for a new kitchen built at the Gudgenby homestead just after the Oldfields' arrival (Miss Rustin's hut stood near the site of Rowley Gregory's present hut at 774458). Roma also mentions the death and burial at Jack Rustin's of the baby belonging to the Sutcliffes (workers for Lee), and Paddy Moore's humorous personality.

## Side B

This side begins with discussion of Ted Brayshaw's early life and Roma says that Ted's family moved from High Forest to the Murrumbidgee River opposite Bredbo in about 1905 (they walked). The death of Ted's father, Edward Brayshaw, from an adze wound, is described.

Ted was living at the old Crawford home in the Bobeyan valley when he and Roma met. He bought at auction Davey Brayshaw's property and he and Roma moved into Davey's house in 1932. Roma describes the house [which is also referred to as Bobeyan on the tape] and says it was something of a shock after Gudgenby; she had no stove and cooked in a camp oven.

In the course of talking about the next move, to Orroral in 1935, Roma tells of how she and her sisters had trapped rabbits on Gudgenby in the Depression. She talks then about the birth of her first son Tom in Queanbeyan and how hospital births were starting to become the usual thing in the early 1930s. Two midwives mentioned are Mrs Jones (Naas) and Mrs Dunne (near Queanbeyan).

Orroral, says Roma, was less lonely than Davey Brayshaw's. She and Ted and the children lived in the kitchen wing, while owner Andy Cunningham would come up with relatives and stay in the front wing. Roma recalls having a joy flight in Andy's plane at Naas. Andy was generally 'nice', but not so when he'd had too much to drink. No other workers were employed at Orroral - Ted did all the work on his own. Owing to the children, Roma rarely left the house.

Roma and Ted moved to Gudgenby in 1937. Roma talks of putting lino in the kitchen and says the stove there had been brought from Orroral by her mother in the 1920s. Washing day involved a 'terrible' amount of labour. The phone, a party line system, which had been on since 1927, rang a certain signal for each particular property (Gudgenby was four short rings). Roma also talks about the monthly shopping trips, the killing and salting of meat, how her leisure time was spent, etc. Roma did not get electricity on at home until 1966 at Rocky Crossing.

There is also some further mention of the Gudgenby huts and also of the difficulty faced by Ted in getting good workers during the second world war; Peter Bonfield was one worker on Gudgenby.

The tape finishes on the subject of visitors at Gudgenby, included among whom were Jack Maxwell and others.

## Tape 2. Side A

Roma talks of the frequent visitors (mostly stockmen and women) that called in at Gudgenby for the night. Visitors like Beryl and Audrey Cochran, Jeanette MacDonald and Pat Miners (nee Pearce) were Roma's main female company.

The Curtises also used to call in and Roma explains how Tom Oldfield bought Davey Brayshaw's old property after Ted and Roma had left and how he split it between Henry Curtis and Jack Oldfield (Jack having the area where Waterhole Hut is located).

Before getting their own vehicle Ted and Roma used a horse and sulky and also got lifts with Cletus Crawford. Roma tells of Ted buying the Bootes' old car, his difficulty in learning to drive and problems with the local roads (especially Fitz's Hill). Problems of transport in times of illness are mentioned.

Asked about the climate, Roma describes a heavy snowfall at Gudgenby during the second world war (which brought down phone lines and the garage roof) and also a big fall when she was living at David Brayshaw's house (a number of kangaroos died owing to the cold and snow).

In talking about wildlife, Roma mentions that in addition to kangaroos and wombats she saw echidnas at Gudgenby. After talking about her past and present attitude to snakes (she does not like to kill snakes now) she tells of when Frank Oldfield (when still a boy) was bitten by a snake up Rendezvous Creek and was treated by brother Jack. 'Jack's doctoring was worse than the snake bite' according to Frank!

Roma talks a little about bushwalkers in the area, particularly at Bobeyan where she and Ted had Tom Brayshaw's old block, opposite the Bobeyan homestead, from the late 1940s to the early 1970s. Walkers at Gudgenby would be given a cup of tea.

Before concluding, the interview briefly covers a range of points, including Dick Brayshaw's shy personality, Naas teacher Bart Murphy inspecting the Orroral school, going to Tharwa and Naas dances on the buckboard, and various members of the Oldfield family.

## TOM BRAYSHAW, 'Allandale', Yarra

Tom Brayshaw was born in September 1933, the first son of Ted Brayshaw and his wife Roma nee Oldfield. In 1979 Tom married Judith nee Thomas and they have three sons.

### Side A

The tape begins with Tom's earliest recollections of Orroral in the 1930s and he talks briefly of the old blacksmith's shed with its big anvil and of this father shoeing horses, and also of Andy Cunningham's visits.

The family moved to Gudgenby in 1937 and Tom tells of the many visitors who used to stop at the nearby stock reserve and stay the night with the Brayshaws at Gudgenby. Among those who used to stay (usually en route to the snow leases) were Arthur Cochran and his daughters, Dave Jones, Jack Cotter, Charlie Crawford, Herbert Oldfield, Tom Oldfield, Jack, Chris and Arthur Morrison, George Rowley, Albert Foster and Jack Cregan; the old homestead had plenty of rooms. The route to the snow leases from Gudgenby ran via Bobeyan, Yaouk (sometimes past Yaouk Bill) and then up the Murrumbidgee River.

Tom recalls how one drover got lost between Yaouk and Gudgenby. He wandered in to Gudgenby famished and without his horse. Ted Brayshaw next day took him back up to Creamy Flats to recover the horse and while there the man collapsed into the fire while they were boiling the billy.

In discussing Gudgenby, Tom mentions some of the men who worked there: Arthur Crawford (of the Bobeyan Crawfords), Jack Reid, Claude Amy and Gordon Smith.

Tom then goes on to talk of his childhood. Gudgenby was a good place for a boy to grow up: swimming in the river, horse-riding, fishing (with a willow stick rod), playing cricket, etc. Granville Crawford, who brought the mail, used to stay the weekend and was a close companion. Rabbit trapping earned pocket money in winter: 'everyone would be anxious for the winter to come so that you could go and catch a few rabbits'. Tom tells how many comics, lollies or cowboy books could be bought for a pound of skins.

In talking about the local climate Tom recalls the Gudgenby River freezing over in the drought year of 1945 (and tells a tale of ducks freezing to the ice!). He also mentions being able to ride over a frozen Honeysuckle Creek swamp in the 1960s and talks of the big Gudgenby snow fall which brought down the garage roof and killed many kangaroos. These extremely cold times were not common.

This is followed by Tom's schooling at Gudgenby, which was done by correspondence. 'Mum was the teacher - she used to have a job to get us to go into school sometimes, we'd sneak off down the river.'

After working at Rocky Crossing and doing a period of National Service in the army, Tom and his brothers got land at Michelago and then another block north of Horse Gully. The Horse Gully block is described and Tom talks of Mrs Mathieson's grave [very approximate grid reference 878363] and Booths yards and two hut sites near the shed at grid reference 879368. Reference is also made to Esther Oldfield's death and her grave at the Oldfield family house site at Reedy Creek flat [approximate grid reference 863384].

Tom helped the Cotters at mustering time at Shanahans Mountain in the 1960s and he describes the relative ease of mustering cattle compared with the difficulties in sheep-mustering.

There follows a discussion of the Gudgenby huts: Smiths (which, contradicting Roma, he says was one room), Sinclairs, Moores ('it fell down while we were there'), Jack Rustins and Miss Rustins (which Tom says was built from the Gudgenby sawmill timber, was later renovated several times, and which stood 'virtually on the same spot' as Rowley's hut. Tom agrees with his mother that it was here that great uncle Tom Brayshaw lived and died).

Quite a large vegetable garden existed at Gudgenby (down near the river) and Tom talks of this and the apple, plum, pear and cherry trees which made up the orchard.

Tom then talks of the block at Bobeyan, opposite the Bobeyan homestead, which his father bought, and which they cleared and fenced.

### **Side B**

Tom talks of memorable individuals and their stories. Included here are references to Roy Neuss (the roadman who lived near Glendale and, with his horse and dray, maintained the road from Fitz's Hill through to Bobeyan) and the Bobeyan Crawfords.

The discussion moves to the old Crawford home at Bobeyan [grid reference 756334] and Granville Venables who lived there for some years. Both Granville and the house are described (including mention of a chair carved from a tree trunk).

The tape finishes with a brief mention of Dick Brayshaw at Bobeyan and how, despite being born in Australia, he had a 'very pronounced' Scotch accent.



Roma and Tom and Tom's three boys. (Author)

Roma (centre), her sister Iris (left) and Selwyn Cleary at a fancy dress ball in the Cuppacumbalong woolshed in about 1916. (Roma Brayshaw)

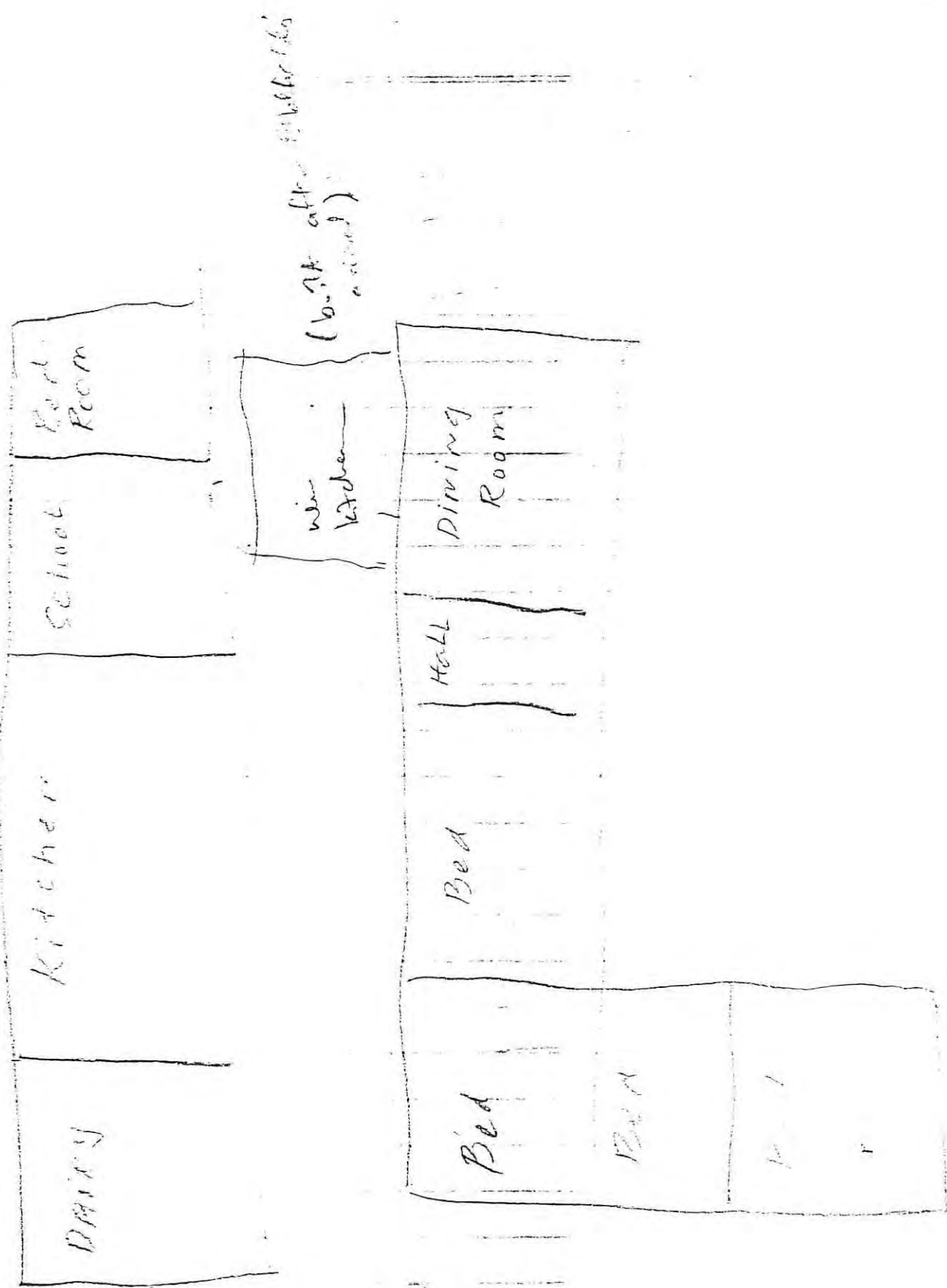




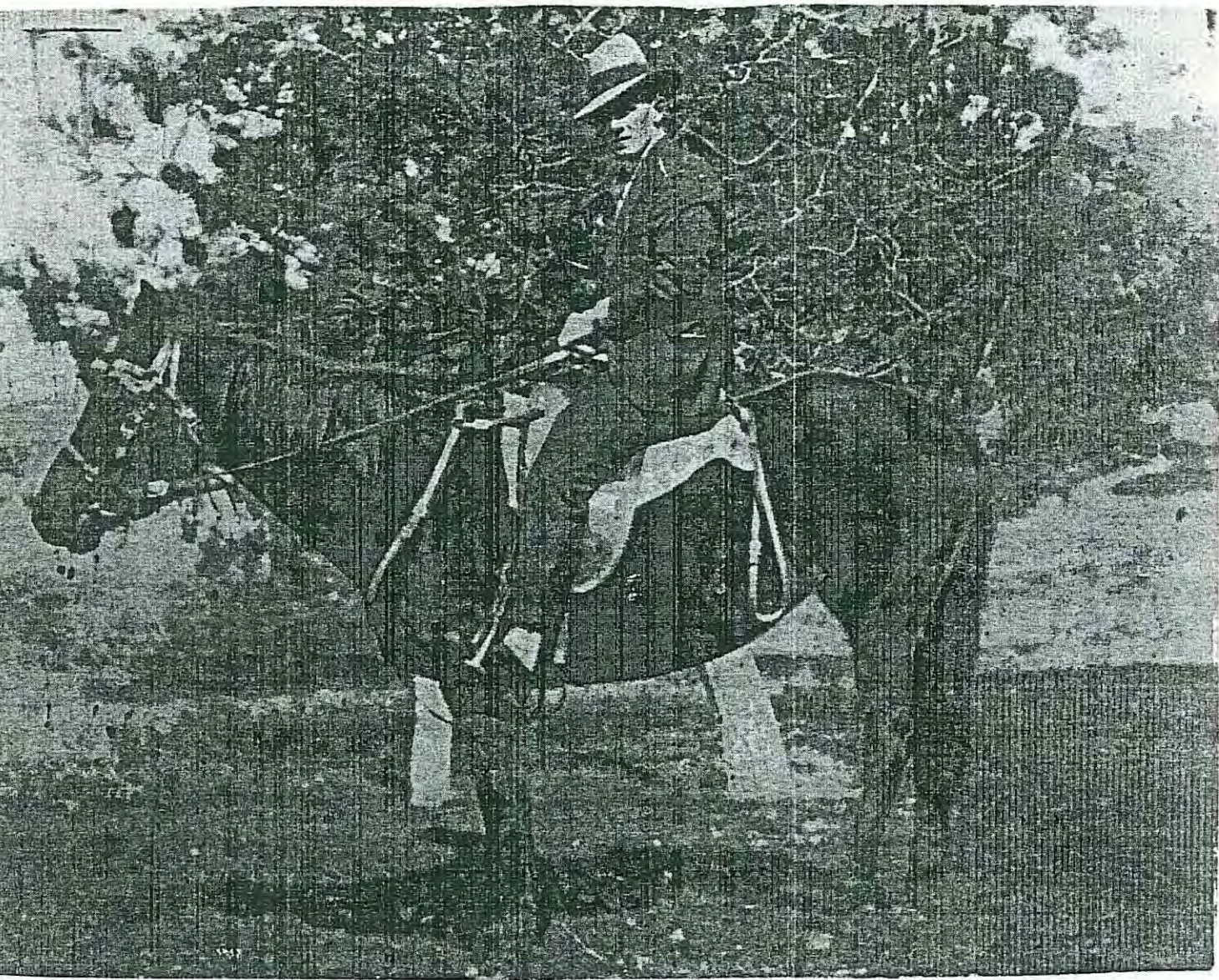
Roma's mother Ada Oldfield in 1921. (Roma Brayshaw)

Orroral homestead, main wing. (Author)





Plan of the old Gudgenby homestead as Roma knew it in the late 1920s.  
(Drawn by Roma during the interview).



Ted Brayshaw before his marriage. (Roma Brayshaw)

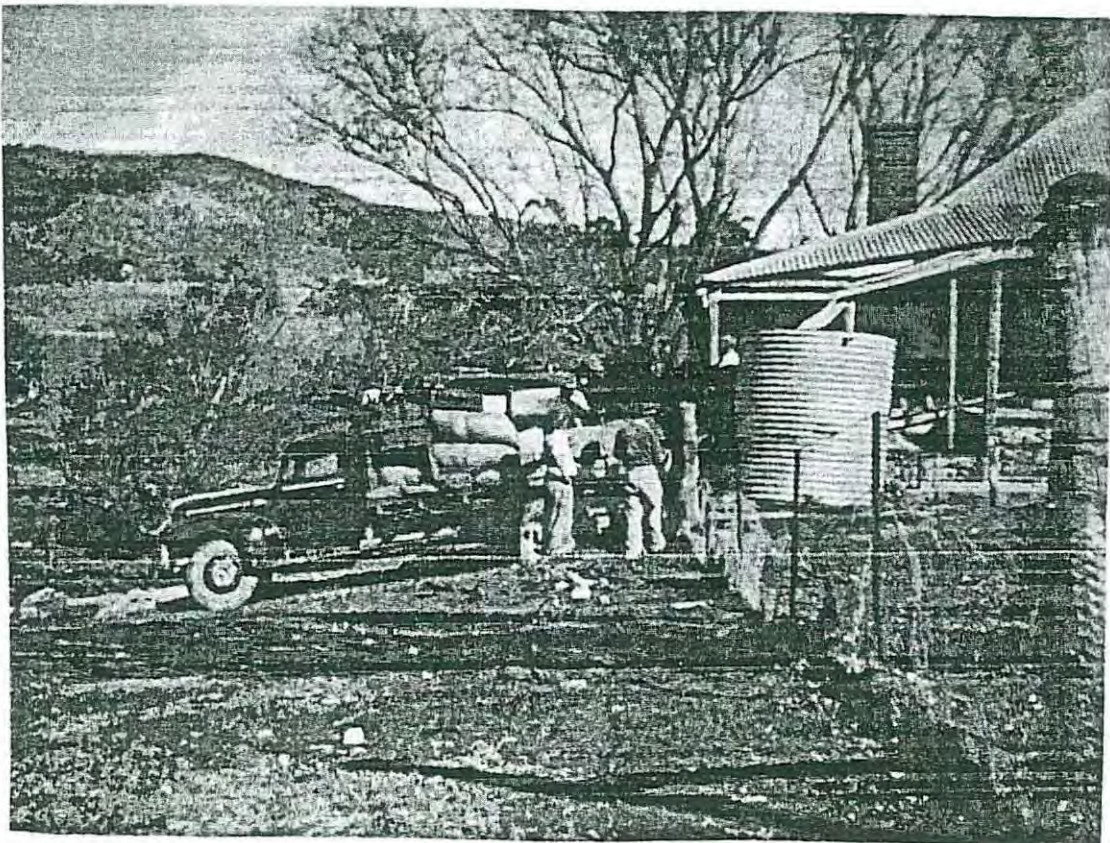
Ted and Roma, with sons Tom and Bill, photographed by Andy Cunningham at Orroral in 1935. (Roma Brayshaw)





Tom Brayshaw milking cows as a boy at Gudgenby. (Roma Brayshaw)

When Roma and Ted shifted from Gudgenby to Rocky Crossing in 1948, Stan Cregan helped them to move with the aid of his truck. (Stan, incidentally, built both Rowleys Orroral and Rowleys Rendesvous Creek huts.) (Roma Brayshaw)



## LACH & AUDREY MAXWELL, Yaouk

Lachlan Maxwell was born in 1918, the third son of Jack Maxwell (1883-1954) and Ivy nee Franklin (1885-1968, a daughter of Tom Franklin of Brindabella, and a cousin to author Stella Miles Franklin). Lach and Audrey Cochran married in 1947; Audrey, born 1919, was the first daughter of Arthur Cochran of Yaouk and his wife Eva nee Lowther (who was born near Tumut). Audrey's great grandfather Lachlan Cochran (born 1811) emigrated from Scotland and was the original owner of Yaouk. Audrey and Lach have been on their present property since 1951.

When Lach was born his parents were living at Brindabella, and Lach lived there till about 1925 when the family moved to Queanbeyan where Lach went to school. He remembers the Brindabella homestead as having been built of pise with various timber sections - these were burnt down in the 1930s and the re-built homestead is only about half the size of the original.

Jack Maxwell, as Cotter Catchment ranger (he was the first person appointed to the position), was unavoidably away from his family for long periods. 'He was a bit of a loner', said Audrey. He would travel to the Cotter by vehicle to either Naas or Orroral and by horse from there on [see also Jack Reid summary]. Lach recalled that the family accepted Jack's absence. Lach's mother and some of the boys used to go up and stay with Jack 'quite a bit' at Christmas holiday time. Lach and Audrey also visited him later from Yaouk, the ride taking about 1 1/2 hours each way. Their son Don made the first trip with them on horseback at about seven or eight months of age.

Both Lach and Audrey had been in the Brindabella, Bimberi and Scabby ranges from an early age; like the other rural people interviewed in the project, they call Mt Ginini 'Ginina', and Mt Gingera 'Big Ginina'. Audrey first rode to Ginini at about 10 years of age. Lach did his first trip there in 1929 with his father and Dave Perrott, riding from Leura to Tidbinbilla, and on Snowy Flats and Ginini they saw over 200 brumbies which at that time were so tame they followed the packhorses - 'they hadn't been chased then' said Lach. Many brumbies died during the following cold winter.

During the late 1930s - early 1950s period Lach and Audrey did annual brumby-running trips around Ginini. These trips, lasting a fortnight, were holidays eagerly looked forward to. Lach and Audrey were regularly accompanied by their parents and by Bung Harris, Tom Chalker, Alec Webb and his son, Fred Tutty and Harry Cribb. Other horsemen included Bill Lindley, Bill Cotter (whose father had shepherded sheep on the top of the Brindabellas), Barbara Baird (who later married MP Bill Wentworth), 'two old girls from the Upper Murray' a Miss Whitehead and Kit Pearce, and Lem McKeahnie from Bolaro.

Audrey recalled that the trips were 'a fun thing to do' and Lach said 'there were good bushmen then and good horses'. New trapyards were built from bush timber each trip (as the wild horses got too familiar with the old ones).

Audrey recalled that 'a main part of the trips was building the yards - and talking about it afterwards'. She was fascinated by the amount of work put into building yards. While yards baited with salt were sometimes used, the winged trapyard was the main method used and 'great store was set by who would start the brumbies off, and who'd stand at the wings. God help the blokes at the wings if they weren't ready!' The plan of chasing the brumbies to the wings and then funnelling them into the yard didn't always work for sometimes 'they'd come bolting back at you'.

Brumby mobs were generally from 10 to 30 in size, and those around Ginini originated from Brindabella Station (which had had leases on Ginini), while those around Mt Scabby had come from Yaouk where lack of fencing had allowed their escape. In 1925-26 a lot of the wild horses still had brands on them.

9.

The camp site for many of these trips was Stockyard Creek Hut. Lach, who had done stockwork on Tidbinbilla and Booroomba, by the late 1930s was a Forestry ranger. He was involved with a number of arboreta, including Bluegum, Bendora and Stockyard, and so he knew well Stockyard Creek Hut (just up from Stockyard Arboretum). It had mountain ash slab walls, a timber floor, a window and an iron roof, the iron having been carried in by boy scouts organised by Dr Cumpston or his staff. It was built about 1938, the builder being Jack Newlyn, 'a very good axeman ... a specialist in bush timber'. Newlyn was assisted by Phil Robertson. The Forestry school had organised the building of the hut and it was stocked with tinned food however Forestry students generally used the Mt Franklin Chalet. A horse paddock was near the hut.

Lach recalled that it was Dave Perrott that built Leura Hut, in about 1933. He only had bush tools and 'three pound of nails'. The hut, built for mustering, had many dovetail joints. It was originally know as 'Bag-tent Hut', because Perrott had lived in a bag tent while building it. The name apparently changed when a year later Dave returned from a Blue Mountains holiday, having been most impressed with Leura. Dave was originally from Tumbarumba; he took up a selection on the Canberra side of Condor Creek and 'dummied' for the McDonalds of Uriarra. For a time he looked after Little Peppercorn Hut in Kosciusko National Park.

Lach also recalled that in 1929 Dave Perrott and Bung Harris built a fence from Little Bimberi to beyond Blackfellow's Gap in order to keep cattle out of the Cotter Catchment. It ran from tree to tree and consisted of three barbed wires.

Lach's father Jack had leases and during the Depression he was mustering with two Aboriginal stockmen (named Richards, from Queanbeyan), Neville Reid and Barney Rumble. They put up with heavy snowfalls on Ginini and when they brought the stock out at Condor Creek, the owner, Bolger, couldn't pay them. So they paid him £3 and kept half the cattle.

After artillery service during the second world war in the Middle East and New Guinea, in 1944 Lach was 'manpowered' out of the army and back into forestry work at Bulls Head, where he worked for a time with brother Doug. The first house at Bulls Head was built in 1937; the other two were constructed after the war. In addition to the houses were other quarters and contractors' huts. He recalled that there was one hut at Bendora Arboretum, built by Ted Kennedy and Pat Fisher. Lach believes that Pryors Hut was built about 1955.

Of Smiths Hut, Lach recalls that it was the last hut standing in the Cotter - 'it was falling down but you could shelter in it'. It had an iron roof. The eastern approach to the current bridge over the Cotter [at grid reference 655544] 'would go nearly through' the hut's site.

Regarding other Cotter huts, there was Colquhoun's Hut [rough grid reference 658520] which had [and possibly still has] gooseberry and blackberry bushes adjacent to the site. The Colquhouns may have been from Bolaro. Lach recalled that Rowley Robertson [whose hut was at approximate grid reference 662486] was from Queanbeyan. The Fergus family had at one time occupied the old Cotter House. Lach did not believe that Jacks Creek was named after his father.

Stockyard Gap Hut [approximate grid reference 604646] was just inside New South Wales and was built just after the second world war and only stood a couple of years - it was 'just a makeshift bit of a hut'. It was possibly built for skiing [see also Alan Bagnall summary]. A brumby yard stood about 250 metres away [and is possibly the one built by Jack Maxwell referred to in the Tom Gregory interview].

Lach recalled that he led geologists (under a Dr Fisher) and packhorses in to Black Springs, and also later down Kangaroo Creek, when the Corin Dam site was being selected.

