

Frederick Stacy Anthon

Born 19th Feb 1923
at Corner Spring & Shrosby St Moss Vale.

Parents Daniel Herbert Anthon died 4/9/51 1957 age 61
Viola Mary Anthon died 16/10/71 age 80

Start to write 21st June 1998

Born at Moss Vale on 19-2-23 in the house on corner of Shoshy & Spring St. Parents lived at Wildes meadow on Belmore Falls Road in a bush framed house later occupied by a Mr Moses.

Dad & Mum spoke of taking me home wrapped in a horse rug in a horse drawn sulky.

Baptised in St David's Church Burrangong

At 2 years of age moved to property in Bowral near Craigburn owned by Lewis Hardin where Dad and Mr Shepherd ran the cattle & dairy property.

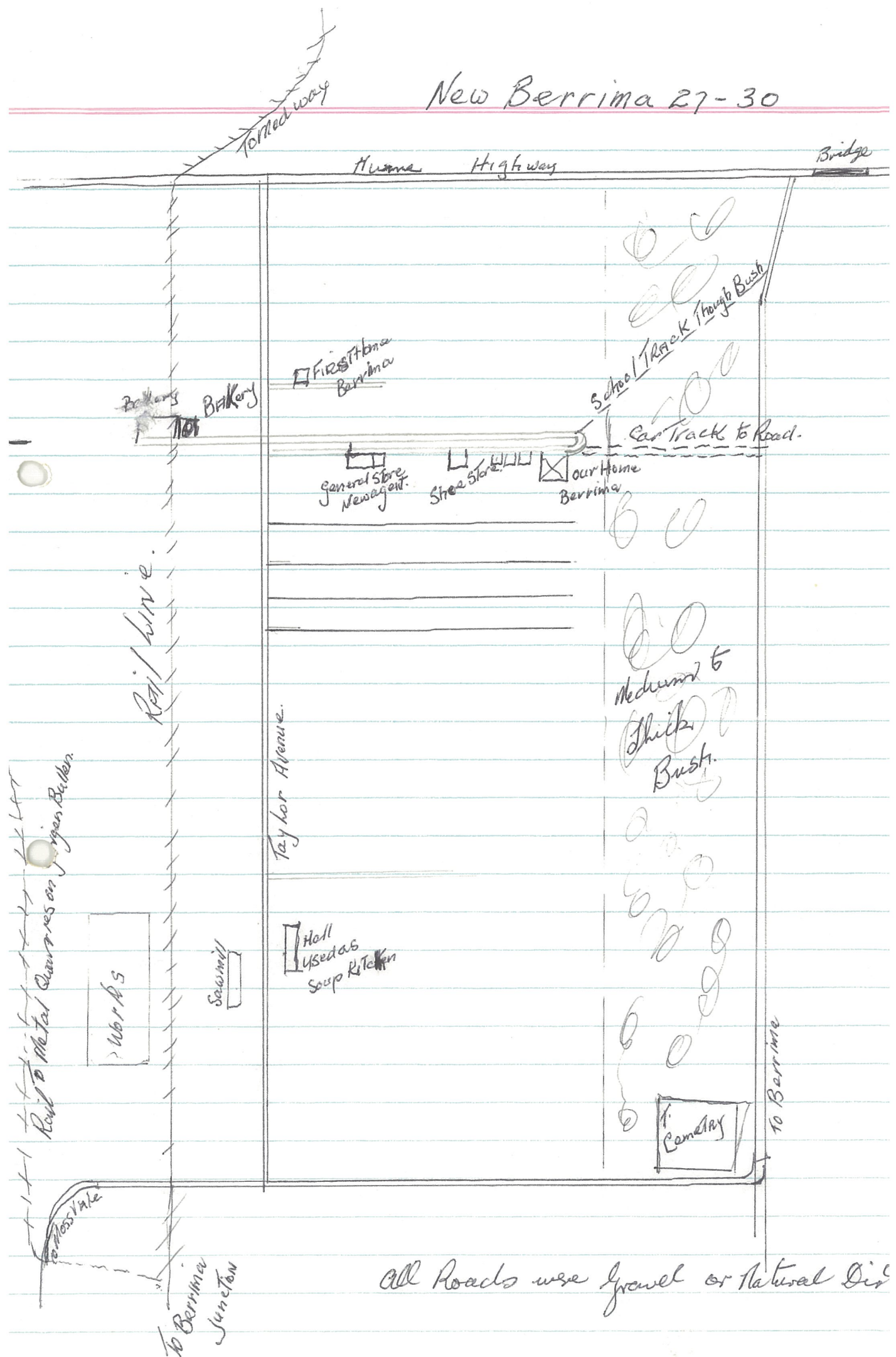
I can remember standing on the hill overlooking the road to Bowral watching several men walk the cattle to Bowral railway to be shipped to Sydney for the Royal Easter show. Only other recollections are

1) Falling & cutting my head open on the back sandstone step 2) Seeing a man grab a snake by the tail as it disappeared under a door in the dairy, pulling it out & cracking it like a whip to kill it.