Audrey and Lach remember in 1945-46 taking three separate mobs of stock from Tuggeranong siding to Yaouk. The cattle, from Goondiwindi and Tenterfield, were in groups of 1400, 1600 and 1400. Each trip took about four days; the first night was spent at Point Hut, the second at either Paddy's River or Naas, and the third at Gudgenby. Other stockmen assisting the drives were Les Yan, George Rowley, Arthur Cochran and Dave Jones. The cattle had 'pink-eye' and couldn't see well; getting them through some of the higher, rocky country was so difficult that one of the dogs was 'completely knocked up'. The gap between Gudgenby and Yaouk wasn't crossed until just on dark when, in the moonlight, the cattle at last fanned out onto the Yaouk plain - 'a beautiful sight'.

A humorous incident occurred at the beginning of one of these trips. At Tuggeranong Dr John Burton [Secretary of the Department of External Affairs] had inadvertently left his front gate open and 1400 cattle wandered in and 'ploughed up' his immaculate garden before Audrey, Lach and the others could get the stock out again. 'The most terrible sight I've ever seen - bedlam!', recalls Audrey who, like Lach, was very anxious at the time. Dr Burton's wife was not impressed.

Regarding Mt Franklin Chalet, Lach used to take in supplies for the Canberra Alpine Club, by packhorse, from Bulls Head each winter for several years. He recalls that Jim Reid and one of the Fletchers worked as cooks at the chalet (Reid had worked at Brindabella under the name of Jim White). Kiandra's Billy Pattinson (brother of Jim Pattinson) instructed at the Chalet. Lach recalls that the Chalet piano was always out of tune. Lach had 'heard' that ropes which hung outside the Chalet's upper windows as a fire escape were sometimes taken by brumby-runners as were Chalet blankets. Lach (who occasionally went skiing) and Audrey both agreed that there was less snow nowadays.

While rope and blankets sometimes disappeared from the Chalet, theft from huts was rare; Bill and Jack Cotter used Kelly's Plain Hut [or Crace's Hut] at Tantangara and a bottle of whiskey and a dozen bottles of beer remained at the hut virtually unmolested for a year.

Both Audrey and Lach spoke about former Kiandra resident Peter Quinn (immortalised in David Campbell's poetry). He would leave a trail of empty Irish Moss bottles - even while doing stockwork. He used to winter each year at Yarrangobilly, and would then tell of what a big trip it was.

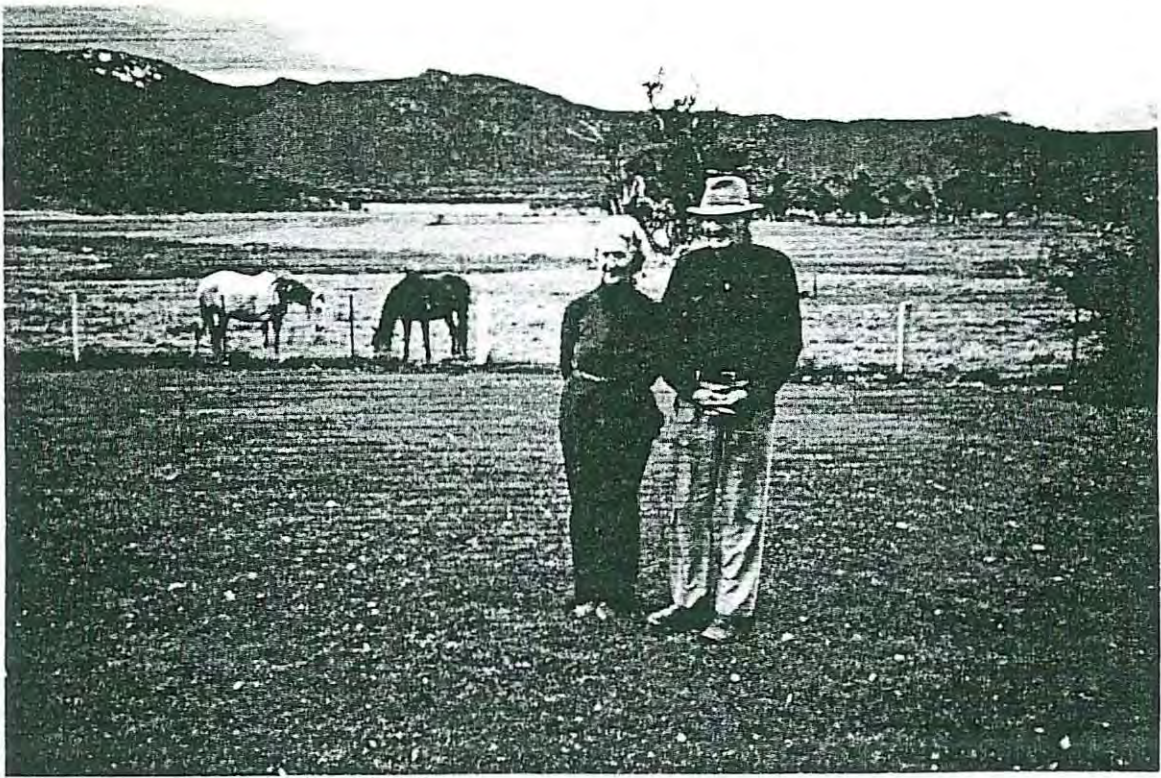
Audrey has clear memories of Bung (Henry) Harris, who worked for her aunt, Ruby Cochran, for years from 1929. 'You could write a book about him - charismatic, a real show off, a party man, he could sing, dance, play the concertina. Not a thing he didn't know about sheep and cattle'. Numerous times he drove stock through what is now Namadgi, sometimes taking stock from Queensland to Victoria. (Both Audrey and Lach took stock through to Bairnsdale in years past. Audrey once rode back in four days, being in the saddle for about 14 - 15 hours each day - her condition upon returning to Yaouk can be imagined.)

Lach talked also about Tom Oldfield, and about his having been probably the biggest landholder in the Namadgi area. He started his sons and sons-in-law off by purchasing land in their names.

Towards the end of the interview the discussion touched again on the Cotter. Lach believed that no serious gold-mining had taken place there, the only shafts having been exploratory, small scale ones. Regarding Cotter House, he said that Dave Perrott and a Southwell from Queanbeyan did up the old Cotter House in about 1930-31, putting new shingles on the back verandah (the shingles were cut near Bimberi Creek), erecting new verandah posts and partitioning the building into three rooms. The two men had come in with their tools etc via the old dray road from Orroral, which is now the firetrail through Eighty Acres. As for the moving of the building across the river, he said this was done by John Bluett from Brindabella (with some assistance from Jack Maxwell); Perrott was definitely not involved. Bluett did the job with his Chev 4 truck which he had brought in via Yaouk.

Lach also remembered Jack Rustin from Gudgenby. After Marmaduke Watson Lee died, Rustin worked on the roads between Tharwa, Tidbinbilla and Naas. While manager at Gudgenby for Lee, Rustin had had a drink problem, but he apparently overcame this by the time that Lach knew him. Lach said he was 'a good honest man, a hard worker'.

Finally, Lach was asked about the snow leases. Jack Maxwell and Bert Reid (from Tidbinbilla) had Hardys Lease which bordered Coolamine (Coolamine Lease was held by Ruby Cochran). Lach then got Hardys from his father. Lach also held Pig Back (now officially called Peak Back) on the upper Murrumbidgee, and Peppercorn. For a time he and Les Yan also had Ted Oldfield's River Paddock lease on Long Plain.



Audrey and Lach Maxwell at Yaouk (Mt Scabby is seen at left). (Author)

Riders at Mt Franklin Chalet the year following its opening. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)



4.1.39. The Chalet Mt. Franklin.



Franklin family members at the Mt Franklin trig on the occasion of the naming of the mountain. At front centre is Tom Franklin and just above him is his sister Agnes (after whom Mt Aggie and Aggie Gap are named) while to the right of Tom is Agnes' husband Billy Hilder. Around the top of the trig are three of Tom's children, Joe, Ruby and Ivy (who later married Jack Maxwell). A number of the people seen here figure in Miles Franklin's Childhood at Brindabella. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)

Author (Stella) Miles Franklin. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)



Trip to the summit of Mt Morgan in about 1933. The four people at rear are (from left) Bung Harris, Ruby Cochran, Eva Cochran and Arthur Cochran. Of the people in front, Audrey is fourth from left. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)

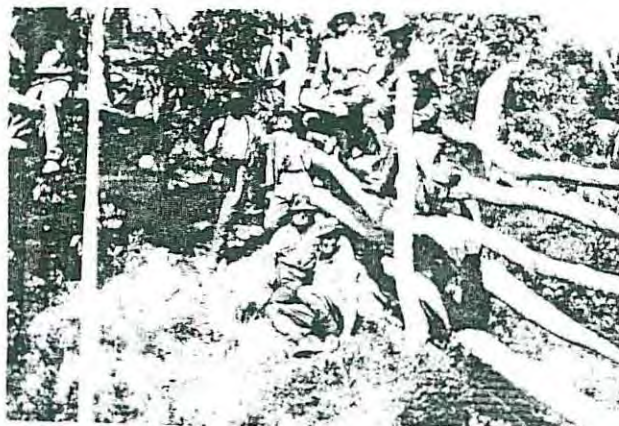


In this early photo of a gathering at Yaouk, two of Audrey's aunts are seen: Ruby Cochran is at front centre and Ada Cochran is at far right. Seated in the background is Audrey's great grandmother whose husband Lachlan Cochlan (born in Scotland in 1811) was the original owner of Yaouk. (Fay and Noel Luton)

Three generations of Maxwells at Cotter House in 1949: Jack (right), Lach and baby Don. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)

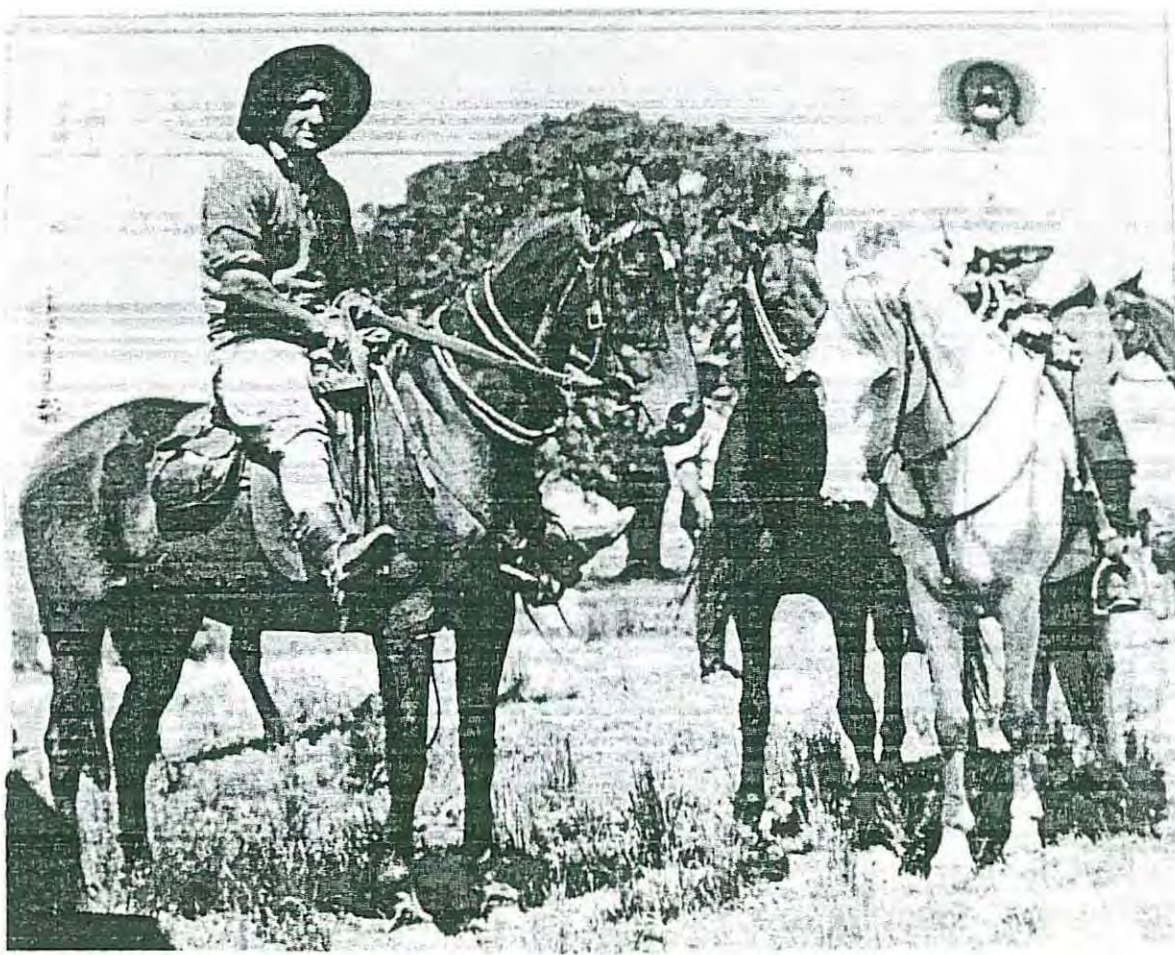


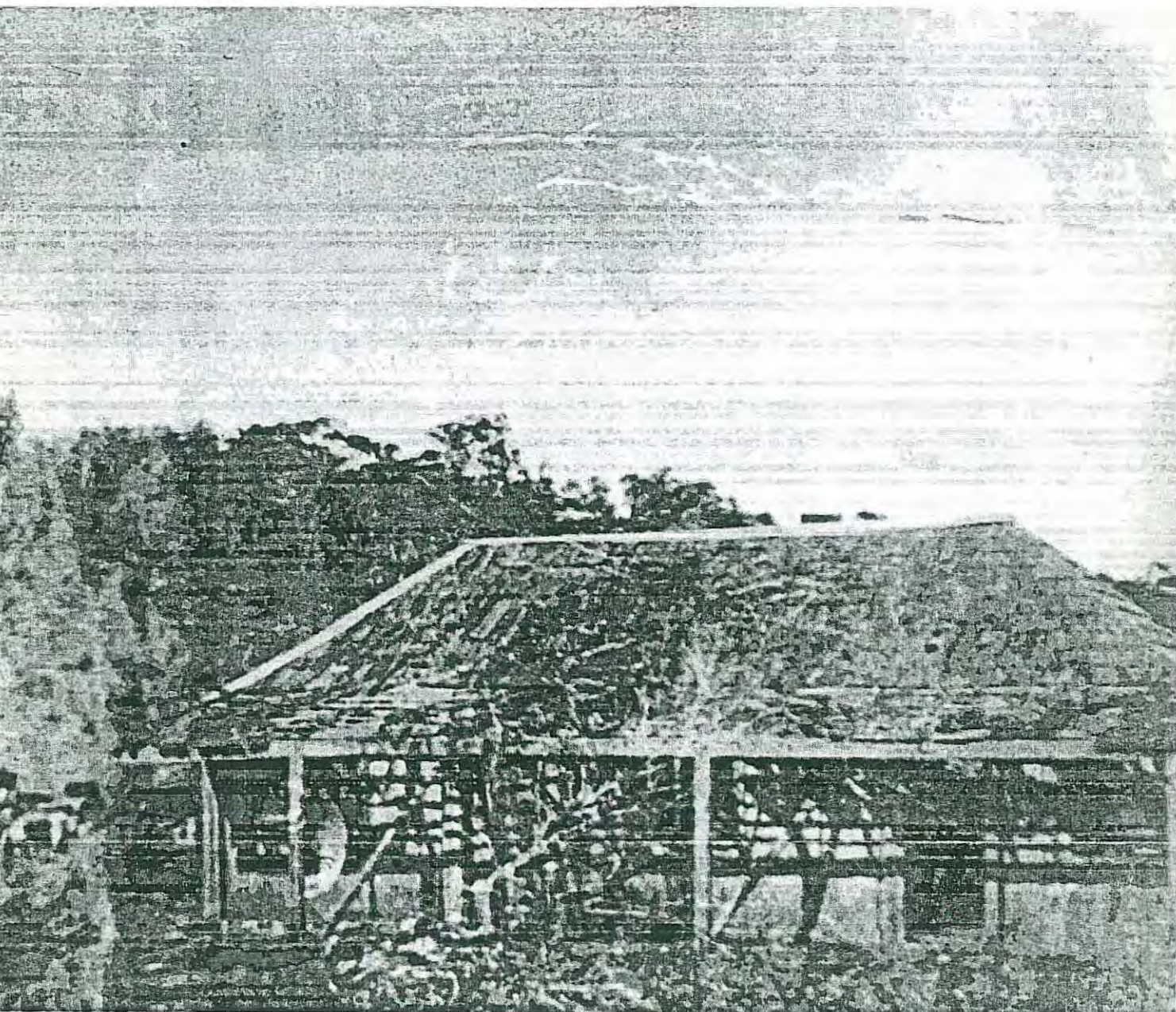
Building a brumby trapyard on Ginina (Mt Ginini).  
(Audrey and Lach Maxwell)



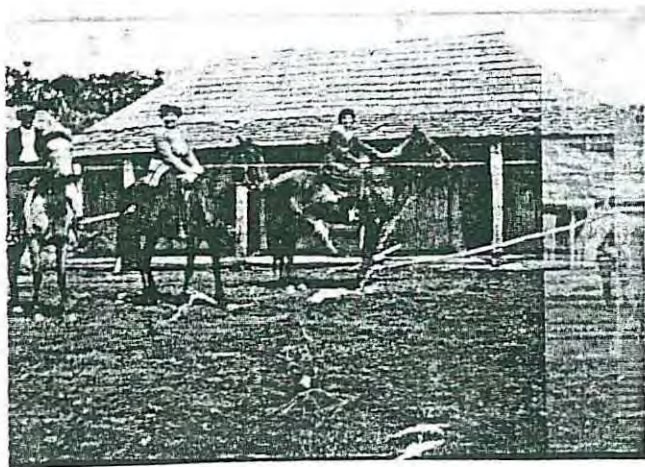
Ivy and Jack Maxwell at Murray Creek on 6 January 1941. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)

Fred Tutty and Ivy Maxwell in the 1930s. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)



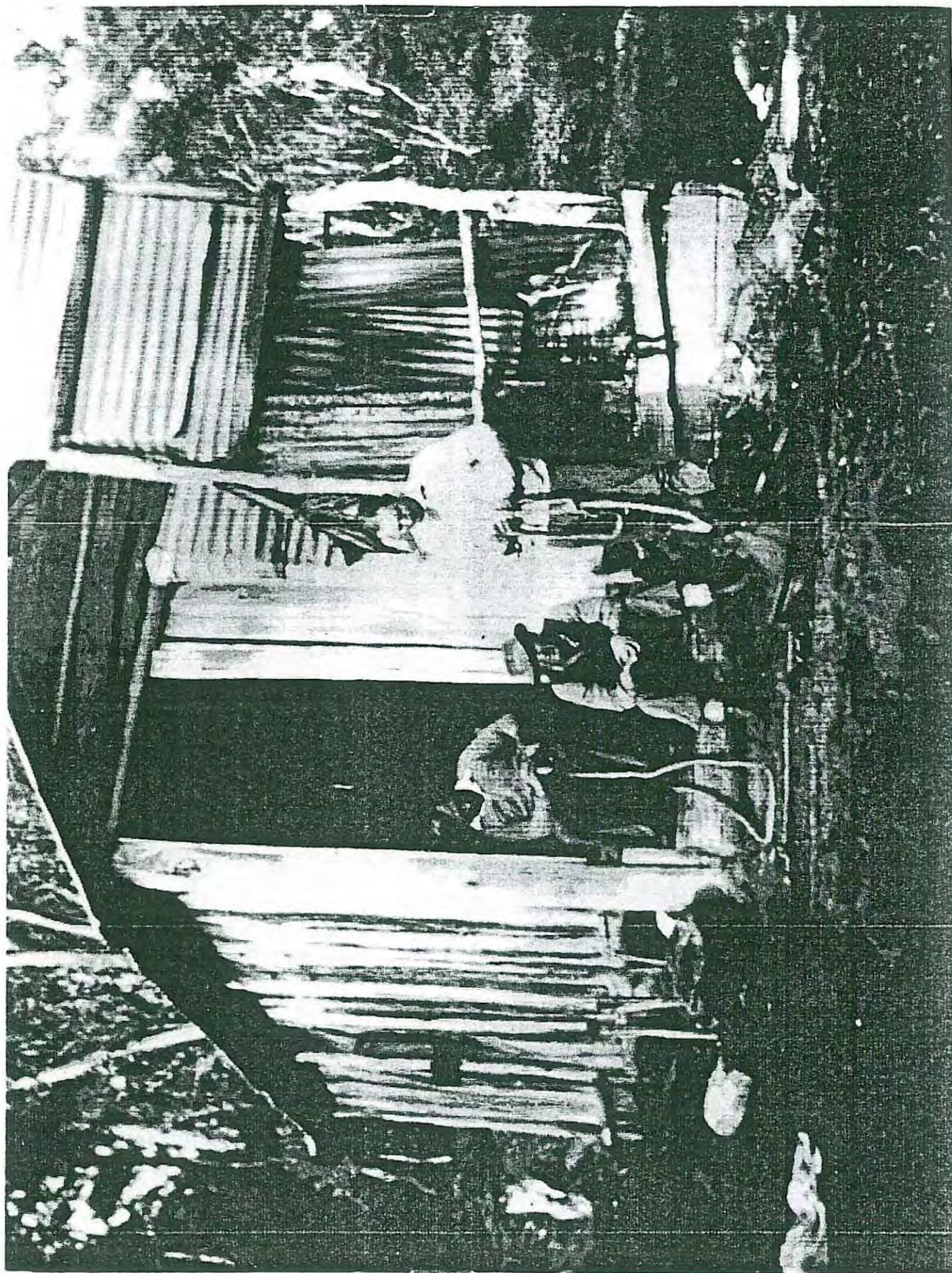


An early photograph of Cotter House, built by Thomas Oldfield for £12 late 18th century. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)



Cotter House at its original site (above) and at its relocated position (below). Although there is difference of opinion between interviewees on when the building was moved, it seems certain that the move took place sometime between winter 1935 (when Lindsay Pryor saw it in its original site) and January 1937 (the date of the lower photo). People in the top photo are Albert Lowther, Audrey's mother Eva Cochran (nee Lowther) and Audrey's aunt Ada nee Cochran who married Albert Lowther. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell).





Stockyard Creek Hut in about 1953 with, l-r, Sid Cleary's son Frank, Norman McGuinness and Lach (the photo was taken by Kevin Primmer). (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)

## TO "BUNG"

Died 15/6/1961, Aged 63 Years, Member  
1st Battalion, 1914-1918 War)

He was known all over the mountains,  
And north, south, east and west;  
When he passed away the other day  
Monaro lost one of its best.

He spent most of his life in those Southern Alps  
Helping keep people young;  
His correct name Henry Harris,  
But always known as "Bung".

He was only a lad when he sailed away  
From Australia's eastern shore,  
And by serving his time far overseas  
Helped win the first World War.

When he returned and was discharged  
He rambled to some extent;  
Though he spent some years in Queensland—  
God knows how far he went!

He drove the largest mob ever for Cochran  
To Wodonga in southern New South Wales;  
Other than that we only know  
He spent a lot of time around Louth.

Then he came back to the mountains  
Where he was born and reared,  
To live among his lifelong friends  
With whom all he possessed he shared.

He knew the mountains inch by inch  
From Vic. to the New South coast—  
Better than any bushmen left,  
Regardless of any others' boast.

He always had good horses,  
His dogs were as good as the best  
Regardless of what he said to them,  
Which was mostly said in jest.

Now all you boys who travelled with him,  
Droving through snow or drought,  
Know as well as I do  
He was certain to find a way out.

Regardless how tough the going,  
Or if stuck in the worst god-damned place,  
He could always find time for a funny remark,  
With a smile on his pleasant face.

And now, "Bung", I must draw to a close.  
All of us wish you the best:  
We hope you are having a whale of a time  
Up where you have chosen to rest!

—CLARRIE REES.

(Audrey and Lach Maxwell)

## **HUGH READ, Hackett, Canberra**

Hugh Read was born in July 1907, a son of George Read (1869-1947) and Florence nee Fisher (1873-1967). (Florence was born in Gunning, but her family later moved for health reasons to Old Currango which is where she was living when she and George met - they actually met at a dance at Cotter House). The family property was Willowvale at Naas; after his father's death Hugh had a property on the Honeysuckle Creek Road. He married Rene Hogan in 1945, however they divorced nine years later. In the 1960s Hugh moved to Queanbeyan and then to Bungendore. He now lives in the Canberra suburb of Hackett.

### **Tape 1, Side A**

The interview begins with a lengthy discussion about Gudgenby during the Lee period, including Hugh's recollections of Marmaduke Watson Lee and his family, Jack Rustin's period as manager when the Lees went to England (and the property ran down), and the governesses and other servants employed at Gudgenby. Hugh mentions the properties around Gudgenby owned by Paddy Moore, Paddy Smith and Jack Rustin, the problems with rabbits and the men (Kellehers and Gregorys) who used to trap there. There is a detailed - and rather humorous - description of the problems involved in getting Lee's body away from Gudgenby in 1924 when he died; Hugh's brother George (who, married to Bertha Jeffery, then owned the Tharwa store) and John Rolfe had the unenviable task, one made more difficult by the section of road known as the Stoney Nursery near Rendezvous Creek.

Hugh then describes Paddy Moore in some detail. After telling of an incident when, as a baby, Hugh was attacked by a turkey at Willowvale (!), Hugh goes on to talk about Paddy Smith and narrates a story about snakes at Smith's hut at Gudgenby, involving Cecil Cotter. Cotter also used to play the violin at the hut. There is mention of Jack Rustin's hut and the death and burial of the Sutcliffe girl there about 1921.

Hugh talks further about the Lees, especially the children - three girls (Bobby, Laurie and Gwen) and two boys (Teddy and Dukey). Teddy broke his leg and was taken in for treatment on Jack Cregan's sulky. According to Hugh, before they sold Gudgenby to the Bootes' the Lees 'in the finish had nothing'. Hugh tells how Marmaduke's widow Myrrha Lee (nee Rustin) had a sister [possibly Olive Rustin, after whom Miss Rustin's hut is named] who worked at Gudgenby as a governess and how she married Gudgenby jackeroo Billy Williams, to the shock of local society.

There is a lengthy description of the cutting of a firetrail from the Cotter River through Smokers Flat, Orroral and Gudgenby and out to the old Cooma road in about the mid-twenties. Ada Oldfield at Orroral cooked food for the men on the job and Hugh took it out to them on a packhorse. He tells of a supposed 'haunting' in Rendezvous Creek (actually caused by two trees rubbing) and how at Jack Rustin's Hut the men amused themselves by howling at the dingoes.

Another detailed anecdote follows, this one covering firstly the marriage and then the death of Gudgenby worker Dick Ward. Dick, out buying rabbit traps, got lost on the way home and died at Glendale Crossing.

### **Side B**

The Dick Ward story is continued, as Hugh tells of the recovery of the body. He completes the story by telling of how he saw Ward's ghost at the Crossing on a later date - and how Con Kelleher saw it too.

This is followed by a brief description of some rough riding at Gudgenby (when Hugh was invited by Jack Chalker to ride a touchy horse) and Hugh's opinion of Jack Rustin's hut - 'an awful place ... not a bit nice'.

The discussion turns to Glendale and how it was owned by Thomas Edward Oldfield (whose second wife, Anna nee Fisher, was Hugh's aunt), then passed to the Lamonds (or Lamondes, Lomonds), then to Thomas' son-in-law Joseph Oldfield in about the mid-1920s and then to Joe's son Granville. When Joe moved to Glenferrie in the late 1920s, he had Jason Moore move part of the Glendale house down to Glenferrie on Moore's bullock dray [see also Granville Crawford summary].

The Reads' property Willowvale was originally selected by Tom Gregory. Tom sold it to Hugh's grandfather, also named Hugh. Hugh gives details of these matters, of Tom's selection at Brandy Flat, and of Tom's son "Red" Jack Gregory [father of interviewee Tom Gregory] who had a bullock team and broke horses at Orroral.

Hugh talks of Roy Gregory's mail run and how Roy found Tom Brayshaw dead in his hut on Rendezvous Creek in 1919; the hut was, according to Hugh, Miss Rustin's hut, which was about 50 yards from Rowley Gregory's hut. Hugh emphasises the harsh conditions endured by people like Tom and talks also of old local men (like a member of the Adaminaby Crowe family) slowly dying in Queanbeyan hospital.

The interview focuses for a time on Orroral. Hugh talks of having a mare serviced at Orroral (during Tom Oldfield's period as manager) and selling the foal later to Mr Snow of Cuppacumbalong. He describes Tom's wife Ada as a 'terrific woman' on account of her hospitable nature, mentions May Mould as being the teacher there in the early 1920s, and tells how Tom Oldfield drove Ada's turkeys to Gudgenby when they shifted there from Orroral. Hugh recollects how he once drove Andy Cunningham's wife to Orroral during flood time, how Andy confronted his wife, and how Hugh was 'forced' to stay the night at the Orroral homestead while Andy spent most of the night walking around whistling.

## Tape 2, Side A

Hugh continues his description of Andy Cunningham, sketching in Cunningham's difficult and bullying personality. On one occasion Cunningham flew down from Sydney for a dingo drive at Orroral and Hugh describes in some detail the way that the drive was conducted. Tom Taylor participated on the day. Hugh also has clear recollections of Cunningham's manager, Sid Cleary, describing firstly how Cleary and Cunningham repaired Cunningham's aircraft, and then Sid's efforts at singing at local dances. When about 18 or so, Hugh spent a night with Roy Gregory up the top end of Orroral (near Sawpit Creek) at Roy's rabbiting camp; both of them were scared stiff by dingoes howling close by.

After his father's death Hugh inherited land on the Honeysuckle Creek road, built a house there and later bought land from Ted McMahon at Honeysuckle Creek in the late 1940s. Hugh describes the bark-roofed hut built by Ted's grandfather Andy and the primitive conditions endured by Andy and people of his time. Andy McMahon's hut was near the junction of the Booroomba Rocks road [at grid reference 791606]. Andy's son Dan built an iron hut at the eastern end of Honeysuckle Creek swamp in about [1940] [approximate grid reference 804608]. The iron was taken in on packhorses from Hugh's place; a snowstorm flattened the hut and Dan had to raise it up again using bush techniques. Hugh also tells of fixing a broken wagonette wheel using similar methods.

Hugh lost a number of sheep and some wool bales due to theft while he was at the Honeysuckle. He also tells how, when aged 10 and 12, he and his brother Charlie were sent by their father to an old hut in this area to spend the night, father believing that the smell of humans would keep the dingoes from attacking the sheep.

After briefly talking about Ted Brayshaw (whom he calls a decent but very quiet fellow), Hugh is questioned about the snow leases around Tantangara and talks of Patrick Kelly of Michelago after whom Kellys Plains are named. Accompanied by Charlie Crawford and Merv Evans, Hugh, in the 1930s, did a trip from Crace's Hut to Yarrangobilly Caves. The journey culminated in a night of very heavy drinking at the Rules Point Hotel. Hugh describes the evening humorously and with gusto.

### Side B

The Rules Point adventure is continued, with Hugh telling of his massive hangover, the buckjump show next morning and publican MacDonald's headache cure.

In concluding, Hugh criticises the romantic expression 'the good old days' and says that they were 'shocking, cruel' days. The interview finishes with a few more details of Dick Ward's death.



Hugh Read at 21. (Hugh Read)



Hugh today (note the walking frame - Hugh is one of a number of interviewees who is now either partly or almost totally crippled).  
(Author)

Rules Point Hotel. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION.

CANBERRA.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
"THE SECRETARY."

CODE ADDRESS:

"CANBRACOM  
CANBERRA."

IN REPLY  
PLEASE QUOTE

No. AML/DCG.

25th May, 1926

Dear Sir,

With further reference to my letter of 7th May, you are informed that the Minister has approved of you being given a Guarantee that there will be no acquisition of your freehold property of 1280 acres near Gudgenby, for at least 10 years.

Yours faithfully,

*B. J. Dalry*  
Secretary,  
FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION.

Mr. Patrick Smith,  
Therwa.

Placatory letter sent by the Commonwealth to Patrick Smith regarding his Gudgenby block. (Joan and Bill Bootes)

## MAX OLDFIELD, 'Cremorne', near Young

Max Oldfield was born in May 1928, his parents being Ted (Edward John) Oldfield (1890-1978) and Amy nee Brooks (died 1934). In 1952 Max married Betty nee Ashley and they had two daughters. Max's father owned Naas Homestead and Max lived there until 1956 when Ted moved to a property on the Grenfell Road, north of Young; Max and Betty thereupon built their own home, Naas, which is where Caloola Farm is situated today. With the resumption of freehold land in the early 1970s, Max and Betty moved to Tharwa in 1972 and then to 'Cremorne' a year later.

### Tape 1. Side A

Ted Oldfield was born at Reedy Creek; Max describes the house there (slab walls, shingle roof, possibly a dirt floor) and supplies some details of the selection of the property (600 acres) by Ted's parents Joseph Matthew Oldfield and Elizabeth nee Rawlings [approximate grid reference 863384]. During the 1890s, the family moved down Naas River to The Old Place, also known as Mistle Cottage [approximate grid reference 877501].

Joseph Matthew Oldfield managed Naas Homestead and the owner (possibly a Mr Circuit) had land in the snow lease country (which was then freehold). Joseph and Elizabeth used to go out there each summer with stock and Ted accompanied them, going to school at Old Currango where the teacher was a Miss Fisher. In winter Ted went to school at Naas.

Max at this point was asked about Ted's sister Esther dying at Reedy Creek; Max believes the cause of death was diptheria [see Roma Brayshaw summary].

After leaving school Ted worked at home and also shepherded sheep in the snow country and, particularly, in the Cotter (this was the pre-catchment era). Max talks about Thomas Edward Oldfield who built Cotter House and owned a lot of land in the Cotter, leasing some to Ted's father. Ted stayed at Cotter House and at Smiths Hut (built by Foster Smith senior's father from Williamsdale) [grid reference 655544]. [Max agreed, after the interview, that his father had also shepherded at De Salis Hut with Cuth Kirchner.] Unable to afford a saddlehorse, Ted travelled on foot accompanied by his packhorse. Once at Eighty Acres he was fog-bound for a week. He also shot wallabies and trapped rabbits, selling the skins to cousin Bill Oldfield who was a major buyer.

Max then gives a lengthy description of Cotter shepherding methods (the building of 'breaks' for the sheep, the lighting of fires to keep dingoes away, the constant moving of sheep to good feed, etc) and how he (as a baby) was taken on a shepherding trip by his parents.

Max shepherded sheep on Ginini in the early years. He discusses here the names Ginina, Big Ginina, Little Ginnina, and how these have changed to Ginini, Gingera etc.

Educated at first by the housekeepers who worked at Naas Homestead following his mother's death, Max finished his schooling at 15 at the subsidised school established by Tom and Ada Oldfield at Top Naas (the school room was built into the verandah).

From the age of thirteen Max used every opportunity (eg school holidays) to go and stay with Cotter ranger Jack Maxwell and go brumby-running with him; 'I loved the bush and I loved horses'. Max gives a very detailed description of brumby-running, including the areas involved (eg the spurs running down to the Goodradigbee), building of the yards (together with the bag 'door' at the entrance), the starting of the brumbies, the work of the men on the wings of the yard and then the ways in which the brumbies were led out of the bush. Max's first brumby was sold for £5 to a Duntroon colonel for the colonel's children.

## Side B

The description of brumby-running is continued. Jack Maxwell used to try to maintain good breeding among the wild horses (by buying and releasing good stallions, and shooting old wild ones) [compare with Lindsay Pryor's statement that one of Jack's duties was to keep the brumbies down]. When horses failed to be captured at the yards, Max says that an attempt would be made to run them down (a risky task in rough country) and he tells of the methods used. Ginini horses were of good breed; Mt Scabby ones invariably were buck-jumpers.

During these trips Max, Jack and others would either stay at Stockyard Creek Hut or they would camp at Snowy Flats. Stockyard Creek Hut had slab walls and floor, and an iron roof which may have originally been shingle [this possibly resolves the contradiction between other interviewees about the roof material]. Max, Jack and Jack's eldest son Doug built the horseyard which stood about 200 yards down from the hut towards the arboretum. Max tells how their hobbled horses wandered away during the yard's construction; they found them down at Cotter House - the story reflects horses' navigational ability.

Max remembers Cotter House as 'quite a good, comfortable hut', of three main rooms (big kitchen, bedroom, storeroom), together with a saddlery room. The bedroom ceiling was lined with hessian and the walls had been lined with newspaper. It still stood for a time after the new ranger house was built.

Discussion then turns to the snow leases and specifically to the River Paddock lease on Long Plain which Ted Oldfield obtained when the leases first came out in either 1943 or 1945. Tents were used for accommodation until the hut (now known to KHA as Ted Oldfield's Hut) was built in early 1950. The materials were driven in on a lorry via Adaminaby by Ross Woods, though timber for the frame came from the hill above the site. Max, Ted Tong and Fred Bridle (manager at Coolamine) built the hut over three or four days. Fred's main job was the fireplace; Max brought the mud for the fireplace from the Murrumbidgee in a spring cart. Oldfields had the lease through to about the mid 1960s when Max got the Racecourse lease, and Lach Maxwell and Les Yan (from Yaouk) then got the River Paddock.

From the 1930s to the 1960s Max or his father took sheep to the Little Leura lease (on the western side of the Brindabellas) which was held by Jack Maxwell, and also to Dan White's [father of interviewee Dulcie Oldfield] lease at Blue Waterholes. Max talks of the regulations applicable to the snow leases (eg prohibition on clearing, limits on stock numbers, limits on the period when stock could be on the lease i.e. 1 December to 31 May) and mentions the work of ranger Tom Taylor.

## Tape 2, Side A

This section of the interview contains much detail about the route and routine of droving trips from Naas through Orroral and the Cotter to the snow lease country in Kosciusko National Park. In taking stock up to the lease at the beginning of summer, Max and Ted would jointly take the flock (usually 1100 wethers) as far as Orroral on a Saturday afternoon. Max would go alone next day, making Cotter House by lunch, then to Murray Creek that night. On Monday morning he would take the sheep on to the River Paddock, and would return to Naas. Each day was, in Max's words, 'a big day'. An alternative, slower schedule (taking three to four days,) was to stay at Cotter House overnight. After shearing was finished at Naas, it was back out to the lease for dipping which would take place at the Currango dip.

Max says that he used to stay in the Orroral homestead (the sheep were yarded in yards adjacent to the dingo-proof fence). Then in later years, when Gregorys put in a mustering paddock further from the homestead, he would camp there and not at the house.

He recalls the kitchen block and school still standing in the Cunningham era and talks of the various fruit trees around the house.

In describing the stock route Max says that the dingo-proof fence surrounding Orroral was built by his father and others including several of Ted's brothers (Tom, Joe and possibly Harry) during the Bootes period of ownership.

Once through Cotter Gap and at the Cotter River, it was sometimes necessary to make 'bridges' to enable the sheep to cross (though in early summer, with the sheep shorn, this generally wasn't necessary). If he stayed at Cotter House overnight, next night might be spent at Pockets Hut, then on to the River Paddock next day.

Max was often on his own, with three dogs and 1100 sheep. Sheep that had been to the lease before knew their own way. The stockmen, like Max, taking stock to the leases deliberately scheduled their trips so as not to coincide with one another (due to the shortage of yards at Cotter House and other stopping points). Sometimes, however, multiple mobs would be 'boxed' together and travel as one; this was done more in winter.

Talking of Cotter House, Max said how when he stayed it was always in the house; Jack Maxwell always made you welcome. Later ranger Tom Gregory was 'a different sort of a feller' and didn't accommodate everyone. Max tells of an embarrassing incident where Tom welcomed Max and Betty, but not Ted Brayshaw (who had 'boxed' his stock with Max and Betty's) who had to camp outside.

Betty accompanied Max to the leases almost every year. It was generally uncommon, in Max's opinion, for wives to go with their husbands on droving trips (an exception being Everard and Sylvia Oldfield and also Dan White and his daughters).

Asked whether these annual trips were a special event, Max answered that they were 'just an ordinary day's work', although the summer weather was an attraction.

Max then illustrates the problems of bringing out stock at the end of autumn. One year he and Ted had 1700 sheep from the River Paddock and 800 from Leura, and it snowed. Max led the packhorses and cattle back and forth to pack down the snow for the sheep. Then when approaching the Cotter River from Murray Gap, the hungry animals - at last seeing feed - 'exploded' and went everywhere. It was quite an ordeal getting them back together again.

Discussing how spare time was spent around the snow leases, Max talks of the importance of rum and of the informal rodeos and races that were held - 'that was our sport' he says.

## Side B

This last side of the interview is mainly concerned with leases and huts on Booth Range.

Ted Oldfield obtained a 7000 acre lease on the Booth Range and then asked his brother Tom to be a partner in it (this was Tom Oldfield's first start as a landowner); Tom was then managing Gudgenby for the Bootes', so it must have been during the mid-1920s - mid-1930s period. Ted, Tom and George Gould (who worked on the lease for the two brothers) decided to build a hut on the lease; Ted took the iron from Naas to Gudgenby and the next day they made their own track to the site, which became known as The Bog [near the top of the Booth Range, at grid reference 844415]. The hut took about a day to build. George Gould constructed the fireplace. George lived in the hut for many years while working for Ted and Tom and had a vegetable garden there. At mustering time Ted and Tom would join him at the hut, but otherwise he was alone.

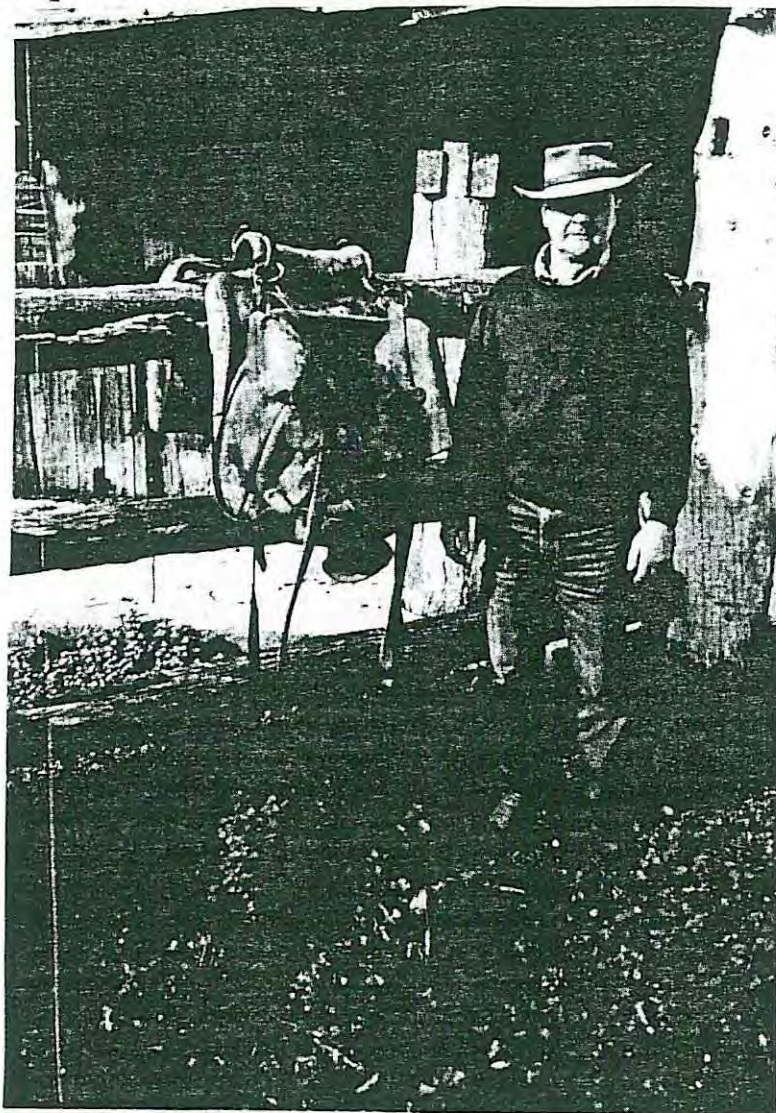
After Ted left Naas in 1956, the lease was held jointly by Tom and Max, then when Tom died his share went to his son Bert. Max tells of the seasonal routine on the lease (when the wethers were brought home from the snow leases they were wigged, drenched, then sent onto the Booth Range lease for the winter; but when the snow leases finished stock were kept year-round on the lease). Max relates the various mustering times on the lease and says how drenching had to become more frequent once the sheep were on the lease all the time.

In 1961 Max and Bert built a new hut on the lease for mustering [at grid reference 869359], as The Bog area was too cold and wet in winter and sheep generally preferred the warmer eastern part of the lease. Max took in the iron and some sawn timber in his Land Rover and Bert then helped him to build the hut. (The sawn timber was used in the roof; uprights were bush timber. There was no floor.) Maurice Franklin helped bulldoze an access trail along Reedy Creek (where an old dray road had existed), but from there Max and Bert had to make their own track for the vehicle. The hut was built near an older hut site. (Max and Betty's Naas house was built near the site of Mick Cotter's (uncle of Bill Cotter) hut, and the fireplace stones from the site were used in the steps at Max and Betty's place.)

Max talks then of other leases held by him in the area, ie 800 Acres and Billys Hill.

At the end of the interview Max talks of the reasons for leaving Naas (ie resumption of freehold land and its conversion to leasehold) and for moving to the Young area. Asked whether he saw the point of having a national park in the area, he says he does not. The tape ends at this point, but Max went on to say that in his view the park had simply locked up grazing land.

12  
Max Oldfield with one of the packsaddles used by him on countless droving trips through Orroral and the Cotter to the snow leases. (Author)



Max about to head into the Booth Range to fence a paddock known as The Strip (owned by Betty) in the 1960s. (Betty and Max Oldfield)





Tom Oldfield (Roma Brayshaw)



Ted Oldfield (Betty and Max Oldfield)

Joe Oldfield (Sylvia and Everard Oldfield)





Ted and Tom Oldfield's Hut at The Bog, Booth Range. (Betty and Max Oldfield)

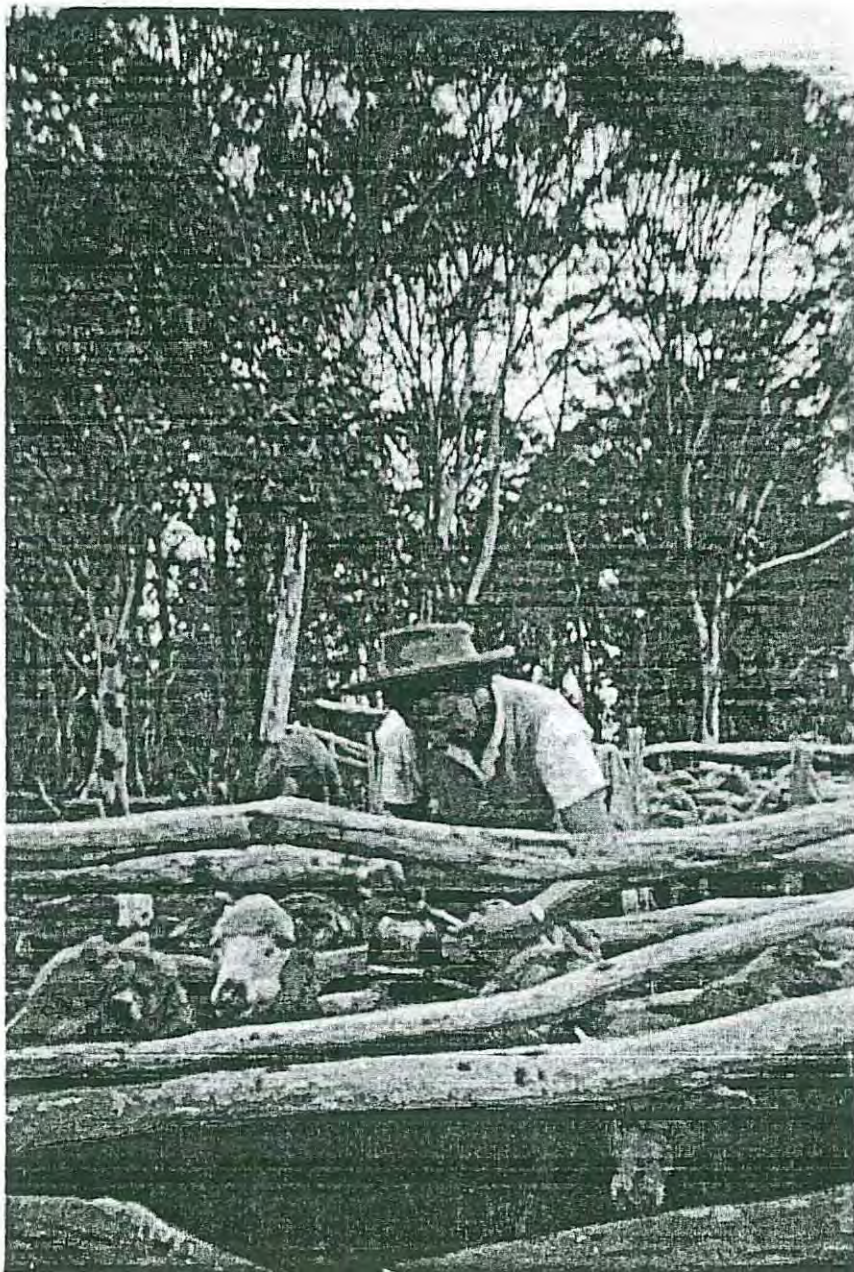


Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut in the early 1960s. (Betty and Max Oldfield)



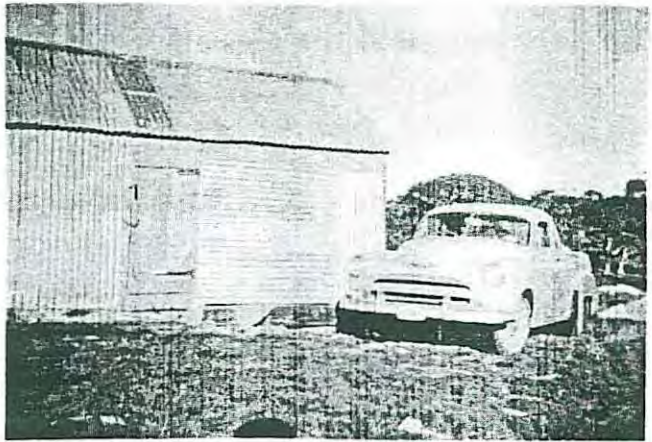
Max, Bert and Norman Oldfield about to ride into Booth Range to fence the mustering paddock in the late 1950s. (Betty and Max Oldfield)

Betty drenching sheep at the River Paddock lease, Long Plain, in the late 1950s (the yards were about a quarter of a mile further up the creek from the hut on the lease). (Betty and Max Oldfield)





Two views of the hut on the River Paddock lease in 1959. (Betty and Max Oldfield)



## **EVERARD OLDFIELD, Boorowa**

Everard Oldfield was born in August 1930, the first of ten children of Granville Oldfield (1902-1964) and Irene nee Crawford (1910-1984) who married in 1928 (Irene was the older sister of interviewee Cletus Crawford and Everard is a brother to interviewee Stumpy Oldfield). In 1956 Everard married Sylvia nee Venables and they had two daughters. Everard grew up at Glendale and then Glenferrie (Naas). He became owner of Glenferrie and then in 1960 he and Sylvia moved to Frogmore. They moved to Boorowa in 1980.

### **Tape 1, Side A**

The interview begins with Everard describing the Glendale house as it was in his youth - a three-room weatherboard structure. In about 1938-39 another three rooms were added. Everard's grandfather, Joseph James Oldfield, who then was living at Glenferrie, still owned Glendale; upon Joseph's death in about 1944 the family moved to Glenferrie. Everard's education at Glendale was by correspondence (and when lessons didn't arrive his mother would fill in as teacher). Much of his spare time was spent trapping rabbits for pocket money, the skins being sold either to Cooma's Vin Kennedy or (when at Glenferrie) Queanbeyan's Jim O'Malley. At seven Everard did his first trip to Murray Creek (now Oldfield's Hut in Kosciusko National Park) with his grandfather and father and he tells of an incident involving his touchy horse on the side of Mt Morgan.

With the move to Glenferrie, Everard finished his schooling at the school set up by Tom and Ada Oldfield at Top Naas; children other than Oldfields who attended included the Amy and Tong kids, Fred Crawford and Harold Cregan. One teacher there was Miss Bedgegood (or Betchgood). Later Everard's parents got a teacher of their own for Everard's siblings.

Leaving school at fourteen Everard worked with his father and with Ted and Tom Oldfield, mustering at Billys Hill, Dry Creek and other places. He mustered also for Foster Smith's son Kevin at Brandy Flat. Everard says the remains of an old humpy of a hut here were still standing, and that a newer hut (slab walls, dirt floor, iron roof, slab door, mud and slab fireplace) was in use. Kevin's sons Brian and Foster (junior) later took on the lease. Smiths had the Brandy Flat lease from at least the mid-1930s to at least 1960.

Everard then refers to the annual trips to Murray Creek, which was held by Bill Oldfield. Bill had a freezing works in Queanbeyan. Everard and brother Douglas took Bill into Murray Creek for what Everard believes was possibly Bill's last trip in about 1947-48; Bill was old and slow and rode an old sulky-horse. Everard went into Murray Creek often with Herbert Oldfield, mustering for Bill and sometimes taking horses in. He tells also of the Queanbeyan stock sales each June.

Following this is a description of the stock route Everard used from Murray Gap to Naas - via the Cotter, Pond Creek, Cotter Gap, Fishloch Yards, Orroral, Glendale, then Glenferrie. He also describes taking stock to Walter Oldfield's block at Yaouk via Brandy Flat, Gudgenby, the Smoking Yards near the head of the Bobeyan valley, and on into the Yaouk valley. When not working at Glenferrie, Everard worked at Glendale which his father had inherited upon Joseph Oldfield's death.

### **Side B**

Beginning at the end of Side A, Everard continues to tell how work was generally a family affair i.e. the Oldfields would work for one another. His uncle Jim Crawford would occasionally work with the family too.