In 1927 age 4 construction of Southern Portland Cement works was started dad secured a job there as Outside yard foreman we moved to a half completed house on corner of Taylor Avenue & ^{Howard} St. while a home was completed by the company at the end near the bush in Angell St. While living in the first place Mum did most of her washing & quite a bit her cooking on open fire in back yard with a few sheets of iron for a roof.

New Berrima as it was known in those days consisted of about 30 homes, a Newspaper grocery store a book house, shoe store run by a Mr Pendergast a tall straight ^{man} with a moustache. I think he was quite

New Berrima 27-30



all Roads were gravel or Natural Dis

harmless but all kids gave him a wide berth.

Tom ~~after~~ ^{Stephenson} ~~Stevenson~~ come twice a week with fruit & vegs & Sid Capitt deliverice meat from Southern Mountain Butchery in Bawval. and there were two or three hawkers with their covered carts who called regularly. Mail came through P.O. at Berrina. which we picked up on way home from school.

I started school at Berrina Primary just before my fifth birthday. We had to walk the 2 miles or so through the bush & village of Berrina to the school which was at northern end of village. It consisted of one main building divided into two rooms. The smaller one was for 1.2.3. class the longer one had stepped tiers for 4.5.6 class. Junior teacher was Miss Cosgrove and headmaster was Mr Brown who lived in home attached to school. He was a great believer in nature & instilled in all of us a love for the garden trees and natural bush life. He took great delight in taking us on nature walks in the bush which in those days surrounded the school. One morning after assembly he took the whole school on a 1/2 mile hike into the bush to show ^{us} a tree which was splintered from top to bottom by a lightning strike the night before. I was fortunate to see a repeat performance while standing on our verandah when a large tree all by itself in the paddock was hit. It made great kindling wood.

as the depression years settled in dad was fortunate to have the job at S.P.C. with five hungry kids to feed viz Dorothy Donald Marion & Elsie he was earning approx 5 pounds - 10 dollars a week. ~~all~~ ^{most} ~~of~~ ^{our} own vegetables were grown at home & chicks supplied eggs & meat. There were pits dug at back of cement works which then consisted of 1 kiln in the hollow, so we ^{watered} ~~got~~ several kids together from a line and drove rabbits till they fell into the pits which were four to six feet deep. Baked rabbit was always loved by all.

Saturday we would go rabbiting with ferrets. There were only three or four large landholders.

surrounding the works at that time, Stann Reynolds Cowleys on whose properties we roamed far & wide although odd man Stann used to love to chase ~~us~~ us on horseback with a stock whip. so we never got too close to his home. Reynolds Bros & Cowley Bros would ~~offer~~ ^{offer} us a drink & stern warning to share gates we went through.

We would wander in the bush watching & observing birds' this nest and saw the Kookaburra kill & swallow a snake on a couple of occasions.

Our home was ~~the~~ closer to the bush track we went to school on so all kids from the subdivision congregated here in the morning and at precisely 8 o'clock we were sent on our way by mum. First stop was about 3 hundred yards into bush where a large hollow log received the majority of the mob's shoes & socks. This caused a spot of bother when a bush fire started during the school days. One kid got there & managed to save the shoes otherwise I think there would have been a few sore bottoms that night.

Some days instead of taking the direct bush track from near the catholic church we would go straight up the highway to Taylor avenue where we met Jack Missingham with his team of Bellocks hauling logs to the S.P.C. works sawmill. It was a slow leisure trip which we all enjoyed sitting atop the logs arriving home quite late from school. The mill was situated on the western side of the road near the water tank on the hill.

Our main playground was the cement works themselves. As all our fathers worked there

we would go down after school & week-ends and had free run of place. There were boys from the Frazz Smith Anthon Hill Colghoun McCarthy Burgess McDonnell McKay McCoull McKinnon -- Note all the scotch names & There were many more who worked in the coal mine.

The works had a truck whose wheels were removed & railway wheels substituted. This was used by the paymaster Mr Richards with Dad driving to take the pay to miners at Medway colliery 10 mls. distance so they often had kids as passengers, legs dangling over the side of tray.

We would get jobs in the store room sorting bolts nuts & general items on a Saturday morning & receive threepence (3 cents) or sixpence (5 cents) which I think came out of the managers own pocket (at Mr Wada's).

On 24th May we always had a huge bonfire. Dad's ^(EMPIRE day) mums boys & girls all hopped into to lend a hand, a huge stack would be built approx 12 to 15 feet wide & up to 20 feet high. A similar one would be built on the hill leading out of Old Berrina near Harpers mansion, and both would be lit about same time. The whole of new Berrina would attend & we had a wonderful time.

One Anzac day we left Berrina in the 28 model Buick which dad ~~swore~~ ^{swore} to go to Anzac service at Moss Vale. Running late he had the foot down doing at ^{least} 20 mls per hour when near the M.V. cemetery the complete recap came off the tyre & raced off down the road a head of us for several hundred yards. Dad jumped out looked at the wheel & said well make it on canvas so he jumped in & made it to the service on time. As roads were all gravel I'm afraid we did not make it home.