Mention is made of repairing the dingo-proof fence at Orroral during the time that Granville Crawford was manager there for Ted Gregory, and of fencing for Henry Curtis in the head of Naas Creek at Bobeyan.

Everard knows little about his mother's life at Lone Pine near Bobeyan.

The rest of this side of the tape is concerned with the annual droving trips to Murray Creek via Orroral and the Cotter. These journeys were special to Everard: 'you took it to heart ... it was a big thing'. He tells of the routine on the track, the responsibility of getting stock through and how although adverse conditions often made trips very difficult, once you thawed out again everything was fine. There is a detailed description of camping at Orroral with George Rowley during a stormy night.

Everard's wife Sylvia accompanied him almost all the time on these trips after they were married, particularly on trips to their Leura lease on the western side of the Brindabellas (which they rented from Jack and Alan Reid of Tidbinbilla). Sylvia worked at all the jobs that Everard did (eg fencing, rabbiting, drenching). Everard says that it was not common for wives to accompany their husbands and that it was virtually unheard of amongst the previous generation.

Asked about the type of food taken on these trips, Everard lists the sorts of foods taken (and points out that butter would not last as it would go off because of summer temperatures or the heat of the packhorse). Fish and rabbits added variety to the menu.

Discussing alcohol, Everard (who doesn't himself drink) tells that it was common for rum to be amongst the gear in the pack-saddles, and describes how the men would swig as they rode along and how by the time Murray Creek was reached 'they were talking fairly well'!

Everard says he and others on the stock route would nearly always stay overnight at Cotter House when Jack Maxwell was ranger (but less so afterwards). Generally it was a full day getting from Orroral to the Cotter; you could go on to Murray Creek but it would be a hard day for the stock. At the Cotter horses were put in a round yard about 100 yards up behind the ranger's house, and just behind this was a break which held about 2500-3000 sheep. There was also a garden. On hearing that Cotter House had now gone, Everard says 'that's bugged the Cotter'.

## Tape 2, Side A

Everard talks firstly about local dances at Tharwa, Tidbinbilla, Queanbeyan, Michelago, Bredbo, and Uriarra and how he and others would get home anywhere from 3.30 to 5 am. This leads on to the way in which the previous Naas generation particularly (eg Ted Oldfield, Ted Tong, Herbert Oldfield) would be up by dawn to do the milking and how they retired early at night, rarely doing any reading or listening much to the wireless. Everard recalls seeing smoke coming out of most Naas chimneys by dawn.

The interview then moves to Gudgenby where in the 1940s Everard trapped rabbits with his father during winter. They stayed sometimes in Miss Rustin's hut, and sometimes in Sinclair's hut where Frank and Jack's hut now stands in the pine forest (Everard at first mentions Moore's hut too but corrects this later). Miss Rustin's hut he describes as slab, about 15' x 15', one room, with an iron roof and dirt floor; water came from a small creek behind. Rowley's hut stands just down hill from it today. Sinclair's hut (of one room, according to Everard) was very similar in appearance. Cooking was done over the open fire using camp ovens, billies, etc. Gudgenby manager Ted Brayshaw would call by occasionally at Miss Rustin's; at Sinclairs there were a few more visitors owing to the hut's proximity to the old Boboyan road. Moore's hut was by then all but fallen down, cattle having assisted its demise.

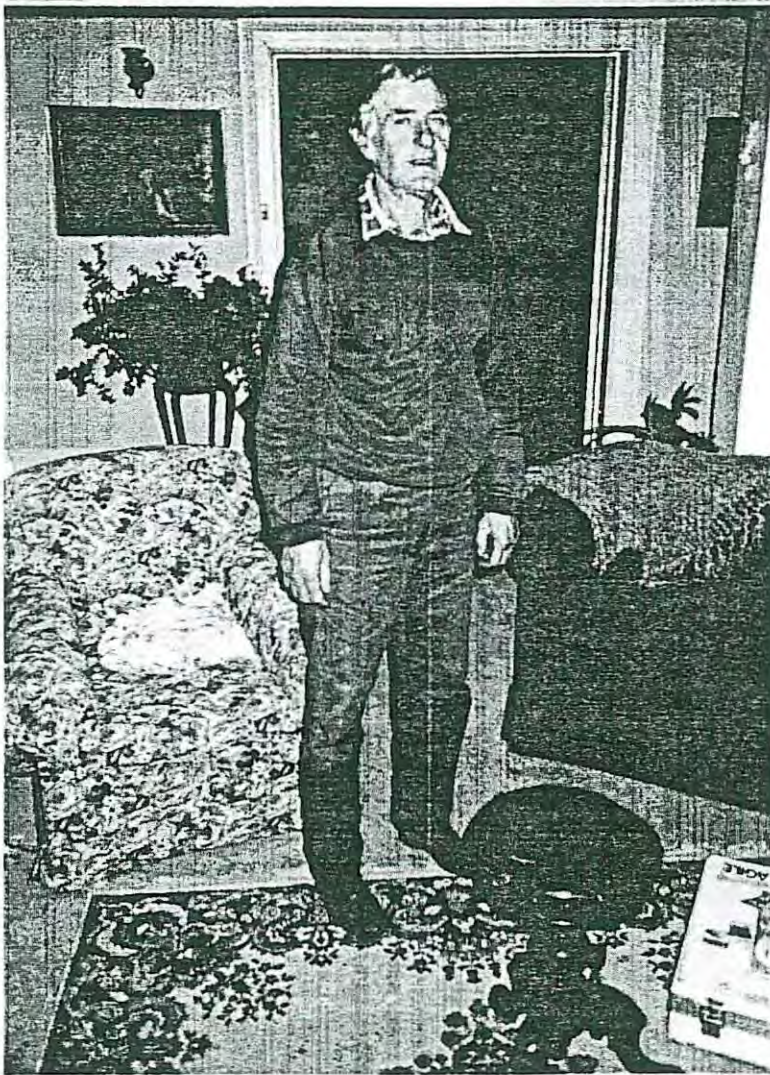
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Everard talks then about the Tharwa-Naas-Gudgenby mail run. Birdie Oldfield, with her daughter [Freda] , husband Herbert and grandson Granville Crawford had it for some years, then Everard's mother Irene and his sister Ida took the run in the 1950s, at first in a horse and sulky. Stumpy Oldfield eventually did the Naas-Glendale section of the route.

The rest of the interview deals with life at Cotter House. Everard talks of the groups of people who would meet there either coming or going to the snow leases (regular trips were made to the leases once the stock were there, eg for drenching, rabbiting, etc). He agrees that the Oldfields did have a soft spot for the place (it had been originally built by Thomas Oldfield).

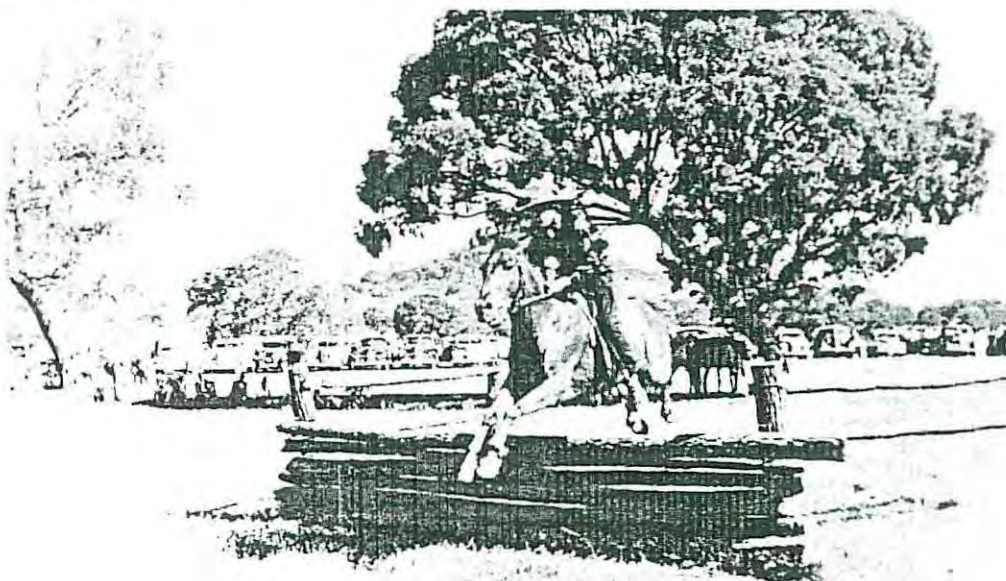
Max Oldfield, Max's father Ted, Ted's housekeeper Mary Thompson, Ted Tong and his wife Barbara often went up to the Cotter to spend Christmas with Jack Maxwell and his family. One year Everard, Max and Ted Tong packed in two nine-gallon beer kegs - it was a terrible task trying to balance the kegs on the packhorse. The kegs used to be placed in the river to keep them cool. It was a convivial Christmas.

Everard describes in detail aspects of Jack Maxwell's personality - his strictness yet fairness as a ranger, how he had his own chair and own side of the fire and you dare not get in his way, or clutter up Cotter House with your gear. Jack was also a great teller of yarns. He often visited the Oldfields at Murray Creek. 'You always knew where you stood with him', says Everard, who feels that later Cotter rangers lacked Jack's human touch.



Everard Oldfield. (Author)

Everard performs at the Tharwa Show in about 1950. (Sylvia and Everard Oldfield)





Everard and his father at Glendale in about 1938. (Sylvia and Everard Oldfield)

Everard and Stumpy's grandparents, Joe and (Sarah) Jane Oldfield. (Sylvia and Everard Oldfield)



## STUMPY OLDFIELD, Tharwa

Stumpy (Ralph Granville) Oldfield was born in November 1932, a son of Granville Oldfield (1902-1964) and Irene nee Crawford (1910-1984). Stumpy (a brother of interviewee Everard Oldfield) married Lesley Venables in 1957 and they had four children. Stumpy re-married in 1988, to Margaret Jones. Stumpy grew up at Glendale and then Glenferrie; in about 1953 he bought Glendale from his father and held it until about 1973 when, due to conversion of the property from freehold to leasehold, he moved to Stockinbingal.

### Tape 1, Side A

(During the interview - and particularly the first part of the interview - the discussion frequently ranges back and forth between various subjects.)

Asked about his earliest recollections of life at Glendale, Stumpy talks of hard work, trapping rabbits, milking cows, and an incident where he fell asleep at school, was caned by teacher Miss Brennan and then broke her cane and left school [this actually occurred at the Top Naas School at Tom and Ada Oldfield's place]. Stumpy recalls Tom Oldfield at this point, and his habits, eg how he would not touch a rum before 5.30 pm.

There is a brief mention of the snow leases, of Stumpy having a lease near Blue Waterholes and of Bill Oldfield at Murray Creek and how Stumpy would look after him and catch him fish at Dunns Flat under Mt Bimberi.

After talking of the way in which he worked for years for Jack Oldfield [husband of interviewee Dulcie Oldfield], Stumpy talks again of Glendale. When he bought it off his father it was 'an old shack'. Stumpy built a new home, shearing shed, fences, etc. As a young boy at Glendale Stumpy left home, walking barefoot to grandfather Joseph Oldfield's place at Glenferrie. He had no shirt and made one out of a sugarbag. He trapped rabbits and grandfather sold the skins in order to buy him clothes and boots. Stumpy further recalls how he used to break-in horses and win races and show events with them at Naas and Tharwa; many of the horses were then handed over to George Rowley.

At Orroral, Stumpy did stockwork for Ted Gregory and, with his brother Gilbert, was able to lease some land from Ted. Stumpy and Gilbert also had land at Honeysuckle Creek. In the early 1960s Stumpy worked for Tommy O'Connor at Orroral Tracking Station, digging about eight miles of trenches with pick and shovel. [At one point here Stumpy mentions going into National Service in the army in 1963; this perhaps should be 1953].

Stumpy recalls staying at the Orroral homestead on his way to Murray Creek with stock. He vividly recalls sleeping on the flagged stone floor, though it is uncertain whether this was the old kitchen block or a separate cottage; he 'wasn't allowed' to stay in the main wing of the homestead. While talking of Murray Creek Stumpy remembers going there once with Bill Oldfield when Bill was about 80, and renovating the hut (new posts, new verandah, relining of the inside). Stumpy says this was in the 1960s [but it is possibly more likely the 1940s or 1950s - see Everard Oldfield summary].

Returning to his work on the tracking stations, Stumpy also used to cart timber from the Honeysuckle site to Orroral and he talks about once nearly colliding with Pat Jefferies' truck on Fitz's Hill.

### Side B

Stumpy remembers a morning at Orroral when the then owner, Andy Cunningham, regardless of 'a great white frost' went outside in bare feet and broke in a chestnut horse. Stumpy's brother Gilbert still has the propeller from Andy's famous 'plane'.

Stumpy made his first trip to Murray Creek at the age of six; he describes it as a 'very rugged' journey, with the snow being three feet deep. (He recalls how his father once got caught by heavy snow between Brandy Flat and Glendale and had to turn back to Naas.) Like others taking stock to Murray Creek and beyond, Stumpy always stayed at Cotter House, which he describes as having been 'only a broken down hut ... no comfort in it'. Jack Maxwell (whom Stumpy always called 'Mr Maxwell') would send him down the river fishing, and Stumpy describes the gear and methods used. (He also used to fish in Rendezvous Creek when down that way.)

Following this, Stumpy recalls his work at Gudgenby. He helped Bill Bootes build the cattle yards and worked on the new house in the early 1960s. As a teenager he worked for Bill's father Albert (or 'Boy' Bootes), doing stockwork, rabbiting and digging briars. He describes this sort of work and recalls how once near Hospital Creek Albert's horse threw him - 'I thought it would kill the old bugger but it didn't!' ('Boy' was in his 60s at least.) There is brief mention of some of the Gudgenby huts.

In the southern part of Namadgi, Stumpy once worked for the Lutons doing fencing between Bobeyan and Shannons Flat. He often stayed at Waterhole Hut on Grassy Creek when doing sheepwork for Tom Oldfield. On one occasion when bringing sheep up from Long Corner, Tom couldn't handle them with his dogs, so he called to Stumpy to help - Stumpy (then about 15) proudly recalls how he drove them down to Charlie Westerman's place and got them into the shed. Stumpy stayed at Westerman's many times.

Stumpy often dipped sheep at the Grassy Creek dip [at grid reference 770282] and he describes how the 500 gallon dip had to be filled with four-gallon buckets from the creek, how Henry Curtis would throw black mud into the water so as to tell which sheep had been dipped, and how the 'stubborn bush wethers' had to be pushed into the dip. He then recalls in detail working at the dip at The Old Place at Naas, which was even worse.

## Tape 2. Side A

Stumpy describes Waterhole Hut. It definitely had a dirt floor, and a 'door mat' made of beer bottle tops pressed into the dirt (measuring about 1m x 1 1/2m). Beds were cast iron and there was no shelving - you hung your gear on nails around the walls. You also took your own camp oven. At this point Stumpy ridicules the expression 'the good old days', saying they were 'rough old days'.

Talking about Westerman's house, Stumpy says it was 'pretty good' inside. There were no floor coverings, 'not even a mat', and walls were lined with newspaper, stuck on with flour and water. Charlie Westerman (an uncle of Stumpy's mother) was then (in the 1940s) in his seventies. Kevin Oldfield and his wife lived there later.

Speaking of Kevin Oldfield, Stumpy tells how once while briar-digging and scrubbing at the head of Grassy Creek, Kevin threw his mattock onto a rock and, disgusted, left it there - it's probably still on the rock. Stumpy talks of how 'in them times we used to have good gear' and how he'd always have sharp mattocks, sharp crow bars and good shovels for fencing and scrubbing, etc. He sharpened his tools on his own forge.

There is then a lengthy discussion about kangaroo and fox drives and the methods used. Stumpy used to get annoyed by trigger-happy mates shooting at birds - because it scared off the game. Kangaroos and foxes were shot to keep down their numbers and for the value of their skins; the drives were akin to fishing trips.

This leads on to other aspects of recreation. Possum-shooting was one night-time activity. At Glendale Stumpy also held regular dances which were well-attended affairs.

The lino would be rolled up and sawdust and kero sprinkled on the floor. He played piano accordion, as did Bob Morrow, while Harold Beer accompanied on drums. Stumpy played at a wide range of venues. His first instrument was a mouth organ belonging to brother Everard which he learned to play at age nine.

### Side B

The first nine minutes of this side is Stumpy playing various tunes on his piano accordion.

In 1957 the Gudgenby River came down in flood and Stumpy had to get Lesley (then six weeks off having their first child) home to Glendale (they'd been to Shannons Flat). He tells of stalling the truck at the crossing near Bootes' place and pulling it out with Bill Bootes' Blitz truck. Then at Glendale Crossing the truck was of no use and Stumpy had to strip off and, wearing only the house key tied to his wrist with kangaroo hide, he swam the river, got to the house and brought back the horses so that Lesley could get across. 'I was never so bloody pleased when I got her across and up to the house and inside safely.' The drive to Queanbeyan when she had the baby was also difficult.

This is followed by a long anecdote about when Stumpy and brother Phillip were returning from Murray Creek. At the Cotter, ranger Tom Gregory refused them use of a nearby bridge and so they had to ride through the swollen river. Phillip got swept downstream and only survived through grabbing hold of his horse's tail.

Stumpy talks about sections of the Orroral-Cotter-Murray Creek stock route, about how at Pond Flat the lead dog would have to hold the sheep (which might be spread out for two miles) and how at Cotter Gap the dogs would have to hold the sheep while at Murrays Gap there was a bush break in which to hold them. During one trip with Everard, they had to make a track through the snow (using the horses and the cattle) so that the sheep could get through.

Finally, in relation to Namadgi and Kosciusko National Parks, Stumpy says that the parks are a good thing (providing the feral dogs are controlled) as he and other former stockmen can't go into that country anymore and have no use now for it.



Stumpy Oldfield. (Author)

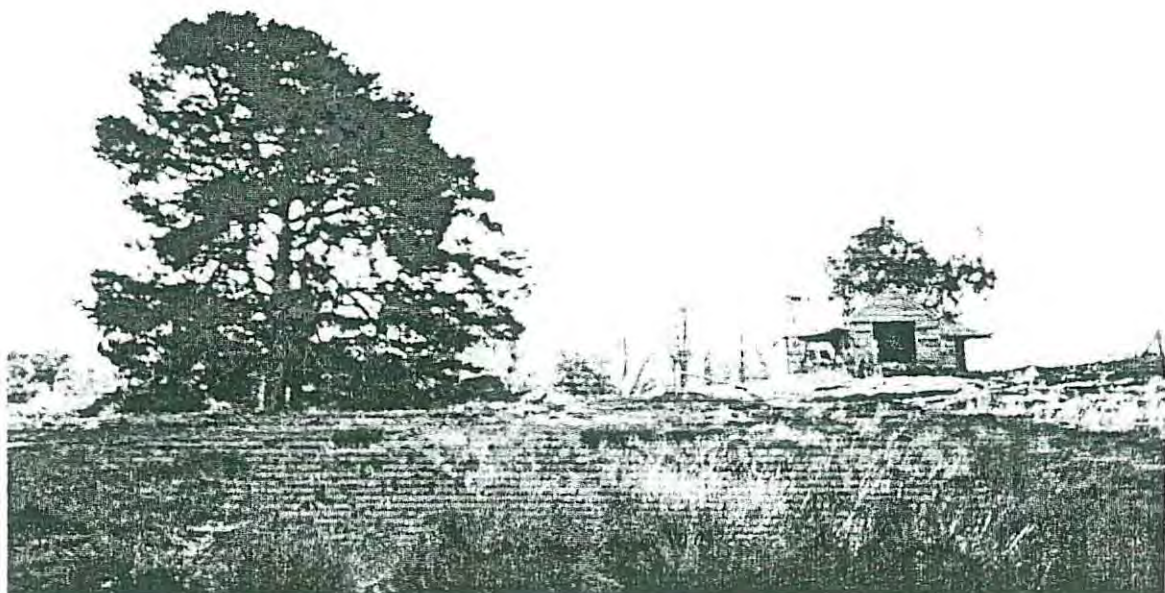
Stumpy and Everard at the Queanbeyan Show in 1946 with their siblings:  
 (rear l-r) Gilbert, Douglas, Stumpy, Ida, Everard, (front l-r) Edith,  
 Elaine, Colin, Phillip, June. (Sylvia and Everard Oldfield)

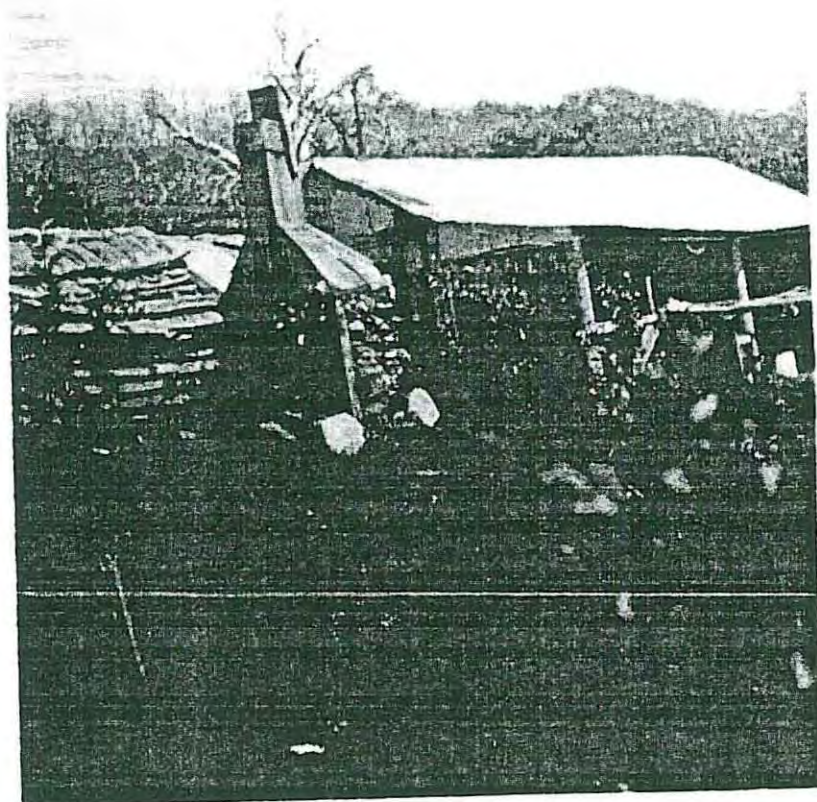




Stumpy and Everard's parents, Granville and Irene. (Sylvia and Everard Oldfield)

Westermans homestead. (Author)





Murray Creek Hut in January 1941. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)

## REG ALDER, Higgins, Canberra

Reg Alder was born in December 1917 in Adelaide and moved to Sydney in 1921. He served his apprenticeship as a boilermaker with the Department of the Navy, moved on to the drawing office and eventually was responsible for overseeing ship construction. During the 1950s (after marrying Doris nee Young in 1951) Reg lived for a time in Melbourne and London. The family moved to Canberra in 1970. Reg skied at Mr Franklin in 1939 and near Gingera in 1947 and has been regularly walking in the Namadgi area since 1970.

### Side A

The 1939 trip to Franklin began with practice skiing on an indoor coir matting slope at a Surry Hills factory. Reg then tells of the 'hair-raising' drive to Canberra with his six companions, camping the night at the Cotter, and the difficult drive on to Franklin. Reg describes skiing all day (no one knew how to turn) then spending the night in the comfortable lodge (where one of the group, a devout communist, harangued Canberra Alpine Club members). After skiing for part of the following day, the group returned to Sydney narrowly avoiding several accidents.

In talking about the 1947 ski trip, Reg tells of making oak skis and fitting cable bindings. He and his companion camped beyond Gingera in the snow.

During the 1942-43 summer Reg and two companions walked from Brindabella to Tumut. With a hopeless map the party 'set off practically into the unknown', via Peppercorn Hill and down the Goobarragandra. Reg describes the food taken on the 6-day trip, and the Paddy-made tent, which, typical of the time, had neither floor nor poles.

The interview focuses then on Reg's walking experience in Namadgi from the early 1970s. He states that of the huts then standing in Namadgi, none have gone (Bobeyan was pulled down just before he began walking here). Walks were generally not oriented around huts anyway, the walkers staying in tents. Up until that time, the ACT National Parks Association (NPA) generally did only short 'educational' walks; Reg and others started doing longer exploratory walks which greatly expanded the NPA's knowledge of what would become Namadgi. Reg mentions the initial Mt Kelly walk done by Alan Bagnall, Fiona Brand, Bob Story and Julie Henry.

In discussing the relationship between walkers and property owners in the early 1970s, Reg says that generally a good relationship existed. The Lutons, Bootes' and Gregorys are mentioned in this regard. Bootes' were particularly welcoming and helpful.

Reg talks in some detail about walks to Mt Kelly and tells how, seeing an old Gudgenby-Yaouk-Adaminaby dray route marked on a map, he and others were able to locate vestiges of the old track and follow it for some distance. He also tells how members of the Sydney Bushwalkers Club in the 1940s attempted to follow early bridle tracks (as shown on the 1929 map of the ACT) along places like Licking Hole Creek and Middle Creek but were unsuccessful. Parts of the old track up Kangaroo Creek from the Cotter, on the other hand, were able to be found.

Reg is asked about the changes in vegetation since the end of grazing and he talks about the impact of fire on the area and subsequent regrowth.

## Side B

The discussion of vegetation change continues as Reg talks of the increased grass height at Gudgenby since the cattle were taken off the country there last year. The implications that this has regarding fire, and aspects of regrowth since the 1983 fires, are mentioned. The NPA helped to replant and stabilise the Nursery Swamp firetrail following the 1983 fires.

As bushwalkers are among the group forming the most recent (and present) phase of Namadgi's European history, Reg was asked about the conceptualisation and construction of the Yerrabi track, the first walking track of its type in the Park. Reg tells how it grew from an idea of Alistair Morrison in the early 1980s and then evolved over several Heritage Week walks. The track proper was put in over several days by a group of 6-7 people, and botanists George Chippendale, Laurie Adams and Bob Story assisted in deciding which plants should be identified by signs. Reg made the signs, and the track brochure was compiled with the help of Ken Johnson, Laurie Adams, Alistair Morrison and Sonia Lenz. John Langmore opened the track in 1987.

In discussing nomenclature in Namadgi, Reg made the point that there are too few place names in the Park. As for existing names, it is possible that Mt Kelly is named after the Kellys of Michelago. Reg also talks about the first recording of the name Namadgi by explorer/scientist John Lhotsky, and also about the Namadgi stone arrangements.

The interview concludes with some of the themes that have emerged from Reg's archival research into early bushwalking in the Namadgi area, included among which are the walkers' poor maps and lack of knowledge of the area and also the good relationship between walkers and landowners here and elsewhere. Several 1940s walks involving the upper Cotter, Mr Franklin Chalet and other areas are briefly described.



Reg Alder. (Author)

Early Namadgi bushwalkers (members of Cla Allen's walking group) at Cotter House on 5 June 1932. L-r: Cla Allen, Effie Anderson nee Makin, Ena Gates, Jim Anderson, Digger Thompson, Jack Hewett, Rita Prowse, Geoff Littlewood. Note the brumby tails on the wall behind. (Tom Gregory/Rose Allen)



## GRANVILLE CRAWFORD, 'Sherwood Park', near Illabo

Granville was born in February 1929, the son of Granville Crawford (born 1901) and Jessie nee Kirchner (born about 1907). Tragically, Granville senior was killed in a shooting accident at Gudgenby two months before Granville's birth; Granville was raised by his paternal grandmother and step-grandfather, Bertha (or Birdie) and Herbert Oldfield, at 'Glencoe', Naas. In May 1952 Granville married Rae nee Gregory (daughter of Ted and Annie Gregory, who bought Orroral from Andy Cunningham) and they have four children. They left the region in 1988, moving to their present property near Illabo.

The family history that emerged during the interview shed much light on parts of Namadgi, Naas, Kosciusko and also other areas. Granville's maternal grandparents were Charles Kirchner (who was descended from South Australia's Prussian population) and Nellie nee Hutcherson. They met in Bendigo and came to Tidbinbilla. Charles constructed a one-roomed hut mounted on wheels and they moved again to land at Naas which became Willow Glen. The original southern section of the house at Willow Glen was built by Charles. Granville's mother Jessie was born at Willow Glen, as were two twin sisters who were delivered, unaided, by their mother. Willow Glen later became the property of Harry Tyre (who managed Booroomba), and then was owned by Frank and Dollie Oldfield [Frank's brother and sister-in-law Jack and Dulcie Oldfield lived there for a time, as is revealed in the interview with Dulcie.]

Granville's paternal grandparents were Walter Frederick Crawford (a son of Andrew Crawford of the Michelago area and not related to the Bobeyan Crawfords) and Bertha (or Birdie) Dyball (whose brother Charlie Dyball was a horse-breaker and who had broken in horses for McKeahnies at Orroral). Walter at the age of 29 drowned in a dam (possibly at St Leonards, Sydney) and Bertha later remarried, her second husband being Herbert Oldfield (1886-1969).

Herbert, a son of Thomas Edward Oldfield (1851-c.1936/37) and his second wife Anna nee Fisher, was born at the Pockets (though not today's Pockets Hut) after the family had moved there from Cooleman. Later they moved again to the Cotter where they built Cotter House. Some time during the 1900-1910 period Thomas bought Glendale from the Lamonds (or Lamondes, Lomonds) who were moving to the Bega area; Bill Oldfield (a son from Thomas' first marriage, and a half brother to Herbert) bought the Cotter block. The Cotter block was acquired by the government on 1 February 1913 following the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory. When Thomas moved from Glendale to Moss Vale, he sold Glendale to his son-in-law, Joseph Oldfield, who had married Thomas' daughter Sarah Jane (Joe and Sarah Jane were cousins). When Joe and Jane moved to Glenferrie, Naas, Jason Moore (a cousin to Paddy Moore) moved much of the house down there for them, leaving only a 'very rough place' at Glendale [these transactions are also referred to in the interview with Hugh Read].

Having been raised by him, Granville has many memories of Herbert Oldfield. Bred in the mountains, he knew the country well - when Jack Maxwell became Cotter ranger in the late 1920s it was Herbert who showed Jack the best routes through the mountains. Herbert's build was in contrast to that of lanky Jack Maxwell. He was about 14 stone, 5 feet 8 inches tall and built 'like a tank ... and strong as an ox'. He had a slight speech impediment and placed the letter 'h' in front of words, so instead of saying 'Oh I see' he would pronounce it 'Hoh HI see'.

Granville related an incident when Herbert (then aged about twelve) and brother Harry (also known as Cotter Harry; he later lived at Blundells Cottage, Canberra, for a time) were in a dog-trapper's hut on the Cotter. They were examining an old muzzle-loader, the stock of which Herbert had resting on his knee. Suddenly the weapon discharged - the blast nearly broke Herbert's leg and the flash almost set fire to the hut's hessian ceiling!

On another occasion, when returning from the Cotter sometime in the 1910-1920 period, Herbert was caught by a bushfire near where the weather recorder now stands at grid reference 735569 [this was possibly the same fire that is referred to in the interview with Bill Bootes]. Herbert tried to get through to Rendezvous Creek but was beaten back to the weather station site, where he back-burnt an area around himself. He spent the night dabbing mud onto burning leaves, twigs, etc that were falling onto his blanket. He had plenty of company, for the fire had forced into his small cleared area a grey mare, several kangaroos and, according to Herbert, other wildlife of 'hall sorts'. Next day he was able to move on and at nearby Jane's Creek he found a tucker bag. Later it was revealed that Tim Kelleher too had been chased by the fire and had got into a waterhole in the creek to try to save himself. Walter Oldfield rescued Tim and rode away with him, minus the bag. (Tim and his wife, incidentally, lived adjacent to the Gudgenby River near Rocky Crossing, at grid reference 807515. Son Con had his house to the east and adjacent to the present road, at grid reference 814514. It was this house that Henry and Iris Curtis moved into in 1951 - see Colin and Daphne Curtis interview.)

Granville also remembered how, while returning to Glencoe through the Cotter from a Murray Creek droving trip, Herbert had given him their last piece of bread and had, without saying so, deliberately gone without food for young Granville's sake. Granville only realised the significance of Herbert's action years later.

The interview clearly revealed the importance of good horses and horse-riding skills. Herbert was still brumby-running at the age of 60. Thomas was known as a very good horseman and he did buck-jumping tricks; in fact when he once went to see a professional trick rider perform and the rider made a mistake, Thomas was disgusted with the performance. Granville stated that one's 'livelihood depended on horsemanship ... If I hadn't been able to ride a horse I'd have starved'. Good dogs were needed too for mountain droving and mustering. Physical fitness and mental alertness were qualities that were also required. Granville told of Herbert's brother Tarlton still being able to do backwards somersaults when an old man.

There were recollections about other members of the Oldfield clan. At Murray Creek, Bill Oldfield used to sub-let some of his land to others (this was apparently when he owned the area freehold, prior to the snow-lease period). Tom Oldfield (not to be confused with Thomas - see family tree in appendices) and his siblings were raised in what were sometimes very poor conditions at Reedy Creek. Granville stated that they sometimes had to eat thistle roots. On a more humorous note, young Tom and one of his brothers were one night asked by their pregnant mother Elizabeth to fetch Mrs Macnamara from down the valley at Naas. It was a scary trip for the boys, with bandicoots rustling in the undergrowth, but they got to Naas and Mrs Macnamara came back to Reedy Creek with them. Next morning a new brother, Ted, was there, and it puzzled Tom for some years just how he'd got to Reedy Creek!

Granville spoke very highly of Tom's wife Ada. She raised a big family (eleven children) under difficult conditions and yet still had the kindness to feed every visitor that called, and to look after the teacher as well. Granville believes that it was only with Ada's work and support that Tom was able to do so well as manager of Orroral and Gudgenby. It was Ada who got a school going at Top Naas when the family moved there from Gudgenby in the mid-1930s.

Speaking still on the experiences of women in the area, Granville emphasised the problem of loneliness. During the 1950s when he and Rae were living at Orroral, Rae at one stage could not get away from the house for five weeks owing to the condition of the roads. Granville (who was managing the property) was able to get around and do his work, but Rae was pretty well confined to the weatherboard house in which they lived.

The resumption of freehold land and its conversion to leasehold in the region during the last several decades not only made things difficult for men running properties, but also

caused great anxiety for women whose lives revolved around running households and raising families.

The interview touched on several specific sites at both Orroral and Gudgenby. Granville spoke of a girl who had been killed at Orroral in a riding accident [she is probably the same person referred to in the Bill Bootes interview] and mentioned that she was buried at Orroral, her grave being located at about grid reference 785524.

Granville said that his father was working at Orroral and then once Tom Oldfield had moved from there and got established as manager at Gudgenby in 1926/27 Granville senior and Jessie moved to Gudgenby too. They lived there in a cottage near the yards; the cottage had apparently stood at Bywong and was brought over and re-erected at Gudgenby. It was later demolished and Bill Bootes used the ripple iron and lining for the Gudgenby meathouse.

In discussing the various hut sites around Gudgenby, Granville said that it was the hut near the junction of Pheasant Creek and Rendezvous Creek [site G4 in Winston-Gregson's thesis, true grid reference 785450] and thus not Miss Rustin's hut, in which Tom Brayshaw died in 1919. Regarding the hut site just west of the Middle Creek/Bogong Creek swamps [Winston-Gregson's site G3, true grid reference 778419] which is one of two sites called Sinclairs (the other being at Frank's Hut, to the south), Granville said this hut site should be called Greenfield's. He said also that Archie McKeahnie had a hut on Rendezvous Creek, further up from Rowley's Hut, though it was not possible to locate its site on the map during the interview.

From about nine years of age to when he was about nineteen, Granville ran the mail from Naas to Gudgenby. Each Saturday he rode to Gudgenby 'through the hills', spent the weekend at Gudgenby, then on the Monday returned to Naas via the road and Fitz's Hill. There were three river crossings. The mail was carried in weatherproof canvas bags strapped across the front of the saddle. The Gudgenby bag was sealed, that for Roy Neuss (who lived just north of Glendale, at about grid reference 808498) was locked, Victor and Jean Gregory's also was locked, and then there was loose mail kept in a leather saddle bag. Birdie Oldfield, meanwhile, did the Naas-Tharwa section of the mail run, with a horse and sulky.

Granville's route went via Brandy Flat. He believes that Tom and Barbara Gregory would probably have had the original Brandy Flat Hut built, and that they also planted the Kentish cherry trees there. Granville's mother Jessie used to ride up from Naas to pick cherries from the trees in the 1920s.

The stock route leading from the Orroral valley into the Cotter valley was discussed in some detail. Further up the valley from the Orroral homestead the route climbed the ridge and crossed Prairie Dog Creek at about the same place as the fire trail currently does, near the weather recorder. It was in this vicinity that Fishloch Yards stood - not in the northern part of the Orroral valley floor as is commonly thought. Just past Prairie Dog Creek the stock route began to climb up above the line of the current fire trail and rose up to Cotter Gap, crossing one of the uppermost branches of Sawpit Creek on the way. From the Gap the trail began the descent to the Cotter River by following Pond Creek. From Pond Creek Flats the trail diverged from the creek and the trail from that point on paralleled the creek but ran to its south by about 500 metres or so. The trail finally came out onto the river at the original site of Cotter House; a rough fire trail on the Rendezvous Creek 1:25000 map traces the Pond Creek Flats-Cotter River section of the route.

Today's main fire trail to the Cotter via Eighty Acres was in earlier times the dray/cart route. The reason for why the dray road did not follow the stock route was the presence of large boulders in Cotter Gap.

Granville mentioned several aspects of the droving trips during which stock were taken from Naas via the above stock route to the snow lease country. New pack-horses were loaded with rock salt or some other hard substance so as to train them not to bump into trees (the hard, sharp load would, on hitting a tree, hurt the horse). Rum bottles were always packed in the middle of a load, to protect them just in case of an accident. Food taken on these trips usually consisted of bread, jam (not honey - it was too runny and messy), salted meat, potatoes, tea and sugar. Salt was never added during cooking for it would rust out the billy.

Referring to Aborigines, Granville said that Herbert had in the 1940s shown him a corroboree ground at Pond Creek Flats, and also that another such ground existed at Murray Creek (the exact locations of these sites were not specified). Granville talked about the Aboriginal stockman who had his back broken by a horse near Murray Gap [a subject mentioned in several other interviews too]. The stockman had been leading a mare and colt when the colt played up and the mare kicked - striking the Aborigine. He was found by 'Gundaroo' Harry Oldfield (not to be confused with 'Cotter' Harry and other Harry Oldfields). Thomas Oldfield knew that two Aboriginal men were in the area on their way to Rotten Swamp to do some gold prospecting, and he asked them to care for the badly injured man. They in turn sent word to Queen Nellie in Queanbeyan and the three nursed the man for several days at Cotter House before suddenly leaving. The man died shortly afterwards - perhaps his helpers had realised that he was going to die. As Herbert Oldfield was a boy at the time, the event probably happened in the 1890s.

Finally, a subject discussed several times through the interview was wildlife. Granville showed a deep concern and love for native plants and animals. He also is a close observer of fauna, as demonstrated when some years ago he noticed that the red-necked wallabies around Bates Creek (near Honeysuckle Tracking Station) were disappearing and realised that a wild dog must've been about - which proved to be the case. Granville spoke of his sentiments being shared by others in the mountains too (like Ted Gregory at Orroral and Granville Oldfield who later in life spent much time at Pockets Hut and treated the local parrots like pets). He believes that each generation of people in the region learned from the mistakes made by the previous one in working with nature. He is gravely concerned by the impact of feral animals on native wildlife.

Following the interview, when perusing this summary, Granville provided this additional anecdote about Herbert:

'Herbert Oldfield made his first trip to Gudgenby from the Cotter at the age of eight years. He was in the company of cattle musterers, as there were no real boundary fences at that time, only the gaps in the hills fenced off with rails the cattle travelled from one holding to the other so that once a year there was a general muster and everyone got their own cattle back (hopefully.) Herbert was riding a mare with a colt foal following and some of the young chaps started chasing the colt, when they crossed the river at the big flat rock below the Gudgenby Homestead the colt turned suddenly with the mare following, she slipped and fell knocking Herbert unconscious. He was carried to the Homestead where he regained consciousness next morning. Herbert carried a scar on his hip from this fall for the rest of his life. there were no women folk at Gudgenby at the time.'



Granville Crawford, seated on a chair that once belonged to Herbert Oldfield. (Author)

Granville and daughter Roseanne about to leave Max and Betty Oldfield's property Naas for the snow leases. (Betty and Max Oldfield)





Tarlton Oldfield in his light horse uniform during the first world war. Tarlton returned from the war; some other local men who served, like Jack Cregan and Fred Tutty, came home scarred for life, while others still, like Joe Gregory, did not return. (Roma Brayshaw)

## DULCIE OLDFIELD, 'Fairmeadows', near Galong

Dulcie was born Dulcie White in May 1929, the eldest surviving daughter of Dan White (1901-1964) and Mary nee Fisher (1902-1964), who had Spring Station near Tharwa. In 1950 Dulcie married Jack Oldfield and they had a son and a daughter, and a foster son as well. Dulcie's sister Esma married Norman Curtis (brother of interviewee Colin Curtis), and her late sister Pearl married Rowley Gregory (after whom Rowleys Orroral Hut and Rowleys Rendezvous Creek Hut are named). Dulcie and Jack moved to 'Fairmeadows' in 1972 due to the resumption of their land at Naas.

### Side A

The interview begins with aspects of the history of Frank's Hut, now in the Bobeyan pine forest just south of Gudgenby. The land here was bought from the Bootes' by brothers Jack and Frank Oldfield in about 1948; a lease on Dry Creek was also purchased. Frank was then managing Gudgenby, and Dulcie and Jack were living at Frank and wife Dollie's house, Willow Glen (Naas) until 1955 when they moved to The Old Place (further up Naas River) and then into a new house, now called Lenanes, in 1956 (where they remained until 1972).

The Gudgenby block bought by Frank and Jack was used by them to run breeding ewes. In about 1954-55 they had Queanbeyan builder Cec Hopkins build a hut for them (though today called Franks Hut, it should be called Frank and Jack's Hut; during the interview Dulcie sometimes also refers to it as Sinclair's). Dulcie says that Jack and Frank would have assisted Cec during construction; she helped paint the building, using a cream-coloured paint. Cec was a good builder, using good materials, (he also built the Lenanes house). Asked whether the fireplace foundation stones could have come from the original Sinclair's hut which stood there, Dulcie said it was possible.

The hut succeeded an earlier one built by Jack in about 1949 [at about grid reference 773404]. Built of iron (from a Gudgenby shed) given to Jack and Frank by Albert Bootes, it blew down in a windstorm one night in the early 1950s.

Cec Hopkins also built the dip near the hut; sheep taken down to The Old Place for shearing each September could then be brought straight back to the block for dipping and lambing. The dip held 2000 gallons and the water came by pipe from the small dam just uphill south of the hut.

Dulcie says how she would help with the dipping, as would Stumpy and Douglas Oldfield - it was an Oldfield family operation. The block ran 1500 - 2000 sheep and about 100 hereford cattle.

Dulcie talks about the seasonal movement of stock and about the two Oldfield blocks at Yaouk and the Oldfield land near Bobeyan [on Grassy Creek]. She talks then of Waterhole Hut on Grassy Creek. It was built before the second world war by Jack, his father Tom Oldfield, and Harry Tyre, to provide accommodation for themselves and others either working there or taking stock back and forth. Dulcie recalls the hut may have had a board floor but she is uncertain. People who worked there included Stumpy Oldfield, Alf and Clarrie Peters and Henry Curtis.

The interview then focuses on Hospital Creek Hut. When the Gudgenby block was resumed for a pine plantation in about 1965-66, Jack and Frank still needed a hut for use during mustering of the 9000 acre Dry Creek lease on which about 1000 wethers were run. The hut was built in about 1966 by Les (Dulcie and Jack's son) and Frank, with some help from Jack. It was deliberately spartan because it was on a lease. The iron came from Naas and the sawn timber was second-hand material bought in Queanbeyan and transported to the site on the Oldfield's International truck. A bed, dresser, kero fridge, cupboards, and a good table were moved there from Frank's Hut.

Dulcie tells of the seasonal routine of stock work on the Dry Creek lease: mustering (1-2 weeks), shearing and dipping at The Old Place in November, then out to the Pockets snow lease in summer, then wiggling and drenching and back to Dry Creek for the winter. She points out how the loss of the other block to the pine forest was a real problem for it was gentle country most suitable for lambing.

Dulcie and Dollie, and their children, would go up to the huts at times during mustering and dipping. Dulcie was also on her own at Lenanes for periods often of a week, yet with good neighbours she did not find it a problem. (At this point she mentions the difficulties involved in building the Lenanes house during the wet 1956 winter.)

Discussion then turns to the snow leases in the northern part of Kosciusko National Park. Jack and Frank had the Pockets, their father Tom Oldfield had Harris' Hut and Dulcie's father Dan White had the Blue Waterholes. At the age of 15 Dulcie started accompanying her father on the annual droving trips to the lease via Orroral and the Cotter - 'I've done that a good many times', she says. Once she also helped take in Roy and Essie Tong's stock, and tells briefly of a snowy winter trip in 1949. Dulcie feels it was not unusual for women to ride to the snow leases. She loved the outdoors life and accompanied Jack to the leases after their marriage as often as possible (when other men, eg Stumpy Oldfield, accompanied Jack, Dulcie generally didn't get to go).

### Side B

Dulcie returns to the description of mustering on the Dry Creek lease (and refers to the use of salt to attract the sheep) and tells of the extent of the lease which ran over the new Bobeyan road and on up to the Booth Range.

Talking again of the snow leases, Dulcie talks of staying at the old Orroral Homestead (giving brief details of the interior) and at Cotter House - the distances that stock could cover in a day necessitated stops at each place. The trips were broken into the following day journeys: Tharwa to Naas, Naas to Orroral, Orroral to Cotter, Cotter either to Murray Creek or Pockets, Pockets to Blue Waterholes (where she and her father stayed at Spencers Hut). Of Cotter House Dulcie says it was 'one of the cleanest huts in the area' - Jack Maxwell was an 'immaculate' housekeeper, and this was rather rare. Pockets Hut was at that time in much better condition than when Dulcie saw it in the early 1980s (as were, she says, most of the huts). Spencers Hut, built apparently by a gold-miner named Spencer, was constructed partly of 'rubberoid' material. Dulcie talks also of Harris Hut, which is where son Les learned to walk.

Dulcie talks of the sort of work that she did on the snow leases and states that the cooking didn't necessarily fall to her because she was a woman, although she did do a lot of it nevertheless. Sometimes she drove to the leases via Rules Point, and also via Tantangara Dam (Dulcie describes the SMA construction camp on the Tantangara road).

Asked about her attitude to the national park, Dulcie expressed concerns about feral pigs, feral dogs and bushfires. She appreciated the native wildlife, but she does not see the point of the Park, nor of the closure of the snow leases. Dulcie rarely encountered bush walkers in the days before the Park.

The interview ends with a few more details about Hospital Creek Hut (which have been incorporated earlier in this summary).



Dulcie Oldfield. (Author)

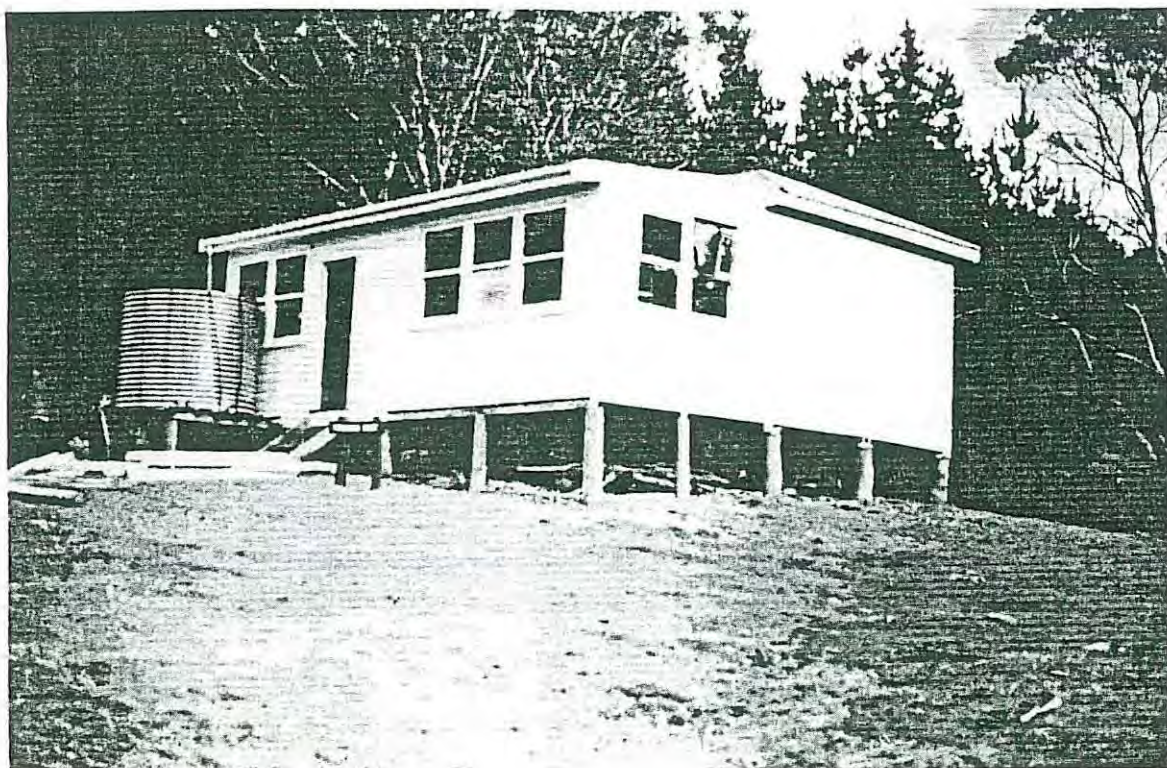


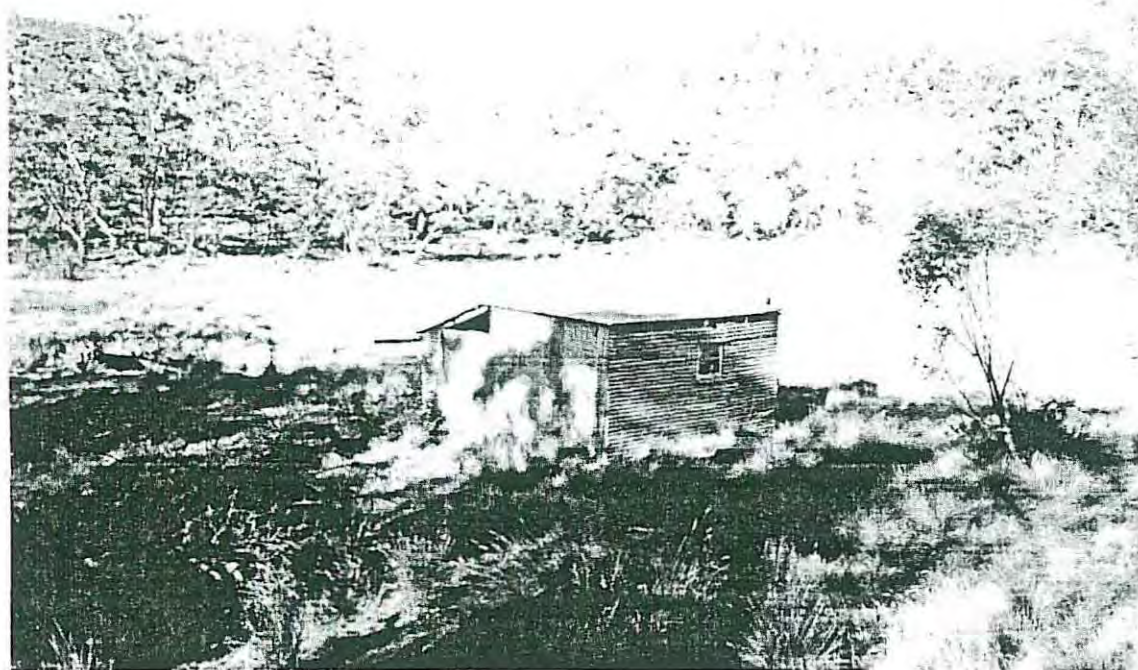
Jack Oldfield in his second world war uniform.  
(Roma Brayshaw)



Brothers Frank and Jack Oldfield at Gudgenby in their boyhood. (Roma Brayshaw)

Though today called Frank's Hut, this structure should properly be named Frank and Jack's Hut. (Graham Scully)





Hospital Creek Hut. (Author)

Frank Oldfield in his second world war uniform. (Roma Brayshaw)



## ALAN BAGNALL, Curtin, Canberra

Alan was born in 1930 in Melbourne and moved to Canberra three years later. He joined the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1947 and began a Bachelor of Commerce degree part-time at Canberra University College; in 1953 he completed the degree at the University of Melbourne. On his retirement in 1986 Alan was Acting Australian Statistician. Alan was on the Committee of the Canberra Alpine Club from 1950 to 1969 and again in the 1980s, and he was CAC President 1956-57. Alan in 1986 was appointed to the Order of Australia partly for his contribution to bushwalking. In 1957 Alan married Barbara nee Tanner and they have two children.

### Tape 1, Side A

The interview begins with Alan explaining how he got involved with the CAC. After being in the Scouts he developed an interest in bushwalking, went on a walk at Cradle Mountain in 1949 and then the following year he contacted the CAC and went on his first walk with the club in March 1950. He also was appointed to the club's committee that same year.