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He was removed & railroad smoke from works towards by the paymaster. Village for Womenfolk to get to take the pay clothes off lines otherwise a distance so they nice scotch mess. We relied clanging over to our works whistle for line

re wheels were was used driving every 10 mls. singers, legs

We would keep 6.30, 7.30 & am 12 noon 4.30 & 12 midnight. bolts nuts & general items on a Saturday morning & receive threepence (3 cents) or sixpence (5 cents) which I think came out of the managers own pocket (at Mr. Wladys

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I remember going with dad to meet a Mr Bradley who lived on the old road to Berrima the straight diversion had not built ^{been} This road ran from Salyards straight up hill & joins at straight diversion

Mr Bradley was late Horace Reynolds father in law & it was his 100th birthday a white haired ~~spg~~ sprightly man I was some what in awe of him as a little 9 year old.

In the bus I can faintly remember driving to Sydney. Stopping at Yerrinbool to watch a steam train go over the road is all I can remember of the actual trip but we went see my grandmother at Petrahan a small lady sitting in a high backed chair is all I can remember of her as she passed away shortly after that visit in 1932. We also visited the site of the harbour bridge just before the final piece was placed in the arch.

See Top of Nest page

Mid year 1934 we moved from New Berrima to the two story home dad & mum purchased in Brawley St Moss Vale. It was huge compared to one we left with 1 acre of ground on main block & further 60' x 390' block adjoining the school which was later sold to the school system. I attended school for 4 months & I really hated it. Too large, individual class teachers and not the camaraderie of Berrima & I think we had to wear shoes. I think I missed more school in those 3 or months than the whole time I attended Berrima Mr Stanley Allen was the Headmaster a small very high strung man. He had a beautiful garden around the main school building and huge vegetable plot which was maintained & worked by the children. He had a nervous breakdown left the teaching & became an accountant and died 1984.

Dad was a very good singer & sang in the church at Berrima. I started to attend Sunday school age 4 yrs in the hall still standing in the church grounds.

Church was held at 2 PM. and Mum with two or three ladies & kids in tow would walk down to attend the service. It was a treat afterwards as we would be bought a 1 penny cone ice cream on the way home. Rev. Perkins was in charge.

Dad use to drive an old truck ~~that~~ belonging to the S.P.C. out to Wildes meadow - Burrumbidgee to buy collect or cadge vegetables for ~~big~~ soup kitchen which they ran in the little hall at S.P.C. to help people during the depression.

During depression large numbers of people camped on the flat ground at the bridge in Berrima. The old wooden bridge ran alongside present structure. These people walked or rode around the country looking for work after travelling in covered waggon drawn by horses. They made all types of trinkets or performed at any work offered.

~~After~~ ~~burumbidgee~~ In 1932.

I was hospitalised in the old infectious disease ward at Baurval with a severe bout of diphtheria after a month of it I don't know how many swabs of the throat they decided to take the tonsils out. There were a number of cases at the time.

Also on the Saturday morning of that year we had to take Mum to Baurval Hospital with Septic poisoning in her right arm. After several operations on her arm they amputated the thumb which apparently did the trick as she recovered quickly after that & we kids were glad to see ^{her} home again.

On our way to Baurval a aeroplane passed over which we were led to believe was the Southern Cross which was lost in the snow on that day & remains not found 30 years later.

about this time we also had a tellyphone installed in our home. a huge cumbersome wooden box which hung on the wall & handpiece like a miniature church Bell. Also a Mr Charlie Smith who was working as a carrier for S.P.C. obtained one of the first wireless in the area. I can ~~remember~~ remember quite a number of us sitting on the back verandah ~~last~~ listening to a Aust. - England test. Hammond had really torn Australia to pieces 200 odd & last over of day when they tossed Don Bradman the ball & with a full toss clean bowled him with his ^{first} ball.

Continued From Bottom of Page 6.

Pop Allan as we all knew him had a great love of flowers but would never let anyone not even his wife or ~~any~~ daughter pick them. However Mum who also had a great love for garden & flowers use to ^{give} to him plenty of advice about the garden & she was the only person allowed by him to pick the flowers in the garden.

Our dividing fence with school had gate in the palings and went well into the war years of 39-45. Mum conducted a tuck shop for the kids at school. One penny each for pie sausage roll lamington & 2 pennies for a cream horn. We use to cook the lamingtons & fill the cream horns every night after tea. Mum built up quite a connection with outside folks & it was quite profitable but a lot of very hard work.

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Christmas was a time of celebration although money was very scarce. Christmas morning we would all get up have breakfast help with washing up, make beds & when things were spick & span we would all line up out in the yard, Mum would unlock the Lounge room door & dad would march us in lined up in order of age youngest first. Dad would act as Santa Claus ^{to Grand Parents} perhaps 2 or 3 each & often made by mum or dad from old packing cases & tacked a few lollies. Punch was always a feast the fatted rooster had his ^{head} removed & along with plenty of vegies a roast & worcestshire pudding followed by a large plum pudding (I still have the recipe & love to make it & find)

Custard & stewed fruit. The pudding always contained Shrewence & Swifence pices & we would eagerly watch as cloth was removed to spot any sticking through outside of pudding. Aunt Hilla from Newcastle came each time for many years with her own bag of goodies.