Alan then discusses in detail the transport problems associated with the Mt Franklin Chalet. Bill Ginn's five ton truck continued to carry CAC skiers up to the Chalet in the early 1950s just as it had done in the late 1930s (Bill, who had a farm on the Gundaroo Road, also held the annual club fund-raising dances in his woolshed each May). Certain CAC members had American vehicles (eg a DelaSalle and an Oldsmobile) which they took up, and Alan and some others in the 1950s also had A model Fords. In the mid-1950s, Jim and John Parker, with a pair of ford utes with canopies, took over Chalet transport and operated until the early 1960s. There were normally 20-25 people staying at the Chalet each weekend, and during the winter there would be about a dozen skiable weekends. Many non-member day trippers came up and they particularly had difficulties on the Mt Franklin road; head-on accidents and cars going off the road were not infrequent. The six-wheel-drive GMC truck belonging to RMC Duntroon would help to clear a path along the road. Sometimes people would have to ski in to the Chalet from Bulls Head.

Club membership increased from 40 or so to over 200 in the 1950s partly through Alan's reports to radio 2CA and the Canberra Times of the club's ski and bushwalking activities respectively. This helped the CAC in its endeavour to build a new lodge at Perisher, a move made necessary by the desire for better quality snow and the need to compete with other local ski clubs like the YMCA.

Alan explains how CAC activities at Franklin were dormant during the second world war (owing to key club figures going into the services), resulting in the lodge being made available to Dutch airmen for recreational leave (some of these airmen stayed in Canberra after the war). The visitors book for this era is with club historian Bill Bray.

After the war many of the older club leaders (eg Tim Ingram, Jim Anderson, Ron Bell, Bill Dunbar, Johnny Trevillian) played less of a role and new people came on the scene (eg Mel Pratt, Jim Webb, Harold 'Gus' Angus and a number of Europeans: John Gdowski, George Tacheci, Don Olbry [shortened form of Olbrychtowicz], Hans Braun, George Haynod).

The tows at Franklin came in after the big snow season of 1956. Alan talks of the Brumby tow (designed by Jim Webb) and how it was carried, late at night, up to the top of the Slalom run for the 1957 Balmain cup events by the competitors themselves (previously it had only operated at the New or Ginini Run [called the Ginini or Little Ginini Run in the Stan Goodhew interview] and the Nursery Run). The first of the fixed tows was a VW in 1958, which was replaced by the Austin A40 in 1959 or early 1960 [Alan later corrected this to the early 1960s]. Problems with gearing, together with the growth of interest in the Perisher Lodge, saw the demise of the tows. The Austin A40 was probably taken up to

Franklin by Bruce Bray, Klaus Schiller, perhaps Heinz Mousmueller, and Karl Erett; Alan tells of his humorous first meeting with Karl and how Karl brought other Austrians into the club (they were good racers).

Explained here is the possible derivation of the name of the club journal Frozen Acres - 'acre' was once a slang term for backside!

The Wood, Nursery, Slalom and Morning runs are described, and Alan talks of the Death Gully or Death Gulch run cut next to the Slalom run in 1956 for the 1957 Balmain Cup. One competitor in the Balmain Cup was Mac Monroe, MP, who was later killed in a lift accident in Sydney. Discussing competitive skiing at Franklin, Alan says the Balmain Cup was first held at the Chalet in 1949. Then until 1956 there was little or no competitive skiing; in 1956 the annual Club Championships were launched, the big<sup>social</sup> event being the Brumby Cup (regular Mt Franklin skiers were in fact nicknamed 'brumbies'[Alan later said that actual brumbies had been seen each year since the early 1950s]).

## **Side B**

Regarding communication, the Chalet did not have a radio. Nearest contact was Bulls Head forestry settlement and in the 1940s a 'phone line connected the Chalet with the settlement, but it was often broken by falling branches (the insulators were driven straight into snowgums). Alan mentions here that one of the Bulls Head houses was rented in 1956 for skier accommodation. A 'phone line also ran between the Chalet and the Slalom hut near the bottom of the Slalom run, but this line too often suffered breakages.

Slalom hut was built in 1958 as a lunch shelter for skiers on the Slalom run. Alan describes how the concrete foundation blocks were made at his home and transported to the site. The hut is iron, with masonite inside lined with newspapers, and the emergency sled is still inside. The hut, which was 'a fun experience' to build, is on the western side of the run, just in the timber about 75 metres up from the bottom [at about grid reference 610712].

Bill Ginn's slab hut was one of several huts (eg Ginini Ski Club, Spotswoods) built as part of CAC members' enthusiasm for development and expansion of ski huts along the range (in fact at one time a lease on Gingera was proposed). It was built in the late 1930s or mid 1940s and stood about 30-50 feet behind the Chalet. In the mid or late 1960s it was demolished, the slabs going to Blundells Cottage (Bill's grandparents were the first inhabitants of Blundells).

Ginini Ski Club (consisting of Gus Angus, Jim Gillen and one other[Gus Angus later advised the author that this third person was Dave Thomas]) got a lease on Ginini and built a 12' x 12' hut in about 1947-48 [at grid reference 609667 - this is the hut referred to by Stan Goodhew as the Rover Scout Crew hut - it was in fact the Ginini Ski Club]. A run was cleared, with axes, from the hut southward almost to the Gingera road (at right-angles to the main Mt Ginini run).

This lease was subsequently sold to RMC Duntroon which built its lodge about twenty feet to the west of the hut in about 1953-55. The lodge was a green-painted army hut transported to the site; it was demolished in the 1960s due to concerns about the Cotter Catchment area. Apart from contact on the road, Alan says there was little interaction between CAC and RMC skiers, and he tells how the RMC truck broke down once at the New run. The main Mt Ginini run was bulldozed by the RMC. Alan does not recall the RMC Lodge having a tow, though in the early 1960s they had once used a helicopter.

The ski hut just west of Stockyard Gap [rough grid reference 603646] was built by former CAC Secretary Peter Spotswood in the late 1940s. It was built of fence palings and lasted only until the early 1950s. A brumby yard stood about 50 metres away. In the late 1940s Mel Pratt and Jim Webb found a young brumby locked in the hut. Alan, who at this

point recalls seeing truckloads of brumbies on the Franklin road, says that a brumby track ran across the Nursery run, and tells how on skis he and a group of others once tried 'rounding up' brumbies on Brumby Flat in the 1960s.

Alan believes Pryors Hut was built in the late 1940s, as he remembers it always having been there since he started skiing and walking in the area. [See Lindsay Pryor and Lach Maxwell summaries.] Regarding Stockyard Creek Hut, Alan believes it blew down in the early 1950s.

Discussing alterations made to the Chalet, Alan states that a ceiling was put in the loft in 1951-52 (previously, snow often blew in onto sleeping skiers!), and partitions replaced the old hessian walls between bunk rooms in the 1950s. The first bunk room on the right was, from the mid 1940s, the cook's room (the cook, a drover in summer, had 'a very bad rum problem').

## Tape 2. Side A

A drying room was built at the Chalet in the mid 1940s, and the woodshed was built in 1953 - it made a very big improvement and Alan tells of the contract Haargen Saw operators who cut wood at Franklin. Alan discusses the various stoves successively used in the main room, and talks of the 6 inch sewer pipe that forms the chimney.

Of the wind generator, Alan says vibration was its major problem as the propeller could never be properly balanced - it finally blew off in a blizzard, landing 300 metres up the Wood Run. He sketches in the evolution in lighting methods: hurricane lamps, pressure kero lamps, LPG lanterns, battery system, wind generator, then back to batteries.

Freezing of water pipes was a problem, and Alan talks of the methods used to deal with it - including the use of a hot iron rod to melt the ice in the outlet from the water tank.

Mt Franklin Chalet had a very strong social life and a great sense of camaraderie. Alan talks of darts, 'cricket darts', drinks, singing, the piano, Alex Britten who used to play piano accordion for dances, cracker night, and catering for big dinners at the Chalet.

CAC membership was quite mixed, including graziers, professionals, public servants, etc. Membership fees were cheap (£1) as was accommodation (5s per night). the club was 'a classless society'.

Alan remembers 1956-58 as boom years at Franklin; by 1959 Club members were becoming more attracted to the idea of a lodge at Perisher. Poor snow, transport problems, and the building of the lodge at Perisher all contributed to the Chalet's demise. Alan comments on the lack of potential for Brindabella ski development, and on the Chalet's considerable historical significance.

From this point on the interview is concerned with Namadgi bushwalking and ski-touring. Alan tells how in the 1950s the CAC was the only organisation in Canberra undertaking these activities. He sat on the club's bushwalking committee from 1950, and distributed a walks programme as part of an endeavour to boost interest in bushwalking. The CAC was also responsible for search and rescue in the ACT and Alan was the contact point - ironically he required search and rescue help in the 1950s when he fell badly at Tidbinbilla (and miraculously escaped serious injury). While talking of Tidbinbilla Alan speaks of Tom Green (then in his 80s) of Rock Valley, Tom's desire to see Tidbinbilla become a reserve, and the grave of the last Aboriginal at Tidbinbilla (which now, it seems, is under the waterfowl ponds).

CAC bushwalks were made difficult by poor maps; Alan tells how his walks would often follow the old bridle trails (eg along Licking Hole Creek). Mt Kelly, Cotter Valley and Mt Gudgenby were popular walking destinations; during his 'President's bushwalk' in

1956 Alan placed a visitors book on Mt Kelly's summit and the book covering the period 1956-82 (a significant piece of bushwalking history) is now held by Parks and Conservation staff. Alan talks also of a 1950s trip to Cave Creek via Leura Hut, and of a tough and abortive Rules Point-Wee Jasper trip in 1953. Alan's first major ACT walk was organised by Polish-born John Gdowski in 1951.

## Side B

Alan continues the description of the 1951 Gdowski trip to Mt Kelly and environs and points out its significance in opening up the Namadgi area to Alan and others and in giving them a love of that country. In 1963, at the request of the ACT National Parks Association, Alan led a party (including Robert Story) to Kelly, and this walk played an important role in the eventual establishment of Namadgi.

Alan recalls that Cotter House was 'a very comfortable hut', but agrees that walkers generally didn't stay in huts unless the weather was bad - huts were of interest, but were not sought as accommodation (many had rubbish around them too).

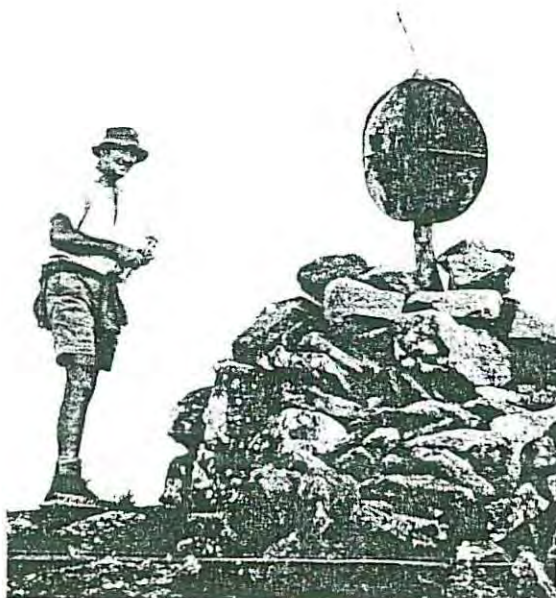
During the last part of the interview Alan talks of three separate aspects of Namadgi's history. He says how an obscure turn-of-the-century French journal referred to the Rendezvous Creek Aboriginal art site, and how in 1952 he led a walk to locate the site. In 1964 Alan was involved in a ski rescue of students at Mt Franklin; an unnecessary 'cavalcade' of Navy helicopters, police and other authorities were called in during the incident, one which could have been avoided had the competent students skied out themselves. The Australian newspaper also overdramatised the whole incident. Alan's good friend and strong CAC member George Haynod, who was in the search party, died a few days after the search. Finally Alan describes an ill-fated Bimberi ski tour with Stan Goodhew and John Wanless in the early 1960s. Due to difficult timber and snow cover they did not reach Bimberi, and due to a faulty military map [Bimberi East 1:50 000 1952 revised 1959, which incorrectly located the 'new' Cotter House-Gingera road one grid to the west of its true location] the trio had a terrible descent to the Gingera road and didn't get back to their vehicles until 11 pm. They also met two teenage boys (irresponsibly left by their parents) doing a snow camping trip near Ginini.

The tape finishes with Alan expressing his delight at the establishment of Namadgi.



Alan Bagnall pictured with a camp oven that he found at the site of Stockyard Creek Hut. (Author)

Alan on Bimberi in 1970. (Alan Bagnall)





Mel Pratt going over the ski-jump at Franklin in 1956. The jump was located on the Slalom run and its remains may still be seen today, about 40 yards downhill from the Austin A40 and on the left. (Alan Bagnall)

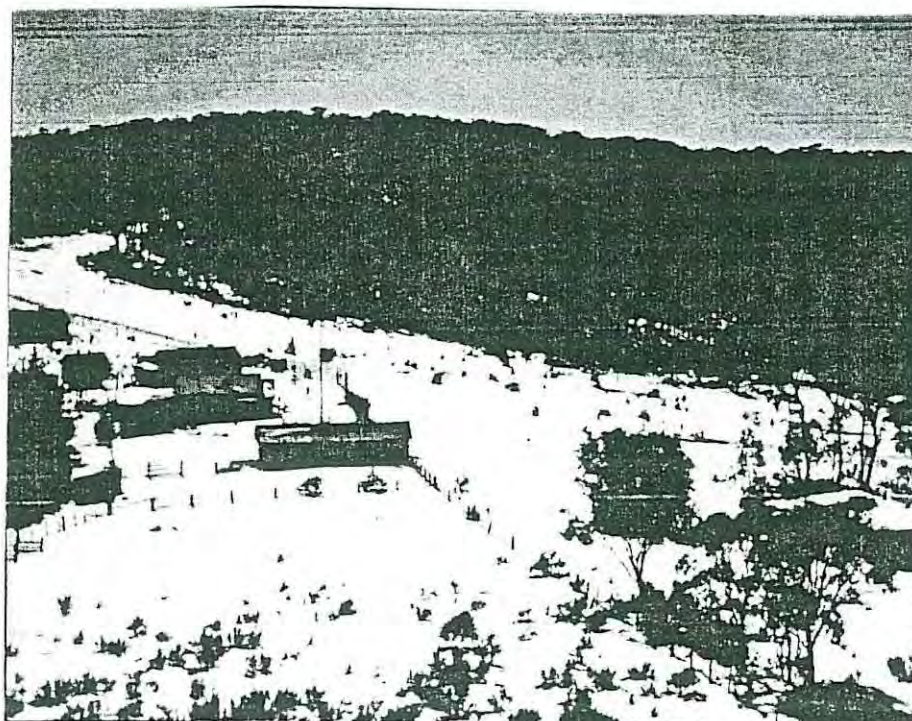
Jim and John Parker, and possibly Gus Angus, having a rest on the Morning run at Franklin during the 1956 Brumby Cup. (Alan Bagnall)



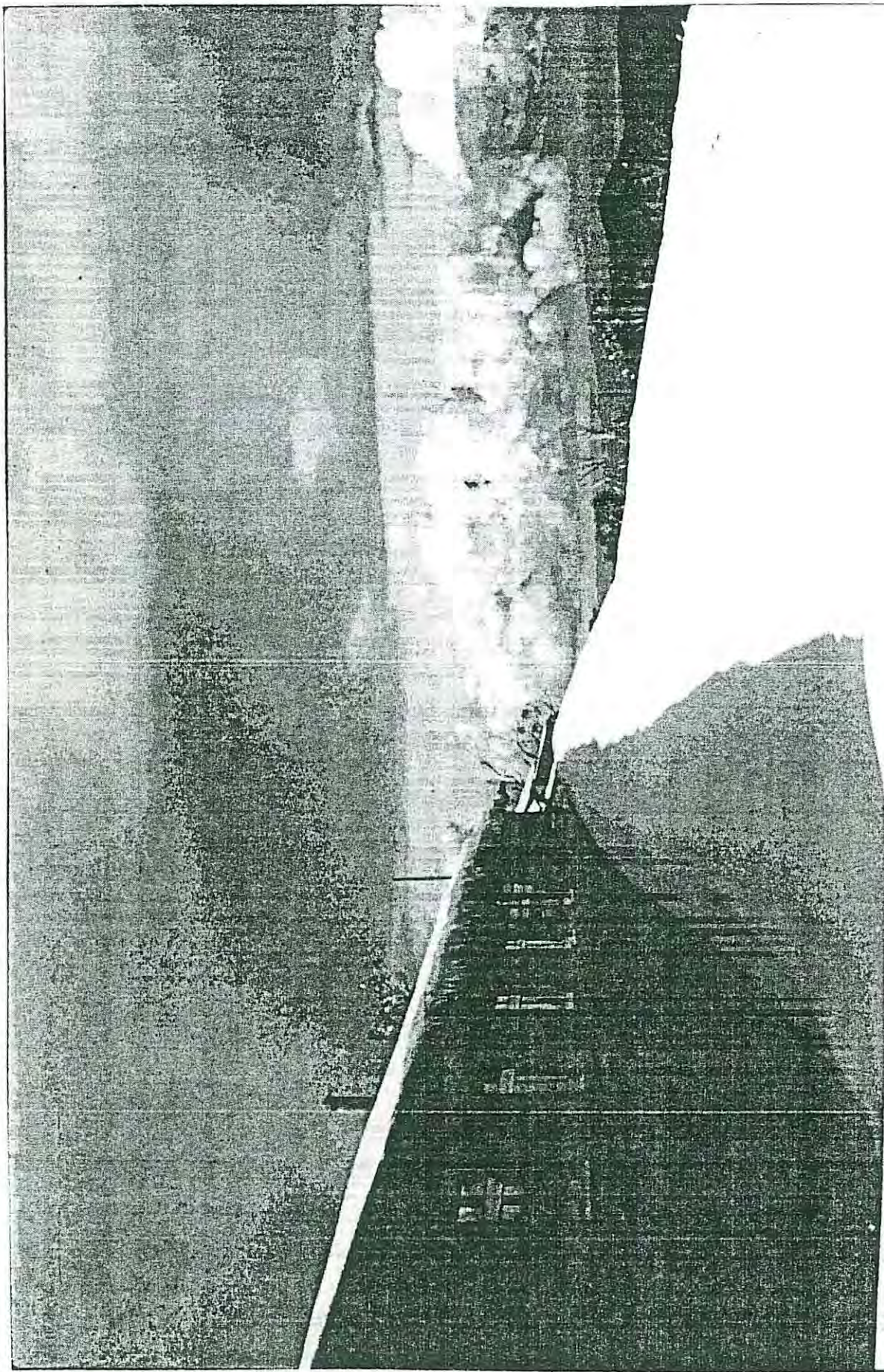


One of the Parker brothers' Ford utes used to transport Franklin skiers. The photo was taken in July 1956 at Bulls Head. (Alan Bagnall)

Bulls Head forestry settlement in July 1956. The CAC had a house rented here at this time for extra skier accommodation. (Alan Bagnall)

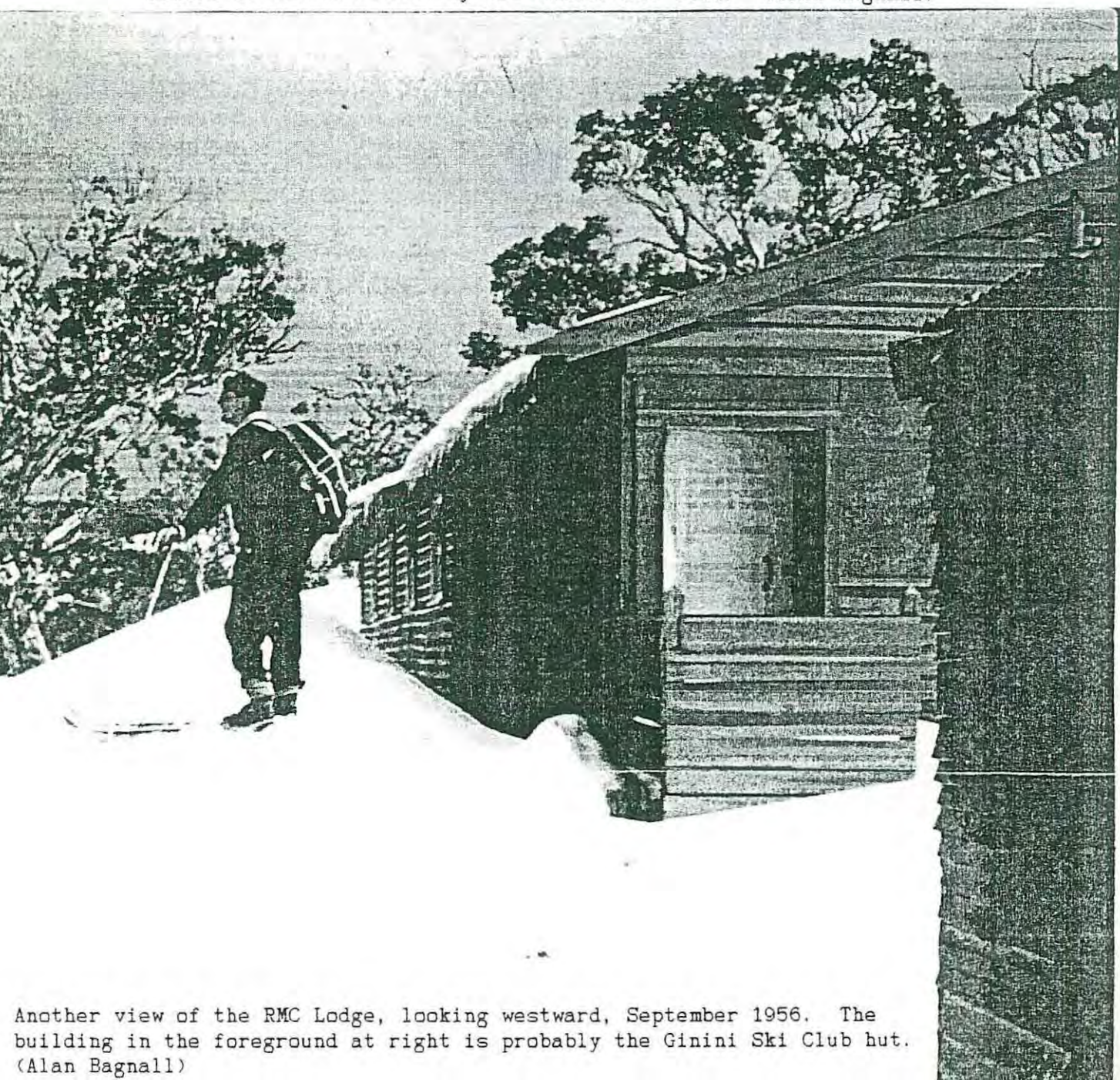


RMC Lodge, Mt Ginini, September 1956. The view is easterly; Mt Domain can be seen towards the right. (Alan Bagnall)





The RMC Lodge, seen from the ski run. The small building just left of centre is the hut built by the Ginini Ski Club. (Alan Bagnall)



Another view of the RMC Lodge, looking westward, September 1956. The building in the foreground at right is probably the Ginini Ski Club hut. (Alan Bagnall)

## JACK REID, 'Little Forest', near Frogmore

Jack Reid was born in June 1919 in Queanbeyan, a son of Bert Reid (1879-1945) and Florence nee Oldfield (1886-1952). In 1926 the family moved to Canberra, and two years later the Reids moved to leasehold Tidbinbilla, which had been held by Bert since about 1917. As well as having Tidbinbilla, the Reids also took up leases at Leura and Little Peppercorn. Jack served in New Guinea during the second world war. In 1944 he married (Lucy) Jean nee Wilson and they had three sons. In 1958, when 800 acres of Tidbinbilla was taken over for pines, Jack and Jean moved to Frogmore.

### Side A

The interview begins with Jack's memories of Cotter ranger Jack Maxwell. Jack Maxwell would ride out of the Cotter every three months or so and stay at Tidbinbilla the night, then, driving his car which he left at Tidbinbilla, he would go on home to Queanbeyan for three days, then come back to Tidbinbilla en route to the Cotter. Occasionally he would come out via Orroral.

Jack recalls how he did his first trips to the Cotter in 1933 and 1934, via Mount John [now, it would appear, officially called Johns Peak] and Kangaroo Flats, reaching the Cotter just up from today's Bendora Dam, then riding 10 or 12 miles up river to Cotter House. On these trips he joined in the brumby-running around Bimberi with Jack Maxwell, Bung Harris, Fred Tutty and a crowd of others. He describes how the brumbies always used tracks, how the trapyards were built on the tracks, and how the horses were led out to Tidbinbilla and later sold in Queanbeyan as saddlehorses for £10 and £12 each.

Detailing Jack Maxwell's family, Jack says that son Doug worked for years on Cooinbil, near Carrathool, and brought sheep up to the Long Plain lease each year (Cooinbil Hut at Long Plain is named after the property). The trip was three months each way. Later in life Doug worked at Bulls Head forestry camp. Doug's brother Jock was an auctioneer for Woodgers and Calthorpe in Queanbeyan. Third son Lach [also interviewed] worked at Tidbinbilla for a few years.

Jack remembers Jack Maxwell for his kindness, friendliness, his love of horses and dogs and his love for his job as Cotter ranger which he took up in the mid to late 1920s. Jack tells how Maxwell looked after his saddles, etc and describes saddle-care methods.

Cotter House had one large kitchen and two small bedrooms; you washed outside in a dish or bathed in the river. Jack cannot remember other huts in the Cotter.

Returning to brumby-running, Jack conveys the effort that went into the construction of the yards. The party on these trips was a mixed one (including a number of young women) and everyone camped in tents. At night, time would be spent yarnning - no one played any musical instruments.

Fred Tutty spent many years with Jack Maxwell and later managed the Reid's 'Wyora' property between Brindabella and Tumut. He enlisted in the first world war aged fourteen (!) and carried a terrible wound scar down his back.

Harry Cribb was with Maxwell later. He died in North Africa during the second world war after both legs were blown off. Jack says the Cribbs were 'mountain people all their life'; Cribbs Creek, which runs eastward from Blackfellows Gap, is named after them.

Regarding the origin of the name Harrys Spur (running south-west from Ginini), Jack believes it could be named after uncle Harry Oldfield (Cotter Harry) who grew up in these mountains, later worked for Ruby Cochran at Yaouk for a long period, then moved to Blundells Cottage in Canberra (called for a period Oldfield's Cottage).

Jack agrees that Ginini was called 'Ginina', and Gingera 'Big Ginina'.

After explaining the importance of summer leases in enabling the grass to recover on the home property, Jack talks about Leura [often called simply Bimberi during the interview]. The Reids took up Leura in the early 1930s, and actively held it till about 1941 - after that time they 'rented' it to others [till 1961 when they disposed of it]. Bert had Dave Perrott build Leura Hut in 1933 and it had slab walls and a shingle roof. It was a 'wonderful job - shame it couldn't have been preserved'. Once in the mid-1930s the Reids left salt meat hanging there for twelve months - and it was still edible! Jack mentions that Perrott, who had a house in Queanbeyan, looked after the Leura stock [but off the tape he corrected this to Little Peppercorn].