Year 1935 big adventure began when I commenced high school at Baural. To get to & from school we would catch Southern Highlands Express a Moss Vale in morning travel to Baural and then walk approx $1\frac{1}{2}$ mls to high school. We walked to station in Moss Vale approx $\frac{3}{4}$ ml so we got plenty of exercise. Coming home we caught a goods train with two dog box carriages attached at rear. This was suppose to arrive at Baural 4.15 but often it would be 5 or even 6 o'clock before it arrived. The kids from Wingello 30km distant were very late getting home. On a Monday the afternoon train was often cancelled so we had to catch one at 12.30. which resulted in sports afternoon being moved from Wednesday to Monday & train kids missed out on sport unless we stayed at school & walked the six mls or further depending on where you lived. Many of us did this and never thought about walk home. We would walk from Baural to Moss Vale sometimes & perhaps see only 1 or 2 cars. a little different these days.

School headmaster was Mr Watson a large silver haired man who had been on one the expeditions to Antarctica. He was a strict disciplinarian but very fair. Mr McPaul was his assistant and chief of caving. Step out of line & it was off to his office for 4 or 6 cuts which I was on receiving many times throughout my four years at High. I ~~read~~ remember one time he dished out 84 cuts to 14 of us & never drew breath in between. We had these 80p of thumb size throw clowns and as we approached Burwood station we peeped a Mrs Fair known as Mrs Fair who was always stabbing somebody ⁱⁿ on the train into the headmaster for saying kind (rusty) things to her pampered darling daughters. We cuffed 6 cuts each but everyone reckoned it was worth it to see her clance on the platform.

Teachers I can't remember all but some Miss Dunn (English) Miss Humphris (old mother fig) geography Miss Cahill English Mr Jenkins (Jennywren) Business Principles Mr Fogarty Science Mr Bridges (woodwork) Mr Quakey (Latin)

For Woodwork we would have to walk down to Primary school for teaching about $\frac{1}{2}$ ml, in either recess or lunch time periods. He was a great teacher & I still have a table beside my bed which I made at school. He could be very violent at times & hurt stuff at you.

There was scarcely a house beyond the hospital & high school towards what is now known as East Baural. There was college Park where sport was played.

One of our favourite sports on Sports afternoon was a paper chase which travel out as far as old ^{Edwards Park} Bong Bong road round the open paddocks up to the top of Gib & back to school. I was no good a cricket or football the two main sports but enjoyed athletics and was very proud of myself when selected to represent high school in high jump & 1 mile ¹⁰⁰⁰ against Goulburn high school in the R.S. ^{Smith} Cup competition. This competition is still going ^{on} between the schools. I ran 2nd in ^{both events}.

During my last year at school & for some time after I started work each week end or holiday I worked with the local milkman delivering milk to households.

We covered the whole town by means of horse & milk cart. Milk was obtained from Harry Wilson at the end of Lovell St. The Rival milkman obtained his from Mark Hammond next door.

I worked for Vir Stephens who had a couple of houses shown from my home. a 4 am start harness up & off to collect the milk. It was carried in 2/30 gallon vats with taps cut the back. To deliver to each home we carried two galvanized containers measuring a pint or Quart pts. If more was required it was placed in 1 gallon or 2 gallon cans. I would take a couple of cans & proceed down a street while the horse & cart went round the other three sides of block. Carrying a quart pot only if some one wanted only a pint we just tipped the pot on the side till milk reached on a diagonal top to bottom ~~near~~ near enough to 1 pint. If some one wanted an extra bit & we looked as though we would ^{run} out before end of street good milk came out of nearest water tap.

All milk was delivered right into Kitchens & if a dish was not left out we would deliver into a cupba to find something - after the cat sat licking his lips as we found it in but that was not our worry.

Also Papers were delivered to households by boys riding bikes with a box fitted to front of bike or two bags made from sugar bags, slung over shoulder from which to ~~hand~~ the paper into the front yard.

Mark

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As exams approached at end of my 3rd year at high school I was laid up with an outbreak of boils over the whole of my body from little ones to some the size of golf balls.

They counted 23 on my stomach at one time. This forced me to miss the exam & repeat the year. I would not have been allowed to leave school as I was only 13.

I repeated the year & gained my Intermediate certificate with 2A 75% or better in English & Geography & 5B^s 50% or better in Maths Chemistry - Physics History Woodwork & B.[?] I was close of school in Business Principles & Woodwork.

As soon as exams were over I left school to work at Post-office delivering telegrams & parcels & sorting mail.

I had paid for all my books & expenses at high school by caddying on the golf course. We would receive one shilling & ninepence ^{19 pence} per round & generally rec'd ^{10 pence} a 1 shilling tip. We would go round & if demand was good would often carry two bags. A highlight of my caddy career was carrying a bag in the group when Gene Sarazen & ^{Babe} ~~Sam~~ ^{D. Orin} ~~Deane~~ ^{Son} both American world champions played a match with George McRae the local professional & Mollie McLeish. ^{NSW country champion} The four caddies selected were drilled like toy soldiers for a week before by George. Many of us had permanent bookings with certain golfers which guaranteed you of a least Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning rounds. For several years I caddied for Dr King, a local dentist & Tom McCarthy a solicitor who later ^{won} ~~was~~ a D.F.C. as navigator in the Pathfinder Squadrons during the war.

During high school & early years of war I was actively engaged with the Junior Farmers League. I won the local District competition for Vegetable growing & the following ^{year} the Southern Tablelands Area which went from Wallangford to Vic Border up to Cooma Goulburn & Moss Vale Area.

We had great fun & rivalry competing in district competition at Moss Vale & Robertson Shows. Clubs competing were Moss Vale Robertson Avoca & Kangaroo.

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Friday night Slapping

Dad W. + Mrs Stocking

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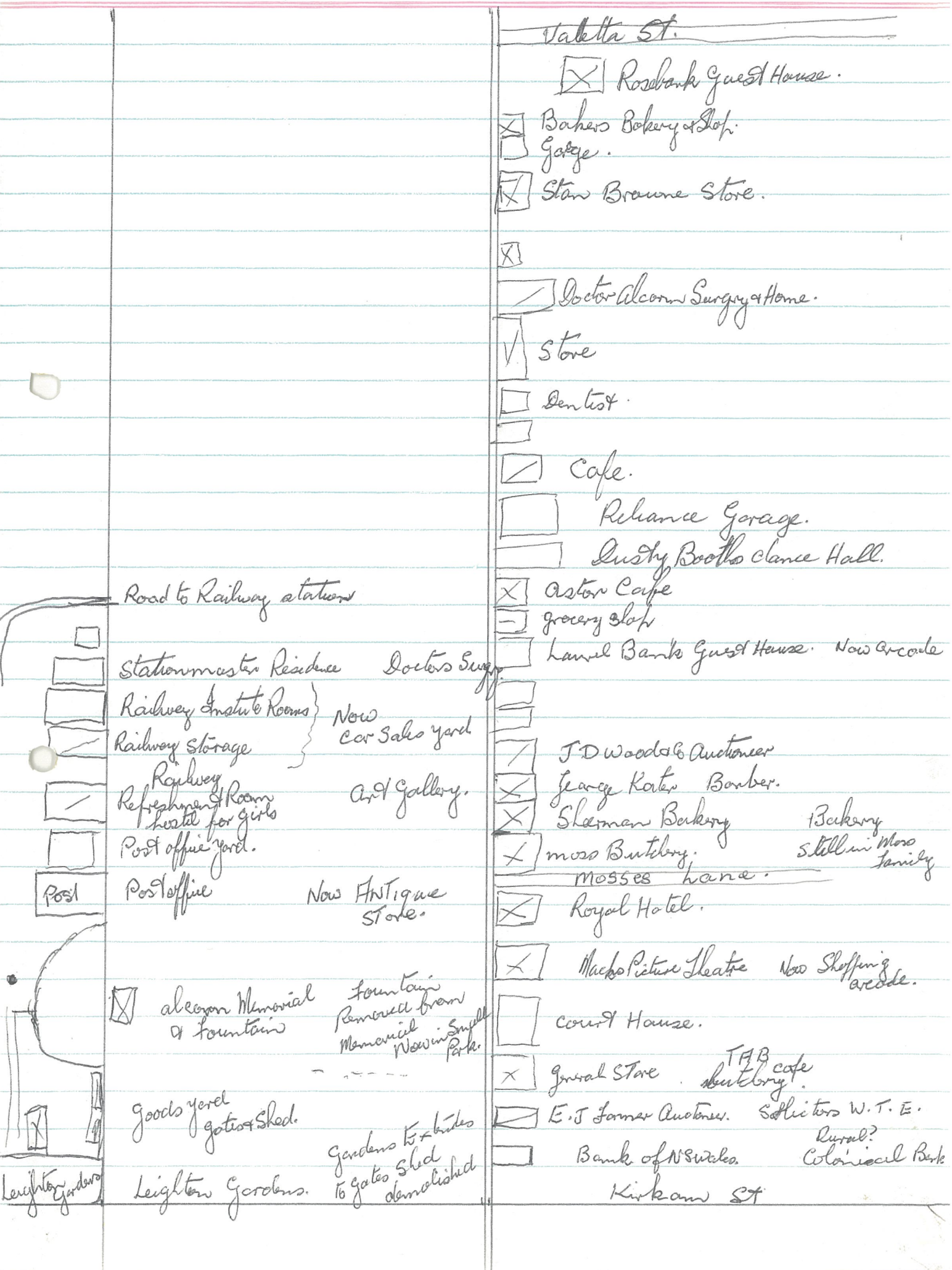
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Friday night Slugging

Dad Wins + mas Stocking -

Main St Continued - 1934.