Stock bound for Leura were taken in via the Reid's other lease at Little Peppercorn. The day stages of the journey were: Tidbinbilla to Cotter Dam, to Uriarra/Condor, to Brindabella Mountain, to Brindabella, to Concertina Flat, to a camp between there and Peppercorn, then on to Little Peppercorn (sheep breaks were built at some camps). Stock for the Little Peppercorn lease [often called just Peppercorn on the tape] were then left and the Leura stock were taken on via Cooleman to the lease. Sometimes Leura stock were taken in along the tops of the Brindabellas, and occasionally up the Cotter River.

The Leura lease was 20 000 acres and Little Peppercorn was 3000 - 4000.

Jack remembers Little Peppercorn Creek for its wonderful fishing and he describes using waxed matches for bait. Little Peppercorn Hut was built perhaps around 1916-17 or in the early 1920s. [Jack said after the interview that his family got the lease in about 1925 and held it till about 1946 - a year after, as is said on the tape, his father's death in 1945.] The hut was shingle-roofed [Jack said later the roof may have been iron] and slab-walled and had a big kitchen and a bedroom. Local bush materials were used (as usual) owing to transport difficulties. Jack first went with his father to the lease in 1933; Lach Maxwell accompanied them.

Just upstream from the hut a lone gold-miner, possibly named Jack Morrissey, worked an alluvial claim with the aid of water races.

Jack talks of the 'unreal' amount of fencing done around the leases for 'miles and miles'. He comments on the hard work and the use of horse and cart to carry fencing materials.

## **Side B**

Bert Reid had the Leura lease jointly with Jack Maxwell; Bert looked after the sheep as Jack was occupied with his ranger duties. Snowgrass on the lease was good feed, Jack recalls. Sometimes Leura sheep missed during mustering would be later found with three years wool on them and nearly blind because of it. In that 'wild country', says Jack, 'you want a terrible good dog to find them all'. Bert, Jack and Jack Maxwell also took stock along the tops of the Brindabellas to the lease and Jack recalls one trip with Doug Maxwell when they brought some straggler cattle out to Bulls Head.

At this point Jack refers briefly to trips to see the Taylors at Coolamine, and gives a few details of the Harris family.

Regarding the impact of climate, Jack says summer weather was 'very nice', but that bringing stock out in May was often cold and snowy, and weather-proof gear was pretty essential.

Jack then talks of the alluvial gold mine established by his grandfather [William Reid] at the southern end of the Brindabella Valley in the late nineteenth century. It

employed many men and stores were erected on site. An altercation with the government ended the enterprise.

There follow details of the Reids' moves from Queanbeyan to Canberra, and on to Tidbinbilla following the death of manager Ted Maxwell (Jack Maxwell's brother) in 1928. Mrs Maxwell's later house, the Tidbinbilla school and the local tennis courts are described.

Referring to other parts of Namadgi that Jack had knowledge of, he talks of Orroral and salt troughs on the property designed to cure sheep of lameness through having them walk through 'bluestone' to get to the salt. Orroral's then owner Andy Cunningham thought a lot of Bert Reid and visited Tidbinbilla; Jack recalls Andy's problems with alcohol.

The interview finishes with Jack's opinion of the national park: he feels it is a 'very good idea' and good for people to see and enjoy.

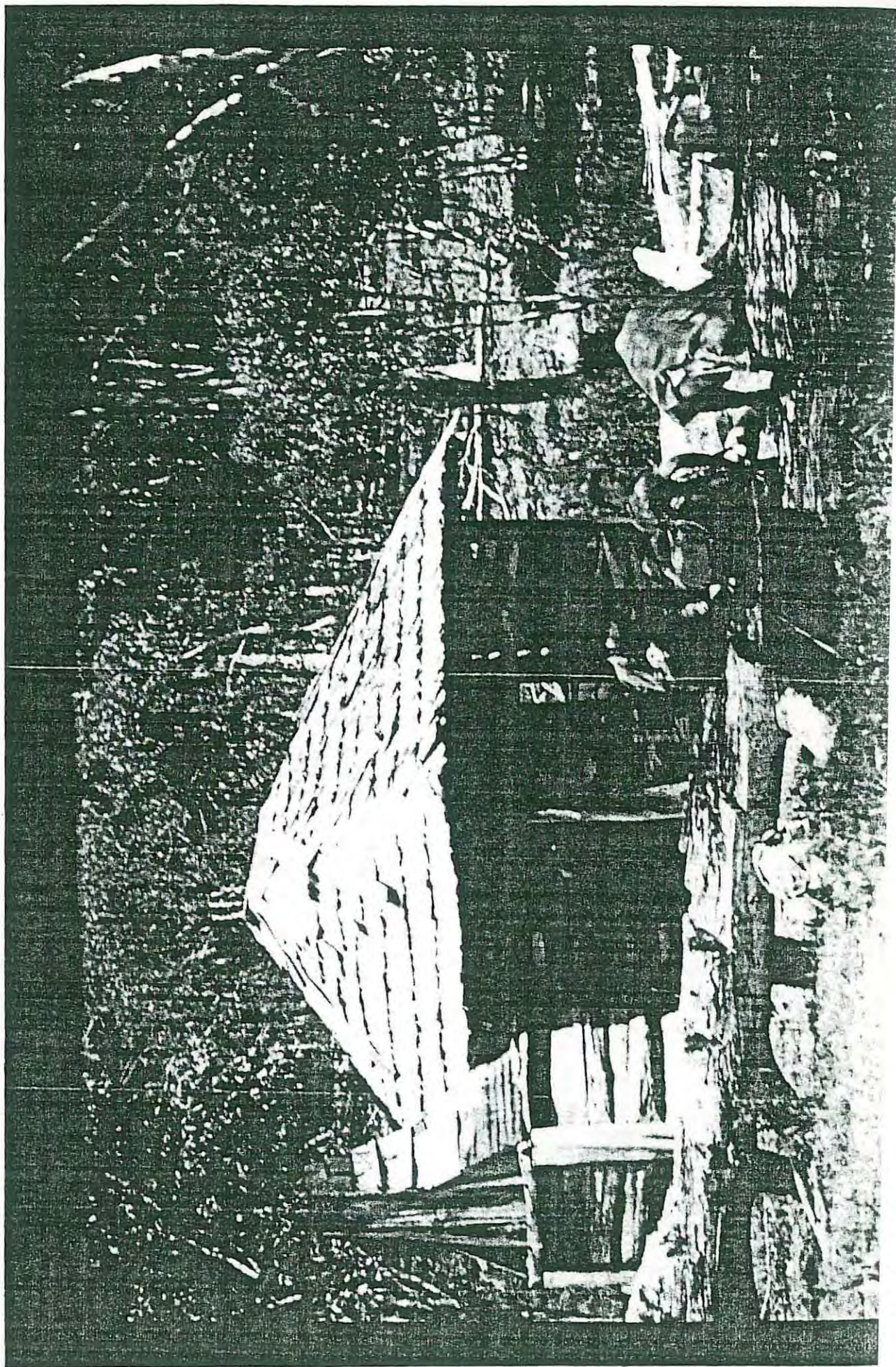


Jack Reid. (Author)



Jack Maxwell about to head off to the Cotter. Note the coat and tie - Jack was known for this sort of dress, which he felt was appropriate to the responsible job of Cotter ranger. (Audrey and Lach Maxwell)

Walkers at Leura Hut in 1953. (Alan Bagnall)



## SITE VISIT TO ORRORAL and GUDGENBY

with Bill and Joan Bootes, and Ranger Graham Hirth, 10 July 1990.

The tape begins with Bill talking about the Bootes family's summer visits to Orroral and how they left their vehicle at George Read's Naas property and came on to Orroral with manager Tom Oldfield in 'the old buckboard'. Bill then describes the room layout of the kitchen block and mentions a flagged path outside the southern end of the block.

Tom Oldfield built an iron skillion-roofed building between the living and kitchen wings 'to help make room for the kids - because he had a dozen of them'. This stood towards the northern end of the wings.

Bill then talks about the location of a building built for more living space for the children which stood near the top of the bank behind the house [this is possibly the workers' hut mentioned by Roma Brayshaw]. He then talks about the school which stood where the current fence is. He also mentions a cart shed which stood about half way to the shearing shed - the shearing shed having been built after his time at Orroral by Andy Cunningham.

Bill clearly remembers a sail cloth ceiling in the living-wing of the homestead. A question about the board ceiling now present could not be resolved.

After talking more about the rooms of the living wing, Bill spoke about the 1919 bushfire. The rock known to him then as Gibraltar is the group of rocks directly across the valley [grid reference 786549]; Orroral Rock is the solitary boulder across the valley on the skyline away to the north-west of the homestead [near the old Collimation Tower site]. The bridle track to Booroomba went through the break in the hills directly across the valley from the homestead.

Joan then tells of the reason for why the Bootes' sold Orroral and bought Gudgenby: Orroral is a narrow valley with few hours of sunlight, and with its north-south orientation 'that cold wind went straight up the valley either way, and they didn't like it'.

Bill then discusses the water supply at Orroral. A 60 gallon cask caught some roof water, but the main supply was a well just in front of the house which had 'good drinking water' [the well was located during the visit]. Additionally, water was also brought via a race from a creek up behind the house. Tom Oldfield cut the race with a single furrow plough. Bill then discusses early iron tanks made by Lysaghts. He recalls at this point two very large timber meat blocks (for butchery) which stood near the kitchen.

Charlie (Charles Henry) McKeahnie, from whom Bill's grandfather bought Orroral and who then lived at Booroomba, used to ride over for breakfast. In his 60s, he was 'a pretty tough old feller you know'; Bill jokingly says he used to come over to 'see what that young feller (ie Bill's father) was doing to the place'.

Bill recalls a red hot poker plant at the front of the homestead, and a large willow, but no orchard nor vegetable patch, although the Oldfields could've still had a few vegetables.

There is then a lengthy discussion of the verandah and how it compared poorly with the one at Gudgenby. The rear 'skillion' verandahs at Orroral and Gudgenby are also compared. Bill affirms that the Gudgenby house was better built than Orroral. He also mentions the pit-saw flooring at Gudgenby and how pit-sawn timber was distinguishable by its straight saw marks and the slight angle to the way the boards were cut which was due to the bottom man in the pit trying to avoid the falling sawdust.

On at Gudgenby, Joan describes how she and Bill used to repair the broken telephone line themselves. It was almost always a long weekend when the line went out of

action. A tree might fall on the line, the lines could get crossed, or certain people might use the insulators for shooting practice. Jean Gregory at Rocky Crossing 'was our very good exchange lady'. The one line served several people so calls had to be kept short.

Joan then tells of a group of walkers who called in, lost, at Gudgenby, after wading straight through the Middle Creek swamps. The Bootes' made baths for them and put them up for the night. This was when the old homestead was still in use, in the early 1960s.

Bill talks about the original crossing of the Gudgenby River just down in front of the house when the road there was the route to Kiandra. The crossing was 'pretty crude' consisting of a few stones. The blacksmiths shed was just up the hill a little (in front of the house). It was still standing when Bootes' bought the property in the late 1920s but it 'didn't last long'. It was slabs, with a stone fireplace and big old bellows. The roof may have been shingle. The shed was deliberately close to the old track and crossing (for shoeing, etc).

Bill goes on to mention hay-making and how when Tom Oldfield came over from Orroral to manage Gudgenby he planted 20 acres of oats for his horses just the other side of the yards. These were mowed with a scythe and Bill describes the horse-powered chaff cutter that was also used. Granville and Jessie Crawford's hut stood near the other side of the yards too.

During the tour around Gudgenby Bill mentions that the mail route between Gudgenby and Cotter House ran through the Middle Creek valley. Joan and Bill then talk about the landing ground that was put in near Rendezvous Creek in about 1970 for superphosphate spreading on the property. Bill refers to the hut site at the bottom end of the landing ground, near the junction of Pheasant and Rendezvous Creeks [grid reference 785450] as Brayshaws Hut [perhaps confirming that this was Tom Brayshaw's hut]. He goes on to mention other members of the Brayshaw family, saying that it was David who died of an axe wound to the leg [Bill perhaps means Edward Brayshaw here].

At the end of the visit Joan and Bill discuss their feelings about being back at Gudgenby.

During the day Joan and Bill made a number of comments when the tape recorder was not in use. These included Joan having seen platypus in the Gudgenby River, Bill pointing out a stand of eucalypts just down the valley from the Orroral homestead which, while now gone (except for one large lone tree) had been deliberately left in his time to act as a windbreak, and the bridle track between Orroral and Gudgenby which was a shorter route than the present road route between the two.

we were again on the march. We took a south-westerly direction for 8 miles, when we reached Naas Valley, Herbert's station. We found most beautiful water every two or three miles. After leaving Herbert's we commenced the ascent of the most terrific mountain ranges. I ever saw, in some places almost perpendicular, and if the leader had slipped he would have carried all following down with him. The path was often not more than 2 feet wide, with precipices of 1500 feet. The strongest men gasped for breath; the weak were ready to hurl all their swags into the abyss below. One mile an hour was the utmost we could make; many threw down their loads, and declared that a step further they could not go without dying from exhaustion; we were obliged to halt every 100 yards. Many were so far spent as to be unable to lift their swag from their shoulder. The theatricals were the worst; every range echoed to curses on the *Herald*, for spreading reports of cold, and inducing persons to take so much warm clothing. I never remember to have experienced such intense heat as in crossing these immense ranges. How we longed for the cooling breeze; but often in vain.

About 3 o'clock we began to descend, or rather the ranges we had to pass were not so high. Occasionally the view between the mountains was magnificent. Range beyond range all wooded to the summit—the stream sometimes pouring from the very summit. ~~Often we should suddenly burst upon a vast amphitheatre of living green—the bold rocks towering above all. We came to a halt in a valley completely hemmed in by mountains, a beautiful clear stream flowing round. Although a station was supposed to be only one and a half miles off, still we were so wearied that nearly all refused to go further; we accordingly pitched our tents, lighted fires, and had tea. The dew was very heavy, which rendered it very uncomfortable sleeping out. I found the ground and grass so wet that it was impossible to sleep. We started early. The grass very wet with dew, and climbing several terrific ranges, we reached Gudgeby, or M'Kechnie. Here we procured some milk, and common bread, at 1s. a pound, also some tinned meat. Not being able to eat or sleep, I suffered very much; a cold perspiration streamed from me, and I often felt that a step further I could not go. However, I determined not to give in. After passing some more ranges, full of rocks and loose stones, we reached an immense lagoon, or dismal swamp. Here we killed a large snake, having previously seen so many as to have become completely careless of them. The swamp we had now to cross teemed with them, and was about 200 hundred yards wide. We all had to take off our boots, &c., and walk through this awful black mire. There was one part really dangerous. I was pressing after some Irishmen who rather hesitated, and stepping a little to one side I was engulfed up to the middle in this mire. For three miles I most walked with bare feet—some actually trod on snakes. I saw numbers, and can assure you look upon them with a strong dislike, especially the brown snake. At last, led on by a wild Cornishman, (our party having increased to 24) we all crossed a wide stream, with our feet blistered and sore. This was most painful, and with considerable murmuring we recrossed it, having ascertained that we had taken the wrong road. We had now to cross the Murrumbidgee, and at last reached a station~~

A Kiandra-bound gold-digger describes the Naas-Gudgenby-Yaouk section of the route to the goldfield in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 24 April 1860. Although no serious mining took place in Namadgi, it is significant that one of the main routes to one of NSW's major fields ran through the Park.

## INDEX TO INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

- Aalberg, George, 22  
 Abbotsmith, Johnny, 82  
 Aborigines and Aboriginal sites,  
   30, 38, 55, 99, 143, 153, 154  
 Aboud, Sam, 54, 63  
 Adaminaby, 52, 75, 117, 137  
 Adams, Laurie, 138  
 Aggie Gap, 45, 103  
 alcohol, 22, 38, 54, 75, 83, 89,  
   100, 101, 127, 143, 162  
 Alder, Reg and Doris (nee  
   Young), 137-139  
 Allen, Cla, 22, 23, 139  
 Alpine botanical annexe (Mt  
   Gingera), 45  
 Amy family, 91, 126  
 Anderson, Effie, 139  
 Anderson, Jim, 21, 23, 42, 139,  
   151  
 Anderson's Shower, 21, 45  
 Angus, (Harold) Gus, 82, 151,  
   152, 156  
 Archie McKeahnies Hut, 142  
 Argalong, 45  
 Australian Forestry School, 21,  
   44, 99  
 Australian National University,  
   44  
  
 Bagnall, Alan and Barbara (nee  
   Tanner), 137, 151-159  
 Bairnsdale, 76, 100  
 Balmain Cup, 83, 151-152  
 Barrett family, 53, 64, 76  
 Bates, Wallace, 52, 53  
 Bates Creek, 143  
 Beer, Harold, 133  
 Bell, Ron, 151  
 Bendora Dam, 39, 160  
 Bendora Hut (and Arboretum),  
   45, 82, 99  
 Bill Ginns Hut, 83, 152  
 Bill Oldfield's Hut site (Cotter),  
   39  
 Billys Hill, 119, 126  
 Blackfellows Gap, 99, 160  
 Blewitt, Lester and Tom, 38  
 Blue Waterholes, 117, 131, 147  
 Bluegum Arboretum, 99  
 Bluett, John (Johnno) 37, 101  
 Blundell family (and Blundells  
   Flat) 22  
 Blundells Cottage, 83, 140, 152,  
   160  
 Bobeyan and environs, 52, 65,  
   66, 69, 70, 71, 75, 89, 90,  
   91, 92, 127, 132, 137  
 Bolaro, 98, 99  
 Bonfield, Peter, 89  
 Booromba, 140, 165  
 Bootes, Albert G W, 28, 29, 88,  
   132, 146, 165  
 Bootes, Bill and Joan (nee  
   Carew), 28-36, 132, 133, 142,  
   165-166  
 Bootes, Harold, 28  
 Bootes, William Sidney, 28  
  
 Booth Range, 118-119, 120,  
   124, 147  
 Booths yards, 91  
 Boyd, Jimmy, 45  
 Bozic, Ivan, 82  
 Brand, Fiona, 137  
 Brandy Flat and Hut, 31, 37, 52,  
   88, 111, 126, 132, 142  
 Braun, Hans, 151  
 Bray, Bruce and Bill, 82, 151,  
   152  
 Brayshaw family, 53, 66, 76  
 Brayshaw, David (Davey), 75,  
   76, 80  
 Brayshaw, Edward, 54, 89  
 Brayshaw, Jim, 69  
 Brayshaw, Richard (Dick), 65,  
   66, 69, 70, 75, 76, 90, 92  
 Brayshaw, Roma (nee Oldfield)  
   and Ted, 28, 29, 30, 54, 76,  
   88-97, 112, 118, 127  
 Brayshaw, Tom, 72, 76, 88, 92,  
   111  
 Brayshaw, Tom (interviewee) and  
   Judith (nee Thomas), 88-97  
 Bredbo, 89, 127  
 Bridle, Claude, 52  
 Bridle, Fred, 117  
 Brindabella, 45, 98, 101, 137,  
   161  
 Brindabellas (mountain range),  
   22, 23, 44, 82-83, 98, 153,  
   161  
 Britten, Alex, 153  
 brumbies and brumby-running,  
   39, 44, 98-99, 100, 105, 116-  
   117, 139, 141, 152, 153, 160  
 Bulls Head, 38, 45, 99, 100,  
   151, 152, 157, 160, 161  
 Burton, Dr John, 100  
 bushfires, fire-fighting, bushfire  
   policy, 40, 44, 45, 67, 110,  
   137-138, 141, 147, 165  
 bushwalking and bushwalkers,  
   30, 55, 66, 90, 137-139, 147,  
   151, 153-154, 166  
 Bywong, 28, 142  
  
 California Flats, 45  
 Caloola Farm, 116  
 Cameron, Joan (nee Curtis), 57  
 Canberra Alpine Club, 21-27,  
   45, 82, 100, 151-154  
 Casey, R G and Maie, 22  
 Cave Creek, 154  
 Chalker, Jack, 111  
 Chalker, Percy, 52, 53  
 Chalker, Tom, 98  
 Chalker's chimney, 54, 62  
 childbirth, 53, 89, 141  
 Chippendale, George, 138  
 Cleary family, 93, 108, 111  
 climate, aspects of 30, 31, 38,  
   39, 45, 52, 53, 55, 59, 66,  
   90, 91, 98, 100, 127, 132,  
   133, 153, 161, 165  
  
 Cochran family (Yaouk), 54, 69,  
   89, 91, 98, 100, 103, 104,  
   107, 160  
 Cole, Cyril, 44  
 Colquhouns Hut site, 99  
 communication, telephone,  
   isolation, mail runs, etc, 38,  
   53, 75, 77, 82, 88, 89, 111,  
   128, 141, 142, 152, 165-166  
 Condor Creek, 22, 99  
 Cook, Dave, 83  
 Coolamine, 101, 117, 161  
 Cooleman, 39, 140, 161  
 Cooimbil (Carrathool and Long  
   Plain), 160  
 Cooma, 53, 65, 75, 82  
 Copmans Crossing, 65  
 Corin Dam, 39, 100  
 Cotter, Bill, 54, 61, 91, 98, 100,  
   119  
 Cotter Cecil, 110  
 Cotter, Gary, 54, 98  
 Cotter, Gladdie, 88  
 Cotter, Jack, 53, 91, 100  
 Cotter, Mick, 119  
 Cotter, (River, Valley,  
   Catchment), 22, 37, 40, 44,  
   46, 83, 88, 98, 99, 110, 116,  
   117-118, 126, 127, 133, 138,  
   140, 152, 153, 160, 161  
 Cotter Gap, 38, 118, 126, 133,  
   142  
 Cotter House, 37, 38, 39, 42,  
   43, 44, 45, 51, 99, 101, 104,  
   106, 107, 110, 116, 117, 118,  
   127, 128, 132, 139, 140, 142,  
   147, 154, 160, 166  
 Cotter Ranger's House, 38, 39,  
   43  
 Coulton, Norman, 45  
 Craces Hut, 100, 112  
 Crawford family (Bobeyan), 66,  
   75, 91, 92, 126  
 Crawford, Charlie, 91, 112  
 Crawford, Cletus and Lucy (nee  
   Venables), 75-81, 89  
 Crawford, Dan and Della (nee  
   Westerman), 75, 78  
 Crawford, Granville and Rae (nee  
   Gregory), 38, 91, 127, 128,  
   140-145  
 Crawford, Granville and Jessie  
   (neo Kirchner), 29, 140, 142,  
   166  
 Crawford, Ted, 75, 79  
 Crawford, Walter, 140  
 Creamy Flats, 91  
 Cregan, Isaac and Jemina, 88  
 Cregan, Jack and Mary (nee  
   Gregory) and son Stan, 88, 91,  
   97, 110, 145  
 Cribb, Harry, 39, 44, 98, 160  
 Cribbs Creek, 160  
 Crowe family, 111  
 Cumpston, John, Howard (and  
   family), 22, 99

- Cunningham, Andy, 28, 89, 91,  
 111, 131, 140, 162, 165  
 Cuppacumbalong, 93, 111  
 Currango, 117  
 Currie, G A, 23  
 Curtis, Colin and Daphne (nee  
 Reid), 52-61  
 Curtis, Henry and Iris (nee  
 Oldfield) 39, 52, 53, 56, 66,  
 89, 93, 127, 132, 141, 146  
 Curtis, Norman, 52, 54, 57, 59, 146  
 Curtis Refuge Hut, 54, 61  
  
 David Brayshaw's House, 52, 57,  
 88, 89, 90  
 Depression, the, 23, 39, 89, 99  
 De Salis Hut site, 37, 116  
 dingoes, 28, 29, 39, 110, 111,  
 116, 118, 127  
 domestic work, life, 30, 37, 38,  
 53, 54, 88, 89, 112, 131, 147,  
 160, 165  
 Dry Creek, 126, 146, 147  
 Dunbar, Bill, 21, 22, 151  
 Dunns Flat, 131  
 Dyball, Herb, 66  
  
 800 Acres, 119  
 Eighty Acres, 38, 101, 116, 142  
 Erett, Karl, 82, 152  
 Evans, Merv, 112  
  
 Feaney, Jack, 88  
 feral animals, 29, 39, 55, 143,  
 147  
 Field, T A, 52  
 Fiery Range, 45  
 first world war, 145, 160  
 Fisher, Pat, 45, 99  
 fishing, 29, 30, 38, 91, 132, 161  
 Fishloch Yards, 126, 142  
 Fitzhardinge, Laurie, 23  
 Fitzs Hill, 30, 89, 92, 131  
 Fletcher, Frank and Mollie, 53  
 food, 38, 45, 53, 54, 75, 89, 92,  
 127, 137, 143, 165  
 forestry, 44, 45, 99  
 Foster, Albert, 91  
 fox trapping, hunting, 39, 132  
 Franklin family, including  
 (Stella) Miles Franklin, 98,  
 103, 119  
 Franks Hut, 146, 149  
  
 Garrett Cotter's Hut site, 39  
 Gates, Ena, 139  
 Gauba, Dr Erwin, 45  
 Gdowski, John, 82, 151, 154  
 Gibraltar Rock, 165  
 Gillen brothers, 83, 152  
 Ginini Ski Club and Hut, 152,  
 159  
 Ginn, Bill and Jim, 22, 151, 152  
 Glencoe (Naas), 140, 141  
 Glendale, 31, 92, 111, 126, 131,  
 132, 133, 140  
 Glendale Crossing, 30, 110, 133  
 Glenferrie (Naas), 111, 126, 131,  
 140  
  
 Goobarragandra River, 39, 137  
 Goodhew, Stan and Barbara (nee  
 McKinnon), 82-87, 154  
 Goodradigbee River, 116  
 Goodwin, Colonel J T H, 23, 46  
 Gould, George, 118  
 Grassy Creek, 52, 67, 132  
 graves, 38, 52, 65, 88, 91, 110,  
 142  
 Green, Tom, 153  
 Greenfield, C S, 29  
 Greenwood, Don, 38  
 Gregory, Alan, 30  
 Gregory, Rowley, 29, 30, 146  
 Gregory, John and Rebecca (nee  
 Read) and family, 37, 145  
 Gregory, John Edward and  
 Georgina (nee Pitcher), 37,  
 111  
 Gregory, Roy, 111  
 Gregory, Ted and Annie (nee  
 Perkins), 127, 131, 140, 143  
 Gregory, Tom and Barbara (nee  
 McMillan), 37, 111, 142  
 Gregory, Tom and Roma (nee  
 Constance), 37-43, 118, 133  
 Gregory, Victor and Jean (nee  
 Oldfield), 38, 142, 166  
 Grey, Cam, 21  
 Grigg, John, 30  
 Gudgenby, 28-36, 44, 76, 88,  
 89, 90, 91, 92, 95, 97, 100,  
 101, 110, 118, 126, 127, 132,  
 137, 138, 141, 142, 143, 146,  
 165-167  
 Gudgenby River, 29, 30, 91,  
 133, 166  
 Gullett, Joe, 38  
  