Road to Railway station

Stationmaster Residence

Railway Institute Rooms

Railway Storage

Railway Refreshment Room
hostel for girls

Post office yard.

Post office

Now Antique Store.

Alcorn Memorial
& Fountain

Fountain
Removed from
Memorial
Now in Small
Park.

Goods yard
gates & Shed.

Leighton Gardens.

Gardens to x-birds
to gates shed
demolished

Valella St.

☒ Rosebank Guest House.

☒ Bakers Bakery & Shop.
☐ Garage.

☒ Stan Braune Store.

☒

☒ Doctor Alcorn Surgery & Home.

☒ Store

☐ Dentist.

☒ Cafe.

☐ Reliance Garage.

☐ Lushy Booths dance Hall.

☒ Astor Cafe

☒ grocery shop

☐ Lavel Banks Guest House. Now Arcade

☒ J.D. Woods & Auctioneer

☒ George Kater Barber.

☒ Sherman Bakery
☒ moss Buttery. Still in use family

☒ moses lane.

☒ Royal Hotel.

☒ Mack Picture Theatre Now Shopping arcade.

☐ Court House.

☒ General Store. TAB cafe

☒ E.J. former Auctioneer. Solicitors W.T.E.

☐ Bank of NSW. Rural? Colonial Bank

Kirkman St

Main St Moss Vale 1934.

Leighton Gardens.

B Haille Paine Solicitor
Dentist & above office.
Fire Station.

Leighton Rd.

Railway Bridge
Central Hotel.

Scrutensas Printers Bldg had
Just about collapsed.
Benders Boot Store
Benders Hardware.

Central

Funerals

Still there.

School of Arts

ESA Bank.

Antique Store
& office.

Bermingham Rd.

Commercial Pub

old delapidated
Aureto Photographers
masonic Temple.

Sodan Dance Hall

Sodan Southern
Stores.

Eadies Bike Shop

RBSimpson Understicker - Bookshop

Bakery. New Bird age Shop.

Yabsley Bros Garage
Norm Cross Black Smith
Shell Garage.

Kirkham St.

Fleming Pet Foods.
Jervis Boots.

Wellington Newsagency.
Jordan chemist
Melanys clothes Store.

Webbs Blacksmith

PC Baume

always Speechless
Whytes Drk.

Chapmans Bike Shop

Arthur St

Whytes clothing

Watkinson Shosby Solicitor

Ferrington Boot Shop

Railway St.

Bermies Fruit & Veg.

Newton Bootmaker

EBHawkins General Store.

Wade Billiard Saloon

Bernard Corlette Newsagent.

THF McCarthy & Son Solicitor

Commercial Bank of Sydney

Accountant Irish with 10th

Cake Shop

Loose clothing

Turner's

Harrison Blacksmith

Dreifery Shop

Beckers

Woods Deli shop

Bels and hand Furniture

South Grocery Store

Yendals Cake Shop

Flowers Butcher Shop.

Garage Charleworth.

monks Fruit Shop

Salkeld Store

Wildes Butcher Shop

methodist church

Spring St.

Smith Residence & Vet Clinic

laundry

3rd Battalion

Drill Hall (1) Now Demolished

laundry

laundry

laundry

laundry

Williams
Curtains

Gillies
Accountant

Vet office.

Office space

Bayes Shop

cafe

cafe games arcade.

Vincent St Paul

Doctors Surgery.

Antique Shop

Park

Vet Hospital

Private Flats

Now Flats

Uniting church

Now Antique Furniture

Furniture Retail

Now Demolished

laundry

laundry

laundry

Year 39-43. (12)

Dad was determined I should go into the bank or something with book-work. I was against this move even though he had already lined up a job with the N.S.W. bank (New Westpac) if my exam results were ok. After several arguments I made it plain I wanted to do plumbing or woodwork. He sent me off to Sydney to a vocational guidance course test (I don't know ^{where} we went) but results were No 1 Wood work No 2 business work. So I came back and an apprenticeship was secured with the firm of Alf Stephens & Son of Bowral. I commenced work a month before my 15th birthday.

The firm of Alf Stephens was a large concern carrying around 60 staff consisting of carpenters-joiners painters bricklayers & labourers plus storeman yardman and office staff. In addition they were carrying out construction of numbers of houses in Canberra employing another 80 staff. There were about 10 apprentices in Bowral. The firm was run by the two sons Alf & Norrie. Alf was a small wiry man very keen & also very mean always willing to take advantage of his men. Norrie a tall solid built man on the other hand was a very fair man in his dealings and always approachable even with junior staff.