 Half Moon Creek, 31  
 Halloran, Bernie, 53  
 Hardys lease, 101  
 Harris, (Henry) Bung, 40, 98,  
 99, 100, 109, 160  
 Harris' Hut, 147  
 Harrys Spur, 160  
 Haynod, George, 151, 154  
 Henry, Julie, 137  
 Hewett, Jack, 139  
 High Forest, 89  
 Hill Station, 37  
 Honeysuckle Creek, 91, 110,  
 111, 131  
 Hopkins, Cec, 146  
 Horse Gully Hut, 53-54, 61  
 Hospital Creek, 132  
 Hospital Creek Hut, 146, 150  
 Hotel Kosciusko, 21, 23, 27, 82  
 Humphreys, Joan, 27  
 Hutchison, Nan, 21  
 Hutchinson, Stella, 27  
 Hyles, Doug, 21  
  
 Ingram, Tim (and Helen, nee  
 Dunnicliff) and Ken, 21, 22,  
 23, 151  
  
 Jack Rustins Hut, 29, 30, 76,  
 88, 92, 110, 111  
  
 Jacks Creek, 37, 99  
 Janes Creek, 141  
 Jeffery, Bruce, 52, 76  
 Jemmett, Billy, 45  
 Johnson, Ken, 138  
 Johnston, Dr Grace, 26  
 Jones, Dave, 91, 100  
 Jones, Herb, 65  
  
 Kambah, 37  
 Kangaroo Creek, 39, 100, 137  
 Kangaroo Flats, 160  
 Kelleher, Con, 52, 110  
 Kelleher, Tim, 141  
 Kelly, Patrick, 112  
 Kellys Plains, 100, 112  
 Kennedy, Ted, 45, 99  
 Kennedy, Vin, 126  
 Kerr, David, 30  
 Kiandra, 100, 166  
 Kirchner, Charles and Nellie (nee  
 Hutcherson), 140  
 Kirchner, Cuth, 37, 116  
  
 Lamble, George, 22  
 Lamond or Lamonde/Lomond  
 family, 111, 140  
 Lane Poole, C E, 21, 23, 24, 44,  
 45  
 Lane Poole, Charlotte, 21  
 Langmore, John, 138  
 Lanyon, 37, 52, 88  
 Lee, Marmaduke Watson and  
 family, 28, 29, 36, 88, 101,  
 110  
 Leibmann family, 75-76  
 leisure, recreation, etc, 22-23,  
 29, 30, 38, 76, 83, 88, 89,  
 90, 91, 98-99, 110, 111, 112,  
 118, 127, 128, 132, 153, 160  
 Lenanes (Naas), 52, 146  
 Lennon, Don, 82  
 Lenz, Sonia, 138  
 Leura Hut and leases, 39, 98, 99,  
 117, 118, 127, 154, 160, 161,  
 164  
 Lhotsky, John, 138  
 Licking Hole Creek, 39, 137,  
 153  
 Lindley, Bill, 98  
 Little Gingera, 82  
 Little Ginini, 82  
 Littlewood, Geoff, 139  
 Locker family, 64, 65, 66  
 Lone Pine, 75, 78, 127  
 Long Flat, 54  
 Long Plain, 39, 101, 160  
 Luton, Greg, 65, 66  
 Luton, Morris and Frances (nee  
 Clugston), 53, 65, 66, 67, 69  
 Luton, Noel and Fay (nee  
 Murphy), 65-74  
 Luton, Walter and Alice (nee  
 Dwyer) and Maude (nee  
 Freebody), 68  
 Luton's crutching shed, 66, 72,  
 73  
  
 MacDonald, Jeannette, 89

- MacDonald, Warren, 21, 22  
 McDonald family, Uriarra, 22, 99  
 McGuiness, Norman, 108  
 McKeahnie family, 28, 30, 165  
 McKeahnie, Lem, 98  
 McMahon, Andy, Dan, Ted, 111  
 McMahon Huts, 111  
 McNiven, Bill, 21  
 Maguire, Jack, 39, 54  
 Margules, Louis, 39  
 Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut, 119, 123  
 Maxwell, Jack and Ivy (nee Franklin), and sons Doug, Jock, 37, 38-39, 44, 46, 89, 98, 99, 101, 104, 105, 116-117, 118, 127, 128, 132, 140, 147, 160, 161, 162  
 Maxwell, Lach and Audrey (nee Cochran) and son Don, 89, 98-109, 117, 160, 161  
 Maxwell, Ted, 162  
 Menzies, Dame Pattie, 83  
 Michelago, 37, 91, 127  
 Middle Creek, 29, 30, 76, 137, 166  
 Miners, Pat (nee Pearce), 89  
 mining, 38, 101, 143, 161-162, 167  
 Miss Rustins Hut, 29, 76, 88, 92, 111, 127  
 Mitchell, Elyne, 22  
 Molnar, George, 22  
 Monroe, Mac, 152  
 Moore, Jason, 111, 140  
 Moore, Paddy, 88, 110, 140  
 Morrison family (Royalla), 91  
 Morrison, Alistair, 138  
 Morrissey, Jack, 161  
 Morrow, Bob, 133  
 Mould, May, 28, 111  
 Mousmueller, Heinz, 152  
 Mt Aggie, 103  
 Mt Bimberi and Little Bimberi, 42, 44, 49, 98, 99, 131, 154, 155, 160  
 Mt Clear, 52, 53, 54, 58  
 Mt Coree, 22, 37  
 Mt Domain, 158  
 Mt Franklin, 21-26, 82, 103, 137, 151-154, 156  
 Mt Franklin Chalet, 21-27, 39, 45, 82-87, 99, 100, 102, 137, 138, 151-153, 154  
 Mt Gingera (Big Ginina - pronounced Ginninna), 38, 82, 98, 116, 137, 152  
 Mt Ginini (Ginina - pronounced Ginninna), 21, 22, 38, 39, 44, 82, 83, 98, 99, 105, 116, 117, 152, 154, 158-159  
 Mt Gudgenby, 153  
 Mt John, 160  
 Mt Kelly, 137, 138, 153, 154  
 Mt Morgan, 103, 126  
 Mt Murray, 42  
 Mt Perisher, 23, 83, 151, 153  
 Mt Scabby, 37, 98, 117  
 Murphy, Bart, 90  
 Murray Creek (or Oldfield's Hut), 39, 88, 105, 117, 126, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 141, 143  
 Murray Gap, 38, 118, 133  
 Murrumbidgee River, 91, 101, 117  
 music, 133  
 Muzzlebrook, 65, 66, 67, 74  
 Naas, 30, 90, 98, 100, 101, 116, 117, 118, 126, 131, 132, 141, 167  
 Naas River/Creek, 31, 53, 63, 65, 76, 88  
 Namadgi National Park, attitudes to, 31, 55, 66, 119, 133, 147, 154, 162  
 Neuss, Roy, 30, 92, 142  
 Newlyn, Jack, 45, 99  
 nomenclature, aspects of, 28, 37, 38, 82, 98, 99, 116, 138, 160-161  
 Nursery Creek, 30  
 Nursery Swamp, 28, 30, 138  
 Olbrychtowicz, Don, 82, 151  
 Old Currango, 39, 54, 110, 116  
 Old Place, the (Naas), 88, 116, 132, 146, 147  
 Old Station (old Crawford home), 66, 75, 79, 89, 92  
 Oldfield, Bert, 119, 124  
 Oldfield, Bill, 39, 88, 116, 126, 131, 140, 141  
 Oldfield, Colin, 38  
 Oldfield, Everard and Sylvia (nee Venables), 38, 118, 126-130, 133, 134  
 Oldfield, Frank and Dollie (nee Crawford), 29, 53, 76, 90, 140, 146-150  
 Oldfield, Granville and Irene (nee Crawford) and family, 38, 111, 126, 128, 130, 131, 133, 134, 135, 143  
 Oldfield, Harry, 88, 118  
 Oldfield, Harry (Cotter Harry), 140, 160  
 Oldfield, Harry (Gundaroo Harry), 143  
 Oldfield, Herbert and Bertha (nee Dyball), 38, 88, 91, 126, 127, 128, 140-141, 143  
 Oldfield, Jack and Dulcie (nee White) and family, 29, 52, 54, 89, 90, 131, 146-150  
 Oldfield, Joseph Matthew and Elizabeth (nee Rawlings), 88, 116  
 Oldfield, (Joseph James) Joe and (Sarah) Jane (nee Oldfield), 111, 118, 121, 126, 130, 131, 140  
 Oldfield, Kevin, 132  
 Oldfield, Max and Betty (nee Ashley), 38, 116-125, 128  
 Oldfield, Norman, 124  
 Oldfield, Stumpy and Lesley (nee Venables) and Margaret (nee Jones), 38, 128, 131-136, 146  
 Oldfield, Tarlton, 141, 145  
 Oldfield, Ted, 29, 37, 38, 101, 116-125, 127, 128  
 Oldfield, Thomas and Anna (nee Fisher), 38, 111, 116, 128, 140, 141, 143  
 Oldfield, Tom and Ada (nee Cregan), 28, 29, 30, 52, 88, 89, 91, 94, 100, 110, 111, 116, 118, 119, 121, 126, 131, 132, 141, 142, 146, 165, 166  
 Oliphant, Ken, 21  
 O'Malley, Jim, 126  
 Orroral, 28, 38, 88, 89, 91, 94, 96, 98, 101, 110, 111, 117-118, 126, 127, 131, 140, 141, 142, 147, 162, 165, 166  
 Orroral Rock, 165  
 Paddy Moores Hut, 88, 92, 127  
 (Patrick) Paddy Smiths Hut, 88, 92, 110  
 Parker, Jim and John, 151, 156  
 Pattinson, Billy and Jim, 100  
 Peak View, 52  
 Pearce, Kit, 98  
 Peppercorn and Little Peppercorn, 39, 99, 101, 160, 161  
 Peppercorn Hill, 137  
 Perrott, Dave, 37, 44, 98, 99, 101, 161  
 Peters, Alf and Clarrie, 146  
 Phillips, Dr Marie, 45  
 Pierces Creek, 37, 44  
 Pig Back/Peak Back, 101  
 Piggan, Fred (and family), 21, 22  
 Pike, Malcolm, 42  
 Pockets, the, 54, 118, 140, 143, 147  
 Pond Creek and Pond Creek Flats, 38, 126, 133, 142, 143  
 Porcupine Creek, 39  
 Potter family, 76  
 Potter's chimney, 52, 62  
 Prairie Dog Creek, 142  
 Pratt, Mel, 86, 151, 152, 156  
 Prowse, Rita, 139  
 Pryor, Lindsay, 44-51  
 Pryors Hut, 45, 47-48, 50, 99, 153  
 Queanbeyan, 28, 46, 53, 89, 98, 126, 127, 143, 146, 160  
 Queen Nellie, 38, 143  
 Quinn, Peter, 100  
 rabbits and rabbiting, 29, 30, 39, 44, 52, 65, 66, 75, 76, 89, 91, 110, 116, 126, 127, 131, 132  
 Raeder Roitzsch, Dr Jürgen, 45  
 ranger duties (Cotter), 37, 40, 44  
 Rawlings, Tom, 45  
 Read, George and Florence (nee Fisher), 110, 111, 165

- Read, Hugh and Rene (nee Hogan) and brothers Charlie and George, 110-115  
 Reedy Creek, 88, 91, 116, 119, 141  
 Rees, Morrie, 82  
 Reg Brayshaws Hut site, 54, 76  
 Reid, Bert and Florence (nee Oldfield), 101, 160, 161  
 Reid, Jack, 91  
 Reid, Jack (interviewee) and Jean (nee Wilson) and brother Alan, 127, 160-164  
 Reid, Jim (also White), 100  
 Reid, Neville, 99  
 Reid, Tom and Flossie (nee Venables), 52, 56  
 Rendezvous Creek, 29, 30, 44, 76, 90, 110, 132, 142, 154, 166  
 resumption of land, 31, 55, 66, 119, 141  
 ringbarking, clearing, scrubbing, etc, 28, 29, 30, 53, 66, 69, 132  
 River Paddock (Ted Oldfield's Hut), 101, 117, 124, 125  
 RMC Duntroon ski lodge, 21, 39, 45, 83, 152, 158-159  
 Robertson, Phil, 99  
 Robinson, Alan, 66  
 Rockview, Rocky Crossing, 52  
 Rocky Crossing, 30, 38, 88, 89, 91, 166  
 Roseby, Tom, 54  
 Roseview, 65, 66  
 Rotten Swamp, 38, 143  
 Rover Scouts, 23, 83  
 Rowley, George and Freda (nee Oldfield), 88, 91, 100, 127, 128, 131  
 Rowley Robertson's Hut site, 39, 99  
 Rowleys Hut (Yaouk), 39  
 Rowleys Rendezvous Creek Hut, 29, 30, 88, 92, 111, 127  
 Rules Point and Hotel, 112, 114, 154  
 Rumble, Barney, 99  
 Russell family, 52, 53, 76  
 Rustin, Jack, 101, 110  
 sawmills, sawpits, etc, 29, 45, 66, 75, 92  
 Sawpit Creek, 111, 142  
 Schiller, Klaus, 82, 152  
 schools/education, 28, 29, 30, 37, 52, 53, 65, 75, 82, 88, 90, 91, 116, 126, 131, 141, 165  
 second world war, 49, 75, 83, 99, 148, 150, 151, 160  
 Shannons Flat, 52-53, 65, 75  
 Shanahans Mountain, 91  
 Sharpe, Bill, 44, 49  
 Sheahan, Gerry, 38  
 Silk, Jack, 37, 39  
 Sinclairs Hut (site of Franks Hut), 88, 92, 127, 146  
 Sinclairs Hut or Greenfields Hut (near Middle Creek/Bogong Creek swamp), 29, 142  
 skiing, 21, 22, 23, 39, 82-83, 99, 100, 137, 151-154  
 ski-making, 21, 22, 24, 45, 82  
 ski runs, 21, 22, 82-83, 86-87, 151-152, 156  
 ski tows, 21, 39, 82-83, 87, 151-152  
 Slalom Hut, 152  
 Smiggin Holes, 82  
 Smith family (Williamsdale), 52, 88, 116, 126  
 Smith, Gordon (1), 82  
 Smith, Gordon (2), 91  
 Smith, (Patrick) Paddy, 110, 115  
 Smiths Hut site (Cotter), 37, 99, 116  
 Smokers Flat, 110  
 Smoking Yards, 126  
 Snowy Flats, 45, 46, 98, 117  
 Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme, 29, 45, 82, 147  
 Spencers Hut, 147  
 Spotswood, Peter, 152 (for references to his hut, see 'Stockyard Gap Hut or Spotswoods')  
 Spring Station (Tharwa), 146  
 St Johns Rectory, 23  
 stock routes, 38, 39, 54, 88, 91, 100, 117-118, 126, 133, 142, 147, 161  
 stockwork (all aspects), 28, 31, 37, 38, 52, 53, 54, 59, 65-66, 75-76, 88, 91, 99, 100, 111, 116, 117-119, 124, 126, 127, 131, 132, 133, 141, 143, 146, 147, 160, 161, 162  
 stockyards, dips, horse and brumby-yards, fences, etc, 28, 39, 53, 54, 60, 65, 66, 73, 99, 105, 117, 118, 123-124, 127, 132, 146, 152, 161, 162  
 Stockyard Creek Hut (and Arboretum), 39, 45, 99, 108, 117, 153, 155  
 Stockyard Gap, 39  
 Stockyard Gap Hut or Spotswoods, 39, 99, 152  
 Story, Robert and Sybill, 137, 138, 154  
 Stromlo, 37, 41  
 Sutcliffe family, 88, 110  
 Tacheci, George, 151  
 Tantangara, 112, 147  
 Taylor, Tom, 111, 117  
 Ted and Tom Oldfield's Hut at The Bog, 118, 122  
 Tharwa, 52, 55, 90, 101, 110, 127, 129, 146  
 Thomas, Dave, 152  
 Thompson, Digger (Edna), 27, 139  
 Tidbinbilla, 98, 101, 127, 140, 153, 160-162  
 Tillyard, Honor, 21  
 Tillyard, Robin and Patricia, 21  
 Tin Dish, 52  
 Tin Pot, 39  
 Tom Brayshaws Hut (Bobeyan), 76, 90  
 Tom Brayshaws Hut (Gudgenby; either Miss Rustins Hut or another site on Rendezvous Creek), 88, 92, 111, 142, 166  
 Tong, Roy and Essie, 147  
 Tong, Ted, Barbara and family, 38, 117, 126, 127, 128  
 Top Naas, 116, 126, 131, 141  
 Tracking Stations, Orroral and Honeysuckle Creek, 131  
 transport, roads, tracks, bridges, 21, 23, 30-31, 38, 39, 44, 46, 54, 66, 82, 88, 89, 91, 92, 133, 137, 142, 151, 153, 157, 165, 166  
 Tregillis, Bernie, 83  
 Trevillian, Harry and Johnny, 83, 151  
 Tumut, 45, 75, 98, 137  
 Tutty, Fred, 39, 98, 105, 145, 160  
 Tyre, Harry, 140, 146  
 Uriarra, 21, 22, 44, 127, 161  
 Venables, Granville, 66, 75, 92  
 Wanless, John, 154  
 Ward, Dick, 110, 112  
 Ward, Robert and Emma, 72  
 Wardle, Pat (nee Tillyard) and Robert, 21-27  
 Wark, Harry, 46  
 Warner, Bill, 53  
 Waterhole Hut, 54, 89, 132, 146  
 Webb, Alec, 98  
 Webb, Jim, 82, 151, 152  
 Wee Jasper, 39, 154  
 Wentworth, Bill and Barbara (nee Baird), 98  
 Westerman, Charlie, 53, 132  
 Westerman, Thomas and James, 81  
 Westermans Homestead, 132, 135  
 White, Dan, 117, 118, 146, 147  
 Whitlam, Gough, 45  
 wildlife, 29, 39, 52, 54, 90, 91, 132, 141, 143, 147, 166  
 Williamsdale, 37, 88, 116  
 Willow Glen (Naas), 52, 140, 146  
 Willowvale, 110, 111  
 Woodfield family, 64, 65, 72  
 Woods, Ross, 117  
 Yan, Les, 100, 101, 117  
 Yankee Hat, 30  
 Yaouk, 37, 38, 45, 54, 69, 91, 98, 100, 101, 104, 117, 126, 137, 146, 160  
 Yarrangobilly, and Caves, 100, 112  
 Yerrabi track, 138  
 Zeiss, Willie, 82

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- APPENDIX 2 - SOME FAMILY TREES
- APPENDIX 3 - DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL  
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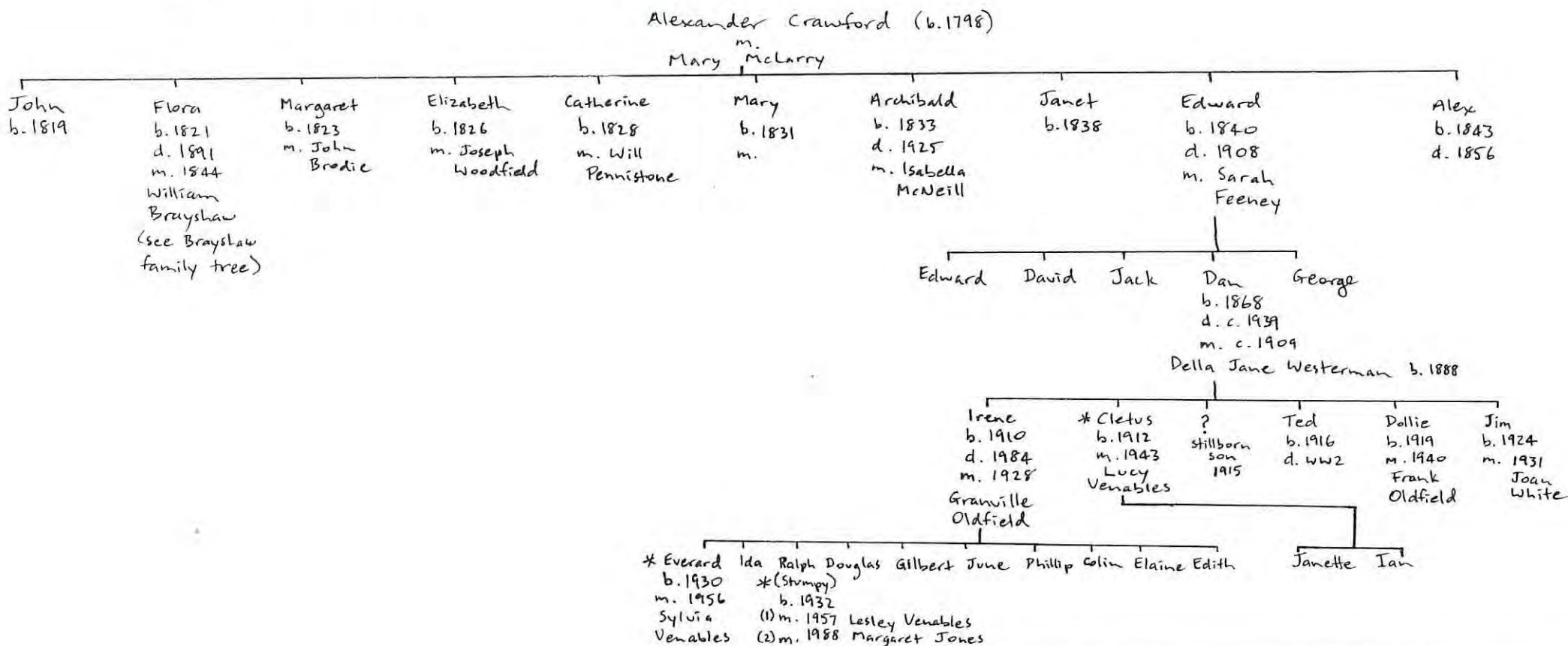
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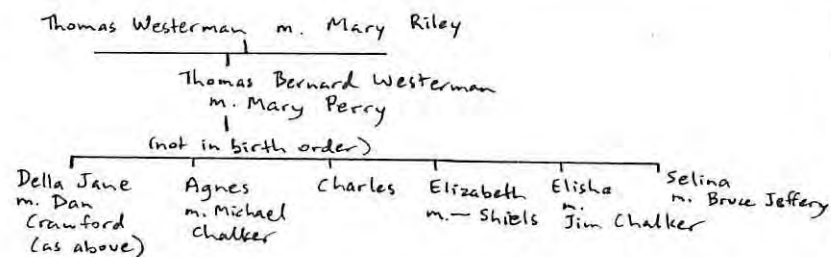
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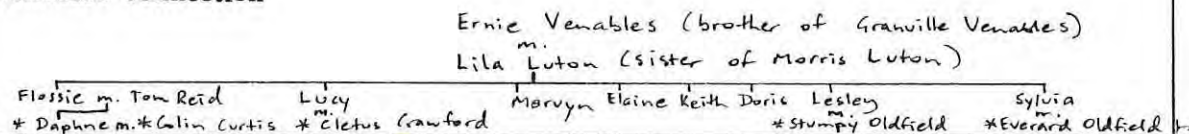
# Summary of part of the Crawford family tree



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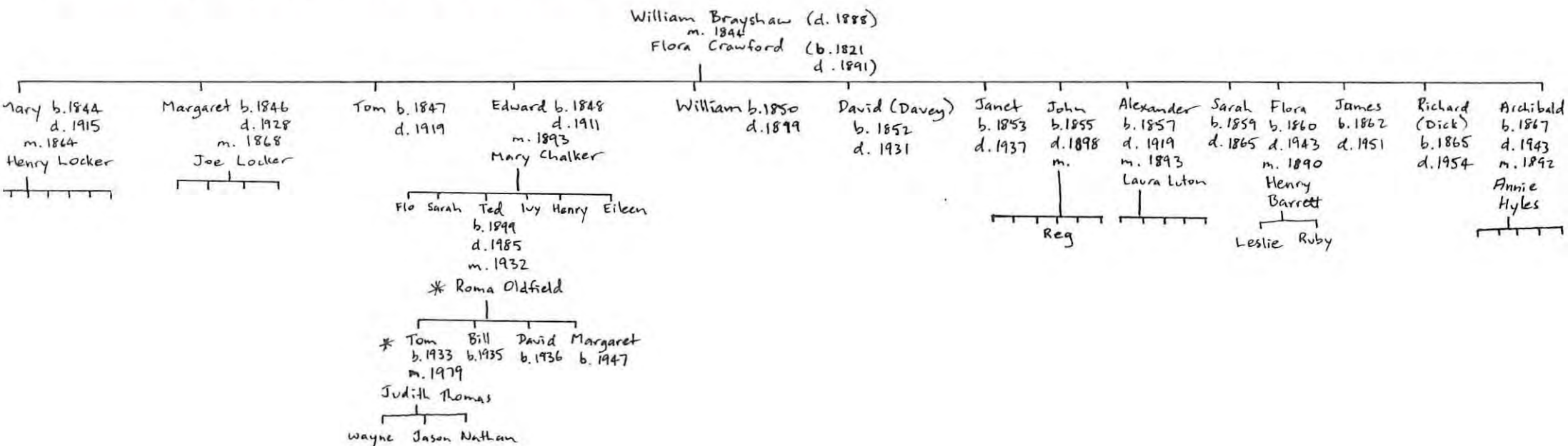


## Venables connection



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# Summary of part of the Brayshaw family tree



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### Bill & Joan Bootes

- Mortgage, M W Lee to Miss R F Davidson, 18 December 1918
- Mortgage, M W Lee to Mutual Life Association, 31 May 1907
- Mortgage, M W Lee to Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Company Ltd, 12 June 1909
- Mortgage, M W Lee to National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Ltd, 14 February 1923
- Mortgage, M W Lee to A E Sendall and Another, 29 March 1915
- Transfer of Mortgage, A E Sendall to A E Sendall, 12 November 1919
- Security, R B McMartin to Bank of NSW, 21 December 1899
- Security, R B McMartin to Bank of NSW, 4 January 1900
- Scrub Lease, no 268, 9 June 1909
- Letter, Federal Capital Commission to Patrick Smith, 25 May 1926
- Conveyance, William J Ward to Patrick Smith, 3 July 1913
- Scrub Lease documents, from NSW Government Gazette no 74, 9 June 1909
- Series of portion plans, Gudgenby area (18 sheets)
- National Trust, ACT, Gudgenby house inspection notes
- Letter, Bruce Moore to Bill Bootes, 10 February 1918
- Valuation on Gudgenby, 18 November 1927
- Valuation on Gudgenby, 22 April 1927

### Stan Goodhew

- Canberra Alpine Club, membership list, 31 December 1958
- Canberra Alpine Club, Annual Report, 1957

### Lach Maxwell

- Series of papers relating to Franklin family history (9 pages)

### Audrey Maxwell

- Poem "To "Bung"" by Clarrie Rees

### Everard & Sylvia Oldfield

- 'Memories' page from an issue of Snowy River Country, written by Daphne Curtis and concerning life at Mt Clear

### Maeva Galloway

- Manuscript on Lee family and Gudgenby history, written by Teddy Lee (38 pages)

### Pat Wardle

- Diary page, dated 23 July 1938

### Fay & Noel Luton

- Newspaper obituary, David Brayshaw
- Newspaper obituary, Thomas Westerman
- Newspaper obituary, James Westerman

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