I purchased a red coloured bike called a Reliance from Mr Rhodes of the Reliance garage in Moss Vale for the sum of £5-10/- It was a heavy red bike but transported me for years to & from Bowral, a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour ride each way in normal weather but took a little longer when weather was blue hard & strong. I left home at 6.30 and as we worked till 5 P.m. it was often a dark

to ride both ways. We would arrive at Stephens yard in Booleys St by 7 am. and were then transported by open truck to job. It was always good when a job came to Moss Vale or beyond as I could pick the truck up in Moss Vale as it came through. The transport truck usually was a cut-down chevrolet with a small tray fitted. By the time I joined at Moss Vale it would have up to 15 or 16 men on board. I usually sat on the front mudguard near the bonnet. I don't think it would be allowed these days. & further firms do not carry such complete stuff these days.

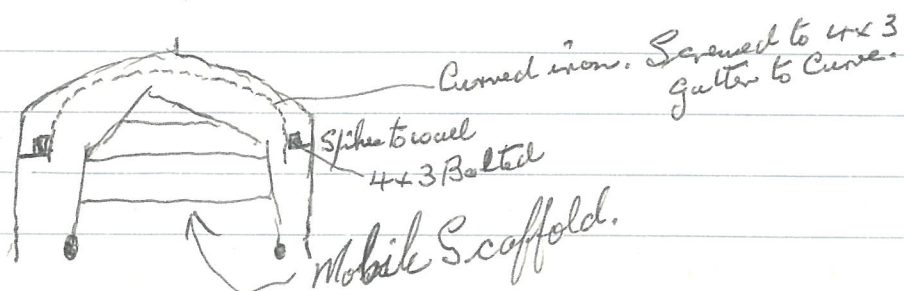
I thoroughly enjoyed my start to being a Carpenter & further the pay of 17 shaps & therefore \$1.75 seemed like a fortune. I was paying off tools at 6/- per week & paying some board to mum. I cannot remember what I was paying to mum. I worked on large housing on top of Gib through the district to Esc. It was an afternoon in August when Bill Hauber the truck driver brought a load to the job on top of the gib & in hushed tone of voice that we were involved in war. I can still remember Bill's frightened voice as he told us.

Within a month things changed as Stephens bought up truck loads of Oregon pine maple & other rare timber & stacked all his storage sheds to capacity. He must have ^{had} a fortune when war ended as these timbers were unavailable. We ^{were} stacking timber one afternoon (3 apprentices) when it came to 5 o'clock. Alf rusted out of the office & said, stay back & finish the job & I'll pay you overtime. We finished the job & in Friday's pay packet was \$3 shaps extra for our $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs work.

He also bought two deep sided utility loads of paint brushes which by the time war finished were worth about 5 times as much.

Within a few months we felt justice for his exploitation was done when the army turned up & commandeered his two utilities for war service. After about six months the two 6 ton trucks were also engaged in carting gravel from Rangaloon to the air strip they were building at Mittagang. ~~Every~~ all available trucks were pressed into service at one stage it was reported 140 trucks were on the job. As they only carried 5 or 6 yds each it was a mammoth job to shift so much material as most of them were loaded with the Bergman loader - device ^{fitted to side of truck} which scooped up gravel pulled it up the side track & dumped it. In 1940 several of the tradesmen were called up for service in the Commonwealth Construction Service. Several men joined the A.I.F. & unfortunately 3 who did were among the first casualties in the Middle East Sonny Shearer, Snow Lenholm & Scotty McDonald.

Along with several carpenters & labourers we were detailed to the ~~old~~ railway tunnel between Baural & Mittagang. We had the job of lining the roof of the tunnel with curved iron & fitting doors at each end & bin construction. It was a dirty grimey & damp job and the winter winds made it very cold. When completed it was filled with ammunition & small bombs. This took some time to complete.



after several minor jobs we moved to the
 Ranlagh Guest House at Robertson replacing floors
 installing new kitchen fittings & general repairs
 We had the job of removing the 4 steel square tanks
 from stands at end of Building 3 storeys high. We climbed
 up the ladders too attached to stand & plumbers detached
 all the pipes. We then climbed on to roof removed some
 tiles to get something to stand on & then with aid of
 levers we were able to work them to the edge of stand
 and allow to free fall to ground. Not much left to
 pick up after the fall. One incident I remember was
 a plumber having a blackout about 30' above the
 ground. Fortunately for him 1 arm & 1 leg slipped
 through beams of the steel ladder fixed to side of stand
 We managed to fix a rope to him & then manipulated
 him down the to the ground. He was admitted to Warf
 sick bay on site but as soon as he really came to
 he had took off when he found out where he was.

Several of the apprentices including myself were
 really browned off as soon as we received a call up
 for the services all Stephens always blocked it by
 signing statements we were on defence work but
 often were only working on private work. Another
 apprentice Eric Horwath & myself received call up
 in Feb 43. & as all was busy trying to keep some
 of his carpenters out of the C.C.C. we said nothing
 went for our medical passed & departed 3 days later
 to join Services. We told off the afternoon before
 leaving & he promptly said he could do nothing
 to stop us in the time available to which we
 replied we did not desire any interference on his
 part.

With the outbreak of war things changed dramatically at home! In October 39 Dad ~~was~~ was on the reserve of officers was called up & took command of the 13th Garrison Battalion at Port Kemble & in later years to take charge of Detention Barracks at Holsworthy NSW.

Mum became involved with an emergency ^{corp} which fed the men of an troop trains as they went through Moss Vale station. It happened at all hours of the day & night. Sister Dorothy & Marion would go with ~~her~~ & also help. Mum & Dorothy also helped with the Church of England recreation hut which operated at the church. Mum made many friends here and received cards for many years after the war from one or two of the boys.

With kids ^{& children} at the primary school I helped dig & maintain slit trenches which were dug over the side of the hill where school now stands. Fortunately they were never used.

Mum knitted socks & baldrics for the comforts fund while all of us would get involved ~~help~~ helping to pack them for dispatch. Don & I learnt to make camouflage nets from heavy twine which we used to cover stores & trucks.

after a couple of years Don failed a medical test so he went to work with an engineering firm in Sydney. Dorothy worked locally. Marion although 19+2 very young went to work in a Maternity home in Bawval & Elsie our baby sister aged 11 yrs passed away in Hospital with Meningitis. The day she passed away March 1941 Dad received word of his promotion to Major. I can still remember the primary school children lined each side of Waite St as we left for the Moss Vale cemetery.

Memories of Moss Vale.

Friday Night was always a big night in Moss Vale. It was late shopping night before the war & whole families would go for a stroll & chat along the street the farming community would come to town. It was a wonderful atmosphere shops closed at 9 PM but people would be around until 10 PM. Unfortunately this came to a sudden halt when war was declared & never returned to the social life of the town.

One Christmas I think it was 1935 or 6 when things were still hit by the depression we had a real bonanza when Dad won a huge Xmas stocking. You had to guess the number of peas in a bottle & he was spot on the number. The stocking stood about 6' (1800mm) high and about 3' round. It was filled with all types of toys & goodies which Dad distributed among us & the several of the next door neighbours children.

Before the war & after Moss Vale was a large railway centre all steam trains took on water from large overhead watering tanks situated at end of each platform & one in the main yard. There was a large goods receiving shed & all food & goods for farms were transported by rail. It had a large proportion of towns population working on railway & fielded their own cricket bowls & tennis teams. The large paddocks, now lost dealership on part of it, used to have large ~~herds~~ ^{herds} of cattle & sheep unloaded into it, creating quite a ~~din~~ ^{noise} at night with their bellowing etc at night. The north eastern corner was occupied by Pig calf & chook sale each Monday. The pigs & ^{calfs} were loaded straight into cattle trucks on rail for transport to Sydney.

It was always fun to watch how the old butchers gave their hinds. Like a nub of nose, tug at the ear & old Johnny Flook would ~~force~~ bounce his head stem pipe with his lips.

The main saleyards were situated in Elizabeth St now a housing development near Forestry department. They were Post & rail places with huge corner posts & two huge 6 feet high wooden gates for the entrance all cattle were driven by men on horseback along the streets of the town, great fun & games if some one left their front gate open & cattle decided to have a look inside as cattle were transported by rail. It was not uncommon to see a mob of 100 or more driven along the street.

another thing which created great interest were the weekly auction on a Friday afternoon conducted by E. J. Farmer in a large shed at rear of ~~Wilkinson~~ of where Wilkins in Throsby & Edwards Seductors now ~~are~~ stand. All types of material were auctioned furniture, harness & horse gear vegetables eggs, all types of poultry, even the odd dog & kitten.

Any household who had spare produce would take it along & I remember taking carrots which I grew & going home with a shilling in my pocket. These markets were later carried on by M. E. Batten in shed on ground where Mitsubishi Motors now are.

Another place where as kids we were always made welcome was the towns Blacksmith shops. There were three in town Norm Cross (shell garage) Harrison (St Vincent de Paul) & Luke Webb (Soul Patrons Chemist). These gentlemen always made kids welcome ~~for reasons~~ & to show you the way shoes for horses & other hardware were made.

Things were really hard for mum at this stage. She was heavily involved in charity work. Dad ~~was~~ away & children leaving home plus food ration & clothing rationing to contend with. I think the Mums left at home had it really tough. I was in Feb 23 1943 that I left to join the air force. Why the air force I do not know but it was the first service I could get into.

Typed to Here
by Britta

Life in the R.A.F.

I went to Sydney for medical test could not pass for flying as I was colour-blind. I was told at Tuesday - with a draft of about 150 recruits we loaded on to a troop train & headed for Toowoomba for our initial training. Mum with her inside knowledge of feeding troop trains was on the platform as we headed south. It was about 8 P.M. when we arrived at Moss Vale & Mum told me one of our mates Colin Banger had been killed in Townsville. Not a good start to life in the service. Arrived in Narrandera at 7 in morning & received our first meal of powdered egg. we thought it was great but after a few months it didn't taste so good. Over the Riverina plains we went to Toowoomba arriving about 1 P.M. Two things I remember on this part of the trip were the huge swarms of rabbits around the waterholes and seeing the horse teams pulling machinery on the farms 12 or more per team.